

**31-MONTH MVA RULE ENDS,**  
CM says 'betrayed' by own

**THANKS PEOPLE FOR**  
peace 'when riots elsewhere'

**DON'T COME IN WAY OF**  
rebels, he tells Sainiks

**NIA TO PROBE; FOUR OTHERS BEING QUESTIONED**

## Uddhav resigns ahead of floor test, BJP set to return with Sena rebels

Numbers not on his side, bows out in public address via Facebook

**ZEESHAN SHAIKH, VALLABH OZARKAR & SADAF MODAK**  
MUMBAI, JUNE 29

OUTNUMBERED AFTER a rebellion in his own party and realising he will not be able to prove majority on the floor of the Assembly, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray resigned Wednesday night, shortly after the Supreme Court declined to stay a floor test called Thursday by Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari.

His resignation as CM and MLC, which he announced in a Facebook address to the public, brought to an end the 31-month-old rule of the MVA and set the stage for the return of a BJP-led government. Former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis hopes to be back in power with the help of 39 Shiv Sena rebel MLAs led by Eknath Shinde, independents and legislators of smaller parties.

"I have no regrets about leaving the CM's chair. Whatever I did, I did for the Marathi people and Hindutva. Today, in front of everyone, I am announcing my resignation as CM of the state," Uddhav said in a speech that

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Uddhav Thackeray after submitting his resignation in Mumbai on Wednesday. Ganesh Shirsekar

**EXPLAINED**  
**E** Sena future tense

THERE'S A big question mark on the future of the Sena and the Thackerays. The Sena split at the top but it remains to be seen how it plays out on the ground, now and in the foreseeable future.

## Uddhav fate sealed after SC declined to stay Governor floor test direction

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN G**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

SEALING THE fate of Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and his ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi coalition, the Supreme Court Wednesday declined to stay the floor test that Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari

had asked Uddhav to take Thursday to prove his majority. Shortly after the Supreme Court decision, Uddhav resigned as Chief Minister, bringing to an end the MVA rule.

The Uddhav faction of the Shiv Sena had gone to the top court against the Governor's direction for a floor test. The Sena rebel faction led by Eknath

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY

Once the floor issue ends, let us flourish...



GOVT & POLITICS

**MAHARASHTRA GOVT CLEARS RENAMING OF AURANGABAD AND OSMANABAD**

FULL COVERAGE, PAGE 6

## One of two who killed tailor in Udaipur has Pak links: DGP

Accused visited Dawat-e-Islami office in Pak: Cops



Kanhaiya Lal's wife Yashoda in Udaipur on Wednesday. PTI

**HAMZA KHAN & DEEPTIMAN TIWARY**  
JAIPUR, NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

A DAY after Kanhaiya Lal, a tailor in Udaipur, was hacked to death by two men, Mohammad Riyaz and Ghouse Mohammad, for allegedly sharing remarks made by BJP's Nupur Sharma on the Prophet, Rajasthan Minister of State for Home Rajendra Singh Yadav said Wednesday that Ghouse Mohammad had been to Karachi in 2014 and been making phone calls to Pakistan "for the last 2-3 years".

Director General of Police M L Lather said Ghouse had gone to visit the office of Dawat-e-Islami in Karachi. The DeI is a Sunni Islamic proselytising group founded in Pakistan by Muhammad Ilyas Attar Qadri in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**DAWAT-E-ISLAMI: THE RADICAL LINK**

EXPLAINED, PAGE 14

## Would be alive if action taken: Victim's family

**DEEP MUKHERJEE**  
UDAIPUR, JUNE 29

ON ANY other day, Dhanmandi, a market area in Udaipur, would have been bustling with activity. But on Wednesday, only police barricades could be seen, at every turn of the serpentine alley leading to a shop with a signboard marked "Supreme Tailors",

where its owner, Kanhaiya Lal, was killed on Tuesday.

With curfew in place, all shops were closed as security personnel kept a close watch.

But, about 6 km away, hundreds of people assembled outside Lal's house in Sector 14, Udaipur, as his body was brought back after post-mortem. The angry crowd raised provocative

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## At least 12 states say continue GST compensation, no decision taken

**AANCHAL MAGAZINE**  
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 29

AT LEAST A dozen states demanded that compensation for losses due to implementation of the Goods and Services Tax be extended at the GST Council on

Wednesday, but the two-day meeting concluded without any decision on the issue. States were guaranteed compensation for five years till June 2022 at a compounded rate of 14 per cent (with 2015-16 as the base year) to make up for any losses due to the new tax regime that rolled

out in July 2017.

In its 47th meeting, the GST Council discussed recommendations of four ministerial panels — on rate rationalisation, on movement of gold and precious stones, system reforms, and casinos, horse racing and online

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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FROM PAGE ONE

Uddhav resigns

lasted 15 minutes. He said he was also resigning as MLC.

Before bowing out, he said he was happy to fulfil his father's wish of renaming Aurangabad and Osmanabad. "Today, there was a cabinet meeting and I am satisfied that my life's wish has been fulfilled. The initial idea of renaming Aurangabad, mooted by Shiv Sena chief Balasaheb Thackeray, has been fulfilled and we have renamed it as Sambhaji Nagar. We have also renamed Osmanabad as Dharashiv," he said.

"I was happy over the renaming of Aurangabad. I, however, felt sad that when this resolution was passed, only four Sena ministers were present — me, (son) Aaditya, Subhash Desai and Anil Parab. All the other Sena ministers, who should have been here, were absent and you know the reason why. When we presented the renaming resolution, the Congress or NCP did not oppose it. I would like to thank them. Those who should have done this earlier stayed away while those who we thought would oppose this, stayed with us," he said.

He thanked NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Congress chief Sonia Gandhi and their parties for the support.

To the public, he said, "You gave me a lot of love, you listened to my advice. In these times, there have been a lot of communal riots in the country, but there were no riots in Maharashtra because of you, my sensible citizens of Maharashtra. There were also riots over the CAA and NRC, but there were no riots in the state. Muslims also listened to it, it must be mentioned."

Slamming the rebel MLAs, Uddhav said those bestowed with important positions by the party had betrayed the Sena.

"The Sena made common men, people who drove rickshaws, ran small shops as corporators, MLAs, MPs and ministers. These people have now become big. Those who were given everything by the party are now saying they are angry while common Sainiks, who have not re-

ceived anything in the past, are today strongly standing behind the party," he said.

He took a swipe at Governor Koshiyari: "I also want to thank the Governor that he upheld the values of democracy. Within 24 hours of receiving a letter for a floor test, the Governor gave directions for it. I want to remind the

Governor that the same respect for the values of democracy should also be shown for a decision pending with him for over one-and-a-half years regarding approval of the nomination of 12 members of the Legislative Council. If that list is accepted expeditiously even now, we will continue to respect you."

He said the Congress and NCP remained committed to the idea of the MVA and backed the Shiv Sena.

"The important issue is that there was constant talk that some may betray this alliance but they remained with us. Even today, after the cabinet meeting, Ashok Chavan told me that if your people are angry about the NCP and Congress being part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi, we are ready to exit and give outside support to the government," he said.

He said security had been increased in Mumbai at the behest of the Central government and notices were being served to Shiv Sena workers.

"Today, bandobast has increased in Mumbai in the instructions of the Central government. Many Shiv Sainiks have been given prohibitory orders, CRPF has been called, the military too may be called," he said.

He appealed to the Sena workers not to hinder the movements of the rebel MLA when they reach Mumbai Thursday.

"I want to assure the MLAs that Shiv Sainiks will not come in your way when you go for the swearing-in ceremony. A floor test is scheduled for tomorrow. There will be a count of how many MLAs MVA has, how many BJP has. Why should heads only be used for a headcount? Should they not be used to get work done? This is the unfortunate aspect of democracy that heads are

only used to count who has the majority. I am not interested in this," he said.

"They (BJP) wish to celebrate that they made Shiv Sena pramukh Balasaheb Thackeray's son step down from the CM post and took power from the Shiv Sena. We cannot snatch that happiness from them and we should not do it. Hence, I am appealing to all Shiv Sainiks not to get in their way."

Earlier, in the evening, as lawyers of the Sena factions were battling it out in the Supreme Court, Uddhav thanked his cabinet colleagues for their support over the last two-and-a-half years and apologised for the "betrayal" by his colleagues. He also told some cabinet colleagues that if the Supreme Court were to order in favour of the floor test, he may resign ahead of the vote.

A source who attended the meeting quoted Uddhav saying "My colleagues have betrayed me. I apologise for this. This was unexpected. We did a new experiment in the country and parties of different views came together. We did not just speak, but came together and showed. We didn't realise how these two-and-a-half years passed. Our relations will continue and I will pray for this. Governments come and go. In politics, there is conflict. I don't know whether the floor test will happen. If I have hurt anyone, please forgive me."

He walked out of the cabinet meeting with folded hands with son Aaditya by his side.

Uddhav fate

the rival submissions: (i) We do not find any ground to stay convening of the Special Session of the Maharashtra Vidhan Sabha on 30-6-2022, i.e. tomorrow at 11.00 a.m. with the only agenda of a trust vote; (ii) The proceedings of the trust vote to be convened on 30-6-2022 shall be subject to the final outcome of the instant Writ Petition as well as the Writ Petitions referred to above; (iii) The Special Session of the Maharashtra Vidhan Sabha shall be conducted in accordance with the directions as contained in the communication... of the Governor of Maharashtra."

The bench also allowed NCP legislators Nawab Malik and Anil Deshmukh, who are in custody, to participate in the Vidhan Sabha session.

Appearing for Prabhu, Senior Advocate A M Singhvi said the Governor's letter on the floor test said that the Leader of Opposition met him last evening.

He asked won't it be a case of putting the cart before the horse if the floor test was held Thursday without deciding on the disqualification of 16 Sena rebel MLAs. He wondered what would happen to the result of the floor test if the MLAs were to be subsequently held to be disqualified.

"Suppose the SC dismisses the MLAs' petition and the (Deputy) Speaker disqualifies the MLAs, how will the court reverse the floor test?" Singhvi said, adding they would in such case stand disqualified from the date on which they were served notice. "That's why we say it's irreversible," he said.

"It is akin to the Election Commission holding election saying the electorate will include dead people or people who have moved out. If floor test is done without determining who are disqualified, the pool in which it will be held will change," he said.

"The size of the pool will depend on whether people have committed the Constitutional sin of defection," Singhvi said.

This, he said "will lead to utter confusion" and "the only way out is to await outcome of the petition filed by the rebel MLAs" in SC, challenging the disqualification notices issued to them by the Deputy Speaker.

Singhvi contended that the floor test direction revealed "undue haste" and was "unholy" and done at "supersonic speed".

"The Governor has to act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. Whether he does that or not, he cannot definitely act on aid and advice of the Leader of Opposition which is what he appears to have done," he said, referring to the meeting between BJP leader Devendra Fadnis and the Governor Tuesday night.

Calling it a "pickled situation", Singhvi said Sunil Prabhu is now the Chief Whip recognised by the Speaker but the rebels MLAs say it's someone else. "So whose whip will be followed tomorrow?"

He said that "people who have changed sides and defected cannot represent the will of the people... Will heavens fall if there is no floor test tomorrow?" he asked.

Countering this, Senior Advocate Neeraj Kishan Kaul, who appeared for the rebel MLAs, said the floor test can never be delayed as it is the only way to determine political accountability. The way to avoid horse trading, he said, is on the floor of the House. He said the Supreme Court has held that pending proceedings of disqualification "are no ground to delay floor test".

He said the "Supreme Court has held that both (disqualification and floor test) are distinct issues."

Kaul said that as per the Supreme Court, disqualification proceedings have no bearing on a floor test which is "the healthiest thing that can happen in a democracy".

"Supreme Court says that the moment a Chief Minister shows reluctance to prove his majority, it prima facie gives the view that he has lost the confidence of the House," he said.

Kaul said he had seen people keen to take a floor test. "I have seldom seen a party so afraid to conduct a floor test."

Justice Surya Kant sought to know who would be competent to participate if the floor test were to happen Thursday.

Kaul replied that while the argument is that the pool will change if they get disqualified subsequently, the SC has said that pendency of disqualification has no bearing on holding of a floor test.

He said the question if the Deputy Speaker has power to disqualify or not is a separate issue. But mere pendency of that matter, he said, has no bearing on the floor test. "Whose whip has to be followed is an internal party matter. In a situation of this kind, constitutional propriety calls for floor test," he said.

Submitting that the Governor's decision is not immune from judicial review, he said the question is whether this is the kind of situation where the court

will substitute the Governor's judgment with its own.

To a specific query from the bench, Kaul said there are 39 MLAs in the rebel camp and "that's why this nervousness (in the ruling alliance)". He said 16 of the 39 MLAs have been given notice for disqualification.

"We are not leaving Shiv Sena, we are the Shiv Sena. It's a hopeless minority that's trying to subvert," Kaul said.

Senior Advocate Maninder Singh sought to contradict the petitioner's argument that the Governor acted without aid and advice of the Council of Ministers and said there are rulings to show that such aid and advice is not needed to order a floor test.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared for the Governor, said the argument that the court has interdicted the Speaker is fallacious. He said it is the law which has interdicted him.

Singhvi countered the argument that floor test and disqualification are distinct. He said they are distinct only if there is no "fetter" on the Speaker. "It's unrelated till Your Lordships put a fetter on the Speaker. After that it is related, it has to be."

Singhvi also targeted the Governor: "It is repeatedly argued that the Speaker is always suspect, but the Governor is Holy Cow, Governor cannot be wrong, but the custodian of the Tenth Schedule is."

Pak links: DGP

1981. Minister Yadav said Ghose "went to Karachi in 2014 and spent about 45 days there. Then in 2018-19, he had movements in Arab countries and also visited Nepal a few times. And for the last 2-3 years, he was making calls to 8-10 phone numbers of Pakistan."

"The crime they have committed is not one which could have been committed by a common man. So the NIA has lodged a case and their network will be found out and the guilty will be jailed," he said.

As outrage over the killing mounted and condemnation poured in from different parts of the country, Gehlot cut short a visit to Jodhpur and returned to Jaipur where he chaired a meeting to review the Udaipur case with top state officials of the state. Post meeting, CM said that "preliminary probe reveals that the incident has been committed with an objective to spread terror and fear. It appears that they had a connection with international organisations, therefore it is obvious for the NIA to probe the entire incident." He said that the state's Special Operations Group (SOG) and Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) will extend "complete support" to the NIA in its investigation.

DGP Lather told reporters that the questioning of Ghose and Riyaz so far had revealed that "they were associated with an organisation named Dawat-e-Islami" and Ghose "was in constant touch with other members of the organisation".

"Ghose Mohammad had gone to visit Dawat-e-Islami in Karachi in 2014. On paper, its mission is to preach religious practices and propagate the particular sect. They don't have any such office in Rajasthan. In India, they have an office in Kanpur, and head offices in Mumbai and Delhi," the DGP said.

On Wednesday, the NIA re-registered the FIR in the case. The original FIR and then the NIA FIR was lodged under IPC sections 302 (murder), 452 (house-trespass after preparation for hurt, assault or wrongful restraint), 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention), 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony), 153B (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national-integration), 295A (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) as well as sections 16, 18 and 20 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The DGP said that considering the nature of the case "and as per instructions from the Chief Minister, this case has been treated as 'act of terror' since the beginning and hence a case was lodged under the UAPA. In this regard, the NIA was informed and their help was sought. NIA officials left for Udaipur on Tuesday night and reached Wednesday morning, and joined the investigation."

He said "since it is a scheduled offence, it was transferred to the NIA while the Rajasthan Police will support (the investigation)." While the two main accused were formally arrested on

Wednesday, four others, who were also allegedly involved in the case, are currently being questioned, as per police.

On the background of the two main accused, Lather said "Mohammad Riyaz used to work as a welder while the other person used to do menial jobs. So far, no criminal history of either has been found."

Additionally, the SHO of Dhanmandi police station, Govind Singh, and ASI Balu Ram have been suspended. The Dhanmandi police station had lodged an FIR against Kanhaiya Lal on June 10, based on the complaint by one Nazim Ahmed, for allegedly hurting religious sentiments. Police arrested Kanhaiya Lal on June 11, and he was granted bail the next day.

Balu Ram was the investigating officer in the case and the police had brokered peace between both sides on June 15, when Kanhaiya Lal had sought police protection following alleged threats from Nazim, but later withdrew it after the agreement.

However, the DGP said that no link between Nazim and the two who murdered Kanhaiya has been found as yet although the case is still under investigation. Additionally, Riyaz and Ghose had not met Kanhaiya previously either. During questioning, one of the accused also claimed that he crafted the weapon used to murder Kanhaiya Lal, as per the DGP.

"There is a post-Nupur situation and a pre-Nupur situation. Considering the charged atmosphere, the SHO could not read the situation well and the legal action which should have been taken, wasn't taken. Hence, the SHO and the ASI have been suspended and departmental action will be taken. Additionally, action will be taken against anyone else too if laxity is found at any level. No one will be spared," he said.

On the other hand, five constables have been promoted, out of turn, to head constable for their role in nabbing the two.

Later in the day, CM chaired an all-party meeting attended by BJP MLA and spokesperson Ramlal Sharma, former minister and former BJP state president Arun Chaturvedi, RLD's Subhash Garg who is also a minister in Gehlot cabinet, as well as members of RLP, CPI, and independent MLAs, among others. In the meeting, CM said that "entire state stands with Kanhaiya Lal's family" and announced a financial aid of Rs 50 lakh to the family.

In a resolution, the parties unanimously condemned the incident and sought the harshest punishment for the guilty as per law. They also appealed to the citizens to maintain peace and resolved that they won't let anti-social elements succeed in their schemes.

The government claimed that all the representatives praised the government for quick action and not committing any laxity, while thanking the government for calling the all party meeting.

On Thursday, CM Gehlot, MoS (Home) Rajendra Yadav, DGP Lather, Chief Secretary Usha Sharma and others are scheduled to visit Udaipur. The CM is scheduled to meet Kanhaiya Lal's family around 11 am, followed by a law and order meeting in Udaipur at noon.

In New Delhi, the Ministry of Home Affairs directed the NIA to take over the case. "MHA has directed the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to take over the investigation of the brutal murder of Shri Kanhaiya Lal Tel committed at Udaipur, Rajasthan yesterday. The involvement of any organisation and international links will be thoroughly investigated," the office of Union Home Minister Amit Shah said in a Twitter post.

A senior police officer said "cyber forensic analysis" of the phones of the two assailants is being done. "It is being examined if they are part of some online group that motivates people for lone-wolf attacks on religious lines. It is being explored if they were part of some self-appointed Islamic State group," the officer said.

Victim's family

slogans, calling for the execution of his killers. Lal, in his 40s, was a father of two, Yash (21) and Tarun (18). While Yash is a B.Com. second year student, Tarun is in his first year of B.Pharm. "What will do now," said their mother, Yashoda. "My husband was consistently receiving threats that he would be killed. People would come to his shop and threaten him. He was not going regularly to his shop for the past seven-eight days; he would just go once in a while to check on his staff members. If timely action had

been taken, he would have been alive," she said.

"We don't even remember who shared the post. Someone mistakenly clicked the repost button and it got shared. Despite the fact that he was receiving threats, the police didn't provide him protection. My father was the sole breadwinner of the family, as my brother and I are still studying. We suspect that more people are involved because it was a pre-planned murder," said Yash, adding that his first priority was to ensure that his father's killers are hanged.

In a video posted online, the two men who killed Lal — they identified themselves as Mohammad Riyaz and Ghouse Mohammad — said it was in retaliation for the victim sharing remarks made by BJP's Nupur Sharma on the Prophet.

On June 10, nearly three weeks before he was hacked to death, Lal was arrested on an FIR for allegedly hurting religious sentiments. After he was released on bail, he submitted a written complaint alleging death threats and seeking police protection.

"By mistake, a post related to Nupur Sharma's comments was made by Lal's son. Lal was arrested and was subsequently granted bail. Thereafter, he continued to receive threats and when he told the police, they didn't provide him protection. Instead, they mediated a compromise between the two parties. A man and a woman threatened him even a day before he was killed. Lal's photos were circulated on WhatsApp groups, his killing was meticulously planned," alleged Kuldip Sahu, who said he was a family friend.

Despite the curfew in seven police station areas, hundreds of people, on motorcycles and in vehicles, accompanied the funeral procession, raising provocative slogans and waving saffron flags.

A top police officer said the administration allowed the crowd to assemble to avoid untoward incidents that may have flared if they had been stopped. Just next to the cremation ground, a number of policemen stood guard near a Muslim burial ground, where a signboard was knocked down by the angry crowd.

Among politicians who met Lal's family were BJP leader and Rajasthan Leader of Opposition Gulab Chand Kataria, who is also the MLA from Udaipur, and Preeti Shaktawat, Congress MLA from Vallabhagar in Udaipur district.

According to relatives, Lal, originally from Dungarpur district, shifted to Udaipur about two decades ago.

"The cremation of Lal took place today and the crowd was peacefully dispersed. An amount of Rs 31 lakh has been arranged for the victim's family through public donation and another Rs 5 lakh will be provided by the court," said Rajendra Bhatt, Divisional Commissioner, Udaipur.

Meanwhile, Rajasthan DGP M.L. Lathar has said that an SHO and an Assistant Sub-Inspector have been suspended for negligence.

GST

gaming. A decision on levying a 28 per cent tax on casinos, online gaming, horse racing and lottery, has been deferred pending more consultations with stakeholders, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

It has been decided that the inverted duty structure will be corrected for a host of items translating into a rate hike for household items such as LED lamps, printing/drawing ink, power driven pumps, Tetra Pak to 18 per cent from 12 per cent, for solar water heaters, finished leather to 12 per cent from 5 per cent and for cut and polished diamonds to 1.5 per cent from 0.25 per cent. Among services, 18 per cent GST will be levied for issue of cheques.

Exemptions will also be withdrawn for pre-packaged and pre-labelled food items such as grains, curd, lassi, paneer, jaggery, wheat flour, puffed rice, buttermilk and meat/fish (except frozen). Such food items will now be taxed at 5 per cent, at par with branded items. Further, refund of accumulated input tax credit will not be allowed on goods such as edible oil and coal. Exemptions were also withdrawn for room rents: a 12 per cent GST will now be levied on hotel rooms with rent up to Rs 1,000 a day and a 5 per cent GST will be levied on hospital room rent above Rs 5,000 per day (excluding ICU).

GST rate has been reduced for ostomy/orthopaedic appliances from 12 per cent to 5 per cent and transport of goods and passengers by ropeways from 18 per

cent to 5 per cent with input tax credit. These rate changes will be effective July 18. The GoM headed by Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has been given a three-month extension for rate rationalisation measures including tweaking the tax slabs.

"Technology may correct anomalies for inefficiencies and therefore may have as possible impact on revenue collection. But the revenue neutral rate of the RBI study has been breached to the disadvantage of the system... that calls for a correction," Sitharaman said.

On the inflation impact of such rate changes, she said, "All ministers (in the Council) are aware. They are all looking at the system. So, decisions taken by the Council are not as though taken in isolation. Elected representatives who are part of the Council are fully conscious," she said.

On the valuation mechanism for taxing casinos, a Group of Ministers headed by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma has been asked to consider submissions of stakeholders again and submit its report by July 15, Sitharaman said. The GST council will meet again in the first week of August to decide on the issue along with taking up discussion on setting up of an appellate tribunal.

The GoM had recommended that online gaming should be taxed at the full value of the consideration, including the contest entry fee paid by the player on participating in the game. In the case of race courses, it had suggested that GST be levied on the full value of bets pooled in the totalisators and placed with the bookmakers. It also recommended that no distinction be made on grounds of game of skill or game of chance for the purpose of the levy of GST and should be taxed at the highest rate of 28 per cent.

The Council waived off the requirement of mandatory registration under CGST Act for persons supplying goods through e-commerce operators below the exemption threshold of Rs 40 lakh turnover for goods not making any inter-state taxable supply. This is likely to be effective January 2023. The GoM on system reforms has suggested extra measures for physical verification at the time of registration for high-risk taxpayers including biometric authentication, geo-tagging, use of electricity data and real-time monitoring of bank accounts.

On the compensation issue, Sitharaman said finance ministers and other ministers of 16 states spoke, of which 3-4 spoke of evolving their own revenue stream to break from the compensation mechanism, Sitharaman said.

"A few states before lunch today said they would like the compensation to continue for some time, even as few other states said that yes, it is a question of coming out of the pandemic, but they have to stand on their feet... There were broadly statements being made with a sense of whether compensation can be continued, if not for five years, for a few years," Sitharaman said.

"There were 16 or 17 states that demanded that the GST compensation should be extended. Of this, there were 3-4 states that said that they have to stand on their own," she said.

"Some of them said we have to work on our systems to wean ourselves away and not be dependent on GST compensation," Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said.

States/UTs such as Kerala, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Delhi asked for an extension of the GST compensation beyond June. "Which state doesn't want (compensation extension beyond June?) Karnataka and Goa also asked for compensation (extension). I don't know of any single state that hasn't asked for an extension of compensation... if GST Council is the deciding authority, then on what basis can a decision be taken outside the GST Council?" Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan said.

As per data on revenue growth collated for the Council meeting, the all-India average shortfall between the protected revenue and the post settlement gross SGST revenue was 27.2 per cent in 2021-22 as against 37.9 per cent in 2020-21. In 2021-22, only five out of 31 states/UTs — Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim — registered a revenue growth higher than the protected revenue rate for states under GST. Puducherry, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh have recorded the highest revenue gap between the protected revenue and post-settlement gross state GST revenue in 2021-22.

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# Preparation to raze Noida's Supertech twin towers '95% complete'

**MALAVIKA PRASAD**  
NOIDA, JUNE 29

PREPARATION TO bring down the Supertech twin towers in Noida has entered its final stage. The demolition of the towers, located in Sector 93A, was initially supposed to take place on May 22. The Supreme Court had, on August 30 last year, directed the demolition of the towers Apex and Ceyane in Supertech's Emerald Court for violating the minimum distance requirement between the two buildings.

On May 17, the apex court extended the demolition date, and fixed it on August 21, with a cushion period that ends on

August 28. Edifice Engineering, a Mumbai-based firm, is overseeing the demolition process.

"The process is nearly 95% complete. The buildings are ready for the demolition process. What is left is the implementation of surrounding safety features, which includes putting containers in Emerald Court's basement and filling the basement with debris, and safeguarding the gas pipelines," a source said.

These ancillary steps will take 15 days, and by first week of August, the buildings will be charged with explosives, the source said, adding that buildings in the Emerald Court and ATS Village Apartments, which are in the vicinity of the demolition area,

have been inspected and photographed for cracks and deficiencies. These include three wings of the Emerald Court and four wings of the ATS village. Structural inspection has been outsourced by Edifice Engineering to a company based in Kochi. Edifice Engineering will submit the visual inspection report by June 30.

The firm has submitted an 'environment impact plan' to the UP Pollution Control Board and will submit a 'debris management plan' by June 30, the source said, adding that Noida Authority instructed the firm to submit a report to Central Building Research Institute (CBIR) and GAIL on vibration occurring due to the test blast by June 20, which is also due.

## Sultry weather in capital, monsoon inches closer

New Delhi: Delhi reeled under sultry weather on Wednesday though thundershowers and light rain at night may provide some relief.

Conditions are favourable for the monsoon to reach the capital either on Thursday or Friday, the India Meteorological Department said. The Safdarjung Observatory, Delhi's base station, recorded a maximum temperature of 40.9 degrees Celsius. Humidity levels oscillated between 51 per cent and 70 per cent. According to the IMD, Delhi is likely to receive its first monsoon showers on Thursday or Friday.

The IMD has issued an orange alert, warning of moderate rainfall in the city on June 30. The maximum temperature will come down to 33-34 degrees Celsius by July 1. The southwest monsoon usually arrives in the national capital on June 27. Experts have said the monsoon is expected to yield good rainfall in Delhi in the first 10 days and help cover the rain deficit. **PTI**

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**Note:-** Only those candidates shall be called for interview whose application forms have been received at both places i.e. in the Office of the DCDC, MDU, Rohtak as well as M.C/Institute as per the procedure of the University. Vacancies may increase or decrease due to an unforeseen exigency. The recommendation of the Selection Committee will not be confirmed as automatic right of the appointment.

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

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	Total	Vacant
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ICU BEDS	2,135	2,057

Total active cases in Delhi

	NOIDA	
	June 28	June 29
Cases	N/A	N/A
Deaths	N/A	N/A

	GURGAON	
	June 28	June 29
Cases	218	356
Deaths	0	1

## KEJRIWAL IN CABINET MEETING

# 'City to have 12,000 buses by 2024; govt will teach people urban farming'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

DELHI WILL have almost 12,000 buses in its fleet by December 2024, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said Wednesday.

A cabinet meeting was held Wednesday, after which Kejriwal said the government's focus was now on bringing the national capital's transport sector to international standards.

"Buses are the most important mode of travel in Delhi but buses were not bought for several years. In the past one and a half-two years, this has changed and we have bought many AC and electric buses. In the cabinet meeting today, permission was granted to buy 1,950 buses. They will start coming by August-



Kejriwal said the city now has a fleet of 7,200 buses

September this year, and by next September, all of them will be on roads," he said.

Delhi had hit roadblocks in buying buses for almost a decade due to fewer companies bidding and stringent annual maintenance

contracts. Kejriwal said the city now has a fleet of 7,200 buses. "This is the highest number of buses that Delhi has ever had. A tender for 4,800 more buses will also be placed. But some old buses will have to go off the roads.

All in all, our target is to have a fleet of 11,910 buses, which is adequate for the city," he said.

Several buses running on Delhi roads are over age, and there are frequent reports of breakdowns. The permission to run these buses was granted as the fleet size fell drastically. He also said the government's aim is to improve services, and integrate taxis, Metro and buses for a more comfortable travel experience.

### Urban farming

Another decision taken in the meeting was to start workshops to teach people about urban farming – both for personal consumption and for starting small businesses from home.

"In the budget, we had announced that we will promote urban farming. We will teach

small-scale farming to those with space on balconies and terraces. We will give them some seeds and other help. There are two sectors – those who want to grow fruits and vegetables for their own consumption, and those who want to start small businesses. We are hiring experts and tying up with the Indian Agricultural Research Institute for expertise. At the ward level, experts will hold workshops to train people on how to grow in your home for themselves. There will be 400 such workshops. Around 600 workshops will also be held for those who want to start small businesses," he said.

He also said the scheme to provide free ration during Covid to those eligible has been extended and will continue till September 30.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

DAYS AFTER fact-checking website AltNews' co-founder Mohammed Zubair was arrested over a tweet he posted in 2018, the Twitter account that made an official complaint by tagging the Delhi Police has been deleted. The anonymous Twitter handle that went by the user name 'Hanuman Bhakt' had posted a quote-tweet on June 19, saying Zubair should be arrested for insulting a god.

On Wednesday, the page leading to the person's Twitter account, @balajikjain, read "This account doesn't exist".

Based on the person's complaint, the Delhi Police Cyber Crime Unit had arrested Zubair while he was being questioned in a 2020 POCSE case, where he had protection from arrest by the High Court.

Zubair has been booked



Zubair is being questioned about a 2018 tweet

under sections of promoting enmity and outraging religious sentiments. He has been sent to four-days police custody.

When contacted, police on Wednesday said they are yet to approach the complainant/Twitter user in the case. While the Twitter account had only 1 tweet and 1 follower on the day of the arrest, the account soon garnered 1,200 fol-

lowers.

However, on Wednesday, the account no longer existed on Twitter.

A senior police officer, who did not wish to be named, said, "We have come to know that the person deleted his account. However, that doesn't affect our investigation. We are investigating the matter as Zubair's old tweet was amplified and created disharmony. We are trying to trace the man and will ask him about the complaint. He may have deleted the account because he got scared."

Zubair is being questioned about the 2018 tweet which is a photo of a hotel with a board reading 'honeymoon' hotel repainted to Hanuman hotel. The photo is a still from a 1983 movie.

Talking about the case, DCP (Cyber Crime) KPS Malhotra said, "A team will be sent to Bangalore to seize devices related to the investigation."

## BRIEFLY

### 3 convicted for leaking CPT exam papers in 2007

New Delhi: Observing that the accused cheated The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and thousands of students, a Delhi court has convicted a former principal of DAV Public School and two others in connection with the leak of the Common Proficiency Test (CPT) exam in 2007. Metropolitan Magistrate Paras Dalal convicted the three accused – former DAV school principal Bhawna Malik, centre superintendent Diksha Dhingra and one Sudesh Kumar, who provided invigilators. **ENS**

### Yamuna water level lowest since 1965; supply to be hit: Delhi Jal Board

New Delhi: Water supply will remain affected in parts of Delhi on Thursday due to Haryana releasing less water in Yamuna and two canals, the Delhi Jal Board claimed on Wednesday. Water level in the Wazirabad pond stood at 666.8 feet, the lowest since 1965, as against the normal of 674.5 feet.

### DUTA holds protests over merger of CoA with AUD

New Delhi: Several teachers of Delhi University held a candlelight vigil in front of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence on Wednesday to protest against merger of the College of Arts (CoA) with Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD) and the ongoing "financial crises" in the 12 DU colleges funded by the Delhi government. The vigil was organised by the Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA).

### DU committee passes draft FYUP syllabi of 19 courses

New Delhi: Delhi University's Standing Committee on Academic Matters Wednesday passed the draft syllabi for the first semester of the 19 four-year undergraduate programmes (FYUP), while four members dissented against the resolution. **PTI**



## FIRE AT MANGOLPURI

A massive fire broke out at a factory in the Mangolpuri area on Wednesday. Delhi Fire Services officials said 26 fire tenders were rushed to the spot and no casualties were reported. *Gajendra Yadav*

# As Gujarat BJP team continues Delhi yatra, sparring with AAP intensifies

ABHINAV RAJPUT  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

A DELEGATION of BJP leaders from Gujarat along with BJP MP Manoj Tiwari visited two mohalla clinics that were not operational and a school in Northeast Delhi on Wednesday, the second day of their visit.

Referring to the condition of a mohalla clinic in Zero Pushta in Soniya Vihar, Tiwari said, "This mohalla clinic is listed on their website, but on the ground, only the structure exists." The team visited another mohalla clinic in Chauhan Patti soon after. "There is no doctor inside, no medicine, nothing," said Jyoti Pandya, former mayor of Vadodara. A 17-member BJP delegation from Gujarat is in Delhi on a two-day visit to "assess the ground reality" of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's mohalla clinics and schools.

The leaders' next destination was Sarvodaya Bal Balika Vidyalaya in Khajuri Khas, where they shot videos of a portion that allegedly was run in a tin shed. Tiwari said, "It is so hot here. One cannot stand for a long time, how can they teach small children in-



BJP's Manoj Tiwari with Gujarat delegation; (right) AAP's Atishi at a school at Rouse Avenue where she stated they had invited them. *Gajendra Yadav and Tashi Tobgyal*



side the shed? Even the building is rickety with cracks," he said, adding, "The Delhi government has two-three schools which they keep showing in advertisements, but in reality, the condition of several schools and mohalla clinics are like we have shown."

A teacher at the school, however, said this portion is only used when turnout is high. "Classes, from Nursery to 12, are run in two shifts. The strength of children reaches up to 5,800. There are pukka structures and those are used for studies. The school has more than 70 rooms for classes," she said. "However, the condition of classes and staff rooms can be

improved," she added.

The delegation later went to meet Union Minister for health and family welfare Mansukh Mandaviya. A press conference was also scheduled later in the day but was cancelled. Gujarat BJP media convener Yagnesh Dave said that the team would hold a press briefing in Gujarat.

Meanwhile, AAP MLA Atishi, along with a group of MLAs, went to one of the Delhi government's model schools on Wednesday. Atishi stated that they had invited the Gujarat delegation to Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya, Rouse Avenue to show them the 'Delhi education model'. "We had in-

invited them to come to see our school. We heard they had gone to a mohalla clinic last evening, but there was no one to receive and show them around... We chose this school because it's right next to the BJP national headquarters, and it would be easy for them to find," said Atishi.

"We wanted to present a complete picture of the educational revolution brought by the Kejriwal government in Delhi to the BJP delegation. We are well aware of the pitiable condition of government schools in Gujarat... Students have no choice but to study on tat-patti in schools which are categorised as world-class smart schools by the Gujarat government. This school in which we are present today was run in a tin shed seven years ago. If the BJP delegation shows up, we will describe the entire journey of transforming dilapidated schools into actual world-class ones," she said.

In a tweet, Kejriwal said, "Several senior leaders of BJP's Gujarat unit have come to Delhi to see mohalla clinics and schools. I hope they will improve things in Gujarat after seeing the wonderful education and health services here..."

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

SUSPENDED DELHI BJP spokesperson Naveen Kumar Jindal has claimed that he received multiple death threats Wednesday morning, a day after a tailor, Kanhaiya Lal, was murdered by two men in Udaipur for supporting former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma on the Prophet. Following this, the Delhi Police said they have provided Jindal and his family with security.

Jindal, who was suspended from the BJP along with Sharma last month over their remarks on the Prophet, tweeted, "This morning at 6.43 am, I received 3 emails with a video of brother Kanhaiya Lal's throat being slit. They threatened me and my family with such threats. I have informed the police control room."

The photos posted along with the tweet were screenshots of threats, purportedly calling Jindal a "terrorist" and threatening to "slit his throat". Jindal posted a video saying, "A guy... has threatened me and my family that they will kill me. This is related to the Udaipur incident. I have informed Delhi Police and hope they take immediate action..."

DCP (East) Priyanka Kashyap said, "Jindal's complaint has been taken up for investigation purposes, and his security has also been scaled up."

The case will be transferred to the Cyber Crime unit to identify and arrest the accused, police added.

### Bajrang Dal, VHP hold protests

The Delhi unit of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal held a protest at Jantar Mantar Wednesday against the Udaipur incident.

DCP (New Delhi) Amrutha Guguloth said, "Around 70 people from Bajrang Dal and VHP were detained from Jantar



During the protest at Jantar Mantar. *Tashi Tobgyal*

Mantar. They were protesting without permission. No FIR has been registered."

VHP Delhi president Kapil Khanna said, "By releasing the video after the murder, the accused have challenged the sovereignty of the country by threatening Prime Minister Narendra Modi. They have challenged sovereignty, freedom of thought and secular values of the country. The VHP will fight against it and win."

Bajrang Dal Delhi Prant convener Bharat Batra said, "The accused should be hanged at the earliest by the fast track court."

Meanwhile, in Gurgaon, VHP and Bajrang Dal members staged a protest Wednesday, demanding stringent punishment for the accused.

The protesters, who marched from Nehru Park around 5 pm till Harish bakery chowk, burnt an effigy and raised slogans like 'desh ke gaddaron ko, goli maaro saalo ko'. They also called for capital punishment for the accused.

Kulbhushan Bhardwaj, who was among those spearheading the protests, said, "We demand the harshest punishment be meted out to the accused and state government should give Rs 1 crore compensation and a government job to victim's kin. The case should be fast-tracked and probe should be transferred to law enforcement agencies in UP."

Gurgaon police commissioner Kala Ramachandran said, "The protests remained peaceful."

## Unlawful, inhuman: Shahi Imam on murder

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

THE SHAHI Imam of Jama Masjid has condemned the Udaipur murder, calling it "an act against Islam, unlawful and inhuman".

Shahi Imam Syed Ahmed Bukhari issued a statement on Wednesday afternoon condemning the incident which had taken place on Tuesday.

"The inhumane incident of the murder of a man named Kanhaiya Lal by two persons named Riaz and Ghous, and that too in the name of the Holy Prophet, is not only an act of cowardice but an act against Islam, unlawful and inhuman. I, myself, and on the behalf of the Muslims of India, with all the vehemence at our disposal, condemn this act," he said in the statement.

With this, Bukhari joins other Muslim religious leaders such as Ajmer Dargah Deewan Zainul Abedin Ali Khan and Majlis-e-Uluma-e-Hind's general secretary Maulana Kalbe Jawad in condemning the incident.

"Islam is a religion of peace and tranquility. The life of the Prophet of Allah is full of numerous examples of compassion, tolerance, generosity and humanitarianism. Had the persons who committed this barbaric act studied the life and character of the Holy Prophet and had they been well versed with the spirit of Quran and the shariah, they would not have committed the heinous crime," said the Shahi Imam in his statement.

## MUNDKA FIRE

# Last victim cremated after month-long search for matching DNA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

MORE THAN a month after 27 people died in a massive fire at a commercial building in Outer Delhi's Mundka, relatives and police personnel conducted the last rites of 42-year-old Geeta Devi in Delhi on Tuesday. Geeta was the only victim whose DNA had not matched with her relatives.

On May 13, a massive fire broke out at a five-storeyed building in Mundka. Nearly 120 peo-

ple were trapped in the fire and 27 of them succumbed to the burn injuries. Since most bodies were charred and couldn't be recognised, DNA profiling tests were conducted to ascertain the identities of the dead.

While other families rushed to the mortuary in search of kin, nobody from Geeta's family showed up. It took police more than six days to trace Geeta's family in Bihar's Jhikarua Village.

A police officer told *The Indian Express*, "We have been working with forensic science lab to match



Geeta Devi worked at the building where the fire broke out on May 13

DNAs and send bodies to families. It was difficult as tests took time and families were anxiously waiting. In Geeta's case, nobody came to us. We had to trace her landlady in Delhi."

Geeta worked as a helper at the building where electronic devices, CCTVs and other surveillance equipment were packed and sold. She had been living with her husband in Mundka till his death in 2018.

Geeta's landlady and friend Anita said, "We tried to identify the body, but it was charred.

Police asked us about DNA tests but we did not know her relatives as she never used to speak about them. She was like a sister. We were ready to perform her final rites, but police asked us to wait."

At Geeta's rented accommodation, police found her phone and documents. A team traced Geeta's brother Mantu Kumar and collected his blood sample.

Sameer Sharma, DCP (Outer) said the case was challenging as Mantu's DNA didn't match. Police then asked other siblings and Geeta's relatives to come to Delhi

and collected their blood samples, but none of them matched.

"All other bodies' DNA had matched with families by then. On June 27, her sample matched with her sister's. A day later, the family and police conducted the last rites at a crematorium in Sultanpuri," added DCP Sharma.

At the crematorium, while police helped with the last rites, only a few family members were seen. Mantu said, "Geeta didi left home a decade back because parents forced her to get married, after which we met hardly 6-7 times. I

saw her six months back for the last time. She was our eldest sister. She started her life in Delhi on her own and never asked for help. Even after her husband's death, she didn't come back. I came to know about the death 2-3 days after the fire. It's been difficult..."

Geeta's family said they had to make multiple trips to Delhi for the DNA tests and had to wait for weeks for the results.

Geeta's sister Manita said, "We wish we had spent more time with her. She mostly kept to herself..."





## 100 Days of Development Dedication & Effort

**Pushkar Singh Dhami**  
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

**Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

### Simplification, Solution, Settlement and Satisfaction

Three free gas cylinders to the poor

Construction of 500 kms. of roads under Bharatmala project

Investment of ₹1,930 crore to make Tehri region a brand tourist destination

Formation of expert committee to implement Uniform Civil Code

Construction of various ropeways in Uttarakhand under Parvat Mala Project

More than 4 thousand home stays registered, and more than 12 thousand people got employment

Old age pension increased to ₹1500 per month, with eligible husband and wife both to get pension

Development plans of ₹14,387 crore approved by the Central Government in one year for Uttarakhand

Payment of ₹1,581 crore to 9.30 lakh farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme

Work started on the plan of Manas Khand Mandir Mala Mission to make the ancient temples of Kumaon grand

Under Atal Ayushman Uttarakhand Yojna, 42.9 lakh persons were provided Ayushman cards and 4.76 lakh patients were given free treatment

Loans of more than ₹ 800 crore to more than 1.21 lakh farmers under Deendayal Upadhyay Sahakari Kisan Yojana without interest

Huge increase in grant for gallantry medal soldiers of Uttarakhand

Param Vir Chakra ₹50 lakh, Mahavir and Kirti Chakra ₹35 lakh, Veer and Shaurya Chakra ₹25 lakh, Army Gallantry Medal ₹15 lakh



### Vikalp Rahit Sankalp

“ The 100 days of this tenure of our government have been marked with development, dedication and effort and we can confidently say that our unopposed resolve to build a prosperous and self-reliant Uttarakhand will be fulfilled in 2025 when Uttarakhand will be celebrating the silver jubilee year of its establishment. Till then we will make every effort to fulfill our resolve.

**Pushkar Singh Dhami**  
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand



## 6 GOVT &amp; POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



## RETWEET TROUBLE

UNLIKE HIS predecessors, BJP general secretary (organisation) BL Santhosh has been often visible on social media, especially on Twitter, with his remarks. Some of his tweets have raised eyebrows in party circles as well. On Wednesday, Santosh retweeted a post, which had a letter issued from Uttarakhanda Assembly Speaker Ritu Khanduri's office. The letter, denying reports about the appointment of a media adviser to Khanduri, was marked to the BJP general secretary as well. Suddenly, questions on why an official release from the Speaker's office was marked to a party office-bearer were raised on social media. They also pointed out that Santhosh promptly retweeted the post that had the release from the Speaker's office.

## PRAYER ON LIPS

ON A day when decks were cleared for a floor test in Maharashtra Assembly with the likelihood of the BJP forming the next government in the state in alliance with rebel Shiv Sena MLAs, Amruta Fadnavis, wife of BJP leader and former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, batted for democracy and prayed for stability in Maharashtra. In a tweet from London, Amruta said, "Namaste #London! Landed at London & visited #BAPS Swaminarayan Hindu Temple - first largest Hindu temple in foreign land & performed special puja! Prayed for stability & prosperity of #Maharashtra. May we never forget the Mantra of democracy; People first, Party Next, Self Last."

## HELP ON TRACKS

WITH FLOODS raging in the Northeast, the Indian Railways has extended a helping hand. All relief materials to be carried in trains to the flood-affected areas in the Northeast are to be transported free of cost. Any government department or any other organisation as deemed fit by the local railway administration can transport relief materials for free. Not just freight, even other associated charges have also been waived off for this. The instructions will be in effect until late August.

## Ahead of its national meet, BJP engages in poster war with TRS

GREENIVAS JANYALA  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 29

AS THE BJP prepares for its two-day national executive committee meeting in Hyderabad starting July 2, which will be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi among other top party leaders, the party is engaged in a poster war with the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) in the city.

More than 300 BJP leaders will arrive in the city starting Thursday for the meeting, which is expected to discuss the party's roadmap for the Assembly elections to be held in several states later this year and next year, and the 2024 general elections.

The meeting will also review the party's strategy for 'Mission Telangana' and south India. According to BJP coordinator Balraj Nune, there will be brainstorming on the party's approach in southern states with main focus on Telangana.

The party has also put up a "countdown" clock outside its headquarters at Nampally. Referring to the countdown clock - that has been put up with the slogan "Saalu dora, selavu dora" (Enough, sir, goodbye, sir), aimed at Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao - BJP national general secretary and state in-charge Tarun Chugh said the countdown for the end

of TRS government has begun.

The TRS has hit back at the BJP with banners against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The ruling party has put up posters saying "Bye bye Modi" all over the city, questioning what the Centre has done for the people of Telangana.

TRS MLA Balka Suman said posters with more anti-Modi slogans will be put up to counter the BJP's campaign. The BJP on Wednesday also launched a website, inviting registration of people who want the TRS government to go.

As the poster war escalated on the roads, police have tightened security in the city, especially around Hyderabad International Convention Centre, where BJP leaders are overseeing arrangements for the national executive committee meeting, the first in the city since 2004.

The party is also mobilising its supporters in all the 119 Assembly constituencies for the public meeting on July 3 evening, which will be addressed by the Prime Minister. Hundreds of buses and other vehicles are being requisitioned to bring the supporters to the meeting venue.

Accompanied by MP and BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Chugh on Wednesday inspected the arrangements being made at Parade Grounds in Secunderabad.

## Govt nod to computerise primary agri credit societies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

THE CABINET Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday approved computerisation of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) with the aim of increasing efficiency of PACS, bringing transparency and accountability in their operations. This project proposes comput-

erization of about 63,000 functional PACS over a period of five years with a total budget outlay of Rs 2,516 crore with the Centre's share of Rs 1,528 crore.

Sources in the Ministry of Cooperation said the government was also working on model by-laws for these societies which states would be expected to emulate even as it planned to rejuvenate defunct societies and had kept a target of setting up 3 lakh PACS across the country.

## MAHARASHTRA POLITICAL CRISIS

## BJP set to stake claim for formation of new govt

SHUBHANGI KHAPRE &  
YOGESH NAIK  
MUMBAI, JUNE 29

THE BJP is set to stake claim for formation of the new government in Maharashtra, as Uddhav Thackeray announced his resignation as the chief minister during a Facebook live address on Wednesday night.

While BJP leaders and workers broke out into celebration after Thackeray resigned, top leaders of the party huddled into a meeting at a five-star hotel in south Mumbai to strategise their next move.

A source said that top BJP leaders from Maharashtra will hold a meeting on Thursday to finalise their next course of action. He added that BJP will stake claim for the formation of the new government under the leadership of Devendra Fadnavis, backed the Eknath Shinde faction of the Shiv Sena, which comprises 39 rebel MLAs, and Independents.

Calling for restraint in celebration, BJP state president Chandrakant Patil said, "BJP workers must not celebrate Uddhavji's resignation, they should celebrate when Devendra Fadnavis becomes the CM."

On the formation of the new government, Patil said, "The date of staking claim and swearing-in will be decided by Devendra Fadnavis in consultation with senior leaders in Delhi."



BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis and state BJP chief Chandrakant Patil at a party meeting at Taj President Hotel in Mumbai. P77

A source in the BJP added, "The party leadership will meet Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari and the council of ministers." According to procedure, the new government will then be asked to undertake a floor test to prove its majority in the Assembly.

Experts said that some legal tangle may emerge as there is no clarity yet on how the Shinde faction of 39 MLAs will find legitimacy. Sources said that clarity will emerge during the appointment of a new Speaker in

the House.

While sources in the BJP said that Bharat Gogawale may act as the chief whip for the 39 MLAs and facilitate the appointment of the Speaker and prove majority in the House, others said that this may hit a legal roadblock since the Thackeray-led Sena camp has appointed Ajay Chaudhari as its chief whip.

Meanwhile, a team of BJP leaders has been entrusted the task to reach out to smaller parties and Independents. "We are executing plans at multiple levels. Apart from the legal battle, our entire focus is to ensure the defeat of the Maha Vikas Aghadi on

the floor of the Assembly," a source in the BJP said.

In the House of 287 - the total strength of 288 dropped after the death of a Sena MLA last month - the BJP has 106 MLAs. The MVA strength before the revolt in the Sena was 152 - Sena (55), NCP (53), Congress (44). Smaller parties and Independents, the Others, account for the remaining 29.

If the BJP has to form the government, it will have to win the support of 144 MLAs. The BJP, which has 106 members, and will require additional 38 MLAs to reach the half-way mark. The Shinde camp has 39 MLAs.

## Rebel Sena MLAs land in Goa, Shinde to discuss next move

MAYURA JANWALKAR  
PANAJI, JUNE 29

THE GROUP of rebel Shiv Sena MLAs, headed by Eknath Shinde, arrived in Goa amid heavy security cover, minutes after Uddhav Thackeray announced his resignation as Chief Minister of Maharashtra Wednesday evening.

After camping in Guwahati for days, the Shinde faction, which brought down the MVA government in Maharashtra, arrived on a special Spice Jet flight at Dabolim airport in South Goa.

After hopping from one BJP-ruled state to another over the past nine days, the rebel MLAs flew in closer to Mumbai ahead of a floor test that was scheduled on Thursday. However, Thackeray's resignation meant there would be no floor test.

The MLAs were expected to leave for Mumbai Thursday morning by a chartered flight but sources said the plan may change since there will be no floor test now. The sources said Shinde will hold a meeting with the MLAs and strategise the next move.

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant met the rebel MLAs at the hotel late Wednesday night, the



Outside the Goa airport on Wednesday night. Express

sources said. The Shinde faction is expected to align with the BJP in the next government formation in Maharashtra.

Shinde and the other rebel MLAs reached the Taj Resort and Convention Centre in Dona Paula, where they were to spend the night, around 11.15 pm amid heavy security cover. Sources said at least 80 rooms were booked for the Shinde camp.

Ahead of their arrival, security measures were tightened outside the five-star hotel. Goa DGP Jaspal Singh and other senior police officers reviewed the security arrangements Wednesday evening.

Goa Police had also strengthened its checks at its northern state border at Patradevi. Goa shares a border with Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra. Shiv Sena MLA from Sindhudurg Vaibhav Naik has stayed on with Thackeray while senior party leader and MLA from Sawantwadi Deepak Kesarkar is among the rebels. Hours before the rebel group arrived, Shailendra Velingkar, Goa Shiv Sena leader and chief of Parshuram Gomantak Sena, reached the hotel. He was, however, asked to leave the hotel premises by the police and hotel security.

## Police serve preventive notices to Sena workers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, JUNE 29

THE SHIV Sena on Wednesday alleged that its workers are being detained by the Mumbai Police and notices being served to them on the Centre's orders.

Party MP Sanjay Raut said that BJP leaders in Maharashtra are preparing themselves for swear-

ing-in of a new government. "But remember the people of Maharashtra, Marathi Manus and Hindus will not forgive the Opposition party for the sin they have committed by breaking Sena and providing security to those who betrayed Sena."

"Thousands of troops have been deployed in Mumbai to secure those (rebels) and defeat us. Such action was taken by them

CM Moraraji Desai as well during the united Maharashtra movement. Now, following the orders of the Union government, notices are being sent to Sena workers..." he added.

To ensure that there is no untoward incident Thursday, when rebel Shiv Sena MLAs are set to arrive in Mumbai, police have served preventive notices to several Sena leaders, a police officer said.

## The reluctant politician who in the end hung on to chair too long

SHUBHANGI KHAPRE  
MUMBAI, JUNE 29

AT 62, this is the worst crisis Uddhav Thackeray has faced in his short political life, emerging from the overarching shadow of father Bal Thackeray. Not only has he lost chief ministership after taking a gamble with an unlikely coalition, he is facing the prospect of losing control of a party founded by Balasaheb and deriving sustenance from the Thackeray name.

On hindsight, it seems Uddhav sowed the seeds right at the beginning when, on November 28, 2019, he took over as Chief Minister. He thus became the first Thackeray to hold a public office, with Balasaheb choosing to let a Sainik be CM while he held full control over the party.

Amidst celebrations and showering of rose petals, his well-wishers had cautioned Uddhav at the time about the "power play" that would ensue and the "administrative" challenges of leading an unlikely coalition, including old rivals the NCP and Congress.

The anger many Sainiks felt at this decision, combined with the move to dump old ally the BJP, only seems to have festered over time. Party workers felt unheard, a feeling that grew as Uddhav surrounded himself with a coterie and seemed to disappear into Matoshree. Some of that distance was on account of Covid and a surgery that left Uddhav incapacitated for long, but there was no one to keep the troops in the loop.

Rebel leader Eknath Shinde claimed to speak for many when he said: "We never showed disre-



Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray at Mantralaya on Wednesday. Narendra Vaskar

spect to Uddhavji. We are Balasaheb's sainiks. We wanted the Sena to break its alliance with the Congress and NCP. Our fight is for Balasaheb's Hindutva." A graduate from JJ Institute of

Applied Arts, with photography as his main subject, Uddhav was seen as indifferent towards politics. While he took hesitant steps into it in the early 1990s, he largely remained in the background as

NCP, Congress say satisfied with Uddhav leadership  
Rebel leader blames the two MVA partners for turmoil in Shiv SenaEXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
PUNE, JUNE 29

AS THE BJP begins celebrations after Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray stepped down as chief minister of the state on Wednesday, ending the two-and-a-half-year rule of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), the party's allies -- the NCP and Congress -- expressed satisfaction with Thackeray's leadership.

"The new alliance with the initiative of top leaders of Shiv Sena, the NCP and Congress came into being two-and-a-half years back. The MVA gave good governance under good leadership of Uddhav Thackeray," said Nationalist Congress Party's (NCP) state chief Jayant Patil.

On rebel Sena legislators' allegation that deputy CM Ajit Pawar had allocated fewer funds for development works in their respective assembly con-

stituencies, Patil said, "The allegations are false. They are just making allegation for the sake of it to give an excuse for their decision."

Former CM Prithviraj Chavan said that his personal opinion was that Thackeray should have made a speech in the assembly before putting in his resignation. "He should have gone down fighting. Finally, it is his decision," he said, adding the Congress would decide its further strategy in a meeting to be held on Thursday.

Rebel Sena legislator Deepak Kesarkar said that the resignation of Thackeray is a sad situation. "The Congress and the NCP are responsible for the situation. Also, Sena leader Sanjay Raut is responsible for the situation," he said.

He said the rebel Sena legislators were never against Thackeray, adding the only demand was to leave the MVA.

## In Cong, some feel let down on move to rename cities

MANOJ CG  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

THE CONGRESS stood solidly with Shiv Sena as the latter battled a bitter internal war in the past one week or so, but the Uddhav Thackeray government's decision on Wednesday to rename Aurangabad as Sambhajnagar and Osmanabad as Dharashiv has left a section of the Congress unhappy.

A section of the party believes ministers in the Thackeray-led government from the Congress should have dissociated themselves from the decision, registering their dissent or staging a symbolic walkout.

The decision to rename the cities was seen as the embattled Thackeray-led Sena's last-ditch effort to send a message that it has not diluted its Hindutva credentials, one senior Congress leader said. The Congress should not have been part of that decision, some party leaders said.

Sources said some of the party's Maharashtra leaders had reached out to KC Venugopal, the AICC general secretary in charge of organisation, and Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and sought their intervention, but claimed the high command did not intervene.

Sources said the party high command was apprehensive that there could be a backlash from the Hindu community if the party distanced itself from the decision.

A senior party leader said, "Sena wanted to score a point on Hindutva. Now the Congress has become a party to that decision. We got sucked into the decision. We will have to face the consequences."

cousin Raj Thackeray built up his profile and personality as Balasaheb's "natural successor".

However, like a political story repeated one too many times, the shrewd Sena pramukh too had eventually chosen son over nephew. Uddhav's appointment as executive president at a Mahabaleshwar convention in 2002 marked the turning point. Even then, as a sulking Raj lurked in the background and finally quit the Sena in 2005, Uddhav never really shook off that gentle, low-profile visage that made him a leader far removed from the everyday aggressive cadre that filled the Sena.

Some believe it was wife Rashmi who was the main driver of his ambition, apart from elder son Aaditya, who has emerged in the forefront in the

current crisis. Still, Uddhav did weather many a storm, including senior leader Narayan Rane and Raj Thackeray's exits. After Balasaheb's death in 2012, he managed to keep the Sena together, and proved the better of the MNS. He also saw the Sena to power, and through to the other side, despite a rocky relationship with the BJP.

A senior BJP functionary requesting anonymity admits, "After Balasaheb's demise, many wondered if Uddhav who is not charismatic would be able to keep the party together. But he ensured its growth." However, he adds, "It is evident that his decision to betray the BJP was not liked by many within as it amounted to compromising Hindutva, which is its members' core agenda."



## 7 EXPRESS NETWORK

## WITNESS RECOUNTS IN FIR

## You have no right to live, attackers said

HAMZA KHAN  
& DEEP MUKHERJEE  
JAIPUR, UDAIPUR JUNE 29

MOHAMMAD RIYAZ and Ghouse Mohammad, accused of hacking tailor Kanhaiya Lal Teli to death in Udaipur, allegedly told him that he has "no right to live", as he has "written against the Prophet."

As per the FIR lodged by Kanhaiya's son Yash Teli, 20, he was informed by a relative about the attack on his father around 3.30 pm on Tuesday.

Yash runs a separate shop in Udaipur's Hiran Magri area. "When I reached the spot, his bloodied body was lying outside the shop. It had injury marks from a sharp object on his neck, face and left hand," Yash said. Kanhaiya was assisted by



A deserted street in Udaipur on Wednesday. PTI

two workers, Rajkumar Sharma and Ishwar Gaur, at his tailoring shop. According to what Sharma told Yash, the incident took place around 3 pm.

A video posted by the assailants shows Lal, who ran 'Supreme Tailors' in Udaipur's Hathi Pole locality, taking measurements of one of them, who

later identified himself as Riyaz. Moments later, the man is seen attacking the tailor on his neck with a cleaver even as the victim asks, "Kya hua? Batao toh

sahi (What happened? Tell me)."

"The two started attacking Kanhaiya with sharp objects, while saying that 'you have written against our Prophet; you have no right to live'," Yash quotes Sharma in the FIR.

"Both of us tried to save him but they started attacking us, too," Sharma is quoted saying in the FIR. "Consequently, Ishwar Gaur also suffered several injuries on his body. Since Kanhaiya Lal had sustained injuries on his neck and hand, he died on the spot."

The FIR lodged in Udaipur, and subsequently transferred to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), was lodged under sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) as well as IPC section 302 (murder), among others.

## RJD SINGLE-LARGEST PARTY IN BIHAR HOUSE

## 4 of 5 AIMIM MLAs join RJD



RJD's Tejashwi Yadav with the 4 ex-AIMIM MLAs in Patna. PTI

SANTOSH SINGH  
PATNA, JUNE 29

IN A jolt to Hyderabad MP Asaduddin's Owaisi's AIMIM, which had created a flutter in political circles with its impressive performance in 2020 Bihar Assembly elections, four of the party's five MLAs joined main opposition RJD on Wednesday.

The move makes RJD, which had 76 MLAs, the single-largest party in the Assembly again, with 80 seats in the 243-member House. The party now has three more than the BJP, which shares power with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U).

The BJP had briefly enjoyed the position of the single-largest party after all three MLAs of the Vikasheel Insaan Party had joined the saffron outfit three months ago.

The AIMIM now has only Akhtar Iman, the legislator from Amour and the party's state unit chief, representing AIMIM in the Vidhan Sabha. Iman is, incidentally, a former RJD legislator. The AIMIM legislators who

joined the RJD on Wednesday are Muhammad Izhar Asfi (MLA from Kochhadamam), Shah Nawaz Alam (Jokihat), Syed Ruknuddin (Baisi) and Azhar Nayeemi (Bahadurganj).

Leader of Opposition in Assembly and RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, welcomed the four AIMIM legislators and said they would "further strengthen" the RJD. "We firmly believe all four MLAs would work towards our goal of social justice and secularism. We have always got love of the people of Seemanchal. Our party again has a good presence in Seemanchal."

The AIMIM had contested 20 seats in the 2020 Assembly polls and had made major inroads in Muslim-dominated Seemanchal region, comprising the districts of Araria, Purnea, Katihar and Kishanganj in east Bihar.

The RJD-led opposition Grand Alliance now has 115 MLAs, including 19 of Congress and 16 of CPI (ML) and CPI, and is seven short of a simple majority. The NDA is firmly placed with 127 MLAs.

## ZUBAIR ARREST

## Journalists should not be jailed for 'what they write, tweet, say': UN spokesperson

United Nations: Journalists should not be jailed for "what they write, what they tweet and what they say" and it is important that people be allowed to express themselves freely without the threat of any harassment, a spokesperson for UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has said, referring to the arrest of AltNews co-founder Mohammed Zubair.

Zubair was arrested by Delhi Police on Monday over an "objectionable tweet" he had posted in 2018 against a Hindu deity.

"I think, first of all, in any place around the world, it is very important that people be allowed to express themselves freely, journalists be allowed to express themselves freely and without the threat of any harassment," Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for the Secretary-General, said on Tuesday while responding to a question at the daily news briefing here on Zubair's arrest.

"Journalists should not be jailed for what they write, what they tweet and what they say. And that goes for anywhere in the world, including in this room," Dujarric said in response to another question by a Pakistani journalist on whether he is also calling for Zubair's release from custody.

Meanwhile, New York-based independent non-profit, NGO Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has also condemned Zubair's arrest. "The arrest of journalist Mohammed Zubair marks another low for press freedom in India..." PTI

## Kerala Governor blames indoctrination, CM says end communal forces

SHAJU PHILIP  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
JUNE 29

A DAY after a tailor was hacked to death in Udaipur by two men for allegedly sharing remarks made by BJP's Nupur Sharma on the Prophet, Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday condemned the killing.

"If somebody who has been indoctrinated from the age of five or six, what they call the Muslim Law, which provides for beheading. This law is taught in madrasas, so if they get indoctrinated, influenced by that, if they act accordingly, I think the better course would be to tackle the disease," Khan told reporters.

"Unfortunately, we are concerned about the manifestations of the symptoms. We refuse to take notice of the deeper disease. Islam is totally different; this is not Islam. This is not the message

from the Scripture," the Governor said.

Chief Minister Vijayan in his reaction said the Udaipur incident reminded that communalism would wipe away the last speck of virtue from human beings.

"The killing is a grim warning that the biggest challenge that the country faces is growth of communal extremism. It shows how Islamic fundamentalism could induce Hindutva extremism and vice versa," he said.

Vijayan said this is the time the people should firmly decide that communalism would not be allowed in the name of any religion. "People belonging to all religions should unite, recognising the fact that the answer to one communalism is not another communalism, but secularism. All religious organisations, which believe in secularism, should deplore the killing and raise their voice against communalism," he said. "Let us pledge that the country will not be consigned to communal forces."

## Muslim organisations, Union minister Naqvi condemn killing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

MINORITY AFFAIRS Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Wednesday said that the killing of tailor Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur was both against Islam as well as humanity.

"The perpetrators are enemies of Islam. The brutality and cruelty with which the killing took place shows the duo's Talbani mindset. This kind of a barbaric incident is unacceptable in any community, culture and country. We need to be alert to those who are trying to destroy the social fabric of the country," said Naqvi on Wednesday, commenting on the incident.

Echoing the minister's sentiments, the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) and Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind issued statements condemning the

Udaipur incident and terming it "un-Islamic".

"No one has the right to take the law into their own hands. The Islamic Shariah does not allow this. Having said that, the Government of India cannot shrug off responsibility for the kind of divisiveness and hatred that exists in the country right now, which the government has deliberately contributed to. Despite the outrage over the comments that Nupur Sharma made against the Prophet, there was no legal action taken against her. If the government wants to control the spiralling hatred and this sort of radicalisation of society, then action needs to be taken against all perpetrators. We are under no circumstance justifying the incident, but such an atmosphere has been created," said executive member AIMPLB Dr SQRLIyas.

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

## Udaipur killing fans protests

A day after Kanhaiya Lal, a tailor by profession, was murdered in Rajasthan's Udaipur, protests were recorded in several parts of the country, condemning the crime. This came on a day Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot chaired an all-party meet in which all political parties strongly condemned the incident and appealed for peace.



At the funeral procession in Udaipur. PTI

## RAJASTHAN

Violent protests were reported from Bhim in Rajasmand district where police used tear gas to disperse crowds. A police constable, Sandeep Choudhary, sustained severe injuries after a sword attack and is undergoing treatment, DGPMLLather said. On Thursday evening, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot is scheduled to meet Chaudhary in a Ajmer hospital. In Udaipur, CPM leader Sumitra Chopra claimed that scores of people, led by a local councillor, allegedly attacked party leader Shamsher Khan's home, injuring him and his wife Shahnaz Khan. "In Jaipur's Khatipura, some anti-social elements tried to set fire to a mosque," but did not succeed, Chopra said. Condemning the incidents, CPM state secretary Amraram demanded immediate arrest of the accused by the state government. Protests also took place in Dungarpur, and markets remained closed in parts of Pali, Jalore, Sikar and Sriganganagar district. Meanwhile, Sanyukt Vyapar Mahasangh, a traders' body supported by the VHP and other Hindu groups, has announced that markets in Jaipur will remain closed on Thursday. ENS&PTI

## NEW DELHI

Nearly 70 protesters from the Bajrang Dal were detained on Wednesday as they staged a demonstration at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi over the Udaipur murder, police said. Officials said the Vishwa Hindu Parishad did not have prior police permission to hold the protest. PTI

## HARYANA

Hindu outfits, including the VHP and Bajrang Dal, staged protests in Gurugram and



A protest in Bengaluru. PTI



A police personnel tries to douse tyres, set on fire by VHP members in protest against the Udaipur killing. PTI

Manesar demanding justice for slain Udaipur tailor Kanhaiya Lal. Chanting "Jai Shri Ram", activists of VHP, Bajrang Dal and other Hindu outfits, took out a march and said that the accused had challenged the sovereignty of the country which the Hindus will never tolerate and demanded death sentence for the accused and Rs 1 crore compensation for the kin of the deceased. PTI

## KARNATAKA

Condemning the murder, Sri Rama Sene leader Pramod Mutalik on Wednesday stated that Hindu society will not tolerate such acts of terror, and demanded capital punishment for those involved in the killing. He also announced "I'm Kanhaiya

Lal", "I'm Nupur Sharma Supporter" campaigns. "...the blood is boiling, the Hindu society is outraged, they have not just killed Kanhaiya Lal but are killing Hindu society and provoking it...this is too much, the central government must intervene as they have threatened PM Modi too, and should ensure that that those behind the incident are hanged," Mutalik demanded. Senior BJP leader and MLA K S Eshwarappa demanded for enacting new laws to hand capital punishment to those "involved in anti-national activities". Home Minister Araga Jnanendra termed the killing barbaric and inhuman, and demanded maximum punishment for the arrested. PTI

## President polls: Part of Opp meeting, JD(S) too settles on Droupadi Murmu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU, JUNE 29

THE JANATA Dal (Secular), which had attended a meeting called by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to decide on a joint Opposition name as the presidential candidate, indicated on Wednesday that it would back the ruling NDA's Droupadi Murmu.

While underlining that this should not be seen as support for the BJP, JD(S) leader and former Karnataka chief minister H D Kumaraswamy said: "Droupadi Murmu already has sufficient backing and does not need our support, but she has nevertheless asked for our support, and that is a sign of her goodness."

Kumaraswamy also said that Murmu, who looks set to win in

the election to be held next month, had telephoned former prime minister and JD(S) supremo H D Deve Gowda twice to seek support. "She also wanted to come personally to Bengaluru, but there is no need for her to do so to seek support. In my view, Murmu has already won the polls," he said.

Kumaraswamy said he also understood Murmu's "life journey, her background, the struggles she has undergone, her rise from a downtrodden community".

The JD(S) has two members in Parliament -- Deve Gowda in the Rajya Sabha, and his grandson Prajwal Revanna in the Lok Sabha -- as well as 30 MLAs in Karnataka, who are eligible to vote in the presidential polls.

Kumaraswamy also stated that the JD(S) support for Murmu, instead of Opposition candidate

Yashwant Sinha, was not a sign of the party aligning with the BJP or being a "B team of the BJP", as alleged by the rival Congress party in Karnataka.

Kumaraswamy said that the JD(S) was going by the credentials of Murmu rather than her party association.

The JD(S) has been frequently accused by the Congress of growing proximity to the BJP, ever since the breakdown of a JD(S)-Congress alliance in 2019.

The JD(S), which has also allied with the BJP in the past, in post-poll arrangements, is keen to maintain a non-aligned identity in the run-up to the 2023 Assembly elections. It sees this as its best bet to win as many seats as possible, leaving it in a position of power should the polls again see a close finish.

## After PM Modi's call to Bihar CM, Pradhan meets Nitish, calls him state NDA chief

Truce effort ahead of President poll; Pradhan also attends state BJP meet

SANTOSH SINGH  
PATNA, JUNE 29

IN WHAT is being seen as a truce effort ahead of the election for the post of President, Union minister and senior BJP leader Dharmendra Pradhan visited Patna on Tuesday and called Chief Minister and JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar the NDA leader in Bihar.

Pradhan also clarified that Nitish would continue to remain the chief minister until the next Assembly polls are due -- in 2025. The visit comes within a week of Prime Minister Narendra Modi calling Nitish

Kumar over the decision to make Droupadi Murmu the NDA's Presidential poll candidate.

This comes in the middle of what was being seen as a growing rift between the alliance partners -- JD(U) has of late differed with BJP on several issues, including population control measures and the Agnipath short service recruitment scheme for defence forces.

After a one-on-one meeting with Nitish, Pradhan attended the state BJP's core committee meeting in the presence of BJP secretary (organisation) Bhikhu Bhai Dalsania. He also met party leaders at the BJP office.

He told the media subsequently: "There is no deadlock between us (BJP and JD(U)) -- everything is smooth. We have said this at public forums as well. At times, political parties differ on certain matters, in a democratic manner."

Asked about the recent war of words between the allies, Pradhan said, "We will go by the public mandate -- Nitish Kumar will remain the CM until 2025 and he is the NDA leader (in Bihar)."

BJP state president Sanjay Jaiswal was by his side during the media conference. Incidentally, Jaiswal had recently got into a war of words with JD(U) national president Rajiv Ranjan Singh, alias Lalan Singh, and JD(U) Parliamentary board

chairman Upendra Kushwaha.

Pradhan has been working as the BJP central's leadership's emissary to the state for a while. He had earlier met Nitish about a month ago, when the NDA had begun the exercise to pick the Presidential poll candidate. On both occasions, he met Nitish without the presence of any other leader.

Sources in JD(U) said Nitish had expressed his dismay at Bihar BJP leaders criticising JD(U) in recent weeks. Pradhan, in turn, had reportedly conveyed this to state BJP leaders.

The state BJP, which had got the message of truce after the PM's call to the CM, has asked its leaders and spokespersons to refrain from attacking JD(U), sources said.

## Ex-GJM leader's new outfit wins Gorkha body elections

Kolkata: The Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) did not contest the Gorkha Territorial Administration (GTA) election, which was held on Sunday after a 10-year gap, but its former leader Anit Thapa's outfit Bharatiya Gorkha Prajatantrik Morcha (BGP) won the polls on Wednesday. The organisation, launched last September, won 27 out of 45 seats while the Trinamool Congress (TMC) opened its account in the GTA by bagging five seats. The newly launched Hamro Party, which won the Darjeeling Municipality election earlier this year, finished second with eight seats.

Five Independents backed by the party also won. ENS

## IE Thinc session today, to focus on women's collectives

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

THAT WOMEN can drive a result-oriented mission was proven by the success of India's ASHA workers, who have won the WHO's Global Health Leader award for their frontline stewardship of COVID-19 management. In fact, India has proven that women's collectives can change the social, economic and cultural indices of a nation. Our self-help groups and women cooperative-led movements have led to their financial inclusion, economic stakeholderhood and restoration of land rights. Such collectives are the perfect examples of the trickle-down effect and women taking the lead in writing their own story.

In communities around the world, women are seizing their own destiny through self-help groups (SHGs), mothers' and adolescent girls' groups and co-operatives. The idea is reaching many women at once with resources, information and training. By harnessing the collective power of their members, the groups can achieve positive impacts that would be harder or impossible to achieve through interventions that focus on individuals. It is to understand the transformative power of women who choose to rewrite their destinies that The Indian Express is



hosting the third edition of the IE Thinc Gender series, "Women Collectives: Change makers from the ground up." It will focus on self-starter women's collectives that are bringing about a change and forcing a redrawing of policies, entrepreneurship collectives that have set up brands of their own as well as micro-financing collectives that have powered their independence.

This edition will feature a keynote address by Gaurav Singh, Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, who will focus on how the DAY-NRLM mission,

the largest government programme, is working exclusively with rural women to rework gender equality in systemic processes of local governance and institutions, in stakeholderhood in the economy and rights-based access to social justice.

The address will be followed by a panel discussion featuring Nita Kejrewal who is Joint Secretary, National Rural Livelihood Mission, Ministry of Rural Development, Chetna Sinha, Founder and Chairperson of Mann Deshi Bank and Mann Deshi Foundation, Anjni Kochar, Senior Research Fellow from 3ie, Bijal Brahmabhatt, Director, Mahila Housing SEWA Trust, Hasina Kharbhii, Founder and Chairperson of Impulse NGO Network and Madhu Krishna, Deputy Director, Gender Equality, Water, Sanitation & Hygiene, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The discussion will be moderated by Rinku Ghosh, Editor, Special Projects.

Presented by IWAGE, this series of webinars aims to have a solutions-oriented discussion and throw up some suggestions on policy enablers between some of the brightest minds across academia, industry, civil society and, of course, the government.



DATE: 30 June 2022  
TIME: 5 pm onwards



Conduct random RTPCR of 2% international passengers: Centre writes to states, UTs

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

THE UNION Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan on Wednesday wrote to all states asking them to integrate Covid-19 surveillance into their routine surveillance activities and follow the revised guidelines for surveillance in three areas — incoming international travellers, sentinel sites such as hospital and laboratories, and within the community,

along with wastewater sample collection.

In a letter to all state principal and health secretaries, the states have been asked to screen 2% of the international passengers coming to India at random and send all positive samples for genome sequencing. The letter also asked states and UTs to monitor sentinel sites, including reporting of all influenza-like illnesses to the integrated disease surveillance teams, with the district surveillance officer testing 5% of these cases

through RT-PCR. All cases of severe acute respiratory illnesses have to be monitored at district level hospitals and select tertiary care hospitals. This data will be shared by the state Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme teams on a fortnightly basis, as per the letter. The laboratories have all been asked to upload their data to the ICMR portal to help in surveillance. The states have been asked to do community-based surveillance to identify large outbreaks, unusual clinical presenta-

tion or mortality through media scanning and indicator-based surveillance through the routine reporting channels, the letter said.

"In addition, revised surveillance guidelines also call for sewage/wastewater surveillance, which may provide early warnings on potential local surge of Covid-19," the letter read.

Three-pronged strategy will be adopted for genome sequencing, which is currently done by a network of over 50 labs across the country.

Karnataka: Sisters say stripped, assaulted for not repaying loan

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE BANGALURU, JUNE 29

TWO DAYS after two sisters were allegedly stripped and assaulted near their residence on the outskirts of Bengaluru, for not repaying a loan taken from an individual, police on Wednesday lodged an FIR after facing public outrage and arrested two of the accused men.

Police initially did not lodge a complaint after the victims approached them, it is learnt. Public pressure on the police came after a video of the assault emerged on social media.

Bengaluru (Rural) SP, K Vamsi Krishna, however denied allegations that police had refused to register an FIR and maintained that there was no police lapse.

According to the com-

plaints, the crime took place at a village in Anekal taluk, on Bengaluru's outskirts, on Monday. On Wednesday, police identified the arrested duo as Ramakrishna Reddy and Sunil Kumar — they have been held for allegedly assaulting the victims. Another accused, Indramma, is still absconding, according to police officers.

Police sources, quoting from the complaint, said one of the victims had taken a loan of Rs 1 lakh at an exorbitant interest of 30 per cent from Reddy. She was asked to repay the entire amount at once, which led to disagreements, sources said. SP Krishna, however, said the victims had taken a loan about Rs 1 crore from 11 people and had neither repaid the principal amount nor the interest.

Local residents, it is learnt, held a meeting to resolve the issue and the victim had agreed to repay the

whole loan. Despite the agreement, however, the accused barged into the victims' house on Monday and allegedly stripped and assaulted them. The victims, went to the local police station but the Inspector (name and station details withheld to protect victim identity) there allegedly refused to register the case.

The SP said that two months ago, locals held a meeting to resolve the issue. On Sunday, Reddy, Indramma and a few others went to the police station and gave in writing that they will resolve the issue and did not register any FIR, Krishna said. But on Tuesday, he said, the victims approached the police and filed a complaint. On the video, the SP said their primary probe shows the accused did not record the video.

Vice President polls to be held on Aug 6: EC

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

THE ELECTION Commission (EC) on Wednesday announced that election to the Office of the Vice President will be held on August 6 as the term of the office of Venkaiah Naidu ends on August 10.

As per Article 68 of the Constitution of India, an election to fill the vacancy of the outgoing Vice-President is required to be completed before the expiration of the term.

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar held a meeting on Wednesday that was also attended by Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey and finalised the schedule of the election.

"...Election Commission of India is privileged and honoured to announce today the schedule of election for the 16th Vice-Presidential Election," the Election Commission said in a statement.

The Election Commission had earlier this month also announced the date of the 16th Presidential Election.

As per the schedule, the last date of nomination for Presidential Election is June 29, polling on July 18 and counting of votes on July 21.

The tenure of President Ram Nath Kovind ends on July 24, 2022.

Can't recognise Lt Col Purohit due to lapse of time: Malegaon case witness

Mumbai: A witness in the 2008 Malegaon blast case took a court on Wednesday that he was unable to recognise accused Lieutenant Colonel Prasad Purohit due to the lapse of time. The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), which had initially investigated the blast before the case was transferred to the National Investigation Agency, had recorded the statement of the witness in 2008. The witness, who ran a business of arms, told the court that in 2006, he had sold ammunition to Purohit. The witness told the court on Wednesday that Purohit had arms licences as a military man and based on that, he had sold him ammunition once.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE. Table with columns: SR. No., NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH, NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER, OPENING DATE, AMOUNT/EMD, WEBSITE OF THE BOARD, NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE. Table with columns: SR. No., NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH, NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER, OPENING DATE, AMOUNT/EMD, WEBSITE OF THE BOARD, NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice

No. 74-W/2/3/WA/Publication Date: 29.06.2022. Sr.DEN/I/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against following tenders closing date 21.07.2022 16:00.

Table with 5 columns: Tender No., Name of work, Tender Closing Date, Advertised Value (Rs.), Earnest Money (Rs.).

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Freight, Northern Railway, New Delhi, in terms of Railway Board Letter No. 2022/TC(FM)/10/04 dated 13.06.2022, invites bids through E-AUCTION module of IREPS for leasing of parcel space (SLRs) for a period of 02 years in the following trains originating from various stations of Delhi Division:

Table with 7 columns: S No, Train No, Compitt, CC (in tonnes), From-To, Frequency, E-Auction catalogue No., E-Auction Start Date & Time.

Interested bidders may please visit official website for e-tendering i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for further details and participating in e-Auctions to be held on July 11<sup>th</sup> 2022 & July 12<sup>th</sup> 2022

Important note: 1. Bidders, who wish to participate in the e-Auctioning module should have valid Digital Signing Certificate (DSC) and same may be procured from any of the certifying authority of Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA) Government of India, detail of same may be obtained from www.cca.gov.in.

2. Prospective bidders will be required to get themselves registered online at IREPS (Commercial Auction module).

3. One time registration fees of Rs. 10,000/- and applicable GST (non-refundable) will be required to be paid online by the bidder before participating in any commercial auction.

4. For more information, requirement and various aspects regarding this e-Auction, interested bidders are advised to visit https://www.ireps.gov.in/html/helpdesk/learning\_Centre.html. (e-Auction leasing section).

5. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): 5% of the total contractual bid value to be deposited online during the auction. EMD of the successful bidder will be retained as Security Deposit.

6. Railway Administration reserves the full and absolute rights to short terminate these tenders/contracts at any point of time (or for taking any decision regarding the discontinuation/continuation of these tenders/contracts with modified/additional terms and conditions) depending upon the continuation/discontinuation of these trains or commencement of new train services.

7. The successful bidder may have to pay applicable Terminal Development Charges & any other charges levied by the Railway Administration over and above the lump sum leased freight for parcel space.

8. The successful bidder will also have to pay applicable Goods and Service Tax as imposed from time to time for transportation of goods/parcels over and above the lump sum leased freight for parcel space and applicable Terminal Development Charges.

1599/2022

Serving Customers With A Smile

RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LAW, PUNJAB

[Established under the Punjab Act No. 12 of 2006] RGNUL PATIALA

Advt No. RGNUL/22/2022 dt. 28.06.2022

ADMISSION NOTICE

Applications are invited for admission to B.A.LL.B. (Hons.) Five Year Integrated Course and LL.M. (Post-Graduate) One Year Course in the following categories:

- 1. Foreign National Category (UG-05 Seats)/ (PG - 02 Seats)
2. Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Category (UG - 05) Seats
3. J&K Residents (UG - 02 Seats) / PG - 02 Seats
4. Wards of Kashmiri Migrants (UG - 09 Seats) (PG - 03 Seats)
5. Economically Weaker Section (EWS) (UG - 18 Seats) (PG - 06 Seats)

The interested candidates may visit RGNUL website (www.rgnul.ac.in) regarding eligibility criteria, documentation and mode of application. Completed application form must be submitted on or before 12 July, 2022 by 11:59 pm positively via email at admissions@rgnul.ac.in.

REGISTRAR

SIDHUWAL CAMPUS, BHADSON ROAD, PATIALA-147006 Tel: 0175-2391200, 502 Mob: 06284822474, Website: www.rgnul.ac.in, E-mail: admissions@rgnul.ac.in

INDIAN RAILWAYS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAILWAY BOARD) CORRIGENDUM-III

Subject: E-Tender No. TM-2201 for procurement of Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing Car "SPURT CAR" to be opened on 19.07.2022

The Corrigendum-III regarding modification of tender conditions etc. have been uploaded on website http://ireps.gov.in

Director Track (Machines), Railway Board. Contact details for Vijay Singh and Amit Mahotsav.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001) CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website: www.pspcl.in

Mobile No. 96461-07205 E-mail: Se-hq-gsstp-ropr@pspcil.in

E-Tender Enquiry No. 7281/P-3/EMP-12009 Dated: 24.06.2022

Dy. Chief Engineer/Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2022\_POWER\_87254\_1 for Procurement of pulverized Fuel straight pipe for stg. II & III installed at GGSSTP, Roopnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 28.06.2022/ 11:30 AM onwards.

NOTE: Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in. RTP-49/22 15323/Pb

BANGALORE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE

(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka) Office of the Director cum Dean, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560 002, Telephone: 080-26700810, Tele Fax: 080-26704342

E-mail: director\_bmcric@yahoo.com

No: BMCRI/Sup(2)/03/2022-23 Dated: 29-06-2022

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

e-Tenders are invited for the "Supply of Liquid Medical Oxygen to the Institute 13KL LMO Tank."

Tender details, EMD details and other related details can be viewed, downloaded and applied only through the e-Procurement mode only. Website: https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Interested tenderers have to register in the e-Procurement portal, details of which can be viewed in the said website. 1) Commencement date for uploading of tenders: 04-07-2022. 2) Pre Bid Meeting: 18-07-2022 at 11.30 AM. 3) Last Date for Uploading the Tenders: 03-08-2022 before 4.30 PM. 4) Date of Opening of Tenders: 05-08-2022 at 11.30 AM. For further details contact Director cum Dean, Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, Bangalore.

Sd/- Director cum Dean, BMCRI, Bengaluru.

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE

Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr.PC.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Mukkaram S/o Safi Ahmed R/o H.No. B-141, Deep Enclave, Vikas Nagar, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 587/2021 U/s 365/354/506/509/323/342/34 IPC PS Narela Indl Area, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Mukkaram can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Mukkaram has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Mukkaram of FIR No. 587/2021 U/s 365/354/506/509/323/342/34 IPC PS Narela Indl Area, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 12.08.2022

By Order Ms. Nidhi Chitkara Metropolitan Magistrate-02, Room No. 104, First Floor, Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/1946/ON/2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that shareholding pattern of M/s Airmid Developers Limited, M/s Mariana Developers Limited & M/s Albina Properties Limited C/o M/s Airmid Developers Limited ("Company's"), (as registered under the Companies Act), having their corporate office at Office No. 01-1001, We Work, Blue One Square, Udyog Vihar, Phase 4 Rd, Gurugram-122016, Haryana, is proposed to be transferred in favor of M/s Elan Limited. We have been granted License no.80 of 2012 dated 17.08.2012 by Directorate of Town & Country Planning, Haryana ("DTCP") for setting up a residential group housing colony over an area measuring 24.1 Acres in Sector 106, Village Pawala Khusrupur, Gurugram, having land comprised under Rectangle No. 18 Killa Nos. 21(8-0), 22(2-4-0), Rectangle No. 19 Killa Nos. 22(1-3-1), 22(2-4-0), 23(8-0), 24(8-0), 25(8-0), 16(2-4-0), Rectangle no. 21 Killa No. 5(5-12), Rectangle No. 22 Killa Nos. 1/1(6-5), 1/2(1-0-12), 1/2(2-1-3), 2/1(1-0-0), 2/1(2-0-10), 2/2(2-7), 2/3(3-3), 3(8-0), 4(8-0), 5(7-3), 10(5-16), 9/1(4-8), 9/2(3-12), 8(8-0), 7(8-0), 6(8-0), 12(1-2-0), 12(2-5-3), 13(8-0), 14(8-7), 15(1-4-0), 18(3-1-3), 18(2-3-5), 27(0-17) and Rectangle no. 23 Killa nos. 1(8-0), 2(8-0), 3(4-7), 10(1-13), 9/2(3-9) total measuring 192 Kanals 16 Marlas (24.1 Acres). And whereas vide memo no. LC- 2593-JE(DS)/2022/17844 dated 28.06.2022, DTCP, has directed us to invite objections regarding change in share holding pattern.

As such, any entity/ person having or claiming any objection to the proposed change in shareholding pattern of the Company's, may submit their representation in the office of Senior Town Planner (STP), HSPV Complex, Sector - 14, Gurugram, Haryana 122001 in writing within a period of 30 (Thirty) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that no adverse claim lies against the proposed change in share holding pattern of the Company's.

For M/s Airmid Developers Ltd. Authorised Signatory, For M/s Mariana Developers Limited Authorised Signatory, For M/s Albina Properties Limited Authorised Signatory

Tripura MLA booked for molestation at state Bhawan in Delhi

The woman, a student staying at Tripura Bhawan, alleged she was molested and sexually harassed by the MLA.

Based on the complaint, the police detained Jamatia for questioning and later released him.

Amrutha Guguloth, DCP (New Delhi), said, "The complaint is of molestation at Tripura Bhawan. A call was made around 2.35 am by the complainant. We served a notice under section 41A (appearance before police officer) CrPC to the accused."

An FIR has been registered under IPC sections 354 (assault on woman with intent to outrage her modesty) and 354 A (sexual harassment).

Meanwhile, a senior officer from Tripura Bhawan wrote to the Government of Tripura about the incident, asking them to take "necessary action".

"It is to inform that a team of Delhi police had visited Tripura Bhawan twice yesterday night and met (complainant). They recorded her statement regarding her complaint against Shri Mebar Kr Jamatia, MLA. The police team visited again early morning and took both (the complainant) and Shri Mebar Kr Jamatia to the police station. This is for information and necessary action please," reads the letter sent by the Tripura Bhawan officer.

उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड

निम्नलिखित ई-निविदाएं अधिभूत एवं अनुभवी कार्यदायी संस्थाओं/ फर्मों से, जो जी.एस.टी. में पंजीकृत हों, ई-टेंडर के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। विस्तृत विवरण प्रिण्टिड सप्ताचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित के उपरान्त ई-टेंडर की वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in एवं विभाग की वेबसाइट www.upptcl.org पर उपलब्ध रहेगा। विवरण निम्न प्रकार हैं:-

निविदा संख्या कार्य/आपूर्ति का विवरण, के क्रम पदा जाये :- 01 ई-निविदा संख्या टी-41/वि.पा.म.(आ.)/2022-23-विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड-तृतीय आगरा के अन्तर्गत 132 के.वी. उपकेंद्र बाह का वार्षिक अनुसूक्षण सम्बन्धी कार्य हेतु। 02 ई-निविदा संख्या टी-42/वि.पा.म.(आ.)/2022-23-विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड-तृतीय आगरा के अन्तर्गत 132 के.वी. उपकेंद्र पिनाहट का वार्षिक अनुसूक्षण सम्बन्धी कार्य हेतु। 03 ई-निविदा संख्या टी-43/वि.पा.म.(आ.)/2022-23-विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड-तृतीय आगरा के अन्तर्गत 132 के.वी. जी.आई.एस. उपकेंद्र वालियार रोड, आगरा का वार्षिक अनुसूक्षण सम्बन्धी कार्य हेतु। 04 ई-निविदा संख्या टी-44/वि.पा.म.(आ.)/2022-23-विद्युत 765 के.वी. उपकेंद्र फतेहाबाद पर विभिन्न कार्यों के लिये हाइड्रा/क्रेन मय आफरेटर के उपलब्ध कराये हेतु। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, आगरा 'राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाये' पत्रांक:2025/विपाम (आ.)/ई-निविदा संख्या टी-41 से टी-44/2022-23/दिनांक:29.06.2022

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer A0782 (Projects), Secunderabad

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS E-Tender Notice

Sr. Divisional Engineer (CO), South East Central Railway, Nagpur, invites E-Tender for execution of the following works:-

Sl. No.: 1. Name of the work: (1) Construction of RUB for elimination of manned LC No. 459 at Peninsular-Bortalao (PJB-BTL) Stations on Durg-Nagpur (DURG-NGP) section, (2) Construction of RUB for elimination of manned LC No. 460 at K.m. 896140-42 between Rajnandgaon-Bakal (RJN-BAKL) Stations on Durg-Nagpur (DURG-NGP) section, (3) Construction of RUB for elimination of manned LC No. 470 at Km. 93817-19 between Chhindwara-Chaurai station under the jurisdiction of ADEN/Chhindwara, Tender Notice No.: N07/NGP/2022-2023. Approx. Tender Value: ₹ 4,36,99,907/-, Earnest Money/Bid Security: ₹ 14,88,100/-.

Sl. No.: 2. Name of the work: (1) Left over Civil works between Chhindwara-Chaurai station under the jurisdiction of ADEN/Chhindwara, Tender Notice No.: N07/NGP/2022-2023. Approx. Tender Value: ₹ 3,32,27,782/-, Earnest Money/Bid Security: ₹ 3,38,500/-.

Sl. No.: 3. Name of the work: (1) Left over Civil works between Chhindwara-Chaurai station under the jurisdiction of ADEN/Chhindwara, Tender Notice No.: N07/NGP/2022-2023. Approx. Tender Value: ₹ 3,32,27,782/-, Earnest Money/Bid Security: ₹ 3,38,500/-.

For all the above tenders, the Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to 15.00 Hrs. on 25.07.2022 only. Manual offers are not allowed. Details are available on our website www.ireps.gov.in.

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office:- PSEB Head Office The Mall, Patiala-147001 CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813; Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact No. 96461-20640)

Tender Enquiry No. 1408/O&M/PC-2317 Dated: 27.06.2022

Chief Engineer O&M (P&P Cell-I), GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat, invites E-tender for the Procurement of Tied Hammer Rings, Quantity as per NIT. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 27.06.2022 from 17.00 hrs. onwards.

NOTE:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in GHTP-33/22 15273/Pb

BANGALORE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION

Civil Engineering Department K.H. Road, Shantinagar, Bengaluru-560 027. No.BMTC/CO/CE/EE/291/2022-23 Dated:-29.06.2022

E-PROCUREMENT SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No.03/2022-23

Item rate tender is invited in two cover system for the works of (1) Providing cement concrete pavement to the parking area and other allied works at Depot-49, Bidadi, Bengaluru. Amount put to tender: Rs. 338.86 Lakhs, EMD: Rs. 5,08,300/- (2) Providing cement concrete pavement to the parking area and other allied works at Depot-47, Mandur, Bengaluru. Amount put to tender: Rs. 338.72 Lakhs, EMD: Rs. 5,08,080/-, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public procurement ordinance of 2000, and Act 2000 from the Class-I Civil Contractors/Firms registered in Karnataka CPWD/MES and KPWD. In e-procurement the contractors/firms will have to upload all information's, documents and rates etc in website only, i.e. https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. No documents will be accepted in person manually. (1) Receipt of tenders: 30.07.2022. Date of opening of tender: 01.08.2022 (2) Any other information required can be obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer during working hours or through website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, BMTC

एक रुपय सफाई की कीमत



# RFID tags for pilgrims, UAVs to watch routes: Upgraded security as Amarnath Yatra begins

BASHARAT MASOOD & ARUN SHARMA  
SRINAGAR, JAMMU, JUNE 29

RFID (RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION) tags for all pilgrims, UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) for surveillance of routes, deployment of over 80,000 security personnel – a multi-layer security cover is in place for the Amarnath Yatra this year.

The annual yatra, which was flagged off by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu on Wednesday, is taking place after a gap of two years due to the pandemic – it is the first since the Centre revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status on August 5, 2019.

The first batch of pilgrims will set off from the Pahalgam and Baltal base camps on Thursday. While 4,890 left the Bhagwati Nagar camp on Wednesday, the total will be much more since many reach Pahalgam and Baltal base camps on their own. The yatra will end on August 13.

"By far, this is the largest security arrangement we have made for the yatra this year. Besides increasing the number of personnel, technology is also being used. We have placed drones for aerial surveillance and



Pilgrims at the Baltal base camp near Sonamarg on Wednesday. Shuaib Masoodi

also tagged the pilgrims with RFID to keep track of them," said a senior paramilitary officer, adding that the heightened security apparatus has been necessitated by the higher threat perception this year.

Police sources said they are particularly worried about the use of magnetic bombs. "These are a real threat," said the police officer. "It is almost impossible to keep track of every vehicle, especially in congested areas like Srinagar city."

Besides the J&K Police, the Army, CRPF, ITBP, BSF and other

break the security cordon but we can't take any chances," said a senior police officer.

Police sources said they are particularly worried about the use of magnetic bombs. "These are a real threat," said the police officer. "It is almost impossible to keep track of every vehicle, especially in congested areas like Srinagar city."

Besides the J&K Police, the Army, CRPF, ITBP, BSF and other

central paramilitary forces have also been deployed. A special team of police and paramilitary personnel will continuously monitor CCTV footage from security cameras along the route and at the base camps, said sources.

The Shri Amarnath Shrine Board has set up counters at various places, including airports, railway stations and bus stands for issuing RFID tags to pilgrims on arrival, on the basis of their ya-

tra registration slips and identity proof. No pilgrim will be allowed without this tag, said officials.

As the pilgrims will be trekking through high altitudes, the Shrine Board has decided to provide an insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh each. Sinha said the decision was taken on the recommendation of senior doctors of AIIMS in view of the effect of Covid on people's health.

Among other upgraded facilities, there will be battery cars to cover a distance of 2.3 kms between Baltal and Domel, and direct chopper service from Srinagar to Panjtami for pilgrims who want to complete the yatra in a day. Earlier, helicopter sorties were only available between Pahalgam-Panjtami and Baltal-Panjtami.

The accommodation facilities have also been upgraded. While 69,770 pilgrims could be accommodated during the last yatra in 2019, arrangements have been made for 1,26,570 yatris this time. The number of tents along the yatra routes have increased from 3,530 in 2019 to 8,480 this year.

The administration has made arrangements for 106 medical beds in the yatra area, and hospitals have been set up at Pahalgam and Baltal base camps. A total of 391 doctors and 940 paramedical staff members will be deployed round-the-clock, said Sinha.

# Amid sanctions, Russia becomes India's top DAP fertiliser supplier

HARISH DAMODARAN  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

INDIA HAS imported about 3.5 lakh tonnes (lt) of di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) fertiliser from Russia, which would be arriving during the April to July period. This comes amid Western sanctions against Russia in the wake of its invasion of Ukraine.

The imports have been contracted by Indian Potash Ltd, Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers, Chambal Fertilisers and Krishak Bharati Cooperative at landed prices of \$920-925 per tonne, cost plus freight (CFR). This is below the rates paid by other countries for DAP, mainly from China, Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Jordan.

Bangladesh's Agriculture Ministry, earlier this month, awarded an annual tender for import of 8.12 lt at \$1,020-1,030 per tonne. Similarly, Indonesia and Thailand are reported to have paid \$992 and \$1,000 per tonne CFR respectively for 25,000-26,000 tonnes shipment each. Pakistan hasn't been able

to contract to late even at \$1,030 CFR, with the local currency's depreciation against the dollar adding to the uncertainty.

India contracting DAP from Russia's PhosAgro at \$920 per tonne CFR – which is also the price cap that the government has put on importers – is likely to put pressure on other suppliers, especially Morocco's OCP Group, China's YUC and Saudi Arabia's Ma'aden and SABIC. They may have to cut prices to retain market share.

"It is a smart strategy to diversify one's supply sources. We did in urea by importing a large quantity of 47,000 tonnes for the first time from the US. The same is being done by sourcing more DAP (the country's second most-consumed fertiliser) from Russia at a discount to international prices," industry sources told The Indian Express.

Total DAP import arrivals for April-July are projected at 9.5-9.8 lt. Out of that, roughly 3.5 lt will be supplied by PhosAgro, with Ma'aden and SABIC's share at 2.8 lt, YUC's at 1.27 lt and OCP's at 1.03 lt.

India, in 2021-22 (April-March), imported 58.60 lt of DAP valued at \$4,007.50 million. The bulk of the 58.60 lt imported was accounted for by China (20.43 lt), Saudi Arabia (19.33 lt), Morocco (12.13 lt) and Jordan (2.46 lt).

Importing from Russia has presented problems from sanctions, forcing "innovative methods" of making payments. "The risk in this case has had to be borne by the seller (PhosAgro), since banks weren't willing to open letters of credit (to serve as a guarantee for payment) on the importers' behalf. Payments were then made by telegraphic transfer to the seller's account, upon the latter physically presenting the necessary documents (copy of invoice, certificate of origin, bill of lading, insurance policy, etc) 7-10 days after the cargo had set sail," the sources explained. The total voyage time from Russia's Baltic Sea ports is 25-30 days.

"The imports have come at the right time when sowings for the kharif season have just started and will peak in July," the sources added.

# 2 militants killed in Kulgam encounter

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 29

TWO MILITANTS belonging to Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) were on Wednesday killed in a gunfight with a joint team of J&K Police, Army and CRPF in south Kashmir's Kulgam.

IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar congratulated the joint team, saying the gunfight site was close to the Srinagar-Jammu national highway – the route for the Amarnath Yatra.

On Wednesday afternoon, the joint team cordoned off Nowpora village, Mir Bazar, after specific inputs about the presence of militants. As the forces were zeroing in on the target, the militants opened fire. The forces returned the fire.

"In the ensuing encounter, two local categorised terrorists of proscribed terror outfit LeT were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter," the police said in a statement. "They have been identified as Yasir Wani, resident of Wangund, Kulgam, and Raees Manzoor, resident of Chotipora, Shopian."

The two militants were "part of groups involved in several terror crime cases, including attacks on police/security forces and civilian atrocities", police said.

# Amarnath Yatra: NC, Cong, BJP leaders attend meet called by J&K L-G, Mehbooba skips it

NAVEED IQBAL  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 29

LEADERS OF many mainstream political parties in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday attended a "high tea" meeting at Raj Bhawan on an invitation from Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

The meeting discussed the smooth conduct of Amarnath Yatra, which is being organised by the UT administration for the first time since the scrapping of J&K's special status in August 2019.



L-G Manoj Sinha flags off the first batch of pilgrims for the Amarnath Yatra from Jammu on Wednesday. PTI

This was the first such initiative since the all-party meeting and the political leadership of J&K in June 2021. The meeting on Wednesday was attended by National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, BJP state unit chief Ravinder Raina, Pradesh Congress president Chulam Ahmad Mir, CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami, J&K Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari, former J&K finance minister Muzaffar Beg among others.

People's Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti

and People's Conference chairman Sajad Lone, who is out of town, skipped the meeting.

The invites for the meeting, which were sent out Wednesday morning, did not specify any agenda. The PDP rejected the invitation, saying it was "futile to host agenda-less meetings" given the present scenario.

Congress's Mir told *The Indian Express* that the LG briefed the leaders about the arrangements for the Amarnath Yatra. "We are all on the same page that the yatra should be peaceful," he said.

# SP defends Akhilesh amid criticism for staying away from bypoll campaign

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, JUNE 29

FOLLOWING criticism from within party and its allies for not campaigning for the bypolls to Rampur and Azamgarh Lok Sabha constituencies, which the Samajwadi Party lost, the party on Wednesday defended its president, Akhilesh Yadav, and said he has "proved to be the only obstruction for the BJP".

"Akhilesh Yadav is the target of conspirators... For 2024 Lok Sabha polls, not only will he hold public meetings in all zones and Vidhan Sabha constituencies, but

he will also visit districts of the state," said SP national spokesperson Rajendra Choudhary in a press statement.

Akhilesh has "reached new heights in politics due to his hard work and struggle, which is not possible while sitting in air-conditioned (AC) rooms", he claimed.

Among the principal reasons listed by local SP leaders as well as ally SBSP for the losses were Akhilesh's decision to stay away from the campaigning.

SBSP chief Om Prakash Rajbhar had said on Tuesday, "Akhilesh-ji is not coming out of

AC. He is not taking the lesson from the 2022 Assembly results. Just like he announced candidates in Assembly polls on the last date of nominations, he did the same in Rampur and Azamgarh. He was supposed to go out to hold public meetings, but he did not."

Local SP leadership in Azamgarh also expressed unhappiness at Akhilesh not campaigning for cousin Dharmendra Yadav. In Azamgarh, Dinesh Lal Yadav defeated Dharmendra Yadav by a margin of 8,679 votes. In Rampur, Azam's aide Asim Raja lost to BJP's Ghanshyam Lodhi by 42,192 votes.

# Consider using body cameras during arrests: Karnataka HC to police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU, JUNE 29

THE KARNATAKA High Court has asked the state police to make efforts to provide body cameras to police personnel involved in carrying out arrests in order to maintain records for the arrest process.

The HC order comes in the context of a case where a petitioner, a law student, claimed Rs 25 lakh compensation from the state after police allegedly subjected him to humiliation by

handcuffing him during his transportation for production in court in a public bus after arrest.

The petitioner, Suprit Ishwar Divate, was arrested in a cheque bounce case filed in Belagavi region of Karnataka in 2019.

The HC rejected the state government's plea that Divate was handcuffed while being taken to court since there were not adequate police personnel on court duty at the Ankali police station, where he was detained. The court directed the state to "pay a sum of Rs 2 lakh as compensation..."

# Top Rampur cop says wants to jail parents with elopement complaints; apologises

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, JUNE 29

THE RAMPUR Superintendent of Police (SP) landed in a controversy after a purported video of him saying that he wanted "to send to jail the parents who come with complaints that their daughters have eloped" surfaced on social media on Wednesday. In the video shot on Tuesday,

SP Ashok Kumar is heard saying from the stage, "A dramatic incident happened in Civil Lines recently. A Muslim girl was going with a Hindu boy, or a Hindu girl with a Muslim boy. So you should see in your family why this is happening. I would like to send those parents to jail who came with complaints that their daughter has eloped. You give birth to them and leave them (on their own)... One or two children are enough

who you can raise properly." The clip is from an event at Rampur Police Lines where people from different walks of life interacted with police.

After the video was shared widely on social media, the SP was quick to issue an apology.

Later, he wrote, "I would like to clarify that I do not endorse my own earlier statement. I don't have any such intention. I can't do so..."

# Anthrax alert in Kerala's Thrissur

Thiruvananthapuram: The Kerala government Wednesday sounded an alert in Thrissur district after Anthrax, an infectious disease which affects domestic as well as wild animals, was reported in wild boars.

The Thrissur administration said the presence of the bacteria was found in carcasses of wild boars in hilly regions of Athirappilly village.

Anthrax is caused by a spore-forming bacterium. It mainly affects animals. Humans can be infected through contact with an animal or by inhaling spores. Symptoms depend on the route of infection. They can range from a skin ulcer to difficulty breathing. Antibiotics cure most infections. Inhaled anthrax is harder to treat and can be fatal. ENS

## PUBLIC NOTICE

A new policy for allowing sub-division of the existing licenses by way of granting sub-licenses in a licence/colony through an independent developer for each sub-licence under Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas Act, 1975. The draft of said policy is uploaded on the departmental website i.e. www.topharyana.gov.in for the information of general public and all other stakeholders and seeking suggestions, if any, on the said policy.

The suggestions may be forwarded to the following within a period of 30 days of the issuance of this public notice, i.e., up to 30th July, 2022 to the Directorate of Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Plot no. 3, Nagar Yojana Bhawan, Sector-18-A, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh, Phone: 0172-2549349 and/or on the email addresses as mentioned below:

- Director: tcepharyana7@gmail.com
- CTP, Haryana: ctp6.tcp@gmail.com
- DTP (HQ), O/o DTCP, Haryana: dtp2.hqnc.tcp@gmail.com

(K. Makrand Pandurang, IAS)  
Director  
Town and Country Planning  
Department  
Haryana, Chandigarh  
Place: Chandigarh  
Date: 28.06.2022  
10719/HRY

DEENBANDHU CHHOTU RAM UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY  
MURTHI (SONEPAT), HARYANA-131039  
(Established by State Legislative Act 29 of 2006 & approved under Section 23 and 12b of UGC Act, 1956)  
(NAAC "A" Grade State Govt. University)  
www.duonline.ac.in  
Advt. No. 04/2022  
Admission Notice for Ph. D/PG/Dual Degree/B.C.A. Programmes for the Academic Session 2022-23  
Online application are invited w.e.f. 01.07.2022 upto 11:59 p.m. for the Ph.D programme at various Departments/Centre and following PG/Dual Degree & B.C.A. Programmes of the University through www.duonline.ac.in. In the details of the programme are as under:

• M. Tech. Programmes (2 Years)	• PG Programme offered by Architecture Dept. (2 years)
Electric Power Systems	M. Arch. (Sustainable Architecture)
Electronics & Communication Engineering	M. Plan (Urban and Regional Planning)
Electronics & Communication Engineering (VLSI Design)	• M. Sc. Programmes (2 Years)
Mechanical Engineering	Biotechnology
Computer Science & Engineering	Chemistry
Chemical Engineering	Mathematics
Chemical Engineering	Physics
Highway Engineering	Environmental Science
Biotechnology	• Dual Degree Programmes (5 Years)
Energy & Environment Management	Dual Degree B.Sc. (Hon.) Biotechnology - M.Sc. Biotechnology
• Other PG Programmes (2 Years)	Dual Degree B.Sc. (Hon.) Chemistry - M.Sc. Chemistry
M.A. (Hindi)	Dual Degree B.Sc. (Hon.) Physics - M.Sc. Physics
M.T.A. (Master in Hospital Administration)	Dual Degree B.Sc. (Hon.) Mathematics - M.Sc. Mathematics
M.B.A.	Dual Degree B.A. (Hons.) M.B.A.
	• DG Programme in Computer Applications (3 Year)
	Scholarship of Computer Application (B.C.A.)

(Registration fee for on-line application is ₹ 350/- for SC/ST/OBC Category & ₹1000/- for others)  
Programmes run by University for which admission shall be made through HSTES

Bachelor of Architecture (B. Arch.)	B. Tech. in Computer Science & Engineering	B. Tech. in Electronics & Communication Engineering
B. Tech. in Mechanical Engineering	B. Tech. in Civil Engineering	B. Tech. in Electrical Engineering
B. Tech. in Chemical Engineering	B. Tech. in Biotechnology	B. Tech. in Biomedical Engineering
B. Tech. in Agricultural Engineering		

Note: 1. For Candidates Residents of Haryana the Parivar Pechhan Patra (PPP) is mandatory while applying online.  
2. Ph.D. slots are available in various teaching Depts. of University (Refer for the above link for details).

## PUBLIC NOTICE GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA EXCISE & TAXATION DEPARTMENT

NOTICE FOR INVITING e-TENDERS FROM GENERAL PUBLIC FOR ALLOTMENT OF THREE (03) ZONES OF COUNTRY LIQUOR (L-14A) AND INDIAN MADE FOREIGN LIQUOR (L-2) RETAIL VENDS OF TWO (2) DISTRICTS AND REALLOTMENT OF ONE ZONE OF DISTRICT JIND FOR THE YEAR 2022-23.

1. It is hereby notified for the information of general public that the department is inviting e-tenders for allotment of remaining three (03) zones of Country Liquor (L-14A) and Indian Made Foreign Liquor (L-2) retail vends in two (02) districts and for re-allotment of one zone of district Jind for the year 2022-23. The district-wise detail of zones available for e-bidding is as under:-

Sr. No.	Name of District	Zone Code
1.	Rohtak	ZRTK0g
2.	Sonepat	ZSNP02
3.	Jind	ZJND11

2. The Schedule for submission of e-tenders for these zones and evaluation thereof shall be as under:

Sr. No.	Starting date and time for placing e-tenders	From 01st July, 2022 (09:00 AM)
1	Closing date and time for placing e-tenders	Till 01st July, 2022 (04:00 PM)
2	Evaluation of e-tenders	01st July, 2022 (05:00 PM)

3. The reserve price of the zones mentioned at Sr. No. 1 and 2 for the purpose of tendering has been reduced further in accordance with the provisions of clause 2.16 of the Haryana Excise Policy 2022-23. The annual basic liquor quota of these zones has also been reduced. The basic quota of liquor available to the successful allottees of this round shall be in proportion to the number of days available for operation of vends. Thus, the reduced quota shall be calculated as under:-  
Reduced Basic Quota: original basic quotas X 346 days/365days.

The zone-wise detail of reduced reserve price and reduced quota of these 03 zones shall be displayed in the excise arrangement.

- The CL & IMFL quota of zone of District Jind shall be reduced by 2% of the unutilized basic quota and license fee shall be reduced by 5% of the original reserve price.
- The excise arrangements of these Zones containing number of vends, liquor quota, location of vends and command area as applicable and reserve price thereof as well as the venue for evaluation of e-tenders shall be conspicuously displayed in the offices of DETCs (Excise) and DETCs (ST) in the districts. These details shall also be available on the official website of department i.e. www.haryanatax.gov.in
- The e-tenders for these zones can be submitted online through the official website of the department. The remaining terms and conditions for submission of e-tenders and allotment shall remain same, as given in the Public Notice published on 12th May, 2022 in the leading newspapers for inviting e-tenders for allotment of retail liquor zones of all districts in the State of Haryana. The said public notice is also available on the official website of the department i.e. www.haryanatax.gov.in. The detailed procedure of registration for participation in the allotment process and submission of e-tenders is also available on the official website.
- All allotments and grant of license(s) shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Haryana Excise Act, 1914, rules framed there under and as per the provisions of the Haryana Excise Policy for the year 2022-23. The Haryana Excise Policy for 2022-23 is available on the official website.
- All allotments shall be further subject to the approval of the Excise and Taxation Commissioner (FC), Haryana. He may reject, without assigning any reason, any allotment in public interest as the case may be within 10 days of the date of allotment.

Excise and Taxation Commissioner.  
Haryana.  
10720/Hry

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PATNA  
(An Institute under Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)  
ASHOK RAJPATH, PATNA - 800 005 (BIHAR)  
Walk-in-Interview for the post of Executive Engineer (on Contract)  
Walk-in-Interview for the recruitment of Executive Engineer (on Contract) will be held on 10th July, 2022 at NIT Patna. The interested and eligible candidates may appear in the Walk-in-Interview with the duly filled form which may be downloaded from the website of the Institute.  
For further details regarding qualifications, experience, remuneration etc. please visit Institute website www.nitp.ac.in.  
Advt No. NITP/WI/01/2022 Registrar

Ministry of Culture  
Government of India  
Nehru Memorial Museum and Library  
cordially invites you to a Talk  
on  
The Notion of Advaitism in Mandukya Upanishad  
by  
Dr. Jahira Khatun  
Fellow, NMML  
Friday, 1 July 2022 at 3:00pm  
Venue:  
Seminar Room, Library Building  
Nehru Memorial Museum and Library  
Google Meet Link: <https://meet.google.com/dkj-pecf-nwf>  
All are Welcome  
davp 09142/12/0020/2223

PUBLIC NOTICE  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that shareholding pattern of M/s Airmid Developers Limited & M/s Albina Properties Limited C/o M/s Airmid Developers Limited ("Company's"), (as registered under the Companies Act), having their corporate office at Office No. 01-1001, We Work, Blue One Square, Udyog Vihar, Phase 4 Rd, Gurugram-122016, Haryana, is proposed to be transferred in favor of M/s Elan Limited. We have been granted License No. 79 of 2012 dated 17.08.2012 & License No. 11 of 2013 dated 12.03.2013 by Directorate of Town & Country Planning, Haryana ("DTCP") for setting up a commercial colony over an area measuring 6.525 Acres in Sector 106, Village Pawala Khusrupur, Gurugram, having land comprised under Rectangle no. 24 Killa Nos. 1(8-0), 2/1(1(3-8), 9/2(5-4), 10/1(6-4), Rectangle no. 17 Killa no. 20(1-18), 21/1(1-18), 21/2(3-18), Rectangle no. 18 Killa nos. 16/1(2-7), 16/2(4-9), 24(4-0), 25/1(6-5), 25/2(0-17), Rectangle no. 23 Killa no. 5/2(3-16) total measuring 52 Kanals 4 Marlas (6.525 Acres).  
And whereas vide memo no. LC-1882-JE(DS)/2022/17846 dated 28.06.2022, DTCP, has directed us to invite objections regarding change in share holding pattern.  
As such, any entity/ person having or claiming any objection to the proposed change in shareholding pattern of the Company's, may submit their representation in the office of Senior Town Planner (STP), HSPV Complex, Sector - 14, Gurugram, Haryana 122001 in writing within a period of 30 (Thirty) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that no adverse claim lies against the proposed change in share holding pattern of the Company's.

For M/s Airmid Developers Ltd. Authorised Signatory	For M/s Albina Properties Limited Authorised Signatory
Date: 30.06.2022 Place: Gurugram	





# The executioner's strategy

Will to condemn this act must be accompanied by commitment to build a free society. Else, Kanhaiya's executioners win



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

## IN COLD BLOOD

The two men who killed Kanhaiya Lal must face the full force of the law, they must not get the power to spread their poison

THE KILLING OF Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur, captured and flaunted by his killers on video, is a gruesome crime. It has deservedly drawn the strongest condemnation across political and ideological lines in the country. The starkness of the horror permits no ambiguity in the aftermath — the perpetrators of murder as ghastly spectacle must be brought to justice quickly and firmly. In the days ahead, political parties and governments also need to step up to the challenge to keep the calm. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has called for Prime Minister Modi to address the nation and appeal for peace. It is essential that this does not become a bid by the Gehlot government to abdicate its own responsibility, or to pass the buck. It is its primary task to ensure that a firm message is sent out that any attempt to stoke or inflame communal anxieties and tensions will not be brooked in the state, in Udaipur or elsewhere.

Even as there is no room for the politics of one-upmanship, there is hard political work to be done by all parties and players. While the crime has played out in public view, the grisly videos don't tell all, important questions remain. The National Investigation Agency, tasked with investigating terror-related crimes, has been called in, and a thorough probe will be needed to arrive at the answers. Meanwhile, it will be the work of politics to ensure that important distinctions are not blurred and crucial perspective is not lost in a climate in which prime-time TV seems to increasingly take its cue from the fringe and hardliners, and too many of those with a social media account unresistingly give in to the temptation of delivering instant justice on complex issues by playing judge, jury and executioner. The industry of hurt sentiments is quite capable of manufacturing hate and violence, too. It is necessary, in this moment, to remember and to remind that one of Indian democracy's biggest success stories has been that it is home to a Muslim minority which has not been drawn into the Islamic radicalisation story that has been unfolding in troubling ways elsewhere in the world.

As the law follows its course, therefore, politics has to step up to ensure responsibility and restraint after the crime in Udaipur. The two men who walked into the tailor's shop and killed Kanhaiya Lal in cold blood must face the consequences — they must not be given the power to spread their poison.

## PLASTIC SURGERY

Phased ban on plastics is welcome. Challenge will lie in enforcement, bringing in viable substitutes

FROM FRIDAY, SEVERAL common use-and-throw plastic products will cease to be in circulation with the government's rules to prohibit their manufacture and use, issued in August last year, coming into effect. Plastic cutlery items, ice cream and balloon sticks, sweet boxes, invitation cards, cigarette packs, PVC banners measuring under 100 microns and earbuds are some of the items that will no longer be available. Given that the country generates more than 25,000 tonnes of plastic waste every day — more than 40 per cent of it stays uncollected, often choking sewage networks — the need for measures to restrict the use of this non-degradable synthetic material cannot be overstated. The government has also done the right thing in enforcing the ban in phases. The current strictures apply to relatively low utility items. The real challenge will come when the prohibition is extended to polythene bags under 120 microns in December.

In the past five years, more than 20 states have put in place some form of regulation on plastic use. But by all accounts, their implementation has been patchy at best. The poorly-staffed and feebly-empowered state pollution control boards or cash-strapped municipalities tasked with enforcing the bans have generally not been up to the task. Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav has said that his ministry will set up control rooms to monitor the ban. A better way would be to raise awareness amongst people and take all stakeholders into confidence — the success of Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh, to an extent, testifies to this.

Some food vendors, takeaway restaurants and grocery outfits have begun using biodegradable cutlery and cloth or paper bags. The government claims that a large number of plastic units are making the switch to using packaging alternatives such as cotton, jute, paper and crop stubble waste. However, the alternatives sector does not produce at a scale that will enable businesses all over the country to make the environment-friendly transition. There are more than 22,000 plastic manufacturing units in the country. It will be some time before enough numbers are brought under the alternative segment to make a tangible difference to the packaging sector's environmental footprint. Industry experts say that the prices of a lot of the current plastic substitutes burden the retailer and the consumer — a kg of fabric bags, for example, cost Rs 80 more compared to plastic bags. The government would, therefore, do well to hand-hold businesses, especially small outfits already strained by the economic fallout of the pandemic, during the transition period. In the long run, it must join hands with industry bodies to facilitate R&D in viable plastic substitutes.

## WHISPERS IN THE SHELVES

Public libraries have found a new role among aspirational youth. But bibliophiles will miss just browsing

IN INDIA, THE public library has always been a scarce resource. Outside of academic institutions and private clubs, spaces to read and borrow books are few and far between. The country's transition from a low-literacy, relatively poor society to a middle-income, educated one was accompanied by the rise of electronic and digital media, and browsing shelves became passe before ever really having the chance to be in vogue. Yet, as a report in this newspaper found, Delhi's public libraries are still in use, albeit not for the purpose for which they were originally intended.

At Delhi Public Library, Hardayal Municipal Public Library and even Dyal Singh public library — the latter is one of the oldest in India — young aspirants who hope to clear competitive examinations have taken over the reading rooms. For all the sophistication of algorithms and the vast amounts of knowledge on the internet, a quiet place to concentrate still draws aspiring civil servants, doctors, chartered accountants, et al. And given how difficult it is to find space in the big city, it is likely that the libraries will survive as a much-needed public space of calm. Yet, the book lover will see this new avatar of an old building as something of a loss.

The worst-kept secret among bibliophiles is this: In libraries, bookshops and even second-hand book bazaars, the texts talk to each other. Their whispers draw you in, opening up worlds within worlds. And there are few joys greater than the serendipity of picking up an unknown, unheard of (to the reader, at least) volume, of browsing through shelves hoping that a title, blurb or even a cover "speaks to you". No matter how hard they try, the tech giants selling books at a click can never recreate that feeling. And, while a career is of supreme importance, the young people cramming for their exams too are missing out on what their study hall used to be.

THE SAVAGE EXECUTION of Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur will deepen the darkest forebodings about India's future. It is important to name this gruesome act for what it is, without aestheticising it. It was an execution and not a murder. Murders are horrible. But this act was far more sinister. It enacted the logic of execution.

The perpetrators were claiming the right to brutally punish Kanhaiya for speech that he was well within his legal rights to utter. By doing it publicly they were trying to claim the terrifying power of global precedent. There have been beheadings before on putative insults to the Prophet, and we cannot rule out more. The point of the execution was to lay down the clear line, "Say something on the Prophet that we find insulting, and there will be consequences." It was to make clear that the perpetrators mean to enforce their idea of blasphemy, no matter what rational, secular and civilised laws require. The public nature of the act was to also signal that they do not consider this a crime but the enforcement of higher law. Its purpose is to create fear and terror. There is a Chinese proverb, "Kill one, frighten a thousand." This execution worked on this logic of fear and terror.

This act has been unanimously condemned as an act of barbarity, without qualifications, across the political and religious spectrum. There was no immediate violent reaction. But the sense of foreboding comes from what these easy gestures of condemnation, which now come to us as flippantly as the "like" sign on Facebook, will leave unsaid. If we are to move forward, these dark, subterranean currents will have to be confronted squarely.

Talking about these is hazardous, for two reasons. In an already surcharged atmosphere, with a communal majoritarianism suffocating liberty and toleration, there is the justified fear of how particular arguments are used to whip up prejudice against minorities. Second, there is always what the late Paul Brass had presciently identified as the trap of discourse. Using the terms minority and majority, even for analytical purposes, even for progressive ends, often ends up congealing the very identities we are trying to

complicate. So, even with these caveats, here are the fears we need to confront, even as we condemn the incident.

The biggest danger is that the BJP and other parties may succumb to the temptation to use this incident to target and question the existence of minorities. Rajasthan has an election coming up. The conduct of political parties, the perception of arbitrariness in police forces, has created unprecedented communal tensions across the state, which even the Congress is helplessly presiding over. Condemning an incident is not an answer to the endless narrative of revenge and counter revenge and feigned victimhood that will be circulated to use Kanhaiya's execution as an opportunity to polarise. This incident will very quickly allow concerns about authoritarian repression and majoritarian communalism to be overtaken by an obsession with transnational Islamism. It would be naïve to pretend that there is no issue here. We are certainly doing our best to create a society where anyone can light a fire, and create a conflagration. The perpetrators' gruesome execution works as a strategy, because they know we will make a political business out of it.

The psychological impact of seeing a video where someone walks into a tailor's shop, for a quotidian transaction, and executes them, is horrifying. What produces such a sinister method of execution? Can we comfortably treat it as an exception? These will be unasked questions. The short answer is, we don't really know with any confidence. And this situation is compounded by the fact that there is a breakdown of trust.

Faced with a threatening state, we as civil society also fear to fully understand the pos-

sibilities and sources of Islamist radicalisation, and acknowledge that like Hindutva, it could also have an autonomous dynamic, not rooted only in reaction or the threat of subjugation. This vacuum of trust will be filled by our favourite political narrative. In our context, it will strengthen whatever prejudices we were predisposed towards. Even as we condemn the moral horror, our capacity to create a common truth about such incidents will not be any stronger.

The larger narrative in which this incident will come to be embedded — is this a one-off local incident, a political reaction or part of a wider conspiracy for organised violence — requires the state and Centre to cooperate. If this is treated as a terrorist attack, then the NIA and police must speak in one credible voice. It is beyond utopian to imagine that in a situation like this, all political parties and the home minister and chief minister would speak in one credible voice. The partiality of the state in other cases of violence makes this an incredibly hard act to pull off. The strategic silences of the prime minister are always a clear signal that the government intends for the pot to simmer, if not boil.

And finally, there is the ideological gauntlet that Kanhaiya's killers have thrown. Even as we condemn the incident we have to rise to the ideological challenge, that no free society can have a legal prohibition on "offences to religion". What enables this act to wear the imprimatur of punishment rather than crime is that it sees itself as enforcing higher law. Any society where individuals think it is their duty to protect their prophets or their gods is doomed to be unfree, and caught in circles of violence. In a world of billions of people, someone will be tempted to insult; the point is to render those insults banal, marginal and harmless.

The will to condemn this act has to be accompanied by the commitment to build a free society. Otherwise Kanhaiya's executioners win. But it is hard to shake off the feeling that the cumulative weight of our history and prejudices is pulling us into an abyss, with an almost gravitational force.

The writer is contributing editor, The Indian Express

The psychological impact of seeing a video where someone walks into a tailor's shop, for a quotidian transaction, and executes them, is horrifying. What produces such a sinister method of execution? Can we comfortably treat it as an exception? These will be unasked questions. The short answer is, we don't really know with any confidence. And this situation is compounded by the fact that there is a breakdown of trust.



ADITI NARAYANI PASWAN

## A PRESIDENT FOR NEW INDIA

Droupadi Murmu's nomination is transformational, shows deepening democracy

A POWERFUL PHOTO has been doing the rounds of social media, showing a tribal woman, who has been nominated for the post of the President of India, walking with the mighty men of Indian politics. This poignant picture has inspired many young women from marginalised communities, like me, to dream big. Droupadi Murmu is not just a source of inspiration for us; her life and struggle, determination and success in the face of great odds represent the hope and promise of New India.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Indian democracy has become more representative and inclusive. The BJP represents the New India of prosperity, equality and socio-economic mobility, reflecting the true embodiment of samajik samarasta (social harmony). A tribal woman succeeding a Dalit to the highest constitutional post of the nation is a remarkable testimony to the deepening roots of Indian democracy. Her nomination is transformational in its true sense.

B R Ambedkar's idea of synthesis and the representation of women in politics have become a reality. Born in 1958, Murmu is from the Santhal tribal community in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district. The Santhals are known for their courage. In 1855, they

revolted against the Permanent Settlement of Bengal introduced by Lord Cornwallis in 1793. Murmu, too, has shown great grit and courage in her life, having fought many battles for the empowerment of the marginalised. She was a teacher and joined the BJP in 1997. She was a minister in Odisha and the governor of Jharkhand between 2015 and 2021. Her political efficacy and electoral acumen have helped push the politics of the marginalised from the edges of tokenism to the mainstream. Her nomination for the post of President of India by the BJP signifies the party's sustained efforts to incorporate tribal communities, both politically and culturally.

PM Modi's personal signature on the decision is unmistakable and is in line with his relentless efforts to expand the BJP's social base and achieve the ideals of social cohesion and justice. The party has expanded its electoral base among all social groups and communities, with marginalised groups being accommodated with dignity and pride and not just for the sake of social engineering and tokenism.

Murmu comes from a humble background and has faced much hardship in her life. In a February 2020 interview, she spoke about her political journey: "I started as a

teacher without pay and later worked with social organisations to uplift villagers hailing from the remotest parts of Odisha." She has defied great odds and much cultural stigma to serve the people, battling the many stereotypes generally associated with a career in politics. At an early age, she lost her husband, brother and mother, and in 2009 and 2013 she lost her two sons, leaving her devastated and depressed. At that juncture, she held onto the spiritual path with the Brahma Kumaris, practising yoga and meditation. Doing social service was her life's new life mission. She is a fighter and has become a source of inspiration for many.

Due to the lack of women in positions of power at the local, state and national levels, girls and women don't have many role models. Should Murmu become the First Citizen, it would not only give hope to the marginalised, but also to the many women who are considered second-class citizens. For me, her nomination goes beyond the politics of representation and tokenism. I have a role model now.

The writer is assistant professor, Maitreyi College and founder of DAPSA (Dalit Adivasi Professors and Scholars Association)



## JUNE 30, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

### AFTER VP SINGH

THE CONGRESS (I) high command has decided to put off the knotty problem of finding a successor to the UP Chief Minister VP Singh until after the presidential election on July 12. In view of this, the party on UPCC-(I) president B N Pandey to call a halt to his discussions on a new leader with party legislators. The state party leaders have even been hoping that the new CM will assume office by next week. However, the Congress (I) sources ruled out the possibility of imposing a brief spell of presidential rule in the state. It is said that Singh has agreed to continue as acting chief minister

until a new successor is named.

### PM'S CRITICISM

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi criticised the call for conscience vote given by H R Khanna, Opposition candidate for the Presidency. She was speaking after commissioning a water supply project for Sultanpuri and Mangolpuri resettlement colonies in West Delhi. Mrs Gandhi said it was an insult to the elected representatives of the people to ask them to vote according to their conscience. MPs and MLAs need not be told what they should do. It was an insult to democracy itself, she said with vehemence.

### ISRAEL'S OFFER

ISRAELI ARMED FORCES are "in a position to wipe out terrorist centres in Western Beirut", Defence Minister Ariel Sharon said in Jerusalem. However, the government had decided to grant the Palestine Liberation Organisation a "grace period" and safe conduct, Sharon said. He confirmed that Israel had called on the PLO besieged in Western Beirut to lay down their arms and leave the country. "We are not warmongers. We hope that the terrorists will see sense," Sharon added but Israel had to remain ready to "fight against anybody wanting to torpedo peace efforts".



# Closing the Gulf

UAE is India's closest partner in Arab world and resilience in bilateral ties will withstand recent convulsions. But it will take a sustained public diplomacy effort to undo the damage



NAVDEEP SURI

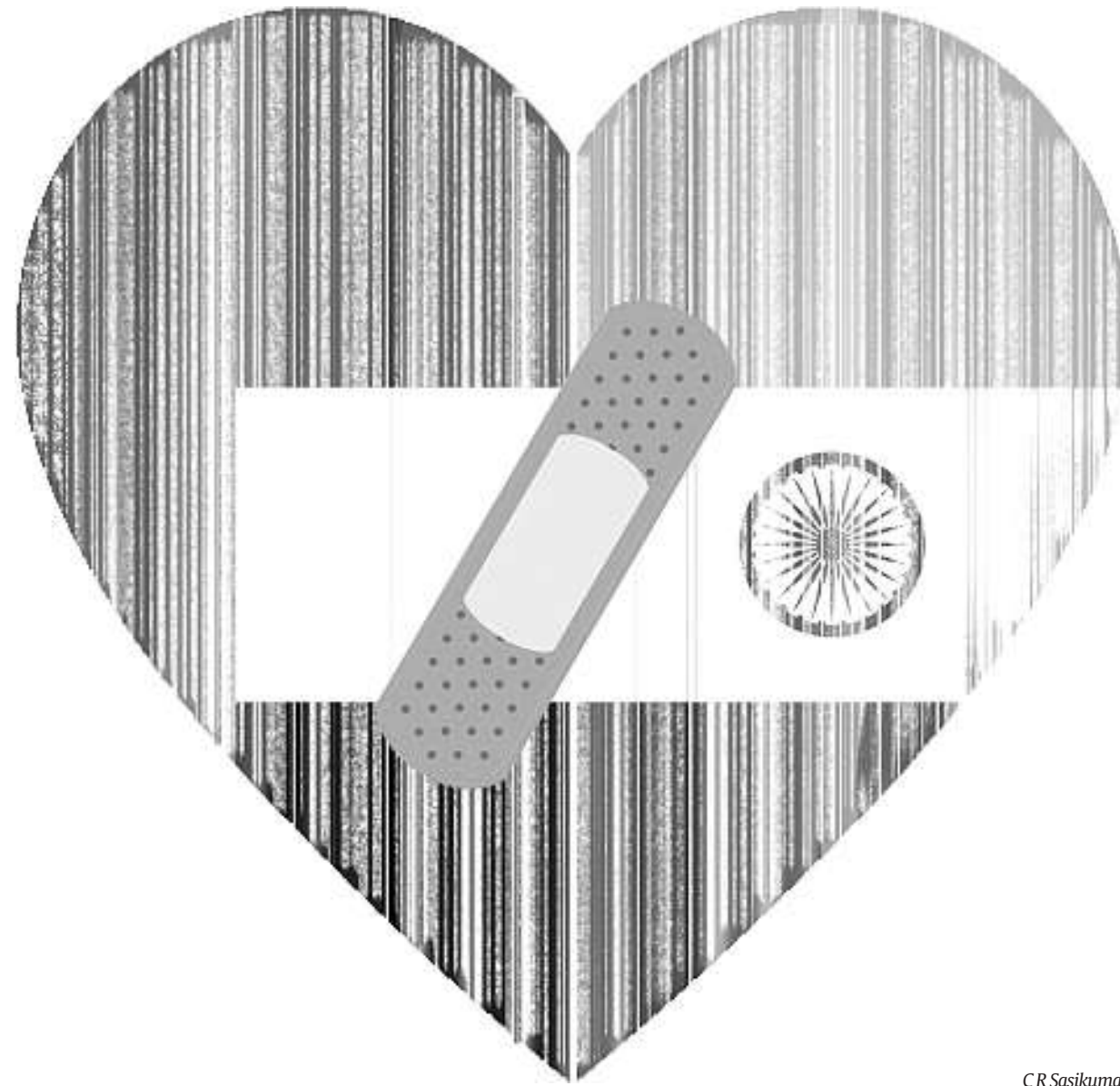
PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA Modi's visit to the UAE on June 28 was his fourth, having visited the country earlier in August 2015, in February 2018 and again in August 2019. Juxtaposed against the fact that no Indian PM had visited the UAE for 34 years since the visit of Indira Gandhi in 1981, the transformation in India's engagement with this Gulf state has been quite extraordinary.

The reason for the latest sojourn, ostensibly, is to offer condolences on the demise of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al Nahyan and to congratulate Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al Nahyan on his elevation to the position of the ruler of Abu Dhabi and President of the UAE. Viewed from the perspective of traditional diplomatic protocol, the visit was not necessary. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu had gone to Abu Dhabi on May 15 to offer the Government of India's condolences to the UAE leadership and in an unusual gesture, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had visited the UAE embassy in New Delhi to sign the condolence book.

But this is a relationship that has moved well beyond the confines of diplomatic protocols. The warmth and personal chemistry between the Prime Minister and Sheikh Mohamed are genuine and palpable. It has been almost three years since their last meeting in Abu Dhabi when PM Modi was bestowed the Order of Zayed, the UAE's highest civilian award. He had also planned to visit the Dubai Expo in January but a rise in Covid-19 cases linked to the Omicron variant had come in the way. This stopover on the way back from the G7 summit in Germany was an opportunity to renew that relationship through a one-on-one meeting with Sheikh Mohamed and an engagement with key members of the royal family including the National Security Advisor and foreign minister.

Meanwhile, a lot has happened on the bilateral front, including a fairly substantive virtual summit with Sheikh Mohamed in February 2022 when both sides signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). The two leaders also issued an ambitious, forward-looking Joint Vision Statement titled, "Advancing the India and UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership: New Frontiers, New Milestones".

CEPA is a significant milestone that was negotiated and finalised in just 88 days and promises to increase bilateral trade from \$ 60 billion to \$ 100 billion in five years. It came into force on May 1 and has already ushered in preferential market access for 97 per cent of tariff lines accounting for 99 per cent of Indian exports to the UAE. It is expected to help Indian exports in areas ranging from gems and jewellery and textiles to footwear and pharmaceuticals, apart from enhanced access for Indian service providers to 11 specific sectors. A high-level business delegation from the UAE led by Minister for Economy Abdulla bin Touq was in India on May 12 to identify trade and investment opportunities, brief Indian business leaders



CR Sasikumar

about the key features of the agreement and advise small and medium enterprises on leveraging its provisions. On the sidelines of the visit, the Dubai-based DP World and India's National Skills Development Council signed an agreement to set up a Skill India Centre in Varanasi to train local youth in logistics, port operations and allied areas so that they can pursue overseas employment.

On the regional front, the rapid normalisation of ties between the UAE and Israel following the Abraham Accords of August 2020 has also opened new avenues of trilateral and multilateral cooperation. Some Israeli tech companies are already establishing a base in Dubai and seeking to marry niche technologies with Emirati capital and Indian scale. The US has announced that President Joe Biden's forthcoming visit to West Asia will see a virtual summit of what it calls the 2I2U, a new grouping that brings together India, Israel, the US and UAE. The foreign ministers of the four countries had held their first virtual meeting in October 2021 during Jaishankar's visit to Tel Aviv, articulating a focus on joint trade, technology, transport and infrastructure projects.

These positive developments must be seen in the backdrop of the turbulence caused by the comments on Prophet Mohammed by Nupur Sharma and Naveen Kumar Jindal. These comments reveal an utter

These comments reveal an utter ignorance of the crucial support that countries like the UAE have given to India in the Islamic world, first by inviting our late External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj as a guest of honour at an OIC foreign ministers meeting in Abu Dhabi and later by standing with us on Jammu and Kashmir following the abrogation of Article 370. Nor do they take into account the fact that the Gulf is our third-largest trading partner, our principal source of hydrocarbons, a major source of foreign investment and home to some 8 million Indians.

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The UAE today is India's closest partner in the Arab world and fortunately, there is enough resilience in bilateral ties to withstand the recent convulsions. But India's image has been dented in the hearts and minds of the average Emiratis and left many Indians living in the Gulf appalled at the wanton injury caused to their interests.

Visuals from the Prime Minister's visit and his very evident personal rapport with the leadership of UAE have sent out a positive message but it will take a sustained public diplomacy effort to undo the damage. In other countries in the Gulf, the task will be that much more difficult.

The writer is Distinguished Fellow at ORF and former ambassador to UAE

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"As Moscow's aggression exacts a fearful toll on the Ukrainian population and on the country's military forces, western leaders must seek ways to intensify the pressure on Mr Putin while continuing to ensure that Nato is not dragged directly into the war."  
— THE GUARDIAN

## Hardik's travels

Patel's political journey highlights blurring of ideological frontiers and shifting of political plates in Gujarat



SHARIK LALIWALA AND CHRISTOPHE JAFFRELOT

AFTER MONTHS of voicing his concerns to the Congress, Hardik Patel has finally left the Grand Old Party and turned towards the BJP. In Gujarat, where political actors routinely and without any discomfort shift allegiances between the BJP and Congress, this is no great news. It is another symptom of the steady erosion of ideological cleavages as well as the hegemony of Hindu nationalism in Indian politics.

Hardik Patel began his journey as a quota activist for Patels in 2015 as a young, vocal anti-BJP figure. In the Gujarat Congress, as the party's working president, he moderated his discourse on the quota question, especially after the introduction of the 10 per cent quota for Patels under the economically weaker sections reservation in 2019, and tried to project himself as a youth icon and a kisan leader. This was an interesting proposition in a land of urban politics where the position of a kisan leader has been vacant for decades.

Over the last few months, Hardik has redefined himself again — as a Hindu nationalist. He has quite enthusiastically supported the building of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, thrown his weight behind the implementation of the CAA-NRC — the amended citizenship laws that take India on the path of a de jure Hindu Rashtra — and spoken on the mistreatment of Hindus and Patel leaders at the hands of the Congress. For a man who had started his public career by praising Bal Thackeray, this new discourse marks a return to the roots.

Moreover, Hardik Patel has shunned the progressive outlook regarding caste in his politics as well as his distrust of crony capitalism. He blamed the Congress for casteism in his resignation letter from the party. In his recent interviews, he has attacked the 1980s strategy of Congress — the amalgamation of Kshatriya, Harijan (Dalit), Adivasi, and Muslim (KHAM) votes under the leadership of Gujarat's first OBC chief minister, Madhavsingh Solanki. And he praised the two major industrialists of Gujarat, Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani.

Patel's trajectory epitomises the blurring of ideological frontiers in Indian politics today and, more than that, the growing opportunism of politicians whom voters cannot now trust easily when they commit themselves to principles and great causes.

While Hardik Patel's shift to the BJP may weaken the Congress in rural Gujarat, the party's attractiveness to Patel voters in that part of the state in 2017 did not result only — nor even mainly — from his influence. Generally seen as the party of Dalits, OBCs, tribals and Muslims since the 1980s, the Congress — which was largely built by

Vallabh Patel in the region — again reached out to Patels after more than 50 years. In the Saurashtra peninsula, the Congress won 2/3rds of the 48 assembly seats in 2017, almost double its tally in 2012. The party even became a spokesperson for rural Patidars in the state as 14 of its 15 Patel MLAs belonged to rural constituencies.

Hardik Patel's shift to the BJP will help the party recover in the rural part of the state — but will it be enough? Rural Patels are still at the receiving end of the economic crisis that is affecting agriculture. As we have highlighted in our writings before, including in Sharik Laliwala's paper on BJP ministers' social profiles in the Studies in Indian Politics, the pro-reservation call by Patels, who had opposed the granting of quota to OBCs in the 1980s, reflects the "jobless growth" trajectory of a highly urban-industrial Gujarat, along with increasing rural poverty. Daily wage rates in rural Gujarat are frozen. In terms of rural poverty, Gujarat ranked ninth out of 17 large states in India in 2011-12, a drop of four ranks from its position in 1993-94. Patels are badly divided along class lines, something that Christophe Jaffrelot and Kalaiyaran A's research showcases: The richest 20 per cent among Patels cornered 61.4 per cent of the community's income in 2011-12, whereas the poorest 20 per cent got only 2.8 per cent, which means that they are increasingly lagging behind the OBCs and even Dalits.

In fact, the mean income of the first quintile of Patels (Rs 6,978) was almost half the mean income of the second quintile of the SCs (Rs 11,411) in 2011-12. And the situation is worse in some parts of the state like Saurashtra, where the water from the Narmada river is yet to reach for irrigation purposes. These trends expose the futility of treating urban and rural Patels in the same way.

The BJP has remained steadfastly behind urban-industrial interests, particularly amongst Patels. For instance, the present CM, Bhupendra Patel, otherwise a novice in Gujarati politics, belongs to an urban constituency, just like the party's old Patel guard — Anandiben Patel, Nitin Patel, Kaushik Patel, Saurabh Patel, et al.

The Congress may not have any Patel face left but it may continue to capitalise on the resentment of the Gujarat peasantry and rekindle its strategy by uniting those who are losing out among the villagers in the state. In parallel, the AAP offensive in Gujarat may cut into the urban vote bank of the BJP — and this is probably one of the reasons why the ruling party needed to capture a Patel rural leader even more urgently this year.

The BJP now gets one. But for Hardik Patel, joining the BJP makes him lose his unique position, especially since today's BJP does not like leaders with their own mass base. This feature can be seen in the selection of Bhupendra Patel as the CM, who was clueless about his appointment till the very last. In fact, in his cabinet, everyone is a first-time minister.

Laliwala is an independent scholar on politics and history of Gujarat; Jaffrelot is senior research fellow at CERI-Sciences Po/CNRS, Paris, and professor of Indian Politics and Sociology at King's India Institute, London



AMITABH KUNDU

## The extent of poverty

Efforts to estimate numbers from 2011-21 must contend with absence of data

THE NATIONAL Family Health Survey has recorded that infant mortality has gone down only marginally from 40.7 to 35.2 per thousand between 2015-16 and 2019-21. The percentage of anaemic children aged 6 to 59 months, pregnant and nonpregnant women and adult males, on the other hand, have gone up. And yet, the level of poverty turns out as very low or almost negligible in the terminal year. These are no proxies for poverty since their linkages with nutritional indicators are considered tenuous and these can be explained in terms of intra-household distribution, poor dietary habits, improper water/sanitation facilities, etc. Then why is there an uproar about the working papers of the IMF and World Bank, reporting no or low poverty for India in the pandemic year or just before that?

What does the poverty index measure or attempt to capture? Its construction involves complex calculations — to identify a poverty basket of consumption, working out price indices for update of the poverty line and then applying it to the income or consumption of households for determining their poverty status. The computation becomes far more challenging in the absence of data on consumption expenditure as is the case in India and several developing countries. Intending to provide inputs for policy making, researchers have evolved ingenious methods of estimating the data, using past datasets and those that have not been designed to get robust expen-

diture estimates.

One must compliment the researchers who have taken up this challenge and consider these seriously to examine the extent to which these maintain temporal and cross-sectional comparability and, more importantly, what exactly they can convey to policymakers. A nine-member working group set up by the Planning Commission proposed the poverty line at Rs 20 per capita per month in the early Sixties, loosely ensuring the adequacy of minimum requirements. Dandekar and Rath (1970) went into detail about minimum calorie needs, based on the average consumption pattern. During the Eighties and Nineties, it was realised that this linkage is getting blurred due to changes in the consumption pattern, microenvironment for living, etc. Sukhatme argued that the emphasis on calories and nutrition is misplaced as the absorption of nutrients depends on physical health, particularly the presence or absence of gastrointestinal diseases. Water and sanitation facilities were noted as important in determining the poverty line. Minhas's exhaustive work too suggested that calorie/nutrient requirements are largely socially and culturally determined and even biological needs vary within a household. It was accepted that the state, through poverty interventions, cannot and should not try to guarantee adequate nutrition to people. The Tendulkar Committee formally announced delinking of nutritional norms from poverty in 2010.

As the transition was taking place, Lakdawala beseeched Minhas at a seminar "not to remove the pegs on which the whole poverty debate hangs". He thought that poverty has a special punch and force in policy discourse at the national and global levels because people associate it with suffering. If it is reduced to a number that is temporally and cross-sectionally comparable but lacks in the content of misery, it will cease to be an instrument to pressure the government for appropriate welfare policies.

Bhalla, Virmani and Bhasin (2022) in their IMF Working Paper have done a commendable job in developing a method of interpolation and extrapolation of the consumption expenditure of the NSS 2011-12 and building a series up to 2019-20. They use the growth rate of private final consumption expenditure (PFCE) but bring in the distributional changes by allowing household consumption to grow as per the nominal per capita income in each state. Rural-urban price differences are also introduced through separate poverty lines. The method is reasonable except that it assumes the distributions to remain unchanged both within the rural and urban segments in each state over 2014-20. One wonders if they could use other multipliers for updating, for example, the growth rate of income in the economic activity with which the household is associated. Also, the growth rates of different commodities in the PFCE are significantly different and hence

commodity-wise adjustments can be done to give higher weights to the items of consumption by the poor.

The most significant contribution of the study is its bringing in the differential engagement of the state in the provisioning of the essentials to the poor into poverty calculations. This opens up the possibility of changes in the level of state engagement in poverty estimation, including free gas cylinders, etc. However, this must be supplemented by an assessment of the disengagement of the state in social sectors such as education and health.

The paper by Roy and Weide (2022) for the World Bank explores the possibility of using CMIE in poverty calculations after correcting for the unrepresentative character of its panel data by modifying the weightages of households for aggregation. Indeed, the asset position and level of basic amenities are generally higher in CMIE samples than in more robust national sources. Happily, these adjustments carried out to remove the non-convergence of the CMIE data with other macro statistics have resulted in a poverty figure of 12 per cent. People find this more acceptable not because of the methodology but the magnitude. One does not know whether the poverty estimate would be a bit higher had the adjustments been carried out for a few other parameters and also at the state level.

The writer is senior fellow at the World Resources Institute, New Delhi

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### RIGHT STEP

THIS IS REFERS TO the editorial, 'In Ukraine's shadow' (IE, June 29). Mass movements have an inherent limitation, according to Bipan Chandra, because the masses tend to reduce their support as the consequences of long-term action become difficult to bear. This notion can be applied to the current situation created by the Ukraine war, which has dragged on for far too long. The G7 summit held in Germany and the support for Ukraine promised there is a step in the right direction. That Ukraine has managed to hold its ground somewhat against a mighty Russia owes to the fact that the West has ensured it has supplies and logistics support. The courage of the Ukrainians too cannot be denied.

Dewang Ganesh Thosar, Raigad

### BLOW TO AAP

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Signal from Sangrur' (IE, June 29). Simranjit Singh Mann's win in the Sangrur bypoll has many lessons for the AAP and other parties. Mann is still reluctant, though his party has been branded radical. The result will have an adverse effect on the poll prospects of the AAP as Sangrur had been represented twice in the Lok Sabha by CM Bhagwant Mann. The people cannot be taken for granted as the electorate can see through the tricks and rhetorical ploys of political parties.

SS Paul, Nadia

### REGULATION NEEDED

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'NITI report on gig economy: the takeaways' (IE, June 29). The Niti Aayog's Report on the gig economy is timely, as this sector has grown rapidly in the past few years and has reached a size and stature that demands some regulation and formalisation. Its problems of low wages, absence of social security, unregulated working conditions, etc. require attention and in this regard, the Code on Social Security 2020 offers a ray of hope to gig workers. It recognises them and proposes to cover them in social security schemes.

Hemant Contractor, Pune

### LONG ROAD

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Don't look at America' (IE, June 28). The US has neither a dwindling population like Poland nor an overwhelmingly Catholic population nor any Islamic taboos (like Iran does) to provide a reason for overturning the Roe Vs. Wade judgment. The novel coat-hanger protest shows the long road US has to be prepared to trudge like the Irish did in overturning a ban on abortion after Savita Halappanavar's avoidable death in 2012. Indians would do well to guard against any discrete build-up of such regressive opinions since we are not the same country of 1971 when the MTP was passed as an Act.

Raja Bandopadhyaya, Vadodara





## IN 1ST, FRANCE HOUSE ELECTS WOMAN SPEAKER

Paris: The new speaker of France's lower house of parliament — the first woman to hold the post — vigorously defended the right to abortion and called on the chamber to be "vigilant" about protecting it from reversal. The National Assembly elected Yael Braun-Pivet as speaker on Tuesday, in its first session since President Emmanuel Macron's party lost his majority in elections this month. AP

## EXPANSION OF ALLIANCE COMES AS BLOW TO PUTIN

## As Turkey drops objection, Finland and Sweden get formal NATO invite

STEVEN ERLANGER & MICHAEL DSHEAR  
MADRID, JUNE 29

NATO WEDNESDAY formally invited Finland and Sweden to join the alliance, one day after Turkey dropped its objections to their membership, clearing the way for what would be one of the most significant expansions of the alliance in decades.

The historic deal follows Turkey's agreement to a memorandum with the two Nordic countries. Russian President Vladimir Putin's efforts to weaken NATO pushed Sweden and Finland, which were neutral and nonaligned for decades, into the alliance's arms.

After weeks of talks, capped by an hours-long meeting in Madrid, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey agreed to lift his block on Sweden and Finland's membership in return for a set of actions and promises that they will act against terrorism and terrorist organizations. "As NATO allies, Finland and



NATO leaders at the summit in Madrid on Thursday. Reuters

Sweden commit to fully support Turkey against threats to its national security," NATO's secretary general, Jens Stoltenberg, said, providing some details of the agreement. "This includes further amending their domestic legislation, cracking down on P.K.K. activities and entering into an agreement with Turkey on extradition," he added, referring to the Kurdistan Workers' Party, which seeks an independent Kurdish state. NYT

## US to boost military presence in Europe

AP adds: President Joe Biden said Wednesday that the US will significantly increase its military presence in Europe, including by establishing its first permanent presence in Poland, after Russia's invasion. The White House said the US will maintain 100,000 troops in Europe, up 20,000 from the levels before the Ukraine war, for the "foreseeable future."

## NATO says Russia 'most direct threat'; Zelenskyy seeks more weapons

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
MADRID, JUNE 29

NATO declared Russia the "most significant and direct threat" to its members' peace and security, as the military alliance met Wednesday to confront what NATO's chief called the biggest security crisis since World War II. It also promised to "step up political and practical support" to Ukraine.

But Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy chided NATO for not embracing his embattled country more fully and asked for more weapons to defeat Moscow's forces.

"President (Vladimir) Putin's war against Ukraine has shattered peace in Europe and has created the greatest security cri-



Zelenskyy with Indonesian counterpart Joko Widodo in Kyiv on Wednesday. AP

sis in Europe since the Second World War," said Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg.

Zelenskyy said: "The open-door policy of NATO shouldn't resemble the old turnstiles on Kyiv's subway, which stay open but close when you approach them until you pay."

## CAPITOL RIOT HEARING



Cassidy Hutchinson, an aide to former White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, at a hearing of the committee investigating the January 6 attack on the Capitol. Reuters

## Trump wanted to join rioters, tried to grab limo steering wheel, aide says

RICHARD COWAN & MOIRA WARBURTON  
WASHINGTON, JUNE 29

DONALD TRUMP tried to grab the steering wheel of his presidential limousine on January 6, 2021, when his security detail declined to take him to the US Capitol where his supporters were rioting, a former aide testified on Tuesday.

The then-president dismissed concerns that some supporters gathered for his fiery speech outside the White House that day carried AR-15-style rifles, instead asking security to stop screening attendees with metal-detecting magnetometers so the crowd would look larger, the aide testified.

"Take the effing mags away; they're not here to hurt me," Cassidy Hutchinson, who was a top aide to Trump's then-White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, quoted Trump as saying that morning.

Hutchinson, in testimony on the sixth day of House of Representatives hearings into the deadly January 6 Capitol assault by Trump's followers, said the conversation was relayed to her by Tony Ornato, a senior Secret Service official who was Trump's deputy chief of staff for operations.

The New York Times and NBC, citing sources in the Secret Service, said the head of Trump's security detail, Robert Engel, and the limousine driver were pre-

pared to testify under oath that Trump never lunged for the steering wheel. Engel was in the room when Ornato relayed the story, Hutchinson said.

The New York Times and CNN, citing unnamed sources, said Ornato also denied the story and was willing to testify.

Citing her conversation with Ornato, Hutchinson testified that Trump struggled with Secret Service agents who insisted he return to the White House rather than join supporters storming the Capitol where Congress was meeting to certify Democrat Joe Biden's victory over him in the presidential election.

Trump's supporters were roused by his false claims that his 2020 election defeat was the result of fraud.

"I'm the effing president. Take me up to the Capitol now," Hutchinson quoted an enraged Trump as saying. She said Trump tried from the back seat to grab the steering wheel of the heavily armored presidential vehicle and lunged in anger at a Secret Service official.

Trump, a Republican, denied her account of his actions. "Her Fake story that I tried to grab the steering wheel of the White House Limousine in order to steer it to the Capitol Building is 'sick' and fraudulent," Trump wrote on Truth Social, his social media app.

In a statement, the Secret Service said it was cooperating with the committee and would continue to do so. REUTERS

## Revelations could be path toward future charges: experts

ALAN FEUER & GLENN THRUSH  
JUNE 29

KNOWING THAT his crowd of supporters had the means to be violent when he exhorted them to march to the Capitol — and declared that he wanted to go with them — could nudge Donald Trump closer to facing criminal charges, legal experts said.

"This really moved the ball significantly, even though there is still a long way to go," said Renato Mariotti, a legal analyst and former federal prosecutor in Illinois.

The extent to which the Justice Department's expanding criminal inquiry is focused on Trump remains unclear. But the revelations in the testimony to the House select committee by Cassidy Hutchinson, a former White House aide, provided new evidence about Trump's activities before the January 6 assault on the Capitol and chipped away at any potential defense that he was merely expressing views about election fraud. NYT

## TOP OF THE WORLD

LIBYA

## Europe-bound migrants feared to be drowned

Cairo: A rubber boat collapsed and sank in the Mediterranean Sea off Libya's coast, leaving at least 30 people including women and children missing and feared dead. It marked the latest tragedy at sea involving migrants seeking a better life in Europe. The vessel sank in the deadly central Mediterranean Sea route, said Doctors Without Borders. A ship operated by the group managed to rescue dozens of other migrants including some women, the charity said. A pregnant woman died on board the ship. AP

SENEGAL

## Boat capsizes off coastline, 13 migrants killed

Dakar: A boat carrying migrants trying to get to Europe capsized off the coast of Senegal, killing at least 13 people, according to local Red Cross officials. The incident happened near Kafountine in the southern Casamance area Monday night, said Djadja Sambou, an official with the Senegal Red Cross. About 150 people were on the boat and 91 people have been rescued, leaving more than 40 missing, said rescue workers. The search is continuing for any survivors or to retrieve bodies. The boat capsized after a fire on board. Officials are investigating what caused the accident. AP

## Meanwhile, Russian missiles continue to batter Ukraine

PAVEL POLITYUK  
KYIV, JUNE 29

RUSSIAN FORCES struck targets in the Mykolaiv region of southern Ukraine on Wednesday and intensified attacks on fronts across the country as NATO members met in Madrid to plan a course of action against the challenge from Moscow.

The mayor of Mykolaiv city said a Russian missile strike killed at least three people in a residential building there, while Moscow said its forces had hit what it called a training base for foreign mercenaries in the region.

In the east, the governor of Luhansk province said there was "fighting everywhere" in the battle around the hilltop city of Lysychansk, which Russian troops were trying to encircle.

The governor of Kryvyi Rih in central Ukraine said Russian shelling had increased there too



A shopping center damaged in a Russian rocket attack in Kremenchuk. Reuters

in the past few days. "Several villages have been wiped from the face of the earth," Kryvyi Rih governor Oleksander Vilkul said.

The stepped-up attacks — following a missile strike on a shopping mall killed at least 18 people in central Ukraine on Monday — come as Russian President Vladimir Putin's forces make slow but relentless progress in a war now in its fifth month. REUTERS



## POPE CONDEMNS STRIKE

Pope Francis attends the Mass of St Peter and Paul at the Vatican Wednesday. Addressing the gathering, he called the bombing of a shopping centre in Kremenchuk city the latest in string of 'barbarous attacks' against Ukraine. Reuters

## Israeli troops shoot Palestinian militant in raid in West Bank

Jerusalem: Israeli forces shot and killed a Palestinian militant early Wednesday in the occupied West Bank during clashes that broke out during an arrest raid, Palestinian officials said.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said that Mohammad Marei, 25, was wounded by Israeli gunfire near Jenin during a raid by the Israeli military and died.

The Palestinian Islamic Jihad militant group claimed Marei as one of its fighters. The Israeli military said that while troops arrested two people, Palestinians "hurled explosive devices" at soldiers, who responded with gunfire. It said a Palestinian was shot, but gave no more details. AP

## US: 2 Mexicans charged after migrants found dead in truck; toll rises to 53

JASON BUCH, JULIO-CESAR CHAVEZ & TED HESSON  
SAN ANTONIO, JUNE 29

AT LEAST 53 migrants have died after being trapped inside a sweltering tractor-trailer truck found abandoned in Texas, authorities said on Tuesday, as two Mexican nationals tied to the unprecedented smuggling tragedy were charged in US federal court.

The deceased migrants, 39 men and 12 women, most of them citizens of Mexico, were discovered on Monday in an industrial area on the outskirts of San Antonio, Texas, about 250 km

north of the US-Mexico border. Two suspects identified as Juan Francisco D'Luna-Bilbao and Juan Claudio D'Luna-Mendez, both Mexican citizens, have been charged with possessing firearms while residing in the US illegally, according to court documents and authorities.

Investigators traced the truck's vehicle registration to a San Antonio address that they placed under surveillance, and arrested the two men separately when each was seen leaving the residence. A third suspect, described as a US citizen who drove the truck, has also been taken into custody and is expected to be charged. REUTERS

## US abortion ruling 'setback', will cost lives: WHO chief

Geneva: The head of the World Health Organization Wednesday criticised the US Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade calling the decision to no longer recognise a constitutional right to abortion "a setback" that would ultimately cost lives.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said during a media briefing: "The evidence is irrefutable. Restricting (abortion) drives women and girls toward unsafe abortions resulting in complications, even death." He warned that limiting access would disproportionately hit women from marginalized communities. AP

## Philippines orders news site Rappler to shut down

SUI-LEE WEE  
JUNE 29

THE PHILIPPINE government has again ordered that Rappler, the news website co-founded by Maria Ressa, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, be shut down for violating foreign ownership rules, the latest blow against press freedom in the country.

Rappler has angered President Rodrigo Duterte for investigating his drug war, and the government has filed seven criminal cases against Ressa, relating to tax evasion, violation of foreign ownership rules and cyber libel.

In 2018 the SEC said that an investment by Omidyar



At the Rappler office in Pasig city on Wednesday. AP

Network violated the restrictions on foreign ownership.

Ressa said the Tuesday decision "effectively confirmed the shutdown of Rappler." She said her organization would continue to appeal the decision "because the proceedings were highly irregular." NYT

## World Bank agrees \$500m to help Egypt fund wheat purchases

Cairo: Egypt will receive a \$500 million loan from the World Bank to help finance its wheat purchases as prices skyrocket because of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the bank said Wednesday.

The funds, approved Tuesday, aim at supporting Egypt's efforts to provide subsidized bread to poor and vulnerable households, it said.

"This emergency operation comes at a very critical juncture when the food security of many countries is threatened by the war in Ukraine," said Marina Wes, World Bank Country Director for Egypt, Yemen, and Djibouti.

Egypt is the world's largest wheat importer. AP

## COUNTRY GRAPPLES WITH ITS WORST DROUGHT IN 70 YEARS

## Rice fields dry up in Italy's risotto heartland as drought lingers on

PAOLO SANTALUCIA  
MORTARA, JUNE 29

THE WORST drought Italy has faced in 70 years is thirsting paddy fields in the river Po valley and jeopardizing the harvest of the premium rice used for risotto.

Italy's largest river is turning into a long stretch of sand due to the lack of rain, leaving the Lomellina rice flats — nestled between the river Po and the Alps — without the necessary water to flood the paddies. "Normally this field is sup-

posed to be flooded with 2 to 5 centimeters of water, but now it seems to be on a sandy beach," said rice farmer Giovanni Daghetta, as he walked through the dying rice fields in the town of Mortara. Farmers there have been producing the famed Arborio rice for centuries: the wide grains of this local variety are perfect for absorbing the flavors of risotto dishes.

According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, drought stress is the most damaging factor for rice, especially in the early stages of its growth. Heat waves, like those repeatedly



A dried-up paddy field in Po valley. AP

hitting Italy with peaks of 40 degrees Celsius, can significantly reduce the yield of surviving rice.

"This paddy hasn't been irrigated for two weeks now, and 90% of the plants have already fully dried," said Daghetta. "The remaining 10%, that are still slightly green urgently need to be submerged with water within two or three days." But with more dry days forecast ahead, Daghetta had little hope that would happen.

The lack of rainfall has brought governors of various Italian regions to declare a state of emergency in order to conserve

water and coordinate the management of minimal resources.

The region's main water sources, the rivers Po and Dora Baltea, are eight times lower than the average seasonal levels, according to the West Sesia irrigation association, which regulates water distribution through the maze of channels which snake through the rice fields.

"From the river Po, we were supposed to receive a flow rate of 160,000 litres per second, while we currently have an approximate flow rate between 30,000 and 60,000 litres per second," said Stefano Bondesa, president

of the West Sesia association.

As a result of the water shortage, Bondesa was forced to take a few unpopular decisions, recently ruling to stop irrigating poplars, fruit trees and second crops to give priority to rice.

Tensions are starting to arise between upstream and downstream regions along the river basin and between hydroelectric plants and farmers who are all vying for the same dwindling resource. It's feared larger conflicts could be next if rainfall doesn't relieve empty Italian reservoirs soon.

Even Italy's wealthiest city is feeling the effects of drought.

The mayor of Milan signed an ordinance Saturday turning off the spigots of public decorative fountains to save water.

But most areas are continuing to worsen.

Italy's drought is threatening some \$3.1 billion in agriculture, a farm lobby said. Agricultural producers estimate loss of 30-40% of the seasonal harvest. While heat and lack of rain are to blame for this crisis, Italy has a notoriously wasteful water infrastructure that is estimated to lose 42% of drinking water from networks each year, in large part due to old and poorly maintained pipes. AP





GOLD

₹50,649



RUPEE

₹78.97/USD



OIL

\$115.54



SILVER

₹59,725

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of June 28

SENSEX: 53,026.97 ▼ 150.48 (-0.28%) NIFTY: 15,799.10 ▼ 51.10 (-0.32%) NIKKEI: 26,804.60 ▼ 244.87 HANG SENG: 21,996.89 ▼ 422.08 FTSE: 7,317.21 ▼ 6.20 DAX: 13,025.55 ▼ 206.27

International market data till 1900 IST

IF TURNOVER IS LOWER THAN ₹40L AND ₹20L FOR GOODS &amp; SERVICES, RESPECTIVELY

# No more mandatory GST registration for small online sellers, but with riders

PRANAV MUKUL & ANCHAL MAGAZINE  
NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH,  
JUNE 29

IN WHAT will benefit small online sellers, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council has cleared the proposal to waive mandatory registration of such online vendors if their turnover is lower than Rs 40 lakh and Rs 20 lakh for goods and services, respectively. This is likely to come into effect from January 1. While this move will bring parity between online and offline sellers, it is subject to certain conditions, Finance Ministry officials said.

In addition to the waiver, the GST Council also permitted com-

position dealers — those with a turnover of up to Rs 1.5 crore who pay GST at flat rates with input tax credit (ITC) — to make intrastate supplies through e-commerce companies.

These small online vendors will have to declare their Permanent Account Number (PAN), and principal place of business. Further, unregistered entities will also be restricted to declare their principal place of business only in one state, and will not be permitted to make interstate taxable supplies.

"The challenge for us in online service, a seller can sell through multiple e-commerce operators — Flipkart, Amazon, etc. We want one identity of that seller in the virtual world. So we

## EXPLAINED More players

THE REMOVAL of various compliance bottlenecks for e-commerce sellers will invite more players in the market to route their business through e-commerce websites.

will take the PAN number, do a KYC... we'll aggregate and find out that their turnover doesn't exceed the threshold," a government official said.

The recommendations to streamline these processes were

made by the GST Law Committee.

Notably, the issue of differential treatment of offline and online sellers was also flagged by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce in its report published on e-commerce sector earlier this month.

The Parliamentary Committee had observed that the mandatory registration requirement has placed additional burden on small sellers, increased the compliance and operation costs for such sellers, which negatively affected their margins. It had also said in the report that the dropout rate of online sellers was in the 60-70 per cent range — a point echoed by Vidit Aatrey, founder and CEO of social commerce platform Meesho.

He said that in 2022, around 60 per cent of small businesses looking to come online on Meesho dropped off on account of the GST requirement. He added that an estimated 5 crore MSMEs are currently unable to sell online due to compulsory GST requirements.

Flipkart Group chief corporate affairs officer Rajneesh Kumar said: "This decision by the GST Council to bring parity for sellers on e-commerce platforms... will reduce compliance burden for small businesses especially, artisans, weavers, handicraft makers, artists and home makers to access markets through e-commerce and smoothen their onboarding on these digital platforms".

INTERVIEW WITH FINANCE MINISTER, TAMIL NADU

# 'Appreciate reduction in partisanship, rise in logic'

There will be consensus on compensation issue as almost every state asked for it, says Thiaga Rajan

ALMOST EVERY state has asked for an extension of the compensation mechanism under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, Tamil Nadu Finance Minister PALANIVEL THIAGA RAJAN said. In an interview with ANCHAL MAGAZINE, Thiaga Rajan said the decision on compensation should be taken within the GST Council and there would be a consensus on bringing it if it is decided to be extended. Edited excerpts:

**Did all states demand for an extension of the compensation mechanism beyond June 2022?**

"Which state doesn't want (compensation to continue beyond June)? Karnataka and Goa asked for compensation. To the best of my knowledge, all states (want extension of compensation). I don't know of any single state that hasn't asked for extension of compensation. What marked this GST Council meeting for me, compared to others, was that I could truly see that states were talking for their states or for the broader interest. In the past, I felt maybe some of the BJP states were more interested in talking in line with what came from the leadership rather than what was in the interest of their own people.

I want to be a bit technical here. If this is truly a federal structure, if the GST Council is really the deciding authority, then on what basis can a decision be made outside the GST Council? I am just asking a mechanical question. We were all in the room. We all made some requests. It didn't come to a resolution, that's the best I can tell. Even the Union Finance Minister said in her press briefing that people (states) were heard. Now, in some sense, this is a great improvement because last time when this came up, the Finance Minister said in a press conference that there will



Palanivel Thiaga Rajan UNI file

be no extension (of compensation). But that was not agreed upon by the GST Council. That was almost a unilateral decision. Here she came and said that it has been discussed and we'll see, from what I can tell. But who will see? Does the (GST) system give the Union government a separate authority to make decisions? Or is it the GST Council that should have voted on (extension of) compensation.

I don't want to be considered a critic of it, but I want to genuinely appreciate the quality of the reduction in partisanship, increase in the logic, and that ministers seem to be speaking more in the interest of the people in a discernible way.

**Was there any clarity on when they will get back?**

No. Do you know they are going to get back? We don't know anything.

**Will the correct way be to put it up for voting?**

It should be a decision

of the GST Council.

**Should it be put up for voting?**

As the Union Finance Minister said, there has been voting only one time. Rest of the decisions have been based on consensus. And I have no doubt that there would be consensus as almost every state asked for it.

**What is the hitch in extending the compensation mechanism given the cess levy period has already been extended?**

Again I ask the question: how did they unilaterally decide to extend the cess? What the law says and what happens, there are huge gaps... if the GST Council is the supreme decision making authority, like the Supreme Court has told us what the Constitution says a statutory body like the GST Council cannot supersede the legislative powers of the elected representatives in the state legislatures and Parliament as they are Constitutional bodies. I said earlier that judgment should not have caused any real consternation, it just reaffirms that the Constitution applies.

But you look at how things work, they are not necessarily following the rules. Some of it could be just practicalities of execution, some of it could be codified in statutory terms. For example, if we all agree rate changes have happened, and they have said they will put it into effect by mid-July, by applying ordinances or passing the necessary resolution. For it to apply in our states, we have to either pass the Bills or the notifications. The odds of all 31 (states/UTs) doing it by then is close to zero. But GSTN, which is the effective implementer of the law, will change the settings on July 18 because they are told to do so...

## GST rate shakeup: Rise, fall, and exemptions gone

The GST Council on Wednesday recommended several changes to tax rates, including correction of inverted duty structure and withdrawal of certain exemptions. GST was exempted on specified food items, grains etc when not branded, or right on the brand has been foregone. Now, it has recommended withdrawal of exemption from pre-packaged and pre-labelled retail pack in terms of Legal Metrology Act, which will include pre-packed, pre-labelled food items like curd, lassi, puffed rice, wheat flour, paneer, and butter milk

**GST RATE INCREASED FROM 12% TO 18%:**

- Printing, writing or drawing ink
- Knives with cutting blades, paper knives, pencil sharpeners and blades therefor, spoons, forks, ladles, skimmers, cake-servers etc
- LED lamps, lights and fixture, their metal printed circuit boards
- Works contract for roads, bridges, railways, metro, effluent treatment plant, crematorium etc

- Machines for cleaning, sorting or grading eggs, fruit or other agricultural produce and its parts, milking machines and dairy machinery
- Tetra Pak
- Cut and polished diamonds (from 0.25% to 1.5%)

**GST RATE INCREASED FROM 5% TO 12%**

- Solar water heater and system
- Prepared/finished leather/chamois leather/composition leathers
- Works contract supplied to central and state governments, union

territories & local authorities involving predominantly earthwork and sub-contracts thereof

- Job work in relation to manufacture of leather goods and footwear
- Petroleum/coal bed methane

**GOODS AND SERVICES WHERE GST RATE DECREASED**

- Orthopedic appliance — splints and other fracture appliances; artificial parts of the body; other appliances which are worn or

carried, or implanted in the body, to compensate for a defect or disability; intraocular lens (From 12% to 5%)

- Transport of goods and passengers by ropeways (From

18% to 5% with ITC)

- Renting of truck/goods carriage where cost of fuel is included. (From 18% to 12%)

**EXEMPTIONS BEING WITHDRAWN**

- Cheques, lose or in book form (to be levied at 18%)
- Maps and hydrographic or similar charts of all kinds, including atlases, wall maps, topographical plans and globes, printed (to be levied at 12%)
- Hotel accommodation priced up to ₹1,000/day shall be taxed at 12%
- Room rent (excluding ICU) exceeding ₹5,000/day per patient charged by a hospital shall be taxed at 5% sans ITC

Note: List is not exhaustive; Compiled by ENS Economic Bureau

## BRIEFLY

### Reat new low

Mumbai: The rupee Wednesday fell 18 paise to close at a record low of 78.97 against the US dollar amid sustained foreign capital outflows, strong dollar and high crude prices. With this, the domestic unit has fallen over 6% since this January. When the rupee hit 78.98 intra-day, the RBI sold dollars to prevent further slide.

### Parekh, inflation

Mumbai: HDFC chairman Deepak Parekh hinted at the possibility of more interest rate hikes by the RBI in the wake of high inflation. "The inflation pressure may not subside soon, increasing the possibility of further hikes into FY23," he said Wednesday at the HDFC Asset Management Company AGM.

### NITI report

New Delhi: In a bid to boost green hydrogen production in India, NITI Aayog has recommended tax breaks like reduction or exemption of GST and custom duties on green hydrogen production. It also proposed setting up green hydrogen corridors and offering grants to start-ups working on green hydrogen solutions locally. ENS

### US GDP shrinks

Washington: The US economy contracted in the first quarter amid a record trade deficit, the government confirmed, but that picture is misleading as domestic demand was strong. GDP fell at a 1.6% annualised rate last quarter. Meanwhile, at a European Central Bank forum in Portugal, US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said there's "no guarantee" the Fed can tame runaway inflation without hurting the job market. REUTERS

## CABINET DECISION

# Nod for crude sale by domestic producers to any Indian refiner

New Delhi: Deregulating one of the last few avenues that were still under the government control, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday allowed firms like ONGC and Vedanta to sell locally produced crude oil to any Indian refinery for turning it into fuel.

While contracts for oilfields awarded since 1999 gave producers the freedom to sell oil, the government fixed buyers for crude produced from older fields, such as Mumbai High of

ONGC and Ravva of Vedanta. Briefing reporters after the Cabinet meet, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said from October 1, companies will have freedom to sell crude in domestic market.

This would mean that ONGC can auction its 13-14 million tonnes a year of crude produced from Mumbai High field to any refiner, including private sector Reliance Industries and Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy.

However, the ban on the export of crude oil will continue.

ONGC at present has to sell the Mumbai High crude oil to state-owned Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum. The state-run company could not sell the oil to its own Mangalore refinery, which had conceived a petrochemical complex on the premise that 5 million tonnes of Mumbai High crude could be turned into value-added PTA and Benzene. ENS, WITH PTI

# Sebi Board meet: Commodity derivatives mkt open to FPIs

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, JUNE 29

OPENING UP the Indian markets further to foreign players, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Wednesday allowed foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to trade in the commodity derivatives markets.

The Sebi Board, which met on Wednesday, took the decision to allow FPI trading in commodity derivatives at a time when FPIs are pulling out from the stock markets. The regulator said any FPI desirous of participating in Indian physical commodities can do so through the FPI route. FPIs can trade in all non-agricultural commodity derivatives and a few select broad agricultural commodity derivatives, it added.

To begin with, FPIs will be allowed only in cash-settled contracts. Sebi said position limits for FPIs (other than individuals, family offices and corporate bodies) will be at par with those presently applicable for mutual fund schemes as a client.

FPIs belonging to categories such as individuals, family offices



Sebi headquarters File

and corporates will be allowed a position limit of 20 per cent of the client-level position limit in a particular commodity derivatives contract, similar to the position limits prescribed for currency derivatives.

Currently, institutional investors such as Category III AIFs, Portfolio Management Services and mutual funds are allowed to participate in the Indian commodity derivatives market.

A Working Group comprising of representatives from the SEBI and market participants has also been constituted to review and examine whether any additional risk management measures, are required to be prescribed for FPIs. Full report on

www.indianexpress.com

## 'Dark fibre' case: NSE, Ramkrishna, 16 others fined

Mumbai: Markets regulator Sebi on Wednesday has penalised 18 entities, including the National Stock Exchange (NSE), its former managing director Chitra Ramkrishna and group president Ravi Varanasi in the 'dark fibre' case.

The Sebi has imposed penalties of Rs 7 crore on the NSE and Rs 5 crore each on Ramkrishna and Varanasi. It also levied a fine of Rs 5 crore on former NSE group operating officer Anand Subramanian. Further, it has slapped a fine of Rs 6 crore on Way2Wealth Brokers, Rs 5 crore on GKN Securities and Rs 3 crore on Sampark Infotainment. According to a Sebi order passed Tuesday, they have been asked to pay the total amount of penalty within 45 days. The case relates to the alleged differential access given to certain broking firms in the form of 'dark fibre' at NSE. ENS Full report on

www.indianexpress.com

# Comply by July 4 or lose status as intermediary: Govt to Twitter

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

THE MINISTRY of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has given Twitter "one last opportunity" to comply with its blocking orders. In a missive sent on Monday, the Ministry warned that if content flagged by it is not taken down by the microblogging platform, the company will risk losing its immunity as an intermediary.

The MeitY notice, addressed

to Twitter's chief compliance officer, said that while a designated officer of the ministry has issued various directions for blocking certain pieces of content and accounts under Section 69(A) of the Information Technology Act, the company has "failed to comply... on multiple occasions". MeitY has given Twitter until July 4 to comply with all its blocking orders, failing which it might lose its intermediary status, which will make the website legally liable for content posted by users on its

platform. Queries sent to Twitter remained unanswered until the time of going to press.

A senior government official said, "The notices sent to Twitter pertain to several cases..."

Full report on  
www.indianexpress.com

**Notice Inviting Offer**

**Sale of CBM Gas from Bokaro (ex-EPS 2)**

ONGC Ltd. on behalf of consortium of CBM Block BK-CBM-2001/1, invites offers from interested buyers for purchase of 0.01 MMSCMD CBM gas from Bokaro Block (ex-EPS 2) District Ramgarh, CBM Asset, Jharkhand. Interested parties are requested to download Request for Proposal (RFP) and Gas Sales Agreement (GSA) from <https://eps.bujunction.in/gasbidding>

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No.: 2501 Date: 29.06.2022

**NOTICE**

Computer Based Test (CBT) for the posts of Clinical Psychologist, Assistant Psychologist, Pharmacist, Nursing Officer, Tailor and Cook will be held on 09.07.2022. Intimation to all candidates has already been sent to their email address. All candidates are requested to check their email and download their E-admit card for CBT along with necessary instructions from the CIP website ([www.cipranchi.nic.in](http://www.cipranchi.nic.in)) and follow the instruction contained therein.

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Sd/-Director

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**E-TENDER NOTICE No: RWF/MOT/AMS/2022-23/07 Dated: 28/06/2022**

E-TENDER - On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer invites electronic tender in Two Packet System for the following work online through the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> (Works)

Tender No.	RWF/MOT/AMS/2022-23/07 dtd. 28/06/2022
Name of work	Outsourcing of Machining of 2100 BOXN Axles
Estimated Cost in Rs. / EMD in Rs.	5,80,26,822.00 / 4,40,100.00
Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bid	28/07/2022 at 15.00 Hrs.
Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bid	To be notified later
Completion Period	7 months

This tender notice & Eligibility Criteria can be viewed on our website [www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in).

Dy.Chief Mechanical Engineer/AP

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**TENDER NOTICE**

Competitive Tenders are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> or [www.kmmil.com](http://www.kmmil.com).

No.	Tender ID	Items
1	2022_KMML_495730_1	For Local Clearance Transportation and Forwarding of Goods from Kollam to The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd, Titanium Dioxide Pigment Unit, Chavara, Kollam, Kerala
2	2022_KMML_496743_1	For fabrication and Supply of Tickle Condenser E207A

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No: BMRCL/SPV-2 Date: 30.06.2022

**BID NOTIFICATION**

BMRCL invites sealed bids from suitably qualified, eligible, experienced and reputed firms for "DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF GRID CONNECTED ROOFTOP SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM OF 20 MW INCLUDING CIVIL WORKS AND OPERATION & MAINTENANCE FOR A PERIOD OF 25 YEARS FOR BMRCL UNDER RESCO MODEL" under Single stage, Two envelope system. Cost of bid documents (non-refundable): INR 59,000/- [50,000+9,000 (GST@18%)]. Online sale of Documents: From 30.06.2022 until midnight of 21.07.2022. Submission of bids: 10.08.2022 from 11.00 Hrs. (IST) to 15.00 Hrs. (IST). Opening of bids: 10.08.2022 at 15.30 Hrs. (IST). For further details visit our website: [www.bmrcl.co.in](http://www.bmrcl.co.in)

Sd/- Managing Director

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Container Corporation of India Ltd. shall be auctioning scrap items, empty damaged containers and unclaimed/uncleared imported cargo landed at the terminals of Area 1 and Area 4, those containers arrived on or before 31.03.2021 through e-auction on 15.07.2022 & 30.07.2022 on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS". All details along with Terms & Conditions of auction sale & cargo details will be available on [www.concorindia.co.in](http://www.concorindia.co.in) & [www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com) w.e.f. 01.07.2022 & 18.07.2022. All importers including Government Undertakings/Departments whose containers/goods are lying unclaimed/uncleared and falling in the said list uploaded in website at respective terminals, because of any dispute, stay by Court/Tribunal/others or any such reason may accordingly inform the concerned Executive Director at Area 1 and Area 4 CONCOR as well as Commissioner of Customs of the concerned Commissionaries, and file their objections/claims regarding disposal of such goods within 7 (Seven Days) of this notice failing which the goods will be auctioned on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" without any further notice. For full details please log on to [www.concorindia.co.in](http://www.concorindia.co.in) & [www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com)

Executive Director, Area 1





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

## Better road safety measures could save half a million lives annually worldwide: study

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
PUNE, JUNE 29

NEW GLOBAL and country-level estimates suggest that routinely wearing helmets and seat belts, obeying speed limits, and avoiding driving drunk could save between 347,000 and 540,000 lives worldwide every year.

The benefits of more motorcyclists wearing helmets would be the biggest in China, where 13,703 lives could be saved every year, followed by Brazil (5,802 lives), and India (5,683 lives), says the study published in *The Lancet*.

Analysis of data from 74 studies in 185 countries estimates that targeting four key risk factors for road injuries and deaths (speeding, drink driving, and non-use of crash helmets and seat belts) could prevent between 25% and 40% of all fatal road injuries worldwide every year.

Interventions to reduce speeding such as infrastructure changes and electronic speed control could save an estimated 347,258 lives globally each year, while measures to tackle drunk driving such as enhanced drink driving enforcement could save a further 16,304 lives, the study says. An estimated 121,083 and 51,698 lives

could be saved by passing and enforcing rules on wearing seat belts and motorcycle helmets respectively.

Improving seat belt use would have a particularly large effect on reducing road deaths in the United States (saving an estimated 14,121 lives every year) and China (13,228). Tackling speeding would be the single most effective measure to reduce road fatalities in most countries, preventing an estimated 88,374 deaths in China, 1,027 in Spain, and 815 in the United Kingdom.

The Lancet Series on road safety, published ahead of the first ever UN High-Level Meeting on Road Safety, calls for increased political and financial commitments, and for road safety to be included in mainstream development policies. It argues that this is essential to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the target to halve road traffic crash fatalities and injuries by 2030.

Deaths on roads are a major problem in India. Each year road accidents kill about 150,000 people and injure another 450,000 in the country. The World Bank noted in a report this month that with only 1 per cent of the world's vehicles, India accounts for almost 10 per cent of all crash related deaths.



PAPER CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

## THIS WORD MEANS

### CAPSTONE

NASA's satellite, newly launched. It will test a unique lunar orbit that will be used by future missions

ON WEDNESDAY, NASA launched CAPSTONE, a microwave oven-sized CubeSat weighing just 55 pounds (25 kg). CAPSTONE, short for Cislunar Autonomous Positioning System Technology Operations and Navigation Experiment, is designed to test a unique, elliptical lunar orbit.

The satellite, launched on Rocket Lab's Electron rocket from the Rocket Lab Launch Complex 1, is heading toward an orbit intended in the future for Gateway, a Moon-orbiting outpost that is part of NASA's Artemis program.

As a pathfinder for Gateway, CAPSTONE aims to help reduce risk for future spacecraft by validating innovative navigation technologies, and by verifying the dynamics of the halo-shaped orbit.

The orbit is known as a near-rectilinear halo orbit (NRHO). It is significantly elongated, and is located at a precise balance point in the gravities of Earth and the Moon. This offers stability for long-term missions like Gateway, NASA said on its website.

At the Moon, CAPSTONE will enter NRHO, where it will fly within 1,600 km of the Moon's North Pole on its near pass and 70,000 km from the South Pole at its far-



Artist's impression of CAPSTONE in lunar sunrise. NASA/Daniel Rutter

thest. The spacecraft will repeat the cycle every six-and-a-half days and maintain this orbit for at least six months to study dynamics.

CAPSTONE will gain experience with small dedicated launches of CubeSats beyond low-Earth orbit, to the Moon, and beyond, NASA said.

The spacecraft is currently in low-Earth orbit. It is attached to Rocket Lab's Lunar Photon. SOURCE: NASA

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# Udaipur killers and Da'wat-e-Islami: the group, its ideology and its growth

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN & ZEESEHA SHAIKH  
CHENNAI, MUMBAI, JUNE 29

THE DA'WAT-E-ISLAMI (Del), the group to which Rajasthan police have linked Ghouse Mohammad who killed tailor Kanhaiyalal in Udaipur on Tuesday, is a Sunni Barelvi proselytising group that was founded in Pakistan four decades ago. It has chapters in several western countries. The Da'wat-e-Islami in India, based in Mumbai, is a break-away Sunni group and has no links to the Del Pakistan.

Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), the Barelvi group that has demonstrated its rallying ability and street power several times since 2016 on the issues of blasphemy and the finality of the Prophet, draws its inspiration from the Del.

Many Del members are now said to be part of Labbaik, which came up in 2015.

The Labbaik mobilised its cadres in 2020-21 to demand that Islamabad must cut off diplomatic relations with France over the Prophet cartoons controversy. It contested elections in 2018 and won two seats in the Sindh Assembly.

In January 2011, when Mumtaz Qadri, the police bodyguard, shot dead Salman

Taseer, Governor of Pakistan's Punjab province, police said he had links to the Dawat-e-Islami. An AFP report had quoted Del spokesman Mahmood Ahmed Attari as saying he had no information about whether Qadri belonged to his party. He said Dawat-e-Islami members are moderate followers of the Barelvi sect of Sunni Islam and do not believe in agitation or protest demonstrations.

Labbaik grew out of a movement to free Qadri, and gained followers rapidly after he was judicially executed for the killing of Taseer.

Formed in 1981, the Del was the Barelvi response to what the Sunni sect saw as a virtual Deobandi takeover of Islam during a period that Pakistan was actively aiding Islamic radicalism and jihadism funded by the Saudis and armed by the US for the first Afghan War against the Soviet Army.

The jihadi tanzeems were built in Deobandi mosques and were schooled in Deobandi teachings. The Pakistan military's training and backing to such groups gave the Deobandi image a huge shot in the arm, much to the concern of the Barelvi Sunni leadership in Pakistan. After the Soviet



Ghouse Mohammad and Mohammad Riyaz, Kanhaiyalal's killers

withdrawal, the Deobandis contributed to the emergence of the Taliban and their extreme interpretation of Islam.

Muhammad Ilyas A'war Qadiri, the founder of Del, was born in 1950 in a Kutchi Memon family in Karachi. His parents hailed from Junagarh in undivided India. He modelled the Del on the same lines as the Tableeghi Jamaat (TJ), the influential transnational Deobandi missionary group that was formed in 1921. Like TJ, Del sends followers on long tours of duty on missionary work and holds jitmata or congregations at different places. Like the TJ, it also focusses on tableegh, the quest for inner spiritual re-

form and through this, the reform of society. But Del and TJ differ in ideology, theology and doctrine. Del members are distinguishable by their green turban, representative of the green dome of the Prophet's Mosque at Medina.

TJ itself disavows affiliation to any political ideology and denies links to the violent jihadist movements that took birth in Pakistan in the 1980s and 1990s. But the flurry of post-9/11 counter-terrorism investigations in the first decade of this century revealed that many radicalised individuals had overlapping membership with TJ.

Before the killing of Taseer, Del was a low-profile organisation. But that incident and the higher profile of the Barelvis in recent years due to the activities of the TLP, and its apparent proximity to the Pakistan Army on and off, have thrust it into the limelight.

"The Del has exactly the same relationship with Labbaik that the Tableeghi Jamaat has with Lashkar e Jhangvi and other Deobandi groups," said Ayesha Siddiqi, the Pakistani author and commentator. "Many Del have joined Labbaik now."

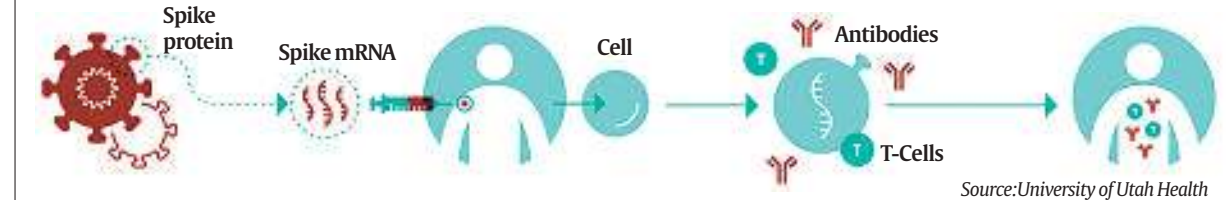
The Barelvis are close to 50% of

## SIMPLY PUT

# India's mRNA Covid vaccine

GEMCOVAC-19, given restricted emergency use approval, is not only the country's first mRNA Covid vaccine but is also tailored for Indian needs, and can be stored in a standard medical refrigerator.

## How mRNA vaccines work



Source: University of Utah Health

**ANY VACCINE** targeting a specific infection aims to train the immune system to recognise the pathogen that causes that infection. In this case, the target is SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19.

**TRADITIONAL VACCINES** use either a weakened or inactivated virus, or just an important piece of the virus. For Covid-19, traditional vaccines use the spike protein

**mRNA VACCINES** do not inject the virus or a part, but rather enables the body itself to make a part. Covid-19 mRNA vaccines inject mRNA (messenger mRNA) that teaches the body to make the spike protein.

**BOTH PLATFORMS** serve the same purpose. The immune system will target the spike protein, and will recognise the spike if and when actual infection happens.

**THE ADVANTAGE** of mRNA vaccines is that smaller dose is required, given that the antigen (spike protein) will be created inside the body itself.

**mRNA VACCINES**, however, are fragile and need to be stored at ultra-low temperatures, below zero, to prevent them from breaking down. The Gennova vaccine is an innovation in this respect: it can be stored in a standard medical refrigerator.

place by a process called lyophilisation or freeze drying, which involves freezing the product and subjecting it to vacuum to remove the water (converted from its ice state to water vapour state by a process called sublimation). This is a challenging task as under normal atmospheric pressure ice transforms to liquid water before going to the gaseous state. To achieve the conversion of ice to water vapour so that it can be removed, the surrounding pressure and temperature has to be tweaked and then kept stable in a manner that the characteristics of the vaccine are the same as before lyophilisation.

"We performed hundreds of trials before arriving at the right formulation and right condition to ensure a heat-stable mRNA vaccine," Dr Singh said. Lyophilisation technology is not new, but a lyophilised mRNA vaccine is unique.

### Trials and safety

The thermostable vaccine was tested in various animal models to ensure its safety and immunogenicity before entering human clinical trials. Phase 1 and 2 trial data across 480 participants was submitted first, followed by presentation of data from Phase 3 trial across 4,000 participants to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).

During the Phase 3 trials, 3,000 participants

were administered mRNA Covid-19 vaccine and 1,000 were given Covishield. According to officials at Gennova, the trial data showed that the vaccine was safe and well tolerated. Immunogenicity measured at 2 weeks after the second dose showed that GEMCOVAC-19 is not inferior to Covishield, they said.

The two-dose vaccine will have to be administered intramuscularly, 28 days apart.

### Omicron and other variants

The process of developing an mRNA vaccine specific to India took one-and-a-half years. Additionally, the team designed an mRNA vaccine against the Omicron variant which took barely 60 days. This technology platform provides flexibility to quickly tweak the vaccine for any existing or emerging variants.

"A pandemic-ready platform technology has been created that can be used to quickly develop a vaccine should a variant-of-concern emerge due to the rapid mutation of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Clinical trials need to be done to ascertain the effectiveness of the GEMCOVAC-19 against Omicron and sub-variants," said Dr Singh, who had worked on malaria vaccines at the US-based National Institutes of Health.

For the Omicron-specific vaccine, designed for use as a booster, a short clinical trial will be conducted and a protocol submitted to the

Drugs Controller General of India.

"The approval of the nation's first mRNA vaccine will pave the way to the development of new-variant-specific mRNA vaccines that can be used as future booster doses. It was absolutely necessary to establish the safety and immunogenicity of the new vaccine platform technology in the Indian population," Dr Singh said.

### Rollout and availability

Gennova already has a licence to manufacture for sell from the CDSCO.

Gennova Biopharmaceuticals Chief Operating Officer Samit Mehta said talks are underway with the government on whether they would like to procure and deploy or whether the firm can reach out to the private market. On pricing, he added: "Compared to our peers, we will be competitive."

Authorities at Gennova said they are in talks with at least 25-30 countries that had evinced interest in the new vaccine.

"Gennova produced 70 lakh doses taking a risk... Now that we have received the EUA, we can ship the material soon after completing all formalities. The current production capacity is around 40-50 lakh doses per month which will be upgraded to two-three-fold soon," Dr Singh said.

# History and legend of the Amarnath yatra

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JAMMU, JUNE 29

JAMMU AND KASHMIR Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the 2022 Amarnath yatra in Jammu on Wednesday. Pilgrims will set off from the Pahalgam and Baltal base camps on Thursday, and the yatra will continue for 43 days until August 13.

The yatra to the cave shrine of Lord Shiva high up in the Himalayas of south Kashmir is among the country's most revered pilgrimages, made by hundreds of thousands of people every year. The cave is at 3,888 m above sea level, and can be reached only on foot or by pony. Pilgrims travel 46 km from Pahalgam or 16 km from Baltal along a steep mountain trail.

The yatra has returned after two years of disruption caused by the pandemic, and is the first since the constitutional changes of 2019.

Multi-layer security arrangements have been put in place for the yatra.



Lakhs of pilgrims trek to the cave shrine every year. Praveen Khanna/Archive

### Legend of the shrine

According to legend, when Lord Shiva decided to tell Parvati the Amar Katha, he chose the Amarnath cave. The cave is believed to have been discovered in 1850 by a Muslim shepherd named Buta Malik who, while grazing his herd in the mountains, came across a Sufi saint who gave him a bagful of coal. When Malik returned home and opened the bag, he found it

was full of gold. He ran to the mountains to thank the saint but could find no one.

What he found instead, was the cave and its famous ice *lingam*. Believed to represent Lord Shiva, the lingam is formed by a trickle of water from a cleft in the roof of the cave. As the water drips, it freezes to form a stalagmite.

The *lingam* gets its full shape in May every year, after which it begins to melt. On the left of the *lingam* are two smaller ice stalagmites, representing Parvati and Lord Ganesh.

### The history of yatra

There is no official record of when the yatra formally began. The family of Buta Malik remained the traditional custodian of the shrine, along with Hindu priests from the Dashnami Akhara and Purohit Sabha Mattan. This turned Amarnath into a symbol of communal harmony and composite culture.

In 2000, the government of CM Farooq Abdullah intervened in the organising of the yatra, saying facilities needed to be improved.

The Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board was formed with the Governor at its head, and Malik's family and the Hindu organisations were evicted. This streamlined the yatra, but also did away with one of its most unique features.

### Threats to the yatra

In 1993, the Pakistan-based Harkat-ul-Ansar announced a ban on the yatra. Local militant groups did not back the ban, and the yatra progressed unhindered through the years of peak militancy.

Amarnath yatris were targeted for the first time in 2000, when 25 people, including 17 pilgrims, were killed in a militant attack on the Pahalgam base camp. Several yatris were killed in big and small attacks over the next two years.

There were no major incidents after 2002.

In July 2017, seven pilgrims were killed in an attack on their bus. Days later, the government told Lok Sabha that 53 pilgrims had been killed and 167 injured in 36 terror attacks on the yatra in the last 27 years.

it used to be earlier.

To understand how the blasphemy issue has radicalised Barelvisim, consider that the Sunni Tehreek (now a political party called Pakistan Sunni Tehreek), which started off with a slogan about protecting its mosques — *Jawaniyan bacheingai, masjidain bachayeingai* — now uses the rallying cry "*tauheen rasalat ki ek hi sazaa, tan sey sar juda*" (beheading is the only punishment for anyone who insults the Prophet).

### Del today

Based in Karachi, the group is now present across the world. It runs a television channel called the Madani channel, charitable organisations and trusts.

In 1992, the Mumbai-based India chapter of the Dawat-e-Islami broke away from its Pakistani moorings as it differed on the replication of the TJ model. The head of the Indian branch, Maulana Mohammed Shakir Ali Nuri, started a separate organisation which he named the Sunni Da'wat-e-Islami in Mumbai.

The accused in the Udaipur case are said to have ideological affiliations with the Pakistani wing as both use the word Attari after their names, after Del leader Muhammad Ilyas Attar Qadri. This is a practice followed by members of the Pakistani based organisation.



## Classifieds

### PERSONAL

**IT IS FOR GENERAL INFORMATION THAT I, TEJINDER SINGH, SON OF LATE SHRI R. S. SAHRAWAL, RESIDING AT, HOUSE, NO. B-5/16, SAFDARG ENCLAVE, NEW DELHI-110029, DECLARE THAT NAME OF MY WIFE HAS BEEN WRONGLY WRITTEN AS POONAM SINGH IN MY PAY PENSION ORDER (PPO) NO. 13120180631 DATED-08.02.2018 THAT ACTUAL NAME OF MY WIFE IS JAI POONAM SINGH.** 0040620558-10

**I, Vishal Singhal S/o Satish Kumar, R/o House- No-1605 Sector-4, Gurgaon-122001 Haryana, have changed my minor daughter name Sanvi Singhal to Saanvi Singhal Permanently.** 0040620503-3

**I, Vinod Kumar S/o-Satbir R/o, H.No.3, Near-panchayat Ghar, RAJOKRI, South-West Delhi-110038, have changed my name to Vinod Yadav, for all Purposes.** 0040620557-9

**I, Tushar Shanker Srivastava, S/o-Udai Shanker Srivastava, R/o, D-703, Btech-Park View-City-2, Sector-49, South-City-2, Gurgaon, (Haryana)-122018, have changed my Minor-Son's name, from Vivaan Thakur Srivastava to Vivaan Shanker Srivastava.** 0040620561-6

**I, Supriya Pallavi D/o Anup Kumar, R/o Hno.258, Jagriti Enclave Delhi-110092 have, changed my name to Supriya Pallavi Srivastava for all, purposes.** 0040620561-10

**I, Sona D/o-Rajendra kumar Sinha, W/o Avinash Rai, R/o, A-45/23, DLF Phase-1, Behind DT Mega Mall, Gurgaon (Haryana)-122022, have changed my name to Sona Rai, for all Purposes.** 0040620557-8

**I, Satrudhan S/o-Lakhan Shah, R/o-N-41/E-230, J.J.Colony, Suraj-Park, Badli, Delhi-110042, have changed my name to Satrudhan Shah, for all purposes.** 0040620557-10

**I, Sarbjit Singh S/O-Tara Singh Sodhi R/O-WZ-313, GB-3, 3rd-Floor, G-Block, Hari Nagar-Extn Delhi-110064, have changed my name to Sarabjeet Singh.** 0040620548-5

**I, Sandeep Kumar S/o Shri.Namhe Lal R/O-H.No.C-1179 Daba Colony NIT Faridabad, have Changed my name from Sandeep Kumar Gupta to Sandeep Kumar, for all future purposes.** 0040620503-1

**I, SIVUDHA SRIVASTAVA, W/O AMIT SRIVASTAVA, R/O R-091, DLF-CAPITAL GREENS, 15, SHIVAJI MARG, MOTI NAGAR, DELHI-110015, have changed my name to SIVUDHA SETHI.** 0040620557-6

**I, SURIYA BEGUM W/O MOHD ASLAM, H.NO-513, GALI MATIA MAHAL, JAMA MASJID, DELHI-110066, have changed my name to SURIYA BEGUM.** 0040620561-2

**I, Ravi Bharat Singh, S/o Bharat Singh, R/o Staff Quarter Red MIG Flats, Rajouri Garden, N.D-27, have changed my minor daughter Child Name, from Priyanka Ravi Singh to Priyanka.** 0040620566-2

**I, Raveena Bedi, D/O-Prabh Jyot Singh Bedi, R/O, House.No.275, 2nd-Floor Kailash-hills, east-of-kailash, New-Delhi-110065, have changed my minor Son name, from Abeer Rangrez to Abeer Bedi, for all, future purposes.** 0040620557-5

**I, Prem Kumari and Prem Kasturia w/o V K Kasturia r/o Ground floor, 15/19, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060 are names of one and same person.** 0040620506-1

**I, Raveena Bedi, D/O-Prabh Jyot Singh Bedi, R/O House.No.275, 2nd-Floor Kailash-hills, east-of-kailash, New-Delhi-110065, have changed my minor Son name, from Aatik Rangrez to Aatik Bedi, for all, future purposes.** 0040620557-4

**I, Ranjan Kumar Thakur, S/o Manoj Kumar Thakur, R/o 1152 Khori Kalan, Mewat, (Haryana)-122105, have changed my name to Ranjan Kumar Sharma, for all purposes.** 0040620566-4

**I, Quazi Asma Parveen Iqbal Ahmed, w/o Sajid Ajmal Khan, R/o, B-501, Sangli Apartments, Copernicus-Marg, New Delhi-110001, have changed my name to Asma Sajid Khan, permanently.** 0040620561-1

**I, Prerna Kumari D/o Bimlesh Kumar Thakur, R/o-95/96 Gali.No-21, RK-Block Bhagwati Garden-Extension D.K.Mohan-Garden, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Prerna Thakur Permanently.** 0040620503-2

**I, Parveen Kumar Ahluwalia S/O Jai Kishan Ahluwalia R/O, H.No-174, 2nd-Floor, G-22, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Praveen Kumar Ahluwalia.** 0040620561-7

**I, Shabnam, W/o Mohammad Naushad, R/O H.No.44, Bazaar Masjid Wali Sarai, Bulandshahr, have changed my name to Shabnam Parveen.** 0070792503-1

**I, Lal Gourav S/O Prem Kumar, R/O Panchsheel greens1, C4-901, Greater Noida West-201009, have changed my name to Lal Gaurav.** 0040620566-3

**I, Parveen Bahi, S/o Madan Lal Bahi, R/o H.No-94, Sector-4, Urban Estate, Gurgaon (Haryana)-122001, have changed my name to Parveen Kumar Bahi, for all purposes.** 0040620557-12

**I, Mukesh Agarwal, S/o-Ram Kumar Agarwal R/o H-19/33, Third-Floor, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Mukesh Agarwal, for all purposes.** 0040620548-9

**I, Meena Banchariya W/o Sujan Singh R/o 89, Khirzabad, Post office-Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that both the names, MEENA BANCHARIYA and MEENA DEVI, are indicating and referring myself as the same and one identical person.** 0040620544-1

**I, Mayank Bahi, S/o Parveen Kumar Bahi R/o, H.No-94, Sector-4, Urban Estate, Gurgaon (Haryana)-122001, have changed my name to Mayank Kumar Bahi, for all purposes.** 0040620557-11

**I, Manjeet Singh Bhogal, S/O Devender Singh Bhogal R/O-T-563/1-A, FF, Gali No-2 Baljeet Nagar New-Delhi-8, have changed my name to Manjeet Singh.** 0040620548-4

**I, MOHAMMAD Umar Farooq, S/O Late.Davender Kumar Sharma, R/O flat.no.43, ground.Floor, jaipuria-enclave kausambi I.E-sahibabad-Ghaziabad uttar.pradesh-201010, have changed my name and shall hereafter be KNOWN as ANURAG SHARMA.** 0040620548-7

**I, MEENAKSHI AHUJA W/O JITENDER AHUJA R/O DP-68-69, SECOND-FLOOR, DDA FLATS, PITAMPURA, DELHI-110034, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MEENAKSHI.** 0040620561-8

**I, Joga Singh S/o-Jagat Singh Bisht R/O-T-39A, KH.No.109/A, GALL.NO. 11, RAJAPURI, UTTAM NAGAR, DELHI-110059, have changed my name to Jagdish Singh Bisht.** 0040620548-6

**I, GEETA DUREJA W/O JEETINDER KUMAR ARORA, H.No.177, G.F HARGOBIND ENCLAVE DELHI-110092, have changed my name to GEETA ARORA, Permanently.** 0040620548-1

**I, Fakir S/o-Lutf Ali R/O-Rc 820, Gali No-7, Ekta Marg, Deepak Vihar, Khora Colony, Ghaziabad-201309 have changed my name to Mohd. Fakhir for all purposes.** 0040620493-1

**I, DINESH KUMAR, S/O BHAGWAT PRASAD R/O-HOUSE, NO.79, SECTOR-19, FARIDABAD, HARYANA-121002, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DINESH KUMAR SINGHAL, FOR ALL PURPOSES.** 0040620548-3

**I, DHEER SINGH CHAUDHARY S/O RANJEET SINGH R/O-70 PAVI SADAPUR PAVI SADANPUR GHAZIABAD UP-201102, CHANGED MY NAME TO DHEER SINGH.** 0040620566-6

**I, Ashok Kumar S/o Gangadhar Sah, R/O H.No.79, Gali.No.4, Block-C, I.P.Burari North Delhi-110084, Have Changed my name to Ashok Kumar Sah** 0040620558-9

**I, Arvinder Singh Gumber S/o Harbans Singh Gumber R/o H.No.1393 (F.F) Sec-46, Gurgaon Haryana, have changed my name to Arvinder Singh.** 0040620557-2

**I, Anjali Verma W/o Mohit Srivastava R/o Hno.258, Jagriti Enclave Delhi-110092, have, changed my name to Anjali Srivastava for all, purposes.** 0040620561-11

**I, Anita Nagyal, daughter of, Late Lt.Col. Jai Singh Chaudhary, resident of, 206, Saral Apartment, Plot.No.15, Sector-10, Dwarika, New Delhi, had changed my name to Anu Nagyal and my date-of-birth is-07/07/1975.** 0040620566-5

**I, Anil Kumar, S/O Jaswant Rai, R/O, H.No-222, State-Bank of India-colony Paschim-Vihar, New Delhi-110063, have changed my name to Anil Munjal.** 0040620548-8

**I, Ameer Faiyaz, S/O Md. Faiyaz Ahmad, R/O-Flat No.1702, 17th-Floor, Tower-B, SDS NRI Residency, Greater Noida, UP-201310, have changed my name to Ameer Meezan, for all future purposes** 0040620566-1

**I, ASHOK KUMAR S/O KRISHAN LAL R/O B-336, LOK VIHAR, PITAMPURA, DELHI-110034, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ASHOK BUDHIRAJA.** 0040620561-9

**I, Yogesh Kumar, S/O Chhtrata Pal Singh, R/O Farm No-10, Beriwal Farm Dera, South Delhi-110074, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Yogesh Thakur.** 0070792519-1

**I, Yogesh Chandra, S/O-Sh Rakeshi Pal Singh, R/O-Village-Jitauli, PO-Jitauli, Dist.-Etah, U.P., have changed my name to Yogesh Chand Yadav for all future purposes.** 0040620559-1

**I, Monika bhaita, W/o- yash bhaita, House no-168, sector-7 gurgaon haryana 122001, Changed my name to monika bhaita.** 0040620566-11

**I, Rajendar Kumar, S/O Rughveer, R/O Flat No-1802, Angel Mercury, Ahinsa Khan-2, Indirapuram, Shipra Sush C, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201014, have changed my name to Rajendar Godara.** 0070792545-1

**I, Vishesh Arora Pradeep, S/O Pradeep Kumar Arora, R/O V-13/2, DLF Phase-3, Gurgaon-122002 (Haryana) have changed my name to Vishesh Arora.** 0070792531-1

**I, Vika Devi Alias Beefa Devi Alias Beeta, D/o Ramker and W/o Rajesh Ram, R/O Post Sherpur, Village Sherpur, Sadar, Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh-276001, have changed my name to Beefa.** 0070792548-1

**I, Sudhir Alias Sudhir Kumar, S/o Shyam Ji Lal, R/O Notting Hills, Old Delhi Gurgaon Road, Haryana-122001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sudhir Kushwaha.** 0070792517-1

**I, Shshnavaz, S/O Mohd Abrar, R/O House No. 10-B/7A, Gali No-1, Akhara Wali Gali, Bajrangbali Mohalla, Garhi Mendu, North East Delhi-110053, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Mohd Shahnavaz.** 0070792512-1

**I, Pratigya (01.03.1978) W/O DS-12214H Lt. Col. Manoj Pandey R/O H.No.-25, Phase-7, Tricone City, Patiala, Punjab, have changed my name to Pratigya Kumari (01.03.1978) for all future purposes.** 0040620565-1

**I, Neelam Gaur, D/O-Tejibhan Gaur, W/o Mr.Rakesh Kumar, R/O,RZ-B-9, Laxmi-Garden, Main-Uttam-Nagar-Road, Najafgarh, South-West, Delhi-110043, have changed my name to Neelam.** 0040620561-4

**I, Mohan Lal Sharma S/O Sh. H. L. Mohan R/O J-26A, Gali No.34, Chanakya Place, West Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Mohan Sharma for all purposes.** 0040620502-1

**I, Manish, S/O-Dharmveer Singh, R/O-H.No.3, Gali No.1, Block-A, Satyam Vihar, PH-2, Bapraula, West Delhi-110043, have changed my name to Manish Ruhil for all future purposes.** 0040620559-2

**I, Chintu Tomar, S/o Ranveer Singh, R/o Shadipur, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh-202137, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Abhishek Tomar.** 0070792521-1

**I, ARSHIYA, D/O, NAUMAN AHMAD, ADD-956, GALI CHANDI WALL, NEAR NEW-DELHI RAILWAY STATION MOHLAH MANTOLA PAHARGANJ SWAMI-RAM TIRTH-NAGAR CENTRAL DELHI-110055, changed my name to ARSHIYA KHANAM. Permanently.** 0040620548-2

**I, Gurjit Singh Dhingra S/O Santokh Singh, R/O I-1768 Ground Floor C.R. Park, New Delhi 110019 declares that I have lost a file containing Builder-Buyers Agreement, handing Over/taking over of Commercial Flat No.713, Hemkunt Chambers, 89 Nehru Place, New Delhi 110 019. A FIR is registered online vide LR No. 542413/2022 dated 29.6.2022. If anybody found these documents may please contact me within 30 days of publication of this notice on the above given address or call me at: 9810001098**

**I, Sudhir Alias Sudhir Kumar, S/o Shyam Ji Lal, R/O Notting Hills, Old Delhi Gurgaon Road, Haryana-122001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sudhir Kushwaha.** 0070792517-1

**I, Shshnavaz, S/O Mohd Abrar, R/O House No. 10-B/7A, Gali No-1, Akhara Wali Gali, Bajrangbali Mohalla, Garhi Mendu, North East Delhi-110053, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Mohd Shahnavaz.** 0070792512-1

**I, Pratigya (01.03.1978) W/O DS-12214H Lt. Col. Manoj Pandey R/O H.No.-25, Phase-7, Tricone City, Patiala, Punjab, have changed my name to Pratigya Kumari (01.03.1978) for all future purposes.** 0040620565-1

**I, Neelam Gaur, D/O-Tejibhan Gaur, W/o Mr.Rakesh Kumar, R/O,RZ-B-9, Laxmi-Garden, Main-Uttam-Nagar-Road, Najafgarh, South-West, Delhi-110043, have changed my name to Neelam.** 0040620561-4

**I, Mohan Lal Sharma S/O Sh. H. L. Mohan R/O J-26A, Gali No.34, Chanakya Place, West Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Mohan Sharma for all purposes.** 0040620502-1

**I, Manish, S/O-Dharmveer Singh, R/O-H.No.3, Gali No.1, Block-A, Satyam Vihar, PH-2, Bapraula, West Delhi-110043, have changed my name to Manish Ruhil for all future purposes.** 0040620559-2

**I, Chintu Tomar, S/o Ranveer Singh, R/o Shadipur, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh-202137, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Abhishek Tomar.** 0070792521-1

**I, ARSHIYA, D/O, NAUMAN AHMAD, ADD-956, GALI CHANDI WALL, NEAR NEW-DELHI RAILWAY STATION MOHLAH MANTOLA PAHARGANJ SWAMI-RAM TIRTH-NAGAR CENTRAL DELHI-110055, changed my name to ARSHIYA KHANAM. Permanently.** 0040620548-2

**I, I have changed my son's name from Shubham to Shubham Singh for all future purposes. Jagvir Singh, S/O Mahipal Singh, R/O Flat No.-308, Silverbell, Shalimar City, Loni Wazirabad Road, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201005.** 0070792550-1

**ISONIA, D/O Dev Kumar, R/o 4179, Sector B/5, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070, have changed my name to SONIA HAYAT.** 0040620531-1

**I, R. Sankeerthana Alias Sankeerthana Ramesh D/o Sh. Ramesh Koottala R/O C-3, Type-3, DRDO complex, Lucknow Road, Timarpur, North Delhi, Delhi-110054 have changed my name to Sankeerthana Ramesh for all purposes.** 0040620495-7

**I, Lalita Kumari W/O, Bhoop Singh Sehrawat R/O Pocket 2 Flat 18 Sector 23 Rohini Delhi 85 have changed my name to Pinki Sehrawat for all purposes.** 0040620532-1

**I, Inderjeet Kaur W/o Vijay Singh R/O A-35 (U.G.F)Janakpuri Delhi, have changed my name to Inder Kaur.** 0040620557-3

**I, Geeta Raj W/o Mulakh Raj R/O House No. 166, Sector-14, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201012, declare that after marriage I had changed my name from Geeta Rani to Geeta Raj for all purposes.** 0040620509-1

**I, Tushar Shanker, S/o-Udai Shanker Srivastava, R/O.Flat.No.703, Tower-D, Btech-Park View-City-2, Sector-49, South-City-2, Gurgaon, (Haryana)-122018, have changed my name to Tushar Shanker Srivastava.** 0040620561-5

**I, SUFIA BANO, W/O, FAIZUL HASAN, H.NO-91/2, WARD.NO-7 PATEL-NAGAR TAURU, MEWAT NUH HARYANA 122105, Changed my name to SUFIYA BANO, permanently.** 0040620557-7

**I, Dhruv S/o-Ramesh Kumar, R/O K-16 Krishna-Park Extension Street.No.13 New Delhi-110018, changed my name to Dhruv Gaba.** 0040620561-3

**I, Manjeet Kaur W/O Partap Singh R/O 2/314 Subhash Nagar Delhi, have changed my name to Manjit Kaur.** 0040620557-1

**I, Arvind Dwivedi S/o Yamuna Prasad Dwivedi and Anju Dwivedi W/o Arvind Dwivedi, have lost my conveyance Deed Page no-9, certified NO-GOM2018K538 in Plot no.1695, sector-23-2/3 A, Gurgaon Haryana-122017. Finder please call 919958900244**

**I, SUFIA BANO, W/O, FAIZUL HASAN, H.NO-91/2, WARD.NO-7 PATEL-NAGAR TAURU, MEWAT NUH HARYANA 122105, Changed my name to SUFIYA BANO, permanently.** 0040620557-7

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**I, Gurjit Singh Dhingra S/O Santokh Singh, R/O I-1768 Ground Floor C.R. Park, New Delhi 110019 declares that I have lost a file containing Builder-Buyers Agreement, handing Over/taking over of Commercial Flat No.713, Hemkunt Chambers, 89 Nehru Place, New Delhi 110 019. A FIR is registered online vide LR No. 542413/2022 dated 29.6.2022. If anybody found these documents may please contact me within 30 days of publication of this notice on the above given address or call me at: 9810001098**

**I, Sudhir Alias Sudhir Kumar, S/o Shyam Ji Lal, R/O Notting Hills, Old Delhi Gurgaon Road, Haryana-122001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sudhir Kushwaha.** 0070792517-1

**I, Shshnavaz, S/O Mohd Abrar, R/O House No. 10-B/7A, Gali No-1, Akhara Wali Gali, Bajrangbali Mohalla, Garhi Mendu, North East Delhi-110053, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Mohd Shahnavaz.** 0070792512-1

**I, Pratigya (01.03.1978) W/O DS-12214H Lt. Col. Manoj Pandey R/O H.No.-25, Phase-7, Tricone City, Patiala, Punjab, have changed my name to Pratigya Kumari (01.03.1978) for all future purposes.** 0040620565-1

**I, Neelam Gaur, D/O-Tejibhan Gaur, W/o Mr.Rakesh Kumar, R/O,RZ-B-9, Laxmi-Garden, Main-Uttam-Nagar-Road, Najafgarh, South-West, Delhi-110043, have changed my name to Neelam.** 0040620561-4

**I, Mohan Lal Sharma S/O Sh. H. L. Mohan R/O J-26A, Gali No.34, Chanakya Place, West Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Mohan Sharma for all purposes.** 0040620502-1

**I, Manish, S/O-Dharmveer Singh, R/O-H.No.3, Gali No.1, Block-A, Satyam Vihar, PH-2, Bapraula, West Delhi-110043, have changed my name to Manish Ruhil for all future purposes.** 0040620559-2

**I, Chintu Tomar, S/o Ranveer Singh, R/o Shadipur, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh-202137, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Abhishek Tomar.** 0070792521-1

**I, ARSHIYA, D/O, NAUMAN AHMAD, ADD-956, GALI CHANDI WALL, NEAR NEW-DELHI RAILWAY STATION MOHLAH MANTOLA PAHARGANJ SWAMI-RAM TIRTH-NAGAR CENTRAL DELHI-110055, changed my name to ARSHIYA KHANAM. Permanently.** 0040620548-2

**I, I have changed my son's name from Shubham to Shubham Singh for all future purposes. Jagvir Singh, S/O Mahipal Singh, R/O Flat No.-308, Silverbell, Shalimar City, Loni Wazirabad Road, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201005.** 0070792550-1

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**I, Lalita Kumari W/O, Bhoop Singh Sehrawat R/O Pocket 2 Flat 18 Sector 23 Rohini Delhi 85 have changed my name to Pinki Sehrawat for all purposes.** 0040620532-1

**I, Inderjeet Kaur W/o Vijay Singh R/O A-35 (U.G.F)Janakpuri Delhi, have changed my name to Inder Kaur.** 0040620557-3

**I, Geeta Raj W/o Mulakh Raj R/O House No. 166, Sector-14, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201012, declare that after marriage I had changed my name from Geeta Rani to Geeta Raj for all purposes.** 0040620509-1

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SALUTE THE SOLDIER



ON THE 18th RAISING DAY OF THE SIXTY THIRD BATTALION, RASHTRIYA RIFLES (BIHAR REGIMENT), WE PAY HOMAGE TO SEP SHAILESH KUMAR, SC, WHO EMBRACED MARTYRDOM TO PROTECT THE NATION AND TO BRING GLORY TO THE REGIMENT

Your gallantry will continue to inspire us forever. We, the fraternity of The Bihar Regiment salute you and your families.

The Bihar Regiment Association

WESTERN RAILWAY

UPGRADATION OF BHUJ STATION

Dy. Chief Engineer (C), Gandhidham invites E-Tender for the following work: E-Tender No.: Dy.CE(C)GIM/NBVJ/EPC/01. Name of Work: "Major upgradation of New Bhuj Station of Western Railway".

Approx. cost of Work: Rs. 179,87,54,507.07-Bid Security: Rs. 89,93,800/- Last date of Request for Bid Document: 25.08.2022 up to 15.00 Hrs. Bid Due date: 25.08.2022 up to 15.00 Hrs.

Physical submission of all documents listed in Clause No. 2.11.2: 30.06.2022 at 15.00 Hrs. Opening of Technical Bids: 25.08.2022 at 15.30 Hrs.

Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office: www.ireps.gov.in Dy. Chief Engineer (C), Western Railway, Gandhidham.

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"IMPORTANT"

Whistling care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice Invitation of Tenders through (E-Procurement System)

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., Tender No., Brief Description, Qty., Closing Date. Items include TORSION SPRING WITH STEEL SPRING, HIGH VOLTAGE FUSE RATING 125A, LOW MAINTENANCE LEAD ACID STATIONARY SECONDARY CELL, AXLE BOX BEARING, ENDLESS V BELT FOR RAILWAY COACHES SIZE C-122.

Note: 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No manual offer will be entertained. Tender Notice No. 24/2022-2023 Dated: 28.06.2022

Serving Customers With A Smile

Section I Office of the Executive Engineer U.P.R.E.D. Division Bareilly

Letter No: 777 /RED/Tender/File/ Bond Clerk/2022-23 dated: 25-06-2022 The Executive Engineer, U.P.R.E.D.DIVISION BAREILLY on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids through e-tendering system from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP RED, in appropriate class A, B, C, D and E as the case may be. The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works

1. Name of work as per table.

Table with 6 columns: S. No, Name of District, Name of work, Total estimated cost (in Lakh), Bid security (EMD) in Rupees, Cost of Bid document including GST (in Rupees), Period of completion including rainy season. Lists various construction works in Bareilly district.

3. Date of availability of Bid document in the offices: 17-07-2022 to 19-07-2022 (11.00. AM to 4.00 pm) 4. Last Date/Time for receipt of bids: 20-07-2022, 12.00 Noon 5. Place of receipt of bid: Office of the EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, DIVISION BAREILLY 6. Date of opening of bids: 20-07-2022 at 12.30 PM

For further details please contact the employer office i.e. office of the Executive Engineer U.P.R.E.D. Second floor, Vikas Bhawan, Bareilly. (R.K Ojha) Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Department Division Bareilly On behalf of Governor of UP

UTTARAKHAND JALSANSTHAN OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MAINTENANCE DIVISION, NEW TEHRI

Letter No- 931/E-tender - JJM / 2022-23/30 Date: 28-06-2022

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING e-Tender Notice

Executive Engineer, Maintenance Division, Uttarakhand Jalsansthan, New Tehri on behalf of "Chief General Manager Uttarakhand Jalsansthan" online tenders are invited on the website http://www.uktenders.gov.in from experienced and eligible bidders having adequate technical and financial capability and experience for water supply scheme as specified in bid document for following water supply project in District Tehri Garhwal in Two bid system as per description & schedule given below for the construction of following works:-

Table with 5 columns: Bid ID, District, Name of Work, Amount of Earnest money 2% in (lac), Cost of e-tender document, Comp. Period. Item: Construction of all civil and E&M works consisting of dry intake well, rapid gravity filter type water treatment plant, supplying, laying & jointing of APIMSER/WGI heavy/medium pipes in rising main, gravity main and distribution system, pump house and staff quarter, clear water sumps/ reservoirs with complete installation, testing, commissioning of pumping plants along with all other appurtenant works, including survey, design /checking of design of different structures/ pipe line etc complete including, 6 months maintenance under Jalcur pumping W/S scheme at Pratnagar (Tehri Garhwal)

Table with 2 columns: Date of Calling, Date of Online Publication, Pre Bid Meeting, Bid Submission Start Date, Bid Submission End Date, Physical submission of Bid Document, Date of Technical Bid Opening. Dates range from 28/06/2022 to 15/07/2022.

Executive Engineer

Maharashtra Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (MRIDC) Notice Inviting E-Tender MRIDC/PROJ/E-TENDER/CSB/GHATKOPAR/2022/174. Construction of Cable Stayed Road Over Bridge (ROB) at existing ROB location between EP/19/156 and EP/20/1 between Ghatkopar and Vikhroli Station in Mumbai Division of Central Railway.

UJVN LTD. H.O.: 'UJJWAL', Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006. Letter No. 381 e-Tender Notice Dated 29.06.2022. Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil-Maintenance), Yamuna Bhawan, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun, invites online bids from interested parties.

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LIMITED Corporate I.D. No. UA40109UP2001SGC02587/2163. DATE EXTENSION OF e-TENDER NOTICE. In reference to this office e-tender specification no. 02/SE (MM)/2022-2023 for supply of different size of Copper Strip/Wire for repair/manufacturing of 250 to 400 KVA distribution transformers under Executive Engineer, Electricity Workshop Division, Dehradun at Workshop Dehradun, Roorkee and Rishikesh etc.

UJVN Limited H.O.: 'UJJWAL', Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006. e-TENDER NOTICE Dated: 28.06.2022. The office of Executive Engineer (Maintenance), Maneri Bhali Stage-II, Chinyalsaur (Uttarkashi) invites online bids from interested parties.

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (Regd. Office:- PSPCL Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001) E-Tender Enq. No. 387/P-3/EMP-W-12006 dated 24.06.2022. Dy Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2022.POWER/87322.1 for the work of loading of material from transporter's godown/Railway Station, Loading/ unloading, Checking, Counting and stacking of material at O&M stores, Shifting and Restacking of scrap material, preservation of material during storage, transfer of material from one Store to another Store Keeper and all other activities associated with handling of storage of material at GGSSTP, Rupnagar.

निविदा सूचना दिनांक 28/06/2022. निविदापत्र नं. 01/2022. मुद्रितकरण के लिए कार्यालय निवास आयुक्त (हस्तकर्म) वरुण भन्साल, भारत सरकार द्वारा संगठित 50 इन्टरनेशनल को Hand Embroidery Craft में फुल ऑपरेटिव सटिंग मशीन along with stand and foot pedal as per BIC specification No. IS14769/2003. Embroidery round frame small, medium, large (8", 10", 12"), Tracing paper sheet, Zari needles for kasab 1 laar, 2 laar, 3 laar, 8 laar, Pencil HB & B. Powder for tracing, Steel scale (1 ft & 2 ft), Measuring tape (tailor), Scissor (Big & Small), Thread trimmer, Seam ripper, Zanzori needles 9 upto 12 no., Pattern cloth, Finger (stitchle) कानूनी हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

URBAN ADMINISTRATION & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

No. 01/2022-23 Date: 27.06.2022 Proposals are invited from qualified & experienced firms for selection of consultant for preparation of Detailed Project Report and a Project Management Consultant (PMC) for execution of Sewerage/Water Supply scheme of various ULB's Information Docket cup RFP form can be downloaded from Website: http://uad.cg.gov.in/ while submitting downloaded docket a demand draft of Rs. 10000.00 (Rs. Ten Thousand only) in favour of Director UAD, Naya Raipur, payable at Naya Raipur shall be submitted.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF DELHI Office of the Director, (Horticulture)-III, Horticulture Department, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor Block E-1, Dr. S.P. Mukherjee Civic Centre, New Delhi-110002. NOTICE INVITING TENDER Online Open Tenders are invited under single stage-Two Bid system from experienced and financially sound eligible firms as per NIT No. DDH/HQ/II/NT/2022/011 dated 28.06.2022 for the work of 'Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Hi-Tech Nursery at Roshanara Bagh under Horticulture Dept. Tender Cost Rs. 1000/- EMD Rs. 71000/- Estimated cost Rs. 35.50 lacs. Date of Download & Bid Submission is w.e.f. 30.06.2022 to 11.07.2022 upto 03.00P.M.

NORTHERN RAILWAY PUBLIC NOTICE

Ms. Shanti Devi (M/s Pooan Devi), Catering Contractor, Meerut Railway Station R/o 840, Sotiganj, Meerut is hereby advised to present herself at the SS Office, Meerut City Railway Station or to the office of undersigned and state the reason for non operating the catering units (5 trolleys) at Meerut City Railway Station since June 2020 to till date. Several letters & notices have been served to you, but in vain as you have not operated the units & cleared your dues till date.

SEARCH OF MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo), Namely: Komal, D/o: Sunil Kumar, R/o: H.No. E-6/5, Gali No. 03, Sadatpur Extn., Delhi Aged: About 19 years, has been missing from her house 24.04.2022. In this regard a case DD No. 77-A Dated 26.04.2022, has been lodged at P.S. Khajuri Khas, Delhi. Her physical description is as under: Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'5" Feet, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Green Colour Top, Grey Colour Pant and Hawaii Chappal in Feet.



Komal

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person whose name, residence and family is unknown, about 45-50 years of age was found dead on P.F. No. 11/13, Pole No. 24, Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi on 27.06.2022 at 08:30 AM. In this regard DD No. 16A dated 27.06.2022 has been registered at P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. The description of the UIDB is as under: Sex: Female, Age: About 45-50 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Sallow, ID Mark: Tattoo on right hand 'Manoj Geetha', Wearing: Pink T-shirt and Pink Salwar.



S.H.O

DELHI JAL BOARD: DELHI SARKAR OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER (M)-10

TENDERING DIVISION (M)-10 ROOM NO. 103, 1st FLOOR, ENGINEERS BHAWAN, NEAR MOOL CHAND CROSSING, ANDREWS GANJ, NEW DELHI-110049. Mail:- eem10.djb@gmail.com. Mob:- 9650291341

Government of Jharkhand Department of Panchayat Raj

NOTICE FOR INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI) Subject: Expression of Interest for Empanelment of Non Governmental Organizations as agencies to support in implementing the training programmed of the elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and functionaries of the Panchayati Raj Department. To nurture the Panchayati Raj Institutions as a grassroots democratic institution and to enable those institutions to function effectively for achieving SDGs and other development objectives requires comprehensive capacity building efforts.

URBAN ADMINISTRATION & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

No. 01/2022-23 Date: 27.06.2022 Proposals are invited from qualified & experienced firms for selection of consultant for preparation of Detailed Project Report and a Project Management Consultant (PMC) for execution of Sewerage/Water Supply scheme of various ULB's Information Docket cup RFP form can be downloaded from Website: http://uad.cg.gov.in/ while submitting downloaded docket a demand draft of Rs. 10000.00 (Rs. Ten Thousand only) in favour of Director UAD, Naya Raipur, payable at Naya Raipur shall be submitted.

निविदापत्र प्राप्त कराने के लिए निविदा सूचना दिनांक 28/06/2022. निविदापत्र नं. 01/2022. मुद्रितकरण के लिए कार्यालय निवास आयुक्त (हस्तकर्म) वरुण भन्साल, भारत सरकार द्वारा संगठित 50 इन्टरनेशनल को Hand Embroidery Craft में फुल ऑपरेटिव सटिंग मशीन along with stand and foot pedal as per BIC specification No. IS14769/2003.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING OPEN TENDER

On Line (E-Tendering) Danapur Division (Engineering Dept.) The Divisional Railway Manager, E.C. Railway, Danapur is inviting online (E-Tendering) Open Tender for and on behalf of the President of India from reputed contractors with experience, financial capability including those registered /working with Railway /Irrigation /CPWD /MES or any other public sector undertaking for the following works:- Tender Notice No. : W-7/E-Tender/07/ Open/DNR/2022-23 Item No. : 1. Name of the Work with its location: CTR (P) work of at Km. 67.394 to 75.000, 76.850 to 81.200 and 83.250 to 85.000 = 13.706 Kms. in PNBE-GYA section under the section of ADEN/JHD..



## Australia in control after Lyon five-for against Sri Lanka

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
GALLE, JUNE 29

NATHAN LYON took his 20th five-wicket haul to bowl Sri Lanka out for 212 before Australia reached 98-3 at stumps Wednesday on the opening day of the first cricket test.

Sri Lanka's off-spinner Ramesh Mendis dismissed David Warner (25) lbw and had Marnus Labuschagne (13) caught by Asitha Fernando in Australia's innings to finish the day on 2-35. Steven Smith was run out for 6 after a mix-up with Usman Khawaja, who refused to run after calling Smith for a single. Khawaja was batting on 47 with Travis Head on 6 at stumps. Earlier, Lyon returned bowling figures of 5-90 and leg spinner Mitchell Swepson had 3-55 to help Australia bowl Sri Lanka out to a modest score.

On Wednesday Lyon went past former New Zealand great Richard Hadlee's wicket tally of 431 to position himself 12th on the list of highest test wicket takers. "I am not really sure where I stand on that list something I don't really look at," he told reporters. "The top end of the wicket takers across world cricket has some amazing names. To be overtaking a few guys on whatever number it may be it's very special, something I am very proud about." Niroshan Dickwella top scored for Sri Lanka with 58, his 21st test half-century. He added 42 runs for the sixth wicket with Angelo Mathews (39) after Sri Lanka lost five wickets for 97 runs, and 54 runs for the seventh wicket with Mendis (22).

Sri Lanka opted to bat first after winning the toss and resumed its innings after tea at 19:16. Lyon trapped Mendis lbw with just two runs added to the teatime score to end his partnership with Dickwella. Dickwella edged Lyon to wicketkeeper Alex Carey and Lyon had Lasith Embuldeniya (6) as his fifth wicket. Earlier, he dismissed Dimuth Karunaratne (28) and Angelo Mathews (39), both caught by David Warner. Australia's second spinner Mitchell Swepson took two consecutive wickets in the 37th over with identical deliveries.

The leg spinner got the first delivery of the over drifting toward right-handed Dananjaya de Silva's leg stump and the bouncing ball took a fine outside edge for a catch to wicketkeeper Carey. Dinesh Chandimal was dismissed first ball when the ball turned, bounced and rebounded to Warner at second slip from wicketkeeper Carey's glove.

**Brief Scores: Sri Lanka:** 212 all out in 59 overs (Niroshan Dickwella 58, Angelo Mathews 39; Nathan Lyon 5/90, Mitchell Swepson 3/55) vs **Australia:** 98/3 in 25 overs (Usman Khawaja 47 batting, David Warner 25; Ramesh Mendis 2/35).

## Chopra eyes elusive Diamond before World Championships

Olympic gold medallist will aim to win his first Diamond League event at Stockholm tonight

NIHAL KOSHIE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

THE ANTICIPATION is building around star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra's quest for a medal at the World Championships in Eugene next month. If the first Indian track and field athlete to win gold at the Olympics also becomes World Champion, it will mark the pinnacle of his career and the first time any male has held both the titles simultaneously since Norway's Andreas Thorkildsen way back in 2009. Thorkildsen followed in the footsteps of the legendary Czech Jan Zelezny, a three time Olympic champion who completed the double when he won gold at the Worlds in 2001 after winning the Summer Games title a year earlier.

Chopra has ambitious plans for this year and it includes a tilt at Diamond League glory, a series of one-day events that last just two hours each introduced in 2010 to promote athletics across the world.

The athlete with the most points at the end of the Diamond League cycle held at 12 different venues - men's javelin features in four - and the final at Zurich gets a diamond trophy and \$40,000. But above all the Diamond League Champion gets boasting rights of being the most consistent athlete. Within days of the curtain coming down on the Worlds, Chopra, 24, will be back on the runway in Birmingham to defend his Commonwealth Games gold. His schedule is packed as three days after the end of the CWG, he is to be at Monaco for the Diamond League event.

The principality on the Mediterranean coast is an important stopover for Chopra on the Diamond League calendar and pulling out will diminish his chance of being a Diamond League Champion.

Chopra has said he will decide on travelling to Monaco depending on how his body feels in Birmingham. That call is almost a month away.

On Thursday night, the Diamond League in Stockholm is where Chopra's quest to make the cut for this year's final in Zurich begins. At the Olympic Stadium in the Swedish capital he also gets an opportunity to tick a box. He has never won a Diamond League competition in seven previous attempts. He had qualified for the final twice and 7th (83.30 metres) in 2017 and fourth (85.87m) a year later.



Neeraj Chopra will aim for consistency in the Diamond League cycle held at four venues before the final at Zurich. *Twitter*

### CHOPRA IN DIAMOND LEAGUE

Venue	Distance	Pos.	Date
Monaco	78.92m	7 <sup>th</sup>	Jul 2017
Paris	84.67m	5 <sup>th</sup>	Jul 2017
Zurich*	83.80m	7 <sup>th</sup>	Aug 2017
Doha	87.43m	4 <sup>th</sup>	May 2018
Eugene	80.81m	6 <sup>th</sup>	May 2018
Rabat	83.32m	5 <sup>th</sup>	July 2018
Zurich*	85.73m	4 <sup>th</sup>	Aug 2018

\* Diamond League Final

After Stockholm, Chopra has lined up Monaco (August 10) and Lausanne (August 26) as his next two Diamond League stops.

Stockholm presents an interesting battle as it will be the first time the current Olympic medalists - Chopra and Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch (silver) and Vitezslav Vesely (bronze) go head to head at the same competition since the Summer Games in Tokyo.

Apart from the two Czechs, Chopra will also have to contend with Grenada's Anderson Peters, the defending world champion. Peters has a season best and personal best of 93.07 metres but finished be-

hind Chopra at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Turku and Kuortane Games. There will also be the towering presence of Finland's Oliver Helander. The six-foot four-inch tall 25-year-old beat Chopra to gold at Turku and is a dark horse at the World Championship as his personal best of 89.93 metres makes him a medal contender. Chopra's good friend and the biggest star before the Tokyo Olympics Johannes Vetter is not in the fray. Vetter has participated in only one event this season in Offenburg in May and the big question is around his form going into the World Championships.

Chopra has been throwing smoothly in the two competitions he has entered in so far. At Turku, he won a silver and set a new national record of 89.30 metres. Four days later in slippery conditions at Kuortane he won the gold with 86.69 metres. Chopra had slipped awkwardly but avoided injury.

"Tough conditions with the weather but happy to get my first win of the season here at Kuortane. I'm feeling good and looking forward to kicking off my Diamond League season at @BAUHAUSGALAN on the 30th," Chopra had tweeted after Kuortane.

A maiden victory for Chopra in his first Diamond League event in nearly four years will be a perfect prep up for the World Athletics Championships.

## Djokovic sails through, third seed Ruud bows out

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WIMBLEDON, JUNE 29

YET ANOTHER of the highest-ranked players on the men's tour is out of the tournament at Wimbledon. Novak Djokovic or Rafael Nadal are not among them. Casper Ruud, the runner-up to Nadal at this year's French Open, became the seventh of the top 11-ranked male players to be out of the grass-court Grand Slam for either losing early, injury, illness or being banned. Ruud, who was seeded third but ranked sixth, lost to Ugo Humbert of France 3-6, 6-2, 7-5, 6-4 on Wednesday in the second round.

Djokovic, a six-time Wimbledon champion who is looking for his fourth straight title at the All England Club, beat Thanasi Kokkinakis of Australia 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 to reach the third round. Nadal advanced to the second round on Tuesday. The third-ranked Djokovic, No. 4 Nadal, No. 5 Stefanos Tsitsipas and No. 7 Carlos Alcaraz are the only players in the top 11 remaining in the draw. Top-ranked Daniil Medvedev is out because of a ban on Russians over the war in Ukraine. No. 2 Alexander Zverev is injured, No. 8 Andrey Rublev of Russia is also banned, No. 9 Felix Auger-Aliassime and No. 10 Hubert Hurkacz lost, and No. 11 Matteo Berrettini withdrew after testing positive for COVID-19. In the women's tournament, second-seeded Anett Kontaveit and 2017 Wimbledon champion Garbiñe Muguruza were also eliminated. Kontaveit lost to Juke Niemeier of Germany 6-4, 6-0, while the ninth-seeded Muguruza was beaten by Greet Minnen 6-4, 6-0. Kontaveit said she had COVID-19 and has struggled to get her energy back.

"I had it a couple, two months ago, I think, or something like that. Then I tried to come back very quickly. I started training. It was low intensity, but I was still training every day. I think that was where I went wrong," the 26-

year-old Estonian said.

### Serena crashes out

Serena Williams began - and ended - her comeback at Wimbledon after 364 days out of singles competition looking very much like someone who hadn't competed in just that long. She missed shots, shook her head, rolled her eyes.

In between, there were moments where Williams played very much like someone whose strokes and will have carried her to 23 Grand Slam titles. She hit blistering serves and strokes, celebrated with arms aloft.

Returning to the site of her last singles match, which she had to stop after less than a set because of an injury on June 29, 2021, and seven of her major championships, the 40-year-old Williams came within two points of victory. But she could not finish the job against an opponent making her Wimbledon debut and bowed out with a 7-5, 1-6, 7-6 (10-7) loss to 115th-ranked Harmony Tan of France. "It's definitely better than last year," Williams said. Asked whether this might have been her last match, Williams replied: "That's a question I can't answer. I don't know... Who knows? Who knows where I'll pop up?"

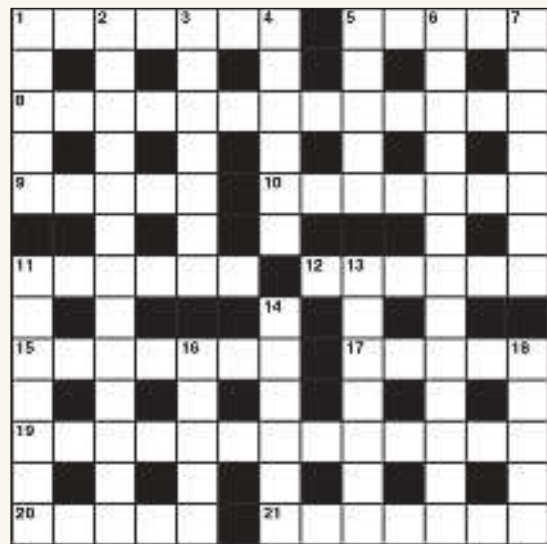
**Key Results : Second Round : Men's Singles:** 1- Novak Djokovic (Serbia) bt Thanasi Kokkinakis (Australia) 6-1, 6-4, 6-2; Ugo Humbert (France) bt 3-Casper Ruud (Norway) 3-6, 6-2, 7-5, 6-4; David Goffin (Spain) bt 31-Sebastian Baez (Argentina) 6-1, 6-1, 6-4

**Women's Singles:** Juke Niemeier (Germany) bt 2-Anett Kontaveit (Estonia) 6-4, 6-0; Greet Minnen (Belgium) bt 9-Garbine Muguruza; 15-Angelique Kerber (Germany) bt Magda Linette (Poland) 6-3, 6-3.



Third seed Casper Ruud lost to Ugo Humbert 3-6, 6-2, 7-5, 6-4. *Reuters*

### CROSSWORD 4781



#### ACROSS

- 1 Stop in a few bars (7)
- 5 Good place for a date? (5)
- 8 Physical training manuals? (8,5)
- 9 He broke all the commandments (5)
- 10 Give one the right to name a film for example (7)
- 11 He is in highest command (6)
- 12 Is deep perhaps but may be detected (6)
- 15 Allege the little devil has taken every one (7)
- 17 Neighbourhood call about nothing unusual (5)
- 19 What the toucan did was adequate (6,3,4)
- 20 Legal acts? (5)
- 21 Thwarts the new mistress who loses her head (7)

#### DOWN

- 1 Rhubarb he bottled in spirit (5)
- 2 Finds out if beatings are regular (5,3,5)
- 3 Make a legal charge (7)
- 4 Made a home for a good man in want (6)
- 5 Go round in high circles (5)
- 6 Manages to get round current problems (5,8)
- 7 Force one to hang about instead of going to work (7)
- 11 Given instruction in law (7)
- 13 Joins as senior on board (7)
- 14 More like the snow I threw out? (6)
- 16 The regions are as follows (5)
- 18 Still producing cheerful songs (5)

Solutions Crossword 4780: Across: 1 Juicy, 8 Straw hat, 9 Alert, 10 Endanger, 11 Affix, 12 Yes, 16 League, 17 Player, 18 Nes, 23 Sides, 24 Parmesan, 25 White, 26 Reserved, 27 Smelt. Down: 2 Uplifted, 3 Carriage, 4 Stance, 5 Kayak, 6 Thigh, 7 Story, 12 Yen, 13 Ape, 14 Radio ham, 15 Pedestal, 19 Enamel, 20 Sport, 21 Press, 22 Petri.

### JUMBLD WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

Cats don't like \_\_\_ without their \_\_\_ - Roger A. Caras (6,.,7)

R T A E E	I O U C N N
R N O S T	A E U C C H

ANSWER: CATS DON'T LIKE CHANGE WITHOUT THEIR CONSORT - ROGER A. CARAS  
SOLUTION: EATER, SNORT, NUNNO, CAUCHE

### OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



### CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



### MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



### SUDOKU 4881

Difficulty Level 1s  
Instructions  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level  
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



### SOLUTION SUDOKU 4880



### DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

#### ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Your tough, uncompromising nature is to be stimulated today, yet in a pleasantly practical manner. The only indications of muddle occur around early morning, the middle of the day and the beginning of the evening, but you'll survive any problems unscathed.

#### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

The Sun is placing pressure on your chart, a clear enough indication that you should take things one at a time. If you're a professional Taurean, then you really must take care of private complications first, before you deal with public obligations.

#### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You are standing on the brink, pulled between two vital Gemini qualities. You can be terribly logical and discreet, but you also have a tendency to open your mouth and put your foot in it at the slightest excuse. There must surely be a middle way.

#### CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Partners are bound to raise certain obstacles, but these shouldn't be seen as unwelcome. If partners come up with advice which is at first impression rather upsetting, don't be dismayed, but look for the deeper truth. The real facts might offer reassurance.

#### LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

New planetary pressures indicate that money is likely to flow through your fingers like water. However, the situation is quite complex, and new funds will appear to replace those which have disappeared into the ether. As the cosmic law states, what goes round, comes round.

#### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Think ahead and realise that the prospects of a shock, a surprise, or a complete turnaround at work, are increasing by the hour. It's difficult to be specific, but whatever is about to happen will affect your long-term security, hopefully for the better.

#### LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

The Moon is in a cautious zone of the zodiac, and I am sure that you will take your responsibilities seriously, but the self-indulgent consequences of tomorrow's solar battle are already stirring in the more enjoyable regions of your psyche.

#### SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

For one who is supposed to be so private, all the current planetary pressures are urging you to live your life in public, just as soon as you give the word, all the skeletons will come tumbling out. You'd better have a good story prepared.

#### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

Family members are looking over your shoulder - and domestic spending moves up the agenda, but only temporarily. It therefore follows that if property deals, rental agreements or major investments are current, you should move fast to secure a favourable outcome.

#### CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

You should judge financial matters very carefully, and if you have any doubts about the wisdom of a particular purchase or investment, hold off until after the weekend. You may be feeling slightly vulnerable emotionally, so take the necessary safeguards.

#### AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Lunar alignments expose you to exploitation by others, and it may indeed be right for you to perform a few favours. Yet, you would also be justified in being a little selfish and putting up your defences against people who just don't know where to stop.

#### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

It has to be said that you can never tell who is going to be useful for you, and who is not. Make a point of socialising today and you might develop some fabulous contacts for the future. Also, take the lead and talk to a partner, rather than allowing them to pretend that there's nothing amiss.



## India survive Irish scare to take T20 series 2-0

SRIRAM VEERA  
JUNE 29

IT CAME down to 17 runs from the final over and the choices in front of Hardik Pandya included either bowling himself, giving Axar Patel a go, or trusting young Umran Malik. Unfortunately, or so it seemed initially for Ireland, the wrong batsman was on strike. Not the rampaging George Dockrell whose blitz had almost brought India to their knees, but lower-order batsman Mark Adair.

Two dot balls came as Malik produced two pacy length deliveries but the second one was a no-ball. Adair then smashed two successive boundaries – a scythe through point, and the good-old outer edge, and took a single to bring Dockrell on strike.

With 7 needed from 2, and the game on the line, Malik produced his best ball of the match, a screaming yorker that just missed the stumps as the batsmen ran for a bye. Adair could only get a single off the last ball, a short-of-length delivery outside off and India won. Hardik smiled, and Malik blew a kiss to the skies. Dockrell winced because he knew he had missed a great chance to pull off a heist.

But before Dockrell, it was Paul Stirling. It was him who started the audacious Irish assault on India's 225. Third ball of the chase, he moved across to an inswinger and short-arm jabbed a stunning six over midwicket. Next ball was the outswinger, but Stirling was ready; this time the burly batsman let his hands go through the line, covering for the swing, and tapping it up and over cover.

The next one disappeared to backward square-leg before he scythed one through cover point as four boundaries flowed in the over.

In came Hardik Pandya with a bouncer, that was thrown back from beyond the fine-leg boundary. Couple more boundaries came and it was clear that Ireland weren't going to go down wondering. Sterling certainly wasn't. He pulled off an incredible straight six off leggie Ravi Bishnoi – off the back foot over the bowler's head, and even as he made contact with the ball, he sort of side-stepped away to the leg side without even looking at the ball.

Though he fell that over, missing a googly, he had lit the fire and one after another, his teammates kept it burning brightly.

**Brief scores:** India 225/7 (Hooda 104, Samson 77; Adair 3/42) beat Ireland 221/5 (Balbirnie 60, Stirling 40, Tector 39, Dockrell 34 not out) by 4 runs

## Rohit not ruled out of fifth Test yet: Dravid

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY  
JUNE 29

HEAT IS on and Rahul Dravid has started the mind games. Two days before the commencement of the fifth Test at Edgbaston, the Indian team head coach chose to give away nothing, ostensibly to keep the opponents on tenterhooks.

The buzz before Dravid's press conference on Wednesday was Jasprit Bumrah's elevation as stop-gap captain, in Covid-affected Rohit Sharma's absence. The head coach was asked about the update on Rohit and whether Bumrah would be leading the side against England. "Update on Rohit is that he is monitored by our medical team and we still got 36 hours to go. He is not yet ruled out. He will have a test tonight and in the morning to see if he is available. Of course, he will have to return negative to play the Test," Dravid said.

As regards to Bumrah leading the side, he passed the buck to the selection committee. "It's better that the communication comes from official sources. Once we have some clarity on Rohit, they will take a decision."

Of course, Dravid and the Chetan Sharma-led selection committee are keeping in touch over Rohit's situation, which is fluid. The former India captain has the stature and authority to name the skipper for the Edgbaston Test. But more than trying to be politically correct or a lack of transparency, it sounded like pure mind games, against an England side that are on an upward climb, fresh from their 3-0 clean-sweep against England. It's a marquee game and India, leading 2-1, have a

chance to secure a memorable series win. From that point of view, Rohit playing or not playing can make a lot of difference. Dravid preferred to keep his cards close.

It was pretty much the same, when he was asked about India's opening options alongside Shubman Gill. From Mayank Agarwal, who has been flown in as Rohit's cover, to Cheteshwar Pujara and KS Bharat, the head coach mentioned every available option, lavishing praise on the players. He refused to read too much into England's high-octane approach under Brendon McCullum and Ben Stokes, saying: "England played really well (against New Zealand). In a couple of situations when they were back to the wall, they fought their way through. (But) we have been playing very good and positive cricket over the last few years. We have to focus on our cricket and we have been pretty successful."

A question on Virat Kohli was met with a strong backing for the senior batsman. Kohli is 33 years of age and hasn't scored an international hundred over the last two-and-a-half years. "He is probably in my opinion on the right side of 30. He is an incredibly fit guy. He is one of the most hard-working guys I have come across. His desire and his hunger, the whole attitude to looking after himself. The way he played the game at Leicestershire; batting in those conditions, going out there and scoring the kind of 50s-60s he did. And he was keen on playing our bowlers, batting against Bumrah and all of these guys. He is ticking all the right boxes," Dravid said.

# Double spin on Indian menu

Flat pitches, flatter seams & recent trend may prompt visitors to field both Ashwin & Jadeja at Edgbaston

SANDIP G  
JUNE 29

LAST JUNE, when England packed five seamers against New Zealand and were sent packing to a crushing defeat, the late Shane Warne tore their indifference to spinners apart. "Feel for my fellow spinners in county cricket. If you don't pick a spinner at Edgbaston - then when?" Warne tweeted.

The Australian loved bowling at Edgbaston — he snaffled 24 wickets at 21 at the venue. Not just Warne, spinners have relished the fizz and zip at Edgbaston. It was where Nathan Lyon cut English batting to ribbons three years ago; it's where a spinner tops the best-bowling chart, Wilfred Rhodes's 7/17 achieved a century and a quarter ago; it's where eight spinners have snuck into the best 20 bowling figures.

So, one of India's several dilemmas heading to the Edgbaston Test would be, to tweak the Warne tweet, "if you don't pick two spinners at Edgbaston, then when?" India, even when loading their eleven with five bowlers, have seldom picked two spinners in a Test match outside Asia, even if they possess two of the finest around in Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja.

Together, they have featured just four times (twice in Australia, and one each in England and West Indies).

The most compelling factor, certainly, would be their form. Jadeja is returning from a longish lay-off, having last played a competitive game on May 4 before he incurred a rib injury. But the break was timely as he seemed knackered towards the middle phase of the IPL. On his return, during the practice game, he rediscovered his first-class groove. Tetchy with the bat in the first innings, he found fluency in his second and third outings.

Apart from a tendency to bowl one short ball too many — an uncharacteristic trait of his, and one that owes to rustiness — nothing was amiss in Jadeja's bowling. In the first innings, he foxed Rishabh Pant into miscuing a slog-sweep. After he was bludgeoned for a six, he laid the bait, except that he had pulled his length back and bowled a bit slower. Subsequently, Pant had to reach out for the ball.

These subtleties, besides his stifling accuracy, make him a valuable bowler even outside the subcontinent, even on tracks that don't necessarily make him a fourth-innings terminator.

Jadeja was an invisible influence in India's series-leading win at The Oval. Much as one eulogises Jasprit Bumrah and Umesh Yadav, Jadeja's match analysis of 47-12-86-4 was equally game-defining.



Ravindra Jadeja and R Ashwin have featured just four times for India outside Asia. AP

### WHY BOTH ASHWIN AND JADEJA COULD PAIR UP AT EDGBASTON

The two spinners — with a wealth of 684 wickets, 5,327 runs and seven hundreds — have played just four Tests together outside Asia. Edgbaston could be a ripe chance. The factors:

#### Run-heavy county season

The ongoing county season has been batsman-friendlier than the last two ones. There have been 16 scores over 500 with three months to go. The entire last season had only 12. Two of the four games at Edgbaston ended in draws; three of the 11 completed innings were 500-plus totals, besides three totals of 300-scores and one in the 400s. The Test series between England and New Zealand too was a reasonably high-scoring affair too. Not just the runs, the scoring rate too was higher — 3.20 as opposed to 3 last year. In the Test series, England scored at a rate of 4.5 runs an over, which points to a distinct flattening out of

the pitches.

#### Softer balls

County seamers have complained about this year's Dukes ball going soft too soon, before swelling and losing shape. The seam, too, is narrower and hence seamers are unable to harness as much sideways movement as they used to. While softer balls don't assist spinners either — taking out bounce and making turn slow — spinners could be more resourceful with a softer ball than a seamer would be, especially in keeping an end tight and piling pressure.

#### England's spin vulnerability

For all their newfound doctrine of unbridled aggression, England are yet to dominate quality spin. All of their main batsmen — barring Joe Root — have storied travails against either Ashwin or Jadeja.

#### Reunion on cards?

It was anticipated that he would reunite with Ashwin, who had warmed the benches for the entire series thus far, for the fifth Test, but for the deferment of the Test itself. Tours to England have been numbingly frustrating

for the off-spinner — picked in just seven of 15 Tests. But the sight of Edgbaston should cheer him — seven of his 18 wickets in England were picked in a single match at this venue in 2018, a game he almost spun India to a win but for Ben Stokes' last-day burst, as

India lost the game by 31 runs.

The batsmen drew flak for their fourth-innings meltdown, but India were also criticised for not picking an extra spinner. England feared that India might pick even three and crammed their nets with three county spinners apart from regulars Jack Leach and Dom Bess.

Moreover, it's not like Edgbaston allies with spinners alone. Seamers are the predominant forces on day one — James Anderson and Stuart Broad sit cheerily at the top of the most successful bowlers' pile and are predominant forces on most England grounds. But as the game unfolds and the surface gets drier, spinners get into the game.

There, though, are other mitigating variables that could see the reunification of Jadeja and Ashwin. This county season has been particularly high-scoring — it has already seen 16 scores above 500 in the first division alone; in the entirety of last season there were just 12 scores above 500. Last season, runs were scored at around three runs an over. This season, it has leapt to 3.2 runs per over. Sussex's Tom Haines was the highest run-getter last season (1,176 runs in 25 innings). In just 15 innings this season, Benjamin Compton has amassed 1,039 runs. The best bowling figures of this season belong to a spinner — South African off-spinner Steve Harmer.

#### Recent trend

Not to forget that all three Tests in the England-New Zealand series were high-scoring with runs scored at a brisk clip. England managed a run rate of 4.5, which would have been difficult on green surfaces against operators of the Tim Southee-Trent Boult-Neil Wagner class. Little coincidence that Jack Leach picked up 10 wickets at Headingley, a supposed seamers' paradise. The bespectacled left-arm spinner was England's highest wicket-taker too.

Understandably, there has been discontent over the quality of this year's batch of Dukes balls. They, apparently, go soft quite soon, before swelling a bit and losing shape. The seam too is smaller and narrower than last year.

A soft ball on a dry surface is detrimental to both seamers and spinners, but would likely affect seamers more. A spinner could pose more threat and provide less run-scoring outlets with a soft ball. In such a circumstance, a second spinner looks a better option than a fourth seamer. Two high-quality spinners could thus be an antidote to "Baz-ball" too. Not just in their ability to stifle the run rate, but top-class spin-bowling has harried England recently. So, to tweak that Warne tweet: "if you don't pick two spinners at Edgbaston - then when?"

### BRIEFLY

#### Piquet apologises to Hamilton

*Sao Paulo:* Former Formula One champion Nelson Piquet apologised to Lewis Hamilton on Wednesday, saying the racial term he used about the Mercedes driver was "ill thought out" but was not meant to be offensive. The 69-year-old Brazilian has faced heavy criticism this week over comments he made in Portuguese last November on a podcast where he referred to Hamilton as "neguinho," which means "little Black guy." "What I said was ill thought out, and I make no defense for it, but I will clarify that the term used is one that has widely and historically been used colloquially in Brazilian Portuguese as a synonym for 'guy' or 'person' and was never intended to offend," Piquet said in the statement. "I would never use the word I have been accused of in some translations. I apologise wholeheartedly to anyone that was affected, including Lewis, who is an incredible driver," Piquet added. **AP**

#### Simranjit, Ananta off to winning starts

*Nur-Sultan:* Indian boxers Simranjit Kaur (60kg) and Ananta Chopade (54kg) registered contrasting victories on the opening day to progress to the quarterfinals of Elorda Cup here on Wednesday. The 2018 World Championships bronze medallist Simranjit lived up to the favourite's tag with a dominating start to her campaign by pulling off a comprehensive win against local boxer Ischanova Nazym by an unanimous decision in the women's 60kg bout. Ananta, on the other hand, faced a stiff challenge from Mongolian pugilist Dorjnyambu Ganbold and eventually managed to tilt the result in his favour by a narrow 3-2 verdict. **PTI**

#### Sindhu, Kashyap win; Saina loses

*Kuala Lumpur:* PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal, suffered contrasting fates at the Malaysia Open Super 750 tournament with the former progressing to the second round and the latter bowing out after losing her opener here on Wednesday. Sindhu beat Thailand's world number 10 Pornpawee Chochuwong 21-13 21-17, but Saina went down fighting against American Iris Wang, 11-21 17-21. Parupalli Kashyap made a positive return from injury as he prevailed 21-12 21-17 over Korea's Heo Kwang Hee. **PTI**



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Keynote Speaker

Giriraj Singh

Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj

Third Edition

### Women's Collectives: Change-makers from the ground up

That women can drive result-oriented missions was proven by the success of our ASHA workers, who have won the WHO's Global Health Leader award for their frontline stewardship of COVID-19 management. In fact, India has proven that women's collectives can change the social, economic and cultural indices of a nation. Our self-help groups and women cooperative-led movements have led to their financial inclusion, economic stakeholderhood and restoration of land rights.

These are the perfect examples of the trickle-down effect. By harnessing the collective power of their members, such groups can achieve positive impacts that would be harder or impossible to achieve through interventions that focus on individuals. To understand the transformative power of women collectives, join us as we delve into these topics and more.



Scan to register

Panelists

Concluding remarks



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