



SIRF KEHTE NAHI, KARTE HAIN

Bhagwant Mann Government's Path-breaking Initiatives during its Maiden Budget for 2022-23

- No new taxes
- 24% hike in budgetary allocation of Health and Family Welfare
- 48% increase in Technical Education and 57% in Medical Education & Research
- 'Janta Budget' based on the suggestions of people of Punjab
- 16.27% hike in Education Budget
- 52% increase in the allocation of Sport and Youth Services

- 100 government schools to be upgraded as "School of Eminence"
- 16 new Medical Colleges to be set up over next five years
- 'Farishtey' scheme: free treatment to victims of road accidents
- 117 Mohalla Clinics to be set up
- Rs.11,560 crore set aside for welfare of farmers
- 300 units of domestic power supply per month free to all Punjab residents w.e.f July 1, 2022
- "Shaheed Bhagat Singh Hariawal Lehar", plantation of 60 lacs trees
- Ex-gratia assistance for defence and police personnel doubled from Rs.50 lakh to Rs.1 crore
- 48% increase in allocation of Industry and Commerce
- Rs.714 crore for fresh recruitment of 26,454 employees. Rs.540 crore for regularization of 36,000 contractual employees
- 45 new modern bus stands to be set up
- 'One MLA One Pension' introduced with annual saving of Rs.19.53 crore
- Rs.9449 crore allocated for strengthening Law and Order
- "Anti-Corruption Action Line" launched



HASDA VASDA PUNJAB

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Dipali

General Public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), **Namely:** Dipali **D/o** Satender **R/o** House No. 399, Village Bankner, Narela, Delhi has been missing since 19.04.2022 from her house. In this regard a case vide DD No. 6A dated 21.04.2022 has been lodged at Police Station Narela, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Age: 19 Years, **Height:** 5'3", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Strong, **Wearing:** Blue and White Colour Suit & Black Colour Salwar and Chappal in feet.

Any person having any information/ Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Narela, Delhi at E-mail **Id-cic@cbi.gov.in** or website: **http://cbi.nic.in**

Phone: **SHO**
011-24368638, 24368641 **P.S. Narela, Delhi**
Fax No. 011-24368639 **Outer North Distt., Delhi**
DP/1928/ON/2022 **Ph. No. 011-27787592, 27787593**

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that an one male person was found at Bankhandi Mandir Chandni Chowk, Delhi dated **13.06.2022**. In this regard a **DD No. 50A** dated **13.06.2022** has been registered at **P.S. Kotwali, Delhi**. The description of the dead body is given as under **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** About 40-45 years, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Hospital Cloths.

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

SHO
P.S. Kotwali, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23977100, 23953442,
8750870120

DP/2487/N/2022



SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that this girl namely **Rakhi Kumari**, D/o Rajkumar Matho, R/o B-238, Chandan Vihar, Nihal Vihar, Delhi is missing/kidnapped since 19.05.2022 from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar. In this regard a case vide **FIR No. 633/22 dated 22.05.2022** has been registered at **P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the missing/kidnapped girl is as under:

Name: Rakhi Kumari, **Gender:** Female, **Age:** 14 years, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Sallow, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Sky colour Suit and Salwar.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing/kidnapped girl, kindly inform to the following:

E-mail : **cic@cbi.gov.in** **SHO**
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 **P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi**
Fax : 011-24368639 **Ph. No.: 011-25946700, 25946710**
DP/1876/OD/2022



Rakhi Kumari

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE



It is submitted that the complainant Krishanpal S/o Bhopal Singh **R/o** H.No. 440, Baldhari Colony, Bakhtawarpur, Delhi has reported at Police Station that his Wife **Namely:** Sunita, **W/o:** Krishanpal, **R/o:** H.No. 440, Baldhari Colony, Bakhtawarpur, Delhi, **Age:** 30 Years, **Height:** 4'10", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Matyalli colour suit & salwar and sandal in feet, has been missing since 14.04.2022 at 07:30 A.M. from her house the area of P.S. Alipur, Delhi.

In this regard a **DD No. 98-A dated 14.04.2022** has been lodged at P.S. Alipur, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this female but no clue has come to light so far. If any person having any information or clue about this female kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: **cic@cbi.gov.in** **SHO**
Website: **http://cbi.nic.in** **P.S. Alipur, Delhi**
Fax: **011-24368639** **Ph. 011-27708515, 7065036325**
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 **DP/1926/ON/2022**

WESTERN RAILWAY

E-AUCTION FOR THE CONTRACT TO LEASE OUT PARCEL SLR IN TRAINS

With reference to the above, a auction for the contract to lease out parcel SLR in trains originating from Mumbai Division has been invited. The catalogue has already been published on IREPS website, the details are furnished as under :

Auction Catalogue no	Type of contract	Category	Contract period	Date & Time of e-Auction
MMCT-PLS-22-2	Parcel	PARCEL SLR	2 Years	e-Auction for lot will start at 11.00 hrs on 08.07.2022. Initial cooling period in 30 minutes.
MMCT-PLS-22-3	Parcel	PARCEL SLR	2 Years	e-Auction for lot will start at 12.00 hrs on 11.07.2022. Initial cooling period in 30 minutes.
MMCT-PLS-22-4	Parcel	PARCEL SLR	2 Years	e-Auction for lot will start at 12.00 hrs on 12.07.2022. Initial cooling period in 30 minutes.

Note: Prospective bidders are requested to visit e-Auction leasing module on IREPS website (**www.ireps.gov.in**) The lot wise details are available there in under the mentioned catalogue. 0213

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APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person **Namely:** Unknown **S/o** Unknown, **R/o** Unknown **Age:** about 45-50 years, **Height:** 5'4", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Blue colour shorts, White colour Baniyan has been found dead at under bridge Hanuman Mandir, Kashmere Gate, Delhi on 20.06.2022.

In this regard a case vide DD No. 51-A dated 20.06.2022 has been lodged at Police Station Kashmere Gate, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved in Subzi Mandi Mortuary, Delhi for 72 hours.

Any person having any information or clue about this dead found person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO :
P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi
North Distt., Delhi
DP/2482/N/2022 **Tel. No. 011-23967889, 23968730**

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that one male namely **Unknown S/o Unknown R/o** Unknown. Age about 60 years, Height about 5'3", Complexion wheatish, Face oval, Built thin, wearing Brown colour lower was found unconscious condition near gate no. 3, GTB hospital, Delhi. Who was admitted to GTB hospital and patient was declared brought dead vide MLC No. BD/836/5/22 on 20.06.2022.

In this regard a DD No. 56-A dated 20.06.2022 has been lodged at PS GTB Enclave, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this deceased person may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.

SHO
PS GTB Enclave, Delhi
Ph. 011-22580947, 22580946

DP/897/SHD/2022

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr.PC.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Raja S/o Giri Raj R/o** H. No. C-375, Balbir Nagar, Aman Vihar, Delhi have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 14/2014 U/s 380/411/34 IPC** PS Mangol Puri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Raja** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Raja** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Raja of FIR No. 14/2014 U/s 380/411/34 IPC** PS Mangol Puri, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 05.08.2022

By Order
Sh. Ajay Singh Parihar,
M.M. (North-West),
Room No. 105, 1st Floor,
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/1957/OD/2022

SEARCH OF MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo), **Namely:** Parveen, **S/o:** Maha Singh, **R/o:** H.No. 1501, Pana Mamur Pur, Narela, Delhi **Aged:** 22 years (now 30 years) has been missing from his house since 08.07.2014. In this Regard a **DD No.: 124-A, Dated 10.07.2014, has been lodged at P.S. Narela, Delhi.** His physical description is as under:



Parveen

Height: 5'4" feet, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Hair:** Black, **ID Mark:** Whose Left Eye Crooked, **Wearing:** Blue Colour Printed Shirt, Khaki Pant and Red Colour Leather Chappal.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing male, may inform to the following at E-mail: **cic@cbi.gov.nic.in** or website : **http://cbi.nic.in** Tele No. : **011-24368638 or 24368641**

S.H.O
P.S. Narela, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27280435, 27282350

DP/1938/ON/2022

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section U/S 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Shaurabh Kumar Yadav S/o Sh. Saudagar Yadav R/o H.No. 704, First Floor, Shivaji Road, Azad Market, Delhi and Village Saidpur, P.S. Mansi, District Khagariya, Bihar** has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 114/22 U/S 302/308/34/134 IPC, P.S. Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Shaurabh Kumar Yadav** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Shaurabh Kumar Yadav** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Shaurabh Kumar Yadav of FIR No. 114/22 U/S 302/308/34/134 IPC, P.S. Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 05.08.2022.

By Order
Sh. Anurag Dass
Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate
Room No. 296A, 2nd Floor,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/2415/N/2022(Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Firoj Khan S/o Gayur Ali R/o Khasra No. 680, Duliya Colony, Alipur, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 89/2022, U/s 4 Muslim Women Protection of Rights Marriage Act** registered at P.S. Alipur, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon that the said **Firoj Khan** could not be found and where it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused **Firoj Khan** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Firoj Khan** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before 30.07.2022.

By Order
Ms. Deepika Singh
Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (North)
Room No. 115, 1st Floor,
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/1900/ON/2022
(Court Notice)

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this Person **Named:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** Approx. 30-35 Years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Strong, **Wearing:** Black T-shirt & Blue jeans, was found dead at floating in Yamuna River, Near Gau Shala, Ghat No. 18, on dated 24.06.2022.

In this regard a **DD No. 53-A U/s 174 Cr.PC, dated 24.06.2022**, has been lodged at P.S. Kotwali, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform the following.

SHO
P.S. Kotwali, Delhi
ZIP NET No. UND22KT00061
DP/2493/N/2022(UIDB) **Ph.: 011-23977100, 8750870121**

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this Person **Named:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** Approx. 65 Years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'8", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Thin, **Face:** Long, **Hair:** Small and greyish, **Other Details:** Beard Greyish, was found in lying on Service Road, Near Sunhari Pulla Bus Depot, Lodhi Colony, New Delhi on dated 13.06.2022.

He was admitted AIIMS Hospital, Delhi and during the treatment doctor declared him dead on dated 06.06.2022.

In this regard a **DD No. 40-A dated 13.06.2022 U/s 174 Cr.PC**, has been lodged at P.S. Lodhi Colony, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform the following.

SHO
P.S. Lodhi Colony, Delhi
DP/291/SD/2022(UIDB) **Ph.: 011-24620283, 8750870829**

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General public is hereby informed that a boy (depicted in the photo), **Namely :** Sarik **S/o :** Sahzad **R/o :** H. No. X-323, Gali No. 1, Masjid Wali Gali, Camp No. 2, Nangloi, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 08.01.2022 from the area of P.S. Nangloi, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 101A dated 22.02.2022 has been lodged at Police Station Nangloi, Delhi. His physical description is as under :-

SARIK

Age : 26 Years, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion :** Fair, **Face:** Long, **Wearing :** Red colour jacket and Black colour pant.

Any person is having any information/Clue about this Missing/ Kidnapped boy, may inform SHO, Nangloi, Delhi at E-mail Id – **cic@cbi.gov.in** or Website: **http://cbi.nic.in**

SHO
P.S. Nangloi, Delhi
Outer Distt., Delhi
Phone: **011-24368638, 24368641**
Fax No. 011-24368639 **Ph. No. 011- 25947225, 25949470**

DP/1640/OD/2022

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SECTION 82 Cr.Pc.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused **Sunil Kumar**, S/o Bharat Ram, R/o H. No. 270, Pitam Pura, Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 139/14 U/s 325 IPC** registered at **P.S. Rani Bagh, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Sunil Kumar cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Sunil Kumar has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Sunil Kumar, of case FIR No. 139/14 U/s 325 IPC P.S. Rani Bagh, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 20.08.2022.

By order
Sh. Babru Khan,
A. C. M. M. (North-West),
Room No. 101, 1st Floor,
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/1946/OD/2022

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL



General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Manju, D/o Sunil, R/o F-36, Sector-5 DSIIIDC Bawana, Delhi.** Age 19 yrs., Height 5', Fair Complexion, Round face, Thin Build, wearing black colour forck & black colour pajami and hawai chappal in feet has been missing since **18.04.2022** from her factory at F-36, Sec-5, DSIIIDC, Bawana, Delhi.

In this regard a **DD No. 58-A Dated. 19.04.2022** has been lodged at **PS Narela Industrial Area, Delhi.** Since efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing girl may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: **cic@cbi.gov.in**
Fax: **011-23011334**
Ph.: 011-23014046
011-23015218
DP/1932/ON/2022

S.H.O.,
Narela Industrial Area, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27787591, 27787592



MAHARASHTRA METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD.
(A joint venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Maharashtra)
PUNE METRO RAIL PROJECT
101, The Orion, Opposite Don Bosco Youth Centre, Koregaon Park, Pune - 411001. Telephone: 020-26051072
E-mail: tenders.pmp@mahametro.org | www.punemetrorail.org

Tender Notice No. P-1PD-08/2022 Dated: 28.06.2022

Name of the Work: Licensing of Exclusive Outdoor Advertisement Rights between the Piers of Reach-1 and Reach-2 of Pune Metro Rail Project for a period of 05 years.

Cost of Documents: INR 47,200/- (INR Forty-Seven Thousand Two Hundred only) inclusive of GST.

Bid Security: INR 8,00,000/- only for Bid submitted for Reach-1 and INR 17,00,000/- only for Bid submitted for Reach-2.

Interested bidders may visit Pune Metro Rail website www.punemetrorail.org or download the bidding documents and obtain further details regarding the tender from our e-tender portal <https://mahametrorail.etenders.in> from **15:00 Hrs. on 28 Jun 2022.**

Executive Director
(Procurement & Contracts)
PMRP MAHA-METRO

Maha Metro, Greenest Metro

U.P.RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD HARDUAGANJ THERMAL POWER STATION, KASIMPUR (ALIGARH)

E-Tender Notice SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER OPERATION & MAINTENANCE CIRCLE-II, D'TPS KASIMPUR

1. ET-05/O&MC-II/BMD-I/22-23, Online e-bids are invited for the "Daily round the clock routine maintenance of both boiler, Routine maintenance of HP/LP Valves & safety valves and break down maintenance of Pressure Parts, HP/LP Valves & safety valves of Unit # 8 & 9 'D' TPS, Kasimpur" E-Tender has been uploaded on 13.06.2022 on <http://etender.up.nic.in>, Estimated Cost of work Rs. 33,53,000.00. Time period 12 Months, E.M.D. cost Rs. 67,100.00 Last date of Tender 13.07.2022 at 14:00Hrs.

2. ET-06/O&MC-II/BMD-I/22-23, Online e-bids are invited for the "Preventive and Breakdown maintenance of main boiler, Maintenance of Pulverized Fuel pipe and De-scaling of pressure parts & removal of soot from heating surfaces of Boiler by steam blowing through wall blowers / long retractable soot blowers (LRSB) and Air Pre Heater of Unit # 8 & 9 'D' TPS, Kasimpur" E-Tender has been uploaded on 13.06.2022 on <http://etender.up.nic.in>, Estimated Cost of work Rs 18,02,000.00 Only Time period 12 Months, E.M.D. cost Rs. 36,100.00 Last date of Tender 13.07.2022 at 14:00Hrs.

3. ET-07/O&MC-II/BMD-I/22-23, Online e-bids are invited for the "Deployment of Radiography Team with remote operated Gamma Radiography Shots, Processing of the films and interpretation of H.P. Joints of Pressure parts including deployment of skilled technician along with necessary equipment for Unit # 8 & 9, HTPS, Kasimpur" E-Tender has been uploaded on 13.06.2022 on <http://etender.up.nic.in>, Estimated Cost of work Rs. 4,05,000.00 Only. Time period 12 Months, E.M.D. cost Rs. 8,100.00. Last date of Tender 13.07.2022 at 14:00Hrs.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, O&MC-III, HTPS, Kasimpur.

4. E-TENDER NO ET-01/O&MC-III/C&IMD-II/DTPS/HTPS/2022-23 Online e-Bids are invited for the "Preventive & Breakdown maintenance of various Split/Central/Duct able type Air Conditioners, installed at various PLC rooms/SWAS/UPS rooms/RIO Panel rooms etc of 2x250MW Units, DTPS and at MCR, Extended MCR, UPS room, ESP control room, Air compressor room, SWAS room, DM plant PLC room etc of 1X120MW, U#7, CTPS, HTPS, Kasimpur" E-tender has been uploaded on 18.06.2022 on <http://etender.up.nic.in> Estimated cost: Rs. 16,16,551.00, E.M.D. is Rs 32330.00. Time Period: 365 days Last date of Tender 02.08.2022 at 14:00Hrs.

Superintending Engineer, MMC, HTPS, Kasimpur (Aligarh).

5. E-Tender No: ET-31/MMC/PD/ETPS/1X660MW/HTPS/2022, online bids are invited for "different type of oil & water gasket, neoprene rubber sheet, viton cord and gland packing for 1X660MW HTPS, Kasimpur. Tender will be uploaded on 20.06.2022 on 17.00 on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost is Rs 4,98,704.00 only EMD Rs 9,974.00, Last date of Tender 19.07.2022 at 14:00Hrs.

6. E-Tender No: ET-32/MMC/PD/ETPS/1X660MW/HTPS/2022, online bids are invited for "procurement of different type of consumables items (SS Shims, Fasteners & Nut Bolt) for 1X660MW, HTPS, Kasimpur. Tender will be uploaded on 20.06.2022 on 17.00 on etender.up.nic.in in Estimated cost is Rs 3,19,27



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Highlights



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Innovation & Entrepreneurship
in India

Salient features

- Innovation intermediary and business incubator
- Based on the triple helix model of innovation

KPC Projects Limited

Classifieds

PERSONAL

In my 10th-class Document, my name is written as Sheelu Panday & my father Name is written as Dinesh Chandra Panday which is incorrect. Whereas, our Correct name is Sheelu Pandey & Dinesh Chandra Pandey. 0070792220-1

I,ZORINE NATHAN,W/o RAVI NATHAN, R/o,E-296,Third-floor,Tagore-Garden, West-Delhi, Delhi-110027,declare that name of mine has been wrongly-written as ZORANE NATHAN in my minor son's SHAWN BRYAN NATHAN aged-17-years in his School-Records. The actual-name of mine is ZORINE NATHAN, which may be amended accordingly. 0040620257-9

I,YOGESH SHANDILIYA,S/O DINESH CHANDER SHARMA,ADD-598-F, KHAJOORI KHAS EXTN,GALLI.No-17, DELHI-NORTH EAST-DELHI-110094. Changed my name to YOGESH KUMAR SHANDILIYA, permanently. 0040620256-7

I,Vikas Dabas s/o Baljeet R/o:H.NO-75,Village Rasool Pur Delhi-110081,have changed my name to Vikas Permanently. 0040620256-9

I,Veena W/o-Manjeet Kumar Gambhir,R/o 91 Ground Floor State-Bank Colony,Gujranwala Colony,Delhi-110009, have changed my name to Veena Gambhir 0040620257-3

I,Surabhi Khera,W/o Rohit Khera,R/o-216, Ground-Floor, Tagore-Park,G.T.B-Nagar, Delhi,have Changed My Name to Surabhi Sachdev Khera,for All,Future Purposes. 0040620256-5

I,SUNIL,S/o PUSHKAR DUTT,ADD.FLAT.No.GBG-054,NEW TOWN HEIGHTS, SECTOR-91,GURGAON, HARYANA-122505. Changed my name to SUNIL KUMAR, 00406202288-7

I,SUNIL KUMAR,ADD.FLAT.No.GBG-054,NEW TOWN HEIGHTS, SECTOR-91,GURGAON, HARYANA-122505,changed my MINOR son name YANKIT to YANKIT SHARMA. 0040620288-5

I,SUNIL KUMAR, ADD.FLAT.No.GBG-054,NEW TOWN HEIGHTS, SECTOR-91,GURGAON, HARYANA-122505, changed my Minor daughter name SRISHTI to SRISHTI SHARMA. 0040620288-6

I,SULEKHA KUSHWAH,W/O SURENDRA SINGH KUSHWAH, R/o FLAT.No.FF8, TOWER-4, PALAM-VALLEY, SECTOR-1, GREATER-NOIDA WEST, BISHRAKH, GAUTAM-BUDH NAGAR,U.P.201306,changed my name to LAXMI. 0040620276-2

I,Rpiti Gupta,W/o Rajan Gupta, Add, Flat.no.35, Pocket-B-8, Sector-4, Rohini, New Delhi-110085,changed my name to Priti Gupta. 0040620288-8

I,Reena Kumari,W/o Shravan Kumar,R/o-Flat No.303,SF, Plot.No.7, Gyan Khand-2,Indrapuram, Gzb,have changed my name to Riya Singh, forever. 0040620276-3

I,Ranjan Maurya W/O 14622806N HAV Abhilash Maurya H.No. 1061,KH-105/5/1,Gali.No-9-B-Block, Baba Colony,Burari Delhi-84,have changed my name,to Ranjana Maurya vide affidavit.27/6/2022 before,Delhi 0040620288-5

I,Rakhi W/o Vikas R/O -H.NO-75 Village Rasool Pur Delhi-110081 have changed my name to Rakhi Rana Permanently. 0040620256-10

I,RIZWANA KHATOON,W/O Md,FIROZ R/O.178/A/J-EXTENSION LAXMI-NAGAR DELHI,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME,FROM R AZIWANA KHATOON TO RIZWANA KHATOON,FOR ALL,FUTURE PURPOSES, 0040620288-9

I,RAJ KUMAR,S/O MADAN LAL AGARWAL, R/o/16/332,KALI BARI ROAD, SHEETLA GALLI,AGRA, U-282003, changed my name to RAJ KUMAR AGARWAL. 0040620276-1

I,Priti Chawla,D/o Krishan Kumar Chawla W/o-Tarun Kukreja R/o-H-42,Gali.No.40, New Gobindpura, Chander Nagar,Krishna Nagar Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Preety Kukreja,for all purposes 0040620257-6

I,Pooja Bhatia W/o Sanjay Vashdev Bhatia R/o A-201A, Stellar Kings Court F-32, Sector-50, Noida(U.P) have changed my name to Pooja Sanjay Bhatia for all purposes. 0040620218-3

I,PARMEET SINGH PURI S/o,SH. ARVINDER SINGH, R/o.14/40, Geeta-Colony, Delhi-110031,have changed my name to PARMEET SINGH. 0040620256-1

I,No 14622806N HAV Abhilash Maurya H.No.1061,KH-105/5/1,Gali.No-9-B-Block,Baba Colony,Burari Delhi-84,have changed my minor son name,from Amit Kumar Maurya to Amit Kumar Maury vide-affidavit. 27/6/2022 before,Delhi 0040620288-3

I,Sujeet Yadva S/o Sriram Yadav S/o, Sriram Yadav R/o Villi-Raipur Baghpur Post- Kelhi Ps-Mardah Dist- Ghazipur- 233226 have changed my name to Sujeet Yadav S/o Sriram Yadav for all purposes. 00406202051-1

I, Mohammed Anas, S/o Late Imtiaz Ahmad, R/o-404, Doctors Apartment, Jasola Vihar, N,Delhi-110025, have changed my name to Mohd Anas. 0070792124-1

I,Manish, S/o Deviram Tanwar, R/O DB-192, Shiv Colony, Near Sweet Angel School, Palwal, Haryana-121102, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Mandev Singh Tanwar. 0070792126-1

I, Kanta Bhatia, W/o Chandra Prakash Bhatia, R/o 120/500 D, Lajpat Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-208005, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Chandra Kanta Bhatia. 0070792133-1

I, Kajal Rousha, D/o Sarwan Rousha, R/o SarakPur, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Bilaspur, Uttar Pradesh - 203131, that name of mine, my father and my mother has been wrongly written as Kajal, Sarvan Kumar and Sarla respectively in my 10th Class School Certificate and Marksheet. The actual name of mine, my father and my mother is Kajal Rousha, Sarwan Rousha and Sunita Devi respectively. 0070792178-1

I, sakir, S/o nawab,Address-tehsil nuh dist mewat ferozepur namak (156) gurgaon haryana-122107, changed my name to sakir Hussain. 0040620298-2

I,ASISH KUMAR GHOSH, S/O.MANORANJAN GHOSH, R/O,H.NO-281, UNITED APTS, PLOT-34, SEC-4, DWARKA ,NEW-DELHI-110078 ,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ASHISH GHOSH, FOR ALL, FUTURE PURPOSE. 0040620257-4

I, KM Nameera alias Nameera, D/o Mohd Ateek, R/o Dr. Jumma Ki Gali, Asalatpura, Near Badi Masjid, Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh-244001, have changed my name to Ayesha. 0070792188-1

I, Harsha Tulsani, D/o Gopal Das and W/o Hemant Tulsani, R/o A-5/4, Ground Floor, Rohini Sec-16, North West Delhi- 110089, have changed my name to Harsha Setiya. 0070792185-1

I, Harsha Tulsani, D/o Gopal Das and W/o Hemant Tulsani, R/o A-5/4, Ground Floor, Rohini Sec-16, North West Delhi- 110089, have changed my name to Harsha Setiya. 0070792185-1

I,Chandramohan Singh, S/o Girish Nandan Singh, R/o A-715, Jalvayu Towers, Sector-47, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201304. I have changed the name of my minor Daughter Shreya Chandramoahn Singh aged about 15 years and She shall hereafter be known as Shreya Singh. 0070792153-1

I,Chander Prabha W/O Shri Ajay Verma H.No 197/B-87, Guru Nanak Pura, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Prabha Verma. 0040620258-1

I, Brij bala chadha, W/o-kawal kishor chadha, Address-8, paschim enclave pachim-vihar sunder-vihar delhi-110087. Changed my name to bala chadha. 0040620298-1

I, Anil Kumar, R/O E-86, Ground Floor, Saket, New Delhi-110017 have changed the name of my minor daughter Myra to Myra Chaudhary vide affidavit dated 23rd June 2022 sworn before notary Sushma Gupta, Delhi. 0040620219-1

I, Ajay Gangwani S/o Gurcharan Singh R/O F-171, Prashant Vihar, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Ajay Kumar, for all future purposes. 0040620209-1

I, Aastha Narula Lochab,W/o Neeraj Kumar, R/o-248-249, 1st Floor, Pocket-26, sector-24, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Aastha Narula 0040620288-1

I,hitherto known as Narinder Kumar alias Narender Kumar alias Narender Kumar Verma S/o Mulkh Raj residing at D-6/8 3rd floor Rana Pratap Bagh Delhi-110007 employed as Pharmacist in Health and Family Welfare Department GOVT of NCT of Delhi have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Narender Kumar Verma. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this Connection. 0040620258-2

I,hitherto known as Hari Chand S/o Shri Nanda, R/o Vishunpur, Ghaghasra, Sahjanwa, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh- 273209, presently at Delhi have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as HARISH CHANDRA. 0040620238-1

I,Veena Rani W/o Shri Diwan Chand Nanang R/o E-16/386-374-375, Sector-8, Rohini, New Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Veena Kumari for all future purposes. 0040620220-1

I, Surander Kumar Bhardwaj S/O, Sh. Jai Narayan Bhardwaj R/O WZ- 347 C Nangal Raya Jail Road New Delhi 110046 have changed my name to Surrender Kumar Bhardwaj for all purposes. 0040620282-1

I,Sangeeta Sharma W/O, Sh. Surrender Kumar Bhardwaj R/o WZ- 347 C Nangal Raya Jail Road New Delhi 110046 have changed my name to Anuradha Bhardwaj for all purposes. 0040620281-1

I,KAMERA ALAM S/O.MUJI BH REHMAN ADD-17B/26B,PATHAR WALA BAGH WAZIRPUR J.J.COLONY ASHOK-VIHAR NORTH-WEST DELHI-110052.Changed my name to KAMARE ALAM. Permanently. 0040620256-6

I,Sairo Bano W/o Zafiruddin R/O H.No.T-257, Idgah Road, Sher Ka Pinjara, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Saira Bano for all purposes. 004062013-1

I,Anil Saroop Bammi S/O, Baldev Sarup Bammi R/o H No-C-1a/17-C, Janakpuri West Delhi-110058 have changed my name to Anil Sarup Bammi for all purposes. 0040620280-1

I,Shashank S/o-Parveen R/o Ward.no.8, Punjabi Colony, Julana,Jind,Haryana-126101, have changed my name to Shashank Bansal. 0040620257-7

I,KARAMBIR CHAHAL, S/O.RAHISH SINGH CHAHAL, ADD-D-46B,2ND-FLOOR SINGLE STOREY VIJAY-NAGAR,DELHI-110009, Changed my name to KARAMVIR CHAHAL,for all,future Purposes. 0040620257-5

I,Firoza D/o-Mohammad Farukh,R/o B-128,Sahegal Building Ring-Road,Near Masjid,Kilokari,New Delhi-110014,have changed my name to Firoza 0040620256-2

LOST & FOUND

I,Nikhil Khurana S/o Sh. Ramesh Khurana R/O 14/72, Geeta Colony, Delhi-110031 have lost my Original Agreement to Sell & Purchase and GPA etc, executed on 05.11.2018 by Parmod Kumar in favour of Nikhil Khurana W.R.T Second Floor of Property No.13/307, Geeta Colony, Delhi-110031. Finders may contact at above address. 0040620213-2

I, Achint Goyal have lost my Form-38 bearing No.-1205949, issued by Commercial Tax Department UP, and records of sale purchase of FY 16-17 of Tin.No.09288829437, Add:- 62/2/8 Site-4 Industrial Area, Sahibabad Ghaziabad, FINDER CONTACT-987306037. 0070792217-1

I, Chanchal Rani D/O Late Sh. Chiman Lal Nanang R/O 244, 3rd Floor, Hakikat Nagar, Kingsway Camp, Delhi-110009 have lost my property document no.13188 in addl. Book No.1 Volume No-2069 regd on 15.11.2008 in the office of Sub-registrar Vi-A, Pitam Pura, Delhi. If found contact- 9711969919 0040620213-3

I,Prem Late Bammi W/o-Late Baldev Bammi, Have Lost Power Of Attorney & All Originals Property Papers Of Property No:A4C/31, Janakpuri, New Delhi-58, Finder Contact:9811088672. 0040620276-10

My original document relinquishment deed,document registration no.11735 in book.no.1 vol.no.4655 on page 139 to 141 on this date-26/11/2012 of property no.313/105 G,TULSI NAGAR,NEAR INDERLOK,DELHI-110035, has been lost.Finder contact:Murti Devi Sharma W/o,late Sh.Ramjilal Sharma Mobile-No.9911961171. 0040620288-13

PROPERTY FOR SALE

3bhk Duplex flat, gr. noida, living room double height advantage. Balcony & terrace for enclosure utilisation. arca 1485 Sq.ft 9422046695, 9850500592 0040620215-

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I, the public at large hereby informed that my client Shri. Dharampal S/o Sh. Dulichand R/o H.No.535, Banker Lam Pur, Narela, Delhi-110044, alongwith his wife, has severed all his relations with his son named Rahul Khatri and his wife Paritksha from his life, movable and immovable properties due to his bad conduct/quarrel and disobedient towards my client and my client has no control of any manner over them. If anyone deals with them will be at his/her own risk then my client will not responsible in any manner and my client has snapped his relation with them in all manner for all purposes. 0040620288-1

DEVIKA GUPTA -Advocate Ch. No. 433, Rohini Courts, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, the public at large hereby informed that my client Shri. Bhushan Datta acquired Plot No.10-B, measuring 233.25 sq. yds. in the village Phase Sector-12, Mohalla (Khatra)-Pargana (Laloo) in Case No. 379/1990 dated 14.03.1999 passed by Civil Judge Grade-I, Pratap Dutt, District Court, Ghazipur, Bihar, in favour of my client Shri. Bhushan Datta, measuring 233.25 sq. yds. and his wife, has severed all his relations with his son named Rahul Khatri and his wife Paritksha from his life, movable and immovable properties due to his bad conduct/quarrel and disobedient towards my client and my client has no control of any manner over them. If anyone deals with them will be at his/her own risk then my client will not responsible in any manner and my client has snapped his relation with them in all manner for all purposes. 0040620288-1

DEVIKA GUPTA -Advocate Ch. No. 433, Rohini Courts, Delhi

My Client Manju Sharma W/o Late Sh. Nand Kishor Sharma R/o H.No. B-340, Gokal Puri Delhi 94, has disown and disinherit her daughter, Usha Sharma and her husband Ravi from all her movable and immovable properties. That if, anybody deals with daughter of my client or her husband, he will do so on his/her own risk, cost and responsibilities and my client or her family member will not be responsible for any act done. 0040620282-1

Charan Jeet Singh, (Advocate) Ch. No. 618A, 2nd Floor WW, Tis Hazari Delhi 54, Ph.9540197757

My clients Sh. Ravinder Kumar S/o Late Lajpat Rai and his wife Smt. Prem Mehta both R/o C-164B, Sector-10, Ring, Shree Story, Vijay Nagar, Delhi-110009 and their family has severed their relations with their son Sh. Gaurav Mehta and his wife Smt. Dora Sh. Narain, from today and disowned and disinherited, disowned and disowned from all their movable and immovable properties. That if, anybody deals with their son or his wife, he will do so on his/her own risk and responsibility and my client's shall not be responsible for the same. 0040620281-1

SARKISA JAIN Advocate En. No. 222/2019 Chamber: 307, Lawyers Chambers, Rohini Dist. Courts, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of general public that my client Smt. Chandra D/o Waj Ram R/o House No. 692/93B, Second Floor, Gurdwara Road, West Gurgaon, Haryana-110002, has severed all her relations with her son and two daughters and their families namely 1. (Son) Shri Manish Sh. Chandra, his daughter-in-law Smt. Kumkam Kumari & her Grand-Son Pyush Anand, all R/o House No. 692/93B, Second Floor, Gurdwara Road, West Gurgaon, Haryana-110002. 2. (Daughter) Smt. Madhu W/o Shri Prem Kumar, her son-in-law Prem Kumar, her Grand-son Ankit, her grand-daughters Neha & Deepa all R/o H.No-1710, Ashok Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110002. 3. (Daughter) Smt. Amita Agarwal W/o Shri Ashok Agarwal, her son-in-law Anoop Agarwal & her Grand-son Aadash Agarwal, all living in Calcutta. My client has disowned and disowned all of them and their family members with all their immovable and movable properties and their life due to their bad behavior towards me and my family deals with them do the same at their own risk and responsibilities, as my client shall not held responsible for their any act or omission in future. 0040620280-1

(ANAND MOHAN) ADVOCATE Enrol. No. D-3629/2010 Ch. No. K-1C, Opp. Police Lock-Up, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that my client Sh. Ravi Gakhar, S/o Sh. Ramesh Lal Gakhar, R/o C-27, Rapuri Garden, West Delhi-110027, has lost his documents i.e., Cheques, Per notes, Bill Books, Aadhar Card, PAN Card. If anyone finds these documents and attempts to misuse these documents, then the person shall be liable for criminal action. 0040620257-7

SANJAY AGARWAL ADVOCATE E.No D/86790 CH. No. 575, WESTERN WING DISTT. & SESSIONS COURTS TIS HAZARI, DELHI-54 (INDIA)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public at large that my client Amit Gosain s/o Hargovind Gosain and his wife Shivani Gosain R/o H.No.145 Street no. 5, new Lahore colony, shasti nagar, Gandhi nagar S.O., East Delhi, Delhi-110026, have lost of their family relations and have disowned their elder son named Raghav Gosain s/o Amit Gosain aged 6 years from their movable / immovable properties due to his disobedient, Bad Society and bad social activities and my clients were not aware of it, I shall not be responsible for any act of Sh Raghav Gosain in any manner in future. Also not liable for any financial, Civil and Criminal activity done by Raghav Gosain. 0040620257-4

SHWETA GARG, ADVOCATE D/898/2007 Chamber: B-101, B.G.S. Block, Tis Hazari, Delhi-110052 24B CIVIL WING, Tis Hazari, Delhi

LOST & FOUND

Original property documents No.A-213, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-I, New Delhi-110020 of M/s Shekhar Industries proprietor Smt. Murti Devi Sharma has been lost finder contact: Smt. Murti Devi Sharma W/o Late Sh. Ramjilal Sharma Mobile No:9911961171.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that under instructions from and on behalf of my client, Smt. Bhupinder Kaur, W/o Sh. Jai Singh and D/o Late Ragbir Kaur & Jodinder Singh, R/o WZ-56, First Floor, Left Side, Gali No.1, New Sahibpura, Tikat Nagar, New Delhi - 110018, has become one of the legal heirs & co-owner of 1/2 undivided share alongwith her elder sister Smt. Jagbir Kaur, 48/1, Ashok Nagar, Tikat Nagar, New Delhi-110018, in respect of Property No. 27/16, Ashok Nagar, Tihar-II, New Delhi-110018, measuring 40 sq. yard, after the death of her mother Late Ragbir Kaur, father Late Jodinder Singh and younger brother Late Daljeet Singh. The public in general therefore, CAUTIONED not to enter into any transactions, agreements, transfer, assignment, lease, or understanding whatsoever of nature in respect of the above said property as the settlement of division of share is pending with her above mentioned elder sister who is the other legal heirs and in spite of if any person's name is entered in the said property in respect of the above said property, he/she/they will be doing so entirely at his/her/their own cost and risks. J.C. Trikha (Advocate) Ch.No. M-4, C.S., Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54


PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is hereby given to general public that Mr.Ashok Kumar, who is said to be owners and in possession of First Floor (right Portion) area measuring 75 sq. yds., said floor part of Property No. 2506F, situated in the residential colony known as Basal Darapur, New Delhi., by virtue of Relinquishment Deed dated 06.02.2016, now Mr. Ashok Kumar is selling said property to Mrs. Samina Begum and Mrs. Samina Begum has approached Shubham Housing Finance Ltd. for financial assistance and therefore shall be mortgaged with the said Bank. We give this public notice that if any person having any claim/objecton regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property or any part of the said property in favour of Shubham Housing Finance Ltd. is/are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to undersigned with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any claim, if any, of such persons will be considered to have been waived and abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of Mortgage in respect thereof. 0040620288-13

PUBLIC NOTICE


My client Sh. Jitendra Kumar, son of Baran Lal R/o H. No.622, Gali No.21 Sh. No.43/12/28, C-Block, Indraprastha Extension, Delhi-110028, has severed all his relations with his son named Anuragha & his wife Shri. Anuragha & his wife Shri. Anuragha and his daughters and disowned and disowned them from property bearing No.106, West Nangal Colony, Gali No.3, Mangoli Road, Ghazipur, Delhi-110028, and his wife Smt. No.622, Gali No.21, Kh. No.43/12/28, C-Block, Indraprastha Extension, Delhi-110028, alongwith his wife, has severed all his relations with his son named Anuragha & his wife Shri. Anuragha & his wife Shri. Anuragha and his daughters and disowned and disowned them from property bearing No.106, West Nangal Colony, Gali No.3, Mangoli Road, Ghazipur, Delhi-110028, and his wife Smt. No.622, Gali No.21, Kh. No.43/12/28, C-Block, Indraprastha Extension, Delhi-110028, alongwith his wife, has severed all his relations with his son named Anuragha & his wife Shri. Anuragha & his wife Shri. 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WORLD



NATO TO BOOST RAPID REACTION FORCE, UKRAINE MILITARY SUPPORT [PAGE 18](#)

16 REBEL MLAs CAN REPLY TO DISQUALIFICATION NOTICE BY JULY 12

SC grants relief to Sena rebels, asks if Dy Speaker can decide on own removal

Told it can't intervene in House matter, bench says judicial review not barred

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

SHIV SENA rebel MLAs, who had been asked by Maharashtra Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal to reply by Monday evening to notices on pleas seeking their disqualification from the Assembly, got interim relief when the Supreme Court said they had time until 5.30 pm on July 12 to send their replies.

The vacation bench of Justices Surya Kant and Justice J B Pardiwala which issued notice on two petitions — one by Sena rebel leader Eknath Shinde and another by 15 MLAs of his faction who had been served disqualification notices — fixed July 11 as the next date of hearing. “In the meanwhile, as an interim measure, the time granted by Deputy Speaker to petitioners or other similarly placed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

EXPLAINED Next steps unclear

WHILE THE SC has granted interim relief to the Sena rebel MLAs, it is not clear what happens next on the ground. If a floor test is called before the next court hearing, it could trigger another chain of events.

EXPLAINED, PAGE 16

ED summons Sanjay Raut, he calls it ‘conspiracy’

SAGAR RAJPUT & VALLABH OZARKAR
MUMBAI, JUNE 27

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) has summoned Shiv Sena MP and spokesperson Sanjay Raut on Tuesday in connection with a case of alleged money laundering linked to a redevelopment project in Mumbai's suburbs. The call comes at a time when

Raut is trying to rally the Sena's MLAs and workers behind Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray in a bid to overcome an internal revolt led by rebel leader Eknath Shinde who has claimed the support of 39 of the party's 55 MLAs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

REBEL MINISTERS LOSE PORTFOLIOS [PAGE 12](#)

GUJARAT 2002 CASES

Moving key riot trials out to indicting state: What Supreme Court once said and did

At one stage, top court even expunged Gujarat HC remarks against Teesta

LEENA MISRA & SOHINI GHOSH
AHMEDABAD, JUNE 27

DISMISSING THE appeal by Zakia Jafri, wife of former Congress MP Ahsan Jafri who was killed during the 2002 Gujarat riots, against the Special Investigation Team clean chit to then Chief Minister Narendra Modi and others over allegations of conspiracy in the riots, the Supreme Court, in its judgment three days ago, referred to proceedings being pursued to “keep the pot boiling, obviously, for ulterior design” and said “all those involved in such abuse of process, need to be in the dock and proceeded with in accordance with law”.

The bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar, Dinesh Maheshwari

and C T Ravikumar underlined that “materials collected during the investigation do not give rise to strong or grave suspicion regarding hatching of larger criminal conspiracy at the highest level for causing mass violence across the State against the minority community and more so, indicating involvement of the named offenders and their meeting of minds at some level in that regard”.

Yet it was the Supreme Court which, through hearings and orders over the years, called for “fair and impartial investigation” into the riots cases. Two cases — of the Best Bakery and Bilkis Bano — were moved out of Gujarat to Maharashtra.

At one point, the top court even expunged remarks of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

AltNews’ Mohammed Zubair held by Delhi Police for 2018 tweet

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

A CYBER unit of Delhi Police on Monday arrested Mohammed Zubair, the co-founder of fact-checking website AltNews, on charges of allegedly hurting religious sentiments following a complaint by a social media user who referred to a tweet from 2018.

The police said they filed an FIR against Zubair in connection with the complaint under IPC sections 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups) and 295-A (malicious acts, in-



Held on charge of hurting religious sentiments

tended to outrage religious feelings). They said he has been remanded in police custody for a day and will be produced in court for bail hearing after Tuesday.

Police sources said the complainant in the case uses the Twitter name Hanuman Bhakt, with an image of Lord Hanuman as the profile photo. On Monday

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

India joins G7, 4 others to protect free speech, ‘online and offline’

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

INDIA, ALONG with G7 countries and four invited countries, Monday signed the ‘2022 Resilient Democracies Statement’ in which they committed to “guarding the freedom, independence and diversity of civil society actors” and “protecting the freedom of expression and opinion online and offline”.

A four-page statement, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the G-7 summit in Germany, said, “We, the Leaders of Germany, Argentina, Canada, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Senegal, South Africa,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



PM Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Canada's PM Justin Trudeau at the G7 meeting at Schloss Elmau Castle, Germany, on Monday. *PTI*

RELATED REPORT, PAGE 13

GOVT & POLITICS

SANGRUR LOSS: SGPC WANTS AKALI DAL LEADERS TO RESIGN [PAGE 12](#)

Clampdown & unclear policy, crypto exchange founders leaving India

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

MULTIPLE INDIAN entrepreneurs and developers in the Web 3.0 space are moving out of the country in a bid to shift base to more crypto-friendly destinations.

The co-founders of India's largest cryptocurrency exchange WazirX, Nischal Shetty and Siddharth Menon, have moved

to Dubai with their families. Polygon co-founder Sandeep Nailwal is also among those who have relocated to Dubai over the last two years. This is in addition to an earlier round of departures. ZebPay and Vault shifted to Singapore; CoinDCX now has a Singapore arm.

This comes amid a progressive clamping down on cryptocurrencies, including action by enforcement agencies against

some platforms, new rules and regulatory tweaks being issued every few weeks even as there is lack of clarity on policy in the longer run.

Meanwhile, the UAE and Singapore are among those actively promoting the ecosystem, offering policy certainty to investors and incentives to attract and foster talent pools. According to industry insiders,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



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phishing attempts blocked [Report phishing](#) every day


5 Billion

devices protected from unsafe  sites every day

15 Billion

Spam  messages blocked every day

125 Billion

installed apps scanned  for malware every day

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**VACCINATIONS IN
LAST 24 HOURS**
13,422
PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL:
299
OXYGEN SUPPORT
62
VENTILATOR SUPPORT
19

**DELHI TOTAL
CASES**
19,32,026
June 26
June 27
Total
4,553*
19,01,217
26,256
3,90,13,301
*Total active cases in Delhi
Total
9,194
ICU BEDS
2,136
2,061
Deaths
3
7,793
Tests
3,90,13,301
Noida
June 26
June 27
Cases
N/A
N/A
Deaths
N/A
N/A
Gurgaon
Cases
349
220
Deaths
0
0

BRIEFLY

Retired Army man shot dead

Gurgaon: A 37-year-old man, who had retired as a havaldar from the Army, was allegedly shot dead at his house in Basai Enclave, Sector 10, late on Sunday night, said police. Police have booked the victim's brother-in-law on charges of murder after the victim's nephew filed a police complaint.

Two held for duping woman of lakhs

New Delhi: Two men were arrested for allegedly duping a woman of several lakhs via an SMS link related to a job offer at a leading e-commerce company. DCP (South-east) Esha Pandey said: "The accused disclosed during questioning that they used to generate links and send them to random people, promising employment in a major e-commerce company. As soon as the victim clicked on the link, they would hack the victim's mobile and view an OTP sent to the victim to initiate a transaction." **ENS**

Delhi govt to launch 15-day plantation drive: Rai

New Delhi: The Delhi government will launch a 15-day mega plantation drive on July 11 to further increase the green cover in the capital. Environment Minister Gopal Rai said Monday, "Van Mahotsav" will start from the Central Ridge and culminate with the plantation of 1 lakh saplings at the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary on July 25, he said. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, Delhi government ministers, and Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel will participate in the drive. MLAs will lead the drive in their respective constituencies on July 11. **PTI**

RAIN EXPECTED THIS WEEK

Monsoon yet to reach Delhi, IMD to confirm onset date

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

THE SOUTHWEST monsoon has not yet reached Delhi, and has missed its 'normal' onset date in the city — June 27. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is yet to confirm when the monsoon might reach the national capital.

Asked if there were any updates on when the monsoon might hit Delhi, IMD senior scientist R K Jenamani said there were none, but the department is monitoring the conditions and an update is likely to come on Tuesday. On Monday, the IMD said the southwest monsoon had advanced into most parts of the Arabian Sea and Gujarat.

It has also issued a forecast for when the monsoon might reach other parts of northwest India. "Conditions are favourable for further advance of the monsoon into remaining parts of the Arabian Sea, Gujarat, some parts of Rajasthan, remaining parts of Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, some more parts of Uttar

MONSOON ARRIVAL OVER THE YEARS			
	2012	July 7	
	2013	June 16	
	2014	July 3	
	2015	June 25	
	2016	July 2	
	2017	July 2	
	2018	June 28	
	2019	July 5	
	2020	June 25	
	2021	July 13	
	'Normal' onset date in the city — June 27. <i>Amit Mehra</i>		

Pradesh and some parts of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir during the next three to four days," it said in a release issued Monday.

Though the monsoon has missed its date, an east-west trough over North India and moisture-laden winds from the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea are likely to bring light to moderate rainfall or thundershowers to Delhi on June 29 and 30.

With rainfall on the forecast, the maximum temperature could fall to around 35 degrees Celsius on June 30. Cloudy skies

and light rainfall are also on the forecast for July 1, while very light rainfall is likely on July 2 and 3.

The city currently has a rainfall deficit of 59% for the month-24.5 mm recorded against a normal of 59.5 mm till June 27.

The city witnessed another sultry day on Monday, when the maximum temperature was 40.9 degrees Celsius at the Safdarjung weather observatory, four degrees above the normal for this time of the year. Humidity remained high reaching a maximum of 72% over the past 24 hours, going by an IMD

EXPLAINED

How the last few yrs have fared

THE ONSET of the Southwest monsoon in the national capital was delayed last year, when the IMD declared that it had reached the city on July 13, two weeks past the 'normal' date. In 2020, it hit the city a little earlier, on June 25. The monsoon hit Delhi in the first week of July in 2019, 2017 and 2016 as well.

bulletin issued Monday evening. The highest maximum temperature recorded on Monday in the city was 42.1 degrees at Najafgarh.

There has not been much respite from the heat at night, with the minimum temperature settling at 29.4 degrees Celsius early on Monday — two degrees above normal for this time of the year.



RUSH HOUR

Traffic inside the newly inaugurated Pragati Maidan underpass, Monday. *Abhinav Saha*

500 mohalla clinics will soon provide Covid shots

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

OVER 500 mohalla clinics in Delhi will soon function as Covid-19 vaccination centres to make the drive more accessible after the on-going door-to-door campaign.

At present, the shots are provided at all government hospitals, dispensaries, and polyclinics. The vaccination centres at schools, where a large chunk of the population was immunised last year, were closed in April when children returned for physical classes.

The decision is significant because with most clinics being run with only one doctor, one pharmacist, and a multi-purpose worker, routine immunisation for children wasn't a part of the services offered. This was barring a few clinics such as the first one inaugurated in Peeragarh run by staff from the National



This will help us achieve the higher vaccination target soon, said Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia

Health Mission.

"Currently, vaccination is being provided in a mission mode, but still a cohort is due for the second dose and a significantly higher cohort is due for the newly added precaution dose. Addition of vaccination centres at mohalla clinics will help us achieve the higher vaccination target soon," said Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

Withdraw termination notices, demand anganwadi workers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

MORE THAN two months after their services were terminated, more than a hundred anganwadi workers and helpers held a protest outside the Women and Child Development department office in Kashmere Gate on Monday afternoon demanding withdrawal of the termination notices.

Anganwadi workers and helpers across the city had begun a strike on January 31 with the primary demand of a substantial increase in pay. Along with this, they have also been demanding that they be given the status of government employees — currently they are considered honorary workers — along with the benefits that accompany it.

Many of them had continued protesting even after the

then WCD minister Rajendra Pal Gautam on February 24 announced an increase in honorarium in response to the strike. However, the Delhi State Anganwadi Workers and Helpers Union, which has been leading this strike, said it had not called for a meeting with the minister. The strike was finally suspended after the Lieutenant Governor's office issued a notification on March 9 declaring the services provided by anganwadi workers and helpers as 'essential services' and prohibiting their strike for a period of six months by invoking the Haryana Essential Services Maintenance Act.

In the days that followed, 884 anganwadi workers and helpers were issued termination notices, according to estimates by the union. The matter is in the Delhi High Court after the union approached it and the Delhi government had told the court that

it would not terminate any more workers.

On Monday afternoon, a delegation submitted a memorandum to the department demanding withdrawal of their termination notices. Another demand is that all pending dues be paid to the terminated workers and helpers.

"Our strike had begun on the last day of January and we had done our duty for the whole of that month before that. There are also pending payments for other things like our work for PMMVY and community programmes. We also haven't yet received the arrears for an increase in honorarium announced by the central government in 2018," said a 35-year-old who had been working as an anganwadi worker since 2011.

Officials in the WCD department did not respond to calls seeking comment.

Police book personal secy of Sonia Gandhi on rape charges

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

THE DELHI Police has registered a case against the personal secretary of senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi for allegedly raping and threatening a woman. The accused has been identified as 71-year-old P P Madhavan, said police, adding that no arrest has been made so far.

DCP (Dwarka) Harsh Vardhan said, "Allegations are levelled against a 71-year-old person. He is working as PS to a senior political leader. A complaint was received... on June 25. A case under IPC section 376 (rape) and 506 (criminal intimidation) has been registered. We are investigating the matter."

Madhavan told *The Indian Express*: "It is a baseless allegation just to defame the Congress party. There is no truth in it. It is a complete conspiracy."

According to police, the woman, aged 26, lodged a complaint accusing Madhavan of allegedly raping and harassing her on several occasions on the pretext of offering her a job and marrying her. The woman said she met the accused soon after she lost her husband during the Covid lockdown in 2020. Her husband used to work as a helper at the party office. She said she would often go to the Congress office in search of a job.

"My financial condition wasn't good and I went to the

Madhavan told *The Indian Express*: "It is a baseless allegation just to defame the Congress party. There is no truth in it. It is a complete conspiracy"

Congress office where I got Sonia Gandhi's PA P P Madhavan's number. I told him I was in need of a job and he promised to help me... On January 21 (this year), he called me for an interview. He asked me many questions and viewed all my documents... He then told me that he wanted to marry me. I said yes... One day, he called me to meet him... He came to pick me up in a car... he asked his driver to leave the car. He sexually assaulted me and tried to rape me. When I objected to this, he got angry and left me on the road alone," the woman alleged, as per the FIR.

The complainant alleged the accused later apologised to her and they started talking again. After a few days, he again called her to meet him.

"In February, he called me to meet him... (and) raped me. Later, he told me that his wife had seen my mobile number... I was shocked to hear all this. I asked him about his wife, but he kept ignoring me... he then forced me to have sex with someone else. I refused... He

threatened me saying they (party) have been ruling for 70 years and that he would get me kidnapped. I was scared," alleges the FIR.

Police said the woman lodged a complaint on June 25 and was sent to DDU hospital for a medical examination. Based on her statement and examination, a case was registered against Madhavan.

In a statement, Madhavan said: "As per media reports, the allegations against me referred to an event which occurred in February 2022, which is to say more than four months prior to the registration of an FIR. This itself shows the FIR is solely intended to vilify me and to cast aspersions on my long and sincere career. I reserve my rights to lawfully contest the alleged FIR against me and to take recourse to the available legal remedies against the false and malicious complaint which has been filed against me."

"I have evidence to demonstrate and establish that the alleged complaint has been made in a pre-concerted manner in order to settle a political vendetta and the present complaint is devoid of merits. I condemn the smear campaign run against me by the complainant and the people behind her and the same appears to be propelled by sick minds in order to vilify the image of a reputed 71-year-old man known for his service to society," he further said.

Court extends Jain's judicial custody for 2 weeks in 'money laundering' case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

A DELHI court extended the judicial custody of AAP minister Satyendar Jain for two weeks in a case of alleged money laundering registered by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Jain had appeared through video conferencing before Special Judge Geetanji Goel, who initially refused to extend his judicial remand when neither Jain nor his lawyers were present in court. The ED had informed the court that Jain was hospitalised following which the court asked the agency to produce Jain through video conferencing. He was earlier admitted to Lok Nayak hospital after a dip in his oxygen level.

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Jain has been in custody since May 30. He was arrested by the central agency in connection with an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) registered by it on the basis of a case lodged by the CBI in August 2017 under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Jain is accused of having laundered money through four companies allegedly linked to him. He was sent to judicial custody on June 13 on completion of his ED custody.

His bail application was recently rejected by the court which said that the accused enjoys an influential position and it cannot be ruled out that he could influence the witnesses. The court had also said that no specific ground has been taken in the bail application regarding the medical condition of the accused and no documents have been produced to show the extent of the medical condition.

According to the ED, Jain, be-



AAP minister Satyendar Jain has been in custody since May 30

tween February 2015 and May 2017, when he was a minister, allegedly acquired assets that were disproportionate to his known sources of income. It is alleged by the ED and CBI that Jain and his family members had active control over at least four companies that laundered money to the tune of Rs 11.78 crore during the years 2010 to 2012 and Rs 4.63 crore during the check period. The ED alleges that accommodation entries were layered and received from Kolkata-based shell companies into the companies "owned by" Jain and agricultural lands were purchased from those funds.

Senior AAP leader Gopal Rai Monday alleged the Centre is "shamelessly" misusing the ED against opposition parties that dare to raise their voice against the BJP, and said it seems the nation is heading towards one-party rule. "It's not a secret anymore and it's not about one or two opposition parties. The central government is now misusing the ED against all parties that dare to speak against the BJP," Rai told reporters while responding to a query on Jain's judicial custody. *(with PTI inputs)*

DUSIB to set up creches, libraries at slum clusters

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

THE DELHI Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) is planning to set up libraries in JJ clusters situated on Delhi government land for use of school and college students. It is also planning to set up creches in slums to provide a safe space for working parents to leave their children.

The DUSIB will first carry out a detailed survey of all JJ clusters on its land. For this, about 50 college students will be hired for a month-long internship, which may be extended depending upon the work, and they will be guided by officials.

"Young scholars who will be hired for an internship at DUSIB will be tasked with surveying JJ bastis on DUSIB land to gather information about school-going children and to find suitable places where public libraries can be set up. They will also survey the number of parents/guardians who are working and the locations where creches are needed," said a senior official.

"We have also issued an advertisement announcing that DUSIB is hiring young scholars during the summer vacation. This will be a great opportunity for them and will also add to their resume. They will first undergo a two-day training session. Selected candidates will be paid Rs 15,000 a month and will get a certificate," said an official.

It has also requested vice-chancellors and principals of universities and colleges in Delhi to inform students of the opportunity and encourage them to apply.

The interns will also survey all 195 night shelters managed by DUSIB to know about the needs, challenges and issues faced by its occupants.

SCHEDULED TO BE UNVEILED ON AUGUST 15

Hologram removed, grand canopy at India Gate readies for Bose statue

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

THE HOLOGRAM of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose has been removed from the Grand Canopy at India Gate, while the fittings for the actual stone statue have started.

Sources told *The Indian Express* that the hologram was switched off late last week, and for the next month and a half,

fittings for the actual statue will be carried out, which is scheduled to be unveiled on August 15 this year.

Mysuru-based sculptor Arun Yogiraj — who had created the 12-feet statue of Adi Shankaracharya at Kedarnath — was roped in for the 30-feet statue of Bose to be installed at the India Gate. A huge block of black granite stone was selected for the statue, which has been transported to Delhi, where the

carving is underway presently. Work on the Bose statue is slated to be completed before the August 15 deadline, sources say, adding that the statue will weigh around 90 tonnes.

It was in January when the Prime Minister had announced that a "grand statue" of Netaji will be installed beneath the canopy at India Gate.

Officials in the Ministry of Culture had said that Netaji's hologram will be in place at the



spot, powered by a 30,000 lumens 4K projector, until the granite statue is completed. The dimensions of the hologram statue — which was unveiled by the PM on January 23 to mark Bose's 125th birth anniversary celebrations — were the same as

Sources told *The Indian Express* that the hologram was switched off late last week. *Express*

the actual one being sculpted.

The sandstone canopy where Netaji's statue will be installed was built in 1936, and housed the statue of King George V. After the Independence, there was opposition to the statue's central location, but it stood at the site for another two decades, until it was moved to Coronation Park in 1968.

There have been deliberations during successive governments of installing a Mahatma

Gandhi statue where King George V's statue stood, or that of the first PM Jawaharlal Nehru. Several historians were of the view that the canopy should remain empty as a reminder of the country's past. So, for more than five decades, the canopy remained empty, earning the name 'Empty Canopy'.

Located at a junction of six roads, the 73-foot canopy is inspired by a sixteenth-century pavilion from Mahabalipuram.



BRICS: Writing a New Chapter of Human Development and Progress

ADVERTORIAL

Ambassador's Message

BRICS Countries: Create A Better Future for Mankind

THE OCEAN is vast when it can be inclusive for hundreds of rivers. Over the past 16 years, the BRICS co-operation mechanism has grasped the historic trend of openness and development, and embarked on a righteous course of mutual support and win-win cooperation. From June 22 to 24, President Xi Jinping virtually hosted the 14th BRICS Summit and the High-Level Dialogue on Global Development in Beijing, and delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the BRICS Business Forum. President Xi Jinping tapped the gavel, marking the adoption of the Beijing Declaration at the BRICS Summit. And China released the Chair's Statement of the High-level Dialogue on Global Development. The BRICS co-operation has reached a new milestone and made new contributions to a better future for mankind.

Today, peace and development remain the theme of our times. However, various security challenges keep emerging, world economic recovery is losing momentum and global governance faces difficult choices. President Xi Jinping, with his deep reflection on and a strong sense of responsibility for the destiny of mankind, put forward the Global Security Initiative, advocating a vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security. At the BRICS Summit, President Xi Jinping shared thoughts with leaders of BRICS partners including India, Russia, Brazil and South Africa, drawing a new grand blueprint for BRICS cooperation, and sending out a powerful message to the world calling for peace not war, development not regression, openness not isolation, solidarity not division, and cooperation not confrontation.

President Xi Jinping pointed out that development is a timeless theme for humanity. Eighteen emerging markets and developing countries actively participated in the High-level Dialogue on Global Development and were committed to jointly building a high-quality global development partnership, which demonstrated the strong vitality and attractiveness of the BRICS mechanism. BRICS countries should work together with emerging markets and developing countries to support the early implementation of the Global Development Initiative, and foster a development paradigm featuring benefits for all, balance, coordination, inclusiveness, a win-win cooperation and common prosperity.

China and India are both large developing countries and important emerging markets, and have maintained close coordination and cooperation in a wide range of multilateral institutions and international fora, including BRICS. Last year, India played an important role as the rotating Chair of BRICS. This year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 14th BRICS Summit, the High-level Dialogue on Global Development, the BRICS Business Forum and delivered remarks respectively, showing that India attaches great importance to BRICS cooperation and lends firm support to China's Chairship. China highly appreciates India's commitment and endeavor. Within the BRICS framework, China and India have conducted cooperation in multiple areas. The New Development Bank has established a regional office in India, which will provide financial support and cooperation opportunities for infrastructure development and sustainable development for India and regional countries. China, India, Russia and other BRICS countries strengthened cooperation in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic and launched the BRICS Vaccine R&D Centre, which demonstrated BRICS countries' friendly bonds to come to each other's assistance and pull together in these trying times. China and India are also working with other BRICS partners to advance practical cooperation in science and technological innovation, digital economy, people-to-people exchanges and sustainable development.

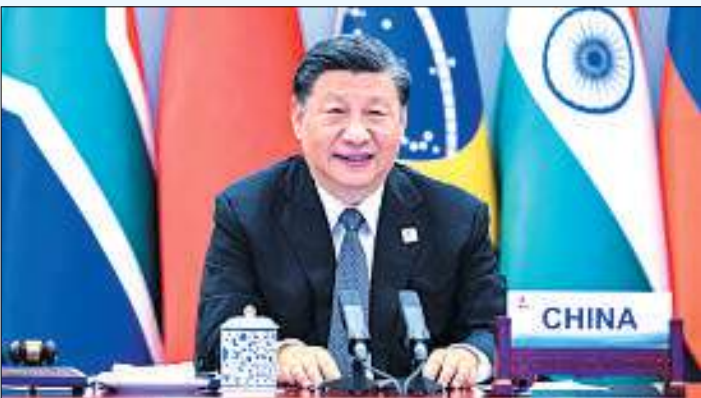
As the tide of the millennium surges, it is time to set sail amid the rising wind. BRICS countries should follow the trend of the times of peace and development, take bold action, and be a positive, stabilising and constructive force in the world. Let us make united efforts to uphold fairness and justice, strengthen solidarity and cooperation, practise multilateralism and promote global development. We should further burnish BRICS' credentials and work together with the emerging markets and developing countries towards the goal of building a community with a shared future for mankind.



H.E. Sun Weidong
Ambassador
Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary of the
People's Republic of
China to the Republic
of India

Safeguard Fairness and Justice and Uphold Justice to Maintain World Peace

From June 23 to 24, 2022, President Xi Jinping chaired the 14th BRICS Summit and the High-level Dialogue on Global Development via video link and delivered important remarks. On June 22, President Xi Jinping also delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the BRICS Business Forum. Following the summits in Sanya and Xiamen, China hosted the BRICS Summit for the third time. It is of great importance to uphold international fairness and justice, revitalise global development, and promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. President Xi Jinping led the BRICS summits to produce a series of pioneering, leading and institutional outcomes and demonstrated the



historical responsibility and global vision of a major country's leader and shared China's new contribution to world peace and development.

During this BRICS Summit, President Xi Jinping further elaborated on the connotation and practical significance of the Global Security Initiative.



President Xi said:

■ As important emerging markets and major developing countries, the BRICS countries should have the courage to assume our responsibilities and act boldly to inject positive, stable and constructive forces into the world.
■ China will work with all peace-

loving countries to uphold justice, safeguard peace and promote the building of a global community of security for all.

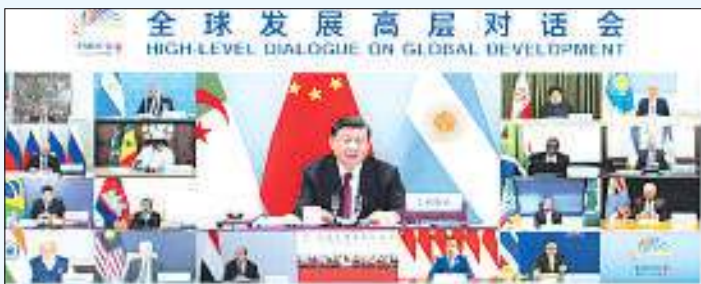
Under the theme of "Foster High-quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development", leaders of the five countries held an in-depth exchange of views on BRICS cooperation in various sectors and major issues of common concern and reached important consensus. The XIV BRICS Summit Beijing Declaration was adopted and released at the event.

Focus on Development and Set the Direction for Global Development Cooperation

THE Global Development Initiative (GDI) has been warmly received by more than 100 countries and international organisations, and more than 50 countries have joined the Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative.

At this High-Level Dialogue on Global Development, President Xi Jinping further proposed to foster a development paradigm featuring benefits for all, balance, coordination, inclusiveness, a win-win cooperation and common prosperity, and put forth a four-point proposal. He said, we need to jointly:

- Put development at the front and centre of international agenda, and deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Build an open-world economy, and shape a global governance system and institutional environment that are more just and equitable.
- Promote scientific, technologi-



cal and institutional innovation, with a view to achieving stronger, greener and healthier global development.

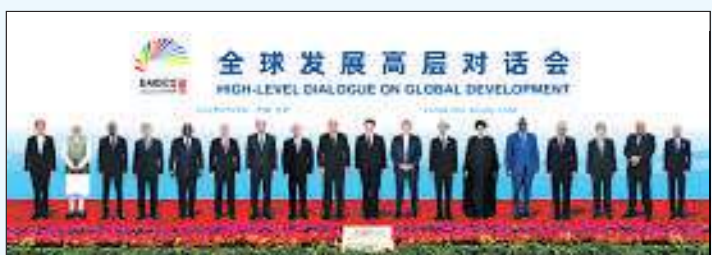
● Forge a global development partnership.

President Xi Jinping also announced China's important measures to implement the GDI:

- Set up the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund.
- Enhance support for the China-UN Peace and Development Fund.

- Issue a Global Development Report.
- Establish a Global Development Promotion Center.
- Establish a Global Knowledge Network for Development.

China looks forward to working with the international community to inject strong impetus into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In addition to leaders of the BRICS countries, the political dignitaries who attended the dialogue include leaders of major emerging markets and de-



veloping countries:

- Indonesia, the rotating presidency of the Group of 20
- Thailand, the host of APEC;
- Kazakhstan, the rotating chair of the Commonwealth of Independent States
- Cambodia, the rotating chair of ASEAN
- Fiji, the host country of the Pacific Islands Forum
- Argentina, the rotating presidency of CELAC
- Senegal, the rotating chairman-ship of the African Union

- Uzbekistan, the rotating chairmanship of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization
- Algeria, the incoming rotating chairmanship of the League of Arab States
- Egypt ● Ethiopia ● Malaysia
- Iran

The high-level dialogue has wide representation and international influence to work for common development and prosperity. A list of deliverables composed of 32 measures was also released at the dialogue.

Promote Win-win Cooperation and Help Improve the Global Governance System

THE global economic recovery is at a critical juncture, and the reform of global governance faces a choice of direction. President Xi Jinping's speech answers the common call of the developing countries, and has charted the course for the reform of the global governance system and pooled strength to boost the global economic recovery.

President Xi noted in his keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the BRICS Business Forum. We should:

- Embrace solidarity and coordination and jointly maintain world peace and stability.
- Reach out to each other and jointly promote sustainable global development.



- Tide over difficulties together and jointly pursue win-win cooperation.
- Be inclusive and jointly expand

openness and integration. China will work with emerging markets and developing countries to stay on the right path of economic



globalization and build a more fair, equitable, inclusive global governance system that benefits all.

At the BRICS Summit, President Xi Jinping put forward a four-point proposal for the future development of BRICS:

- First, we need to uphold solidarity and safeguard world peace and tranquility.
- Second, we need to uphold co-

operation to boost development and jointly tackle risks and challenges.

● Third, we need to uphold the pioneering spirit and innovation and unleash the potential and vitality of cooperation.

● Fourth, we need to uphold openness and inclusiveness and pool collective wisdom and strength.

In response to the recent expectation of many countries to join the BRICS mechanism, President Xi Jinping pointed out that BRICS is a big family of mutual support and a partnership for win-win cooperation. Under the new circumstances, it is all the more important for BRICS countries to pursue development with open doors and boost cooperation with open arms.



Ten Highlights of the BRICS' China Year

Under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, the BRICS' China Year is full of fruitful results and highlights. China will host over 170 BRICS events in various fields throughout the year. In the first half of this year alone, more than 20 ministerial meetings were held, and each of the BRICS Plus events attracted more than 50 non-BRICS countries. This year, BRICS activities will deliver 37 major outcomes, it can be preliminarily summarised as 'Ten Highlights'

■ First, send BRICS' strong message of safeguarding international fairness and justice. Release the Beijing Declaration, express the common position on supporting multilateralism and improving the global governance system, and put forward BRICS proposals for safeguarding world peace.

■ Second, consolidate the BRICS line of defense against the pandemic. Launch the BRICS Vaccine R&D Center and build a comprehensive platform for joint research, development and production that reaches out to developing countries to help build a community of health for all.

■ Third, play BRICS' part to keep the global economy open. Release the Joint Statement on Supporting Multilateral Trading System and WTO Reform of the BRICS countries, put forward the BRICS Initiative on Enhancing Cooperation on Supply Chains, and build BRICS consensus on upholding the multilateral trading system and improving the formulation of international trade rules.

■ Fourth, highlight BRICS actions to win the fight against corruption. Adopt the BRICS Initiative on Denial of Safe Haven to Corruption, and deepen practical cooperation among BRICS countries on cross-border corruption governance and pursuit of economic and corrupt offenders to build a new global anti-corruption governance system.

■ Fifth, lay a solid foundation for building a big market for BRICS integration. Sign the Agreement Between the Governments of BRICS Countries on Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters, and release the BRICS Initiative on Trade and Investment for Sustainable Development, to provide new growth drivers for promoting trade facilitation and achieving economic recovery.

■ Sixth, inject BRICS impetus into global food security. Reach the first Strategy on Food Security Cooperation of the BRICS Countries, and establish the Forum on Agricultural and Rural Development, to showcase the five BRICS countries' practical actions to stabilize global food production and the positive contributions to global food security governance.

■ Seventh, tap the potential of BRICS for innovation-driven development. Establish the BRICS network of technology transfer centers, and host the Forum on Big Data for Sustainable Development, to contribute to economic transformation, upgrading and high-quality development in the five BRICS countries.

■ Eighth, expand BRICS cooperation in new domains of frontier science and technology. Establish the BRICS aerospace cooperation mechanism, and promote exchanges and innovation in space science and technology, to set a BRICS model for the peaceful use of outer space and aerospace technology for sustainable development.

■ Ninth, seize the opportunity of the times for the development of the digital economy. Endorse the BRICS Digital Economy Partnership Framework, and release the BRICS Initiative for Cooperation on Digitalization of Manufacturing, to achieve leapfrog development together.

■ Tenth, build a future-oriented pool of high-quality technical talent. Establish the BRICS Technical and Vocational Education and Training Cooperation Alliance, and hold the Skills Competition, SDG Solutions Competition, and Women's Innovation Contest, to promote connectivity between the talent, industrial and innovation chains of the five BRICS countries.

THE IDEAS PAGE

A skewed playing field

Small businesses are suffering from unethical practices and unequal bargaining power of online aggregator platforms. It is time that a set of comprehensive rules and regulations is put together



SUSHIL KUMAR MODI

AS TECHNOLOGY FLATTENS the world, the way we operate our daily lives — travel, entertain, educate, shop, communicate and even obtain food — is undergoing a radical change. This has impacted a variety of stakeholders in the country differently — there are obvious winners and losers. The nature of our success in dealing with this change will lie in the ways in which we deal with the concerns of all players.

The proliferation of a wide range of e-commerce platforms has created convenience and increased consumer choice. But in hindsight, the initial cashback and deep discounts have turned out to be a forerunner to addition. The online aggregator platforms have also damaged large segments of small and medium businesses through their dominant position and the malpractices this position allows them to indulge in. There is a clear pattern that shows the domination of a few big platforms.

These companies resort to predatory pricing to acquire customers even as they suffer persistent financial losses — SEBI is rightly revisiting the valuation norms of such companies looking to list on the stock exchange. They take away choice from suppliers and consumers. This, in the long run, can be viewed as an exclusionary practice that eliminates other players from the market. The ultimate loss bearer is the consumer who will have a reduced bargaining position due to less competition and will be subject to the arbitrariness of monopolistic conduct.

Be it e-marketplaces like Amazon and Flipkart or food service aggregators like Zomato or Swiggy or travel aggregators like MakeMyTrip and OYO, all have been accused of distorting the market. The story of big technology companies like Google, Facebook, and Apple is different, and best left for another time.

While neutrality is the fundamental basis of a marketplace and a level playing field is in the fitness of things, claims of outfits such as Flipkart or Amazon to be a marketplace for a wide variety of sellers can be questioned. A few select sellers, who are generally affiliated with the platform, reap the benefits of greater visibility and better terms of trade — reduced commissions and platform-funded discounts. Zomato, like other food aggregators, is said to run cloud kitchens. Many of them run private-labelled products in categories where other sellers have been successful. The associate companies are prominent sellers on their platform. It is alleged that undue advantage is given while recommending or listing these products.

Online travel aggregators are often accused of cartelisation. The Competition Commission of India's investigation in the OYO-MakeMyTrip collusion case resulted in MakeMyTrip being ordered to relist properties of Treebo and FabHotels. Other such arbitrary removals or suppressions of listing of competing products and services have also been heard of.



CR Sasikumar

While using these platforms, citizens share their data voluntarily and involuntarily. The aggregators gather shopping habits, consumer preferences, and other personal data. The platforms are accused of using this data — data that is neither created by them (it is created by customers) nor for them (it is created for sellers of the product/service) — to create and improve their own products and services, taking away business from other sellers on their platform. They capitalise on this data and information about other brands to launch competing products on their marketplace. This information asymmetry is exploited by the aggregators to devour organisations they promise to support. They provide more prominent listings for their private labels and as they have complete control over customer reviews and ratings on the platform; manipulation and arbitrary removal have also been reported.

Another issue often noticed is the lack of a fair and transparent dispute resolution mechanism for sellers on these platforms. Delayed payments, unreasonable charges, and hidden fees are common occurrences. The power of these platforms is at the cost of small hardworking businesses. Small restaurants complain that food-service aggregators' inability to service a customer request is attributed to the restaurant's inability. Similarly, hotels listed on these platforms are blamed for customer grievances arising from over-committing. In some cases, restaurants and hotels are arbitrarily shown as closed. Large restaurants with their own delivery networks are forced to use the aggregator's delivery services.

While neutrality is the fundamental basis of a marketplace and a level playing field is in the fitness of things, claims of outfits such as Flipkart or Amazon to be a marketplace for a wide variety of sellers can be questioned. A few select sellers, who are generally affiliated with the platform, reap the benefits of greater visibility and better terms of trade — reduced commissions and platform-funded discounts. Zomato, like other food aggregators, is said to run cloud kitchens. The associate companies are prominent sellers on their platform. It is alleged that undue advantage is given while recommending or listing these products.

Unreasonable and one-sided contracts allow travel aggregators to have a disparity clause (in the rates) which allows them to offer rooms at a much cheaper rate but bars the hotels from doing so. Restaurants are many a time forced to accept orders at prices much lower than their agreement. Hotels are denied delisting from platforms; other exit clauses are restrictive. Taxis attached with aggregators like Ola and Uber are pressured to use the company's payment system and are often at the receiving end of arbitrary charges.

Across the world, small businesses are suffering from the unethical practices and unequal bargaining power of these large platforms. It is time that a set of comprehensive rules and regulations is put together. These regulations need to be inclusive, should eliminate the conflicts of interest inherent in current market practices, and prevent any anti-competitive practices. A model agreement that is fair and allows a level playing field between the aggregators and their business partners should be implemented. There is a lot to learn from the Digital Markets Act of the EU that seeks to address unfair practices by these gatekeepers. Strong and quick grievance redressal and dispute resolution mechanisms should be established. The rules should allow for punitive penalties for unfair practices. Market dominance and subsequent invoking of fair competition rules should be triggered at the level of micro-markets and for product segments.

The writer is Rajiya Sabha MP and former deputy chief minister of Bihar

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“The US is exceptional in its lack of federal maternity provisions; children as well as parents will suffer the consequences of unwanted additions to their families, with poor and black people the worst affected.” — THE GUARDIAN

On startups, a gravity check

There aren't that many consumers with significant discretionary spending capacity, and those with capacity aren't increasing their spending



ISHAN BAKSHI

THE CYCLE, however long, eventually turns. And turned it has, in India. The startup ecosystem which has been in overdrive for the past few years — propelled by a combination of factors, but largely, by the era of cheap money — is now showing signs of weakness. And with this turn comes the realisation that many of the assumptions that underpinned the stratospheric valuations were unhinged from reality.

It was hard not to be swept by the allure and promise of the new age tech companies. Built on a compelling narrative — the combination of accelerated financial inclusion (bank accounts), ease of identification (Aadhaar) and connectivity (mobile phones) — it is ultimately a bet on the Indian consumer, and the economy, not on government regulations/policies. In the era of cheap money and negative real interest rates, uncomfortable questions over the true market size and profitability were swept under the rug. High cash burn rates were the norm as both startups and investors sought growth by subsidising the customer.

But profitability is not just an arcane concept that belongs to another century. Among the startups that have gone public in recent times, Paytm's losses stood at Rs 2,396 crore in 2021-22, while for Zomato and PB Fintech (PolicyBazaar) losses were Rs 1,222 crore and Rs 832 crore respectively. The seemingly inexhaustible source of cash that funds such losses is now being squeezed. Sure, investors will continue to pour money. Some early age start-ups will continue to be funded, as will some of the more mature ones. But investors are likely to be more circumspect in their dealings. This will include the entire range — from early stage venture capitalists to institutional and retail investors — all of whom have made money, but have also burnt their fingers.

Recently, Alibaba and Ant Financial exited their entire holdings in Paytm Mall for Rs 42 crore, valuing the venture at a mere Rs 100 crore — a far cry from the \$3 billion valuation ascribed to the company in its last fund-raising round. There are also reports of startups in diverse markets, ranging from Ola to OYO, planning to raise funds at lower valuations. Among those who have gone public in recent times, most are trading much below their listing price.

During the heady days, many numbers, indicators of the size of the market or TAM (the total addressable market), were bandied about. One such number thrown around is the smartphone users in the country — some have pegged this at 500 million. Or the transactions routed through the UPI platform — in May there were almost six billion transactions worth Rs 10 trillion. Or the near universality of bank accounts. But in reality, for most of these startups, the market or even the potential market is just a fraction of this. Whichever way one slices the data, the reality is, there aren't that many consumers with significant discretionary spending capacity,

and those with the capacity aren't increasing their spending as these companies would hope. This seems to be the case across start-ups for a range for products/services.

Take Zomato, for instance. In 2021-22, 535 million orders for food delivery were placed on the platform. Considering that the company has 50 million annual transacting consumers, this translates to just under 11 orders per customer for the entire year or less than one order per customer per month. Of these 50 million customers, only 15 million transacted at least once a month, while 1.8 million did so once a week. In the case of Nykaa, the average monthly unique visitors range from around 16 million for the fashion vertical to 21 million for the beauty and personal care products. However, the number of transacting customers is only 1.8 million and 8.4 million respectively. Similarly, while PolicyBazaar has around 59 million registered customers, only 11.8 million are unique purchasing customers.

What is equally worrying is the complete absence of any increase in spending by even these consumers who would have the capacity to spend more. In 2020-21, the average order value on Zomato was Rs 397. In 2021-22, it was Rs 398. In the case of Nykaa, the average order value in the beauty and personal care vertical was Rs 1,732 during January-March 2022 — the lowest it has been in the last eight quarters. In the fashion category, it was almost flat compared to the same period last year. In the case of PolicyBazaar, the situation isn't any different.

While more consumers are on-board digital payment platforms — Paytm has about 70 million monthly transacting users — these numbers suggest that when it comes to consumers with considerable discretionary spending, the size of the market shrivels considerably. While these companies have seen an increase in the number of transacting customers, to what extent the overall customer base for these startups can expand further is constrained by the number of households in the cohort that has significant spending power. And if sales of small cars, a marker of an increase in discretionary spending, a sign of ascendancy to the ranks to the middle class, aren't growing — sales of Maruti Suzuki's mini and compact segments, which account for roughly two-thirds of the car makers domestic sales, actually contracted in 2021-22 — then it is perhaps the clearest indication that the market just isn't expanding. The macro reality is catching up.

Tighter financial conditions, a re-rating of the market, will impact both fundraising efforts and valuations. Several questions arise. To what extent will investors continue to subsidise consumers? Will startups still command the same valuations they have received in previous fundraising rounds? Or will we see down rounds? Some startups will survive this period. Many may not. And changes in the dynamics of private markets will also have a bearing on public markets.

Intriguingly, though, even as questions over the prospects of startups, consumers, and the economy are being raised, valuations of some companies in sectors more tightly regulated, more directly influenced by government policies, seem to defy gravity. For some of these companies, the price-to-earnings ratio is even higher than the astronomical price-to-rent ratios of residential real estate in Delhi.

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PAYAL SHAH

Don't look at America

All of us, wherever we live, must push back on the criminalisation of abortion

FOR HALF a century, women and pregnant people in the US have relied on the right to abortion to make decisions about their lives, health, and well-being. In 1973, the US Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade* established critical protections against violations of individuals' rights to bodily autonomy, health, and equality. *Roe's* legacy was not only felt in America. Around the world, national courts relied upon *Roe* to articulate their own constitutional recognition of reproductive rights and bodily autonomy, including in India.

On June 24, the US Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in a 6-3 vote, eliminating the constitutional right to abortion in the country and sending the decision to state legislatures. Within mere hours of this momentous decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Center*, nine states have already banned abortion. Overall, 26 states are certain or likely to ban abortions in the coming weeks.

In many parts of the US, pregnant individuals and health workers seeking to provide abortion will be increasingly subject to criminal penalties. The impacts of these criminal laws will be felt most acutely by marginalised individuals who have limited means to seek safe and legal services and are already subject to greater criminalisation, including low-income women and women of colour. Some may be able to travel or access medication abortion, but that will not be an option for everyone.

Under international human rights law, countries must repeal discriminatory criminal

laws. As United Nations Special Rapporteurs stated in their amicus curiae brief submitted to the Supreme Court in this case, 'the United States would contradict international human rights law by overturning its established constitutional protections for abortion access — both by failing to recognise abortion access as necessary for women's autonomy, equality and non-discrimination and by retrogressing on human rights contrary to international law.'

These rights have now been stripped from people in the US, as the dissenting opinion of three justices in the *Dobbs* decision emphasises: "The Court today says that from the very moment of fertilization, a woman has no rights to speak of. A State can force her to bring a pregnancy to term, even at the steepest personal and familial costs... The majority's refusal even to consider the life-altering consequences of reversing *Roe* and *Casey* is a stunning indictment of its decision."

At my organisation, Physicians for Human Rights, we are alarmed that health workers in the US will soon be placed in the difficult position of having to decide between adhering to new anti-abortion laws or fulfilling their medical ethics to provide comprehensive, evidence-based healthcare to their patients. Violence and threats against health workers who provide reproductive health services were already rising. The death threats, violence, and obstruction will likely increase as abortion is outlawed in states across the country.

A statement by UN human rights experts

emphasises the link between the Court's attack on gender equality and broader struggles for democracy: "What has happened in the United States today is a profound setback for the rule of law and gender equality. The excessive use of the legislative process, executive power, and judicial authority over the years to restrict and criminalise abortion rather than to expand it and ensure equitable access to safe abortion services, signals a deeply troubling erosion of democratic values and process." By allowing states to effectively force individuals to carry pregnancies to term, the Court has placed the US amongst a small set of countries that in recent years have backtracked on abortion rights: El Salvador, Honduras, Iran, Nicaragua, and Poland.

The Court's decision stands in stark contrast to the global trend toward the liberalisation of abortion laws and is out of step with other democracies. In countries from Colombia to Argentina to Ireland to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, critical law reform has occurred to remove barriers to abortion.

Similarly, India just last year amended its 50-year-old abortion law — passed just two years before *Roe* — to further expand access. While decisions are not uniform, in cases spanning issues such as maternal health, access to contraception, forced and involuntary sterilisation, abortion, sexual and reproductive health rights of adolescents, employment discrimination on grounds of pregnancy or childcare, among others, Indian courts have developed robust jurisprudence that not only

reflects but also advances global human rights standards.

In the months and years to come, the reversal of *Roe* may be cited as grounds for retrogression in the jurisprudence of other countries. We must not let that happen. We must recognise abortion jurisprudence in the US as the anti-democratic, idiosyncratic, and anti-health development it is and instead, hold its lawmakers accountable for the cruelty, violence, and devastating health impacts that this court decision will cause.

Further, all of us, wherever we live, must push back on the criminalisation of abortion. Even in countries like India where there has been recent progress, the continued inclusion of abortion in the penal code — albeit with exceptions — has been documented to have a harmful impact, including on marginalised populations. We must call upon our governments to treat abortion as an essential health service. In the face of such an egregious setback on human rights, we cannot be silent. We must act in solidarity with pregnant people and health workers under threat, wherever they are.

The writer is director, Programme on Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones at Physicians for Human Rights and the former acting Regional Director for Asia at the Center for Reproductive Rights. She is also a Fellow with the International Programme on Sexual and Reproductive Health Law, University of Toronto

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GAP IN BRICS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Balancing BRICS' (IE, June 27). BRICS has not lived upto the expectations it set a decade ago. Initiatives like New Development Bank and the BRICS programme on vaccines are commendable. Having said that, there are many complexities in this grouping. First, internal imbalance, which largely favours China. Second, strained ties between India and China mar the group's ability to deliver. Third, though Brazil's president raised the issue of UN reforms, and India was also supportive of the same, it has not seen much headway in the last decade. Finally, internal trade as a grouping has remained dismal. Considering all of these aspects, it seems that BRICS has a lot to deliver on in times to come.

Dewang Ganesh Thosar, Raigad

SEEKING JUSTICE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'In SC's name' (IE, June 27). Without going into the merits of the case attributed to activist Teesta Setalvad and former IPS officer and whistle-blower R B Sreekumar, one cannot help observing what is perceived to be an overzealous haste with which an FIR was filed against them, accusing them of criminal conspiracy and other offences under the IPC. Acting against those who

sought justice for the riot victims might have a chilling effect on the defenders of human rights and leave the victims with no one to take up the baton on their behalf.

SS Paul, Nadiad

WAY FORWARD

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Backsliding in America' (IE, June 27). Any democracy must work in details of the way forward before rolling back a constitutional right. The US, today, stands at that critical juncture after its Supreme Court reversed the 1973 ruling in *Roe vs Wade*, taking away the constitutional right to abortion. The decision was imminent with the court having a conservative supermajority. People with unwanted pregnancies may in parts of the country, have to opt for medical assistance. There is also a fear that miscarriages could be subject to criminal investigations. Although President Biden and his Democratic Party have declared that they will push for abortion to made into a federally protected right in November's mid-term elections, the effort to protect reproductive rights will likely have to be carried out in stages with legal challenges at multiple levels, along with civil and political support to those seeking it in Red States and through grass-root level campaigns.

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

12 GOVT & POLITICS

MAHARASHTRA POLITICAL CRISIS

Shinde faction plans to approach Governor

In 'wait and watch' mode, BJP holds core committee meeting

SHUBHANGI KHAPRE
MUMBAI, JUNE 27

WITH THE Supreme Court extending the deadline for them to file a response to disqualification notices, the Shiv Sena's rebel group led by Eknath Shinde is learnt to be strategising to approach the Governor, informing him of their decision to withdraw support from the MVA, and thereby, prompting a floor test.

Highly placed sources said, "The Shinde faction is likely to approach Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari at Raj Bhavan, informing its decision to distance itself from Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government."

Claiming to have 50 plus MLAs in its fold, Shinde camp's decision to step out of MVA would raise a question on the numbers with Uddhav Thackeray led MVA government, which

could find it difficult to prove its majority on the floor of the house if the rebel MLAs were to stick together, the sources added.

The development has also sparked worries in the Sena with a senior leader pointing out: "While the SC has given two weeks' time to the rebels to respond to disqualification notices served by deputy speaker Narhari Zirwal, our plea for disallowing floor test till July 11 was not considered."

Shinde camp's confidence stems from its belief that it holds two-third majority in the Shiv Sena. At present, it is claiming support of 39 MLAs out of total 55 MLAs of the Sena. Besides, there are over 10 MLAs from smaller parties/independents with them. Their total support base has risen to over 50, the Shinde camp has claimed.

The total strength of the state legislative assembly is 288

members, which has gone down to 287 with the death of Sena MLA Ramesh Latke last month. The halfway mark to form the government is 144. With Congress's 44, NCP's 53 and Sena's 16 legislators, the aggregate strength of the allies stands at 111 — 33 short of the halfway mark. The number of independents/smaller parties adds up to 29 members, of which around 11 are with Shinde camp. Sources say that even if all the remaining 19 were to align with MVA, the figure still won't cross 130.

"Minus Shinde faction, MVA finds itself confronting the battle for survival in Maharashtra," the source said.

Expressing his happiness, Shinde said, "It is a victory for Balasaheb's Hindutva. We have always maintained that we have not walked out of Sena. Our fight is for the self respect of Sena."

Sources in the Shinde faction



Supporters of rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde celebrate in Thane after SC decision on Monday. Deepak Joshi

said, "A lot of deliberations are underway on the next course of action. We are still fighting for the rights to lead the Sena.. We always wanted Sena to walk away from the Congress and the NCP."

Shinde's son Shrikant alleged that the disqualification notice to his father and 15 MLAs were sent under pressure.

Meanwhile, the BJP, which convened its core committee meeting at the residence of opposition leader Devendra Fadnis, has decided to adopt "wait and watch" strategy. State BJP president Chandrakant Patil said, "What is happening is an internal matter of Sena. We are also closely monitoring the developments."

Maharashtra CM strips all rebel ministers of portfolios

YOGESH NAIK
MUMBAI, JUNE 27

CHIEF MINISTER Uddhav Thackeray, who is facing a rebellion in his party led by Eknath Shinde, has stripped all the rebel ministers of their portfolios. Thackeray said the move was taken to ensure that work of people did not suffer.

The ministries of Urban Development and Public Works undertakings, held by Shiv Sena's Shinde, have been given to industries minister Subhash Desai.

Notably, Desai, whose term as an MLC will soon be over, will have to resign in the next six months.

Water supply minister Gulabrao Patil's ministry has been given to Transport minister Anil Parab, who is facing an Enforcement Directorate (ED) probe and is repeatedly called by the Central agency for questioning.



CM Uddhav Thackeray says work of people shouldn't suffer

Ministries of Agriculture and Sainik Welfare held by Dada Bhuse, Employment Guarantee services and horticulture ministries held by Sandipan Bhumre, and higher and technical education ministries held by Uday Samant will go to the CM's son and environment minister Aaditya Thackeray. All three rebels belong to the Shiv Sena.

Minister of state Shamburaje Desai's Home ministry has been given to Sanjay Bansode while Desai's Finance ministry and Skill Development ministry will be given to Vishwajeet Kadam of the

Congress. The Excise ministry will go to Satej Patil of the Congress.

The ministries held by MoS Rajendra Yadavkar (independent) will also be divided among different leaders. While health will be given to Kadam, medical education and textiles will go to Prajakt Tanpure of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). Similarly, rural development will go to Congress's Patil while cultural affairs will be helmed by Aditi Tatkare of the NCP.

Ministries held by MoS Abdul Sattar of Shiv Sena have also been snatched away with revenue portfolio being given to Tanpure, rural development to Patil and ports to Tatkare.

MoS Bachchu Kadu (independent) has also found himself divested of portfolio with school education going to Tatkare, irrigation to Patil, women and child welfare to Bansode and OBC ministry to Datta Bharme of the NCP.



Aaditya Thackeray visits MGM hospital at Kamothe, Navi Mumbai on Monday to meet Shiv Sena supporter Prasad Sawant, who was attacked by rebel MLAs' supporters in Raigad. Narendra Vaskar

Shinde camp views SC order as victory; disqualification inevitable, says Sena

VALLABH OZARKAR
MUMBAI, JUNE 27

THE SUPREME COURT's order on Monday, extending the time for Eknath Shinde and 15 other rebel MLAs in the Maharashtra State Legislative Assembly to file written response to the Deputy Speaker's disqualification notice till July 12, was deemed as a victory by the rebel camp. On the other hand, the Shiv Sena also put up a brave front stating that the interim order had only postponed

the inevitable disqualification of the rebel MLAs.

"We have won this major battle as the court has given us a major relief and we have time to contemplate on how to take the next step, whether we have to come to Mumbai for floor test or not. We have given all the authority of decision to Shinde saheb who will decide on the further course of action," rebel MLAs Bharat Gogawale, the chief whip of the Shinde camp, said.

When asked if there is any plan on joining hands with the BJP,

Gogawale, said, "We have 51 MLAs and we have to go with someone to form an alliance. We cannot go with the Congress or the NCP and there is only one option, which is the BJP"

Deepak Kesarkar, the spokesperson of the Shinde camp, said that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Shiv Sena will form the government in the state, adding that their leader will be Uddhav Thackeray and that the Congress and the NCP should walk out of the government "instead of asking Thackeray saheb

Raj Bhavan seeks details of files cleared from June 22 to June 24

YOGESH NAIK
MUMBAI, JUNE 27

THE RAJ Bhavan secretariat has asked the state government to give details of the files and proposals cleared on June 22, 23 and 24. The direction comes amid allegations that following the rebellion of the Shiv Sena MLAs, a number of files were cleared and government resolutions (GRs) issued in a hurry in Mantralaya.

Last week, Santosh Kumar, principal secretary to Governor B S Koshyari, had written to chief secretary Manukumar Srivastava directing for details of decisions, deliberations, GRs and circulars to be sent to the Governor. On receiving the letter on Monday, the chief secretary has asked the additional chief secretary (organisation and management) to collate the data.

According to the letter issued to the Chief Secretary, the information has to be placed before the Governor as mandated by the Article 167 of the constitution of India.

Last week, leader of Opposition Pravin Darekar had written to the Governor on the spate of decisions "being taken in a hurry" and had sought the Governor's intervention in the matter.

PIL in HC seeks immediate return of Shinde, rebel ministers

OMKARGOKHALE
MUMBAI, JUNE 27

SEVEN RESIDENTS of Maharashtra have moved a PIL in the Bombay High Court to "consider their fundamental rights" and direct Shiv Sena rebel leader Eknath Shinde, who is on "official leave" with other ministers, to immediately return to the state and assume duties.

The PIL was mentioned before a bench led by Chief Justice Dipankar Datta Monday. The bench said it will decide on granting date of hearing after perusing the praecipe or a written request for urgent hearing moved by the petitioners seeking an urgent hearing. It says "willful absence" by said ministers is conduct that affects the rights of citizens, especially related to farmers and urban issues during the rainy season.

SANGRUR BYPOLL LOSS

SGPC leader wants top SAD leaders to 'admit mistakes', quit

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
AMRITSAR, JUNE 27

AFTER FINISHING a distant fifth in the Sangrur Lok Sabha bypoll, Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal) is facing calls from within the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), the organisation in which it wields almost absolute control, for the party's top leadership to "admit its mistakes" and "hand over its resignation".

SGPC general secretary Karnail Singh Panjoli told *The Indian Express* on Monday that the "Akali leadership has failed". He also hit out at the AAP, describing the party in Punjab as a "slave to the (Arvind) Kejriwal government in Delhi".

Panjoli was reiterating the remarks he had first made in a Facebook post on Sunday evening. The election in Sangrur was won by SAD (Amritsar) president Simranjit Singh Mann, a 77-year-old pro-Khalistan leader, who beat the AAP candidate by a narrow margin of 5,822 votes. SAD (Badal) fielded Kamaldeep Kaur Rajoana who ended fifth.

Congratulating Simranjit Singh Mann, Panjoli described the win in his Facebook post as "a victory of Panthic principles and Sikh ideology" and said the "fall" of SAD (Badal) was a "result of the people's distrust in the present Akali leadership".

On Monday, he said: "This election has proved that the Akali leadership has completely failed to lead the Panth and the people of Punjab. Now the Akali leadership should admit its mistakes and hand over its resignation to the Jathedar of Sri Akal Takht Sahib Giani Harpreet Singh." He said the Jathedar should give leadership of the party to those who can "look after the interests of the Panth and Punjab". The SGPC office-bearer also slammed the



SAD (Amritsar) president Simranjit Singh Mann won the Sangrur bypolls.

AAP's Punjab government.

"I think the biggest reason (for AAP's defeat in Sangrur) is because they tried to lie and deceive Punjabis. The Aam Aadmi Party has ensnared Punjab in double slavery. The Kejriwal government is a slave to the BJP government at the Centre and AAP in Punjab is a slave to the Kejriwal government of Delhi...", he said, repeating portions of his Facebook post.

Panjoli became the SGPC general secretary in November 2021, and holds the second most powerful position in the organisation after the president.

Late on Monday, SAD (Badal) said in a statement: "No one has demanded the resignation of SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal who has been elected to his chair through a democratic process. Victories and defeats happen. Shiromani Akali Dal will continue to uphold its principles and Panthic values at all costs. It appeals to the party rank and file not to be swayed by rumours & display unity to strengthen the party at this juncture."

Leaders of AAP in Punjab did not respond to Panjoli's remarks.

The Sangrur bypoll was necessitated after the incumbent MP Bhagwant Mann resigned from the seat after becoming Chief Minister in March following the AAP's landslide victory in the Assembly elections.

AAP'S FIRST 'JANTA BUDGET'

Punjab Budget: No new taxes, 300 units of free power

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 27

WITH NO new taxes imposed, Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Monday presented the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government's maiden budget for 2022-23 fiscal, with a total outlay of Rs 1,55,859.78 crore and a revenue deficit of Rs 12,553.80 crore.

Putting emphasis on education, health and agriculture, the government's focus to mop up resources would be from excise revenue pegged at Rs 9,648 crore and fiscal prudence. "We will cut corners and exercise fiscal prudence. Previous governments were known for their profligacy and we would ensure not a paisa is wasted... We have saved Rs 20 crore of the state exchequer by doing away with multiple pensions of state legislators. This way we will exercise austerity measures to ensure that people's money went back to people."

While the government has not been able to fulfill its pre-poll promise of giving away Rs 1,000 per month to women in its maiden budget for want of funds,

it has announced 75 Mohalla Clinics to be functional from August 15 and has set aside Rs 1,800 crore for 300 units of free power to be rolled out to people from July 1 onwards.

The budget has a stamp of Delhi model of AAP, and Delhi deputy CM Manish Sisodia was a witness to the presentation as he sat in the visitor's gallery of the Punjab assembly. On the fiscal health front, the state finances are in a mess. Cheema blamed the previous governments for the mess as he said that the debt on the state was burgeoning and it was projected to go up to Rs 2.84 crore by the end of this fiscal.

This was for the first time that Punjab presented a paperless budget. However, as the MLAs were not able to access the budget on their phones, Congress's Sukhbir Khaira protested that they were not able to read it as the FM delivered his speech. Speaker Kultar Sandhwan later made the printed copies of the budget available.

Cheema said it was 'Janta's budget' as the government consulted the stakeholders and people of the state before preparing the budget.

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



MISSION MODE

WITH THE digital push targeting the youth ahead of Uttar Pradesh elections finding success, Prime Minister Narendra Modi wanted his ministers to make the initiatives of his government for start-ups familiar with the youth. The new mission — New India For Young India — is already launched in poll-bound Gujarat, with Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar visiting universities to tell students about the government's programmes and schemes. Chandrasekhar is on a two-day visit to the state to meet students and is scheduled to visit four universities during the trip. The programme is to create a buzz among students about new opportunities such as space and start-ups, and Chandrasekhar, a former chip designer, is expected to create interest among the youth to take up entrepreneurship.

HABITUAL OFFENCE

HEARING A PLEA for anticipatory bail, Justice Surya Kant, presiding over a two-judge Supreme Court bench, remarked how some accused go back to committing offences after getting bail. Recalling a "personal experience", the judge said he has some agricultural land and there is a tubewell in it. One day, he said, the caretaker called and informed that some copper wires extending to the tubewell had been stolen. "I told him nothing can be done — you go and lodge a report with the local police. I went to court and he went to lodge the complaint. And he told [the police] it's the land of so-and-so and theft has taken place. The first remark the SHO made, he said, 'what to do? Yeh jo chor hai, isko parson court ne release kiya thha. Isliye karli chori isne aate hi (he was released by court only the day before, so he committed theft as soon as he came out)." The bench had a hearty laugh before denying the relief sought for.

Govt requests for blocking tweets of groups, politicians: Twitter document

New Delhi: The government asked Twitter to block multiple accounts and some tweets from advocacy group Freedom House, journalists, politicians, and supporters of farmers' protest last year, according to a document filed by the platform on June 26.

The requests from the government were sent between January 5, 2021 and December 29, 2021, according to the document filed with Lumen database. Leading internet companies like Google, Facebook and Twitter file information with Lumen database about weblinks or accounts that they have been asked to block by any entity under applicable laws.

However, details about whether the request to block a link or account was fulfilled are not available on the database.

An e-mail query sent to the Ministry of Electronics and IT did not elicit any reply.

The document showed that the government requested to block tweets belonging to members of the Congress and the AAP, including MLA Jarnail Singh. **PTI**

GOA

Opp MLAs say no to training event in hotel

MAYURA JANWALKAR
PANAJI, JUNE 27

OPPOSITION LEGISLATORS in Goa refused to attend a training workshop organised by the Assembly at a five-star hotel in Panaji on Monday.

While the Congress said the same two-day training workshop could have been held in the Assembly without burdening the finances, the AAP said MLAs need not receive training from the Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini institute, an RSS-affiliate.

Leader of the Opposition Micheal Lobo said they had attended the opening ceremony in respect of the Speaker's chair but they were of the view that the session could have been held on the Assembly premises in Porvorim that has all the facilities for a conference and catering.

The session was aimed at training and educating MLAs about the procedures and processes of the Assembly. Nineteen of Goa's 40 legislators are first-time MLAs.

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, JUNE 27

AT A meeting called by the dominant Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS) faction here on Monday the AIADMK came down hard on P Anneerselvam (OPS) calling him an "epitome of betrayal" and appointed EPS as in-charge of party's administrative affairs until the next general council meeting, scheduled for July 11.

D Jayakumar, the party's organisational secretary and spokesman, said the positions of OPS and EPS — as coordinator and joint coordinator respectively — who led the dual leadership, are no longer valid.

"Of the 75 district secretaries, 65 of them agreed with the decision to appoint EPS in-charge of party administration. Four of them were not there because they were sick. Now, only six people are left in the OPS camp," Jayakumar said, when asked if the move was legally valid.

The meeting held at party headquarters was chaired by Presidium Chairman Tamil Magan Hussain, EPS and senior leader K P Munusamy. OPS was not present at the meeting as he was away in his hometown, Theni.

Jayakumar said that a decision about the top post would be made at the general council. "But it is confidential, can't be talked



Edappadi K Palaniswami

about right now," he said.

Asked about OPS and his role in the party system, Jayakumar said, "Section 20(7) of the bylaw explains why the administrative control was given to EPS in ab-

sence of coordinators. These are some of the most basic rules of the party. I'm not sure if OPS doesn't know about it or is just pretending to be ignorant."

He called OPS the "most blatant example of betrayal". "Since the beginning, everyone has known about several instances in which he betrayed the party...", he said.

Jayakumar also slammed OPS's son O P Raveendranath, who is the only MP for AIADMK, referring to the latter's recent meeting with Chief Minister M K Stalin and his comments praising the DMK government's "hard work".

Jayakumar also made it clear that OPS's name was taken out

of the founders' column on the masthead of AIADMK's mouthpiece Namadhu Amma for "betraying the party's interests".

After OPS reached Theni on Sunday night, the majority faction decided to call a meeting for Monday.

"It was a quick answer to OPS, who tried to get BJP involved in our party (affairs/crisis) again...", a senior AIADMK leader said, referring to OPS's Delhi trip last week that reportedly aimed at seeking help from BJP, which is an ally of the AIADMK in the state, to resolve the crisis in the party. The BJP, however, is seemingly distancing itself from OPS as the majority is rallying behind EPS.

EXPLAINED
E Reason behind drastic action

WHILE OPS may move the court and contend against arguments such as expiry of coordinator posts and EPS's new role, the faction of the former CM believes Monday's action will ensure OPS does not have any support left in the party. This faction believes 69 of 75 district secretaries of AIADMK support EPS, and OPS is now only the party treasurer.

13 EXPRESS NETWORK

G-7 SUMMIT IN GERMANY

Poor need same energy rights, access as rich: PM

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

AT a time when India is facing criticism from the West for its purchase of discounted oil from Russia amid the war in Ukraine, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday invoked the need for the poor to be able to access energy — as much as the rich.

Speaking at the G-7 summit in Germany, during a session on 'Investing in a better Future: Climate, Energy, Health', Modi said: "All of you will also agree with this that energy access should not be the privilege of the rich only — a poor family also has the same rights on energy. And today when energy costs are sky-high due to geopolitical tensions, it is more important to remember this thing."

"By taking inspiration from this principle", Modi reminded the G-7 countries — the world's seven richest economies — about India's commitments on climate change. "We delivered LED bulbs and clean cooking gas door-to-door in India and showed that millions of tons of carbon emissions can be saved while ensuring energy for the poor," he said.

The Prime Minister's comments were in sync with India's position that it is buying oil from Russia, which invaded Ukraine in February, to meet its domestic energy demand and control inflation, which affects the poor the most.

Later, while addressing a session on food security, Modi referred indirectly to the Ukraine crisis and said: "We are meeting amid an atmosphere of global tension. India has always been in favour of peace. Even in the present situation, we have constantly urged for the path of dialogue and diplomacy."

He said: "The impact of this geopolitical tension is not just limited to Europe. The rising prices of energy and food grains are affecting all the countries. The energy and security of developing countries is particularly at risk. In this challenging time, India has supplied food grains to



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with President of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa, in Germany, Monday. *PTI*

many countries in need."

Modi then put forward a series of suggestions. "First, we must focus on the availability of fertilizers, and keep the value chains of fertilizers smooth at a global scale. We are trying to increase the production of fertilizers in India and seek cooperation from G7 countries in this regard," he said.

"Second, India has immense agricultural manpower compared to the countries of the G7. Indian agricultural skills have helped give new life to traditional agricultural products like cheese and olive in some of the countries of the G7. Can the G7 create a structured system for the widespread use of Indian agricultural talent in its member countries? With the help of traditional talent of India's farmers, food security will be ensured to G7 countries," he said.

At the session on climate, energy and health, Modi asked the G-7 countries to invest in research and manufacturing in "green energy technologies" and said that they can help India to take innovations in "digital technology in the health sector" to "other developing countries".

"Unfortunately, it is believed that there is a fundamental collision between the developmental goals of the world and environmental protection. There is also another misconception that poor countries and poor people cause more damage to the environment. But India's history of over thousands of years completely refutes this view," he said.

"Ancient India has seen a time of immense prosperity; then we have also tolerated centuries of slavery, and now independent India is the fastest-growing big economy in the whole world. But during this whole period, India did not let its commitment to the environment get diluted even a single bit. Seventeen per cent of the world's population resides in India. But our contribution to global carbon emissions is only five per cent. The main reason behind this is our lifestyle, which is based on the theory of coexistence with nature," he said.

"When a large country like India shows such ambition, other developing countries also get inspiration. We hope that the rich countries of G-7 will support India's efforts. Today, a huge market for clean energy technologies is emerging in India," he said.

Asking G-7 countries to invest in research, innovation and manufacturing in green energy technologies, he said: "The scale that India can provide for every new technology can make that technology affordable for the whole world. The core theories of the circular economy have been an integral part of Indian culture and lifestyle."

The Prime Minister also said that G-7 countries can help India to take innovations in digital technology in the health sector to other developing countries. "During the pandemic, India found many creative ways to use digital technology in the health sector," he said.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

YASHWANT SINHA, the Opposition's candidate for the July 18 Presidential elections against NDA's Draupadi Murmu, filed his nomination papers on Monday in the presence of senior Opposition leaders from 16 parties, including former Congress president Rahul Gandhi and NCP chief Sharad Pawar, and said he is contesting to save the country and its Constitution.

Sinha and Opposition leaders framed the contest as a fight between two ideologies.

"This election is not about two people," Sinha said after filing his nomination. "I have great personal regard for Draupadi Murmu. It is not about where we come from, or the people that we represent. This is an election between two ideologies — their (BJP's) ideology is absolute power with destruction of democracy; our ideology is freedom for every Indian citizen."

The Opposition got a boost with the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) officially announcing its support to Sinha. Senior TRS leader and Telangana minister K T Rama Rao was present during filing of the nomination.

Congress ally Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) is yet to decide on its support. Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, meanwhile, met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi.

Many senior Opposition leaders accompanied Sinha when he filed the nomination.



Yashwant Sinha with Opposition leaders outside Parliament on Monday. *Abhinav Saha*

Besides Rao, Pawar and Rahul Gandhi, among others present were Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, TMC leaders Abhishek Banerjee and Saugata Roy, Sitaram Yechury of CPI(M) and CPI's D Raja, DMK's A Raja and Tiruchi Siva, National Conference's Farooq Abdullah, Misa Bharti of RJD, RSP's N K Premachandran, VCK's Thol Tirumavalavan, Rashtriya Lok Dal's Jayant Chaudhary, and Mohammed Basheer from the Muslim League.

The BSP has announced its support for Murmu, while Aam Aadmi Party and JD(S) are yet to announce their decision. Sinha handed over four sets of nomination papers to Rajya Sabha Secretary-General PC Mody, who is the Returning Officer for the

Presidential election. He is likely to begin the first leg of his campaign this week from Chennai. He will subsequently travel to Kerala and Karnataka.

The opposition parties announced the formation of a 11-member committee to steer Sinha's campaign. Among its members are Congress's Jairam Ramesh, DMK's Siva, TMC's Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, Left's Yechury and Raja, SP's Ram Gopal Yadav, NCP's Praful Patel, TRS's Ranjit Reddy, RJD's Manoj Jha, Sudheendra Kulkarni and a nominee of the Shiv Sena.

"All opposition parties are unitedly supporting Yashwant Sinha," Rahul Gandhi said. "Of course, we are supporting the individual, but the real fight is between two ideologies. One ideology (is) of the RSS...anger, hatred; and the other of compassion — of all the opposition parties,

ties, which are standing together."

Other Opposition leaders echoed the sentiments. Roy said the fight is between communalism and secularism, and authoritarianism versus democracy.

Calling NDA's projection of Draupadi Murmu as a "tribal face" mere "tokenism", Rao, TRS's working president, said, "This will not change the world for tribals in the country."

Addressing the media, Sinha launched a scathing attack on BJP, of which he was a front-line leader for more than two decades. "Their ideology wants to crush us Indians and our democracy. Our ideology wants to free us and strengthen our democracy. The ruling party is contemptuous of our Constitution, which limits executive power to its proper place; their (NDA's) goal is to exercise absolute, unchecked power," he said.

TRS backs Sinha; opposed to BJP's politics, says KTR

REENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD JUNE 27

THE TELANGANA Rashtra Samithi (TRS), which earlier stayed away from the Opposition parties' meeting on June 15 and also criticised the manner in which presidential nominees were considered, declared its support to Opposition's joint presidential nominee Yashwant Sinha Monday.

The party had not declared its intentions for the polls until today. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee's letter to 22 political parties inviting them to a meeting to discuss the Presidential elections upset party supremo K Chandrasekhar Rao or KCR's plans of leading a third front of like-minded parties apart from the Congress and the BJP, an idea he has been floating since 2018. Neither KCR nor his party ministers attended the meeting.

Since the party is also trying to distance itself from the Congress, one of the reasons why the party stayed away from the meeting is said to be because the Congress attended them. Announcing the decision in New Delhi, TRS working president and State IT and Industries Minister K T Rama Rao said the party has decided to back the nominee as the "TRS is opposed to the politics of BJP", adding: "Leaders like Sharad Pawar and Mamata Banerjee spoke to us. To protect democracy we will support Sinha."

My tribal vs your tribal: Cong tries to find way around Murmu conundrum

GARGI VERMA
RAIPUR, JUNE 27

DRAUPADI MURMU'S nomination as the first tribal Presidential candidate has put the Congress government in tribal-dominated Chhattisgarh in a spot. While it does not want to alienate tribal groups, it also cannot openly declare its support to a BJP nominee. Meanwhile, the state BJP is expected to put its full weight behind the decision.

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA)'s choice of field-

ing Murmu, who is a Santhal tribal woman from Odisha, was hailed by the state BJP, which has been highlighting that a tribal woman was chosen for the highest position in the country. In a statement to the press, Dharamlal Kaushik, the state's BJP's leader, congratulated the national leadership for picking an able tribal leader like Murmu.

On June 22, the state's Janta Congress Chhattisgarh (Jogi) leader Amit Jogi also extended his support to Murmu, recounting the "respect" his deceased father and ex-chief minister Ajit Jogi held for



Droupadi Murmu

her. "Chhattisgarh is a tribal-dominated state, hence I request all MLAs in Chhattisgarh to vote for Murmu despite party lines to uphold tribal honour," Jogi tweeted.

With virtually no elbow room, CM Bhupesh Baghel has been trying to counter the BJP by raising the case of another tribal leader.

"The BJP ignored (Anusuiya) Uikey who is also a tribal leader and has worked extensively, just because of her background with the Congress," Baghel said on June 22 in reference to senior tribal leader and Chhattisgarh governor Anusuiya Uikey, who was earlier in the Congress.

Sources in the state BJP denied this, saying Uikey's name was only one among the many names in consideration. While Baghel might be hoping to brazen it out, state Congress leaders, particularly its tribal MLAs, admit it is not easy for them to ignore Murmu's

candidature, and that they are under mounting pressure from the tribal community in the state, especially the organisation Sarva Adiwasi Samaj, which has already opened multiple fronts against the government.

On March 14, the Samaj had "gheraoed" the CM's house with a 20-point charter. It has in the past rallied behind implementation of PESA or Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, and protested against mining in Hasdeo, police excesses in Bijapur, and alleged Hindu-centric policies of the government.

Pinarayi questions Cong 'silence' on Gujarat arrests: 'Not even a protest?'

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JUNE 27

KERALA CHIEF Minister and CPM Politburo member Pinarayi Vijayan Monday mounted an attack on the Congress over the 2002 Gujarat riots, questioning its "silence" over the arrest of retired DGPRB Sreekumar and activist Teesta Setalvad by the Gujarat Police a day after the Supreme Court upheld the clean chit by the SIT to the state government, then led by Narendra Modi, in the violence.

"The Congress could have organised at least a nominal protest. No massive protest is needed. Why could they not think so? They (Sreekumar and Setalvad) were arrested on the day Emergency was declared (in 1975). These arrests should be seen as a bid to frighten anti-BJP forces in the country. (That) If you speak against the Parivar, this will be the result. The Congress is maintaining silence before the Sangh Parivar's threat. The Congress is cowering on its knees fearing the BJP. All those parties, including the Indian



Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan

Union Muslim League, which stand with the Congress, should consider this seriously," he said.

On the day of the arrests, while the Left questioned the Gujarat Police's move, hours after Home Minister Amit Shah had questioned the role of Sreekumar and Setalvad in the allegations against the Modi government for 2002, the Congress reaction had been cautious.

"We have heard of the arrests. 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 registered appears to be dated June 25th, 2022. We hope and trust that proper and full due process of law will be followed meticulously," senior Congress leader Abhishek Singhvi

had told *The Indian Express*, adding: "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."

Vijayan compared this statement to the reaction by the CPM, which strongly condemned Setalvad's arrest and called her "an indefatigable defender of human rights". It also said that her arrest was on "dubious grounds" and demanded her release.

Vijayan also accused that the Congress wanted to "forget" the Gujarat riots issue. "Did the Congress ever support the legal battle of Zakia Jafri, the widow of former (Congress) MP Ahsan Jafri who was killed in the 2002 riots? Did Congress president Sonia Gandhi or any other Congress leader visit her and comfort her after the death of Ahsan? After the riot, Sonia had visited Gujarat. Then, Congress brains advised Sonia that she should not visit Zakia. The reason was that Congress would lose the Hindu votes. That was the stand of the Congress. During the last Gujarat Assembly elections, Rahul Gandhi conducted temple tours in that state. But he

did not speak about Jafri or the riots," said the Kerala CM.

Countering Vijayan's charge, senior Congress legislator V D Satheesan said the CM was "spreading lies" without an understanding of the facts. Quoting what Congress general secretary Randeep Surjewala had said, Satheesan said Supreme Court verdicts should not be politicised.

At the same time, the Congress leader went further than the Delhi leadership's response and asked if only a collector or police officers were to be held responsible for any riot in their jurisdictions, and not their political masters. "Will the Chief Minister, Cabinet and the state government never be held accountable, even if the state is thrown into a circle of premeditated violence and riots?... What then is the Constitutional and moral responsibility of the Chief Minister and the state government?" he said.

Satheesan also stressed that the Congress had "always stood with Setalvad", pointing out that she conferred Padma Shri in 2007 when the Congress was in power at the Centre, and in 2002, the Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award was given to her.

3 days on, Cong calls SC verdict on Zakia plea disappointing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

THREE DAYS after Supreme Court dismissed allegations of a larger conspiracy leveled by Zakia Jafri, widow of Congress leader and former MP Ahsan Jafri who was killed in 2002 Gujarat riots, against then Gujarat CM Narendra Modi and others in cases related to the 2002 riots, the Congress on Monday said the judgment was "disappointing", and that the party stands by Jafri family.

The Congress had reacted cautiously to the Supreme Court's judgment on Friday, agreeing with the findings of the SIT appointed by it that there was no "larger conspiracy" behind the riots. There was no official statement from the party expressing solidarity with Zakia either. The party's first official reaction came on Saturday, after Home Minister Amit Shah hailed the verdict and accused a triad of political parties opposed to the BJP, some journalists, and some NGOs of having given publicity to "these allegations".

The Congress then countered, with party spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi saying that the Supreme Court judgment should



Jairam Ramesh: Party stands by Jafri family

not be politicised, and that "everybody should bow down to a Supreme Court judgment".

On Monday, Jairam Ramesh, AICC general secretary in charge of communication, put out a statement saying that the "Supreme Court judgment in Zakia Jafri case is 'deeply disappointing' and that many fundamental questions still remain unanswered."

"What is the Constitutional and moral responsibility of the Chief Minister and State Government in cases of large-scale communal riots? Is the responsibility in such cases, only ever that of the Collector and Dy. Commissioner of Police and not of the political executive? Will the Chief Minister, Cabinet and State Government never be held accountable, even if a State is thrown

into a circle of violence & riots?" he said.

Ramesh stated, "We stand by our colleague, the late Ahsan Jafri and his family in this hour. What happened to him in a most tragic manner was the result of a fundamental lapse on the part of the state government." He said there are some questions that will continue to haunt the Prime Minister.

"...Why was PM Vajpayee so affected by his [then Gujarat CM's] lack of action that he had to publicly remind him of his duty, to follow his Rajdharm? Was it not the Supreme Court who called out the conduct of the Modi Government in Gujarat as that of "Modern day Nero's (who) were looking elsewhere when... innocent children and helpless women were burning, and were perpetrating how the crime can be saved or protected? Why did sections of BJP, including now member of the Modi Cabinet, Smriti Irani, protest and call for his dismissal as CM if he was not guilty of any wrongdoing?"

Although the Congress had reacted cautiously to the arrest of Mumbai-based activist Teesta Setalvad, Ramesh and AICC general secretary Ajay Maken attended a protest meeting in Delhi.



Suvendu Adhikari

Suvendu hints at toppling Bengal govt, draws flak

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JUNE 27

LEADER OF Opposition in West Bengal Assembly Suvendu Adhikari on Monday hinted at toppling of the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress (TMC) government in the state in 2024 after doing the same in Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Jharkhand.

The BJP leader's controversial statement came in the backdrop of a political turmoil in Maharashtra where the alliance party government is struggling stay afloat following withdrawal of support from a section of MLAs.

Addressing party workers in Cooch Behar district on Monday, Adhikari said, "It won't have to be in 2026 (next state Assembly polls). The ouster will take place in 2024. Just wait a little more. We will oust this government in 2024. This has just begun in Maharashtra. Next it will take place in Jharkhand and Rajasthan. After Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Rajasthan, we will reach West Bengal."

His remarks did not go down well with the ruling dispensation in West Bengal with the Trinamool Congress slamming the BJP for its attempt to topple elected government in Opposition-ruled states.

"This shows the BJP's mindset when it comes to respecting democratic norms in the country. They want to grab power by any means and that's what they have planned for all opposition-ruled states. But Suvendu Adhikari is living in a fool's paradise. In 2024, the BJP will go out of power," said TMC state general secretary Kunal Ghosh.

Keep momentum intact, prevent Muslims from being misled in 2024 LS polls: Mayawati

LALMANI VERMA
LUCKNOW, JUNE 27

A DAY after the Samajwadi Party (SP) lost Azamgarh and Rampur Lok Sabha seats to the ruling BJP, BSP president Mayawati on Monday asked party workers to keep the momentum intact and "prevent a particular community", in an apparent reference to Muslim voters, from being misled in the 2024 general election.

In a tweet, Mayawati said, "The determination and courage with which all the BSP workers, office

bearers and party candidate Shah Alam alias Guddu Jamali have fought the Azamgarh Lok Sabha bypoll need to be maintained till 2024 Lok Sabha general elections as part of the resolve while maintaining election readiness."

In another tweet, Mayawati said that not only Azamgarh but BSP's struggle and efforts to convert the ground preparations into votes have to be continued in the across UP till 2024 general polls. "In this sequence, it is also important to protect a particular community from being misled in all the upcoming elections,"

Mayawati said, in an apparent reference to Muslim voters.

BSP has also planned to contest urban local body polls later this year before Lok Sabha general elections in 2024.

Mayawati had on Sunday said that the outcome of the bypoll has proved that only BSP has the "ground force" to defeat the BJP in the state.

In Azamgarh bypoll, BSP nominee Shah Alam alias Guddu Jamali got 29.27 per cent (2.66 lakh) votes and finished third after the BJP and SP. In a major setback for the SP, the BJP wrested



BSP president Mayawati

both the Lok Sabha segments from the Akhilesh Yadav-led party. While BJP candidate Ghanshayam Singh Lodhi won the Rampur Lok Sabha byelection defeating SP nominee Asim Raja

with a margin of over 42,000 votes, the party's Dinesh Lal Yadav "Nirahua" bagged the Azamgarh segment by over 8,000 votes.

According to a local BSP leader, Jamali got the votes of Muslims because of his personal connect with the community and also because Muslims saw in recent state Assembly elections that SP failed to dislodge BJP from power.

Samajwadi Party's Azamgarh district president Hawaldar Yadav, however, said Muslims votes go to BSP but not in large numbers. "In the recently held bypolls, BJP misled Muslims by creating a propa-

ganda among voters that its candidate Dinesh Lal Yadav "Nirahua" was going to lose and hence, they prefer to vote for BSP. Misled by that propaganda, Muslims got divided. If Muslim votes had not gone to BSP, SP had won the seat with big margin," said Yadav.

In the first party meeting after the announcement of assembly elections results in March this year, Mayawati had blamed the Muslim community for the political loss of her party.

In the UP polls, out of the 403 assembly seats, the BJP had won 255 seats, while its rival

Samajwadi Party won 111 seats, according to the Election Commission (EC) website. The Congress, showcasing a dismal performance, won two seats while the BSP of Mayawati was all but obliterated with just one seat despite polling 12.88 per cent votes. BSP had fielded 88 Muslim candidates whereas SP-alliance had fielded only 61 candidates from the community. There were at least 28 seats where both BSP and SP-alliance had fielded Muslims candidates. However, all of BSP's Muslim candidates had lost in the elections.

PROPHET REMARK ROW
UP police claim
to have fresh leads
linking violence in
Kanpur, Prayagraj



Demonstrators pelt stones and shout religious slogans in Prayagraj on June 10. *Express file*

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, JUNE 27

POLICE CLAIMED to have found fresh leads in the ongoing investigation, indicating that there is a link between the violence in Kanpur and Prayagraj that took place on June 3 and 10 over the remarks against Prophet Muhammad by a former BJP spokesperson.

It has been found in the probe that Prayagraj-based activist Javed Mohammad was in regular contact with a man from Kanpur's Yateemkhana area where violence had erupted first, police officials said.

The inquiry is on to ascertain if the alleged conspirators behind the violence in Kanpur and Prayagraj were the same. In Prayagraj, violence had erupted in the Kareli and Khulabad areas on June 10.

"We scrutinised the call records of Javed's mobile phone and found that he was in a regular touch with a Kanpur-based man between June 3 and 10. The call durations of the two increased after June 3," said Prayagraj Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Ajay Kumar.

The talked for 10-15 minutes regularly after June 3, he said, citing call details.

The SSP, however, refused to divulge details about the

Kanpur-based man, adding that he lives around the Yateemkhana area where violence broke out on June 3.

Action will be taken on the basis of the evidence, he added. Javed Mohammad was sent back to jail after his two-day police remand ended on Sunday.

But Kanpur Joint Commissioner of Police (JCP) Anand Prakash Tiwari denied having any information about any probe by the Prayagraj police into a city resident's role in connection with the violence.

Kanpur Police Commissioner Vijay Singh Meena could not be contacted.

So far, the Prayagraj police have arrested 105 persons, including seven minors, in the June 10 violence. They are looking into the role of 21 persons whose role came up during the investigation. Raids are being conducted to trace them.

The Prayagraj police have declared a reward of Rs 25,000 on the five absconding accused, including All India Majilis-e-Itehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) leader Shah Alam, wanted in the case. Other four are Umar Khalid, corporator Fazal Khan, Ashish Mittal and Zeeshan Rehman.

Prayagraj SSP Kumar the Kanpur-based suspect has not been named as accused by the Kanpur police in the June 3 violence case yet.

SIDHU MOOSEWALA MURDER

Lawrence Bishnoi's
father says lawyers
boycotting his son

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

JAILED GANGSTER Lawrence Bishnoi's father on Monday moved the Supreme Court challenging various orders, including the transit remand order of a Delhi court, in the murder case of singer Sidhu Moosewala and also complained that lawyers in Punjab have boycotted his son and are not willing to represent him.

A vacation bench of Justices Surya Kant and JB Pardiwala was told by advocate Sangram Singh Saron that they have challenged the orders of the Punjab and Haryana High Court and of a Delhi court granting transit remand but since no lawyer in Mansa court in Punjab is taking up Bishnoi's case, he had approached the top court.

The bench said this is "absolutely unjustified" and the petitioner can approach the high court to provide Bishnoi legal aid counsel.

"These legal aid counsels cannot refuse the case or they would be delisted from the panel," the bench said, asking the counsel to approach the Punjab and Haryana High Court to provide them legal aid counsel.

Saron submitted that he is challenging the order of Delhi

court for transit remand as it is contrary to certain directions passed by the top court on Bishnoi's petition.

The bench said, "Since the Punjab Police is investigating the case, it is at a very nascent stage. It would not be appropriate for this court to interfere at this stage".

It noted the murder has taken place in Mansa, Punjab and therefore it is the jurisdiction of Punjab Police to investigate the case and they can very well take him (Bishnoi) on remand. The bench agreed to hear the plea of Bishnoi's father on July 11.

On June 14, a Delhi court had granted Punjab Police the transit remand of Bishnoi to take him to Punjab in the Moosewala killing case.

The court had passed the order as Punjab Police produced Bishnoi before it after formally arresting him in the case.

Moosewala was shot dead on May 29 by unidentified assailants in Punjab's Mansa district, a day after the state government curtailed his security cover. His cousin and a friend, who were travelling in a jeep with him, were also injured in the attack.

Bishnoi is facing trial for the offence committed under stringent MCOCA (Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act) here and was lodged in the Tihar jail.

Assam flood: 8 more dead, 21.52 lakh affected

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GUWAHATI, JUNE 27

EIGHT MORE persons lost their lives in the devastating flood in Assam on Monday, while over 21 lakh people continued to remain in distress under the impact of the deluge, officials said.

The death toll due to the flood this year mounted to 134 with eight deaths reported during the day, which include five from Cachar district and one each from Kamrup Metro, Morigaon and Nagaon, they said.

One person was also reported missing in Cachar district, according to a bulletin of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (AS-DMA).

There was, however, some improvement in the flood situation, with the total affected population declining to 21.52 lakh in 22 districts as against the previ-



A damaged section of a bridge following floods in Assam's Nagaon district, PTI

ous day's 22.21 lakh in 28 districts.

Most of the rivers showed a

receding trend, though Kopili at Nagaon, Barak at Cachar and Karimganj and Kushiara in

Karimganj were flowing above the danger level, the officials said.

Sangli deaths: Probe on
for murder as cops look
into role of 'mantrik'

SUSHANT KULKARNI
PUNE, JUNE 27

THE DEATHS of nine members of a family in Mhaisal town of Maharashtra's Sangli district that earlier were being investigated as suicides are now being probed as murders by poisoning, after the police arrested two people including a "mantrik" who had allegedly promised to help the family "unearth a hidden treasure" or guptadhan.

On June 20 around 1pm, brothers Dr Manik Vanmore (49), a veterinarian; and Popat Vanmore (52), an arts teacher; their mother, wives, and four children of the two couples were found dead in their houses located a kilometre apart at Mhaisal in Miraj taluka.

On Sunday, the police arrested Abbas Ahmedali Bagwan (48), a mantrik, and Dheeraj Suravase (30), his aide and driver—both residents of Solapur. The police are invoking murder charges against the duo after their alleged role in the nine deaths came to light.

Special inspector-general of police (Kolhapur range) Manojkumar Lohiya told *The Indian Express*, "Earlier, we considered the possibilities of all members dying by suicide or the brothers committing suicide and poisoning others. But our probe now suggests that the nine family members were in fact murdered and we have arrested two persons for it. The Vanmore brothers were in touch with this

mantrik who claimed he would help them unearth a hidden treasure. The suspect had taken a large sum of money from the family for this and he could have been worried that the Vanmores would report him to the authorities. Primary investigation suggests that the previous night, he went to their houses and, on the pretext of performing some rituals, gave the family something to consume, like a prasad laced with a poisonous substance."

When asked about the suicide notes recovered from the houses and who could have written them, Lohiya said, "The probe still suggests that notes were written by the two brothers. But what was suspicious about them was the sequence. We have observed in many cases that people first state the reasons and then name the persons responsible. In this case, it was exactly the opposite. Also, the notes do not categorically say they were going to end their lives. It now seems that the brothers were misled into writing those notes. We are still probing that angle."

As for the 25 people booked earlier, Lohiya said, "The case is now taking a different direction. As the probe progresses, we may file an application to discharge these people who were charged with abetment of suicide."

They are also trying to ascertain how the poisonous substance was administered to the family in two houses even as they have not revealed the substance.

Opp parties slam Centre for
Zubair arrest, seek his release

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

OPPOSITION PARTIES on Monday condemned the arrest of AltNews co-founder Mohammed Zubair and hit out at the BJP-led government, accusing it of clamping down on those who "expose" its hate speech and fake propaganda.

The Congress, Trinamool Congress, Samajwadi Party, the Left parties, RJD, National Conference and the AIMIM slammed the Centre and accused it of not acting against those who make hate speeches and, instead, targeting those who report such hate campaigns.

The Intelligence Fusion & Strategic Operations unit of Delhi Police arrested Zubair on Monday, days after registering an FIR based on a complaint by a man who had tagged Delhi Police on social media, alleging that Zubair hurt his religious sentiments and legal action should be taken against him.

"Every person exposing BJP's hate, bigotry and lies is a threat to them. Arresting one voice of truth will only give rise to a thousand more. Truth always triumphs over tyranny. Daro Mat," senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi tweeted.

His party colleague Jairam Ramesh said AltNews and Zubair have been in the "forefront of exposing the bogus claims of the Vishguru, who has struck back with a vengeance characteristic of him." Ramesh added, "Delhi Police, reporting to the Union Home Minister, has long lost any pretensions of professionalism and independence."

Trinamool Congress leader



Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair sent to 1-day police remand. ANI

and Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien called Zubair "one of the world's finest journalists who exposes BJP's fake news factory" every day. Tagging PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, O'Brien tweeted, "for all the power you wield, you are essentially COWARDS".

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav tweeted (translated from Hindi), "Those who trade/deal in lies don't like the ones who investigate the truth... those who have nurtured people who spew poison of hate."

Demanding immediate release of Zubair, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said that "the Modi government is insecure and threatened by anything that exposes the fake hate machine of misinformation."

AIMIM leader and Lok Sabha MP Asaduddin Owaisi said Zubair's arrest is highly condemnable. "He's been arrested with no notice and in some unknown FIR. Total violation of due process. Delhi Police does nothing about anti-Muslim genocidal slogans but acts swiftly against "crime" of reporting hate speech and countering misinformation," Owaisi posted on Twitter.

In Silchar, which has been submerged for over a week, efforts are underway to provide relief in those areas where the administration is yet to reach, by air dropping packets with food, drinking water bottles and other essentials by Indian Air Force helicopters.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) are also engaged in preparing a flood map of Silchar town so as to identify the extent of damage, and help in taking measures to mitigate losses in future, Cachar Deputy Commissioner Keerthi Jalli said.

The District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), UNICEF and OXFAM have set up boat-mounted water treatment units to cater to the needy within Silchar and its peripheral areas, she added.

Meanwhile, Bollywood star Aamir Khan on Monday donated Rs 25 lakh to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund as assistance.

BRIEFLY

JAMMU & KASHMIR
Intruder from
Pakistan killed

Jammu: BSF troops on Monday killed a Pakistani intruder in Baqarapur area of RS Pura sector. A BSF official said troops had noticed suspicious movement across the fence in general area of Baqarapur Border Out Post in the wee hours of morning. "Our domination party noticed a person coming aggressively from Pakistan side towards the fence with an intention to cross it and paid no attention when asked to stop," he said, adding that the troops fired three rounds at him. The body was found close to the fence and nothing was recovered from him. **ENS**

KARNATAKA

Disabled-
friendly kids'
park opens

Bengaluru: Karnataka got its first exclusive play park for disabled children, which was inaugurated by Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot. It aims to benefit 2.4 lakh children with special needs because of cerebral palsy, autism and other disabilities. Built for Rs 3 crore, it is spread over one acre of land provided by the state government within Jawahar Bal Bhavan at Cubbon Park. Designed in the shape of a turtle, the park consists of different zones for a wide range of physical, mental, therapeutic, leisure, and touch-and-feel activities. It will be open to public by July-end. **ENS**

UTTAR PRADESH

Man strangles
wife to death

Meerut: A 38-year-old man strangled his wife at Meerut's Mohanpuri locality Monday. The accused, Ajit Kumar, later surrendered to police. He has been arrested, while the body of his wife Seema (34) has been handed over to her family members after the post-mortem. They have two minor kids. The police said the couple doubted each other for having extra-marital relations, leading to frequent fights. **ENS**

NEW DELHI

Film on ISRO ex-
scientist

New Delhi: The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Monday organised a special screening of movie based on former ISRO scientist Nambi Narayanan called 'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect' at the Siri Fort Auditorium in New Delhi. The screening was attended by former Director CBI D R Karthikeyan, former IG CBI P M Nair and senior government officials, the IB ministry said in a statement. Apurva Chandra, Secretary, I&B, said the film is not only gripping, but also touches the hearts of the audience. He added that the film pays tribute to the thousands of scientists, including Nambi Narayanan, who have dedicated their entire life to the achievements of India's space programme. **ENS**

WEST BENGAL

Mukul quits as
PAC chairman

Kolkata: Senior TMC leader Mukul Roy on Monday resigned as the chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, citing ill-health. In a letter to Speaker Biman Banerjee, Roy wrote, "I would humbly request you to accept my resignation from the post of chairman and as a member of the PAC, West Bengal, as I am unable to discharge my duties owing to ill-health. It has been an honour to serve as the chairman of the Public Accounts Committee." **ENS**

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EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAJKOT, JUNE 27

TWO DAYS after she issued a notice asking students to enroll themselves as members of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), principal of a women's college in Bhavnagar resigned from her post on Monday even as she and the college administration were summoned by the vice-chancellor of Maharaja Krishnakumarsinhji Bhavnagar University on Monday.

A purported notice issued by Rajnibala Gohil, incharge principal of Shreemati Narmadabai Chatrabhuy Gandhi Mahila College, in Bhavnagar city, popularly known as NC Gandhi college, was widely shared on social media on Monday, in which Gohil asked the students to bring their passport size photos and mobile phones to the college so that they could be enrolled as BJP members.

"Every girl student of the college is hereby notified that: (1) Every girl student of the college

shall bring a passport-size photo of hers for her registration as member of page committee of the BJP... (2) It is necessary for every girl student to carry her mobile phone to college for joining the (ongoing) member (enrolment) drive of the BJP," the notice issued on Friday stated.

It added only students living in jurisdiction of the Bhavnagar Municipal Corporation were eligible to become BJP members.

As the notices signed by Gohil went viral on social media on

Monday and local media outlets started reporting it, the college administration said she had resigned. "I came to know about the notice on Sunday evening. I went to the college this morning to discuss the issue with the incharge principal when she tendered her resignation. She told me that it was her moral duty to step down as principal after what had happened," Dharendra Vaishnav, executive director of Smt Rukshamaniaben Dipchand Gardi Bhavnagar Stree Kelavani

Mandal, the Bhavnagar-registered charitable trust which runs the college, told *The Indian Express*.

Vaishnav defended Gohil saying she issued the notice inadvertently after a woman approached her informing the principal about the BJP's membership enrolment drive that began on June 16.

"As far as we know, there was no mal-intention. Her bona fides are very clear. She is in fact professor of political science and is a straightforward lady," Vaishnav said.



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

EVERYDAY GLOBAL

THE ISKANDER-M MISSILE SYSTEM RUSSIA HAS PROMISED TO ARM BELARUS WITH

SAURABH KAPOOR
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

RUSSIA HAS promised its ally Belarus delivery of nuclear-capable missiles to take on an “aggressive” West. In a televised broadcast, President Vladimir Putin said: “In the coming months, we will transfer to Belarus Iskander-M tactical missile systems, which can use ballistic or cruise missiles, in their conventional and nuclear versions.”

The missile system

Codenamed “SS-26 Stone” by NATO, Iskander-M is a term used by Russia to define both the transporter-erector launch system and the short-range ballistic missile (SRBM) it fires. The system can also fire ground-launched cruise missiles (GLCMs). The Iskander-M system is exclusively used by the Russian military, whereas Iskander-E is the one meant for export.

Firepower

The Iskander-M missile has a range of 500 km and it can carry a payload of up to 700 kg. It is capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads. The conventional warheads can be equipped with cluster bombs, electromagnetic pulse (EMP) warheads and bunker-buster munitions, according to US-based Missile Defence Advocacy Alliance (MDAA). The export variant, Iskander-E, has a range of 280 km with a reduced 480 kg payload.

Development

While the Iskander system was inducted by Russia in 2006, its development picked pace in the late 1980s after the OTR-23 ‘Oka’ ballistic missile was banned under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.

The Oka was Russia’s first attempt to replace the Soviet Scud missiles. Iskander was the second. Russia first used the Iskander in combat in Georgia in 2008.

US-based think tank, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), says that the Iskander missiles are designed to confuse missile defences by flying at a low trajectory and manoeuvring in flight to strike targets within an accuracy of around two to five metres.

Projection of power

Russia has made the Belarus announcement at the time when the G-7 meets in Germany. It is also one more time that Putin has raised nuclear weapons as a sort of warning to the West against climbing the escalation ladder in the Ukraine war.

In the past too, Russia has used the Iskander system to project power against Europe, more so because of its ability to be fitted with tactical nuclear warheads. In 2012, Moscow said that the weapon could be used to target Europe’s missile defences. The Iskander system has already been deployed in Kaliningrad, a Russian exclave, from where it can be fired to target NATO forces in Poland, the Baltic States, and Sweden.

Moosewala’s SYL music video removed from YouTube. Why?

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

GOOGLE-OWNED YouTube has removed a new song by deceased Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala from its platform in India citing a “legal complaint from the government”. The song, SYL, is available in other countries on YouTube, and on audio streaming platforms such as Spotify, Gaana, JioSaavn within India.

WHY & HOW: The only reason cited by YouTube for removing the video is the legal complaint from the government. In a statement, a YouTube spokesperson said: “We have clear policies for removal requests from governments around the world. We...also review content for violations of our Community Guidelines. And, where appropriate, we restrict or remove content in keeping with local laws and our Terms of Service after a thorough review.”

The government’s requests are made either formally through webforms etc., or through informal channels such as Google’s public policy team. Some requests may allege infringement of intellectual property rights; others may claim violation of laws that prohibit certain types of content on grounds such as defamation.

THE SONG: SYL, the song’s title, stands for the Suttle-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal. It was recorded weeks before the singer’s murder, and was released on June 23. The



His song removed following a ‘legal complaint from government’. *File*

canal lies at the heart of a 40-year-old dispute between Punjab and Haryana over sharing of the waters of the Ravi and Beas.

Moosewala’s song mentioned the anti-Sikh violence of 1984, and the video showed the Sikh flag being hoisted on the Red Fort during the farmers’ agitation.

The video got 27 million views and received 3.3 million likes on YouTube in less than three days.

HOW OFTEN? As per the Google Transparency Report, during 2021, there were 1,670 government requests to remove content from YouTube on a range of grounds including defamation, criticism of the government, violence, causing religious offence, national security, hate speech, copyright, privacy, security, etc. In 2020, 1,538 such requests were made.

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OMKAR GOKHALE
MUMBAI, JUNE 27

THE SUPREME Court on Monday passed an interim order extending until 5.30 pm on July 12 the time granted by the Deputy Speaker of the Maharashtra Assembly, Narhari Zirwal, to 16 rebel Shiv Sena MLAs to reply to the disqualification notices served on them.

The Maharashtra government undertook to protect the life and properties of 39 rebel MLAs and their families. The Supreme Court will now hear the petitions — filed by rebel leader Eknath Shinde, and Bharat Gogavale and 14 other MLAs of the Shinde camp — on July 11.

It, however, refused to restrain the holding of a floor test in the Assembly until it hears the pleas next.

Background of petitions

Shinde and Gogavale, whom the rebels have chosen Chief Whip of the Sena legislature party replacing Sunil Prabhu, sought a stay on the disqualification notices issued on June 25 to 16 Sena MLAs who did not attend a party meeting convened by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

They have also challenged the appointment, on June 21, of Ajay Choudhari as leader of the Shiv Sena Legislative Party (SSLP), replacing Shinde.

Zirwal gave the 16 MLAs 48 hours until Monday, June 27, to respond, failing which action would be initiated against them. In his petition, Shinde claimed that Zirwal, who is an NCP MLA, cannot act on the disqualification petition against the 16 MLAs while notice for a resolution seeking his own removal remains pending.

Key arguments before SC

ZIRWAL’S ALLEGED BIAS: The post of Speaker has been vacant since Nana Patole resigned in February 2021 to become president of the Maharashtra Congress. Shinde has argued that ordinarily, a member who has been elected as Speaker or Deputy Speaker resigns from the membership of his party — but Zirwal has not done so.

According to the rebel camp, since Zirwal’s party (NCP) is supporting the “minority faction” of the Shiv Sena (that is still with Thackeray), his actions are “biased, based on mala fide and considerations totally against constitutional principles and to help his political party”.

While the Deputy Speaker is supposed to decide issues objectively, Shinde has said he “does not expect justice at all from Zirwal, who, it seems, is bent upon acting on the directions of the leaders opposed to the Petitioner (Shinde) and his colleagues”.

However, Shinde did not press this argument in court on Monday, and instead sought a stay on the disqualification proceedings as immediate relief.

‘ILLEGAL’ APPOINTMENT: The petition claimed that Choudhari’s appointment as leader of the SSLP was made by a “minority faction” of Sena MLAs — and under the Members of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly (Disqualification on Ground of Defection) Rules, 1986, it was “illegal” and “unconstitutional” for Zirwal to ratify it.

Also, Shinde has said, despite being from the minority faction of the SSLP, Choudhari and Prabhu unlawfully made a petition to the Deputy Speaker under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, based on which the 16 MLAs were served notices.

Senior advocate Devdatt Kamat representing the Maharashtra government, argued that while the notice sent by the Thackeray faction was on the official letterhead of the party, the letter from the Shinde group was “purported to be of Shiv Sena”, claiming to be the majority faction.

THE EXPERT

DR LANCELOT PINTO is epidemiologist and pulmonologist from Hinduja Hospital, Mumbai. He specialises in the treatment of sleep apnea, insomnia, and other sleep-related disorders, with the aim of preventing complications such as high blood pressure and heart disease that are often a consequence of such disorders. He also specialises in the management of COPD.

sub-variants appears to be more virulent.

What are the characteristics of BA.2.38?

The sub-variant, similar to other Omicron strains, appears to evade immunity offered

Sena crisis: issues before SC

In petitions, the Maharashtra rebels have raised four key issues, involving provisions of the Constitution and Assembly Rules. Arguments on Monday referred to two major judgments, from 1992 and 2016.

THE 2/3rds RULE IN ANTI-DEFECTION LAW

OMKAR GOKHALE
MUMBAI, JUNE 27

THE POLITICAL crisis in Maharashtra has given rise to the question whether the Shiv Sena rebels can avoid disqualification under the anti-defection law.

Law and exception

Under the anti-defection law, a member of a legislature can be disqualified if he or she has voluntarily given up membership of their political party; and if he/she votes or abstains from voting in the House contrary to any direction issued by their party (or by any person or authority authorised by the party).

There is a provision to protect such legislators from disqualification. If two-thirds of the members agree to a merger with another party, they will not be disqualified. Under the 91st Amendment to the Constitution in 2003, the exemption from disqualification if one-third of the members form a separate group (the rule prior to the amendment) was removed.

How courts have ruled

In February this year, the High Court of Bombay at Goa held that 10 Congress MLAs and two two MCP MLAs, who had defected to the BJP in 2019, are exempted from disqualification and held that a merger of this group of Congress MLAs is “deemed to be a merger” of the original political party with the BJP (*Girish Chodankar v Speaker, Goa Legislative Assembly*).

In *Rajendra Singh Rana v Swami Prasad Maurya* (2007), a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court interpreted the term “voluntarily giving up membership of a political party”, and held that “a person may be said to have voluntarily given up membership of an original party even though he or she has not tendered resignation from membership of the party” and that an inference can be drawn from conduct of the member.

The two-thirds rule

Some experts believe that even if two-thirds of legislators have broken away, they will be protected from disqualification only if they merge with another party or be-

Zirwal had rightly recognised Choudhari’s appointment based on the authentic party letterhead, Kamat said.

‘UTTER DISREGARD’ FOR SC 2016 RULING:

Shinde has said that a notice to move a resolution for removal of Zirwal as Deputy Speaker under Article 179(c) of the Constitution and Rule 11 of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rules, was submitted on June 21, before the disqualification notices were served on the rebels.

The petition refers to the Supreme Court’s judgment in *Nabam Rebia & Bamang Felix v. Deputy Speaker, Arunachal Legislative Assembly* (2016), in which the court had held that if the Speaker faces a motion for his own removal first, both the constitutional provisions under the Tenth Schedule and Article 179(c) would have their “independent operational space preserved”.

The court had ruled that it would be “constitutionally impermissible for a Speaker to adjudicate upon disqualification petitions under the Tenth Schedule while a motion of resolution for his own removal from Office of Speaker is pending”.

According to the rebel camp, the petition



Eknath Shinde (on the chessboard) and other Shiv Sena rebels at the Guwahati hotel where they are staying. *PTI*

come a separate group in the legislature.

Senior advocate Devdatt Kamat, representing Shiv Sena, said that until the MLAs rebel camp merges with another party, disqualification under the anti-defection law will still apply to them. He said there are court judgements including in the Ravi Naik case (1994) in the Supreme Court which held this view.

Senior Advocate Shrihari Aney, a former Advocate General of Maharashtra, said there are debatable positions about the anti-defection law. “Various courts have passed verdicts as per specific facts of the case and I am of the view that the Eknath Shinde faction has already crossed the two-thirds mark and thus they cannot be subjected under this law and they are protected from the anti-defection law. They are entitled to be identified as a separate group or a ‘gat’ in the

house and to participate in the proceedings.”

Disqualification notices

Another issue that has arisen is whether the disqualification notices served on 16 rebel MLAs can stand the scrutiny of law. Experts said that as per the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly (Disqualification on grounds of Defection) Rules and other stipulations, the Deputy Speaker’s decision cannot be upheld.

Aney said, “In my opinion, the notices disqualifying some MLAs are void ab initio. The orders are premised on the ground that these MLAs did not attend the official meeting and did not adhere to the whip. But, a whip is limited only to the business of the legislature... Here it was for a meeting called by their president Uddhav Thackeray.”

after the notice for moving a resolution for his own removal was given, and therefore, the Deputy Speaker’s decision was in “utter disregard” of the 2016 SC ruling and, therefore, “non-maintainable”.

In response, Senior Advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi for Choudhari submitted that the 1992 Constitution Bench judgment in *Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu* had clearly laid down that courts cannot interfere until the Speaker makes a decision, and that the Speaker has sweeping discretion in deciding cases of disqualification of MLAs.

Singhvi argued that courts can only aid the procedure that the Speaker or Deputy speaker is supposed to follow, and that Nabam Rebia cannot be misused to restrain the Speaker. He said that Article 212 bars the courts from inquiring into the proceedings of the legislature, and asserted that the Speaker was competent to decide a disqualification plea under the Tenth schedule of the Constitution when notice of his removal is under consideration.

Singhvi also questioned the petitioners’ “leap frogging” to the Supreme Court first, and

challenged the maintainability of the plea. Senior advocate N K Kaul for the rebels argued that the apex court had the discretion to entertain the pleas.

Senior advocate Rajeev Dhawan representing Zirwal informed that the no-confidence motion against him was rejected as the genuineness or veracity of the notice could not be ascertained. The court asked whether the Speaker could be a judge in his own case, and asked Zirwal’s lawyer to place the new developments pertaining to rejection of the notice on record.

48 HOURS TO RESPOND ‘AGAINST RULES’: Referring to Rule 7(3)(b) of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly (Disqualification on Grounds of Defection) Rules, 1986, Shinde has said that persons who are sought to be disqualified are entitled to at least a 7-day period (further extendable) to submit their reply.

But the June 25 notice gave the rebels only 48 hours, he has said.

According to the rebels, Zirwal “completely bypassed” the Rules, and his action was “nothing but an eyewash to put a façade of compliance of the rules”.

EXPERT EXPLAINS

DR LANCELOT PINTO

From The Indian Express panel of specialists, exclusive insight

MAHARASHTRA HAS been witnessing a daily upward spiral of Covid-19 cases. On June 23, the state reported 5,218 cases—the highest single-day count since February. The active cases in the state stood at 25,570 on Monday — 27% of India’s total. The 51 deaths reported so far is the highest toll for y month since March. Although the severity of the infection is mild with 95% of the patients mostly asymptomatic, public health officials are an-

tipicating a further rise in cases, indicative of a “fourth wave”.

Is the fresh surge being fuelled by a new sub-variant of Omicron?

Altogether 99.6% of the samples uploaded from India to the GISAID registry over the past four weeks have been of the Omicron variant, including sub-lineages. BA.2, referred to as “stealth Omicron” (lacks the deletion at position 69/70 in the S protein) appeared to be replacing the existing strains, and INSACOG reported this to be the dominant strain across the country. The BA.2.38 sub-variant has now been reported from Mumbai and Pune as the dominant strain based on sampling and is hypothesised to be the strain driving the present surge. Newer sub-lineages and possible variants were always expected, based on our understanding of viral transmission and evolution dynamics, and this comes as no surprise. What is reassuring is that none of these newer

by vaccinations and past infections. This is why we are witnessing a significant proportion of breakthrough infections and reinfections. There is data to suggest that the sub-variant may be more transmissible, explaining the present surge. However, vaccination and prior infection do appear to continue to protect against moderate and severe disease, and this is reassuring.

Are the clinical symptoms any different?

Fever, sore throat (often severe), nasal congestion, body ache, loss of taste and a mild cough are the predominant symptoms that are being reported. Diarrhoea is also occasionally reported, but seems less common than the frequency with which it was reported with earlier Omicron strains. For most individuals, symptoms appear to get better in four days, with fatigue and a mild cough often persisting longer.

Do the cases of reinfection indicate that

the immunity offered by previous infection and vaccination is not strong enough?

Immunity can be defined as the body’s ability to contain an infection and not allow it to cause major damage. If you use this definition, previous infections and vaccinations do appear to be offering individuals with a robust immunity against Covid-19. However, prior infection and/or vaccination may not always protect an individual from getting infected, as variants such as Omicron are known to be “escape variants” that can evade the first line of defence against infection.

Does lower hospitalisation indicate that the new variants are becoming more transmissible but less virulent?

This fortunately does appear to be the case. However, we must not ignore the role that vaccination has played, and the “less virulence” could be a combination of the virus being milder and the immune response be-

ing a lot stronger. In a high-risk, unvaccinated individual with no prior exposure to the virus, even mild strains could potentially cause severe disease and we must, therefore, strive to vaccinate everyone.

People administered boosters too are getting reinfected. How robust is the protection offered by current vaccines?

We need to constantly remind ourselves that vaccines are designed to create an immune response that prevents severe disease, and the present vaccines and boosters appear to be doing an excellent job. We should revisit the role of boosters among individuals who have a normal immune system and do not have comorbidities, as frequent boosters in such individuals may not be necessary. Studies clearly show benefit among individuals who are immunocompromised, and all our future efforts should be targeted to this group.

Dr Pinto spoke to Rupsa Chakraborty

EXPLAINED HEALTH

Takeaways from Maharashtra Covid surge: more transmissible, not so virulent



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THE EXPERT

DR LANCELOT PINTO is epidemiologist and pulmonologist from Hinduja Hospital, Mumbai. He specialises in the treatment of sleep apnea, insomnia, and other sleep-related disorders, with the aim of preventing complications such as high blood pressure and heart disease that are often a consequence of such disorders. He also specialises in the management of COPD.

sub-variants appears to be more virulent.

What are the characteristics of BA.2.38?

The sub-variant, similar to other Omicron strains, appears to evade immunity offered

by vaccinations and past infections. This is why we are witnessing a significant proportion of breakthrough infections and reinfections. There is data to suggest that the sub-variant may be more transmissible, explaining the present surge. However, vaccination and prior infection do appear to continue to protect against moderate and severe disease, and this is reassuring.

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GOLD

₹50,822



RUPEE

78.35/USD



OIL

\$109.78



SILVER

₹60,231

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of June 24

SENSEX: 53,161.28 ▲ 433.30 (0.82%) NIFTY: 15,832.05 ▲ 132.80 (0.85%) NIKKEI: 26,871.27 ▲ 379.30 HANG SENG: 22,229.52 ▲ 510.46 FTSE: 7,253.13 ▲ 44.32 DAX: 13,208.30 ▲ 90.17

International market data till 1900 IST

OPPN STATES LIKELY TO RAISE DEMAND FOR COMPENSATION REGIME EXTENSION

Rationalisation, reforms may test Centre-state relations at GST meet

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 27

AS THE Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime nears five years of completion and ushers in the end of the compensation regime for states to cover revenue gap, measures to boost revenues such as rate rationalisation, review of exemptions and system reforms will turn out to be the key contentious points between states and Centre as they converge for the GST Council meeting on June 28-29.

With high inflation rate, any major rejig of tax slabs will not find favour in near term, instead the Council is likely to rely heavily on a series of other measures to boost revenues — correction of inverted duty structure for items such as LED lamps, printing/drawing ink, knives, spoons, power-driven pumps, solar water heater, finished leather composite works and withdrawal of exemption for items such as pre-packaged and labelled food items such as wheat flour, puffed rice, curd/lassi/buttermilk, paneer

and chilled meat/fish.

States, especially Opposition-ruled ones, are expected to raise demand for extension of the compensation regime to bridge revenue shortfall beyond June 2022. Under GST, as per the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act, 2017, the states were guaranteed compensation at the compounded rate of 14 per cent from the base year 2015-16 for losses arising due to implementation. Last week, the Finance Ministry notified the extension of the levy and collection of compensation cess till March 2026, 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 not for any extension of compensation to states beyond June 2022.

“GST has been a good idea but badly implemented. Micro-level management in implementation did not happen. Because of that, states are in a very bad position. Extension of compensation scheme should happen,” Delhi

MEETING TODAY

■ With high inflation rate, any major rejig of tax slabs will not find favour in near term, instead the Council is likely to rely heavily on other measures to boost revenues.

Finance Minister Manish Sisodia told *The Indian Express*.

“Centre is not being asked to pay from its resources. The compensation funds were supposed to come from levy of cess. Till effective implementation of GST happens, the way it was envisaged, the compensation regime should be continued. States surrendered most of their taxation rights, VAT was one of the biggest components for them. 14 per cent growth was promised, which is not being achieved and it's coming to an end. This is not done,” he added.

The Council is also expected to discuss interim recommenda-

tions of a ministerial panel on rate rationalisation including levying tax of 12 per cent on hotel rooms costing below Rs 1,000/day which are presently exempt, increasing rate on manufacturing services of leather goods, clay bricks from 5 per cent to 12 per cent, hiking GST on LED lamps, ink, knives, blades, power driven pumps, spoons, forks, dairy machinery from 12 per cent to 18 per cent and bringing in pre-packaged food items including rice, atta, curd, lassi, puffed rice at par with branded food items with a tax rate of 5 per cent. Additionally, it will discuss the Fitment Committee's proposal to levy tax on the margins made by tour operators at a suitable rate along with a suggestion to make e-way bill mandatory for intra-state movement of gold above a threshold of Rs 2 lakh.

The way forward

More measures for compliance to plug revenue leakages are in the offing with a greater scrutiny to be over high-risk taxpayers. At the time of registration, measures such as better verification through

use of mandatory biometric authentication for high-risk taxpayers, inclusion of electricity bill data, real time validation of all bank accounts against a particular PAN and geo-tagging have been suggested by a ministerial panel.

“Broadening the base is the only option, you cannot raise rates. Compliance has to be increased using technology to identify revenue leakage, bogus returns, which is not getting caught in the system at present,” Sisodia, who was a member of the GoM on system reforms, said.

Identifying risky behaviour of the new registrants/applicants using artificial intelligence and place the information on the back office for the field officer to carry out mandatory physical verification of these taxpayers along with real time validation of bank accounts through integration of GST system with NPCI and inclusion of electricity bill metadata (CA No.) as a data field during registration by new taxpayers are some of the measures going to be discussed in the Council meeting. *Full report on www.indianexpress.com*

NTTI Aayog pitches for incentives to draw more women into gig economy

EXPLAINED
Lack of benefits

GIG WORKERS are typically hired by companies on a contractual basis and are not considered employees. They do not receive some of the benefits that an on-roll staff does.

23.5 million workers in the next eight years, making up for 4.1 per cent of total livelihood in India. According to the report, at present about 47 per cent of the gig work is in medium skilled jobs, about 22 per cent in high skilled, and about 31 per cent in low skilled jobs. Gig workers can be broadly classified into platform and non-platform workers. Platform workers are those whose work is based on online software apps or digital platforms while non-platform gig workers are generally casual wage workers, working part-time or full-time. While platform companies have created avenues of employment, it has often been marred by low wages, unequal gender participation, and a lack of possibility for upward mobility within an organisation.

The report also recommended that businesses have a higher share of women managers and supervisors in the organisation to ensure that communication to workers does not perpetuate gender stereotypes. “To encourage more women, platform forms may develop better infrastruc-

ture and work design, enhance skill development, asset ownership, access to digital skills and technology, undertake gender sensitisation and accessibility awareness programmes for workers and their families,” Sakshi Khurana, consultant at Niti Aayog's skill development, labour and employment vertical, and part of the research team for the report, told *The Indian Express*.

To encourage increased and equal participation in the gig economy, the report said social security benefits be extended to workers in a partnership mode, as envisaged in the Code on Social Security, 2020. It also said that businesses offer paid sick leave to their workers apart from insurance cover. Gig workers are typically hired by companies on a contractual basis and are not considered their employees. As a result, they do not receive some of the benefits that an on roll employee of the company may have — this means that they often do not receive benefits like paid sick and casual leaves, travel and housing allowances, and provident fund savings, among other things. The report also recommended that firms adopt policies that offer old age or retirement plans and benefits and other insurance cover for contingencies such as injury arising from work that may lead to loss of employment and income. NITI Aayog added that access to institutional credit could be enhanced through financial products specifically designed for platform workers and those interested to set-up their own platforms. *Full report on www.indianexpress.com*

Russia denies US claims of debt default

Tells investors to go to Western agents



City of Lysychansk, Ukraine, under Russian attack. Reuters

Moscow: Russia rejected claims on Monday that it had defaulted on its external debt for the first time in more than a century, telling investors to go to Western financial agents for the cash which was sent but bondholders did not receive.

The White House said Russia has defaulted on its international bonds. “Statements of a default are absolutely unjustified,” Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said. “The fact that Euroclear withheld this money and did not bring it to the recipients is not our problem. There are absolutely no grounds to call such situation a default.” Euroclear did not immediately respond to a request for comment. **REUTERS**

GST cuts ‘not passed on’: L’Oreal told to pay up

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

THE NATIONAL Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA) has asked L’Oreal to pay Rs 186 crore along with 18 per cent interest to the Consumer Welfare Fund for not passing on GST rate cut benefits.

COMPANY TO PAY

₹186 cr

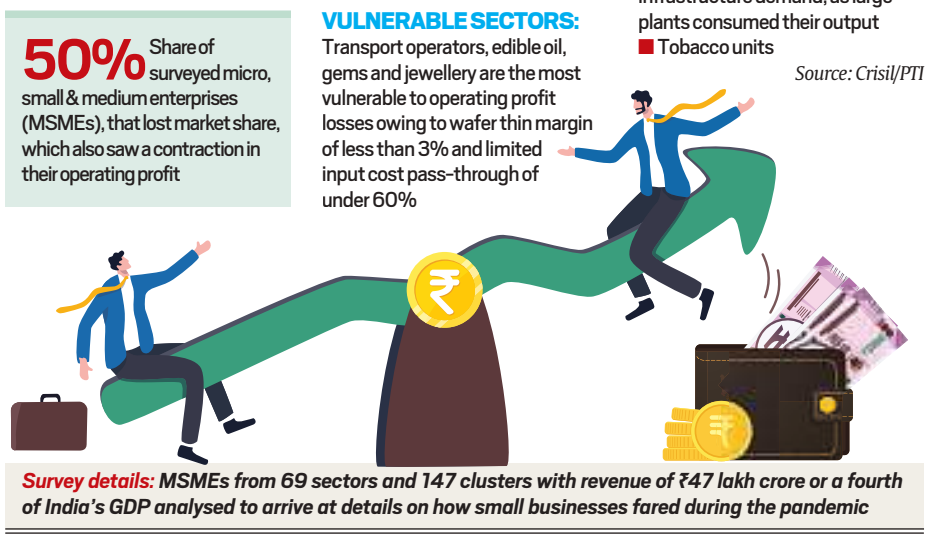
■ Amount that the NAA has asked L’Oreal to pay, along with 18%, interest

The authority directed the directorate general anti-profiteering to initiate further investigations to find out whether L’Oreal passed on tax reduction benefits in the period after December 31, 2018. Most products sold by L’Oreal attracted a 28 per cent GST between July 1, 2017 and November 14, 2017. The rates on these items were reduced

to 18 per cent from November 15, 2017. L’Oreal had said it reduced rates after the GST Council decision in November, 2017 by increasing quantity in the case of shampoos, conditioners and colour naturals. The company pointed out that the government had not given any guidelines or methodology to pass on benefits. **FE**

‘25% of MSMEs lost market share to big corporations’

A fourth of Indian MSMEs lost 3% or more of their respective market share to big corporations during the Covid pandemic, a Crisil report said



‘Essential’ segment MSMEs like pharmaceutical/agricultural millers hardly lost any market share

SECTORS WHERE MSMEs GAINED MARKET SHARE:

- Steel pig iron, where only SMEs could capitalise on revival in infrastructure demand, as large plants consumed their output
- Tobacco units

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PUNE (An Autonomous Institution of Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)
Dr. Homi Bhabha Road, Pune-411008 Website: www.iiserpune.ac.in

RECRUITMENT: NON-TEACHING POSITION
Institute invites online applications from Indian nationals having excellent academic record for the position of “Junior Office Assistant (Multi-Skill)” (Level-4, OBC-NCL).

For detailed advertisement and filling online application, please visit www.iiserpune.ac.in and click on the link “Opportunities- Non-teaching / Project”. The last date for submission of online applications is July 18, 2022.
Advt. No.: 45/2022 dated 27.06.2022 REGISTRAR

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF TELANGANA LIMITED
VIDYUT SOUDHA :: HYDERABAD – 500 082. Off: PABX:040-23396000

e- TENDER NOTICE
The TS Transco. invites online Bids under e-procurement- Specification Nos. (1) TSPMM 11-25/2022: Supply of Hot line T&P, (2) TSPMM22-26/2022: Supply of 1000 No.s end point security software licenses, (3) TSPMM21- 27/2022: Supply of 33kV Twin Feeder Control & Relay Panels, (4) TSPMM22-28/2022: Procurement of 220V, 200Ah & 425 Ah Battery Chargers with DCDB suitable for both VRLA & Tubular Battery Sets. Tenderers can have further details and download the tender schedule from e-procurement market place i.e., <http://tender.telangana.gov.in> (Telangana state).
Contact Nos: Chief Engineer/P&MM/TS Transco
Phone: 040-23396000, Extn.:3670/3583/3276/3343/3275/3487/3460/3332, Fax No:040-23337376, www.tstransco.gov.in
Sd/- Chief Engineer/P&MM
Ro No : 16/22

KARNATAKA STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
Ugrana Bhavan, No.43, Primrose Road, Bangalore-560025.
Tel.: 080-29533679. Fax: 080-29533673. Website: www.kswc.in

No.: KSWC/ACT/F.02/FGI/1028/2022-23 Date: 24.06.2022

E-Tender Notification
(Two Cover System)

Karnataka State Warehousing Corporation invites online tenders as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rule 2000, from the reputed I.R.D.A registered Insurance Companies for Insurance of Fidelity Guarantee Floater Insurance on 157 Warehouse Managers and a Cashier at Head office, Bengaluru for a period of one year from 05.08.2022 to 04.08.2023. The value for the Fidelity Guarantee Insurance Coverage per person Rs. 1.00 Crore (Warehouse Manager) which includes total sum assured of Rs. 20.00 Crore (Rupees Twenty Crore only) for 158 persons. EMD Prescribed Rs: 5000/-.

- (1) Tender to be published on e-proc portal: 28.06.2022 to 15.07.2022.
- (2) Pre bid meeting: 09.07.2022 at 11.00 AM.
- (3) Last date & time for submission of tender through online: 15.07.2022 at 3.00 PM.
- (4) Date & time for opening of Technical bid: 16.07.2022 at 3.00 PM.
- (5) Date & time for opening of Financial bid: 18.07.2022 at 11.00 AM.
- (6) Tender processing fee: as per e-portal.

The tender details are available on website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in Further details can be obtained from the office of the under signed during working hours.

Sd/- Managing Director
DIPR/CP/1073/AKAR/22-23
COVID-19 - DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS, ACT RESPONSIBLY, AVOID INFECTION, NOT THE INFECTED

भारतीय वानिकी अनुसंधान एवं शिक्षा परिषद्
INDIAN COUNCIL OF FORESTRY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
(संस्थान, जल जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार का एक स्वायत्त परिषद्)
(An Autonomous Body of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India)
पता ऑफ - न्यू फॉरेस्ट, देहरादून 248 006 (उत्तराखण्ड)
P.O. New Forest, Dehradun - 248 006 (Uttarakhand)

विज्ञापित संख्या 02 / डायरेक्टर्स / 2022-मा.वा.अ.शि.प.
Advt. No.02/Directors/2022-ICFRE

भारतीय वानिकी अनुसंधान एवं शिक्षा परिषद् देहरादून के अन्तर्गत 7वें वेंतन आयोग के वेंतन स्तर 15 के वेंतनमान में निदेशक, उष्णकटिबंधीय वन अनुसंधान संस्थान, जबलपुर के पद को प्रतिनियुक्ति के आधार पर भरने हेतु आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं।
Applications are invited for filling up of the post of Director, Tropical Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur in Pay Level 15 of 7th CPC Pay Matrix on deputation basis in Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun.
उपरोक्त पद हेतु इच्छुक अर्हार्थी माओवाओशिओपो की वेबसाइट <http://www.icfre.org> में दिये गये विस्तृत विज्ञापन के अनुसार आवेदन कर सकते हैं। आवेदन प्राप्त करने की अन्तिम तिथि 17.08.2022 है।
The interested candidates may apply for the above said post as per detailed advertisement available at ICFRE website <http://www.icfre.org>. The last date of receipt of applications is 17.08.2022.
सचिव, मा.वा.अ.शि.प./ Secretary, ICFRE

BRIEFLY
CBDT chief

New Delhi: Nitin Gupta, an IRS officer of the 1986 batch, has been named as the new Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Chairman and took charge Monday. He is serving as the Member (investigation) in the Board and set to retire next September.

Bajaj buyback

New Delhi: Bajaj Auto's board cleared buyback of fully paid up equity shares with a face value of ₹10 each from existing shareholders from open market for ₹2,500 crore. **PTI**

Credit Suisse

Switzerland: Credit Suisse was convicted by Switzerland's Federal Criminal Court for failing to prevent money-laundering by a Bulgarian cocaine trafficking gang, in the country's first criminal trial of one of its major banks. **REUTERS**

PSB foundation

New Delhi: Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB) observed 115th Foundation Day last Friday. MD-CEO Swarup Kumar Saha said it will move towards digital transformation. **ENS**

OFCD issuance: 2 Sahara group cos, Roy, 3 others fined ₹12 cr

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JUNE 27

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Monday imposed penalties totalling Rs 12 crore on two Sahara Group firms — Sahara Commodity Services Corporation Ltd and Sahara Housing Investment Corporation Ltd — as well as Subrata Roy and three others for violating regulatory norms in the issuance of optionally fully convertible debentures (OFCDs) in 2008 and 2009. In an order, Sebi Adjudicating Officer Suresh B Menon said the

Sebi said the fine needs to be paid within 45 days

fines need to be paid jointly and severally within 45 days. The penalised individuals are Ashok Roy Choudhary, Ravi Shanker Dubey and Vandana Bharrgava.

The case relates to issuance of OFCDs by Sahara India Real Estate Corporation Limited (SIRECL), now known as Sahara Commodity Services Corporation Limited, and Sahara Housing Investment Corporation Limited (SHICL). The two companies had

issued the OFCDs in 2008 and 2009 and were allegedly done in contravention of the provisions of Sebi's ICDR (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations and PFUTP (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices) rules.

Aurobindo Pharma warned

Meanwhile, Sebi issued a warning letter to Aurobindo Pharma for disclosing “very limited and restricted information” to bourses about a US FDA audit of its API manufacturing unit in Hyderabad. *Full report on www.indianexpress.com*

‘India, EU resume FTA talks’

New Delhi: Senior officials from India and the European Union (EU) resumed the much-awaited negotiations for a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) here Monday, after a gap of about nine years. Both sides are set to focus on “deliverables” first during the course of the negotiations, before moving on to contentious matters, sources said.

PIYUSH GOYAL
Commerce Minister PTI file

Duty-free access to the EU market for labour-intensive industries, mainly textiles and garments, will be

among India's key demands. The negotiations restart at a time the US and the EU are staring at a recession.

Before the talks began, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal met European Commission Executive Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis on June 17 and “discussed ways to fast track negotiations”. Formal negotiations between the two sides for the FTA were stuck over stark differences after 16 rounds of talks between 2007 and 2013. **FE**



UNITED STATES
AIRLINES CANCEL OVER 700 FLIGHTS

Airlines canceled over 700 flights in the US on Monday, as adverse weather and a shortage of staff hurt their ability to keep up with a surge in summer travel demand.

TOPOF THE
WORLD



Leonardo Del Vecchio

ITALY
Ray-Ban owner
Del Vecchio
dies aged 87

LEONARDO DEL Vecchio, who rose from childhood poverty to build the eyewear empire that owns brands such as Ray-Ban and Oakley, has died at the age of 87, his company said on Monday. Fashion designer Giorgio Armani was among those to pay tribute to Del Vecchio with whom he had worked since the 1980s. "Together, we invented a phenomenon that did not exist: we immediately realised that glasses, from simple functional objects would become indispensable fashion accessories," Armani said. "His story, from orphanage to leadership of a business empire, seems like a story from another time. But it is an example for today and tomorrow. RIP," European Economy Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni said on Twitter.

REUTERS

NEPAL

Budget leak row:
Minister says
won't step down

MAOIST LEADER and Nepal Finance Minister Janardan Sharma, who has been accused of leaking the Budget document by allowing two outsiders during a preparatory meeting with high ranking officials, barely hours before its presentation in Parliament Monday, refused to step down. Speaking in the upper house of Parliament, Sharma said he had brought a pro-people Budget and that he will not be obliging "any one" demanding his resignation. Meanwhile, the Unified Socialist Party, a major constituent in Nepal's five-party ruling coalition replaced four of its members in Cabinet.

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE

Two Indians
among three
tourists rescued

THREE STRANDED tourists, including two Indians, have been rescued from a forest in Nepal, a day after they went missing, police said on Monday. Police said the tourists were rescued from Chandragiri Forest, some 15 kilometres West of Kathmandu. The two Indian nationals were identified as Nawaprit Dhillion, 30, and Madhav Gupta.

PTI

G7 COUNTRIES PREPARE NEW AID TO KYIV

NATO to increase rapid reaction force to 300,000, modernise Ukraine armament

AGENCIES

BRUSSELS, KYIV JUNE 27

NATO SECRETARY general Jens Stoltenberg said Monday the military alliance will increase the size of its rapid reaction forces nearly eightfold to 300,000 troops as part of its response to an "era of strategic competition".

The announcement came as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy Monday urged G7 leaders meeting in Germany to supply anti-aircraft defence systems to his embattled nation as Russian forces assaulted Lysychansk, the last big city still held by Ukrainian troops in eastern Luhansk province.

The NATO response force currently has about 40,000 soldiers.

Coupled with other measures including the deployment of forces to defend specific allies, Stoltenberg said the move is part of the "biggest overhaul of collective defence and deterrence since the Cold War". He made the remarks at a press conference ahead of a NATO summit



Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addresses G7 leaders via video link during their working session at Castle Elmau in Kruen, Germany, on Monday. AP

later this week in Madrid when the 30 allies are expected to also agree on further support to Ukraine in its war against Russia.

Stoltenberg said he expects allies to make clear they consider Russia "as the most significant and direct threat to our security."

Over the long term, he said allies aim to help Ukraine transition from Soviet-era armaments to modern NATO equipment.

Biggest policy overhaul

NATO'S NEW Strategic Concept, its most important document, is expected to address for the first time the security challenges posed by China.

EXPLAINED

The Alliance's member countries are also growing wary of the growing influence of Russia and China in the region's "southern neighborhood".



An soldier tries to calm down people waiting to buy fuel in Colombo, Monday. The armed forces have been deployed to distribute tokens to people queuing for fuel. AP

Sri Lanka has fuel left only for days, to run only essential services

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO, JUNE 27

THE SRI Lankan government on Monday announced only essential services will operate from midnight till July 10 and all other operations will be temporarily suspended as the crisis-hit nation faces acute fuel shortage.

The move came days after Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe on Wednesday said the debt-laden economy of the island nation has "collapsed" after months of shortages of food, fuel and electricity, and cannot even purchase imported oil.

Sri Lanka's Cabinet of Ministers decided only essential services will operate from Monday midnight to July 10.

"Fuel will be issued only to health, defence, power and export sectors from midnight today until July 10," Cabinet spokesperson Bandula Gunawardena told reporters. The state-run Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) will issue diesel and petrol only for essential services with effect from midnight, it said.

These services include ports, airports, health, food distribution and agriculture, a report said, quoting transport minister

Gunawardena. "All other sectors must prepare from work from home programme," he said, urging the public to support the government's move to limit the consumption of fuel.

While the government said talks were held with India for a fresh credit line, a ministerial delegation is to visit Russia for talks to buy discounted oil, the government said.

US team meets
President Rajapaksa

A high-level US delegation on Monday met President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and discussed measures to help the island nation cope with an unprecedented economic crisis and severe shortages of essential supplies.

US Ambassador Kelly Keiderling, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the US Department of State, and Robert Kaproth, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the US Treasury accompanied by Ambassador to Sri Lanka Julie J Chung met the President to discuss Sri Lanka's economic crisis. "It's a challenging time, but we continue to deliver assistance and long-term partnership to help Sri Lanka achieve a prosperous, secure & democratic future," tweeted the US Ambassador.

Toxic gas leak
in Jordan: 10 dead,
251 hurt, rescue
planes rushed

REUTERS
JUNE 27

TEN PEOPLE died and 251 were injured in a toxic gas leak from a storage tank at Jordan's Aqaba port, state television reported on Monday, as authorities called on residents to shut windows and stay indoors.

The leak came after a tank filled with toxic gas fell while being transported, news agency Petra said, citing the spokesperson of public security directorate.

A video posted on state television's Twitter page showed a storage tank falling from a winch and slamming into the deck of a ship, followed by yellow-coloured gas rising into the air.

Specialised teams are still dealing with the leak, the Civil Defence service said on its Facebook page. Evacuation planes were being sent into Aqaba, state television said.

Prime Minister Bisher al-Khasawneh was headed to Aqaba, state TV reported. He also formed an investigation team chaired by the interior minister, state TV cited the information minister as saying.

JILL LAWLESS
LONDON, JUNE 27

BRITAIN IS ramping up a feud with the European Union by pressing on with a plan to rip up parts of the post-Brexit trade deal it signed with the bloc.

Legislation that rewrites trade rules for Northern Ireland is scheduled to get its first major House of Commons debate on Monday, the first step on what could be a rocky journey through Parliament.

The legislation, if approved by lawmakers, would remove



CRASHING DOWN

Four people were killed and hundreds were injured after the wooden stands of a stadium in El Espinal city in central Colombia collapsed on Sunday. Spectators had gathered at the stadium to watch a bull fighting match, officials said. AP

26 killed in Cameroon attack: official

Yaounde: At least 26 villagers were killed in an attack on Saturday in the Akwaya district of Cameroon's South-West region, where separatist insurgents have added fuel to long-running inter-ethnic conflicts over land, local sources said Monday.

Anglophone insurgents began fighting the Cameroonian military in the South-West and

North-West regions in 2017 after civilian protests calling for greater representation for the country's English-speaking minority were violently repressed.

The Akwaya district medical officer, Enow Daniel Kewong, said 26 bodies had been found so far and people were still missing after Saturday's attack on Ballin village, near the border

with Nigeria.

The member of parliament for the district, Aka Martin Tyoga, said he had been told 32 people had been buried in a mass grave, including six Nigerians.

Two local sources said the attack was linked to a festering land dispute between Ballin's Ugare ethnic group and the Olitis from the village of Mavass.

REUTERS

UK pushes for Brexit rules rewrite, EU fumes



The Bill is being debated in House of Commons. AP file

checks on goods entering Northern Ireland from the rest of the UK, thereby scrapping parts

of a trade treaty that Prime Minister Boris Johnson signed before Britain left the EU in 2020.

Johnson said he thought the plan could be approved "fairly rapidly" if Parliament cooperates, and that the measures could become law by the end of the year. "What we are trying to do is fix something that I think is very important to our country, which is the balance of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement," Johnson told reporters at the G7 summit in Germany.

The British government says the rules are burdening businesses and undermining peace in

Northern Ireland. It argues the unilateral move is justified under international law because of the "genuinely exceptional situation."

Johnson's opponents, however, say the move is illegal and will shred Britain's international reputation. The EU has threatened to retaliate, raising the specter of a trade war between the two major economic partners.

The bloc's ambassador to Britain, Joao Vale de Almeida, said Britain's plan was "illegal because it is a breach of international law, a breach of EU law, UK law and international law." AP

"We're not going away."

Abortion bans have already gone into effect in nine states since Friday's ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, with at least 12 more bans or restrictions, including in Mississippi, expected to take effect soon. That law cannot go into effect until 10 days after the state's attorney general, Lynn Fitch, certifies the Supreme Court decision.

On Saturday, the battle outside the pink clinic continued, much as it has for years. As the temperature soared, the frustration of the clinic escorts was palpable. At

one point, Dale Gibson, 53, a volunteer, began screaming and cursing at a protester named Zach Boyd, who had been holding a small rubber fetus doll aloft every time a patient drove in.

As the last of the patients rolled in, Gibson, who stood in the entrance to the parking lot, was sweat-drenched and exhausted. An anti-abortion protester, Madison Gass, 21, asked if she wanted a bottle of water.

"All I want," Gibson said, "is for y'all to vamoose."

Boyd overheard her: "We will in nine days," he said. "Praise the Lord." NYT

Qatar to host indirect
Iran-US discussion on
reviving nuclear deal

PARISA HAFEZI
& ANDREW MILLS
DUBAI, JUNE 27

QATAR WILL host indirect talks between Iran and the United States in coming days, Iranian media reported on Monday, amid a push by the European Union to break a months-long impasse in negotiations to reinstate a 2015 nuclear pact.

"Iran has chosen Qatar to host the talks because of Doha's friendly ties with Tehran," Mohammad Marandi, a media adviser to Iran's top nuclear negotiator, told the ISNA news agency.

A source briefed on the visit said that US Special Envoy for Iran, Robert Malley, was expected to arrive in Doha on Monday and meet with the Qatari foreign minister. An Iranian official told Reuters that Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, Ali Bagheri Kani, would be in Doha for the talks on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Iran's foreign ministry was not immediately available for comment and the Qatari government didn't comment. Later, however, Iran's Tasnim news agency cited a source at Iran's foreign ministry



Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, Ali Bagheri Kani. File

as saying that "Bagheri will travel to Doha on Tuesday".

The pact appeared close to being secured in March when the EU invited foreign ministers representing the accord's parties to Vienna to finalise an agreement after 11 months of indirect talks between Tehran and the US.

But the talks have since been suspended, chiefly over Tehran's insistence that Washington remove the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), its elite security force, from the US Foreign Terrorist Organization list.

Last week, one Iranian and one European official said Iran had dropped its demand for the removal of the IRGC's FTO sanctions, but still two issues, including one on sanctions, remained to be resolved. "Nothing is agreed until everything is agreed," Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Saeed Khatibzadeh, said on Monday.

REUTERS

Seoul urges
China, Russia
to prevent
North Korean
nuclear test

KIM TONG-HYUNG
SEOUL, JUNE 27

A TOP South Korean official said Monday that North Korea is increasingly targeting the South with its nuclear arms program, and urged China and Russia to persuade the North not to conduct a widely expected nuclear test.

Unification Minister Kwon Youngse's comments came after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un re-emphasized his nuclear ambitions in a key military meeting last week and approved unspecified new operational duties for front-line army units.

Kwon, who oversees South Korea's relations with North Korea, said at a news conference the North is exploiting a favorable environment to push ahead with weapons development and overturn the regional status quo as the US-led West remains distracted over Russia's invasion of Ukraine. He said North Korea's nuclear ambitions pose a "very serious and fundamental threat" to South Korea and that Seoul is preparing stern countermeasures in response to a possible North Korean nuclear test. He didn't elaborate.

"North Korea's transition in weapons development from long-range ballistic missiles to short-range ballistic missiles, from strategic nuclear weapons to tactical nuclear weapons, is obviously targeted toward South Korea," Kwon said.

"It seems clear that North Korea is simultaneously pursuing an ability to attack the US and to attack South Korea," he said. AP



S. Korea minister Kwon Youngse. AP

CENTER OF CASE THAT SAW RULING OVERTURNED

With Roe v. Wade upended, the final days of Mississippi's last abortion clinic

RICHARD FAUSSET
JACKSON, JUNE 27

A YOUNG woman entered the parking lot of the only abortion clinic in Mississippi, her shoulders hunched. She was accompanied by an older woman and a stone-faced young man with a handgun on his hip. She appeared terrified.

All around them, the noise was deafening. It was early Saturday morning, and a man with a powerful PA system was preaching about Jezebel being eaten by dogs. Dozens of evangelic

Christians had come to pray. Volunteer clinic escorts, sweating in the summer heat, directed patients' cars through the throng and blasted music they thought the evangelicals would hate. Posters of aborted fetuses lined the street.

A pastor named Doug Lane huddled with the older woman and encouraged her to persuade the younger woman not to go through with the procedure. "I wanted her to have the baby," the woman said, her voice unsteady.

Soon all of this — the preaching, the frightened patients, the rock music, the bloody posters —

will disappear. But before it does, there are guaranteed to be a few more days of roaring, passionate crescendo, as the Jackson Women's Health Organization, the pink-painted clinic at the heart of the Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade, tries to see as many patients as possible before it is forced to close.

There is already much talk about what will come next. Outside the clinic, abortion opponents discussed how their churches might do a better job spreading the message of abstinence in a state with the nation's highest teen pregnancy rate.



The clinic, known as the Pink House, will keep performing abortions until the ban takes effect in a few days. NYT

Supporters of abortion access, meanwhile, are working to create a network of donors, volunteers, educators and even pilots to help women in the nation's poorest state travel to places where the procedure will remain legal. Similar efforts are underway across much of the country, in states where abortion will now be forbidden and in places hoping to accommodate out-of-state women in need.

"Abortion is our business, and that's what we're going to do — to make sure women have access," said Diane Derzis, the owner of the Jackson clinic.

BRIEFLY

Chamari denies India clean sweep as SL win



India won the series 2-1. BCCI/Twitter

Dambulla: Skipper Chamari Athapaththu struck a counter-attacking 48-ball 80 as Sri Lanka outplayed India by seven wickets in the third and final T20I to avoid a whitewash here on Monday. The 32-year-old Chamari smashed 14 boundaries and one six and in the process became the only cricketer from the island nation to get to the 2000-run mark in T20Is. Tillakaratne Dilshan (1889) is the highest run-scorer among the male cricketers from Sri Lanka. Chasing a modest 139 to avoid a clean sweep by the Indians, Sri Lankan batting finally came good as the hosts hunt down the target with three overs to spare to claim a consolation win. The three-match T20I series thus ended 2-1 in favour of India.

Sindhu, Prannoy lead India's challenge

Kuala Lumpur: PV Sindhu will look to quickly recover from her first-round exit at Indonesia, while HS Prannoy will eye another consistent show as the duo spearhead the Indian challenge at the Malaysia Open Super 750 tournament starting here on Tuesday. Sindhu will face Pornpawee Chochuwong in the opening round. Saina Nehwal also stars in the same half of the draw and will open against USA's Iris Wang. Prannoy will be pitted against Malaysian veteran Daren Liew, who had defeated him at the Thailand Open in May. Among others, Tokyo Olympian B Sai Praneeth will be up against sixth seeded Anthony Sinisuka Ginting, while Sameer Verma takes on another Indonesian Jonata Christie, seeded seventh.

Two judokas, coach called back from tour

New Delhi: Two Indian judokas, including a former junior Asian Championships medallist, and their coach were on Monday called back from an exposure trip in Spain after it came to light that they were involved in an unsavoury and "severe incident" that involved women athletes from the host country. A national coach, attached to the Sports Authority of India (SAI), claimed that one judoka was involved in a "brawl with a women group and later one female was found inside his hotel room". A 30-member Indian contingent, including CWC-bound judokas, is currently in Alicante.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India face 'Bazball' challenge

England are riding a crest under new management, as whitewash of NZ shows, and are a different proposition

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
JUNE 27

THAT WAS the only time Jamie Overton looked nervy, after moving into the 90s in his debut Test. Eventually he fell for 97, got a bear hug from Jonny Bairstow and left to a standing ovation from the Headingley crowd. The newcomer was allowed to be nervous as he approached the moment of his cricketing life. Ninety-seven per cent of his innings, though, oozed boldness that 'Bazball' demands.

To paraphrase The Beatles, Brendon 'Baz' McCullum took a sad song and made it better very quickly.

It has been a June to savour for the England cricket team and its band of long-suffering supporters. Coming into the three-Test series with one win in their last 17 attempts, one could argue that the only way left was up. And up they certainly went, in the space of a few weeks as the new dispensation got to work. Chasing fourth-innings targets between 275 and 300 are stiff asks in Test cricket, but the hosts devoured them in a manner that would have done many white-ball teams proud. It was a complete contrast to the dour and insipid style prevalent previously.

The mantra seems to be 'foot to the floor', even in the direst of situations, as the following examples will show.

Exhibit 1: A year ago at Lord's, New Zealand had declared their second innings and set England a target of 273 in 75 overs on the final day. The hosts, with skipper Joe Root and head coach Chris Silverwood in charge, opted to play out for a boring draw instead.

At Trent Bridge, England's fourth innings target against New Zealand was 299 in 72 overs on the final day of the second Test. With Ben Stokes and McCullum in the saddle, they romped home in 50 overs, winning by five wickets, as Bairstow got in the 'zone'.

Exhibit 2: In the third Test at Headingley, England's top order was at sea against Trent Boult's swing-bowling masterclass. That first spell from the left-arm paceman would have rattled any top order and the hosts

England will face a new England at Edgbaston starting Friday. This England team doesn't get bundled out in one session; doesn't retreat in the face of opponents' aggression. And India will carry their own problems to the pending fifth Test



England's Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow celebrate after beating New Zealand in the third Test on Monday. Reuters

the tourists when it suffered a Covid-forced postponement.

Virat Kohli hasn't scored an international century for two-and-a-half years now, averaging a shade over 30 in Tests during this period. For the first time in nearly five years, his career average has dropped below 50. Last year, when India toured England, Kohli was the team's undisputed leader across formats. Much has changed since.

England, too, have a new captain in Stokes but his predecessor, Root, hasn't lost his run-scoring mojo. He is the No. 1 Test batsman in the world, with a match-winning hundred in the first Test at Lord's followed by another world-class offering at Trent Bridge. The Yorkshireman then anchored the fourth-innings chase as Bairstow went berserk again to seal a seven-wicket win on their home ground.

Billing the fifth Test as Kohli versus Root is fraught with risk, for the latter is operating on a different run-scoring stratosphere, while, Kohli, 33, is seemingly heading towards the twilight zone unless there's a second wind.

Skipper Rohit Sharma has contracted Covid and may miss the Test. And more than the captaincy issue – Jasprit Bumrah is likely to stand in – it creates a serious batting void. Rohit was immense for India in England last year and although he had a poor IPL, he, along with Kohli, is the team's batting royalty. Also, now India have lost both their first-choice openers. Shubman Gill is a very good replacement for KL Rahul, but Rohit's absence could have an adverse effect even though Mayank Agarwal has been called up as cover.

Cheteshwar Pujara has returned to the Test fold by dint of his 720 runs in eight innings for Sussex, including four centuries. But he would still walk a tightrope, knowing

Root, Bairstow power England home

Leeds: A dominant England swept New Zealand 3-0 in the test series with an aggressive seven-wicket victory in the third and final test on Monday.

After the first session was washed out due to rain on the final day, England motored to 296-3 in the middle session after resuming on 183-2. "A 3-0 win against the best team in the world, it's absolutely phenomenal," Ben Stokes said after his team beat the world test champions in his debut test series as captain. "It's about the change of the mindset of the lads towards test cricket. To say that we have done it so quickly is unbelievable. Huge credit to (coach) Brendon (McCullum) and the backroom staff."

Joe Root (86 not out) and Jonny Bairstow (71 not out) played New Zealand bowlers at Headingley, hitting boundaries at will in a blistering 111-run stand as England cruised to the target in just over an hour on the fifth day.

Bairstow, whose masterful 162 lifted

England from a precarious 55-6 in the first innings, played yet another aggressive knock as he registered England's second fastest-ever test half century off just 30 balls. Bairstow finished off the game in style when he belted off-spinner Michael Bracewell for a four and a six in a superb 44-ball unbeaten knock.

"It was like some of the 50-over stuff," Root said while describing Bairstow as a "phenomenal player" after England knocked off the remaining 113 runs in 15.2 overs on the last day. "He (Bairstow) has been hitting the ball really well... it's great to see him do that, to bat with the confidence and freedom."

The complete transformation will give England confidence going into the test match against India. "India are a different opposition, but we will come out with the same (aggressive) mindset," Stokes said. **BRIEF SCORES:** NZ 392 & 326 lost to England 360 & 296/3 (Root 86*, Pope 82 Bairstow 71*) by 7 wickets

Important to give such talent time: Pandya on Umran's debut

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JUNE 27

AS INDIA faced Ireland in the first T20I on Sunday, all eyes were on India's fast-bowling sensation Umran Malik, who made his debut. However, he had a rather nervous start to his international career.

The speedster gave away 14 runs in the only over he bowled. He, though, got the backing of Hardik Pandya, who captained India in the first T20I against Ireland. Pandya said he is hopeful of Umran getting another opportunity in the second T20I to prove himself. "Umran was kept back after I had a chat with him, he's more comfortable with the older ball and they batted fantastically. So, hope he gets an opportunity. When you play for India for the first time, and the journey he has taken, it's important to give such a bowler and such a talent time," the skipper said in the post-match presentation ceremony after India won the match by seven wickets.

Harry Tector, whom Pandya gifted his bat, slammed a 33-ball 64 laced with six boundaries and three sixes to single-handedly lift Ireland from 22 for three to past the 100-mark after rain reduced the match to a 12-over a side contest.

India then returned to overhaul the target in 9.2 overs, scoring 111 for three, riding on Deepak Hooda's unbeaten 29-ball 47, Ishan Kishan (26 off 11 balls) and Hardik Pandya (24 off 12 balls) also chipped in with useful contributions. For India, Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1/16 in 3 overs) and Yuzvendra Chahal (1/11 in 3 overs) were the stand out bowlers.

"Great to start the series with a win, fortunate we got a game. It is important for our team to start with a win. Umran was kept back after I had a chat with him, he's more comfortable with the older ball and they batted fantastically," Hardik said.

BRIEF SCORES: Ireland 108/4 in 12 overs (Tector 64; Chahal 1/11, Bhuvneshwar 1/16) lost to India 111/3 (Hooda 47*, Kishan 26; Young 2/18) by seven wickets

Agarwal to join Indian squad

PTI: Opener Mayank Agarwal has been called up to join the Indian squad in the UK as cover for skipper Rohit Sharma, who has been rendered doubtful for the Edgbaston Test against England after testing positive for Covid-19. Rohit competed on the first day of the drawn warm-up game against Leicestershire before being placed under isolation. Agarwal had missed out on making the 15-man squad for the game but an opportunity has come his way as KL Rahul got injured just ahead of the South Africa series and now Rohit has contracted infection.

"The All-India Senior Selection Committee has added Mayank Agarwal to India's Test squad for the rescheduled fifth Test as cover for captain Rohit Sharma, who tested positive for COVID-19. Mayank has left for the UK and will link up with the squad in Birmingham," said the BCCI in a statement.

Umran was kept back after I had a chat with him, he's more comfortable with the older ball and they batted fantastically. So, hope he gets an opportunity. When you play for India for the first time, and the journey he has taken, it's important to give such a bowler and such a talent time."

HARDIK PANDYA
ON UMRAN MALIK

CHANGING STYLE

Sathiyian 2.0: More aggression, quicker points, power, maturity

ANIL DIAS
MUMBAI, JUNE 27

SO STUNG was G Sathiyian by his second-round exit at the Tokyo Olympics that he went into a deep introspection mode, watching the videos of his defeat 'endless times' with his coach Subramaniam Raman. "Maybe, the occasion and the nerves got to me," India's top-ranked men's singles table tennis player says. "I've only learnt lessons from it."

Almost a year on, Sathiyian is a changed player. "We're going into a 2.0 version of Sathiyian," he declares.

Sathiyian 2.0, he says, is a culmination of a myriad of small changes, including a more aggressive mindset and curbing his natural conservative instincts. But in essence, the player who never tired of indulging in a long rally now targets a quick end to the point, even if it means doing something risky and audacious.

The outcome is visible. Last November, when he was still introducing the changes to his game, Sathiyian had lost rather timidly to Slovenia's Jorgic Darko in a World Table Tennis Contender match. In a re-match between the two last week, the Indian stunned the world number 6 and reigning European champion to record one of the biggest wins

of his career.

Sathiyian, in his Twitter post after the win, called it a 'huge upset'. But he was barely surprised by the result. "He (Darko) has one of the best backhands in the world so we were focusing on the forehand. I had to start aggressively to put him under pressure," Sathiyian tells The Indian Express. "I went for the shots taking some risks. That is the only way out when you play a top player. When I won the second game, I could see the momentum shift. I started to hit the balls much better. I felt I was a much better player than when I played him in Slovenia (last November)."

When Raman and Sathiyian, following their post-mortem of the Tokyo defeat, realised that the 29-year-old had to get more aggressive and take risks, they faced a small hurdle: aggression, Sathiyian says, didn't come naturally to him.

"Being from a South Indian family, I come from a safe setup," he laughs. "It was a very personal trait to be more consistent, to not miss the ball. That's how I've been groomed. My childhood coach used to say if the opponent plays 100 balls, you play 101 balls. It was good at that point in time, of course."

The approach is different now – Sathiyian is training to keep rallies short, be more counter-attacking and not be scared of go-



Sathiyian G changed his style after an early exit from the Tokyo Olympics.

ing for a winner. The focus, he adds, is to kill the rally in the first three or four shots. "We're training in such a way that I have to play only 3 balls and make sure the 4th doesn't come

Delhi HC quashes plea by TT players

New Delhi: Selecting sportspersons to represent the country cannot be as simple as comparing individual performance scores and litigations arising from the selection exercise may disrupt and impact the preparation and performance of the players, the Delhi High Court has said. The court, while dismissing petitions by table tennis players Manush Shah and Swastika Ghosh against their exclusion from the country's Commonwealth Games squad, emphasised that a player must possess physical as well as great mental and emotional strength and agility to represent a nation and to participate and excel and it is thus pivotal that there should be no uncertainty in their minds.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

back," he says. "I've become a more counter-attacking aggressive player now."

It's one of the 'biggest changes' Sathiyian is trying to make to his style; a realisation

that dawned upon him post-Olympics. Sathiyian had always been good in long rallies, a style he adopted for a long time and one that also yielded results as testified by his rapid growth in the last five or so years.

"But to get to the next level, the top-20, top-10, I need to crack that serve and receive," the world number 35 says. "It's about being aggressive there. You need to have better quality aggression with consistency. That's the key."

To be more aggressive, one needs the physical strength to back it up too, something Sathiyian was lacking. The pandemic, however, changed that.

"In general, we've worked a lot on physical stability and improved my strength and power. I've been very good with speed and agility but packing it up with power in my strokes was needed and I was able to do that thanks to the pandemic," he says.

Strong support team

Back in 2012 when he was ranked in the 400s and had begun coaching under Raman, Sathiyian says he would laugh when his new coach told him his target was to be in the top 50. He achieved that in the next six years and Sathiyian says it's only because his team has catered to all aspects of his game.

"While Raman sir is brilliant, I have an ex-

cellent fitness coach in Ramji Srinivasan. We've also worked tremendously on mental conditioning thanks to coach Vaibhav Agashe. We also have a dietician apart from the physios."

Yoga is also something he's added to his training regimen that he says has helped him a lot. "I do about 1.5 hours of strength training, then an hour of yoga and five hours of skill training on a daily basis. Yoga is something I added during the pandemic and it has given my game a massive boost," he says.

Focus on Birmingham CWC

There's been a lot of negative publicity for India's table tennis team ahead of next month's Commonwealth Games with players going to court, challenging their exclusion from the squad.

Sathiyian says he's unperturbed. "My performance in Zagreb shows that I don't let what's going on around affect my focus on the table. I'm only focusing on the controllable," he says.

Does the negativity affect the team in any way, though? "We have pressure and that's because everyone expects us to perform well. This pressure is a privilege. Frankly, as a team, we're more mature. Playing England at home is going to be interesting and we're ready for the challenge."