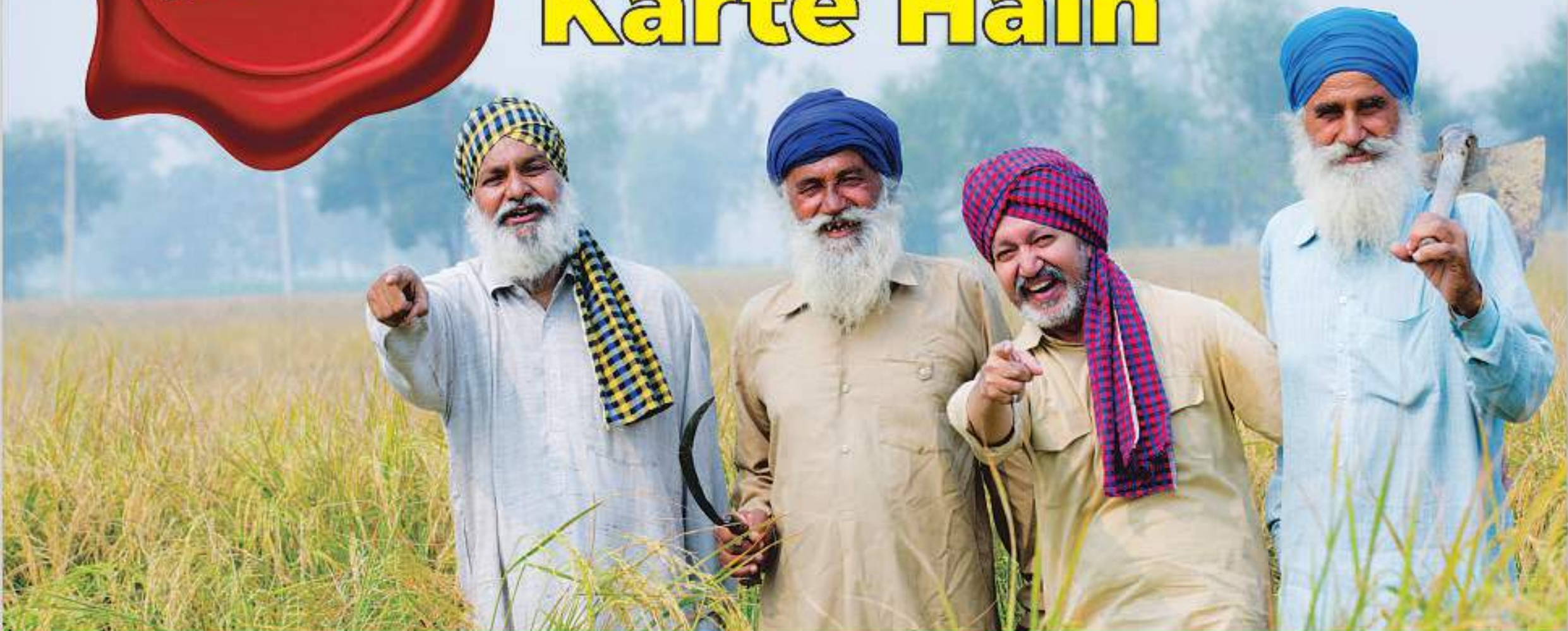




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By UNNY



UDAIPUR KILLING ON VIDEO

'Do something spectacular': Man from Pak told accused

Early probe shows two main accused started planning the attack around June 10-15, had support of others in area

P VAIIDYANATHAN IYER
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

THE NATIONAL Investigation Agency (NIA) has found that the killing of Kanhaiyalal Teli in Udaipur was "meticulously planned" and "instigated" by a person in Pakistan identified as "Salman bhai" who told one of the accused, Mohammad Ghouse, that he "must do something spectacular" in response to the remarks on the Prophet since "peaceful protests will not yield any result", *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Both Ghouse and Muhammad Riyaz Atari, who was seen in a video attacking Kanhaiyalal with a cleaver, had participated in the protests early last month against remarks on



Mohammad Ghouse and Muhammad Riyaz Atari

RAJASTHAN POLICE ARREST TWO MORE
PAGE 9

the Prophet made by BJP's Nupur Sharma who was subsequently suspended by the party.

According to sources, Ghouse had gone to Pakistan in December 2014 to attend a 45-day programme on the invitation of Dawat-e-Islami, a

"Pakistan-based radical Islamic organisation". They said that after returning in January 2015, he joined a few WhatsApp groups and was in touch with "Salman bhai" and another person, identified as Abu Ibrahim, in Pakistan.

According to the NIA's preliminary probe, Ghouse and Atari had started planning the attack "around June 10-15". They are learnt to have told the agency that a man identified as "Babla bhai", who hails from the Dhanmandi area where Kanhaiyalal's 'Supreme Tailors' was located, had targeted 10-11 people over the remarks -- and assigned different groups to attack them.

"The role of Babla bhai and other details are being investigated," said a source.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

PLEA TO CLUB FIRs DECLINED

Single-handedly responsible: SC slams Nupur

Should have apologised to nation... What has Delhi Police done: Judges

ANANTHAKRISHNAN
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

NOT ENTERTAINING her plea to club FIRs against her in different states with the one in Delhi over her remarks on the Prophet, the Supreme Court Friday came down heavily on suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma, saying she has a "loose tongue" and is "single-handedly responsible for what is happening in the country" including in Udaipur where a tailor was hacked to death this week for allegedly sharing her remarks.

Stating that Sharma should have "apologised to the nation", the vacation bench of Justices Surya Kant and J B Pardiwala pulled her up for approaching the Supreme Court directly.



Nupur Sharma was suspended by BJP after her remarks

"The petition smacks of her arrogance that magistrates of the country are too small for her."

The bench was also critical of the Delhi Police response in the matter and asked, "What has Delhi Police done? Don't make us open our mouth."

"When you get an FIR registered against XYZ, he is arrested immediately... Nobody has

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

RELATED REPORT
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India's favourite Co-operative celebrates #CoopsDay



Maharashtra Speaker poll tomorrow, BJP seeks to elect Narvekar

SHUBHANGI KHAPRE
MUMBAI, JULY 1

THE BJP is preparing to ensure that its Colaba MLA Rahul Narvekar is chosen as Speaker of the Maharashtra Assembly in the election to be held on Sunday — and official recognition is granted

to the rebel Shiv Sena group led by Eknath Shinde ahead of the trust vote to be held a day later.

Officials confirmed that Narvekar filed nomination

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MORE REPORTS
PAGE 8

Govt hikes export tax on petrol, diesel to ease home situation

AANCHAL MAGAZINE & MIHIR MISHRA
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

WITH AN aim to address the issue of fuel shortage in the country, the government Friday imposed special additional excise duty on export of petrol and diesel.

The move will not just fetch more revenue to the exchequer but also discourage companies from exporting petrol and diesel, and thereby help ease the fuel situation in the domestic market.

Private oil marketing companies were exporting petrol and diesel to foreign countries like Australia for better realisation.

"As exports are becoming highly remunerative, it has been seen that certain refineries are drying out their pumps in the domestic market. In view of this, cesses equal to Rs 6 per litre on petrol and Rs 13 per litre on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Shop owner in Amravati likely killed for post supporting Nupur

JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU
MUMBAI, JULY 1

EXACTLY A week before tailor Kanhaiyalal Teli was hacked to death in Udaipur, Umesh Prahadrao Kolhe, a 54-year-old chemist, was killed in Maharashtra's Amravati district on June 21. Investigators now believe Kolhe was killed allegedly in retaliation for a social media post supporting BJP's Nupur

Sharma who had made controversial comments on the Prophet in a TV debate.

Initial investigation by the City Kotwali Police Station in Amravati following a complaint by Umesh Kohle's son Sanket Kohle led them to arrest two persons Muddsir Ahemad, 22, and Shahrukh Pathan, 25, on June 23. Their interrogation revealed the involvement of four more persons, of which three — Abdul Thoufik, 24, Shoaib Khan, 22, and

Atib Rashid, 22 — were arrested on June 25. One Shamim Ahmed Firoz Ahmed is absconding.

The incident took place between 10 pm to 10.30 pm on June 21 when Umesh Kohle was on his way home after closing his shop 'Amit Medical Store'. Sanket, 27, and his wife Vaishnavi were accompanying him on another scooter.

In his complaint, Sanket told the police, "We were moving

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

GST collections surge to Rs 1.44 lakh cr in June, 2nd highest since rollout

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

GROSS GOODS and Services Tax (GST) collections rose 55.8% year-on-year to Rs 1,44,616 crore for June (for sales in May), the second highest level since the July 2017 rollout of the indirect tax regime, according to data released by the Finance Ministry. Economic recovery, anti-evasion activities, especially action against fake billers, along with the impact of inflation have contributed to the rise in GST.

Before this, GST collections had recorded the highest-ever level of Rs 1.68 lakh crore in April for year-end sales in March. This is the fifth time that monthly collections have crossed Rs 1.40 lakh crore since inception of GST,



Nirmala Sitharaman marks the fifth GST Day, in New Delhi on Friday. Amit Mehra

and the fourth month in a row since March 2022. GST collections in June 2021 stood at Rs 92,800 crore.

Speaking at the GST Day celebrations on Friday, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that within five

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Bring new GST with single low rate as starting point: Cong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

SAYING THAT the current GST regime has "serious birth defects", the Congress, for the first time on Friday, said that it should be scrapped and replaced by a new law that provides for a "single low rate" as a "starting point" and then "work out the further steps".

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh called for a discussion in Parliament and asked the government to convene an all-party meeting. Some "tinkering" here and there will not work, a fundamental change is needed, he said.

Addressing a press conference with Ramesh, former

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

'Best foreign secretary that India never had', led back-channel talks with Pak

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
CHENNAI, JULY 1

SATINDER LAMBAH, the diplomat who led the back-channel process between India and Pakistan from 2005 till 2014, and was unshaken until the end in his conviction that engagement with an adversary was a must, died in New Delhi on Thursday



SATINDER LAMBAH
1941-2022

night. He had been ailing for about a year. He was 81 years old.

As then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's Special

Envoy to Pakistan, Lambah held discreet behind-the-scenes talks with his counterpart Tariq Aziz, appointed for the back-channel

process by then military ruler General Pervez Musharraf. In his death, India has lost its foremost expert on Pakistan.

Lambah also served as special envoy to Afghanistan from 2001 to 2004. He was Delhi's emissary at the Bonn conference and led India's participation in the post-Taliban reconstruction and redevelopment of the country, laying the foundations for the decade-and-a-half of Delhi's successful engagement with that country.

An Indian Foreign Service

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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FROM PAGE ONE

SC slams Nupur

dared to touch you," Justice Surya Kant said. Sharma's petition was filed under the name NV Sharma and Senior Advocate Maninder Singh, who was representing her, said this was done because there was threat to her life.

At this, Justice Surya Kant said, "She has threat or she has become a security threat? The way she has ignited emotions across the country, this lady is single-handedly responsible for what is happening in the country," Singh said. Sharma had tendered a written apology, but Justice Surya Kant said "she was too late to withdraw" and it was done "conditionally saying sentiments hurt".

"We saw the debate on how she was incited. But the way she said all this... and later says she is a lawyer... it is shameful... she should have gone to the TV and apologised to the nation."

"What if she is the spokesperson of a party? She thinks she has back-up power and can make any statement without respect to the law of the land?" Justice Surya Kant said. Sharma made remarks on the Prophet during a TV debate on the Gyanvapi mosque issue on May 27.

Justice Surya Kant asked why did the TV channel choose a sub justice topic. "What was the TV debate for? Only to fan an agenda? Why did they choose a sub justice topic?"

Told that her remarks were in response to a question, the judge said she should then have filed an FIR against the anchor.

Singh pointed out that there was no intention. "It was again and again said that the Shivling was just a fountain or a fawara. This was said by the debater on the other side and not the anchor... if this is the position, then every citizen will have no right to speak."

Referring to cases including the one against journalist Arnab Goswami, Singh said the settled

law is that there cannot be multiple FIRs for the same offence.

He said, "What Your Lordships have laid down is for every citizen." At this, Justice Surya Kant said, "It's not every citizen. Here also, some special treatment has been given to a journalist." He said Sharma should approach the High Court of the place where the first FIR was filed and seek relief.

"The case of a journalist, who within his legitimate... rights of expressing opinion on a particular issue, is on a different pedestal as compared to a citizen or spokesperson who goes to a channel and starts lambasting others, makes irresponsible statements without even thinking of the ramifications and serious consequences of how serious," he said. Singh said, "As a citizen having rights, the fact remains that it is only one incident, and the SC" has laid down that in case of one incident, there can be no second FIR. He said the prayer was to club the other FIRs with the one in Delhi.

"What has been done in that FIR? We are asking you repeatedly," Justice Surya Kant said.

When Singh said "we have joined the investigation," the judge said, "Naturally, there must be a red carpet for you. This is how you joined." Singh said, "I should not be treated unequally."

Eventually, the bench declined to provide any relief to Sharma. Justice Surya Kant told her counsel, "No, Mr Singh, when the conscience of the court is not satisfied, we must mould the law accordingly." On a request by Singh, the bench allowed the petition to be withdrawn with liberty to avail alternate remedies.

Udaipur killing

The initial examination of Ghouse and Riyaz has also revealed that in the two-three weeks preceding the attack, photos and details of a few individuals were circulated on local WhatsApp groups with members

from the Muslim community. The photo and details of Kanhaiyalal, too, were shared in one of these groups," said the source.

While Ghouse and Atari chose Kanhaiyalal as their target since his shop was close to their place of work, they were "actively assisted" by a few local youths, sources said. Two of them, Wasim and Mohsin Khan, had undertaken a recce of the tailoring shop before the attack on June 28, sources said, adding that this shows detailed planning by the accused. Mohsin and another person, identified as Asif Hussain, were arrested on Friday.

On the day of the incident, Ghouse and Atari came in separate vehicles to the Maldaha market, where Kanhaiyalal's shop was located, and parked near Mohsin's shop, the sources said.

Ghouse is learnt to have told Mohsin to keep the keys of his scooter with a message that if they do not return, it would mean "the work was done" and he should return the two-wheeler to the accused's house.

After the killing, sources said, Ghouse and Atari went to the office of a man identified as "Shoib bhai", where they recorded another video wearing the same clothes. This video, in which they issued a death threat to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was uploaded by Atari on several local WhatsApp groups of which he was a member. Ghouse's mobile phone was then switched off, the investigation revealed.

The two accused later went to the workshop of another person to change clothes. They had planned to go to Ajmer Sharif, and since they could not arrange a car, left on Atari's motorcycle. They were, however, intercepted en route and arrested by the police at Bhim in Rajsamand district.

The killing on Tuesday of 40-year-old Kanhaiyalal triggered arson and protests in Udaipur, and the imposition of prohibitory orders across Rajasthan for a month, and prompted the Union Home Ministry to send an NIA team to the city. According to the police, while the two main accused were formally arrested on Wednesday, four others, who were also allegedly involved, are being questioned.

On Wednesday, *The Indian Express* reported that nearly three weeks before he was hacked to death inside his shop, Kanhaiyalal was arrested on an FIR lodged against him for allegedly hurting religious feelings — and, following his release on bail, had sought police protection citing death threats. But the police said he withdrew the request after "5-7 responsible persons from both communities sat down and reached an agreement".

Amravati

from Prabhat Chowk and our scooters had reached the Mahila College New High School's gate. Two men on a motorcycle suddenly came in front of my father's scooter. They stopped my father's bike and one of them stabbed him on the left side of his neck with a knife. My father fell and was bleeding. I stopped my scooter and started shouting for help. Another man came and the three fled the spot on the motorcycle."

With help from people around, Kolhe was rushed to a nearby Axon Hospital where he died during treatment.

A senior police officer from Amravati city police said, "The five accused arrested so far have told us they sought the help of another accused who provided them with a car and Rs 10,000 to run away."

The officer said one of the absconding accused had assigned the other five specific tasks for the murder. He had asked two of them to keep an eye on Kolhe and alert the other three when he left the medical store. The other three obstructed Kolhe and assaulted him. An FIR was registered by the City Kotwali police station following Saket's complaint.

"During investigation we learnt that Kolhe had circulated a social media post supporting Nupur Sharma on WhatsApp. By mistake, he posted the message on a group with Muslim members who were also his customers. One of the arrested accused said this was an insult to the Prophet and hence he must die," a source said.

The police have seized the knife with which the murder was committed, mobile phones, vehicle and clothes used for the crime, and obtained the CCTV footages from the scene of crime. "We have sent the seized electronic devices to DFSL and scrutiny of technical evidence is in progress. The bank accounts of all arrested accused and their family members were obtained and scrutiny is in progress," the source said.

When asked if his father's murder could have been murdered due to the social media

post, Sanket told *The Indian Express*, "My father was a very cheerful person. He never spoke ill about anyone nor was he associated with any political party. I also heard that he was murdered over his social media post, but I checked his Facebook profile and did not find anything objectionable. Only the police can tell what the motive was. I am blank. But I can say for sure that he was not murdered for robbery."

When contacted, Amravati City Police Commissioner Arti Singh told *The Indian Express*, "Five persons have been arrested in the case and we are looking for the remaining whose arrest will give us clarity on the motive behind the murder."

Speaker poll

papers for the Speaker's post on Friday even as the special two-day session of the Assembly was convened from July 3 instead of July 2 as slated earlier.

The dates were changed to provide time for members to reach Mumbai, sources said, adding that the rebel Sena MLAs are set to reach the city by Saturday. The Shiv Sena is likely to file its candidate's nomination on Saturday.

"The Speaker of the House elections will be held on July 3. The nominations for the Speaker's post will be accepted till 12 noon on July 2. The floor test will be conducted on July 4," an official communique from the State Legislative Secretariat to MLAs said.

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena MLA Suresh Prabhu approached the Supreme Court, urging it to suspend the rebel MLAs who have been served notice for disqualification — and "restrain" them "from entering" the Assembly or "participating in any proceeding relating to the House till the final adjudication of the disqualification". The apex court will hear the plea on July 11 along with other pending pleas on the political situation in Maharashtra, including one from the rebels against the disqualification notice.

Narvekar, 45, joined the BJP in 2019 after a 15-year stint in the Shiv Sena followed by a few years in the NCP. He quit the Sena in 2014 after being denied a berth as an MLC in the State Legislative Council. He then joined the NCP and contested the 2019 Lok Sabha elections unsuccessfully from Maval. He moved to the BJP ahead of the state elections later that year.

The BJP is the single largest party in the 287-member House with 106 MLAs, and expects its tally to go up to 123 with 17 MLAs from smaller parties and Independents. With the Shinde faction's 50 MLAs, including 39 Sena rebels, the tally would further rise to 173, well past the halfway mark required.

BJP sources said that a whip issued by rebel Sena MLA Bharat Gogale will be applicable for the Shinde faction.

While the Uddhav Thackeray camp has maintained that it will legally challenge the rebel faction's whip, BJP sources said the appointment of a whip requires the support of two-thirds of the total members.

Fuel export tax

diesel have been imposed on their exports. These cesses would apply to any export of diesel and petrol from the country," the government said in a statement.

While this move would help ease fuel shortage at pumps across the country, it would impact the bottom-line of these companies. Post the announcement, Reliance Industries Ltd fell by over 7% on the BSE to close at Rs 2408.95 Friday.

The shortage of fuel at retail outlets was because oil marketing companies were not willing to sell fuel at a loss since fuel prices have not increased despite rising crude and depreciating rupee — these two factors have led to oil marketing companies losing Rs 20-25 per litre on diesel and Rs 10-15 per litre on petrol.

Explaining the taxes, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said they are happy with companies making profits by exporting fuel, but these tax measures have been taken as these are "extraordinary times".

"These are times when oil prices internationally are unbridled. They are just going on and on upward. And for any country, like India for instance, which depends largely and very much largely on imports, we also need to pay that kind of money to get the imports. But then from India, exports are happening and at a price which is abnormal, (resulting in) extraordinary profits. We don't grudge people earning profits. But at a time when we don't have enough supplies within India, for exploration or for refin-



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The Udaipur murder, fuel shortage at pumps, and Hermit spyware

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The details of the Udaipur murder case, why petrols pumps are facing a fuel shortage, and how the Hermit spyware targeted iPhone and android devices

ing which is happening in India," she said.

Sitharaman said this decision has been taken at a time when there is difficulty even to get an affordable price for oil from abroad. "The wholesale customers, who were benefiting from those (private sector) pumps, were now coming over to public sector oil marketing companies' pumps and they are welcome to come and take (them). But the supplies are also going to have to be available," she said.

The Finance Ministry did not give a timeline for continuation of the levy and will assess the situation every 15 days to review the impact of these duty changes.

Starting June, fuel pumps across the country have been reporting fuel shortage, leading to their closure. The situation of fuel shortage at pumps peaked during the middle of June, resulting in the government issuing a statement on the matter. The statement assured of enough fuel available in the country and asked oil marketing companies to ensure their fuel pumps remain open. Among other announcements, the government also imposed a cess of Rs 23,250 per tonne (by way of special additional excise duty) or windfall tax on domestic crude being sold to domestic refineries at international parity prices.

Global crude prices have risen and domestic crude producers are making windfall gains. After the announcement, ONGC Ltd fell 13.40% on the BSE. While Oil India slid more than 15 per cent, Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemical slumped 10 per cent. Chennai Petroleum Corporation fell more than 5 per cent and Hindustan Oil Exploration Company stock declined over 3 per cent.

Also, export policy conditions have been imposed by the DGFT that the exporters would be required to declare at the time of exports that 50% of the quantity mentioned in the shipping bill has been/will be supplied in the domestic market during the current fiscal. A cess of Rs 6 per litre has also been imposed on export of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF).

These measures, however, will not lead to any increase in price in the domestic market, the government said. Meanwhile, the government has also hiked import duty on gold to 15 per cent from 10.75 per cent to curb import of gold amid concerns over high gold imports putting pressure on the current account deficit.

GST collections

years of its rollout, GST was showing its potential. "The gross GST revenue collection for the month of June is Rs 1,44,616 crore, 56% rise from the same month last year. So the trend that was being talked about, we are now reversing that and showing that GST revenues remain above Rs 1.40 lakh crore. So, Rs 1.40 lakh crore is the rough bottom line, we are not going below that. We will remain above that," she said.

She also said that the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) is open to suggestions from industry, and the tax arbitrage that existed between states before GST rollout has been removed. "GST has removed discretion to a large extent, there is no way for rent seeking... But I would still say we should be performing better in terms of removing even one little iota of discretion. If it is there, we should just make sure that the system is so transparent, that the whisper of allegation of discretion somewhere should be completely removed," she said.

The higher GST revenue growth is expected to ease revenue concerns for some states going ahead, but states with a heavy dependence on compensation may find FY23 to be a challenging year, experts said.

As per the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017, the states were guaranteed compensation at the com-

pounded rate of 14%, from 2015-16 as the base year, for losses due to implementation of the regime, for five years of its rollout. This came to an end on June 30. The GST Council meeting held earlier this week did not take any decision on extending the compensation mechanism, despite demands from at least a dozen states.

June also saw the highest-ever collection of compensation cess, at Rs 11,018 crore, since the implementation of GST. The collection in June 2022 is not only the second highest but has also broken the trend of being a low collection month as observed in the past... coupled with economic recovery, anti-evasion activities, especially anti-evasion fights, have been contributing to the enhanced GST. The gross cess collection in this month is the highest since the introduction of GST," said the Finance Ministry statement.

The total number of e-way bills generated in May was 7.3 crore; it was 7.4 crore in April. The average monthly gross GST collection for the first quarter of 2022-23 was Rs 1.51 lakh crore, against the average monthly collection of Rs 1.10 lakh crore in the same period last fiscal. In June, revenue from import of goods was 55% higher and revenue from domestic transactions (including import of services) was 56% higher, as compared to last year.

Barring Daman & Diu and Centre jurisdiction, which recorded a contraction, all other states/UTs recorded double-digit growth in GST generated, with Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Haryana and Uttarakhand leading.

Experts said action against tax evaders, including efforts in audits and analytics, will help boost the GST collections beyond the budgeted figures.

'Bring new GST'

finance minister P Chidambaram said the GST had "serious birth defects" and "in the last five years these defects have only become worse and all those touched by GST have been seriously injured."

"The first thing that has to be done is to get rid of the six (tax) rates. You have to have a single low rate. That is GST. World over, that is GST... it has to be a single low rate. That is the starting point... If you make an error at the starting point, your entire path, your travel on the path will be wrong. So let's scrap this GST. Let's go back to the drawing board, start with a single low rate. And then let's work out the further steps," Chidambaram said.

Interestingly, the Congress was largely silent on GST at its Udaipur conclave, even as there were demands that it should seek a review or even a repeal of the Act. Some senior leaders, including former Union ministers Anand Sharma, Manish Tewari and Mani Shankar Aiyar, besides AICC data analytics department head Praveen Chakravarty, had raised these views during deliberations of the Chidambaram-headed group on economic affairs. But Chidambaram had argued that repeal was too radical an idea, and needed to be discussed at a different party level as it was outside the mandate of the group.

On Friday, Chidambaram said: "There are any number of absurdities in this law... it is very difficult to correct the law, you have to replace the law". For instance, he said, "there are serious problems with two authorities taxing."

"Half the taxpayers come under the Centre's jurisdiction and half come under the states' jurisdiction. It is a vertical division, whereas logically, if you have to divide the administrative powers, it has to be a horizontal division. The small taxpayers, small businessmen, should not have to go after the central tax collector," he said.

"The law is so defective that the government has been forced to issue hundreds of executive directions. In five years, the govern-

ment has issued 869 notifications, 143 circulars and 38 orders. That is a change every second day. This is a GST that is flawed, defective and unstable," he said.

The "so-called GST that is in force today was not the GST envisaged by the UPA government. The GST conceived by the UPA was one with a single, low rate across all goods and services with few exemptions," he said. "The GST that we have today is a complex web of many rates, conditions, exceptions and exemptions that will leave even an informed taxpayer completely bewildered. Not all registered dealers are informed taxpayers; as a result, they are at the mercy of the tax-collector," he said.

He said the flawed GST led to largescale destruction of the MSMEs. The worst consequence, he said, has been the complete breakdown of trust between the Centre and the States. He argued that the GST Council is dysfunctional and state finance ministers, including those of the BJP-ruled states, are unhappy.

"There is no real consensus in the meetings of the GST Council. The skewed formula on voting rights of the Centre and the states has been used by the Centre to push through decisions that are bitterly opposed by the states including, privately, by BJP-ruled states. The holding back of the arrears of compensation cess and the excessive resort to cesses (rather than shareable taxes) has increased the chasm between the two sides," he said.

Satinder Lambah

officer of the 1964 batch, Lambah had earlier served as deputy high commissioner and high commissioner to Pakistan, and was also joint secretary at the Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran division at the Ministry of External Affairs. Colleagues recall him as a self-effacing but skilled diplomat. His last posting before he retired was as ambassador to Moscow from 1998 to 2001.

Lambah was born in pre-Partition Peshawar, as was his wife Nilima, and during his two tours of duty in that country, he built a formidable range of contacts among Pakistan's political and social elites that he mobilised for furthering bilateral ties.

He had happened to meet Nawaz Sharif in the 1980s, during his first posting to Pakistan, through a mutual friend. The young Sharif, who was then working in the family steel business and was nursing political ambitions, was waiting to receive Lambah at Lahore airport when he flew in from Islamabad. The two drove back to the city in Sharif's red sports car.

When Lambah returned to Islamabad as India's high commissioner, a day after he presented his credentials, Sharif, by then Prime Minister, hosted a grand lunch in his honour, an unprecedented welcome for an Indian diplomat in Pakistan.

At the end of his term there, he was given a similar farewell by Benazir Bhutto, who had succeeded Sharif as Prime Minister. Against the advice of the Foreign Office at the time, she hosted a lunch reception to bid him goodbye. "He was a doyen of old school diplomacy, which was about people, personal contacts and face-to-face interactions, and he was completely charming," said a colleague in the Indian Foreign Service. Amitabh Mattoo, professor at JNU's School of International Studies, describes him "as the best foreign secretary that India never had".

Lambah's role as Vajpayee's back-channel negotiator with Musharraf saw relations between the two countries improve greatly from 2004 to 2008. A ceasefire was already in place from 2003. By 2006, India and Pakistan were said to be close to an accord on Kashmir through the back channel. And by early 2007, the two sides were reported to have exchanged a "white paper" detailing the terms, though Lambah himself never spoke about this.

Musharraf's decline after his ill-judged decision to sack the chief justice in March 2007 put the agreement on hold, Lambah has said in interviews. The bus services across the LoC to enable interaction between the two sides of J&K as well as cross-LoC trade, implemented during this time, appear to have been part of the proposed resolution.

After the 2008 Mumbai attacks, the back channel sputtered on until 2014 with Pakistan's flip-flops on tracing and prosecuting the Mumbai perpetrators ensuring a virtual halt to the bilateral engagement. At one point, the post-Musharraf PPP-led civilian government denied the existence of the "white paper".

Lambah maintained in interviews as late as 2015 that the formula that he and Aziz had prepared had the concurrence of the leadership on both sides. He described it as a "win-win" for both countries and said it could serve as a basis for any future resolution of the Kashmir issue.

In a speech at Jadavpur University in Kolkata in September 2018, Lambah said it was unlikely that Pakistan would change fundamentally in its attitudes towards India, but in order to be an effective regional or global player, it was in India's interests to ensure good relations with neighbours.

For this, he said engagement — different from dialogue — had to be maintained. He also pointed out that bilateral issues should not become an issue of domestic electoral politics. He was a votary of an unrestricted visa regime to enable as many Pakistanis to visit India, arguing that they were the best ambassadors of India in Pakistan. He also believed that India had to set its own house in order in J&K to prevent outsiders from fishing in troubled waters.

During the back-channel years, Lambah ensured complete secrecy about his mission, though he was pursued by newshounds. Even in later years, he would only talk about it in general terms, and was careful not to give out too much detail.

"He was very discreet in terms of what he shared of his assessments and conclusions. As someone who was deeply engaged with Pakistan as the designated back-channel contact, he remained inscrutable to outsiders," said T C A Raghavan, who served as deputy high commissioner in Islamabad during those years, and was later high commissioner to Pakistan.

When this reporter was going to Pakistan on a long-term assignment as a foreign correspondent, he advised: "You will be one of only two Indians (at the time there were two Indian journalists based in Pakistan) who can write what they see and hear for others to read. Write lots, write about everything. We diplomats write too, but that's for the files."

While his biggest contribution was India's diplomacy with Pakistan and Afghanistan, he is also remembered for laying the foundation of India's robust engagement with Silicon Valley, during his years as consul general in San Francisco in the early 1990s. He also mobilised NRIs on the US West Coast to contribute towards setting up the first India Studies chair at Berkeley, which, due to the massive response, became two chairs. He has given a fascinating account of this in the *Indian Foreign Affairs Journal's* Oral History Project.

Few now remember that while he was ambassador to Germany, Lambah also initiated the first contact between the Indian government and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's daughter in Germany, Anita Pfaff, for permission to bring back the freedom fighter's ashes from the Renkoji temple in Tokyo, where they are preserved. Then External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee met Pfaff during a visit to Germany in 2012.

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HIGH COURT ISSUES NOTICE TO DELHI POLICE

Why anxiety about seizure of laptop: Solicitor General says in Zubair case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

ISSUING NOTICE to the Delhi Police in a petition challenging a trial court order that sent Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair to four-day police remand, the Delhi High Court Friday asked them to file a counter affidavit in two weeks and a rejoinder, if any, a week thereafter. The court will hear the matter on July 27.



Zubair was taken to Bengaluru on Thursday by a Delhi Police team to recover his electronic devices. PTI

Zubair was arrested on June 25 on the charge of hurting religious sentiments following a complaint over a 2018 tweet made by an anonymous Twitter user who had tagged Delhi Police.

Justice Sanjeev Narula passed the order Friday asking the chief metropolitan magistrate to examine the material collected by the investigating agency when Zubair will be produced in court on Saturday without being prejudiced by the High Court's order.

Zubair's lawyer Vrinda Grover had moved the application arguing that the remand order passed by a chief metropolitan magistrate's court granting custody remand had allowed police to invade her client's rights. "It's placing a dagger into my (Zubair's) privacy," Grover said.

Grover told the court that Zubair's arrest was in violation of the Supreme Court guidelines in the Amesh Kumar judgment (that arrest should be an excep-

tion in cases involving less than seven years of punishment). She told the court that the police had "quickly changed a provision in the FIR" and that the complainant's Twitter account pulled out a tweet from 2018 to create mischief.

"This (Twitter user) Hanuman Bhakt joined in 2021. This is the first tweet. Till June 2022, this handle did not tweet at all. This Twitter handle pulls out (Zubair's tweet from) March 2018, perhaps with intent to mischief. I wonder why there is no enquiry. Till then, it had one follower," Grover told the court.

Grover also questioned whether a case of this nature required the seizure of her client's laptop and mobile phone. "There is personal liberty at stake. The question is does a case of this nature warrant remand? Could my

laptop and mobile be directed to be seized? Our issue is with respect to seizure of electronic devices. This has now become a pattern," Grover submitted.

Grover told the court that the tweet was made from a mobile phone which was now lost but police were going after his laptop.

"The tweet shows it is from phone. They are asking for laptop. I am a journalist. Please see what the Supreme Court has said in the Pegasus case. My old phone is lost, despite that my present phone has been seized," Grover submitted.

Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta, appearing for Delhi Police, said he did not understand why there was anxiety about the seizure of a laptop. "So far as laptop is concerned, I do not understand what is the anxiety," he said.

"It is my right to privacy. I will not grant access to my devices to the State. It is provocative," Grover responded.

Mehta maintained that police were not acting in a partisan manner. "FIR is only initiation of proceedings. Investigating authorities will investigate and see if there is any serious offence," he argued.

When the court asked Mehta if police would be asking for further remand, he said, "We do not know what will be the status of investigation by tonight. It would be presumptuous of me to make any statement in that regard."

ED asks cops for details of Zubair's bank accounts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

DAYS AFTER Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair was arrested on charges of allegedly hurting religious sentiments over a 2018 tweet, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has asked the Delhi Police probe team to hand over the FIR, remand papers and his bank account-related information so it can go through his transactions.

On Tuesday, DCP (Cyber Crime) KPS Malhotra had claimed: "We have found transactions over Rs 50 lakh in Zubair's account. These were made in the last three months. We don't know the source yet, but they could be donations

from questionable organisations..."

Alt News co-founder Pratik Sinha denied the police claim and said they were linking donations received by the fact-checking website to Zubair. His counsel also denied the allegations.

An ED source said they will "go through the transactions in his account to check if the money was laundered. If we find evidence, we will lodge an Enforcement Case Information Report of prevention of money laundering and initiate investigation."

Zubair was arrested Monday after an anonymous Twitter user tagged Delhi Police saying his tweet insulted a Hindu god, and was sent to four-day police custody by a court.

CORRIGENDUM TO THE FORM G (RE-ISSUE) PUBLISHED IN INDIAN EXPRESS (ALL INDIA EDITION) AND AMAR UJALA (CHANDIGARH, HIMACHAL & HARYANA) ON 2ND JUNE 2022 FOR INVITATION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN THE MATTER OF GPI TEXTILES LIMITED UNDER CIRP

With reference to the Form G (Invitation of Expression of Interest), published under Regulation 38 A (1) of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process of Corporate Person) Regulation, 2016, due to an inadvertent typographical error at Serial no. 16, last date of submission of Resolution Plan has been incorrectly mentioned as "15.07.2022", which may kindly be read as 19.07.2022 instead of 15.07.2022.

Sd/-
Jalesh Kumar Grover
Resolution Professional
For GPI Textiles Ltd.

Regn. No. IBI / IPA-001 / IP-PC0200/2017-2018/0390
Date: 2nd July, 2022 Email: For Correspondence: ip.gpi@ibbi.org.in
Place: Chandigarh Email: Regd. With IBI- jk.grover27@gmail.com

Nupur Sharma was issued notice on June 18, questioned: Delhi Police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

DELHI POLICE Friday said they had recorded suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma's statement last week. The statement was recorded by Intelligence Fusion & Strategic Operations Cell. Police's statement came hours after the Supreme Court re-

buked Sharma for her remarks on the Prophet. "On June 8, an FIR was registered against Nupur Sharma under IPC sections 153/153A/153B/295A at a Special Cell police station. On June 18, a notice under Section 41A CrPC was served to her. She joined the investigation and her statement was recorded the same day as per law," said DCP (IFS) KPS Malhotra.

At the time of filing the FIR, DCP Malhotra had said: "We have lodged an FIR for allegedly spreading messages of hate, inciting various groups and creating situations detrimental to maintenance of public tranquility." Following her remarks on the Prophet during a TV debate that triggered protests across the country and drew sharp reactions from many Gulf countries, the BJP had suspended Sharma.

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e-Procurement Notice (National Competitive Bidding)

e-Tenders are invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the following works:

(i) e-Tender No.: IRCON/ELECT/5037-5038/NCRT/APF/OT/69 dated 28.06.2022
Design, Detail Engineering, Supply, Testing and Commissioning of IGBT based Active Power Filter (APF) system at 33 KV Voltage level along with converter duty coupling transformers & all other associated equipment's including integration with existing protection and SCADA system at Receiving Sub-stations (RSS) of Delhi - Ghaziabad - Meerut RRTS Corridor of NCRTC

Estimated cost of the work: Rs. 7,75,00,000/-
Last Date & Time of e-Bid Submission for e-tender No. (i): 12.07.2022 upto 17.00 Hrs.

(ii) e-Tender No.: IRCON/ELECT/5037-5038/NCRT/EHV CABLE SYSTEM/OT/67 dated 30.06.2022
Design, Manufacturing and Supply of 220kV and 66kV Cable System (cable system consists of cable, straight through joint boxes and end termination) with all accessories for Sarai Kale Khan, Shatabdi Nagar and Modipuram RSS for the work of Delhi - Ghaziabad - Meerut RRTS Corridor of NCRTC (Package-19 Lot 1 & Lot 2)

Estimated cost of the work: Rs. 27,28,84,833/-
Last Date & Time of e-Bid Submission for e-tender No. (ii): 12.07.2022 upto 17.00 Hrs.

For further details, visit website <https://tenders.gov.in/procure/app>. Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website

Chief General Manager/Electrical,
C-4 District Centre, Saket, New Delhi-110017

Regional Office :
Krishna Honda Building,
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बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा
Bank of Baroda

POSSESSION NOTICE
(FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of the BANK OF BARODA under the securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower(s)/Gurantor to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers/Gurantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act with rule 8 of the said rules.

The Borrowers/Gurantors/Mortgagors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF BARODA for the amount and further interest there of the contractual rate plus, charge and expenses till date of payment.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub section (8) of section 13 of the SARFAESI Act 2002, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Branch/ Name & Address of the Borrower/Gurantors	Description of the Immovable Properties	Demand/ Possession Notice Date	Outstanding Amount
Bank of Baroda, BALTHI NARSINGH Branch, MR. SIVESH KUMAR THAKUR S/O-BINDA THAKUR (Borrower), VILL-PARSAUNI RAISI P.S.SAHEBGANJ, DIST-MUZAFFARPUR BIHAR-843125	All that Part and Parcel of the Equitable Mortgage of land & building situated at Mouza- N a w a g a r N i z a m a t, P S - Sahebganj, PO-Kurnowl, PS-Sahebganj, Anchal- Sahebganj, Thana No. 28, Jamabandi No.- 157, Dist.- Muzaffarpur, bearing Khata No.- 495, Khesra No.- 903, Area- 12.66 Decimal Boundary-North : Umashankar Roy, South : Soaling Road, East : Ashok Tiwari, West : Yogendra Tiwari	20-04-2022 / 28-06-2022	Rs. 22,05,820.72/- together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus all cost charges & expenses till date payments

Place : Muzaffarpur Date : 01.07.2022

Authorised Officer
Bank Of Baroda

APPOINTMENT ON AD HOC CONTRACT BASIS
EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRE ARMY HOSPITAL (R&R) DELHI CANTT

Walk-In-Interview will be held for the following posts at Army Hospital (R&R), Delhi Cantt - 110010 on Date and Time as mentioned against each post:

Sl. No.	Name of Post	No. of Posts	Qualifications	Proposed Remuneration per month	Date and Time of Interview
1.	Child/Clinical Psychologist	1	Master's degree in Child Psychology or M Phil in Clinical Psychology	Rs 35,000	13 July 2022 at 1000 hrs
2.	Occupational Therapist cum Physiotherapist	1	Bachelor's Degree in Occupational Therapy/ Physiotherapy from recognised university	Rs 30,000	
3.	Special Educator	1	B.Ed or PG Diploma in Special Education Early Childhood (Mental Retardation Locomotor and Neurological Disorders)	Rs 35,000	
4.	EIC Manager	1	Masters in Disability Rehab Adm (MDRA / BPT / BPO / BSc Nursing / PGDM or MBA in Hosp / health management with 1 yr exp for diploma holders and 2yrs exp for MBA in hospital health programme	Rs 33,000	14 July 2022 at 1000 hrs
5.	Data Entry Operator	1	Graduate degree with good computer knowledge including data management	Rs 24,000	
6.	Group D Staff (Housekeeper) (Female)	4	Minimum 10 th standard. Age less than 40 yrs Experience in health care establishment preferred	Rs 20,000	

1. Interviews will be held at Ashoka Hall, 2 Floor Main Building, AH (R&R)
2. Applicants must bring their original educational certificates Applicants for posts 1, 2, 3 & 4 should preferably be registered with RCI (Rehabilitation council of India Equivalent. Experience in dealing with Children with special needs will be given due weightage
3. For any query, please contact Col Aparajitha Gupta (Ph: 8007104274)

Commandant
Army Hospital (R&R), Delhi Cantt

NOTIFICATION

No.F.16 (152-9)-SE/STAT/2022 **Dated 28th June, 2022.**

Applications are invited from candidates for engagement of consultant for the following positions on temporary contract basis for the period of 12(twelve) months in Directorate of Secondary Education (School Education Department), Govt. of Tripura in connection with Externally aided Project to be funded by World Bank namely "Tripura Rural Economic Growth and Service Delivery Project (TRESP)".

Item No	Name of Position	Number of Post
1	Senior Education Specialist(Lead)	01
2	Specialist on Foundational Learning	01
3	Specialist on Vocational Education	01
4	Specialist of Teacher Training	01

2. Application should be submitted in a single PDF file through email only and no other means. The Email-ID for submission of application is tresp.education@gmail.com. The subject of the mail should be written as "Application for consultant".

3. Last date of submission of application is 19th July, 2022. Application received after due date will not be entertained.

4. The common application form may be downloaded from the website of School Education Department, Govt., of Tripura.

5. The details including Job descriptions and terms and conditions may be seen and downloaded from the website <https://schooleducation.tripura.gov.in>.

Sd/-
(Chandni Chandran, IAS)
Director,
Secondary Education
Govt. of Tripura
ICA/D/482/22

डॉ. बी. आर. अंबेडकर विश्वविद्यालय दिल्ली **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi**

Established by Govt of NCT of Delhi vide Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Act, 2007 (Delhi Act 9 of 2007)
(Established by the Govt. of NCT Delhi)

Admission process for Academic Year 2022-23 for postgraduate programmes of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi, a State University established by the Government of NCT of Delhi informs applicants seeking admission to various postgraduate programmes under different Schools of Studies in Kashmere Gate Campus, Karampura Campus, Lodhi Road Campus and Qutab Institutional Area for the Academic year 2022-23 that the admission process has started for Academic Year 2022-23 for postgraduate programmes of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi has joined the Common University Entrance Test (CUET (PG)-2022) to be conducted by NTA. The CUET (PG) will provide a single window opportunity to students to seek admission. In this regard, the National Testing Agency has been entrusted with the responsibility of conducting the postgraduate entrance tests for the academic session 2022-23.

All candidates who are willing to study at Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi have to register for Common University Entrance Test (CUET (PG) 2022) at <https://cuet.nta.nic.in/> before 04.07.2022 (5 PM).

The list of PG programmes, eligibility criteria and other details are available on university website and are as follows:

Sr. No.	Programme (Subject)	Degree	Eligibility Criteria
1	Development Studies	M.A.	Applicants need to have a Bachelor's degree in any discipline with minimum 45% marks or equivalent grade from a recognised university (Relaxation of 5% marks for SC/ST/PwBD/ D-OBC (NCL)/Defence/KM)
2	Education	M.A.	Applicants need to have a Bachelors/Master's degree in any discipline with minimum 45% marks or equivalent grade from a recognised university (Relaxation of 5% marks for SC/ ST/PwBD/D-OBC(NCL)/Defence/KM)
3	Education (Early Childhood Care & Education)	M.A.	Applicants need to have a Bachelors/Master's degree in any discipline with minimum 45% marks or equivalent grade from a recognised university (Relaxation of 5% marks for SC/ ST/PwBD/D-OBC (NCL)/Defence/KM)
4	Global Studies	M.A.	Applicants need to have a Bachelor's degree in any discipline with minimum 45% marks or equivalent grade from a recognised university (Relaxation of 5% marks for SC/ST/PwBD/ D-OBC (NCL)/Defence/KM)
5	Urban Studies	M.A.	Applicants need to have a Bachelor's degree in any discipline with minimum 45% marks or equivalent grade from a recognised university (Relaxation of 5% marks for SC/ST/PwBD/ D-OBC (NCL)/Defence/KM)
6	Master of Public Health	MPH	Applicants need to have a Bachelor's degree in any discipline with minimum 45% marks or equivalent grade from a recognised university (Relaxation of 5% marks for SC/ST/PwBD/ D-OBC (NCL)/Defence/KM)
7	Archaeology Heritage Management	M.A.	Applicants need to have a Bachelor's degree in any discipline with minimum 45% marks or equivalent grade from a recognised university (Relaxation of 5% marks for SC/ST/PwBD/D-OBC(NCL)/Defence/KM).
8	Conservation Preservation and Heritage Management	M.A.	Applicants need to have a Bachelor's degree in any discipline with minimum 45% marks or equivalent grade from a recognized university (Relaxation of 5% marks for SC/ST/PwBD/D-OBC(NCL)/Defence/KM).
9	Gender Studies	M.A.	Applicants need to have a Bachelor's degree in any discipline with minimum 45% marks or equivalent grade from a recognised university (Relaxation of 5% marks for SC/ST/PwBD/ D-OBC (NCL)/Defence/KM)
10	Psychology	M.A.	Applicants need to have a Bachelor's degree in any discipline with minimum 45% marks or equivalent grade from a recognised university (Relaxation of 5% marks for SC/ST/PwBD/ D-OBC (NCL)/Defence/KM)
11	Law, Politics and Society	M.A.	Applicants need to have a Bachelor's degree in any discipline with minimum 45% marks or equivalent grade from a recognised university (Relaxation of 5% marks for SC/ST/PwBD/ D-OBC (NCL)/Defence/KM)
12	Hindi	M.A.	Applicants need to have a Bachelor's degree in any discipline with minimum 45% marks or equivalent grade from a recognised university (Relaxation of 5% marks for SC/ST/PwBD/ D-OBC (NCL)/Defence/KM)
13	English	M.A.	Applicants need to have a Bachelor's degree in any discipline with minimum 45% marks or equivalent grade from a recognised university (Relaxation of 5% marks for SC/ST/PwBD/ D-OBC (NCL)/Defence/KM)
14	Economics	M.A.	Applicants need to have a Bachelor's degree in any discipline with minimum 45% marks or equivalent grade from a recognised university (Relaxation of 5% marks for SC/ST/PwBD/ D-OBC (NCL)/Defence/KM)
15	History	M.A.	Applicants need to have a Bachelor's degree in any discipline with minimum 45% marks or equivalent grade from a recognised university (Relaxation of 5% marks for SC/ST/PwBD/ D-OBC (NCL)/Defence/KM)
16	Sociology	M.A.	Applicants need to have a Bachelor's degree in any discipline with minimum 45% marks or equivalent grade from a recognised university (Relaxation of 5% marks for SC/ST/PwBD/ D-OBC (NCL)/Defence/KM)
17	Tourism & Hospitality Management	M.Voc.	Any graduate degree holder with minimum 50% marks from any recognised university (Relaxation of 5% marks for SC/ST/PwBD/ D-OBC (NCL)/Defence/KM) OR Graduates with NSQF Level 7 certification in Tourism and Hospitality
18	Master of Business Administration in Innovation Entrepreneurship and Venture Development	M.B.A. (IEVD)	Applicants need to have a Bachelor's degree in any discipline with minimum 50% marks or equivalent grade from a recognised university (Relaxation of 5% marks for SC/ST/PwBD/ D-OBC(NCL)/Defence/KM).
19	Environment and Development	M.A.	Applicants need to have a Bachelor's degree in any discipline with minimum 45% marks or equivalent grade from a recognised university (Relaxation of 5% marks for SC/ST/PwBD/ D-OBC (NCL)/Defence/KM).
20	Social Design	M.Des	Applicants need to have a Bachelor's degree in any discipline (3 year) or a 4-year, full time graduate degree/ diploma in design from any university or institute recognised by law in India with minimum 45% marks or equivalent grade (Relaxation of 5% marks for SC/ST/PwBD/D- OBC(NCL)/ Defence/KM). Individuals with additional qualifications and work experience are also encouraged to apply. In case the degree/certificate has been obtained from a university/ board of any country other than India, an equivalence certificate must be obtained by the candidate from the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi, at the time of document verification for seeking admission.

Applicants shall be admitted to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi on the basis of eligibility criterion detailed above in the table against each programme. The applicants are expected to fill in AUD applications from the "Admission" page of the University, in addition to applying through the CUET (PG) page of NTA. Candidates are advised to visit University (www.aud.ac.in) and CUET (PG) (<https://cuet.nta.nic.in/>) website regularly for upcoming updates.

Registrar

DIP/Shabdarth/D/0048/22-23 **Directorate of Higher Education, Govt. of NCT of Delhi**



VACCINATIONS IN LAST 24 HOURS
16,533

PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL: **239**

OXYGEN SUPPORT **63**

VENTILATOR SUPPORT **7**

DELHI TOTAL CASES		Total		Vacant	
Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests	ICU BEDS	NORIDA
19,35,687	9,490	2,132	2,044	9,253	June 30
865	1,276	1	19,435	79	July 1
813	1,021	3	15,339	0	N/A
3,703*	19,05,720	26,264	3,90,83,827	0	0

*Total active cases in Delhi

BRIEFLY

Single-use plastic ban penalties will kick in after July 10: Rai

New Delhi: As the nationwide ban on 19 single-use plastic items kicked in Friday, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said penalties for violating the ban will be imposed only after July 10. Till then, he added, teams will be on ground and warnings will be issued to those found violating the ban. The penalty for violating the ban is as per provisions of the Environment Protection Act, 1986. "This can be a fine of up to Rs 1 lakh or up to five years imprisonment," Rai said.

Spots that see max violations for driving on wrong side identified

Gurgaon: Traffic police have identified over 38 locations where maximum violations for wrong-side driving occur in Gurgaon. DCP Traffic Ravinder Singh Tomar said the list has been shared with GMDA for wrong-side driving detection, where CCTV cameras will be installed by the authority. Police said the locations were finalised after identifying points from challans issued for wrong-side driving violations and feedback from traffic police and road safety officers.

Transport dept nod to fare revision for autos, taxis

New Delhi: The transport department has given in-principle approval to hike fares of autos and taxis by Rs 1.50 and Rs 15 respectively. This will now be placed in the next cabinet meeting for the final nod, said officials. Following protests by auto and taxi drivers in April against hiked CNG prices, the transport minister constituted a 13-member panel for fare revision. Currently, the starting meter rate in autos is Rs 25 which will increase to Rs 30, and Rs 11 will be charged for each km instead of the current Rs 9.50. For AC taxis, meter charges will climb from Rs 25 to Rs 40 and for non-AC taxis from Rs 14 to Rs 17, said officials.

DU issues warning against defacement of campus walls

New Delhi: The DU Proctor has issued a notice on "defacement" of walls on the university campus, stating that "strict action" will be taken against those whose names are found on posters stuck on walls. **ENS**

MONTH AFTER RAID

2 held in ED investigation against Jain

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate Friday arrested two businessmen in connection with its alleged money laundering probe against Delhi government minister Satyendar Jain. Vaibhav Jain and Ankush Jain were arrested after being called for questioning by the agency. The federal probe agency had raided the two last month as part of this investigation.

Satyendar Jain, 57, was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on May 30 under the criminal sections of the PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) and is in judicial custody at present.

The ED case is based on a 2017 disproportionate assets FIR of the CBI against Jain under the Prevention of Corruption Act,

where he was accused of having laundered money through four companies allegedly associated with him.

In April, the ED had provisionally attached immovable properties worth Rs 4.81 crore belonging to these companies, apart from one more company - Akinchan Developers Pvt Ltd, Indo Metal Impex Pvt Ltd, Paryas Infosolutions Pvt Ltd, Mangalayatan Projects Pvt Ltd, and JJ Ideal Estate Pvt Ltd.

It had also called Jain for questioning, after having questioned him once in 2018.

Apart from the properties related to the above companies, properties belonging to Swati Jain, Sushila Jain, Ajit Prasad Jain and Indu Jain were attached in the case related to alleged disproportionate assets.

At the time of the attachment of the properties, the ED had alleged: "Investigation re-



Satyendar Jain was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on May 30

vealed that during the period 2015-16, when Satyendar Kumar Jain was a public servant, the above-mentioned companies beneficially owned and controlled by him received ac-

commodation entries to the tune of Rs 4.81 crore from shell companies against cash transferred to Kolkata-based entry operators through hawala route. These amounts were utilised for direct purchase of land or for the repayment of loan taken for purchase of agricultural land in and around Delhi."

The CBI had alleged that Jain could not explain the source of the funds received by the four companies in which he was a shareholder. It said Rs 4.63 crore was allegedly received through Prayas Info Solutions, Akinchan Developers, Mangalayatan Projects and Indo-Metal Impex Pvt Limited in 2015-16. Jain and his wife allegedly held one-third of the shares in these companies during the period, the CBI alleged.

The probe agency had claimed that these were shell firms used for parking money in

the form of investments in equity shares, in connivance with Kolkata-based shell companies.

The funds were allegedly used to purchase over 200 bighas of land in Auchandi, Bawana, Karala and Mohammed Mazvi villages in Delhi between 2010 and 2016, CBI sources alleged. The CBI filed a chargesheet in the case in December 2018 where it calculated Jain's disproportionate assets allegedly at 217% of his known sources of income.

The CBI had registered a case against him, his wife and four others on charges of corruption. It also questioned him in the case.

"This apart, before becoming a public servant, he was allegedly involved in laundering Rs 11.78 crore during 2010-12 through these companies as well as other firms also based in New Delhi," the CBI had alleged.

L-G nod to making 128 temporary medical posts permanent

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

AHEAD OF National Doctors' Day, Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena said removing ad hocism and professional insecurity for doctors would be a fitting tribute to them. He was speaking on Thursday after approving the conversion of 128 temporary posts for medical professionals in Delhi government hospitals to permanent ones.

This will allow permanent staffing on 76 posts at Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar Medical College in Rohini, 40 posts at Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital in Dilshad Garden, nine posts at Maulana Azad Medical College near Delhi Gate, and three posts at Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital at Khichripur. Some of these posts had been lying vacant since 2011 or 2012, with people being hired on and off on an ad hoc basis. These posts include assistant professor of orthopaedics, senior resident in radiology, surgeons, dental surgeons, junior resident, staff nurse, clinical instructor and radiographers, among others.

Since the new L-G took over, he has approved 918 new posts under various categories for the newly opened Indira Gandhi Hospital at Dwarka. With the L-G responsible for personnel in Delhi, tussles with the government have led to delays in appointments and creation of posts over the years. Saxena has instructed officials to quickly process the filling of all vacancies and upgradation that have remained unduly pending for years.

AAP's Guresh Pathak, the newly elected MLA of Rajinder Nagar, visited Sir Ganga Ram Hospital on the occasion of National Doctors' Day, celebrated on July 1 to mark the birth and death anniversary of Indian physician Dr B C Roy. He lauded the services provided by the hospital and said he will take up pending work for widening the entry and exit roads of the hospital and widening of the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital Marg. He assured Dr DS Rana, chairman of the hospital's board of management, that the compost plant in the vicinity of the hospital would be shifted.



Deputy CM Manish Sisodia

mated to cost Rs 1,855 crore.

The government has also planned to upgrade six sewage treatment plants (STPs) across the city and Rs 1,367.5 crore was allocated for it. Besides, several other projects and decisions were taken during the meeting, aimed to reduce water pollution and clean the Yamuna.

Officials added that lakes will also be developed near Okhla STP to recharge groundwater level. The STPs that will be upgraded under this project are Kondli, Coronation Park, Rohini, Pappan Kalan Lake, Narela, and Nilothi.

Sisodia said these STPs will be made with the latest technology to comply with biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and total suspended solids (TSS) effluent standards of 10 mg/litre.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Delhi schools reopened after summer vacation on Friday. Praveen Khanna

New assessment norms to focus on questions that test competency

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

IN A new set of assessment guidelines, the Delhi government has directed all schools in the city to make competency-based questions count for 40% of the question papers for students from classes III to IX.

The government will also be introducing assessment for its Happiness, Deshbhakti and Entrepreneurship Mindset curricula for students of classes III to IX, and XI this year for the first time. However, this assessment will not bear any weightage in determining whether students will be promoted to the next grade.

In an order binding on all schools in the city, including private schools, the Directorate of Education has stated that a greater number of competency-based questions or "questions that assess the application of concepts in real life/unfamiliar situations will be part of mid-term, pre-board and annual examinations as "the need of the hour is that schools must focus on competency-based learning which will equip students to face real-life challenges in an information and technology-driven world and

enhance their inherent potential". Schools have been directed to make such questions count for 40% of question papers for students in classes III to IX and 30% for class XI.

Schools have been asked to base 40 marks of class III to VIII students' final results on internal assessments which they have asked to break into four components - periodic assessment; multiple assessments based on diverse techniques; creation of portfolios in the form of a journal or notebook; subject enrichment activities such as lab activities and project work. While internal assessment marks for students of class IX will vary for different subjects, they are also based on these four components.

Schools have been directed to comply with these instructions and have been told that "no dilution of the criteria prescribed is permissible under any circumstances". In government schools, students of classes III to VIII will now also be assessed on the Happiness and Deshbhakti curricula, and students of classes IX and XI on the Entrepreneurship Mindset and Deshbhakti curricula. However, this assessment will not count towards the promotion of students.

4 villages to get sewer lines, 3 lakh people to benefit, says Sisodia

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

THE DELHI government on Friday approved a project to lay sewer lines in four villages and 36 unauthorised colonies, one of the poll promises of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government.

According to officials, areas including Bijwasan, Najafgarh, Shikarpur, Burari, Sangam Vihar which currently have poor drainage systems will get proper sewer systems that will benefit around 3 lakh people.

"Currently, sewage from these areas is discharged into local ponds, septic tanks, and stormwater drains, which later goes indirectly into the Yamuna. In such a situation, 8.25 million gallons per day of sewage reaching the Yamuna will be treated," said Deputy CM Manish Sisodia after approving the project during the Delhi Jal Board meeting.

A sewer line of 26.5 km in six unauthorised colonies of Bijwasan, an 82.79 km sewer line network in Najafgarh, 17.25 km in Shikarpur, 35 km sewer line in 12 unauthorised colonies of Deoli and Sangam Vihar, and a 24 km sewer line in Burari will be laid under this project esti-

ARNAV CHANDRASEKHAR
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

A DAY after a portion of a two-story building collapsed in Central Delhi's Paharganj, several residents who lost their homes said they have no place to stay.

On Thursday, police received a PCR call at 5 pm informing them that the front portion of the building, located at Katra Ram Gali near 6 Tooti Chowk, had caved in following the rain. Delhi Fire Services personnel

evacuated at least 30 people who were inside and no casualties were reported.

The municipal corporation demolished certain sections deemed dangerous on Friday. Amit Kumar, PRO (MCD), said: "The exact cause of the collapse has not yet been determined yet. We are demolishing a part of the building which is imminently dangerous."

Suraj, a furniture store worker who lived in the building, said he was at work at the time and his 10 family members



The front portion of the building had collapsed

were rescued. "Though this area has old buildings, something like this has never happened before... Since the collapse, we have all been in a desperate situation. Nobody has contacted us offering help, be it a politician or authorities. We have no permanent place to stay."

Another resident, Shashi, said, "I work as a daily wage and have been living in this building for many years now. Now I can't take my family to another accommodation as we don't have enough money to pay more

rent." She said her elderly mother is currently living at the local mandir.

She added that all their possessions are under the rubble: "We have been wearing the same clothes since yesterday. We don't even have proper access to food and water."

Suraj said, "My brother's children can't go to school, all their books and school necessities are inside."

Another resident, Chanchal, said she was inside the building when the collapse took place. "It

was past 3 pm and I was making food for my 15-year-old son, who had returned from school... It was very scary... My husband passed away five months ago, and now we are homeless."

Residents also alleged the building owner disappeared after the incident. On Thursday, DCP (West) Shweta Chauhan had said, "The premises have been barricaded. MCD has also been asked to survey the condition of the surrounding buildings to avoid untoward incidents in the future."

Bajrang Dal, VHP members booked for 'promoting enmity' at Gurgaon protest

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
GURGAON, JULY 1

TWO DAYS after members of Bajrang Dal and Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) staged a protest in Gurgaon demanding stringent punishment for the accused in the murder of a tailor, Kanhaiya Lal, in Udaipur, Gurgaon police have booked the organisers of the rally for allegedly raising abusive slogans and promoting enmity between communities.

On Wednesday, at least 80 people had assembled at Nehru Park around 5 pm and marched towards Sadar Bazar before dispersing at Harish Bakery Chowk. Protesters had burnt an effigy of 'Islamic Jihad terrorism'. In purported videos of the rally, protesters could be heard raising provocative slogans against the Muslim community near Jama Masjid, as well as shouting 'desh ke gaddaron ko, goli maar saalon ko'.

Police said they took suo motu cognizance of the incident after videos of the rally went viral on social media.

"During this rally/procession, slogans were raised by using abusive language against a particular community. Taking action in this regard, an FIR has been registered against organisers and others who had raised slogans in the rally," said Subhash Boken, spokesperson, Gurgaon Police.

Police said some people were named in the FIR, while others were unknown.

Police sources said the organisers had been granted permission for the rally on Wednesday. Sources said some of the organisers were summoned by the police on Thursday for questioning. A senior police officer, requesting anonymity, said, "Organisers from Bajrang Dal and VHP had been granted permission subject to maintaining law and order. Suo motu action has been taken by the police in this regard."

Nishant Kumar Yadav, deputy commissioner, Gurgaon, told me-

dia persons, "This march was taken out two days ago in light of the incident in Udaipur. We held a meeting with representatives of all outfits and organisers before the march. It was made clear to everyone that the march should remain peaceful and harmony is not disturbed. The permission had been granted on this pretext. We received information from police that during the march, some provocative slogans were raised. Police have registered an FIR against the culprits. The administration will take strict action against anyone who takes law and order into their hands and indulges in such activities."

Kulbhushan Bhardwaj, who was among the people leading the protest, had told *The Indian Express* on Wednesday, "We demand harshest punishment for the accused. The state government should give Rs 1 crore compensation and a government job to the relatives of the victim. The case should be fast tracked and the probe should be transferred to law enforcement agencies in UP."

Bhardwaj, legal adviser of Sanyukt Hindu Sangharsh Samiti, was among the people spearheading protests against namaz in the open in Gurgaon last year and was among 26 people who were arrested on October 29, 2021 for attempting to disrupt namaz prayers in sector 12 A. He was suspended from BJP for anti-party activities in 2020.

Police said an FIR was registered under IPC sections 153A (promoting enmity between different communities on ground of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language etc and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony), 295A (deliberate and malicious act intended to outrage religious feelings of any class, by insulting religious beliefs) 116 (abetment of offence punishable with imprisonment), 34 (common intention) and 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) at City police station.

Circle rate rebate withdrawn, stamp duty may go up

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

AS THE Delhi government on Thursday (June 30) ended the 20 per cent rebate on the circle rate, there were apprehensions that property prices in the national capital would go up. Buyers would have to pay, with effect from July 1, 2022, actual circle rates as per the 2014 guidelines.

The government is also mulling a 1% hike in stamp duty on property, deeds, bonds, shares etc. A proposal regarding this has been moved by the revenue department, official sources said, adding that if approved, real estate transactions in Delhi will get costlier.

Official sources said a hike in stamp duty will increase government revenue by Rs 700-800 crore. "The revenue department has moved a proposal. However, the process will require an amendment in the Stamp Act, and may take some time to come into effect," said sources.

What is the circle rate?

Circle rates are minimum prices per unit area determined by the government. A property cannot be registered for a price below the circle rate for that area.

Circle rates vary from state to state, city to city, and area to area. Circle rates are revised upward or downward from time to time depending on factors such as demand and supply, amenities, profile of the neighbourhood, etc.

In Delhi, the government has divided localities in categories from A-H, and has fixed a floor price for properties in each cate-

gory. Affluent and posh localities such as Jorbagh, Vasant Vihar, Safdarjung Enclave etc., come under category A, while the least developed places - mostly located in Outer Delhi - fall under category H.

In February 2021, amid the disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic and lockdowns, the government relaxed the circle rate by 20%. As a result, the existing circle rate of properties in category A fell from Rs 7.7 lakh per square metre to Rs 6.2 lakh per square metre, and in category H, the floor price went from Rs 23,280 to Rs 18,624 per square metre.

According to a senior Delhi government official, the end of the rebate regime will not affect real estate much, and property transactions will remain almost the same. However, the government's stamp duty collections will increase.

What is stamp duty?

Stamp Duty is payable at the time of registration of a property if it is acquired by way of sale deed/conveyance deed/gift deed.

It is payable at the rate of 6% (including 3% transfer duty which is equal to 3% stamp duty) of the consideration amount or the circle rate of the property applicable in the area, whichever is higher, if the property is registered in the name of a man, and 4% if it is registered in the name of a woman (including 2% transfer duty which is equal to 2% stamp duty).

If it increases, men purchasing property, shares, bonds, deeds etc will have to pay 4% stamp duty, while women will have to pay 3%.

Pushed to margins, Capt Amarinder likely to merge his party with BJP

NAVJEEVANGOPAL
CHANDIGARH, JULY 1

THE FORMER Punjab chief minister Capt Amarinder Singh is likely to merge his Punjab Lok Congress (PLC) with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the coming days upon his return from London, where the 80-year-old leader has been recuperating now following a spinal surgery.

A former Congress veteran, Amarinder resigned from the membership of the grand old party in early November last year one-and-a-half months after he was unceremoniously replaced with Charanjit Singh Channi as the CM by the Congress leadership in the wake of his protracted tussle with the then state party chief Navjot Singh Sidhu.

After quitting the Congress, Amarinder had floated the PLC in the run-up to the February 20 Punjab Assembly elections. It contested the polls in alliance with the BJP and the SAD (Sanyukt). As per their seat-sharing arrangement, the BJP contested on 65 seats, the PLC on 37 (with a number of candidates preferring to contest on the BJP symbol) and the SAD (Sanyukt) on 15 seats.

All PLC candidates lost badly in the polls, with Amarinder himself losing from Patiala, his bastion. The BJP managed to win two seats, while the SAD (Sanyukt), led by former Rajya Sabha member Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, drawing a blank. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) swept the elections, in which the Congress was decimated.

Capt Amarinder has been in the political wilderness since the Punjab elections.

On the buzz about the PLC's upcoming merger with the BJP, Amarinder's political secretary Major Amardeep, speaking to *The Indian Express* from London, said, "Let's wait and watch."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called to inquire about Amarinder's health on June 27



Former Punjab chief minister Capt Amarinder Singh

following his surgery. "It was just a call to inquire about the well-being of Captain Sahib," he said.

The BJP national executive member, Harjit Grewal, however, asserted that the PLC's merger with the BJP had been decided before Amarinder went to London and that it will be formally announced once he returns to the country.

"Before leaving for London (for treatment), he (Amarinder) had already conveyed that he will merge PLC with the BJP. We have common ideology of nationalism. He is very close to our ideology. We are also committed to nationalism and he also batted for nationalism," Grewal said.

Asked when this merger would take place, Grewal said, "It depends on when Capt Amarinder Singh returns. The surgery has been conducted at three points on his spine and it will depend when he can travel this long distance. The merger is already on the cards", adding that "with this merger, BJP will get strengthened at the grassroots level".

When pointed out that the PLC could not get much traction during the Punjab polls, Grewal said it was because "there was anti-incumbency against four-and-a-half years rule of Amarinder Singh as the CM". He also said: "BJP is strengthening itself for communal harmony in Punjab and to ensure that Punjab remains connected with national mainstream. So, all joining BJP in these efforts are welcome to join the party."



West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee inaugurates ISKCON Rath Yatra in Kolkata on Friday. Partha Paul

'Murmu could've been consensus candidate if NDA consulted Opp'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JULY 1

WEST BENGAL Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday said that Droupadi Murmu, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) nominee for the Presidential polls, could have been a consensus candidate had the BJP consulted her nomination with the Opposition parties.

Speaking to mediapersons during a Rath Yatra programme in Kolkata, Banerjee said Murmu has a better chance of winning the Presidential election.

"The BJP had asked for our suggestion (on Presidential candidate) but they did not tell us about their nominee. Had we known they were planning to field a tribal woman or a member of a minority community, we could have thought about it [consensus]. We have great respect for people from the tribal communities and for women. It (consensus) happened during the candidature of APJ Abdul Kalam," said Banerjee.

"Droupadi Murmu has better chances (to win presidential polls) because of the Maharashtra development. If the BJP had asked for our suggestion before announcing the name of Murmu, we too could

have considered it." The CM stressed that a consensus candidate is always better for the country, adding that she will go by the decision of the Opposition parties.

"We have 16-17 parties in our alliance. I cannot back out unilaterally. There are others too. We will go by what has already been decided. Yashwant Sinha ji has already filed his nomination papers. We want to see a healthy election," said Banerjee.

Yashwant Sinha, who resigned from Banerjee's Trinamool Congress (TMC), is the candidate of the Opposition parties for the polls scheduled on July 18. Murmu, a tribal leader of the saffron party from Odisha and former Jharkhand Governor, is the NDA's nominee.

BJP national vice-president Dilip Ghosh said, "Banerjee is saying all this because she knows that the defeat of the Opposition candidate is inevitable. She has been looking for publicity through this election. The BJP announced Murmu's name after the Opposition fielded Sinha. She was even absent when Sinha filed his nomination. She got the publicity and now she is abandoning Sinha to his fate."

PM speaks to Putin, reiterates call for Ukraine diplomacy

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed the situation in Ukraine in a telephone conversation — their fourth such interaction since Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24. During the conversation, Modi reiterated New Delhi's position calling for dialogue and diplomacy.

The Kremlin, the Russian President's office, said Putin briefed Modi on the "dangerous and provocative nature of the line of the Kyiv regime and its Western patrons aimed at escalating the crisis and disrupting efforts to resolve it politically and diplomatically".

The two leaders previously spoke on February 24, March 2 and March 7, when several Indian citizens, the majority of them being students, were still stuck in Ukraine.

A statement by the Ministry of External Affairs said: "The two leaders reviewed the implementation of the decisions taken during President Putin's visit to India



PM Narendra Modi; Russian President Vladimir Putin

in December 2021. In particular, they exchanged ideas on how bilateral trade in agricultural goods, fertilizers and pharma products could be encouraged further."

"The leaders also discussed global issues, including the state of the international energy and food markets," the ministry said.

"In the context of the ongoing situation in Ukraine, the Prime Minister reiterated India's long-standing position in favour of dialogue and diplomacy," the MEA statement said, adding that the leaders agreed to maintain regular consultations on global and bilateral issues.

About the leaders' conversation on the global food markets, the Kremlin said: "The current

EXPLAINED
E India's balancing act

INDIA HAS tried to maintain a diplomatic balance between the West and Russia as the Ukraine conflict unfolded over the last four months. New Delhi has condemned the reported killings by Russian troops of civilians in Ukraine's Bucha, and has called for an inquiry into it. But at the same time, it has not joined in the sanctions imposed on Russia by the West and has not criticised Russia for the invasion of Ukraine.

state of affairs in the global food market was touched upon as well."

The Kremlin's statement said that the phone call was agreed during the BRICS summit on June 23-24. It said that the leaders discussed "in detail topical issues of

the Russian-Indian relations, paying special attention to the further development of mutually beneficial ties in the economic sphere".

"A significant increase in the volume of bilateral trade... was noted with satisfaction. They expressed mutual intention for the comprehensive strengthening of the special and privileged strategic partnership between Russia and India," the Kremlin said, adding that Putin and Modi agreed to continue personal contacts as well as interaction at other levels.

Russia has emerged as a major oil supplier to India. While India has not criticised Russia over its invasion of Ukraine, it has condemned the killings in Bucha — the Ukrainian city where several civilians were reported to have been killed by Russian troops — and has called for an international investigation into it, which is perceived as New Delhi moving closer to the US-led West.

However, India has always tried to maintain a diplomatic balance between the US-led west and Russia as the conflict unfolded over the last four months.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

PM congratulates Lapid for assuming Israeli premiership

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday congratulated Yair Lapid for assuming the premiership of Israel and said he looks forward to furthering the bilateral strategic partnership as the two countries celebrate 30 years of full diplomatic relations. Lapid reciprocated by saying that India is an "important partner" and a "close friend of Israel", and he looks forward to working together to deepen this friendship.

Israel's Parliament voted

Thursday to dissolve itself and send the country to polls in November for the fifth time in less than four years. Lapid, Israel's foreign minister, became caretaker PM after midnight on Friday.

"Warm wishes and heartfelt congratulations to His Excellency @yairlapid for assuming the premiership of Israel. I look forward to continue furthering our strategic partnership as we celebrate 30 years of full diplomatic relations," he tweeted.

ENS

OBITUARY



With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you of the sad demise of our beloved father

Mr. Bhanu Prakash on 1st July 2022

Residence: 80/40 B, First Floor, Malviya Nagar, Opposite Ganpati Apartment, New Delhi - 110017

Cremation at Green Park Cremation Ground @ 2 PM on 2nd July 2022.

Remembered by:

VIJAYALAKSHMI (Wife)
RANJITH (Son)
NISHA (Daughter)
SATISH (Son in Law)
RADHIKA (Daughter in Law)
ASHA (Niece)
VISHNU, KEERTHANA & RIYAN (Grand Children)
And all family members

Let us heal our environment by **Saying No** to single-use plastic

SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BANNED FROM 1ST JULY 2022

BANNED ITEMS

Disposable Plastic

Thermocol Decoration Items

BANNED

Plastic Flags

Plastic Ear Buds

Plastic Stirrers

Eco-Friendly Disposables

Cardboard Packaging

Paper & Cloth Decorations

Reuse, Recreate and Inspire

Cheap & Durable Bag

“ We owe our future generations a better and cleaner planet. Let us further environmental sustainability by ensuring the end of single use plastic. ”

- Narendra Modi

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DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



MESSAGE, ON SCREEN

MINORITY AFFAIRS Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi had an unusual assignment on Friday – gracing the 5th Global Film Tourism Conclave in Mumbai. But even while addressing the film conclave, the minister made sure not to forget his government's line. He told the audience that "the torrent of films can hit hard on terrorism" and that Indian and foreign films have played a significant role in "giving meaningful message against the menace of terrorism, violence, radicalism". Naqvi said the Modi government has taken several measures to make India a favourite filming destination, including providing financial incentives and other facilities to promote production of foreign movies in India.

THE CANDIDATE

WEST BENGAL Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, one of the driving forces behind the Opposition's decision to field Yashwant Sinha as Presidential candidate, appears to have read the writing on the wall. On Friday, speaking to reporters in Kolkata, she said, had the BJP been more transparent in its choice of Droupadi Murmu, the Opposition parties could have taken a collective call on not forcing a contest. By now, even JD(S) have extended support to the NDA candidate Murmu. Shiromani Akali Dal, which was also invited to the Opposition meeting, has also backed Murmu. However, AAP, which has 10 Rajya Sabha members, remains non-committal, despite NCP supremo Sharad Pawar announcing that Delhi CM and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal has promised to support Sinha's candidature.

LAST DAY IN OFFICE

TWO INDIAN diplomats, both accomplished in their own ways, retired on Friday – Indian envoy in Canada Ajay Bisaria and Indian envoy in New York TS Tirumurti. While Indian envoy in Thimphu Ruchira Kamboj will become the Indian envoy at the UN in New York, the position in Canada is yet to be filled up. Bisaria was one of the top diplomats who was aide to former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

DAY AFTER NEW STATE GOVT'S DECISION ON AAREY

Hurt me, not Mumbai, says Uddhav; Aarey is right site for project: BJP

VALLABH OZARKAR & YOGESH NAIK
MUMBAI, JULY 1

IN THE first war of words between Uddhav Thackeray and Devendra Fadnis after the latter was made the deputy Chief Minister, the former CM on Friday opposed the move to shift the Mumbai Metro-3 carshed back to Aarey, asking the new state government "not to play with the environment and Mumbai", even as the BJP leader insisted that Aarey was the right place for the project.

A day after he was made the deputy CM and rebel Sena leader Eknath Shinde the CM, Fadnis overturned the decision of the MVA to shift the carshed to Kanjurmarg, calling it a wrong move on the previous government's part. The urban development (UD) department will now prepare the proposal for the carshed at Aarey Colony and bring it before the next cabinet meet.

Speaking to the media after stepping down as CM, Thackeray said, "I am sad because of the move on Aarey car shed. Do not harm Mumbai and Mumbaikars just because you are angry with me. Hurt me, not Mumbaikars. The Aarey plot is important for the environment... Don't project anger on Mumbaikars."

He added, "Consider the proposal of having Metro-3 carshed at Kanjurmarg. I am requesting with folded hands, don't insist on making the carshed at Aarey."

For his part, Fadnis said, "A lot of work on Metro-3 is completed but unless carshed work is done, the Metro cannot run. The plot where the earlier government had proposed the carshed (in Kanjurmarg) is a disputed one and even after getting the carshed now, the work will take at least four years. In Aarey, which was



Uddhav Thackeray during a press conference at Sena Bhavan in Mumbai on Friday. Express

ED questions Sanjay Raut

Mumbai: Shiv Sena MP and party spokesperson Sanjay Raut appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday after he was summoned for questioning in connection with a case of alleged money laundering linked to the redevelopment of a chawl project in Mumbai's suburbs.

According to sources, Raut presented himself before the

ED at around 11.45 am on Friday and was questioned for around 10 hours by the agency.

Officials had issued a second summons to Raut after he failed to appear before them on Tuesday and instead sent his lawyer to seek an exemption for 14 days. His plea, however, was rejected and subsequently, he was instructed to appear on Friday. **ENS**

cleared by the Supreme Court, 25 per cent work on that land is already complete and the remaining 75 per cent can be completed immediately. Hence, for the benefit of Mumbaikars, if we have to start the Metro soon, then the car shed has to be in Aarey only."

Thackeray also questioned the BJP's decision to make a "so-called Shiv Sainik" the CM when it did not keep its 2019 promise of rotating the post between the two parties. The Sena chief said, "Had Home Minister Amit Shah

kept his promise of having a Shiv Sena CM for 2.5 years, there would have been a BJP CM for at least 2.5 years. I don't know what they have achieved after forming this government as that would mean that there would be no BJP CM in Maharashtra for the entire five-year tenure."

"There is now again an attempt to create a misconception... that there is a Shiv Sena CM in Maharashtra. But there can't be a Shiv Sena CM by keeping the Sena aside," he said.

As MVA stares at uncertain future, NCP eyes Sena space, Cong adrift

SHUBHANGI KHAPRE
MUMBAI, JULY 1

AFTER THE collapse of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra, there is now uncertainty over the future of the MVA – a coalition of three parties, the Uddhav-led Sena, the Sharad Pawar-led NCP and the Congress.

The key question that hangs over the MVA's fate is whether the coalition could work in electoral politics if it had only limited success in a government that fell after completing barely 31 months.

In a government setting with defined power structures, it is easier to engage with allies while sharing power. But when the same model is extended to electoral politics with its pulls and pressures, it is difficult to succeed,

with the allies vying with each other to protect their turfs and expand their footprints.

This is bound to be more challenging for ideologically disparate parties like the Sena and the Congress or the NCP. Setting aside their ideological differences, the trio had forged the MVA to form their government in November 2019, keeping the single largest party, the BJP, at bay. But after being ousted from power now, it will be a tall order for the three parties to continue to work together and take on the BJP as well as the Eknath Shinde-led Sena faction in Maharashtra.

A day after Uddhav stepped down as the CM, the Congress and the NCP rallied in his support, expressing sympathy and solidarity, with signals to this effect coming from Congress president Sonia Gandhi and NCP chief Pawar. But such gestures will be tested on the

ground when the three parties with their separate, conflicting agendas take the plunge into any election.

Currently, the NCP seems to be in a better position than the Congress and the Sena. With Pawar Senior at its helm, the party has drawn up a road map for the expansion of its electoral base across Maharashtra. The party's ex-Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, who held finance portfolio in the Uddhav Cabinet, ensured that the constituencies of their legislators were adequately funded to get various developmental projects properly executed there.

Days after the October 2019 Maharashtra Assembly election, the Sena had decided to break its 25-year-old alliance with the BJP as the latter had not conceded its demand for a rotational CM with two-and-half

years tenure for each party's nominee. The MVA was then created with Uddhav taking over as the CM. However, the MVA's inherent contradictions put massive pressure on all three parties. While their leaders accommodated each other there had been uneasiness and resentment among their workers at the grass-roots level.

With the Uddhav-led Sena being dealt a body blow by the Shinde-led party rebels, the NCP will go all out to claim the political space thus created in a bid to realise its ambition to become the single largest party in the state. It will now be the principal Opposition party in the Assembly.

The Congress continues to be drifting in the state with the plight of the grand old party's central unit aggravating the situation at all levels. In the absence of an effective leadership and road map, it finds itself in disarray.

Ahead of BJP national executive meet, Nadda holds roadshow in Hyderabad

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

THE BJP held a massive roadshow led by party national president J P Nadda at Shamshabad on the outskirts of Hyderabad today evening, ahead of the two-day national executive meeting.

The BJP welcomed the party chief with a show of strength with almost all state BJP leaders, including state BJP chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar; Union Minister G Kishan Reddy; district coordinators, and others, converging at the airport to welcome Nadda.

The BJP has turned the area around the Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC) saffron with huge cut-outs of top leaders, flags and banners highlighting the schemes and achievements of the party.

The ruling Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) has also put up hundreds of posters and banners across the city with slogans against the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"BJP has no answer when we ask what their government at the Centre has given to Telangana. I ask all the BJP leaders arriving today, what is it that you have done for Telangana?" MLA Balaka Suman said.

Addressing Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Telangana's IT, Industries and Municipal Administration Minister, and the son of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, said "aao, dekho, seekho", saying that Telangana had lessons to offer.

BJP leaders, including the Chief Ministers of 19 states, Cabinet ministers, former CMs and office-bearers, arrived in the city by evening. OBC Morcha president Dr K Laxman said holding the meeting in Hyderabad was a good decision.

"It has generated a lot of enthusiasm among BJP leaders and workers," he said.

The Cyberabad Police have imposed Section 144 till July 4 in the Cyberabad area as an ad-



BJP national president J P Nadda with Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar, MP K Laxman, party leader Vijay Shanti and others during a roadshow in Hyderabad on Friday. PTI

ditional security measure. Operation of drones near the HICC has also been prohibited till July 4 evening.

Workers of the BJP and Congress clashed outside the saffron party's office at Hanamkonda in Telangana on Friday afternoon after Congress activists protested against the Agnipath scheme, the police said.

As the Congress workers sat in protest outside the office, BJP activists tried to chase them away, leading to a scuffle, officers said, adding that the wind-screens of several vehicles belonging to those from either side were damaged.

BJP national general secretary and party state in-charge Tarun Chugh said PM Narendra Modi would arrive at the Begumpet airport at 2.55 pm on Saturday and will proceed to the HICC to attend the national executive meeting in the evening. On July 3, Modi will address a public meeting at the Parade Ground in Secunderabad.

On July 4, he will proceed to Bhimavaram in Andhra Pradesh to participate in the 125th birth anniversary celebrations of freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju.

SIDELIGHTS

WILL FADNAVIS ATTEND?

The first day of the BJP national executive began with the meeting of the general secretaries in Hyderabad. Senior leaders wondered if Devendra Fadnis will attend the meeting wherein PM Narendra Modi and all senior leaders will be present throughout. Some leaders said Fadnis is busy with Assembly proceedings scheduled for July 3-4 and won't be able to make it. However, a leader said Fadnis may "drop in".

FOCUS: BJP CONCLAVE

BJP leaders seem to be extra careful about not taking away the focus from the party programme. At a press conference, party general secretary Tarun Chugh refused to address any question on the Supreme Court's remarks on party's former spokesperson Nupur Sharma or the Opposition attack on the BJP. "Please confine to questions on BJP national executive" he said, refusing to comment on if the BJP will discuss political developments in the wake of the Udaipur killing.

CHUGH TARGETS KCR

As the BJP is setting the stage for ousting K Chandrashekar Rao

government in Telangana in the 2023 Assembly election, Tarun Chugh, party in charge of Telangana, took several potshots at Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao. Accusing him of not spending time in his office, Chugh said: "We know how they spend their evenings and how colourful they turn."

TELANGANA GROUND WORK

According to Chugh, 119 party workers have spent 48 hours in 119 Assembly constituencies of Telangana and will submit a report to leadership. The BJP has organised meetings of 14 major communities in the urban areas of the state and senior leaders, including CMs, will attend those during their stay in Hyderabad. "522 days are left for the corrupt, dynastic KCR government in Telangana. Then people will bid goodbye to KCR and welcome welfare-oriented BJP government," Chugh said.

MORALE BOOSTER

The morale of the BJP unit in Telangana is expected to get a boost with more senior leaders from other parties joining it in the coming days, party sources said. **LIZ MATHEW**

EXPLOSIVE HURLED AT CPM OFFICE IN KERALA

Police say yet to identify suspect; CPM, Cong engage in blame game

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
JULY 1

A DAY after an explosive was hurled at the CPI(M)'s state headquarters, AKG Centre, in Thiruvananthapuram, police on Friday said they were investigating to identify the suspect even as the ruling party blamed the Congress for the attack. The Congress hit back, saying it was plotted by the CPI(M) to divert attention from controversies as well as Rahul Gandhi's visit to the state.

The explosive was thrown at one of the gates of the AKG Centre around 11.30 pm Thursday by a person on a two-wheeler as half a dozen policemen stood guard at another entrance of the CPI(M) office. The police have seized CCTV footage, which showed the suspect hurling an object at the party office, but could not identify him till Friday evening despite massive search operations since midnight.

CPI(M) central committee member and convener of Left Democratic Front E P Jayarajan blamed the Congress. "The bomb attack was well-planned. It is a sequel to the recent attacks on CPI(M) offices by Congress. It can be seen as a part of converting Congress into a semi-cadre system. CPI(M) workers would not get provoked," he said.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the police have been given strict direction to book the culprits. "The attack is on the most important office of the largest political party in Kerala. It is an attempt to shatter peace. People and party workers should not get provoked," he said.

Congress state president K Sudhakaran said the attack was scripted by Jayarajan. "I won't blame the CPI(M). Jayarajan is behind that attack. AKG centre has police protection. Will any Congress worker dare to hurl explosives at the CPI(M) state office?"

"When Rahul Gandhi is beginning his visit to Wayanad on Friday, will any Congress worker attack the CPI(M) office to spoil the day. The CPI(M) wanted to divert the attention from Rahul's visit..." he said.



Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and K C Venugopal, along with others, at a protest march in Wayanad, Kerala, on Friday. PTI

Rahul visits his vandalised office in Wayanad, says incident unfortunate

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
JULY 1

SENIOR CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday visited his office in Wayanad, which was vandalised by CPI(M) student wing Student Federation of India (SFI) last week, and termed the incident as "unfortunate".

Rahul, who reached Wayanad on Friday for a three-day tour in the constituency, visited his vandalised office at Kalpetta.

"This is my office. But before being my office, this is the office of people of Wayanad. It is quite unfortunate that the office was attacked. Violence would never resolve problems... they have acted in an irresponsible manner. I don't have any anger or hostility towards them. They are kids and they don't understand the consequences of their act," he said.

Referring to Friday's Supreme Court observation that Nupur Sharma, who was suspended as BJP spokesperson over her controversial comments on the Prophet, that she "is single-handedly responsible for what is happening in the country," Rahul accused the BJP-led government at the Centre of creating an "environment of anger and hatred" in the country.

He said that the creation of this environment in the country is "an anti-national act" and is against the interest of India, against the interest of the people.

He said that as a party, Congress "builds bridges between people, we build bridges between communities, and we bring people together... We don't believe in solving problems through hatred."

9 EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY

JHARKHAND

Dhanbad tense after clashes

Dhanbad: Tension prevails in Jharia township of Dhanbad district after clashes among members of two communities after a dispute over bathing in a pond at Baniyahir locality, 8 km from the district headquarters, police said. People from both communities clashed after Friday prayers in which an old woman was injured due to stone pelting. Sindri SDPO Abhishek Kumar Singh said the situation was under control now. "A large police force has been deployed in the area. No one has been arrested in this connection as it was a trivial issue," the SDPO said. **PTI**

CHHATTISGARH

Maoist supply network busted

Jagdalpur: Police in Chhattisgarh's Bastar on Friday said they had busted an alleged Maoist supply network with the arrest of nine people, including a 51-year-old man from West Bengal, and had seized materials used in explosives. Acting on a tip-off, the accused were apprehended from Bastanar-Kankloor road under Kodanar police station limits in Bastar district when the consignment was being supplied to militants, a senior police official said. **PTI**

ASSAM

Murder: NDFB chief acquitted

Guwahati: A TADA court here has acquitted founder chairman of now-disbanded National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), Ranjan Daimary, in a case of murdering six members of a family in 1992 in Assam due to lack of evidence, his lawyer said on Friday. Daimary is already serving life sentence after being convicted in a case related to the 2008 serial bomb blasts in Assam. His advocate Manas Sarania told PTI that the TADA court has acquitted Daimary in a case taken up by it in 2000. **PTI**

WEST BENGAL

Truck hits car in Suvendu convoy

Kanathi: A truck hit a security vehicle in Bengal Leader of Opposition (LoP) Suvendu Adhikari's convoy on Friday afternoon when he was on his way to Kanathi from Tamruk, a police officer said. No one sustained injuries in the mishap at Marishda, he said. But it triggered a political row as the BJP alleged there may have been "foul play" in the accident, which the state's ruling Trinamool Congress dismissed. **PTI**

Two more arrested for Udaipur killing

Officials say they were involved in planning and executing the crime

DEEP MUKHERJEE
UDAIPUR, JULY 1

THE RAJASTHAN Police on Friday arrested two more accused for the murder of Udaipur-based tailor Kanhaiyalal Teli on June 28, with officials saying they were involved in the conspiracy to plan and execute the crime. The two main accused in the case, Mohammad Riyaz and Ghouse Mohammad, who filmed a video after the murder of Teli, were sent to the high security jail in Ajmer late on Thursday night.

"We have arrested two more accused, Asif Hussain and Mohsin Khan. They have been found to be involved in the abetment of the crime. Both are residents of Udaipur," Anti-Terrorism Squad ADG Ashok Rathore told *The Indian Express* on Friday.

The Special Operations Group and the ATS of the Rajasthan Police issued a statement saying media reports claiming that the NIA said there was no terrorist organisation's hand in the killing were "premature" because the investigation is in a preliminary stage. A senior official, who is a part of the special investigation team probing the murder, said that apart from the video made after the killing of Teli, Riyaz had recorded a video more than 10 days before the murder. In the next few days, the accused meticulously planned the murder, which the accused said was committed after Teli allegedly shared remarks on the Prophet made by suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma, the official said.

"At least one of the two accused has been seen in CCTV footage from cameras near Teli's tailoring shop a few days before the murder. This suggests they had been planning the murder for some time," said the official.

Meanwhile, members of the Jain community, under the banner of Mahaveer Sena, on Friday submitted a memorandum to the Udaipur district administration, demanding security for a community member who, according to the group, was mentioned in the video made by one of the two main accused in Teli's murder. This person, too, had reportedly shared a post backing Nupur Sharma.

Members of the Hindu community in Udaipur on Friday took out a huge procession on Friday on the occasion of Rath Yatra. There was heavy police deployment to avoid untoward incidents.

"The deployment of police personnel is more than 2.5-3 times the usual strength. Around 2,000 police personnel have been deployed for the Rath Yatra, including seven to eight IPS officers and additional SPs, deputy SPs and inspectors who were previously posted here and have done this duty 10-15 times. Battalions of the RAC and STF have also been deployed to ensure that no untoward incident takes place," ADG Dinesh MN, who has been sent to Udaipur from Jaipur to control the law-and-order situation, told reporters on Friday before the rally.

Earlier on Thursday, the state government had transferred 32 IPS officers, including the Udaipur SP and IG, IPS officer Vikas Sharma is the new Udaipur SP while IG Prafulla Kumar, who was part of the SIT constituted to probe the murder of Teli, is the new Udaipur range IG. After taking charge on Friday, Kumar, along with other officials of the district administration, took stock of the security arrangements in Udaipur.

"The Rath Yatra procession is proceeding peacefully and there has been no untoward incident. Around 8,000 people are participating in the yatra, which covers 4.2 km distance," said Udaipur divisional commissioner Rajendra Bhatt.

Meanwhile, the ban on mobile internet services imposed in some areas after the killing has been extended in three districts of the Jaipur division — Jaipur, Alwar and Dausa — till 5.30 pm on Saturday.

In another development, following reports that the motorcycle used by the two main accused to escape after the killing had a registration number of 2611, a possible reference to the 26/11 Mumbai attacks of 2008, Udaipur RTO confirmed that one of the accused had chosen this number in 2013. The motorcycle is registered in the name of Mohd. Riyaz Attari, one of the two main accused. Officials said the case has now been transferred to the NIA court in Jaipur.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com



A closed market during the bandh called over the Udaipur incident, in Bikaner, Friday. **PTI**

Remove all content that justify murder, social media firms told

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

THE MINISTRY of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has directed all social media companies to "proactively and immediately" remove all content that encourages, glorifies or justifies the recent murder in Udaipur, in order to prevent "any incitement and disruption of public order and to restore public peace and harmony."

In a missive sent to social media platforms, the ministry said that apart from the videos of the murder that were uploaded online, several instances have come to its notice where social media handles glorified or justified the killing. The MeitY said social media companies should remove such content as part of their obligation of being intermediaries.

"Through this notice, you are directed to forthwith ensure that as part of your obligation of due diligence, safety and trust, you proactively and immediately remove any and all content (either in the form of a text message, audio, video, photo or any other form) that seem to encourage/glo-

rify/justify this murder and killing with a view to prevent any incitement and disruption of public order and to restore public peace and harmony," the ministry said in its notice to social media companies.

The notice, which was sent on Wednesday, was made public on Friday. The MeitY's notice comes days 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. The two uploaded a video of the murder online and in a separate video boasted about the "beheading" — and issued death threats to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sharma.

In response to queries by *The Indian Express*, a spokesperson for Facebook and Instagram parent Meta said, "We have designated the incident as violating and are removing any content associated with it as per our community standards."

It is learnt that when Meta marks an event as "violating", it typically means that it will remove any account belonging to the perpetrators, or content that praises, supports or represents the attack

and the identified perpetrators.

Twitter and Koo did not respond to an immediate request for comment on whether they have complied with the government's missive.

Social media companies have legal immunity from third party content hosted on their platform by virtue of being classified as "intermediaries". This legal immunity is conditional and subject to the companies complying with certain due diligence requirements which includes taking down content flagged by the government under Section 69(A) of the Information Technology Act, 2000. However, the MeitY's notice to take down the content in question is not issued under Section 69(A) of the IT Act.

"This is a unilateral advisory issued because the content related to the killing is extremely disturbing and provocative. The volume of content that glorifies or justifies the murder can be large due to which issuing take-down orders under Section 69(A) would take some time, so the ministry issued this notice to social media companies because this content should not be allowed to be on their platforms," a government official said.

49 civilians among 682 Indians in its jails: Pak

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

PAKISTAN SAID on Friday that it has 682 Indian prisoners detained in its jails, as Islamabad and New Delhi exchanged a list of civilian prisoners and fishermen in their custody.

These lists are exchanged twice a year — on January 1 and July 1 — under the provisions of the 2008 Agreement on Consular Access. Pakistan shared a list of 682 Indian prisoners detained in the country, including 49 civilians and 633 fishermen, with the Indian High Commission in Islamabad.

Similarly, the Indian side has also shared a list of 461 Pakistani prisoners in India, including 345

Taliban-like incidents not result of provocation, but a belief system: RSS leader

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

ON A day the Supreme Court came down heavily on suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma, saying she "is single-handedly responsible for what is happening in the country", the RSS suggested that Taliban-style operations were not a reaction to provocation but the result of mindset and belief system.

"You see this Taliban incident is not a reaction. It is not a reaction to some provocation. It has been happening across the world without any provocation. Somewhere there is Hamas, Islamic State, Taliban... In our country, we have SIMI and PFI. This is not a result of provocation. Anyone who believes so, needs to study more. It is important to understand the mentality and belief system behind this Taliban incident," RSS publicity chief Sunil Ambekar said on Friday.

Ambekar was speaking at an event organised by Prabhat Prakashan to launch two books by Arun Anand — *The Taliban: War and Religion in Afghanistan* and *The Forgotten History of India*.

While Ambekar did not

mention either Nupur Sharma or the recent incident of Udaipur, RSS sources said his reference was to the June 28 incident in which a tailor in Udaipur was killed by two men for allegedly supporting Nupur Sharma on social media.

"Our imagination of India is one that uses its strength to help others. A good person has to also be strong enough to help another good person and stop those who are trying to disrupt peace. ... There are constitutional ways to deal with issues. Anyone who has a problem must use the constitutional ways," Ambekar said.

He emphasised the need for people to understand the Taliban as it was a neighbourhood phenomenon.

"A nation that has suffered Partition in the name of religious fundamentalism cannot ignore it. It is important to ascertain whether any threads from there are getting connected to India or such elements are entering the country. Are some incidents happening in the country connected with them? Are such elements who support such fundamentalist ideology for political or selfish interests connected with them? What is treason? It must be ascertained," Ambekar said.

Plea to CJI seeks withdrawal of remarks against Nupur

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

WITH THE observations of a two-judge Supreme Court bench of Justices Surya Kant and J B Pardiwala lambasting suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma for her remarks on the Prophet during a TV show and holding her "responsible" for the violent incidents in the country on the issue, a letter petition sent to Chief Justice of India NV Ramana Friday prayed that the remarks be declared "uncalled for" and be directed to be "withdrawn".

The letter petition by Delhi resident and social activist Ajay Gautam referred to the remarks as reported by various media houses and said the "observation made by the court is unwanted, uncalculated and liable to (be) withdrawn".

It asked if the SC can make such statements "which affect the merit of the case as well as trial, without trial or appeal or any judgment or finding of any court".

Gautam contended that "it has not been proved in any court of law the statement made by the Nupur Sharma is incorrect".

He said that "telling the truth, which is documented and acknowledged by cleric(s) and society is not a offence", and wondered "how Nupur Sharma (can be) declared guilty by the court concerned without give chance of fair trial". The plea said the court's "observation justified" the brutal killing of Kanhaiyalal in Udaipur and "gave clean chit to murderer" and amounted to "justifying their motive of murder".

MANIPUR LANDSLIDE

8 more bodies recovered, toll climbs to 16

JIMMY LEIVON
IMPHAL, JULY 1

THE DEATH toll in landslide that occurred in Manipur's Noney district rose to 16 with the recovery of eight more bodies on Friday. Many are still feared trapped in the debris of the landslide.

Of the total bodies recovered, two are confirmed to be that of missing personnel of the 107 Territorial Army (TA) stationed at the landslide-hit camp situated near Marangching. With this, the total number of TA casualties has reached 9 till the time of filing this report. Chief Minister N Biren Singh visited the landslide hit area for the second day to oversee rescue operations.

The CM said 81 persons had



Rescue operations underway in Noney district of Manipur. **PTI**

been affected, out of which 18 persons had been rescued. He said the rescue operation team consisting

of Manipur Police personnel, NDRF, SDRF and Army personnel had recovered eight more bodies

on Friday in addition to eight recovered on Thursday. "As the soil is soft, the road to the actual area of landslide couldn't be restored. The government has put all efforts using possible manpower and machines to recover the missing persons," said the CM, expressing confidence that all missing persons would be found within 2-3 days. He said equipment had been brought from Ladakh by the Army which could locate the whereabouts of the bodies.

The PRO defence wing Imphal said search operations by Army, Assam Rifles, Territorial Army, SDRF and NDRF is underway. "10 columns have been pressed into service. Joint operational task force is coordinating the efforts to remove mud and boulders," said the PRO.

LEARNING ENGINEERING IN MOTHER TONGUE

Amid poor response elsewhere, Pune college fills all seats

ALIFIYA KHAN
PUNE, JULY 1

SIX MONTHS ago when he was taking admission in a computer engineering course at a college in Pune's Akurdi area, 19-year-old Atharva Ingole did not know that his batch would be a historic one. The Akola resident is one of 65 students enrolled in the Marathi-language course at the Pimpri Chinchwad College of Engineering (PCCOE), the only college in the country that has recorded full admission in its new division to teach engineering in the mother tongue.

Announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last year and covered under the National Education Policy, the plan to teach engineering to students in their mother tongue was rolled out last year by the All India Council for Technical Education

(AICTE) in 19 selected engineering colleges across the country.

"This emphasis on mother tongue as the medium of instruction will instil confidence in students from poor, rural and tribal backgrounds," Modi had said.

While it was assumed that the opportunity to learn in their mother tongue would entice many to seek admission in such courses, the ground reality is different. Out of the 19 engineering colleges approved to start regional language divisions, nine did not get a single admission, while in the ten other colleges, batches are less than 50 per cent full, AICTE chairman Anil Sahastabudhe said.

"I think the concept is new and people were not even aware that such an option was available. There should have been more efforts to spread the word. It's not as if the concept is not popular, because this year, 10 more colleges



Students at a class of the Marathi-language course. **Pavan Khengre**

will be offering the regional language courses," he said.

Lack of awareness is what Avijit Karmakar, principal of the Technique Polytechnic Institute in Hooghly blames for the Bengali-language diploma in electrical engineering having few takers. Only 16 of the 60 seats on offer were filled this year.

"It's still 30 per cent admissions, which isn't bad for the first

year. Firstly, students are not aware of this option and secondly, they are sceptical because for them, engineering education means studying in English or they won't get jobs. It took some counselling event to fill the 16 seats," he said.

However, at the Pune college, admissions were not only full in the first year itself, but has exceeded the number of seats on offer — 65 admissions against 60

sanctioned seats. The starkly different experience of this college compared to others involved in the programme across the country, make it an important model to study. The AICTE has expanded engineering education in regional languages to 10 more colleges, and Modi has called for medical education also to be imparted in regional languages.

Ashwini Vaze, academic coordinator, regional language course, at the PCCOE said college authorities had convinced several parents to enrol their children in the course. "It's not as if students were over excited to take admissions. In fact, we convinced a lot of parents to let their wards get admitted in this course. The computer engineering course at our college, which has 240 seats, is very popular and cutoffs are very high. When parents came for counselling, if the seat was getting

missed by a few marks, we suggested to many to take admission in the regional language course where they could get the same degree, but cutoff was slightly less."

Some parents had demanded at the time of the orientation for the course that the students be allowed to study in English through an internal transfer, but college authorities refused. "... (But) We reminded them that they came in knowing the conditions, of learning in Marathi, so they would have to stick to it," said Dr Govind N Kulkarni, director, PCCOE.

However, the course isn't being taught in the mother tongue alone, with a hybrid model having emerged in the college.

"The teachers speak in Marathi and students answer in Marathi, but the books are in English. Orals and practicals are conducted in Marathi, but for written exams, students are given

the choice to answer in either language," said Sheetal Bhandari, dean of academics at the college.

On why such a model was adopted despite clear instructions from the AICTE to teach students only in their mother tongue, she said: "Before starting the course, we did research for several months. We used our network and gathered 120 engineering aspirants and conducted a workshop in batches of 10, where we taught them basic concepts of Mathematics and Science in Marathi. The feedback we got was the conceptual understanding was better, but they found it difficult to follow technical terms in Marathi. Later, when we got the Marathi books from AICTE, we realised that the meaning of some words changed or were lost in translation," she said.

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Normal rainfall across nation in July, says IMD

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, JULY 1

THE INDIA Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast normal rainfall over the country during July, which is 280.4 mm as per data from 1971 to 2020. "Monthly rainfall for July over the country is most likely to be normal, which is 94 to 106 per cent of the Long Period Average (LPA)," the forecast issued on Friday stated.

However, Odisha, West Bengal, northeast India, Kerala, coastal Karnataka, Vidarbha regions will experience below normal rainfall during this month. Normal to above normal rain is expected over Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, interior Karnataka, Telangana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Delhi and Tripura this month.

July rainfall accounts for 35 per cent of the seasonal rainfall and is crucial for sowing and early growing stages of the kharif crops. The rainfall in this month is particularly significant as June ended with an 8 per cent deficit over the country.

Presently, an east-west trough runs between northwest Rajasthan and northeast Bay of Bengal, attracting moist winds both from the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal over northern India regions. Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh are likely to receive widespread rains during the next five days. Overall, the monsoon is likely to remain active during the first week to about 10 days of July, bringing widespread rainfall all over the country, including central India, except the northeastern regions.

On Friday, the southwest monsoon advanced into Punjab, Haryana and some more parts of Rajasthan. With the availability of favourable conditions, the monsoon is set to cover the entire country during the next two to three days.

Booth capturing: 4 in MP asked to pay cost for repoll

IRAM SIDDIQUE
BHOPAL, JULY 1

FOUR PEOPLE accused of booth capturing were issued show-cause notices and told to deposit Rs 5.02 lakh as the cost district administration had to bear for the re-polling or face demolition of their illegal property to make the recovery.

The notices were issued to the family members of the four accused later identified as Ajay Singh, Saurabh Chouhan, Rampratap alias Raju Singh and Dharmendra Singh on June 27, the day re-polling had to be held in Pachokhara village of Bhind district.

The first phase of polls took place at Pachokhara for the post of sarpanch, panch, members of janpad panchayat and zila panchayat on June 25. At polling booth number 52, a girls schools, the four accused reportedly barged in and tampered with the votes in the ballot box.

Requesting anonymity, a senior official of Bhind district said: "All the four accused are residents of Pachokhara village and a member of their family was a candidate. They belong to affluent families and are often seen in-

fluencing voters."

After the incident, the district administration imitated process for re-polling on June 27. During the day of re-polling, Lahar Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) AR Prajapati issued show-cause notices to the absconding accused.

The notice said for the re-polling process, 70 police officers and personnel, 10 polling officers along with others officers had to be posted on June 26 and 27. For the polling process a total of Rs 5.02 lakh had to be spent.

"Government would not have to bear these expenses had the need for a re-polling not risen. You are hereby asked to deposit this sum immediately failing which the illegal structures would be demolished to make the recovery," the notice added.

The polling process went on smoothly and the four accused were also arrested by the end of the day.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Prajapati said: "All the four accused where amongst those habitual offenders who were made to sign a bond of Rs 50,000 with assurance of good behaviour. This bond has been forfeited while now the notices will be a part of court proceedings with the accused being sent to jail."



RATH YATRA BEGINS

Devotees throng the chariots of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Goddess Subhadra during the annual Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath, in Puri, on Friday. The nine-day festival began in the presence of lakhs of devotees, who were not allowed to participate in the previous two years due to the pandemic. PTI

Himanta files defamation case against Sisodia in PPE kit row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GUWAHATI, JULY 1

ASSAM CHIEF Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has filed a defamation case against Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia for levelling "baseless" corruption charges against him in connection with the supply of PPE kits at "higher than market rates" to National Health Mission (NHM) authorities during the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, Sarma's advocate said on Friday.

The case has been registered



Assam CM Himanta Sarma; Delhi Dy CM Manish Sisodia

in the court of chief judicial magistrate, Kamrup Rural, on Thursday and listed on July 22 for initial deposition by the complainant, he said.

The case pertains to the allegation of supply of PPE kits at "higher than market rates" during the first wave of COVID-19 to National Health Mission (NHM), Assam, by JCB Industries, which is co-owned by Sarma's wife

Riniki Bhuyan Sarma. Bhuyan Sarma had also filed a Rs 100-crore defamation case against Sisodia at the court of Civil Judge No 1 of Kamrup Metropolitan district on June 21, over the same allegations made by Sisodia.

"Manish Sisodia had levelled corruption charges against Himanta Biswa Sarma at a press conference in New Delhi on June 4. He had specifically claimed that NHM had procured PPE kits at inflated rates from a company co-owned by Sarma's wife during his tenure as the state's health minister in 2020," Sarma's advocate Devojit Saikia said. Saikia maintained that the JCB Industries did not participate in any bid to supply PPE kits to NHM, Assam, nor did it raise any bill.

HYDERPORA ENCOUNTER

J&K HC upholds compensation to Magray's kin

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, JULY 1

THE J&K High Court on Friday said upheld a compensation of Rs 5 lakhs to the family of Amir Magray, a Jammu youth killed in a gunfight in Srinagar's Hyderabad in November last year. The court said the appeal for exhumation of the body for "performance of last rights" was "unacceptable".

The court, however, has asked the government to allow a maximum of 10 family members of Amir Magray to perform some last rituals at the Waddar Payeen Graveyard in Handwara, where he was buried by the police.

A division bench of Chief Justice Justice Pankaj Mishra and Justice Javed Iqbal said: "Appellants to pay compensation of Rs 5.00 lakhs, awarded by the Writ Court, to respondent no.1 is maintained. It is made clear that the payment of said compensation by appellants to respondent no.1 shall not form a precedence for future in view of the fact that the said compensation stands awarded to the writ petitioner/respondent no.1 in view of the peculiar facts and circumstances of the instant case."

"Appellants to allow respondent no.1 and his family members (maximum 10 persons) to perform Fatihah Khawani (religious rituals/prayers after burial) of deceased at Waddar Payeen Graveyard, on the date and time to be decided in consultation with respondent no.1, subject to taking into account se-

curity measures which may be required to be put in place inasmuch as the COVID-19 guidelines," reads the judgement.

The court, however, refused to allow the exhumation of Magray's body or allow his family to open the grave to see his face. "In view of giving up of the relief of exhumation of the body of the deceased for performance of last rituals by writ petitioner/respondent no.1 before the Apex Court inasmuch as in view of uncontroverted/unopposed stand taken by appellants before the Writ Court, that last rites of deceased stand already performed while burying deceased at Waddar Payeen Graveyard, the contention of the counsel for respondent no.1 in fact pales into insignificance and is not acceptable," read the order.

On May 27, a single bench of J&K High Court comprising of Justice Sanjeev Kumar had directed the government to exhumate the body of Magray and hand it over to the family for burial at their local graveyard. The decision was challenged by the UT administration before a division bench.

Magray, a resident of Ramban in Jammu was killed in an alleged gunfight at Hyderabad, Srinagar in November last year. While the bodies of two civilians - Dr Mudaris Gul and businessman Altat Ahmad Bhat - were exhumed after protests from their families, police refused to exhumate Magray's body saying he was a militant. Magray's family denied police's claim.

Amid CM, Governor spat, Rabindra Bharati V-C a new front

SANTANU CHOWDHURY
KOLKATA, JULY 1

WEST BENGAL Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar has triggered a fresh confrontation with the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress (TMC) government by naming the new vice-chancellor of the state-run Rabindra Bharati University (RBU), even as a bill replacing the Governor with the CM as the Chancellor of all state-run varsities has been awaiting his nod.

Taking to Twitter, the Governor announced Thursday that he has appointed Mahua Mukherjee, a professor in the RBU's dance department, as its next V-C. "WB Gov Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar as Chancellor has appointed Dr. Mahua Mukherjee, Professor, Dept. of Dance, Rabindra Bharati University, as Vice Chancellor Rabindra Bharati University in terms of section 9(1)(b) of the Rabindra Bharati Act, 1981," he stated.

The term of the current RBU V-C Sabyasachi Basu Roy Choudhury is set to end soon.

By virtue of being the Governor, Dhankhar is the current Chancellor of the state-run universities in Bengal. However, in the wake of protracted conflict with the Raj Bhawan over a range of issues, the state government recently decided to replace him with CM Banerjee as the Chancellor. In this connection, the Assembly passed The West Bengal University Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2022 on June 13. A day later, it passed another bill, replacing the Governor with the state education minister as the Visitor of the private universities.

Slamming Dhankhar for his latest move, TMC leader Kunal Ghosh said: "The Governor has once again proved that he does not believe in democratic principles... While his consent is awaited for the bill, he hastily announced a name as the V-C of RBU."

Government of India, Department of Atomic Energy, Heavy Water Plant (Kota) Corrigendum

EXTENSION IN DUE DATE FOR NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The due date and time for various events of tender of Tender No. HWPK/CIVIL/2022/414, Tender ID: 2022_HWB_695975_1 for the work "Renovation of PC&AL lab, Preparing office cabins in old AC plant area in south wing of works building at HWPK(K) Plant site." are hereby extended as mentioned here under:-

Date of availability of Tender Documents	Up to 07.07.2022 (14:30 Hrs.)
Last date and time of online submission of tenders	07.07.2022 (14:30 Hrs.)
Last date & Time for submission of Original EMD	On or before 07.07.2022 (14:30 Hrs.)
Date and time of online opening of Technical Bid	09.07.2022 (15:00 Hrs.)

NOTE:- NIT details and bid documents for all three of the above tenders can be downloaded from the website eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app for free. Other terms and conditions are remaining same.

General Manager
For & on behalf of President of India

DELHI JAL BOARD
OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER M-3
DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
H-BLOCK: SECTOR-15: ROHINI: DELHI-89

SHORT PRESS NIT No.06/ (E&M)-3/2022-2023)

S. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost	Tender Processing Fee (In INR)	Earnest Money (In INR)	Publishing date of tender	Last date and time for tender	Completion Period
1	Operation and minor maintenance of Gaseous Chlorination point among various Tube wells at Palla in AC-01	Item Rate	500.00	74000.00	30.06.2022	07.07.2022 up-to 1:00 PM	150 days
2	Operation and minor maintenance of Gaseous Chlorination point at various Ranney Wells at Palla in AC-01	Item Rate	500.00	74000.00	30.06.2022	07.07.2022 up-to 1:00 PM	150 days
3	Operation and minor maintenance of Gaseous Chlorination point at various BPS	Item Rate	500.00	74000.00	30.06.2022	07.07.2022 up-to 1:00 PM	150 days

Further details in this regard can be seen at <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 216 (2022-23)

Sd/-
ER. GAURAV SINGH YADAV
EE (F&M) M-3

"STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

SPECIAL BRANCH
POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL
NO. SB/Store/2022-25(201), Bhopal, Dated 30.06.2022

"ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE"

E-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Special Branch (G) M.P., Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>:-

S. No.	Name of Item(s)	Qty.	Tender Fees (Rs.) Paid Online Through mptender.gov.in	EMD (Rs.)	Tender No.
1	Safari Suit (Cloth approx 815 meter)	285	2,000/-	30,000/-	1st Tender

- Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & must submit online through website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>.
- Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in)
- Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>
- Tender Schedule:**

No.	Tender Activity	Date & Time
i	Bid Submission Start Date	05.07.2022 at 1000 hrs.
ii	Last date of online e-Tender submission	21.07.2022 up to 1700 hrs.
iii	Bid will be opened on	22.07.2022 up to 1700 hrs.
iv	Demonstration from	27.07.2022 at 1200 hrs.

Sd/-
A.I.G. of Police
Special Branch (G) M.P. Bhopal
Tel. No. 0755-2443654

कोरोना से बचने को तीन खरों बहुत जरूरी,
टीका लगवाना, मास्क पहनना और अस्थाना दो मंत्र पूजो।

G-14083/22

JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004

No.: JDA/EE&TA to Dir.Engg.-II/2022/D-70 Date : 01.07.2022

NOTICE INVITING BID

NIB No.: EE & TA to Dir. Engg.-II/14/2022-23

Bids are invited for works given below in various zones as per details given below :-

S. No.	Zone	UBN No.	Cost of Work (Lacs)	A&F	Nature of Work	Last Date
1.	EE-1	JDA2223WSOB00194	305.00	102/2022-23	Renewal of Roads	26.07.2022
2.	EE-1	JDA2223WSOB00193	280.00	103/2022-23	Renewal of Roads and Maintenance Work	25.07.2022
3.	EE-2	JDA2223WSOB00190	240.40	104/2022-23	Renewal and Repair of Roads	21.07.2022
4.	EE-5	JDA2223WSOB00191	495.58	101/2022-23	Renewal of Roads	25.07.2022
5.	EE-PRN-South	JDA2223WLR000175	672.90	151/2020-21	Construction of Road	19.07.2022

Details are available at Procurement Portal website www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in

Raj. Samwad/C/2022-23/4378 Executive Engineer & TA to Dir. Engg.-II

उपरोक्त ट्रांसमिशन कार्योपरेशन लिमिटेड पूर्ण कालीन ई-निविदा सूचना अनुभव्य कार्यदायी संस्थाओं से निम्नलिखित ई-निविदा दो भागों में निर्धारित तिथि को 9:00 बजे तक आमन्त्रित की जाती है जो उसी दिन 15:00 बजे खोली जायेगी। विस्तृत विवरण समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशन के उपरान्त ई-टेंडर की वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध रहेगा तथा अन्य किसी भी प्रकार के संशोधन/तिथि विस्तार हेतु निविदा खुलने की तिथि तक लॉग ऑन करें। निविदा को बिना कारण बताये निरस्त/ अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा- ई.टी.सी.-22/2022-23 वि.पा.ख. (द्वि.) अलीगढ़ के अन्तर्गत 132 के.वी. लाइनों के वार्षिक अनुरक्षण कार्य। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत परियोजना मण्डल, लाल डिग्री, अलीगढ़। राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाये, विद्युत चोरी की सूचना दे - "www.igpowerup.org" पत्रांक-1122-वि.पा.म. (अ) टी-30 दिनांक-01.07.2022

ARMY COLLEGE OF NURSING, DEEP NAGAR, JALANDHAR CANTT
TENDERS INVITED

- Sealed Tenders are invited by 30 July 2022 upto 1300h from registered Firms/ Agencies who are financially sound and well experienced for establishment of 160 kW Grid Connected Solar Power Plant at Army College of Nursing, Jalandhar Cantt under "RESCO" Model with Build, Operate, Own and Transfer (BOOT) basis.
- Terms and conditions may be obtained on cash payment of Rs 500/- (non refundable) from Army College of Nursing, Deep Nagar, Jalandhar Cantt-144005. Ph: 0181-2266167, 2660080, Mob.: 82838-24167. REGISTRAR

INDIAN RAILWAYS
भारत सरकार (GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)
रेल मंत्रालय (MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS)
(रेलवे बोर्ड) (RAILWAY BOARD)

Global E-Tender No: WTA-528 opening on 19.09.2022 for procurement of Solid Forged Wheels (Rough Turned) for FIAT IR Bogie (LHB) to Drg. No.MI006615 Alt.-B.

Electronic bids are invited for and on behalf of the President of India for procurement of Solid Forged Wheels (Rough Turned) for FIAT IR Bogie (LHB) to Drg.No.MI006615 Alt.-B and Specification No. IRS R-19/93 Part-II (Rev.4) of July 2012 with Corrigendum No. 1 of August 2015. The interested bidders are advised to visit the website <http://ireps.gov.in> for further details, downloading of the tender documents and submission of their e-bids.

Director, Railway Stores(M)
Ministry of Railways (Railway Board)
Rail Bhawan, Raisina Road, New Delhi-110001
Tel.: 011-23073191; E-Mail ID: drsm@rb.railnet.gov.in
No. 2021/RS(WTA)-149/Tender/528 Dated: 01.07.2022 1630/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE/TEHSILDAR (DELHI CANTT)
EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE BUILDING, KIRBI PLACE, DELHI CANTT DELHI.
F.No.1/THE/DC/2021/1100-1105/DC Date: 31/05/2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

Consequent to the public notice F.No.1/THE/DC/2021/689/DC dated 27-08-2021 vide which the general public as well as all the land owners and interested parties were informed above the demarcation of land acquired for Airport Authority of India in the Revenue Estate of village-Shahbad Mohammad Pur. Now it is inform all concerned that demarcation of land acquired for Airport Authority of India in the revenue estate of village - Shahbad Mohammad Pur has already been completed and the demarcation maps are available at the office of Tehsildar (Delhi cantt) for the information of all land owners and interested parties. Aggrieved parties may file their appeal under the relevant provisions of Delhi Land Revenue Act, 1954 within 30 days from the date of the publication.

NARESH CHAND DABAS
Tehsildar (Delhi Cantt.)
District New Delhi.

DIP/SHABDARTH/0179-22-23

2014 STUDENT DEATH CASE

Sherwood principal, 2 others found guilty of negligence, get 2-year jail

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN, JULY 1

THE COURT of Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) in Nainital has pronounced principal Amaneend Sandhu, infirmiry in-charge sister Payal Paul and warden Ravi Kumar guilty of criminal negligence in the 2014 death of Class 9 student Shaan Prajapati.

The trio has been sentenced to two-year jail besides being imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 each. Taken into custody, the trio was later released on interim bail.

In November 2014, Shaan,

a student from Nepal, had died of pneumonia and septicemia while on his way from a hospital in Haldwani to a higher centre in Noida, where he was declared brought dead.

Shaan's mother Neena Shrestha alleged criminal negligence by the school authorities who failed to provide him with properly timely medical assistance. She said her son wasn't taken to the hospital on November 13, as was claimed by the school. "When we saw him in the mortuary, he was still in uniform. How is this possible if he was admitted to the ICU? The hospital provides clothes," she said.

In her complaint, Shrestha also said she was first told about her son's illness on November 13 around 10 am

and the principal had called her, saying they would be taking him to Delhi for treatment. She told police that she agreed on the condition that he was transferred in an ambulance with complete medical facilities. Later, a zero FIR under IPC Section 304 A (causing death by negligence) was registered against the school in Noida and the case was transferred to the relevant police station in Nainital.

Sandhu at that time had denied all allegations, saying: "The boy had been ill in the past. He had asthma. After he fell ill on November 11, he was treated at school. Later, we took him to a private hospital in Haldwani. The next day, when his vitals didn't improve, we decided to take him to Noida."

Talking to *The Indian Express*, advocate Harish C Pande, who represented the complainant in the case, confirmed that the trio had been convicted and sentenced to two-year jail in the case. On November 9, 2014, Shaan had reported discomfort. According to the allegations, the school authorities admitted him only to the infirmary and did not even call a doctor.

Talking to *The Indian Express*, Shrestha said: "This case will be remembered by all educational institutions in both India and Nepal. Child health care will not be neglected anymore in schools, especially boarding schools. Hopefully, parents now be will be informed and updated about the health of their children..."

Office of the Executive Engineer U.P.R.E.D. Sambhal
Address:- Irrigation Colony Bahjoi, Sambhal-244410

Press Notice for Manual Tender (Hird Call) (short term)

Letter No:- 225 /RED/Tender/File-65/ Bond Clerk/2022-23 dated:- 20.06.2022

The Executive Engineer, U.P.R.E.D Sambhal on behalf of Honorable Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids through **manual system** from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP RED, in appropriate class A, B, C and D as the case may be. The Rates floated in Bill of quantity enclosed bid document are inclusive of all taxes except GST which will be paid extra to the contractor as per latest Government orders **The Bidder may submit bids for any or more than one works.**

1. Name of as per table.

S. No.	Name of District	Name of work	Total estimated cost (in Lakh)	Bid security (in Lakh)	Cost of Bid/ Stationery document (in Rupees)	Period of completion including rainy season
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Sambhal	Construction of Anganwadi Center in Pali Paschim Block - Asmoli.	5.66	0.12	766.00	4 Month
2	Sambhal	Construction of Anganwadi Center in Manautla Block - Asmoli.	5.66	0.12	766.00	4 Month
3	Sambhal	Construction of Anganwadi center at Shalpur Shripada Block - Asmoli.	5.66	0.12	766.00	4 Month
4	Sambhal	Construction of Anganwadi center at Nyaura Block - Rajpura.	5.66	0.12	766.00	4 Month
5	Sambhal	Construction of Anganwadi Center in Paniwada Block - Rajpura.	5.66	0.12	766.00	4 Month
6	Sambhal	Construction of Anganwadi center in Duptakhard block - Rajpura.	5.66	0.12	766.00	4 Month
7	Sambhal	Construction of Anganwadi Center in Kareli Block - Baniyakheda.	5.66	0.12	766.00	4 Month
8	Sambhal	Construction of Anganwadi center in Majhawali block - Baniyakheda.	5.66	0.12	766.00	4 Month
9	Sambhal	Construction of Anganwadi center in Pathara Block - Baniyakheda.	5.66	0.12	766.00	4 Month
10	Sambhal	Construction of Anganwadi Center in Mau Assu Block - Baniyakheda.	5.66	0.12	766.00	4 Month
11	Sambhal	Construction of Anganwadi Center in Majhuala, Block - Bahjoi.	5.66	0.12	766.00	4 Month
12	Sambhal	Construction of Anganwadi Center in Timarpur Block - Sambhal.	5.66	0.12	766.00	4 Month
13	Sambhal	Construction of Anganwadi center in Rajbhad, block - Sambhal.	5.66	0.12	766.00	4 Month
14	Sambhal	Construction of Anganwadi Center in Naglia Kamgar Block - Sambhal.	5.66	0.12	766.00	4 Month
15	Sambhal	Construction of Anganwadi Center in Devapur Block - Pawansa.	5.66	0.12	766.00	4 Month
16	Sambhal	Construction of Anganwadi Center in Raipur Block - Pawansa.	5.66	0.12	766.00	4 Month
17	Sambhal	Construction of Anganwadi center at Hindoli Block - Pawansa.	5.66	0.12	766.00	4 Month
18	Sambhal	Construction of Anganwadi Center at Fatterpur Block - Junawai.	5.66	0.12	766.00	4 Month
19	Sambhal	Construction of Anganwadi Center in Ahraula Nawazi Block - Junawai.	5.66	0.12	766.00	4 Month
20	Sambhal	Construction of Anganwadi center at Dipangala block - Junawai.	5.66	0.12	766.00	4 Month
21	Sambhal	Construction of Anganwadi center in Bahalolpur block - Gumnaur.	5.66	0.12	766.00	4 Month
22	Sambhal	Construction of Anganwadi Center at Panwari Block - Gumnaur.	5.66	0.12	766.00	4 Month
23	Sambhal	Construction of Anganwadi Center at Jairamnagar Block - Gumnaur	5.66	0.12	766.00	4 Month

- Date of availability/Sale of Bid document in the offices** EE RED, Div- Sambhal, SE, RED, Circle Moradabad or District Magistrate Sambhal Form :- **08.07.2022 to 13.07.2022** up to 4.00 pm.
- Date of Pre-bids Meeting: 11.07.2022 at 11:00 am in the offices EE RED, Div- Sambhal
- Last Date/Time for Submission of Bids in the Tender box:- 14.07.2022 time 10:00am to 12:00 Noon in the office of the EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT DIVISION SAMBHAL, Superintending Engineer, Rural Engineering Department, Moradabad Circle Moradabad or District Magistrate Sambhal.
- Date of opening of bids: 14.07.2022 at 03:00 PM

For further details please contact the employer office i.e. office of the Executive Engineer U.P.R.E.D. SAMBHAL, Address:- Irrigation Colony Bahjoi, Sambhal 244410.

Executive Engineer
Rural Engineering Department
Division Sambhal,
UPID No.177575 DATE 28/06/2022
www.up.gov.nic.in
On behalf of Honorable Governor of UP

Ministry moves to change environment protection law: Fine, no imprisonment

ESHA ROY
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

Once the feedback, due by July 27, is examined, the ministry will come out with a draft notification and begin another round of objections and suggestions from the public.

"In order to decriminalise the existing provisions of the EPA, 1986, this ministry is examining the proposals to make amendments... based on inputs received from various stakeholders," a public notice issued by the ministry Friday stated.

Enacted under Article 253 of the Constitution, the EPA came into force on November 19, 1986. The Act establishes "the framework for studying, planning, and implementing long-term requirements of environmental safety and laying down a system of speedy and adequate response to situations threatening the environment."

In case of any non-compliance or contravention of the current provisions of the EPA, or of the rules under this Act, the violator can be punished with imprisonment up to five years or with a fine up to Rs 1,00,000, or with both.

In case of continuation of such violation, an additional fine of up to Rs 5,000 for every day during which such failure or contravention continues after the conviction for the first such contravention can be levied.

Will make Uttarakhand best state by 2025: Dhami

AVANEESH MISHRA
DEHRADUN, JULY 1

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, who completed 100 days of his second term on Thursday, said his government has done a good job during this period and made a commitment to make Uttarakhand the country's best state by 2025.

Talking to reporters while releasing a "Vikas Pustika" (development book) titled "100 Din Vikas Ke, Samarpan Aur Prayas Ke" (100 days of development, dedication and effort) on Thursday, Dhami said although 100 days is not a very long time, but still they have made efforts and have taken measured steps in the right direction.

"Today we have completed 100 days in the government and the faith and blessing of 1.25 crore people we are getting, is providing us a new energy to work for the development of the state..." he tweeted.

In another tweet, Dhami assured the people that his government is determined to make Uttarakhand the best state in the country by 2025 and is working in this direction with dedication.



Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami

Releasing the Vikas Pustika, Dhami said his government took several important decisions in the past 100 days for the people's welfare. "In the last 100 days, if anyone criticised us, we did not mind it or took it to heart. Our state is a new state, and when our state will be 25 years old in 2025, we want it to be the best state in the country. We have asked the departments to prepare a roadmap for it and act on it," said the chief minister.

On the decision to implement the Uniform Civil Code, he said there was a discussion that some people were going to write to me a letter on why we are bringing the UCC law. "I said that before deciding on UCC we went to the court of respected people of Uttarakhand. On February 12, we took a pledge that soon after the new government is formed, we will bring a uniform law for everyone. This is because Uttarakhand is Devbhoomi and is surrounded by two international borders."

In village of fauji dreams, second thoughts, insecurity over Agnipath

MALLICA JOSHI
SAIDPUR, JULY 1

"SARKAARAB itni sakht hai ki ya toh bulldozer chalega, ya career kharab hoga. Ye sarkaar baahubali hai, logon ko jhukna hi padega," says Amit Sirohi (37), the pradhan of Bulandshahr's Saidpur village, where children in almost every home dream of joining the armed forces, just like their grandfathers, fathers and brothers.



Shaheed Smarak in Saidpur village. Abhinav Saha

The village has around 2,000 households and in at least 800 of these, Sirohi says, there is someone who has served or is serving in the armed forces.

With the government announcing the Agnipath scheme for defence recruitment for personnel below the officer rank, violent protests erupted in several parts of the country. In Aligarh, where a police outpost and vehicle were torched, hundreds of protesters were booked and at least nine Army coaching centre operators were arrested.

The protesters raised issues of job insecurity and no pension after 75% of them will be retired. According to the new scheme, around 45,000 soldiers will be recruited annually, and only 25% of them will be allowed to continue for another 15 years under permanent commission.

For 14-year-old Shiva Sirohi, whose grandfather and father have both served in the Army, the new scheme has brought forth a lot of uncertainty. "There was only one thing I always wanted to be,

and that is being a fauji. I never thought of another career. I run in the morning to build stamina... The new scheme, however, has shaken a lot of people here. Even my parents are not sure if all this effort is worth it for just four years," he says.

In this Jat-dominated village, families who have had several generations serve in the armed forces mostly live in bungalows. The others live in permanent houses. There are two banks, an inter college and a degree college, five primary schools, a post office, a small hospital as well as a veterinary hospital. The villagers give credit to the armed forces for this development.

In the middle of the village is a Shaheed Smarak in memory of all the soldiers from the area who died in action. A plank on the top of the memorial reads, "From this village, 155 men went to the Great War 1914-1919. Of these, 29 gave up their lives."

"We have grown up in the culture. Here every boy wants to be a soldier. Now suddenly, we are having second thoughts," says 17-year-old Ashish, the son of a daily wage worker. "Army was supposed to be the final destination for me. I never thought that I would have to look for another job after that. Now, what will I get if I don't get selected in the 25% permanent commission quota? If I have to become a policeman or a guard after four years, why should I not do that at the very outset?"

For the sons of labourers and landless farmers in the village, most of who belong to the Jatav community, the insecurity is higher. "The government is saying that anyone who gets selected will get at least Rs 11 lakh after four years. Can I build a house with that much? Buy land? No. It is easier for landed farmers... What will we do?" says Harish Kumar, 21, who has been preparing for recruitment under the new scheme.

But not everyone is against the scheme. Jasvir Sirohi, 43, sees it as a remedy for joblessness. His grandfather and great grandfather were both in the Army and fought wars for the country. "There are no jobs out there. For two years, there has been no Army recruitment... As per the scheme, at least they will be able to come back with some money in hand and can start a small business. It is better than nothing," he says, even as he acknowledged that after his father's death, it was his grandfather's pension that provided for them. His 11-year-old son Mayank wants to be a soldier when he grows up.

Village elders acknowledge that there is anger among the youth over the scheme, but the fear of FIRs, bulldozers and disqualification from even applying for the armed forces has meant that there have been hardly any protests. "The youth are angry but they cannot protest even when their dreams are being shattered. BJP leaders have said that once the boys retire after four years, they can become guards. Will a boy who has served the country for four years be happy serving as a guard after four years. Being selected in the Army is also about pride, rutba..." says a 45-year-old who retired as a tradesman from Army. His son is preparing for recruitment under the new scheme.

Johnson: Jaggi Johal arbitrarily detained, raised issue with Modi

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
AMRITSAR, JULY 1



Boris Johnson; Jaggi Johal

BRITISH PRIME Minister Boris Johnson has for the first time said that UK national Jagtar Singh Johal, alias Jaggi Johal, has been "arbitrarily detained" in a Delhi jail and that he had, during his India trip in April this year, "personally" raised the issue with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Johnson also said that the British officials have raised with the Indian government almost 100 times the issue of "Johal's treatment and his right to a fair trial" since his detention in November 2017. The British PM made the disclosure in a letter to Keir Starmer, the Labour Party leader and Member of Parliament for Holborn and St Pancras, on June 21.

Johal was arrested on November 4, 2017, from Jalandhar by the Punjab Police for his alleged role in targeted killings, including that of RSS leader Brigadier (retired) Jagdish Gagneja, reported between April 2016 to October 2017. He is yet to stand trial in any case and is currently lodged in Delhi's Tihar jail. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is probing eight cases against him.

"Thank you for your letter of May 31 about Jagtar Singh Johal, a

British national who has been detained arbitrarily in India for the past four and a half years," wrote the British PM.

"I am grateful for your interest in this matter. Ministers and officials of the Government have consistently raised the UK's concerns directly with the Government of India about Mr Johal's treatment and his right to a fair trial," the letter stated.

Johnson added, "We have done so on almost a hundred occasions since Mr Johal's detention in November 2017. More recently, during her visits to India in October 2021 and March 2022, the Foreign Secretary raised Johal's situation with India's External Affairs Minister Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar. When I visited Delhi in April, I raised Johal's case personally with Prime Minister Modi as part of a wide-ranging discussion about bilateral and international affairs."

छावनी परिषद कार्यालय, दानापुर छावनी
Email: ceodana-stats@dgst.org

छावनी परिषद कार्यालय, दानापुर छावनी पटना, बिहार-801503
।मतदाता सूची का प्राथमिक प्रकाशन व कर भुगतान हेतु आवश्यक सार्वजनिक सूचना।।

दानापुर छावनी का प्राथमिक मतदाता सूची 2022-23 का प्रकाशन दिनांक 01 जुलाई, 2022 को यथोनियम कर दिया गया है। उक्त मतदाता सूची कार्यालय एवं अन्य छावनी क्षेत्र के सूचनापट्ट पर चर्या करा दिया गया है। इस मतदाता सूची में दर्ज नाम पर किसी को आपत्ति हो तो वे निर्धारित प्रपत्र में अपना आपत्ति, दावा, नाम शुद्धिकरण के लिए दिनांक 20 जुलाई, 2022 तक अपना प्रपत्र कार्यालय में जमा कर सकते हैं। प्रपत्र कार्यालय में निशुल्क उपलब्ध है।

साथ ही साथ दानापुर छावनी क्षेत्र के समस्त नागरिकों को सूचित किया जाता है कि आप अपने गृह कर, जलकर एवं अन्य कर यदि बकाया है, उसे दिनांक 31 जुलाई, 2022 तक जमा करना/करवाना सुनिश्चित करें। उक्त कर अप्राप्ति की अवस्था में निर्धारित तिथि के उपरांत छावनी अधिनियम, 2006 की धारा 100(2) के तहत डिमाण्ड नोटिस चार्ज रु. 100/- एवं छावनी अधिनियम, 2006 की धारा 102(1) के तहत वर्तमान वित्तीय वर्ष बकाये राशि पर मासिक 01 फीसदी अतिरिक्त शुल्क स्वतः लागू होगा। यह अवधि नागरिक हितों को ध्यान में रखते हुए वृद्धि की गई है।

सभी तरह के छावनी प्रदत्त सुविधा सह करें एवं राशियों का भुगतान वेबसाइट danapur.cantt.gov.in या echhawani.gov.in/citizen/user/login के माध्यम से भी किया जा सकता है।

Sd-
मुख्य अधिशासी अधिकारी
छावनी परिषद कार्यालय, दानापुर छावनी

दिनांक 02/07/2022

किसानों एवं भू-स्वामियों हेतु अभियान

हरियाणा शहरी विकास प्राधिकरण द्वारा एक विशेष अभियान (2022-23) के तहत अर्जित की गई भूमि के मूल मुआवजे की राशि 3907.12 करोड़ रुपये का पूरा भुगतान किया गया।

हरियाणा शहरी विकास प्राधिकरण द्वारा एक विशेष अभियान (2022-23) के तहत अर्जित की गई भूमि के मूल मुआवजे की राशि का भुगतान अतिरिक्त जिला एवं सत्र न्यायालय में जमा किया जा चुका है।

लक्षित शेष राशि लगभग 3328.13 करोड़ रुपये का भुगतान 15 जून, 2022 तक कर दिया जाएगा।

15.6.2022 तक जारी की गई राशि

क्षेत्र	राशि
गुरुग्राम	₹ 4,46,65,40,555.00
हिसार	₹ 1,62,35,34,986.00
पंचकुला	₹ 22,30,03,006.00
फरीदाबाद	₹ 17,11,70,58,129.00
कुल	₹ 23,43,01,36,676.00

किसी भी शिकायत या समस्या के लिए सम्पर्क करें
टोल फ्री नंबर : 1800-180-3030

Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran Offers e-Auction of Preferential Residential and Commercial Properties in All Zones On 14th July, 2022

Residential properties in Rohtak Zone				Residential properties in Gurugram Zone				Residential properties in Hisar Zone				Commercial properties in Gurugram Zone				Residential properties in Faridabad Zone				Residential properties in Panchkula Zone					
Sr. No.	Sector, Urban Estate	No. of Plots	No.	Sr. No.	Sector, Urban Estate	No. of Plots	No.	Sr. No.	Sector, Urban Estate	No. of Plots	No.	Sr. No.	Sector, Urban Estate	No. of Plots	No.	Sr. No.	Sector, Urban Estate	No. of Plots	No.	Sr. No.	Sector, Urban Estate	No. of Plots	No.		
1	4, Rohtak	1	1	10, Gurugram	3	1	23, Bhiwani	2	1	29, Gurugram II	4	1	15A, Faridabad	2	1	25, Panchkula	2	1	25, Panchkula	2	1	25, Panchkula	2		
2	25, Rohtak	18	2	10A, Gurugram	6	2	11, Fatehabad	30	2	38, Gurugram II	2	2	15, Faridabad	1	2	4 MDC, Panchkula	1	2	4 MDC, Panchkula	1	2	4 MDC, Panchkula	1		
3	21P, Rohtak	6	3	12A, Gurugram	3	3	5, Hansi	22	3	45, Gurugram II	5	3	21B, Faridabad	7	3	6 MDC, Panchkula	1	3	6 MDC, Panchkula	1	3	6 MDC, Panchkula	1		
4	27-28-26PI, Rohtak	1	4	15-I, Gurugram	1	4	6-II, Hansi	14	4	56, Gurugram II	1	4	21D, Faridabad	2	4	21, Panchkula	1	4	21, Panchkula	1	4	21, Panchkula	1		
5	8, Panipat	1	5	15-II, Gurugram	3	5	24, Hisar	15	5	57, Gurugram II	23	5	3, Faridabad	6	5	30, Pinjore	12	5	30, Pinjore	12	5	30, Pinjore	12		
6	13, Panipat	9	6	17, Gurugram	1	6	33(P-I), Hisar	12	6	4A, Dharuhera	1	6	82, Faridabad	24	6	26, Ambala	20	6	26, Ambala	20	6	26, Ambala	20		
7	17, Panipat	10	7	21, Gurugram	2	7	4(P-II), Hisar	6	7	1PART-1, Narnaul	4	7	76, Faridabad	17	7	27, Ambala	3	7	27, Ambala	3	7	27, Ambala	3		
8	24, Panipat	14	8	22, Gurugram	3	8	MT, Adampur	5	8	3, Rewari	1	8	77, Faridabad	29	8	34-Cantt, Ambala	8	8	34-Cantt, Ambala	8	8	34-Cantt, Ambala	8		
9	25P-II, Panipat	1	9	23-23A, Gurugram	4	9	19(P-I), Sirsa	16	9	3Part-1, Rewari	1	9	78, Faridabad	4	9	15, Jagadhri	9	9	15, Jagadhri	9	9	15, Jagadhri	9		
10	9, Bahadurgarh	2	10	37C, Gurugram	7	10	20-2, Sirsa	1	10	4, Rewari	3	10	8, Faridabad	2	10	18, Jagadhri	13	10	18, Jagadhri	13	10	18, Jagadhri	13		
11	9A, Bahadurgarh	9	11	5, Gurugram	1	11	20(P-III), Sirsa	11	11	5, Rewari	4	11	12, Palwal	2	11	18, Kalthal	4	11	18, Kalthal	4	11	18, Kalthal	4		
12	13, Bahadurgarh	4	12	9, Gurugram	7	12	MTSKOSLI, Rewari	2	12	2P, Palwal	2	12	2P, Palwal	2	12	21, Kalthal	9	12	21, Kalthal	9	12	21, Kalthal	9		
13	9 Part-A, Jhajjar	13	13	1-PAT, Plaudhi	3	13	Commercial properties in Hisar Zone		13	Commercial properties in Faridabad Zone		13	Commercial properties in Panchkula Zone		13	Commercial properties in Panchkula Zone		13	Commercial properties in Panchkula Zone		13	Commercial properties in Panchkula Zone		13	
7	9 Part-B, Jhajjar	1	14	31-32A, Gurugram II	1	14	Sr. No.	Sector, Urban Estate	No. of Plots	1	14	Sr. No.	Sector, Urban Estate	No. of Plots	1	14	Sr. No.	Sector, Urban Estate	No. of Plots	1	14	Sr. No.	Sector, Urban Estate	No. of Plots	1
8	JH6, Jhajjar	2	15	38, Gurugram II	4	15	1	AMKT, Hansi	10	1	18(P-1), Faridabad	2	1	6, Panchkula	1	1	6, Panchkula	1	1	6, Panchkula	1	1	6, Panchkula	1	
9	7, Sonipat	19	16	39, Gurugram II	2	16	2	14 (PKT-A), Hisar	5	2	18(P-2), Faridabad	2	2	6, MDC, Panchkula	4	2	6, MDC, Panchkula	4	2	6, MDC, Panchkula	4	2	6, MDC, Panchkula	4	
10	23, Sonipat	28	17	42, Gurugram II	1	17	3	16-17, Hisar	6	3	48, Faridabad	1	3	8, Panchkula	2	3	8, Panchkula	2	3	8, Panchkula	2	3	8, Panchkula	2	
11	15-2, Sonipat	2	18	45, Gurugram II	3	18	4	OLD COURT, Hisar	5	4	58 Transport Nagar, Faridabad	2	4	BMCHOWK, Ambala	1	4	BMCHOWK, Ambala	1	4	BMCHOWK, Ambala	1	4	BMCHOWK, Ambala	1	
12	15-3, Sonipat	2	19	46, Gurugram II	2	19	5	UE-IISCI, Hisar	8	5			5	10, Ambala	1	5	10, Ambala	1	5	10, Ambala	1	5	10, Ambala	1	
13	15-4, Sonipat	1	20	47, Gurugram II	5	20	6	UE-IISCI, Hisar	5	6			6	8, Ambala	2	6	8, Ambala	2	6	8, Ambala	2	6	8, Ambala	2	
			21	49, Gurugram II	1	21	7	RCCADM, MT Adampur	2	7			7	3, Naraingarh	8	7	3, Naraingarh	8	7	3, Naraingarh	8	7	3, Naraingarh	8	
			22	50, Gurugram II	5	22	8	Doewankhara, Jind	1	8			8	2, Kurukshetra	10	8	2, Kurukshetra	10	8	2, Kurukshetra	10	8	2, Kurukshetra	10	
			23	51, Gurugram II	4	23	9	19 (P-I), Sirsa	11	9			9	8, Kurukshetra	15	9	8, Kurukshetra	15	9	8, Kurukshetra	15	9	8, Kurukshetra	15	
			24	52, Gurugram II	7	24	10	19 (P-I) CSC, Sirsa	6	10			10	20, Kalthal	16	10	20, Kalthal	16	10	20, Kalthal	16	10	20, Kalthal	16	
			25	57, Gurugram II	7	25	11	20-2, Sirsa	2	11															
			26	6, Dharuhera	6	26	12	20 (P-III), Sirsa	7	12															
			27	10, Mahendergarh	2	27	13	20 (P-III), Sirsa	7	13															
			28	9A, Mahendergarh	3	28	14	OBS, Sirsa	8	14															
			29	18-DEF, Rewari	1	29																			
			30	4, Rewari	2	30																			

* The competent authority can withdraw any site from e-auction without any notice.

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The Indian EXPRESS

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PASSING STRESS TEST

New RBI report says asset quality, capital position of banking system continues to improve. That's something to build on

DESPITE CONCERNS, THE asset quality of the Indian banking system has continued to improve. According to the Reserve Bank of India's latest financial stability report, gross non-performing loans (GNPAs) of the banking system have declined from 7.4 per cent in March 2021 to a six-year low of 5.9 per cent in March 2022. While public sector banks continue to be more stressed than private banks — for the former, bad loans stood at 7.6 per cent of advances, while for the latter, the figure is lower at 3.7 per cent — the improvement is broadbased. Alongside, banks have also witnessed an improvement in their capital position, with the capital to risk weighted assets ratio rising to 16.7 per cent at the end of March 2022. This is good news. It is also comforting that the central bank's stress tests indicate that banks are well capitalised and are "capable of absorbing macroeconomic shocks even in the absence of any further capital infusion by stakeholders."

Data presented in the report shows that banks have seen an improvement in their asset quality across all major sectors. Bad loans have declined even in sectors such as engineering goods, gems and jewellery, and construction — sectors where they have been significantly elevated in the past. And even as fresh slippages into the bad loan category have declined, banks have been increasing their provisioning for bad loans. Further, the restructuring of loans under the resolution framework was at only 1.6 per cent of total advances in December 2021. The RBI report also shows that the share of large borrowers in the banks' loan portfolio has been declining, falling to less than 48 per cent of banks total advances, indicating a "reduction in concentration and diversification of borrowers". Bad loans of these large borrowers have also declined to 7.7 per cent of advances at the end of March 2022. As a consequence, their share in bad loans of all banks stood at 62.3 per cent in the second half of 2021-22, much lower than the levels witnessed in September 2020. However, the continuous rise in the SMA-0 and SMA-1 categories (loans where the principal or interest payment is overdue for upto 30 days are characterised as SMA-0, while where they are due between 31 to 60 days are SMA-1) requires close monitoring.

The central bank has also conducted stress tests to gauge the strength of banks' balance sheets against macroeconomic shocks. Under a baseline scenario, it estimates that banks' bad loans may fall further to 5.3 per cent by March 2023. If the macroeconomic environment worsens, bad loans may rise to 6.2 per cent in a medium stress scenario, deteriorating to 8.3 per cent in a severe stress scenario. However, even under the severely stressed macroeconomic environment, the RBI doesn't expect the capital position of any of the banks to fall below the minimum regulatory requirements.

UNDOING PROGRESS

US Supreme Court verdict on EPA will hobble Biden administration's climate plans, weaken regulatory bodies

ON THURSDAY, THE Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) dealt a blow to President Joe Biden's climate agenda by watering down the powers of the country's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In its 6-3 verdict in *West Virginia v the US Environmental Protection Agency*, the court sided with 19 Republican-ruled states and coal industry representatives who argued that the regulatory body did not have the mandate to limit emissions across the country. Chief Justice John J Roberts Jr, writing for the majority, did say that "capping carbon dioxide emissions... may be a sensible solution to the crisis of the day." However, by ruling that Congress — and not the EPA — is the agency best equipped to make rules for the purpose, Roberts virtually overturned a 2007 judgment in which the SCOTUS had affirmed the regulatory agency's emissions reduction-related powers, enshrined in the country's Clean Air Act. The chief justice came down hard on landmark legislation that has shaped US environmental regulations for more than half a century. "A law written in 1970 never allowed the EPA to force electric utilities to switch from coal to renewable forms of generation," he said.

Biden assumed office last year with a far more progressive global warming mitigation agenda than any of his predecessors. He started well by reversing Donald Trump's move to pull the US away from the Paris Climate Pact. The EPA under Biden has undone some of the Trump-era environmental rollbacks. But the coal-rich West Virginia lobby, led by Biden's party colleague Joe Manchin, has stalled the President's \$555 billion clean energy project in the Senate. And Republican scepticism has held up Congressional approval of several of his decarbonisation projects, forcing the White House to use the Defense Production Act — a Cold War-era law — to incentivise green technologies such as state-of-the-art solar panels. But the Biden administration's attempts to use executive power to further environmental goals might come a cropper after Thursday's verdict.

The court's insistence on Congressional authorisation will limit the powers of regulatory bodies, including those dealing with food safety or consumer protection. It continues a recent trend: During the pandemic, for instance, the SCOTUS knocked down a moratorium issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the eviction of tenants who could not pay their rent. It had also ruled that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration did not have the mandate to ask large employers to have their workers vaccinated or undergo frequent testing. Much like the verdict last week that reversed the landmark *Roe v Wade* judgment, the directive to enfeeble the EPA marks a regressive moment in SCOTUS's history.

HIS GOLDEN ARM

Neeraj Chopra's consistency and ambition have shown that the Olympic gold was no flash in the pan

TRACK AND FIELD tragics and those who fell in love with javelin throw since Neeraj Chopra made history at the Tokyo Olympics nearly a year ago have been keenly watching the 24-year-old with floppy hair, a trademark tumble and a golden arm. Instead of sitting on his laurels, Chopra has gone from strength to strength by breaking the national record twice last month with two 89 m plus throws. Thursday night's 89.94 m in the first round at the prestigious Diamond League in Stockholm had everyone on the edge of their seats in anticipation of him touching 90 m. Chopra has shown his Olympic gold was no flash in the pan. His consistency in an injury-prone sport makes it worth travelling hundreds of miles to watch him live. In his first three competitions this season, Chopra has thrown over 85 m in eight of his 10 legal throws, which is akin to an Indian regularly running sub-10 seconds in the 100 m.

Chopra is a rare athlete with a calm head and no signs of fraying nerves on big occasions. At the Olympic Games, he outclassed the 97 m thrower, Germany's Johannes Vetter. This year Chopra has the upper hand going to the World Championships in Eugene in three weeks' time after bettering the defending world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada twice and only narrowly being edged out the third time. Chopra allayed fears of those who thought he would struggle to get back in shape after two months of felicitations around the country after the gold in Tokyo.

If Chopra also becomes a world champion, it will mark the first time any male has held both titles simultaneously since Norway's Andreas Thorkildsen way back in 2009. Thorkildsen followed in the footsteps of the legendary Czech Jan Jeřábek, a three-time Olympic champion. The good news is Chopra is primed for a 90 m throw and another podium finish.



GIRISH KUBER

AS THE BJP'S top leadership gathers in Hyderabad for its national executive, it will have one more trophy to display on its wall: The state of Maharashtra. Even though former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis played a key role in hunting down over two-thirds of Sena cubs from the Thackeray den, he may not be striking happy poses in the aftermath. For, he has been deprived yet again, this time of the coveted prize of chief ministership. In a day of dramatic developments, the real surprise was not the BJP's choice of chief ministerial candidate, Shiv Sena defector Eknath Shinde, but the public snub to Fadnavis, the BJP's tallest leader in Maharashtra. The clearly avoidable rebuff under full media glare has the BJP's, to use their new catchphrase, ecosystem, rattled, while leaving the overall political establishment baffled.

Before we dig deeper in the present political minefield, revisiting the state's recent electoral history will help us understand the ongoing high-stakes battle.

It was in 2019 that the BJP's central leadership first appeared cold to Fadnavis's efforts to placate the Shiv Sena, with whom it had an alliance, after the BJP fell short of a majority to form the government on its own. In the 288-member House, the BJP under Fadnavis's leadership had bagged 105 seats while the Sena had 56. The combine easily crossed the halfway mark of 144. However, the Sena's claim on chief ministership became a contentious issue, which eventually scuttled the saffron alliance's chance to retain power. The Sena, interestingly, at no point looked unmanageable. A call or two from PM Narendra Modi or Amit Shah would have been enough to placate Uddhav Thackeray. But it never came, even as the BJP leadership was seen taking every possible step to retain Haryana that went to polls along with Maharashtra.

The BJP's reluctance was striking vis-à-vis its efforts to grab Haryana that sends just a dozen MPs to Parliament, while ignoring Maharashtra that has four times the number of parliamentary seats of Haryana. It was inexplicable that the BJP's central leadership was seen engaging much smaller parties, even try-

Win and lose

For Devendra Fadnavis, Maharashtra drama didn't end the way it was supposed to. Thereby hangs a tale

Fadnavis's mistake was not to take the cue from the Centre while insisting on a pre-poll alliance with the Shiv Sena. The Uddhav Thackeray-led outfit was a bigger critic for the Fadnavis government than the Opposition. The Sena's politics of having the cake and eating it too had the BJP leadership enraged. Still, due to Fadnavis's insistence and the RSS's wish to avoid a division of Hindu votes, both parties went to polls together only to become each other's foe in the post-poll scenario. The Sena, citing the 50-50 power-sharing agreement with the BJP, staked its claim on chief ministership, which the latter was unwilling to part with.

ing to win over new allies in the northern state and at the same paying no heed to its 30-year partner in Maharashtra and at the Centre. That was the first visible sign that all was not well between Fadnavis and the BJP's top duo. But why would the BJP risk losing Maharashtra?

The answer to this question is directly linked to this week's developments. Besides, it also underlines how the central leaderships of national parties, be it the Congress or BJP, view leaders from Maharashtra.

First, about the Sena-BJP tussle. The BJP's strained relationship with the Sena after the former developed its home-grown Hindu Hriday Samrat is no secret. Till Narendra Modi arrived on the scene, Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray was seen to be the Hindu heart-throb. His cordial relations with the BJP's Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Lal Krishna Advani helped both parties stay together for well over three decades. However, after the rise of Modi-Shah, the BJP became more and more unwilling to accommodate any other partner in its Hindutva space. This resulted in friction between the two saffron siblings. Such was the BJP's zeal to eliminate anyone sharing its Hindutva plank that it had no inhibition in showing willingness even to forge a truce with the NCP to deprive the Sena. With this in mind, the BJP's central leaders wanted Fadnavis to go solo in the 2019 assembly elections.

In turn, it was Fadnavis's mistake not to take the cue from the Centre while insisting on a pre-poll alliance with the Shiv Sena. The Uddhav Thackeray-led outfit was a bigger critic for the Fadnavis government than the Opposition. The Sena's politics of having the cake and eating it too had the BJP leadership enraged. Still, due to Fadnavis's insistence and the RSS's wish to avoid a division of Hindu votes, both parties went to polls together only to become each other's foe in the post-poll scenario. The Sena, citing the 50-50 power-sharing agreement with the BJP, staked its claim on chief ministership, which the latter was unwilling to part with. Thus came into being the three-party alliance in November 2019 wherein the Shiv Sena, Nationalist Congress Party and Congress came together to keep the

BJP away. Since then the unforgiving BJP was waiting to settle scores with its former partner and punish the Thackerays.

It did exactly that by installing Eknath Shinde, a veteran from the Thackeray court, in the chief minister's chair. And while doing so it snubbed its own man, Fadnavis, for his decision to go with the Sena in the 2019 elections. In the process, it also sent a message down the line not to take any position for granted. For the last two-and-half years, Fadnavis had become the face of the state BJP and was on a mission to dislodge the three-party alliance government. He and everyone around him assumed Fadnavis would be chief minister once the Uddhav Thackeray-led government was toppled. It was, however, not to be.

Politically, too, it suits the BJP to have Shinde, a Maratha, as the face of its alliance government instead of Fadnavis, a Brahmin. Fadnavis's government had to face Maratha wrath and it was believed that the Sharad Pawar-led NCP was instigating the politically dominant community. Shinde's rise, the BJP thinks, will neutralise the NCP. Besides, it will be much easier for the BJP to beat the Shiv Sena with one of their own. This is the easily visible political optics.

But there's much more than meets the eye. Capable and promising Marathi leaders, be it in the Congress or in the BJP, have always had their wings clipped the moment they tried to become "national". In the Seventies, it was Yashwantrao Chavan who was not only sidelined but humiliated by Indira Gandhi. Later it was Sharad Pawar with whom the Congress's first family had uncomfortable ties which eventually forced him to quit the party. And now Fadnavis faces the same fate. If the Congress's first family had uncomfortable ties which eventually forced him to quit the party. And now Fadnavis faces the same fate. If the Congress's first family had uncomfortable ties which eventually forced him to quit the party. And now Fadnavis faces the same fate. If the Congress's first family had uncomfortable ties which eventually forced him to quit the party.

For the Marathi mannos, Delhi continues to be *door* (faraway), as Fadnavis would have realised by now.

The writer is editor, LokSatta

A RENEWABLES REVOLUTION

As we wean ourselves off fossil fuels, benefits will be vast, and not just to the climate



ANTÓNIO GUTERRES

NERO WAS famously accused of fiddling while Rome burned. Today, some leaders are doing worse. They are throwing fuel on the fire. Literally. As the fallout of Russia's invasion of Ukraine ripples across the globe, the response of some nations to the growing energy crisis has been to double down on fossil fuels, pouring billions more dollars into the coal, oil and gas that are deepening the climate emergency.

Meanwhile, all climate indicators continue to break records, forecasting a future of ferocious storms, floods, droughts, wildfires and unlivable temperatures in vast swathes of the planet. Fossil fuels are not the answer, nor will they ever be. We can see the damage we are doing to the planet and our societies.

Fossil fuels are the cause of the climate crisis. Renewable energy can limit climate disruption and boost energy security. Renewables are the peace plan of the 21st century. But the battle for a rapid and just energy transition is not being fought on a level field. Investors are still backing fossil fuels, and governments still hand out billions in subsidies for coal, oil and gas — about \$11 million every minute.

There is a word for favouring short-term relief over long-term well-being — addiction. We are addicted to fossil fuels. For the health of our societies and planet, we need to quit. The only true path to energy security, stable power prices, prosperity and a livable planet lies in abandoning polluting fossil fuels and accelerating the renewables-based energy transition.

To that end, I have called on G20 governments to dismantle coal infrastructure, with a full phase-out by 2030 for OECD countries and

2040 for all others. I have urged financial actors to abandon fossil fuel finance and invest in renewable energy. And I have proposed a five-point plan to boost renewable energy around the world.

First, we must make renewable energy technology a global public good, including removing intellectual property barriers to technology transfer. Second, we must improve global access to supply chains for renewable energy technologies, components and raw materials. In 2020, the world installed five gigawatts of battery storage. We need 600 gigawatts of storage capacity by 2030. Clearly, we need a global coalition to get there. Shipping bottlenecks and supply-chain constraints, as well as higher costs for lithium and other battery metals, are hurting the deployment of such technologies and materials.

Third, we must cut the red tape that holds up solar and wind projects. We need fast-track approvals and more effort to modernise electricity grids. Fourth, the world must shift energy subsidies from fossil fuels to protect vulnerable people from energy shocks and invest in a just transition to a sustainable future. And fifth, we need to triple investments in renewables. This includes multilateral development banks and development finance institutions, as well as commercial banks.

We need more urgency from all global leaders. We are already perilously close to hitting the 1.5°C limit that science tells us is the maximum level of warming to avoid the worst climate impacts. We must reduce emissions

by 45 per cent by 2030 and reach net-zero emissions by mid-century. But current national commitments will lead to an increase of almost 14 per cent this decade. That spells catastrophe.

The answer lies in renewables — for climate action, energy security, and providing clean electricity to the hundreds of millions of people who currently lack it.

There is no excuse for anyone to reject a renewables revolution. While oil and gas prices have reached record price levels, renewables are getting cheaper all the time. The cost of solar energy and batteries has plummeted 85 per cent over the past decade. The cost of wind power fell by 55 per cent. And investment in renewables creates three times more jobs than fossil fuels.

Of course, renewables are not the only answer to the climate crisis. Nature-based solutions, such as reversing deforestation and land degradation, are essential. So too are efforts to promote energy efficiency. But a rapid renewable energy transition must be our ambition.

As we wean ourselves off fossil fuels, the benefits will be vast, and not just to the climate. Energy prices will be lower and more predictable, with positive knock-on effects for food and economic security. When energy prices rise, so do the costs of food and all the goods we rely on. So, let us all agree that a rapid renewables revolution is necessary and stop fiddling while our future burns.

The writer is Secretary-General of the United Nations

JULY 2, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

ALITALIA HIJACKING

THE SRI LANKAN drug trafficker who hijacked an Alitalia jumbo jet apparently using fake dynamite returned to his native land a free man. Sepala Ekanayaka had his passport confiscated but plans to arrest him were scrapped after the Sri Lankan government decided to honour the deal struck with Thai authorities. The 33-year-old was allowed to enter the country with \$300,000 in ransom he received after releasing 259 hostages in Bangkok.

BORROWING LIMITS

THE CENTRE HAS, for all intents and pur-

poses, stopped the system of states' overdrafts with the RBI. Overdrafts will be allowed only in exceptional cases when the Union Finance Ministry and the RBI are convinced that there is a genuine ground for giving such accommodation. The decision was announced by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee. Mukherjee said that if, even after these arrangements had come into effect from July 1, any state still ran into an unauthorised overdraft, the RBI would stop payments to the state government.

POWER SHORTAGES

THE PLANNING COMMISSION anticipates a

huge shortfall of about 5,000 MW capacity in the power output target at the end of the Sixth Plan despite efforts to increase investment in the power sector under the revised 20-point programme. Stating this, Planning Minister S B Chavan told the consultative committee attached to his ministry that in the first three years of the Plan, only 7,480 MW capacity was expected to be achieved against the target of 19,686 MW by the end of the Plan. The major factors contributing to the huge slippages are delay in supplies of plant equipment, weak project management in some state electricity boards, shortage of cement and steel and a shortfall in flow of funds to the SEBs.



13 THE IDEAS PAGE

How the bank held its own

Contrary to the criticism from some quarters, RBI has done well to balance inflation and growth during exceptionally trying circumstances



Soumya Kanti Ghosh

SEVERAL ARTICLES PUBLISHED of late have been uncharacteristically harsh about the RBI's inflation management. Writing an epitaph for such articles reminds me of a recent interaction with RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra at an event in Delhi. When the DG was specifically asked about how much interest rates will rise, he recalled the tale of Albert Einstein landing in heaven. When Einstein was introduced to people across the strata with very high and very low IQs, he said that he will discuss interest rates only with persons with the lowest IQs!

Recently Arvind Subramanian and Josh Felman have asserted that the RBI has been missing the inflation target since 2019 by not raising rates ('The RBI's misdiagnosis', IE, June 15). Interestingly, Subramanian, while he was the Chief Economic Adviser, had taken the opposite position by arguing for rate cuts from the RBI. In the Economic Survey, he strongly argued for more fiscal dominance by stating that the RBI was holding significant excess reserves that could be given to the government.

Inflation has been largely the result of supply side shocks from vegetable prices, caused by crop damages due to unseasonal rains (tomato, onion and potato) in late 2019 and widespread supply-side disruptions after the outbreak of the pandemic. A narrow-minded focus on inflation caused by supply shocks would have constrained the MPC from supporting growth amidst the unprecedented loss of life and livelihood. Therefore, it was necessary to provide a lifeline to the economy at that juncture by focusing on the recovery. The MPC shifted to policy tightening to control inflation when growth impulses became more definitive and entrenched across sectors. Moreover, the wide tolerance band of 200bps +/- in the inflation targeting framework was specifically designed to accommodate such supply shocks, which provided the flexibility in the flexible targeting (FT) framework (Patra and Bhattacharya, 2022). In contrast to a pure inflation targeting framework (inflation nutters), the amended mandate of the RBI under FT reads as "price stability, taking into account the objective of growth". Therefore, the MPC was justified in looking through the higher inflation print during the pandemic while trying to resurrect growth. And it worked.

Rajeshwari Sengupta ('What MPC says, what RBI does', IE, June 22) has raised some contradictions between the Governor's statement (GS) and the MPC resolution.

First, the MPC highlighted inflation concerns and voted to raise the policy repo rate. However, as per Sengupta, the governor's statement of the same day noted that the RBI will ensure an orderly completion of the government's borrowing programme. This, according to Sengupta, created confusion as lowering inflation and lowering government bond yields are contradictory objectives. This justification is redundant as an orderly completion of the borrowing programme does not imply lowering yields. It basically ensures that



CR Sasikumar

the borrowing programme is completed seamlessly at low costs (ensured through auctions). The bids in auctions are based on the prevailing macroeconomic and financial conditions. The RBI only ensures cost minimisation among the bids, given that it's the debt manager of the government by statute. Moreover, from a theoretical perspective, this is not inconsistent because controlling inflation and lowering inflation expectations bodes well for the term premia of bond yields — which moderate once expectations are anchored. Therefore, if inflation is reined in, the government stands to gain in terms of lower interest costs.

Second, as per Sengupta, the MPC kept repo rates unchanged while the RBI changed the reverse repo rate during the pandemic, meaning that the fixed width of the corridor was lost and the MPC lost its role in setting interest rates and so, its credibility.

This argument does not stand scrutiny. During the pandemic, the policy repo rate was cumulatively reduced by an unprecedented 115 bps and the interest rate on the overnight fixed-rate reverse repo was reduced cumulatively by 155 bps. These dissimilar adjustments rendered the policy interest rate corridor asymmetric with a downward bias. This measure was not incongruous with contemporary wisdom as an asymmetric corridor has been justified, particularly during crisis times (Goodhart, 2010). It may be noted that under normal circumstances, the reverse repo rate and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate are mechanically linked to the policy repo rate by a fixed identical margin. Hence, any changes in the policy rate automatically, symmetrically adjusts the entire corridor (without changing its width).

During the pandemic, the RBI activated other segments of financial markets to keep the lifeblood of finance flowing as muted demand and heightened risk aversion broke down the traditional credit channel of policy transmission. Given that elevated inflation

During the pandemic, the RBI activated other segments of financial markets to keep the lifeblood of finance flowing as muted demand and heightened risk aversion broke down the traditional credit channel of policy transmission. Given that elevated inflation concerns precluded the possibility of any further repo rate cuts (cumulatively reduced by 250 basis points since February 2019), financial conditions were eased substantially by reducing the reverse repo rate, which lowered the floor rate of interest in the economy.

concerns precluded the possibility of any further repo rate cuts (cumulatively reduced by 250 basis points since February 2019), financial conditions were eased substantially by reducing the reverse repo rate, which lowered the floor rate of interest in the economy. Analogous to almost all central banks during the pandemic, the operating target thus aligned with the lower bound of the corridor instead of being in the middle. Since the mandate of the MPC is to control inflation for which the policy instrument is the repo rate, the RBI had used the LAF through changes in the reverse repo rate to alter liquidity conditions. The intent was to reactivate the credit channel by encouraging banks to explore opportunities for extending credit.

We must remember that inflation-targeting countries, because of their sole focus on inflation, experience lower inflation volatility but higher output volatility. Higher output volatility entails a higher sacrifice ratio — the proportion of output foregone for lowering inflation. For an emerging economy, the costs of higher output foregone against the benefits of lower inflation must always be balanced as potential output keeps on changing given the shift of the production function. Developed countries, on the other hand, operate near full employment — therefore, sacrifice ratios are lower. As a result, smoothing inflation volatility is relatively costless for them.

The RBI has innovated admirably under its current stewards during the pandemic, keeping in mind the task of reinvigorating the economy. Despite the existing targeting framework, it did not get fixated on a one-point agenda, daring to look beyond the inflation print. Had the RBI followed the advice of its critics by sticking to textbooks, perhaps the Indian economy would have been in a quagmire today.

The writer is Group Chief Economic Advisor, State Bank of India. Views are personal

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Living with the virus" is proving hard for many. This fight is far from over, and learning how to pull this off is an active process requiring considerable effort, intervention and ingenuity." — THE GUARDIAN

A farmer's tryst with climate change

This year has been a rude awakening. Generations' worth of knowledge was not enough to prepare us for the climate crisis in my village



Ajay Vir Jakhar

MY GRANDFATHER, BALRAM Jakhar, was amongst the pioneers of citrus plantation in North India in the mid-1950s. In 1972, when he first became a member of Punjab's legislative assembly, he had promised to transform the bleak near-arid, barren sand dunes into California. As his days came to a close, he loved to talk of the promise and similarities of the much-diversified farming in the area, when asked about it. We farm in village Maujgarh, in the Khuan Sarwar block of Fazilka district in Punjab.

In the block, of the 1,50,000 acres of land, about 37,000 acres are under perennial kinnow citrus plantations, while another 5,000 acres are cultivated for other fruits and vegetables. Approximately 1,00,000 acres of wheat is grown in the rabi season and 75,000 acres of cotton and 28,000 acres of paddy in the kharif season, probably making it amongst the most diversified agricultural landscapes in Punjab. Yet, this region is crying for another transformative vision, confronted as it is by the spectre of climate change. The lessons from this one speck of India, where my son and I farm, surrounded on three sides by Rajasthan, Haryana and Pakistan, are massive and frightening to those who care to know.

Come extreme winter, the flaky ice coating on the top of plants provides a lovely sight for city folks. It spells doom for farmers because that pretty coat of ice is frost and it literally burns the plants where it forms. By the time the January frost set in this year, 40 per cent of last year's kinnow crop had been harvested and sold. The remaining fruit suffered from a frost attack, more vicious than ever before. About 20 per cent of the fruit was destroyed in a week and of whatever did survive, the damaged fruit needed to be harvested immediately, for it too started to deteriorate fast.

In mid-January, farmers would normally have had another two months of the harvesting window till mid-March. But the frost shortened the harvesting season to one month. Further, the quality of the fruit had deteriorated to the point where its shelf-life was reduced to a few days. This double whammy meant that the kinnow could not be transported to the traditional far-off markets of south India. Thus, geographically, the market for the kinnow was reduced to Uttar Pradesh. As a result, there was a glut of the fruit in the market. Consequently, the farm-gate price — which had initially been hovering at a historical high of over Rs 23 per kg — fell by over half, amounting to a loss of over Rs 300 crore to the farmers of just one administrative block in India.

Having come out of a particularly harsh winter with the long spell of January frost devastating hopes and the citrus crop, the first week of March brought hope for a new beginning in the spring. The tens of thousands

of citrus orchards provided a magical sight — trees with millions of sweet-smelling white flowers and ripening wheat fields turning a golden hue, ready for harvest in April. But, within a fortnight, in the third week of March, an unexpected blistering heat wave set off uncertainty, gnawing at every farmer's mind. It was not unusually hot but it was particularly hot for March. The farmer's world was coming undone — wheat kernels would not fully ripen and the citrus flowers would not mature into fruit. Sure enough, the wheat yield plummeted over 20 per cent and the loss to farmers growing wheat was about Rs 100 crore. All the crops got impacted, and half the citrus crop was lost. Even by the most conservative kinnow price of 13 /Kg, approximately Rs 300 crore worth of kinnow crop was again destroyed. The resilience of the farmers has reached a breaking point.

My father, who has been living on the farm for 80 years, does not recollect suffering two extreme events within 60 days. Agriculturally, the 49 villages of the block are amongst the least prone to risk as they receive an assured supply of canal water for irrigation. In living memory, the area has never been wrecked by natural calamities like floods, cyclones, drought or earthquakes. But, with a slight variation in temperatures, it suffered a loss of about Rs 700 crore. Everyone lost out in the process — including farm workers, small shopkeepers, tailors, etc — not just the farmers. The economy was devastated. Children's weddings are being postponed at one end and medical operations for the elderly at the other. Let that sink in for a moment.

Climate change is not a distant nightmare that will unfold when the earth crosses a statistical threshold of no return of 1.5° celsius. We are living in an era of a fast-changing climate, but just do not grasp it fully enough to be scared. Generations of knowledge were not enough to prepare us for the climate crisis in the village. Indeed, much of what we have been taught over the last few generations will need to be unlearned. This year has been a rude awakening. New knowledge to confront the billions of excruciating interdependencies of climate change challenges needs to be collated and tested in the fields.

Martin Wolf recently wrote: "... given the immense political and organisational challenges, the chances that humanity will prevent damaging climate change are slim." For all practical purposes, I am convinced that irrespective of what we do in India — which is precious little anyway — the process of climate change is irreversible. The terrifying aspect is that in India, not only are we unprepared to do anything about it, we are unprepared to do anything about it. We are absolutely no clue about how events will unfold and impact us. There seems to be no substantive policy for preparation as the country enters a dark zone of political bankruptcy, bureaucratic stagnation, public ignorance and corporate trickery of garnering climate change incentives. We don't choose the times we live in, the only choice we have is how we respond to the circumstances. And we are failing miserably at it. Our worst nightmare is yet to appear in our dreams.

Jakhar is chairman, Bharat Krishak Samaj

Path to equilibrium

All religions should be treated respectfully, reformed gently



Bhavna Roy

DISRESPECT IS AN unfortunate human trait and particularly when it is expressed towards the gods and faiths of fellow human beings. Recent months have seen a tumultuous rise in this phenomenon. Nupur Sharma's offensive response to Tasleem Rehmani's hurtful words about Lord Shiva on an Indian TV news channel was directed at the most revered Prophet of Islam. It was a competitive verbal diatribe: I am hurt, so I will hurt. It led to protests, violence and cases being registered across the spectrum.

Ancient Indian traditions of *vada* encourage mutual respect as an essential element of debate, while allowing for gentle and polite questioning: If we don't question, how do we grow or resolve or reform? This spirit of respectful probing also extended to the religions and gods of all people within Indic cultures. It is proving difficult in the debating square today. Why?

Nobel-prize-winning mathematician John Nash's game theory comes to mind. Remember the movie *A Beautiful Mind*, starring Russell Crowe? It was based on Nash's extraordinary life. Nash essentially laid out how rational decisions are made in strategic interactions. The key insight: People calculate the cost-benefit accruals of their decisions, but not in isolation. They also keep in mind the cost-benefit returns to others playing with them.

India is currently facing this knotty issue of competitive insults to religions. Or gods. Or prophets. Game theory will hold that if the

gods/prophets/scriptures of one religion are treated with respect and those of another are treated with noxious disrespect, it will create a state of disequilibrium. Equilibrium — the Nash Equilibrium in game theory — will be re-established either if the gods/prophets/scriptures of all religions are treated with equal respect, or if they are treated with equal disrespect.

This is not the prevalent situation in India. Indeed, it is not so in much of the free world. In the West, one can see the untrammelled disrespect of the radical woke Marxists (who sometimes self-identify as "left-liberals") for Christianity. It offends me, and I'm not Christian. At the same time, these radical woke Marxists treat with extreme respect religions that they either favour or fear — "wokeism" and Islam. In India, the situation is similar: Radical woke Marxists routinely criticise Hinduism. Recently, lewd remarks were made on the sacred Shilving by journalists (from left and Twitter-based "fact-checking" websites) and politicians (mainly from West Bengal and Maharashtra). Such noxious comments have pained and offended innumerable Hindus. At the same time, these same people called for the head of Sharma for her noxious words on the Prophet of Islam.

The common theme is that the religion of the majority in the land — Christianity in the West and Hinduism in India — is attacked. It is easier to gain traction when hitting out against the "dominant" majority group from an appropriated position of self-victimisation. But

this rule does not apply in Islamic majority nations/states (think Pakistan or Turkey) or woke majority nations/states (think California).

Going forward, this situation can move in two directions: Either the radical woke Marxists and radical Islamists treat all religions with equal disrespect/respect or believing Hindus in India and believing Christians in the West (and even developing countries like Nigeria) eventually begin using the same tactics against those who insult their revered figures, such as police cases in India under Section 153A. The world will then be staring at a spiralling cancel culture, destruction of careers, police complaints, court cases, and sometimes even violence. On all sides of the debate. Not just one side. Shockingly, the tragic blasphemy killings of Kamlesh Tiwari in Lucknow (2019) and Kishan Bharwad in Ahmedabad (2022) are freely used as examples by radical Islamists to spread fear, even as their radical woke Marxist Indian allies air-brush these from mainstream media. You, dear reader, may not even be aware of these two killings. And now we have Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur.

The Nash equilibrium will be achieved in one of these two directions. However, as a follower of Dharmic traditions, I am unhappy with both these equilibriums. Respectfully questioning human pursuits, including religions, must be enabled, indeed nurtured. But in doing the latter, why insult the gods, prophets or rishis? Why not practice civility and politeness?

There are some among all religious groups, including Muslims and woke Marxists, who present an alternative model. They protest if their religious/revered figures or scriptures/doctrines are disrespected. But their demand for respect is not a one-way street. Even India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, TS Tirumurti, has been making a case for treating phobias against all religions equally.

This model can bring peace and is certainly preferable to senseless and diabolical violence (and even situations akin to civil war). But even this alternative model is not ideal. For peace may prevail but modernity and a scientific temper would be difficult to build. The latter begs a rational, inquiring spirit.

All religions can be treated with respect and also questioned and reformed with gentle nudges, as propounded by Richard Thaler. Casteism in modern Hinduism can be quizzed using the sterling words of the Bhagavad Gita; misogyny in modern Islam can be questioned using the inspiring example of Lady Khadija, and child abuse in the Church can be interrogated using the true message of Jesus Christ. This is not impossible to achieve. Let us confidently push back against radical woke Marxism and radical Islam.

Let us take conscious charge of the movement towards a healthy equilibrium. Something our dharmic ancestors taught us.

Roy is a writer and has most recently co-authored *Dharma* with Amish

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A FEEBLE DEFENSE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Five years stronger' (IE, July 1). The Finance minister cleverly bypasses the many concerns raised about GST by the states recently, and only indulges on the rhetoric. Certainly, GST is good, but not perfect. The flaws she should have addressed at the policy level — the delay in ITC, the disproportionate gulf between the quantum of direct and indirect tax collection, the non-inclusion of fuel and the misuse of the same for political gains — saw no mention. Most states have BJP-ruled governments and so their compliance can't be read as an "all is well" sign. Indirect taxes are regressive and their constant increase may be back-breaking for the middle and lower-income groups. The whip of inflation is already flailing their skins. Instead of harping on the positives, the follies must be addressed at the earliest.

Abhishek Kumar Anshu, Patna

MASTERSTROKE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Shinde & Deputy' (IE, July 1). The turn of events in Maharashtra raised more than a few eyebrows. But with this move, BJP has played its cards just right. Appointing Eknath Shinde as the CM ruled out any possibility of his faction of Sena leaders going back to Uddhav Thackeray, and has pushed the Thackerays into a fight for survival.

Bal Govind, Noida

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Shinde & Deputy' (IE, July 1). The successful rebellion in Shiv Sena has culminated in Shinde's anointment as chief minister of Maharashtra. BJP may have tried to distance itself from the unfolding drama of the past few weeks, but it is a given that the saffron party was the main force behind the multiplying numbers and the oozing confidence of the Shinde camp. With a Shiv Sainik heading the government, the Thackerays' hold on their dwindling loyalists may erode further, weakening the party all the more. Though it's not in the driver's seat, it is now the BJP that calls the shots in the state.

Vijai Pant, Hempur

WHAT WE NEED

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The nagging deficit' (IE, 1 July). The growing number of persons joining MGNREGA, though indicative of a paucity of jobs in the rural sector, is also a reflection of the succour that such schemes provide to the poor in times of distress. We need similar schemes for the urban sector as well, where, too, unemployment is high. Schemes like these are required because India's unemployment is at an all time high. They will help quell the growing frustration of the country's youth by providing some relief, however small.

Hemant Contractor, Pune

TOP OF THE WORLD



Brittney Griner. Reuters

RUSSIA
US basketball star stands trial on drug charges

WNBA BASKETBALL star Brittney Griner went on trial in a court on the outskirts of Moscow on Friday to face drug charges that could see her face up to 10 years in prison. The case, which coincides with fraught relations between Moscow and Washington over the conflict in Ukraine, was brought after Russian authorities said they found vape cartridges containing hashish oil in Griner's luggage at a Moscow airport in February. US officials and a score of athletes have called for the release of Griner — or "BG" as she is known to basketball fans — saying that she has been wrongfully detained. **REUTERS**

UNITED KINGDOM
Assange appeals extradition by Britain to US

WIKILEAKS FOUNDER Julian Assange has appealed against the British government decision last month to order his extradition to the US. The appeal was filed Friday at the High Court, the latest twist in a decade-long legal saga sparked by his website's publication of classified US documents. No further details about the appeal were immediately available. Assange's supporters staged protests before his 51st birthday on Saturday, with his wife Stella Assange among people who gathered outside the UK Home Office on Friday to call for his release from prison. **AP**

MALI
European force leaves due to junta tensions

A EUROPEAN military task force that helped Mali's government fight Islamic extremists has formally withdrawn from the country amid tensions with its ruling military junta, the French military, which spearheaded the Takuba task force, announced Friday. The Takuba force was composed of several hundred special forces troops from 10 countries. The move came after the UNSC voted to maintain the UN peacekeeping mission in Mali, while condemning its military rulers for using mercenaries. **AP**



Xi Jinping (right) and John Lee (centre) during a ceremony to inaugurate Hong Kong's new government on Friday. Reuters

Xi: 'One country, two systems' here to stay

MEG SHEN & JAMES POMFRET
HONG KONG, JULY 1

THERE IS no reason to change Hong Kong's "one country, two systems" formula of governance, Chinese President Xi Jinping said on a rare visit to the global financial hub after swearing in the city's new leader, John Lee, on Friday.

Britain returned Hong Kong to Chinese rule on July 1, 1997, with Beijing promising wide-ranging autonomy, unfettered individual rights and judicial independence at least until 2047.

China's critics accuse authorities of trampling on those freedoms, unavailable on the authoritarian mainland, with a sweeping national security law imposed by Beijing on the city in 2020 after mass pro-democracy

protests the year before.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Thursday that China had failed to meet its handover commitments.

China and Hong Kong reject the accusations, saying the law "restored order from chaos" so that the city could prosper.

Xi said the "one country, two systems" formula was successful under China's "comprehensive jurisdiction." "For this kind of good system, there is no reason at all to change it. It must be maintained over the long term," Xi said.

"After experiencing wind and rain, everyone can painfully feel that Hong Kong cannot be chaotic, and must not become chaotic again... Hong Kong's development cannot be delayed again, and any interference must be eliminated." **REUTERS**

Missile strike kills 21 in Ukraine's Odesa

Russians hit hours after troops driven off Snake Island; Kyiv calls it payback

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KYIV, JULY 1

RUSSIAN MISSILE attacks on residential areas in a coastal town near the Ukrainian port city of Odesa early Friday killed at least 21 people, authorities reported, a day after Russian forces withdrew from a strategic Black Sea island.

Video of the pre-dawn attack showed the charred remains of buildings in the small town of Serhiivka, located about 50 kilometers southwest of Odesa. The Ukrainian president's office said three Kh-22 missiles fired by Russian bombers struck an apartment building and two campsites.

Ukrainian authorities interpreted the attack as payback for Russian troops being forced from Snake Island a day earlier, though Moscow portrayed their departure as a "goodwill gesture" to help unblock exports of grain from the country.

"The occupiers cannot win on the battlefield, so they resort to vile killing of civilians," said Ivan Bakanov, head of Ukraine's security service, the SBU. "After the enemy was dislodged from Snake Island, he decided to respond with the cynical shelling of civilian targets."

After Friday's attack, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov reiterated that Moscow is not tar-



A residential building in Odesa on Friday. AP

getting residential areas.

Ukrainian media reported said 21 people were killed, including children. It said 38 others, including six children and a pregnant woman, were hospitalized. Most of the victims were in the apartment building, Ukrainian emergency officials said.

Oleh Zhdanov, an independent Ukrainian military analyst, said that the Russian pullback from Snake Island has "colossal psychological significance" for Ukraine.

"Snake Island is key for controlling the Black Sea and could help cover the Russian attack if the Kremlin opted for an amphibious landing operation in Odesa or elsewhere in the region," he said. "Now those plans are pushed back."

Many Russian weapons tycoons have faced no Western sanctions

CHRIS KIRKHAM & DAVID GAUTHIER-VILLARS
JULY 1

AS RUSSIA'S military continues to pound Ukraine with missiles and other lethal weapons, Western nations have responded in part by targeting Russia's defense industry with sanctions. The latest round came on Tuesday, when the US issued new sanctions on some arms makers and executives at the heart of what it dubbed Russian President Vladimir Putin's "war machine."

But a Reuters examination of companies, executives and investors underpinning Russia's defense sector shows a sizable number of players have yet to pay a price: Nearly three dozen leaders of Russian weapons firms and at least 14 defense companies have not been sanctioned by the US, the EU or the UK. In addition, sanctions on Russia's arms makers and tycoons have been applied inconsistently by these NATO allies, with some governments levying penalties and others not, the review showed.

Among the weapons moguls who have not been sanctioned by any of those three authorities is Alan Lushnikov, the largest shareholder of Kalashnikov Concern JSC, the original manu-



The weapons moguls not sanctioned yet include owners of firms making missiles and guns used in Ukraine. Reuters

facturer of the well-known AK-47 assault rifle. Lushnikov owns a 75% stake in the firm.

The company itself was sanctioned by the US in 2014, the year Russia invaded and annexed the Ukrainian peninsula of Crimea. The EU and UK leveled their own sanctions against Kalashnikov Concern this year.

The company accounts for 95% of Russia's production of machine guns, sniper rifles, pistols and other handheld firearms, and 98% of its handheld military machine guns. Its weapons include the AK-12 assault rifle, an updated version of the AK-47, some of which have been captured from Russian forces by Ukrainian soldiers. Neither Lushnikov, Timchenko or the Kalashnikov Concern responded to requests for comment.

It's the same pattern with Almaz-Antey Concern, a Moscow-based defense company specializing in missiles and anti-aircraft systems. The company has been sanctioned by the United States, EU and UK, but CEO Yan Novikov has not been punished.

Like the bans on other Russian firms, sanctions on weapons companies are meant to hamper their ability to sell to foreign customers. Levying sanctions on the people behind those firms goes a step further to make the pain personal.

"You're demonstrating that being a regime collaborator comes with a cost," said Max Bergmann, a former official during the Obama administration who worked on US arms transfers and safeguarding US military technology. **REUTERS**

Thousands rally in Sudan day after 9 killed during protests

ASSOCIATED PRESS
CAIRO, JULY 1

THOUSANDS TOOK to the streets Friday in Sudan's capital, a day after nine people were killed in demonstrations against the country's ruling generals.

The US and others in the international community condemned the violence in this East African nation, which has been rocked by near-weekly protests since an October 25 coup upended its fragile transition to democracy.

The rallies on Thursdays were the largest seen in months. Sudanese military authorities have met the protesters with a deadly crackdown, which has so far killed 113 people, including 18 children. In and near Khartoum, large funeral marches took place for some of those killed the day before.

The Sudan's Doctors Committee said security forces killed nine people, including a child, in or near Khartoum during the rallies on Thursday.

The demonstrations coincided with widespread internet disruptions. Internet monitors and activists say the government has crippled communications to prevent gatherings and slow the spread of news on days when large protest turnout is expected.

Sudan's leading pro-democracy groups — Forces for the Declaration of Freedom and Change and the Resistance Committees — had called for nationwide protest against the coup.

The UN, the African Union, and the east African regional Intergovernmental Authority in Development group have been trying to broker a way out of the political impasse but in vain so far.



'TOUR OF SHAME'

Climate activists march on Capitol Hill during a demonstration outside of Republican Senators' homes following the West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency ruling in Washington, DC. The Supreme Court ruling on Thursday is likely to hinder President Biden's plans to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half by the end of the decade. **Reuters**

BANGLADESH

De-radicalisation project to counsel jailed militants

ANISUR RAHMAN
DHAKA, JULY 1

BANGLADESH WILL start a de-radicalisation campaign for militants in jail as years of security clampdown has waned the strength of the militant outfits in the country since the 2016 attack on a posh Dhaka restaurant in which 20 people, including an Indian and 16 other foreigners, were killed, officials said Friday.

"The initiative is aimed to prevent the jailed militants' return to the path of militancy," said a spokesman of police's Counter Terrorism and

Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit. CTTC unit chief Mohammad Asaduzzaman said they received the home ministry's approval to the deradicalisation campaign to appoint psychologists, clerics and counterterrorism experts to counsel the militants who were in jail or on bail.

Under the project, the CTTC will rehabilitate 20 militants in next one year, providing them financial support so they could earn their living and get themselves reintegrated into society after they complete their prison terms, he said.

"We will also monitor their activities," he added. **PTI**

ANGER OVER COVID JAB MANDATES, GOVT 'OVERREACH'

Ottawa braces for Canada Day protests

STEVE SCHERER
OTTAWA, JULY 1

THE FIRST in-person Canada Day celebrations in three years on Friday will include a huge police presence and street closures throughout downtown Ottawa to prevent anti-government "freedom" protesters from disrupting the festivities.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the free concerts and other activities usually held on the national holiday, which celebrates the founding of the country, were last held in 2019.

"This is a time to celebrate who we are and coming out of a two-year pandemic," Public



James Topp, a Canadian Forces veteran who marched across the country against the Covid vaccines mandates, arrives in Ottawa, Ontario, on Thursday. Reuters

Safety Minister Marco Mendicino said on Wednesday, encouraging people to take part in the festivities.

Several groups are planning

marches and even a dance party to protest coronavirus vaccination mandates, globalization and what they say is government overreach in Canada. **REUTERS**

Haibatullah Akhundzadah had come to Kabul. **Reuters**

THE RECLUSIVE supreme leader of the Afghan Taliban, Haibatullah Akhundzadah, hailed the Islamists' 2021 takeover of Afghanistan during a meeting on Friday called to forge national unity and attended by religious leaders from around the country.

Taliban spokesmen confirmed that Akhundzadah, who is based in Kandahar, had come to capital Kabul for the all-male gathering of 3,000 participants.

After receiving pledges of allegiance from participants raising their hands, Akhundzadah praised the Taliban's victory last August, which marked the end of a 20-year struggle to overthrow a western-backed government and drive US-led forces out of the country.

"The success of the Afghan jihad is not only a source of pride for Afghans but also for Muslims all over the world," he said according to state-run Bakhtar News Agency, using the Arabic word signifying a spiritual struggle.

The Kabul gathering began on Thursday. At least one participant had called for girls' high schools to be opened but it was unclear how widespread support was for that proposal. **REUTERS**

Anna Moriah Wilson. **AP File**

US star cyclist's killing: Texas woman held in Costa Rica

KEN MILLER
JULY 1

A TEXAS woman suspected in the fatal shooting of professional cyclist Anna Moriah Wilson at an Austin home has been arrested in Costa Rica, the US Marshals Service said Thursday.

Kaitlin Marie Armstrong, 34, was arrested Wednesday at a hostel on Santa Teresa Beach in Provincia de Puntarenas, the Marshals Service said in a statement. Armstrong was expected to be returned to the US, where she faces a murder charge, the agency said.

"The Marshals Service elevated the Kaitlin Armstrong investigation to major case status early in this investigation, which likely played a key role in her capture after a 43-day run," said US Marshal for the Western District of Texas Susan Pamerleau.

Wilson, 25, was found dead May 11, and Austin police on May 19 issued a murder warrant for Armstrong. A competitive gravel and mountain bike racer known as "Mo", she had been in Austin for a cycling event. **AP**

MITES THREATEN DAMAGE OF \$70 MILLION A YEAR

To save its honey industry, Australia is wiping out bees by the millions

KARAN DEEP SINGH
JULY 1

THE FIRST step is pouring gasoline into the beehive. Then it's time to wait. The job is finished when the hive is burned the next day.

Since last week, this cycle has been on repeat near a port in eastern Australia, part of a government effort to protect the country's multimillion dollar honey industry.

Millions of bees have been destroyed to help contain the spread of the deadly varroa mite, which reappeared in the country last

week near the Port of Newcastle. "Australia is the only major honey-producing country free from varroa mite," said Satendra Kumar, the chief plant protection officer of New South Wales state, where the pest was discovered on Friday. If the varroa mite became established in Australia, he said, it could cost the nation's honey industry more than \$70 million a year, in addition to its effect on the crops that rely on bee pollination.

The global farming industry is already reeling from higher prices for fertilizers, fuel and machinery, as well as supply chain problems caused by the coronavirus pan-



Healthy, mite-free beehives are crucial to Australia's \$15 billion horticulture industry. AP file

demic. The Ukraine war is an additional blow. The authorities have ordered

a virtual lockdown of the beehives in the affected area of the state. Normally, beehives are

moved from place to place, a process crucial to Australia's \$15 billion horticulture industry because they are used to help pollinate crops.

The mites, which are reddish-brown and about the size of a sesame seed, can spread from bee to bee and through beekeeping equipment, including combs that have been extracted. If left untreated, the mites could kill an entire colony of honey bees, the government has said.

One of the biggest challenges in the current containment effort is figuring out the location of infected hives and mapping their

spread in a vast region, according to Danny Le Feuvre, the acting head of the Australian Honey Bee Industrial Council. It's necessary to contain the Port of Newcastle and the hives within a 31-mile radius of it, he said.

The port is a major shipping destination and one of the world's busiest export hubs for coal.

Feuvre said so far at least 600 hives, each containing about 30,000 bees, have been destroyed in the area. But the authorities have found at least nine more locations with infections — one as far as 235 miles away, near the city of Dubbo. Many more bees

are at the risk of being destroyed in the next few days, Dugald Saunders, the state's agriculture minister, said at a news conference on Thursday.

"The beekeepers are very nervous at the moment," Feuvre said. He said he was confident the country would be able to contain the spread, given its history of previous eradication efforts of honey bee mites and strict controls at all airports barring passengers from bringing live plants, soil, fruits and vegetables into Australia.

"We've eradicated them for this long," he said. "We're going to give it our best shot." **NYT**

16 REVIEWS

CINEMA & MUSIC

Absurder and Absurder

OM-THE BATTLE WITHIN
★ ★

Director: Kapil Varma
Cast: Aditya Roy Kapoor, Sanjana Sanghi, Ashutosh Rana, Jackie Shroff, Prakash Raj, Prachi Shah, Vicky Arora

AN UNDERCOVER agent, caught in enemy crosshairs, unleashes a plot filled with fast-paced action dotted with emotion. Or at least, that's the intention. *Om, The Battle Within* marks yet another addition in the line of films that Bollywood has adopted as a safe bet: a hero with patriotism oozing out of his pores, going after the dastardly enemies of the state, supported by faithful buddies and a loving family unit.

We first come upon the valiant Om Rathod (Roy Kapoor) in the middle of a botched covert operation, on a boat somewhere on the deep seas, bristling with ammo and machismo. Bullets are whizzing past noisily, a number of black-suited fellows are being slain, and our hero finds the time to press a button in his ear and intone: There Is A Mole In Our Midst. No, this is not a spy comedy. Maybe it should have been. Who can the mole be? Is it someone deep within Om's department? A sour-faced sariclad bosswoman who marches about flinging out barbs at everyone? The crafty Prakash Raj, who's been a part of so many similar movies recently that it's hard to tell them apart? The missing-in-action grey-stubbled Jackie Shroff who's been working on a missile, or something like that? The very voluble Ashutosh Rana, who keeps talking of *deshbhakti*, and how *rashtra* (country) is bigger than *rakt* (blood)? Or someone else?

There's also a younger brigade of spies: the oldies can't have all the fun, right? A crack computer expert (Arora) and sharp-shooters, is attached to names including a spry girl (Sanghi): why should boys have all the fun? Whenever the plot, which embraces its hare-brainedness with enthusiasm, needs a diversion, we get bits of action involving this lot. The winsome Sanghi is totally out of place, even as she is given a couple of scenes in which she kicks, chops and shoots. Like the millennials say, *kuchhi bhi*.

But this is Bollywood. Can't have a movie without a *maa*, right? Prachi Shah plays the tearful mother to the hilt, not looking much older than her movie son. When Roy Kapoor is not nestling in the bosom of his family, he is living up to the film's florid statement of being a *mazboot yoddha* (strong soldier) not a *kamzor beta* (weak son). See, the very hard-working Om is not just an Indian soldier, he is also a *rashtriya kavach*, so beware: international arms dealers, greedy traitors, and other assorted bad guys quake when Om switches to his Arnie avatar, biceps bulging, heavy machine guns roaring, rampaging through enemy hideouts, blowing up machinery and men. Phew. **SG**



Alive & Kicking

MINIONS: THE RISE OF GRU

★ ★ ★ ★

Director: Kyle Balda; **Co-Directors:** Brad Ableson and Jonathan del Val
Voices: Steve Carell, Alan Arkin, Pierre Coffin, Taraji P Henson, Michelle Yeoh, Jean-Claude Van Damme, Lucy Lawless, Dolph Lundgren, Russell Brand, Danny Trejo, Julie Andrews

SHUBHRA GUPTA

THOSE PESKY little banana-loving, gibberish-spouting yellow critters return in *Minions: The Rise Of Gru*, and what a lark this new outing turns out to be, exactly what a nippy, cheerful, fun summer film ought to be.

The fifth instalment (if you're counting) of *Despicable Me* gives us an 11-year-old Gru (Carell), who desperately wants to be a super villain. Easily done, you'd think, given that Wild Knuckles (Arkin) has fallen from grace, and The Vicious Six gang, the worst villains in the world, is looking for someone new.

Gru, who can release the stinkiest fart bombs to empty out a full theatre, or freeze customers at a crowded store to get ahead in the line, is totally convinced that he is the goods. Alas, Belle Bottom (Henson), the brand new leader of the Vicious Six is not im-

pressed; nor are the other gang-members who don't have much to do other than just hang about and growl when required.

This is a film which wants the adult/s accompanying kid/s not to keel over in boredom, which is pretty much what happens when cute little animated creatures go about their business spreading deathly heaviness. Here you smile at the punny names — Jean Clawed (Van Damme) with a giant machine lobster for an arm, Nun Chuck (Lawless), a nun who uses a nunchuck, and a whole bunch of 70s pop culture references (the film is set in the early 70s) — a radio belts out *Funky town*, a movie-hall plays *Jaws*, tall afros and wide bell bottoms abound.

The kids can laugh at the more kiddie jokes, and this is where the minions come in. Our old pals Stuart, Bob and Kevin are joined by the peskier, younger Otto. It's hard to hand out distinct personalities to what are, in

essence, just blobs of bright yellow who squeak instead of speak. But within a few minutes, you can tell Otto from the others. He's needier, for one: as soon as he sees a rock, the one thing minions love more than anything else, apart from bananas, he exchanges it for a precious gem that Gru has given him to keep safe.

So there's Gru and his faithful minions arrayed alongside Knuckles as they face off the Vicious Six. That's your climax, which is about the only thing that doesn't feel fresh: only the other week, there was your human vs dinosaur slugfest-in-a-town hall, a climactic trope that doesn't ever seem to go away. The rest of it sparkles.

Gru, his neatness of aspect strangely never at variance with his desire to be a supervillain, is never quite truly evil. Nor are the minions. The bad stuff that they do is at the kindergarten level bad stuff, which you

can wipe and wash and square away. Which is why we can have so much unadulterated, unvarnished fun with them, and at them, even when they take over a plane and manage, after a series of heart-in-mouth moments, not to crash it — a pitch-perfect sequence which will appeal to kids and adults alike.

And this time around, the minions have a kung fu teacher (Yeoh) who teaches them to deal with the guys a notch worse than they are. But even the Vicious Six, despite their claws and fangs, remain quite likeable.

The animation is top-notch. Some scenes, especially those set in San Francisco — those up-and-down roads, the trams — are breathtaking. But the thing that really makes this thing sing is that each character feels alive, and for a franchise film whose characters are among the fastest-selling toys on the planet, that's quite an achievement.

Deflection from Trajectory

IT'S SURPRISING that the story of Nambi Narayanan, an ISRO scientist who was falsely accused of espionage, took so long to be filmed. It has everything: a man who dedicated his life to the advancement of science, a patriot who refused a coveted NASA job to come back to serve his country, a man devoted to his wife and three children, and who fought a long, bitter battle to clear his name.

R Madhavan who has written and directed the film, as well as acted in the titular role, teeters between the two aspects of Nambi's life: the bright, cocky student of science who knows much more than his professor at Princeton, and who tirelessly pushes for what he wants, and the responsible family man pushing back at the calumny heaped upon him, making *Rocketry, The Nambi Effect* a somewhat patchy effort: effective in some parts, and over-the-top amateurish in others.

The challenge to keep a regular, non-scientific audience with it while exploring 'solid and liquid states', the correct pressure that is required to be the right propellant,

the details of the space programmes in Russia and France, is evident in the way things are incorporated in the script, with an emphasis on keeping everything light and understandable.

Nambi and his team keep arraying themselves in interesting locations, not just in around a dull office table — on a street, a yacht, a cobweb-laden lab — even as they discuss arcane scientific stuff, and the effort shows. The characters who play Nambi's collaborators in foreign lands are actors trying very hard to act: one particularly hilarious scene plays out somewhere in the USSR where Nambi and Co race across an airfield on snow sleds laden with essential parts for a rocket, with the Americans in hot pursuit.

Scenes like these impel the ultra-respectful anchor of a TV programme, played by Shah Rukh Khan, to comment: this felt like a James Bond movie. My grouse with this device which is used to frame the back-and-forth dialogue right through the film, essentially a long flashback, is how bland it is: Madhavan, playing an elderly Nambi,



snowy white beard and all, looking like a dead ringer for the real Nambi, in animated conversation with SRK, should have been the beating heart of the film.

And even though an attempt has been made to prevent the film turning into a hagiography — in a tragic incident involving one of Nambi's colleagues (Mohan), the former comes off as a hard-hearted pragmatist solely invested in getting the job done — the film keeps patting Nambi on the back. Admiring colleagues Param (Ravindranathan), and Sartaj (Sahni) keep saying, 'you're the man!' There's no doubt in the movie's mind, or in the way Madhavan plays him, that Nambi is a hero, even when he is being cruelly beaten in

prison, or when he is trying to get his shattered wife (Simran) out of the fugue she has sunk into.

Madhavan makes you believe in the character, even if there are times in the beginning when Nambi looks older than he should, even as a 'senior' Ivy League student, or when he is exchanging notes with his dear mentor Vikram Sarabhai (Kapoor) and supportive ISRO boss, shoving aside all obstacles airily, and marching to his own tune. But the writing is stodgy, and the direction doesn't quite make up for it. And why not even a mention of the crucial political champions of India's space programme, without whose unstinting support it would have turned into a non-starter? **SG**

ROCKETRY, THE NAMBI EFFECT

★ ★ ★

Director: R Madhavan
Cast: R Madhavan, Simran, Rajit Kapoor, Gulshan Grover, Sam Mohan, Rajeev Ravindranathan, Bhawshree Sahni

Rukh Khan, to comment: this felt like a James Bond movie. My grouse with this device which is used to frame the back-and-forth dialogue right through the film, essentially a long flashback, is how bland it is: Madhavan, playing an elderly Nambi,

Music This Week

ALBUM: MAATI

★ ★ ★ ★

Artiste: Ron Cha (featuring Kalpana Patowary, Biren Deuri, Jacques Schwarz-Bart, Mohini Dey, Alexander Toth, Lionel Loueke, Mlyai Karthikeyan among others)
Streaming on: Spotify and iTunes

Songs of the Earth

SUANSHUKHURANA

IN *MAATI* (Earth), the second EP by Assam-based jazz pianist Ronojit Chaliha aka Ron Cha, a song titled *Lost* opens with a piano riff attempting to emulate the sound of the xutuli — an age-old Assamese folk wind instrument that's shaped like a half moon and is believed to have been brought to Assam by Sino-Tibetan groups centuries ago. Noted Assamese singer Kalpana Patowary sings this ditty — an Assamese folk passed down generations, it describes the story of a boat spin-

ning in water, without any oars, uncontrollably. About a minute into it, Chaliha turns inward, taking the jazz route and goes into a sumptuous continuum of an interlude, returning to his Assamese roots just before Patowary is to start the stanzas. It's wonderful to see such open-ended interplay of instruments — keys along with bass, drums, guitars and a nadhaswaram. What hits the heart and adds perspective to this song of suffering is a stunning solo on the nadhaswaram by the extremely talented Karthikeyan.

Lost is Chaliha's hidden message to the world, where he highlights how beautiful folk ditties, tribal songs and *borgeets* — ones that intrinsically capture the lives of people from a complex state — have neither been heard by



many, nor are they documented. And for that he has brought out *Maati* — Chaliha's attempt to present folk pieces from his home state along with his jazz sensibilities. The EP revels in this mesh of sensibilities, instruments and thoughts while presenting it all as a comprehensive whole.

Lost and four other ditties in this EP not only give us a glimpse into the 24-year-old musician's gifts as an artiste, it also drives home the point of how, unlike what's voiced often, there

are young artistes who are attempting to uphold this intangible heritage, document it and allow it to reach a wider audience.

In the western classical music circles, Chaliha aka Ron Cha's reputation precedes him. The young jazz pianist came under the spotlight when in 2013 his final score at Trinity College of Music (Advance Certificate course) was the highest ever in India. He still holds that record. But in the EP, it's not just about what he learned at music school but a lot about what he imbibed of his heritage; and this is what makes *Maati* special. The way he has steered his music, presenting it from two perspectives but making it sound like one, is a stroke of much ingenuity.

Omur apuner dekh (Omy endearing country) was penned over a 100 years ago by literary stalwart Lakshminath Bezbarua and composed by Assamese politician and Lok Sabha MP Kamala Prasad Agarwala. It makes its appearance on *Maati* as an instrumental piece on the saxophone along Chaliha's piano. Almost hymn-like, the piece soon wallows into the jazz realm, swings around a bit and returns to the basic folk tune. It is perhaps the finest instrumental renditions of the iconic song. The

opening piece, *Awakening*, is stunning and Patowary's seasoned voice goes to one's heart's depth, blending folk with contemporary, with free-wheeling jazz in tow. Chaliha's dexterity on the keys and his husked vocals, give us a peep into the elegant phrasing he is capable of.

He also ropes in Biren Deuri, a folk musician from Major Chapori Gaon in Majuli — the largest riverine island in the world — which is within the Brahmaputra, has a distinct cultural heritage. Deuri sings *Doi Roi Bidi*, a Bihu folk that has Dey layer her powerful bass riffs with the drums and piano. Another tribute to the harvest season, called *Bihu Blues*, is sung by Patowary along Schwarz-Bart's saxophone and Chaliha on the synth. While everyone does a fine job individually, the folk just doesn't blend seamlessly with jazz and seems a bit stiff and coerced. It's a song that doesn't stay, though the brilliance of the musicians does.

Maati is an engaging effort and a compelling tribute to Assam. A glimpse into the state's lovely folk and Chaliha's own sensibilities and its possibilities in the coming years, this expansive exploration leaves an impression.

STREAMING WATCH LIST



BENEDETTA

MUBI

Adapted from Judith Brown's book *Immodest Acts: The Life of a Lesbian Nun in Renaissance Italy*, Paul Verhoeven-directed *Benedetta* tells a story that scandalised Florence in the early 1600s. An infamous nun rose to power as a mystic, but was subsequently charged with committing scandalous heretic acts — trying to pass off self-inflicted stigmata as miraculous, having a long passionate affair with another nun. Starring Virginie Efira, Charlotte Rampling and Daphné Patakia, *Benedetta* had its world premiere during the Cannes Film Festival 2021.



MOONFALL

LIONSGATE PLAY

The world stands on the brink of annihilation when a mysterious force knocks the moon from its orbit and sends it hurtling toward a collision course with Earth. With only weeks before impact, NASA executive Jocinda 'Jo' Fowler teams up with a man from her past and a conspiracy theorist for an impossible mission into space to save humanity. Directed by Roland Emmerich, this sci-fi movie features Halle Berry, Patrick Wilson and John Bradley.



VENOM

DISNEY+HOTSTAR

This is the evolution story of *Venom* — Marvel's most enigmatic, complex and badass character. Eddie Brock (Tom Hardy) is a broken man after he loses everything including his job and fiancée. Just when his life is at its lowest, he becomes host to an alien symbiote which results in extraordinary superpowers — transforming him into *Venom*.



SHUT UP SONA

ZEE5

This National Film Award-winning documentary follows singer Sona Mohapatra's fight for equal space in modern-day India. The singer is being sued by a religious community because they find her musical interpretation of an 800-year-old poem offensive. She receives death threats and is trolled on social media. But she doesn't back down. Director Deepti Gupta followed Mohapatra for three years to put together an intimate portrait of the singer.

STRANGER THINGS: SEASON 4

NETFLIX

After a three-year gap, popular sci-fi horror series returned with *Volume 1* of the fourth season on May 27. Now, the much-anticipated *Volume 2*, comprising two episodes, is also streaming. These episodes are expected to offer clues to solve several pending questions as well as set the stage for the show's fifth season.

COMPILED BY ALAKA SAHANI



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

Covid vaccines found highly effective for people across body weights: Lancet study

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS
PUNE, JUNE 1

OBEISITY HAS been identified as a risk factor for severe Covid-19 since early in the pandemic, but little was known so far about the effectiveness of the vaccines for people with obesity. Now a study in *The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology* has found that two vaccine doses are highly effective against severe disease for people who are underweight, overweight, or who have obesity.

Large sample

Carried out in the UK, the study covered 9,171,524 adult patients who had BMI data and had not previously been infected with SARS-CoV-2. They were grouped based on their BMI: healthy weight, underweight, overweight, obesity. During the study period from December 8, 2020 (date of the first vaccine given in the UK) to November 17, 2021, over 5.6 lakh of the 9 million tested positive. Of those, 32,808 were admitted to hospital and 14,389 died.

At the end of the study period, 23.3% of the healthy weight group, 32.6% of the underweight group, 16.8% of the overweight group and 14.2% of the group with obesity had not received any dose of any vaccine. The researchers compared risk of severe disease in vaccinated versus unvaccinated people at least 14 days after a second dose.

The findings

■ In the underweight group, vaccinated people had around half the likelihood of being hospitalised or dying compared to the unvaccinated.

■ In the healthy and high BMI groups, vaccinated people were 70% less likely to be hospitalised than those unvaccinated, and two-thirds less likely to die.

■ Among vaccinated people only, of the fewer Covid-19 cases recorded, people of very low and very high BMI were more likely to experience severe disease. For example, following two doses, an underweight BMI of 17 was linked to a 50% increase in risk of hospitalisation compared with a healthy BMI of 23, and a very high BMI of 44 had three times the risk of hospitalisation compared with a healthy BMI.

Takeaway for underweight

In a linked comment, Professor Annelies Wilder-Smith and Professor Annika Frahsa of the University of Berne (who were not involved in the study) wrote: "There was a higher vaccine uptake by persons with obesity. These findings should prompt a shift towards more targeted and differentiated public health messaging to also address underweight persons who may perceive themselves at lower risk in order to enhance vaccine uptake in this group."

LONGER VERSION
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

15 years of iPhone: five ways how Apple reimagined mobile phones

IN 2007, when Steve Jobs told the world Apple had "re-invented the phone" and called it the iPhone, it was difficult to guess he was being prophetic — and not merely pushing more tech marketing spiel. The iPhone changed the world in more ways than one, and had an impact going far beyond the realm of personal tech.

Over the past 15 years, the iPhone has set the benchmark on smartphones. For years, other flagship phones have been billed as 'iPhone killer', even though none of them could really vanquish the 'Jesus phone'.

Behind the success and impact of the iPhone was a complete reimagining of what a phone should do in a user's hands. Here are five ways in which Apple did this.

1 YOU CAN MAKE CALLS TOO: Making a voice call or sending a message was just one of the functionalities of the iPhone. It was not the primary problem this phone was trying to solve. This meant there were many reasons to pick up the phone other than one's regular communication needs.

2 ONE DEVICE, MANY USES: The iPhone was a music player, camera, calendar, notepad and lots of other things. As it became popular across the world, it killed

a lot of other products, from point-and-shoot cameras to portable music players and digital diaries.

3 LOOK, NO KEYBOARD: In 2007, consumers did not know it was possible to have a phone without physical keys. Many pundits called it the phone's Achilles' heel.

But the touch screen has stood the test of time. A popular brand like BlackBerry, which claimed the keypad as its USP, has disappeared.

4 WE HAVE AN APP FOR THAT: In 2008, when Apple launched its App Store with 500 apps, it was changing the world, one app at a time. Fourteen years and millions of apps later, this software revolution has powered the global economy and given many a startup the platform to be successful. The Ubers, Evernotes and Angry Birds of the world would not have found the success they did without the App Store.

5 IT'S A COMPUTER, IDIOT: The iPhone was never true to its name. It was all along a computer in smartphone clothing. Now, millions around the world use the phone as their primary or only computing device. This change in mindset would not have been possible without the iPhone setting the standards for computing power and versatility.

NANDAGOPAL RAJAN



PAPER CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

The new virus sub-variants

The Omicron sub-variants BA.2 and BA.2.38 are driving the current surge across India. While cases of BA.4 and BA.5 too are rising, scientists note that emerging strains have not led to any cluster formations so far.

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

OVER THE last seven days, an average 15,277 new Covid-19 cases have been recorded every day. For comparison, 4,207 cases were recorded a day on average during the first week of June. The surge has been driven by sub-variants of Omicron.

What are these sub-variants?

The current surge in cases is because of the BA.2 sub-variant of Omicron — which also drove the third wave in January, along with BA.1 — and another sub-variant that has branched off from it, called BA.2.38.

Earlier this week, Delhi reported its first couple of cases of the BA.5 sub-variant of Omicron. This was one of the sub-variants that led to an increase in cases in South Africa a couple of months ago. The first BA.5 case in India was reported in late May in Telangana.

Cases of such sub-variants, which are driving surges at many places globally, are on the rise in India as well, but they currently account for only a small percentage of cases. Importantly, experts believe that there is no clinical significance of this change.

What do we know so far about these and other sub-variants that are circulating around the world?

BA.2.38: This recently re-classified, and has now been established that it leads to milder disease, just like its parent sub-variant BA.2.

BA.2: This is the sub-variant that drove the winter surge in India, along with BA.1. BA.2 soon overtook its cousin BA.1, showing that it had a competitive advantage. Although the disease pattern was not different for the two, BA.2 seemed to be more transmissible.

BA.4 & BA.5: These sub-variants were detected by South Africa in January and February respectively. The variants triggered a surge of infections, and became dominant by May this year. They are now spreading to Europe, with BA.5 becoming the dominant variant in Portugal.

BA.4 and BA.5 have around 13% to 15% transmission advantage over BA.2, and can also circumvent some of the immunity. These variants have two mutations that were thought to be of concern by researchers: F486V that lab studies have associated with the ability of the virus to evade some of the existing immunity, and L452R that was



Healthcare professionals collect a passenger's sample for RT-PCR testing at Kalapur railway station, Ahmedabad, in June.
Nirmal Harindran

found in the Delta variant and has been associated with the ability to infect the lungs.

However, experience from other countries shows that the variants do not lead to an increase in severe disease, hospitalisation, and deaths. This time around, doctors have hardly seen Covid-19 pneumonia in patients, which had led to the increase in oxygen requirement and deaths during the Delta-variant driven second wave of the summer of 2021.

BA.2.12.1: This sub-variant, which was first detected in New York, is thought to be 23% to 27% more transmissible than the BA.2 sub-variant. It is also thought to evade some of the immunity gained through previous infection and vaccination.

How much has each sub-variant contributed to the current surge?

Genome sequences uploaded to the global database GISAID show that BA.2.38 — which branched off from BA.2 — is dominant in the country, accounting for 30% of all sequences over the last 30 days.

This was followed by the BA.2 sub-variant itself, accounting for 28% of samples, shows an analysis of the GISAID data by *outbreak.info*. *Outbreak.info* is a project from Scripps Research that aggregates Covid data across scientific sources in order to track pandemic trends and integrate research and

datasets into a single searchable library.)

Although BA.4 and BA.5 were detected in the country at almost the same time (in the beginning of May), BA.5 has been spreading faster, accounting for 7% of the sequences uploaded to the global database in the last 30 days.

So far, India has reported at least 120 sequences of the BA.5 sub-variant, most of them in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka (43 each). As for the other sub-variant that led the Covid-19 surge in South Africa — BA.4 — 33 cases have been identified, which account for less than 1% of sequences uploaded to the global database over the last 30 days.

BA.2.12.1 has accounted for 5% of sequences over the last 30 days. At least 190 sequences of this sub-variant have been uploaded to the global database — most of them coming from Telangana (69), Karnataka (46), and Tamil Nadu (45).

What has changed between the January wave and the current wave?

The biggest difference, researchers from INSACOG say, is that there is no cluster formation with any of the emerging sub-variants.

When Omicron was on the rise in December-end and January, there was clear cluster formation, which helped researchers quickly connect the dots that the increase

was driven by the new variant.

So, should you be worried?

Scientists from INSACOG say that the emerging sub-variants are not creating cluster formations as the sub-variants during the December-January wave had done.

"In a country of a billion people, detecting a few cases of a variant is of no meaning. We haven't seen these cases occurring in clusters. Neither have we seen any changes in the symptoms or rate of hospitalisation so far," a senior scientist from INSACOG said.

The scientists will hold further discussions with the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to try and correlate the findings of genome sequencing with the epidemiological data on the ground.

The researcher said, "Although BA.2.38 was recently re-classified and is now present in many samples, we have not found any epidemiological evidence to suggest any change in the disease patterns."

Another scientist from one of the regional INSACOG labs said, "We are seeing more cases of BA.2.38 now, but there is no cluster formation. For example, when Omicron first started spreading in the country, we were able to see the clusters, and very quickly chart who passed the infection to whom. That hasn't happened with the current new variants."

EXPLAINED BOOKS SATURDAY SUMMARY

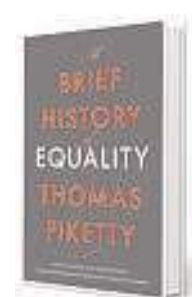
Concise companion to a bestselling treatise

KAUSHIK DASGUPTA
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

IN 2014, French economist Thomas Piketty's *Capital in the Twenty-First Century* became one of the rare hardcore economics books to feature on bestseller lists. Written in the backdrop of the Occupy Movements, the book used piles of data to show how modern capitalism works to advantage private wealth — concentrated in the hands of a minuscule percentage of the global population — vis-à-vis incomes from salaries.

Given its central argument — if you have investments in real estate and stock markets, you are more likely to do well than those with salaried incomes — the allure of *Capital* wasn't difficult to understand. But the nearly-700-page tome was often also described as a "bestseller that's never read".

Piketty's latest work, *A Brief History of Equality*, is a slimmer and a far less dense



A BRIEF HISTORY OF EQUALITY
BY THOMAS PIKETTY
Harvard University Press
320 pages;
₹699

companion volume to *Capital* — and to his 2019 work *Capital and Ideology*. As the author notes, "The volume of documentation might well (have) discouraged the best-intentioned citizen. It was time for summation".

But there are good reasons to see this less-than-300-page work as an independent text.

Like Piketty's earlier works, *A Brief History of Equality* is as much about inequality. His central argument is that there has

been a long-term — although by no means linear — movement towards equality in the past 200 years. That, however, seems to be reversing since the 1980s. This "limited form of equality", Piketty argues, has been beneficial from every point of view, because collective prosperity "has allowed citizens to participate more fully in social and economic life".

But then why is this victory a "limited" one?

Piketty points out that this is because the magnitude of the dominance of the top 10 per cent vis-à-vis the bottom 50 per cent is far less compared to what it was about 100 years ago. However, the diminishing dominance of the well-healed 10 per cent owes much more to the improved fortunes of the middle 40 per cent.

At the same time, the concentration of property hasn't ceased to be extreme. This paradox, Piketty explains, is largely due to "historical heritage".

The turn to the welfare state in the last century, improved access to healthcare and education, and profound changes in legal systems have been at the core of the march towards equality. These radical transformations were "borne" by intense social and political struggles — though, in a departure from radical theoreticians, Piketty cautions against arriving at a cause-and-effect relationship between the organisation of the welfare state's emancipatory institutions and popular movements.

Discrimination can be overcome through a "recourse to history, diffusion of knowledge, deliberation and confrontation among different points of view" — prescient at a time when a section of the Occupy Movement has turned to Trumpism, and elements of the Arab Spring have fed into Islamism.

Explained Books appears every Saturday. It summarises the core argument of an important work of non-fiction.

Law & precedent on clubbing of cases, and SC denial of Nupur Sharma plea

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

ON FRIDAY, the Supreme Court declined a plea by former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma to club the hate speech cases filed against her across the country. A vacation Bench of Justices Surya Kant and JB Pardiwala, while refusing to grant interim relief, criticised the remarks she had made leading to the case against her.

What was Sharma's plea?

In the last week of May, when she was still BJP spokesperson, Sharma had made derogatory remarks about the Prophet and the Muslim community on several television debates. Following her suspension from the BJP, Sharma issued an apology and withdrew her statements. Several FIRs were registered against her including in Delhi, Mumbai, West Bengal and Assam. Sharma moved the

Supreme Court seeking a transfer of all cases of hate speech against her to a court in Delhi.

What did the Supreme Court say?

The court refused to grant interim relief to Sharma and instead asked her to approach High Courts. The Bench also made several observations against her remarks, underlining that her comments were "irresponsible".

"The way she has ignited emotions across the country... this lady is single handedly responsible for what is happening in the country," Justice Surya Kant said.

On what grounds are such cases clubbed?

A person cannot be prosecuted more than once for the same offence. Article 20(2) of the Constitution guarantees the right against double jeopardy. Multiple FIRs on the same incident would virtually mean multiple trials. Approaching the Supreme Court in such situations is a procedural safeguard against

excessive litigation.

■ In *TT Anthony v State of Kerala*, a 2001 verdict, the Supreme Court held that there cannot be a "second FIR" on the same issue.

"There can be no second F.I.R. and consequently there can be no fresh investigation on receipt of every subsequent information in respect of the same cognizable offence or the same occurrence or incident giving rise to one or more cog-

nizable offences. On receipt of information about a cognizable offence or an incident giving rise to a cognizable offence or offences and on entering the F.I.R. in the station house diary, the officer in charge of a Police Station has to investigate not merely the cognizable offence reported in the FIR but also other connected offences found to have been committed in the course of the same transaction or

the same occurrence and file one or more reports as provided in Section 173 of the CrPC," the court had said.

■ In 2020, the Supreme Court in the case of *Arnab Goswami v Union of India* expanded this ruling and said that similar FIRs in different jurisdictions also violates fundamental rights.

"Subjecting an individual to numerous proceedings arising in different jurisdictions on the basis of the same cause of action is a violation of fundamental rights," a bench headed by Justice DY Chandrachud said.

The court said that in such a situation, the petitioner can approach the Supreme Court to club the proceedings. "A litany of our decisions — to refer to them individually would be a parade of the familiar — has firmly established that any reasonable restriction on fun-

damental rights must comport with the proportionality standard, of which one component is that the measure adopted must be the least restrictive measure to effectively achieve the legitimate state aim.

Subjecting an individual to numerous proceedings arising in different jurisdictions on the basis of the same cause of action cannot be accepted as the least restrictive and effective method of achieving the legitimate state aim in prosecuting crime," the court said.

Why did the Supreme Court deny Sharma's plea?

The SC vacation Bench distinguished Sharma's case from the precedent in the *Arnab Goswami* case. It indicated that the court had granted relief to Goswami since he was a journalist and the same status cannot be extended to Sharma who was a party spokesperson.

Although the SC in *Goswami*'s case emphasised press freedom, it noted that the

Constitution guarantees the same free speech rights to all citizens.

"But to allow a journalist to be subjected to multiple complaints and to the pursuit of remedies traversing multiple states and jurisdictions when faced with successive FIRs and complaints bearing the same foundation has a stifling effect on the exercise of that freedom. This will effectively destroy the freedom of the citizen to know of the affairs of governance in the nation and the right of the journalist to ensure an informed society. Our decisions hold that the right of a journalist under Article 19(1)(a) is no higher than the right of the citizen to speak and express. But we must as a society never forget that one cannot exist without the other," the Court had said.

The Goswami and Anthony rulings are both valid precedents that were binding on the vacation Bench. However, in an oral observation, the vacation Bench said that "if the conscience of the Court is not satisfied, the law can be moulded".

‘Time has come to tweak the world order established after World War II’



(From right) Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri with P Vaidyanathan Iyer, Executive Editor, *The Indian Express*, and Anant Goenka, Executive Director, *The Indian Express*

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At a recent Express Adda in Delhi, Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs and Petroleum and Natural Gas, spoke about a changing world order, India’s dependency on oil and the need for government intervention in real estate

On America's lack of leadership and a changing world order

Another way of addressing this issue is, are we witnessing a process which is already well embarked on deglobalisation? The inflation rate in the US today is the highest in 46 years. The Fed (US Federal Reserve) has announced a steep increase in interest rates. The markets have already factored in that increase in interest rates... and the talk now is that of a similar increase in the coming months. So that is the US.

The most important thing I found there (at Davos) is that Europe seemed to be pre-occupied with itself. It took some gentle but assertive interaction to tell them that there is a world outside, which is beginning to face challenges today. We have a number of crises. We should not approach any one crisis in a manner that it ends up exacerbating the other crisis.

The food crisis, the fuel crisis, and the fertiliser crisis. In effect, all three are inter-linked. Why is that happening?... The global order, which was established post the Second World War, I think the time has come to see if there is tweaking required in that system to make it fit for the world. The world has changed rapidly.

On how long will India's dependency on oil continue

I don't think the problem started on February 24, with the military operations between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The fuel problem predates that. But February 24 provided it a new dimension altogether. Three things happened as a result of this crisis. While there will be turbulence as we navigate the crisis, some good things will come out of it. One is that people have become extremely cautious because you don't want the kind of impact on your consuming public, which we're seeing in some countries around India — you want to make sure you have oil, so you will diversify your sources. Secondly, all this talk about green energy transition will take this much faster. If you look at what we have done in India, we've dramatically enhanced our exploration and production. Out of our 3.5 million sq km of sediment basin, we were never exporting more than 6-7 per cent, we ramped it up to 15 per cent. Our biofuel blending in 2014 was 1.4 per cent. Today, we are already blending 10 per cent. We had a target of 20 per cent by 2030. We've already brought that forward to 2024-25. E-20 or ethanol 20 per cent blended will be available at our petrol pumps, according to my

VOICE BANK



NAVIN RAHEJA
CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR, RAHEJA GROUP

There has been a transformation but can all ministries that require redevelopment, including

Railways and Forest, join hands and work together for a new India? We are constructing 700-900 million square metres of space every year. For the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, we have already sanctioned more than one crore (houses). For every 1,000 units of affordable housing we construct, many people get employment. This government works as a whole. Inter-ministerial coordination is happening. No project is held up because of environmental clearances. Under AMRUTH, if a response does not come by a particular date, you presume you've got the clearance.



TAVLEEN SINGH
COLUMNIST

How do you think the Ukraine war is going to end, and where does it leave India, since Russia could end up as a junior partner to China? I will give you what I think is an eminently sensible view, which is the

official Indian view — please place a premium on diplomacy to resolve it. Achieve in the short run a cessation of hostilities so that you can use your margin of persuasion. I don't think anyone is becoming anybody's partner. We are in a position to talk to all the parties. If some have postures that are not to your liking, you will have to deal with them. My theory on the end of the war is that it will not take as long as people think. I was among those who said he's been saying for 15 years if the NATO line moves here, he's going to do it. Today, you have to look at what is going on... The international community has to shoulder this and it won't come from taking irrational sides one way or the other.



POONAM DABAS
FOUNDING TRUSTEE, CENTRE FOR MEDIA & STRATEGIC STUDIES

On Central Vista, world over has there been another instance of what I would call the demolition of history? This architecture goes back to 1916 and was supposed to be the imperial legislature etc, not the capital of a country. We are building for the next 250 years. Look at what the Indian population was in 1916 and what it will be when the delimitation period ends in 2026. The history is there, none of the iconic historic, cultural buildings are going to be taken down.



V N DALMIA, DIRECTOR AND FORMER CHAIRMAN, DALMIA CONTINENTAL

What happened to the shale deposits found in Arunachal Pradesh in the 2000s? They were said to have the potential to significantly impact India's import requirements. Were they not exploited for technical or economic reasons? If the price of petrol is high, we'll look at shale. In the US, where billions were going there, once the oil price came down, there was no incentive, and there were also environmental issues.



Nalin Kohli, National Spokesperson, Bharatiya Janta Party



Kunihiro Kawazu, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Japan in India



Manoj Gaur, Chairman & Managing Director, Gaurs Group



Sanjit Bakshi, Director, Central Park



Dilip Chenoy, Founder, DC Skills



Nikhil Hawelia, Managing Director, Hawelia Group



Khair Ull Nissa Sheikh, Executive Director at World Trade Center India Services, (right) **Ananta Singh Raghuvanshi**, Founder President Elect, Naredco Mahi



The audience at the event at Le Meridien, New Delhi



Aman Hingorani, author and lawyer



Janice Darbari, Honorary Consul General of Montenegro in India



Rajlakshmi Darbari, author and filmmaker

QUICK QUESTIONS

The one city in India you are most optimistic about?

Delhi

The next metropolitan city in India?

In any list, Ahmedabad and Pune would be considered, but both these cities have a pace of their own. So I really don't know whether it will be these two or some others.

Greenfield or brownfield, what's a better way to build a smart city?

When we took the bid, 90 were brownfield and 10 greenfield. So, both.

The Congress or AAP, who will emerge as the bigger competition for your party?

The Congress in the 2014 and 2019 elections put together, doesn't add up to 100 seats. On AAP my views are different. You can't provide everything free. AAP will come to know *aate, dal ka bhaav* in Punjab. Let's give it another three to six months.

Neither the Congress nor the AAP inspire great confidence as being capable of becoming credible Opposition parties.

For how long do you see the war continuing?

I'm an optimist. I think sooner than later.

Protectionism or global trade, which approach do you see more beneficial for the world to emerge from this mess?

We are all for free trade but we must be for multilaterally negotiated rules that govern the international trading system. I think it's a combination of both.

Solar, wind, nuclear, hydel, hydro — which will emerge as the largest energy source after coal in India?

You're going to have several — new, renewable, alternate, all are going to come in a very big way, and nuclear too.

ministry's statement, by April 1, 2023. We are going for compressed biogas in a huge way... No matter which way you look at the energy equation, India will be the critical driver of demand in the next 30 years. You have a population which is economically more active. Our per capita consumption is one-third of the global average. Global averages will remain stable... a rich Europe cannot consume more energy, they may have to source it from somewhere else. Earlier, when we've cut off Russian supply. Now the reality is that Russia may decide to choke off something. I have a feeling that whilst all the positive things are happening, the international arrangements which are in place are going to fundamentally change.

If insurance covers are not going to be available out of London, then they will become available from other parts of the world. If people think that they can artificially calibrate the amount of supply, well, you might suddenly discover that people have gone right ahead. And you might, when the transition takes place, be left with more than you had bargained for. I have a feeling that whilst all the positive things are happening, the international arrangements, which are in place, are going to fundamentally change.

On the power shift in leadership

Look, it's very tempting to say that there is a shift in where power resides. I don't buy that. The US is the lead economy, it's about \$20 trillion. You can't change that. The Chinese are the second largest economy, around \$11-12 trillion. After that, there are one or two countries at five, and there are countries which are today at \$3.23 trillion, but very fast com-

ing up to \$5 trillion. So what will the world look like in 2030? In 2030, we should be a \$10 trillion economy. Now, by that time, presumably the US and China and all the others would also have adjusted but you can look at trajectories, some will go up, some will not be able to go up. The real issue is that will the second-largest economy challenge the world's largest economy in terms of economic power?

On the change in India's approach to West Asia

I think these are very strong relationships. Oil may appear to be a more important factor looming on the horizon now, because the oil prices are very high, but please also look at the numbers of the Indian origin or Indian passport holders who are working in these countries. So it's a very strong relationship and I think the years of the Modi government have witnessed special efforts made by both sides in terms of how the strength of the relationship is fortified by excellent personal chemistry between the heads of state and government.

On why the UN has been unsuccessful in preventing use of force

There are three UNs. One is the member states, which means the 193 member states of the UN. Then there is the UN Secretariat, Secretary General. The third UN, which sometimes I used to think was more powerful than the other two, included NGOs, civil society and you, who mould opinion, you're the great influencers. If the UN is a mess, don't blame the UN, blame the member states... Now, in normal times, if the permanent mem-

VOICE BANK



RAJEEV GUPTA

ADVISOR — INDUSTRY INTERACTION, RAJIV GANDHI INSTITUTE OF PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY

Are we taking advantage of the changing world order to position India at the correct place? In this global recession, will India fare better than the others?

The answer to your first question is yes. Second, I think we will certainly fare better. The RBI has said we may be able to avoid stagflation.

During the pandemic, there was a total stimulus package of 20 trillion dollars, so there will be inflation. There will also be a problem with the high price of oil. But as we have shown during the handling of the Covid crisis, we are better positioned. The market determines the exchange rate, but we are doing many things. If the lead economy in the world raises its interest rate more, and you are a successful businessman, you will decide where you want to park your dollars, here or there. But we have the farsightedness to position ourselves in a way that we lessen the impact of the global challenges.



NALINI SINGH

SENIOR JOURNALIST

When somebody sells property, they ask the buyer to pay stamp duty at the circle rate. But the regulator says the difference between the 70 per cent and the stamp duty is black money and both must give 30 per cent of that mythical black money and pay

penalty. We pay capital gains tax of 21 per cent and that.

I'm also at the receiving end of this problem. The state government sets the circle rate. I spoke to Mr Kejriwal, who said they will reduce 20 per cent till a particular date. I have also been talking to other state governments to have realistic circle rates. The high rates were created because you had a situation where a property worth Rs 400 crore was sold for a song. There is no regulator and the market determines what the value of the flat is. The previous government in Maharashtra rationalised the PSI (Floor Space Index). We are encouraging the urban local bodies to raise finances because they don't charge revenue where they have to. I keep saying, let us go for rationalisation.



AK JAIN

EX COMMISSIONER (PLANNING), DDA

Two master plans have been prepared for NCR and Delhi. These are for 20 years. Our cities are on ventilator, so why not for five years?

Any master plan is not made for five years. In the earlier master plan, it took more years to prepare the plan than execute it. Today, the difference is that there is

widespread stakeholder consultation. We know the cities are on ventilator, there is autonomous liberalisation and movement of people taking place. The population of Delhi was eight lakh in 1947. In the first census in 1951, it was 22 lakh. Today, it would not be less than two crore. We have regularised 1,731 colonies, there has been land pooling. Because the urban space is changing so fast, with 700 to 900 million square meters of space created every year, people don't realise what's happening. You also need citizen cooperation. If you go into the New Delhi Municipal Corporation area that's a smart city, but I would like the other parts, which are now going to be dealt with by a single entity, also to get the same kind of treatment.

bers agree amongst themselves, they can all get together and tell the Secretariat what to do. But if the Russians and Chinese are on the one side, or if the British and French are not seeing eye to eye and each one of them is gunning and using the veto... just look up the record of the UN, whenever crises have taken place, how many times has the veto been used? And what are the purposes on which the veto has been used?

So today, some countries can turn around and say, which they said in my time also, that if you are facing a situation, which involves one of the mass crimes like genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity, a permanent member should not use veto. But it's all talk.

Look at what's happening. I would say that the UN could be more effective.

On renewables and dependency

One of the things that the pandemic did was it made you wary of your supply chains. When the disruption took place, you said, I cannot be dependent in getting my active pharmaceutical ingredients from one source. I need to diversify. We had a vaccine manufacturing capacity in the public sector and I think the previous government, between 2004 and 2014, dismantled it because it was not a priority. Today, I think, the lessons we have learnt have driven home the point — you cannot be dependent on either one source or one type of energy. It can create severe consequences.

On green hydrogen

I think the challenges are there anywhere but the optimism I have on green hydrogen is of a very high order... India is the place for energy and future because the Indian growth story will require energy. The Prime Minister was speaking to the country from the ramparts of the Red Fort on August 15. He said we will do it in mission mode. It is being done.

On banning wheat exports but allowing exports of refined crude

Perhaps private retailers thinking there was more money to be made exporting, decided to reduce the quantum of sales domestically. But I think we've dealt with that situation. Am I entitled to ask them to sell? Absolutely. But there comes a tipping point if you have to choose between a little domestic obligation also... and I've no doubt they will rise to that. Wheat ban export is a narrative issue. It's not that we are saying we

are going to hang on to the wheat and it's going to remain here. No. What we've done is, in the kind of situation we find ourselves today, it is probably judicious to utilise your ability to export food to certain countries as a strategic means. If you open it up totally, you know what's going to happen — it will not go to the people who need it. It will go to the people who have the capacity to buy and wheat doesn't have a limited shelf life, it will be stored in silos, and what can happen is that global prices can shoot up and people will turn around and start selling... it's possible.

On the need for government intervention in real estate

The government has to make sure it has a system in place which works and the most glaring thing I found when I became housing minister was that we did not have a regulator. So what did we do in RERA (Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act)? There were attempts to sabotage RERA. A large number of cases were filed against RERA. So the Delhi apex court directed all the cases to be taken up in the Mumbai High Court. The best thing is that the court threw it out, RERA is here and it is a roaring success.

On some states using bulldozers to raze homes

I have an easy way out — as land is a state subject, I have nothing to do with it as a central minister — but I am not going to take that. I'm going to give you a very simple answer... Urbanisation in India is an autonomous and robust process. People come from their villages in large states and come to Tier II or Tier III cities looking for jobs. So a lot of people came into the NCR or Delhi and some unscrupulous elements started cutting... they call it *coloniyan kaat rahe hain*. With the passage of time, you organise yourself but it's (still) an unauthorised colony. I piloted the Bill on regularisation of 1,731 colonies. I'll never forget that day because my daughter was getting married and I had to skip one of the religious ceremonies because I had to go to Parliament. So it's one of the success stories but it's still work in progress. In so far as the sensational, "Are you allowed to throw a stone? Are you allowed to damage public property?" — that's not a discussion that can be easily had without knowing the context. Land is very much a state subject. But no matter what the issue is, the right to dissent is fundamental. But express your dissent in the form of disagreement. Not by saying if you don't give me this, then I'll burn this down.

In the Room: Hemant Amin, CEO, Asiamin Capital; KK Rathi, MD, First Bridge Fund Managers; Sunil Lulla, Founder, The Linus Adventures; Ugo Astuto, EU Ambassador to India; Mangal Dev, Director of Hitachi India and Head of Hitachi Railways Systems Business, India and South Asia Region; Rakhee Gupta Bhandari, Principal Resident Commissioner, Government of Punjab; Mudit Jain, Senior Advisor, DCW; P Advani, CEO, Advani Group; Reji Abraham, Managing Director, Aban Offshore; YK Alagh, Vice Chairman and Professor Emeritus, Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research; Tribhuvan Darbari, Managing Director, Texmaco Defence Systems; Amardeep Tony Singh, MD, Pritam Group Of Hotels; Chitra Sarkar, Founder Member, Women in Aviation International.

Photos: Renuka Puri, Amit Mehra, Abhinav Saha

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Suganya W/O Poovan J residing at Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, Vazhiyur, Polur, Tiruvannamalai, Tamilnadu-632315, have changed my name to P Suganya vide affidavit dated 28 Jan 2022 at Tiruvannamalai. 0050199758-1

I, Suganya W/O Poovan J residing at Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, Vazhiyur, Polur, Tiruvannamalai, Tamilnadu-632315, have changed my daughter name to P Tamanna vide affidavit dated 28 Jan 2022 at Tiruvannamalai. 0050199759-1

I, Bhuvan Chand S/o Keshav Dutt R/o B-8 Suraksha Apartment Abhay Khand-3 Indirapuram Ghaziabad have changed my name from Bhuvan Chandra to Bhuvan Chand. 0050199757-1

WE THE PARENTS (FAISAL SHEIKH - FATHER AND SAMIA SHEIKH - MOTHER) OF MOHAMMAD ARHAAN SAIF SHEIKH R/O HOUSE NO-1932 GROUND AND FIRST FLOOR, SECTOR-45, JHARSA, GURGAON, HARYANA-122003 WANTS TO UPDATE THAT OUR SON PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS MOHAMMED ARHAAN SHEIKH SOLEMNLY DECLARE THAT HIS NAME MOHAMMAD ARHAAN SAIF SHEIKH WILL BE OFFICIALLY USED FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040620754-1

I, SURAJ VASHISHT S/O-ASHOK KUMAR R/O 3/24,3RD-FLOOR RAMESH-NAGAR NEW DELHI,110015, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME, FROM SURAJ TO SURAJ VASHISHT. 0040620840-2

I, SHWETA MEHRA, D/O: PRADEEP KUMAR KHURANA, R/O: FLAT. NO-1202, TOWER-B4, CLEO COURT, SECTOR-121, NOIDA, GAUTAMBUDDHA-NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-201301, changed my name to SHWETA KHURANA. 0040620865-2

I, SANDEEP S/O AJIT SINGH MANN R/O HNO.440, SECTOR-6, BAHADURGARH, JHAJJAR-124507, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SANDEEP MANN. 0040620858-4

I, S, Vaishakh S/o- B. Shankar R/o: GH-5 and 7, Flat No- 623, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-87, Have changed My Name to Vaishakh Iyer, for all Purposes. 0040620840-6

I, Reena Kanwer is legally wedded spouse of No-10136298M, Hav Ashok Singh presently residing at 105 TA RAJ RIF C/O-56 APO, in my husband's service records my name has been wrongly mentioned as Reena Kanwer instead of Reena Kanwar and (D O B-15-09-1988). It needs correction. Objections be filed to concerned authorities within seven days. 0020441537-1

I, Ramjatan chauhan, S/o-Tarai Lal, R/o-H.No.1313, Vaidwara Kinari Bazar, Chandni Chowk, Delhi-6, have changed the name of my minor son, from Sriaansh Chauhan to Lakshit Chauhan, for all purposes. 0040620865-5

I, Rakesh Kapoor, S/o J C Kapoor, R/O H.No.124, Rajdhani-Enclave, Pitampura Saraswathi-Vihar Delhi, Delhi-34, have changed my name to Rakesh Chandar Kapoor. 0040620865-3

I, RAJ KUMAR SINGH KUSHWAHA S/O, RAM CHANDRA KSHUWAMA ADD-I-469, GALL NO-12B SAURABH VIHAR JAITPUR BADRAPUR SOUTH DELHI-110044, changed my name to RAJ KUMAR, permanently. 0040620868-1

I, Parveen Kumar, S/o Sh. Krishan Kumar, R/O, H.No.1199 Kanjhwalla road Village Bavana, Delhi-110039, inform that my minor son name wrongly-written as Nuru in his School record the actual-name of my minor son Nural Bendresh D.O.B.-28/09/2006 0040620840-5

I, Jaya Paul, W/O Satya Narayan, R/O of Sector 17A/306 Vasundhara-Ghaziabad, shall henceforth be known as Jaya Nand. 0050199782-1

I, PRADEEP MALHOTRA, S/O DHARAM PAUL MALHOTRA, R/O E-88A, MANSAROVER-GARDEN, NEW DELHI 110015, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME, FROM PRADEEP KUMAR MALHOTRA TO PRADEEP MALHOTRA. 0040620840-3

I, NEELAM W/O RAJU SABBARWAL, R/O-H.No.121-A, DDA-Flat, Community Center, Mansarovar Park, Shahdara North-East, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Neelam Sabbarwal, for all purposes. 0040620865-4

I, NARAYAN SINGH SAINI/NARAIN LAL SAINI, S/O JHUTHARAM SAINI ADD-BAAG WALI-DHANI KOLANA KOLANA, DAUSA RAJASTHAN 303313, Changed my name to NARAYAN LAL SAINI. Permanently. 0040620868-2

I, RABIA KHATOON, D/O MOHAMMAD MUSTAQUE, R/O PLOT NO.44, BLK-G, INDER ENCLAVE PHASE-2, KIRARI, SULEMAN-NAGAR, DELHI-110086, CHANGED MY NAME TO RABIYA KHATOON. 0040620858-10

I, ARTI CHAWLA W/O DINESH KUMAR, R/O C-220, WEST PATEL NAGAR, DELHI-110008, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ARTI POPLI. 0040620858-8

I, Rinky Jain W/o Paras Mal Jain R/o B-1/16, Tower-12, Purvanchal Silver City-2 Sector-Pl 2 Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. Rinky Jain and Rinki Jain are same person. 0070792864-1

I, Meenu Jain, W/o-Lavit Jain, R/o-49, Second Floor, Masjid Lane, Bhogal Jangpura, New Delhi-110014, have changed my name, from Meenu Jain, to Ruchi Jain, for all purposes. 0040620868-5

I, Mayank Jain S/O Satish Kumar Jain R/O-42 ND-Block Pitampura Delhi-110034, changed my minor son name Atharv to Atharv Jain. 0040620858-1

I, MUSTAQUES/O MOHAMMAD ISA, R/O PLOT NO.44, BLK-G, INDER ENCLAVE PHASE-2, KIRARI, SULEMAN, NAGAR, DELHI-110086, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHAMMAD MUSTAQUE. 0050199759-1

I, MOHANA RAO, father of, Sudheer Kumar Kottakota, Presently, residing at, I-374, Taraka Rama-Colony, Kothapeta-Village, Kotabommal Post, Sriakulam-Distt., Andhra-Pradesh-532195, have changed my name, from MOHANA RAO to KOTTAKOTA MOHANARAO, vide-affidavit dated-30-6-22. 0040620868-9

I, MANJU W/O SANDEEP MANN R/O HNO.440, SECTOR-6, BAHADURGARH, JHAJJAR-124507, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MANJU RANI. 0040620858-5

I, MANJEET SINGH BHATTI/MANJEET BHATTI R/O PAVINDER SINGH R/O 14, MCD-FLATS, NEHRU-PARK, RAMESH-NAGAR, DELHI-110015, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MANJEET SINGH. 0040620865-2

I, Jagdish Prasad S/O Musadhil Lal Garg, R/O B-188, Street No-7, Ashok Nagar, Delhi-110093, Have Changed my Name to Jagdish Prasad Garg. 0040620840-1

I, HASEENA KHATOON W/O MOHAMMAD MUSTAQUE R/O PLOT NO.44, BLK-G, INDER ENCLAVE PHASE-2, KIRARI, SULEMAN-NAGAR, DELHI-110086, CHANGED MY NAME TO HASINA KHATOON. 0040620858-9

I, Divyam S/o Jai Chand Gaur R/O House No-E197, Beta-1 Greater Noida Gautam Budh Nagar have changed my name to Divyam Gaur. 0040620757-1

I, DINESH POPLI S/O DEEN DAYAL R/O C-220, WEST PATEL NAGAR, DELHI-110008, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DINESH KUMAR. 0040620858-7

I, DHANA LAXMI, mother of, Sudheer Kumar Kottakota, Presently, residing at I-374, Taraka Rama Colony, Kothapeta Village, Kotabommal Post, Sriakulam Distt., Andhra Pradesh-532195, have changed my name, from DHANA LAXMI to KOTTAKOTA DHANALAXMI, vide-affidavit, dated-30-6-22. 0040620868-10

I, Deepak Nagar S/O Rakam Singh Nagar, R/o-A-87, Rishal-Garden, Nangloi, West-Delhi Delhi-110041, inform that name of my wife has been wrongly-written as Jyoti in my Passport bearing No-K5145275, the actual name of my wife is Rakhi 0040620807-1

I, Narendra Singh S/O Late Karan Singh R/O E-73, Sector-22, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P.-201301 have changed my name to Narendra Singh Negi for all future purposes. 0070792886-1

I, N.K Manga Singh S/O Bootra Singh R/O Sirda, Haryana, declare that my son Arshdeep Singh's date-of-birth is written wrong in my service (No. 15580087M) records-as 06.01.2013, whereas his correct date-of-birth is-06.01.2012. 0070792887-1

I, Mohit S/o. Mahendra Singh R/O Village-Nauda, P/O, Ginti-Gaon, Kotabagh Nainital, Uttarakhand-263159 have changed my name to Mohit Singh Negi. 0040620799-2

I, Mansi Jain D/o Naresh Kumar R/O, A-108, Building-B, UG-2, Surya Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201011, have changed my name to Mansi Garg. 0040620868-6

I, Mahavir Garg S/o, Shri Uday Ram R/O, Chawla Colony, H B Colony Extn. Near Kheri Gas Agency, Sonepat, Haryana-131001 have changed my minor Son's name from Sriyansh Garg to Kartik Garg for all purposes 0040620765-2

I, Mahavir Garg S/o, Shri Uday Ram R/O, Chawla Colony, H B Colony Extn. Near Kheri Gas Agency, Sonepat, Haryana-131001 have changed my name from Mahavir to Mahavir Garg for all purposes 0040620765-1

I, MD Akram, S/o Abdul Waheed, R/O-2187, Gali Kalyan Pura, Turkman Gate, Delhi-110006, have changed my name to Mohammad Akram, for all purpose 0040620868-8

I, MANISHA RATHI R/O 38/2 Near Sector 09 Firoj Gandhi Colony Gurgaon 122001 have changed my name to MANISHA. 0070792866-1

I, M NADIM AHMED S/O Noor Ul Islam R/O 3061, Third-Floor, Gali Hanuman Mandir Wali, Darya Ganj, New Delhi-110002, have changed my name to MOHD NAEEM. 0070792876-1

I, MODH NAEEM S/O Ibrahim R/O 1924/25, Mohalla Qabristan, Turkman Gate, Delhi-110006, have changed my name to NAEEM. 0040620758-1

I, Leena wife of Sh. Rakesh Kumar Singh residing at Kh No 818, First Floor, Adarsh Enclave, Lal Dora Extn, Burari, Delhi-110084 have changed my name to Leena Singh for all purposes. 0040620858-11

I, Suresh Chander Chopra, S/O Chandan Singh, R/O 1205, Tower 2, JM Park Sapphire, Ramprastha Greens, Sector-9, Vaishali, Ghaziabad-201010, have changed my name to Suresh Chopra, for all future purposes. 0040620767-1

I, Surendra Pathak S/O Shrabhan Hembram, R/O H No- Flat No-66, 1st Floor, Pkt-H DDA Flat, Near Heisenberg Academy, Sector-B2, Narela, North West Delhi-110040, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Surendra Kumar. 0070792844-1

I, Sidheshwari Ashutosh Chaudhary W/O Ashutosh Chaudhary R/o-3R/703, 7th Floor AWHO-Gurjinder Vihar, Sector-Chi-1, Greater Noida, U.P, have changed my name to Sidheshwari Chaudhary for all future purposes. 0070792889-1

I, Shiwani Dvi Kushwah W/o. Rohit Negi R/O Village-Nauda, P/O Ginti-Gaon, Kotabagh-Nainital, Uttarakhand-263159 have changed my name to Shiwani Negi. 0040620799-1

I, Rishi Gupta S/O S.M.Gupta, R/O House No-50, Sector-37, Faridabad Amarnagar Faridabad Haryana-121003. I have changed the name of my minor daughter Amrya Gupta aged about 7 Years and She shall hereafter be known as Amrya Gupta. 0070792847-1

I, SUNITA YADAV, Spouse of No. 17020756(A/CFN) GAURAJ SINGH YADAV, R/O Village- Gandhi Nagar, P.O., & Tehsil-Mundawar, District-Alwar, Rajasthan-301407, have changed my name after marriage from SUNITA YADAV to SUNITA, vide affidavit IN-DL54414778502764U dated: 01/07/2022, before Notary Advocate-Vijay Kumar, Regd.No.-17819, New Delhi. 0070792877-1

I, Hitesh S/o Shri Charanjeet Lal R/O A-111, Ganesh Nagar, New Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Hitesh Singh Bhalla from today onward for all practical purposes. 0040620819-1

I, Roshan Lal Burania & Roshan Lal S/o Sh. Phool Chand R/o Wz-30, 2nd floor, Titar pur, Tagore Garden, New Delhi-110027 have changed my name to Roshan Lal for all purposes. 0040620759-1

I, Rakesh Kumar Sahni R/O B-1/619 First Floor, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that RAKESH KUMAR and RAKESH KUMAR SAHNI both are name of one and the same person. 0040620811-1

I, Puja Gujral w/o Ankush Gujral R/o 14B/12, 3rd Floor, East Punjabi Bagh, Delhi-110026 have changed my name POOJA GUJRAL permanently. 0040620807-3

I, Prateek S/O Shri Charanjeet Lal R/O A-111, Ganesh Nagar, New Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Prateek Singh Bhalla from today onward for all practical purposes. 0040620823-1

I, BINDU SHIBU, Spouse of No. JC-771582F(SUB) SHIBU JOSEPH, R/O. Village & P.O.-Mulayam, Tehsil & District-Thirur, Kerala-680751, have changed my name after marriage from BINDU SHIBU to BINDU JOSE, vide affidavit IN-DL54414925897979U dated: 01/07/2022, before Notary Advocate-Vijay Kumar, Regd.No.-17819, New Delhi. 0070792895-1

I, Arjune Kumar Sharma Do. 05.03.1977 S/o Sh. Rajendra Sharma R/O S-96, 4th Floor, School Block Shakarpur, Delhi-110092 have changed my name from Arjun Sharma & Dob. 22.12.1973 to Arjune Kumar Sharma Do. 05.03.1977 for all purposes. 0040620763-1

I, Anoop Singh S/O Jai Singh, R/O GH-9, Flat No-602 Near Telephone Exchange Paschim Vihar West Delhi-110087. I have changed the name of my minor daughter Sahityee Singh aged about 5 Year and She shall hereafter be known as Vikhyati Singh. 0070792846-1

I, Anil Singh S/O Sh. Bhoop Singh R/O 198/30 Ramesh Market, Gali No. 2, East of Kailash, Delhi 65 do hereby inform that my name in LIC policy 119496383 written as Anil Kumar. I hereby declare that Anil Singh and Anil Kumar is same person. 0040620829-1

I, Saima alias Saima Qureshi D/o Mohd Swalehin W/O Mohd Sajid Qureshi R/O 7976, Gali Shamshuddin, Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Saima Qureshi for all purposes. 0040620753-2

I, 14679159X(NK) MORE SUNIL SADASHIV, R/O Village & P.O.-Wagholi, Tehsil-Mahad, District-Raigad, Maharashtra-420302, have changed my minor son's name from VEER to VEER SUNIL MORE, vide affidavit IN-DL54415670659258U dated: 01/07/2022, before Notary Advocate-Vijay Kumar, Regd.No.-17819, New Delhi. 0070792897-1

I, 14679159X(NK) MORE SUNIL SADASHIV, R/O Village & P.O.-Wagholi, Tehsil-Mahad, District-Raigad, Maharashtra-420302, have changed my minor daughter's name from SHREYA to SHREYA SUNIL MORE, vide affidavit IN-DL54415334901564U dated: 01/07/2022, before Notary Advocate-Vijay Kumar, Regd.No.-17819, New Delhi. 0070792885-1

I, Subedar Patel S/o Uday Raj Patel R/o Patel Nagar, Bamaila, Andia, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh-221503, have changed my name to Shivesh Patel 0070792876-1

I, SOMAYA BEHL D/O RAJIV BEHL R/O 28, ROAD NO.73, (FF), WEST PUNJABI BAGH, NEW DELHI-110026, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SOUMYA BEHL. 0040620800-1

I, SHIV KUMAR S/O SUBHASH CHANDER R/O B-2/117, NEAR DOON PUBLIC-SCHOOL, PASCHIM VIHAR, DELHI-110063, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHIV KUMAR ARORA. 0040620858-11

I, Kshhitej S Jauharri S/O Shikhar Jauhari, R/O House Number-K121/D104, Gayatri Nivas, Andheria R/o, Amberdkar Colony, Chhattar Pur, South Delhi- 110074, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Kshhitej Jauhari. 0070792843-1

I, Km. Sarita Khan alias Saira Saifi D/o, Razi Khan W/o, Firoz Khan R/O-RZ-508, Hans-Park, West Sagarpur, Delhi-110046, have changed my name to Saira Saifi. 0040620868-7

I, Katar Singh S/O Mahavir Singh, R/O Mamepur, Mamipur, Rajpura, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh- 250001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Katar Singh. 0070792841-1

I, KM Shamita Kaul W/o Rahul Koul R/o 1-638, Alpha-2, Greater Noida, U.P, have changed my name to Shamita Koul for all future purposes. 0070792891-1

I, JYOTSNA BOSE Spouse of No. 14643018X(HAV) SUKESH BOSE, R/O. Village-Chinapukur, P.O.-Eruhi, Tehsil-Ranaghat, Distt.-Nadia, West Bengal-741253, have corrected my date of birth from 26.03.1986 to 22.03.1986 vide affidavit IN-DL54417183368278U dated: 01/07/2022, before Notary Advocate-Vijay Kumar, Regd.No.-17819, New Delhi. 0070792877-1

I, Hitesh S/o Shri Charanjeet Lal R/O A-111, Ganesh Nagar, New Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Hitesh Singh Bhalla from today onward for all practical purposes. 0040620819-1

I, HARISH CHANDER SACHDEVA S/O Om Prakash Sachdeva, R/O 18/7, Kalkaji, Near DSH Bandhu College, New Delhi-110019 have changed my name to HARISH SACHDEVA for all purposes. 0040620684-1

I, Chitralekha W/O, Kundan Kumar Kashiypar R/O 14/219 Dakshin Puri New Delhi-110062 have changed my name to Chitralekha Kashiypar for all purposes. 0040620840-8

I, CHARANJEET LAL S/O Late Shri Chaman Lal R/O A-111, Ganesh Nagar, New Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Charanjeet Singh Bhalla from today onward for all practical purposes. 0040620823-1

I, BINDU SHIBU, Spouse of No. JC-771582F(SUB) SHIBU JOSEPH, R/O. Village & P.O.-Mulayam, Tehsil & District-Thirur, Kerala-680751, have changed my name after marriage from BINDU SHIBU to BINDU JOSE, vide affidavit IN-DL54414925897979U dated: 01/07/2022, before Notary Advocate-Vijay Kumar, Regd.No.-17819, New Delhi. 0070792895-1

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I, Kapil Bajaj R/O A38, Aman Apartment, Plot No 39, Sector 13, Rohini, Delhi 85 have changed my minor son name from Simar Bajaj to SIMAR K BAJAJ. 0070792851-1

I, RAJEEV KUMAR, S/O RAM PRAKASH SHARDA, R/O FLAT NO.308, UGF 4, GYAN-KHAND-1, INDIRAPURAM, GHAZIABAD, U.P.201014, changed my name to RAJEEV KUMAR SHARDA. 0040620840-7

I, Aman Kumar Singh S/O, Akhilesh Kumar Singh R/O, Kh.No.159, Gali, No-5/11, Near-Mangal-Bazar Samta Vihar Mukundpur Delhi-110042, have changed my name to Aman Singh. 0040620868-4

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPERTY BEARING NO. D-24, 25 LAJPAT NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110026

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL CONCERNED THAT MY CLIENT MR. HARSH GAHLOT S/O Lt. Jagjit Singh allottee of Residential Flat D-41 in Project '63 Golf Drive', Sector - 63 A, Gurgaon, Haryana developed by Sunrises Property Private Limited (Builder) expired on 10 October 2020 its entitlement as the sole and exclusive owner of the said flat, has been transferred to my client Mr. Harsh Gahlot S/O Lt. Jagjit Singh, who has agreed to sell the said flat to my client Mr. Arjun Kumar Singh for Rs. 1,00,00,000/- (one crore rupees) and the said flat shall not be responsible for any acts/deeds done by them in any manner.

MR. ARJUN KUMAR SINGH (Advocate) Ch. No. 572, Saket Courts, New Delhi-17

PROPERTY BEARING NO. D-24, 25 LAJPAT NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110026

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL CONCERNED THAT MY CLIENT MR. HARSH GAHLOT S/O Lt. Jagjit Singh intended to purchase the 50% undivided and impartible ownership rights in the land undermath measuring 200 Sq. Yards along with physical possession of the entire first floor and also half basali floor in the property bearing No.D-24-25, Lajpat Nagar-1, New Delhi-110024, (hereinafter referred as "The said portion of the Property") and my client has already entered into an written agreement to sell dated 23/04/2022, and also a joint sale deed dated 01/07/2022, before Notary Advocate-Vijay Kumar, Regd.No.-17819, New Delhi.

I, Hitesh S/o Shri Charanjeet Lal R/O A-111, Ganesh Nagar, New Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Hitesh Singh Bhalla from today onward for all practical purposes. 0040620819-1

I, HARISH CHANDER SACHDEVA S/O Om Prakash Sachdeva, R/O 18/7, Kalkaji, Near DSH Bandhu College, New Delhi-110019 have changed my name to HARISH SACHDEVA for all purposes. 0040620684-1

I, Chitralekha W/O, Kundan Kumar Kashiypar R/O 14/219 Dakshin Puri New Delhi-110062 have changed my name to Chitralekha Kashiypar for all purposes. 0040620840-8

I, CHARANJEET LAL S/O Late Shri Chaman Lal R/O A-111, Ganesh Nagar, New Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Charanjeet Singh Bhalla from today onward for all practical purposes. 0040620823-1

I, BINDU SHIBU, Spouse of No. JC-771582F(SUB) SHIBU JOSEPH, R/O. Village & P.O.-Mulayam, Tehsil & District-Thirur, Kerala-680751, have changed my name after marriage from BINDU SHIBU to BINDU JOSE, vide affidavit IN-DL54414925897979U dated: 01/07/2022, before Notary Advocate-Vijay Kumar, Regd.No.-17819, New Delhi. 0070792895-1

I, Arjune Kumar Sharma Do. 05.03.1977 S/o Sh. Rajendra Sharma R/O S-96, 4th Floor, School Block Shakarpur, Delhi-110092 have changed my name from Arjun Sharma & Dob. 22.12.1973 to Arjune Kumar Sharma Do. 05.03.1977 for all purposes. 0040620763-1

I, Anoop Singh S/O Jai Singh, R/O GH-9, Flat No-602 Near Telephone Exchange Paschim Vihar West Delhi-110087. I have changed the name of my minor daughter Sahityee Singh aged about 5 Year and She shall hereafter be known as Vikhyati Singh. 0070792846-1

I, Anil Singh S/O Sh. Bhoop Singh R/O 198/30 Ramesh Market, Gali No. 2, East of Kailash, Delhi 65 do hereby inform that my name in LIC policy 119496383 written as Anil Kumar. I hereby declare that Anil Singh and Anil Kumar is same person. 0040620829-1

I, Saima alias Saima Qureshi D/o Mohd Swalehin W/O Mohd Sajid Qureshi R/O 7976, Gali Shamshuddin, Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Saima Qureshi for all purposes. 0040620753-2

I, 14679159X(NK) MORE SUNIL SADASHIV, R/O Village & P.O.-Wagholi, Tehsil-Mahad, District-Raigad, Maharashtra-420302, have changed my minor son's name from VEER to VEER SUNIL MORE, vide affidavit IN-DL54415670659258U dated: 01/07/2022, before Notary Advocate-Vijay Kumar, Regd.No.-17819, New Delhi. 0070792897-1

I, 14679159X(NK) MORE SUNIL SADASH

Why Chopra may not have to throw 90m for podium finish at Worlds

Since the start of the millennium, just seven of the 48 medallists at the Olympics and the C'ships have crossed the barrier; at the 2019 edition, gold was won at 86.89m

NIHAL KOSHIE
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

IF NEERAJ Chopra is getting tired of the 90-metre question, the genial javelin thrower isn't showing it. 88.06 metres, a then national record, at the Jakarta Asian Games four years ago had first raised hopes of Chopra achieving what is widely considered a gold standard distance in the javelin throw. Recently he came within centimetres of joining an elite club when he broke the national record twice; 89.30 metres in Turkey just over two weeks ago and 89.94m on Thursday night in Stockholm.

After the Diamond League at the Swedish capital, Chopra spoke about being keen to get past the barrier when Grenada's Anderson Peters produced 90.31m in the third round to push Chopra to second place. Chopra tried but the fusion of a perfect technique and a willing body didn't materialise.

"When Anderson Peters crossed the 90 metres, I also wanted to do so. But everything needs to be perfect for such a long throw. The technique needs to be such that the alignment of the javelin is right. And in between for every throw we put in there is a great effort so the body also gets tired. But the competition was good and I felt all my throws were good," Chopra said. Chopra's series of throws at Stockholm were: 89.34, 84.37, 87.46, 84.77, 86.67 and 86.84. In his first three competitions this season, Chopra has thrown over 85 metres in eight of his 10 legal throws, a sign of consistency being his strength. He has the third-best throw in the world this year with only Peters' 93.07 metres at the Doha Diamond League in May and Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch's special effort of (90.88) at the same event ahead on the list.

In less than three weeks from now there will be anticipation of Chopra winning a medal at the World Championships. A 90 metre throw will be a cherry on the cake. Over the years, however, at the major finals - the Olympics and the World Championships - 90-metre-plus distances have been few and far between. The most recent example is Chopra's gold-medal winning throw at the Tokyo Olympics measured at 87.58 metres.

In 15 major finals (Summer Games and Worlds) since the start of the millennium, of the 48 medallists only seven have thrown over 90 metres. In the last five Olympics, only three of the 15 medallists have gone over the mark since Sydney 2000. Just four of those who finished on the podium in the past 10 World Championships have touched the 90s.

The clock has to be wound back to 2001 to



Chopra after setting a new record. PTT

find a 1-2 with 90-metres plus throws. At the Edmonton World Championships, the great Czech Jan Zelezny won gold (92.80metres) and Finland's Aki Parviainen took the silver (91.31 metres) with Greece's Kostas Gatsioudis just missing out narrowly at 89.95.

Tail wind and head winds, angle of release, weather conditions, closed or open stadiums can all affect the flight of the very precise art of javelin throw. Even the minutest variation in the throwing technique of an athlete can result in a drop of not just centimetres but meters. How a thrower feels on the runway can upset rhythm. On the big day the athlete who handles nerves better rather than the in-form one can walk away with the gold though the winning distance can be below par.

At the 2019 World Championships in Doha, Peters won the title with 86.89 metres. He was followed by Magnus Kirt (86.21) and Johannes Vetter 85.37. Vetter, a German, who had been the most dominant thrower of this era before a recent slump in form had spoken about 90 metres being the new normal last year. Vetter had reason to sound optimistic. In the Olympic year he had crossed the mark seven times. Vetter's legend grew when he registered the second best-ever throw - 97.76m at Poland - in September 2020. At that point in time, it

90-PLUS AT FINALS

WORLDS: Julius Yego (92.72m, 2015); Tero Pitkamaki (90.33m, 2007); Jan Zelezny (92.80m, 2001); Aki Parviainen (91.31m, 2001)

OLYMPICS: Thomas Rohler (90.30m, 2016); Andreas Thorkildsen (90.57m, 2008); Jan Zelezny (90.17m, 2000)

looked like it was just a matter of time before Zelezny's world record of 98.48 metres, set way back in 1988, would fall.

"For me, throwing 90m is like riding a bike," he had told this paper on the eve of the javelin competition in Tokyo. "Normal. Really easy."

Vetter is an example of how the sport can humble even the very best. He just about qualified for the final and didn't advance after the first three rounds. This season he has featured in just one competition without getting close to his best. Chopra saw Vetter flop when it mattered. The Indian is unlikely to change what has been working for him with just days left for the World Championships.

"I will try to maintain what I have been doing in training. Every competition is different. As I had been saying, only when I start to compete I would know if there was any pressure of being Olympic champion. But now nothing like that I feel. I am participating with a free mind and performing well," Chopra said.

Asked if the anticipation about him winning only the second medal at a senior World Championships for the country was getting to him, Chopra played it cool. "As of now I don't feel any pressure." Chopra has aced his rivals when it matters the most. A World Championship gold to go with the one from Tokyo will make him one of the greatest ever. There is excitement about a potential 90 metre throw, but he may not even need one to enter the pantheon of greats.

Aldrin called for trial

New Delhi: After shutting the doors on long jumper Jeswin Aldrin's participation at the World Championships citing dipping performance, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) on Friday asked the 19-year-old to appear for a selection trial at the National Institute of Sports, Patiala, on July 4. Aldrin had crossed the qualifying standard of 8.22 metres but was omitted from the list of 22 athletes for the event slated in Oregon, USA, in just two weeks. —ENS

Sindhu's challenge: juggling tricks against Tai juggernaut

Suffers sixth straight loss to nemesis in Malaysia; Prannoy falls to Christie

SHIVANI NAIK
JULY 1

OF THE five times that PV Sindhu has beaten Tai Tzu Ying over the last 11 years in early rounds, in four, the Indian has gone on to make finals. And these include the World Tour Finals, Olympics, World Championship and Denmark Open, in two of which she claimed the titles. Five wins and 16 losses make the Taiwanese sound like one right nemesis, given nine of those defeats have been straight-set dismissals and Tai Tzu has avenged her ousters from Olympics (2016 to 2021), World's (2019 to 2021) and season ending WTFs (2018 to 2021).

The trend of six straight losses might look like the permanent turning of the tide and no way back for the Indian, but once every often, Sindhu muscles her way through the Tai Tzu dazzle, nicking an opening set here, pushing a decider there, and you wonder whether it's indeed a slide that can't be stemmed. There remains no doubt that neither Sindhu's aggressive all-out approach going down in a blaze, nor coach Park's strategy, works against Tai Tzu. The Indian last beat her in arguably her best match ever at the World's in 2019.

Friday's quarterfinal loss in Malaysia, where Sindhu set the ascendancy opening with 21-13, and was completely outplayed 21-13 in the decider, with Tai Tzu taking the mid-set 21-15, points to the Indian's fights in vain against an opponent who is costing her the big-occasion finals she was known for. At Axiata, it was a Super 750 title - part of Sindhu's plans of dominating the circuit events and gunning for consistency. As things stand, Tai Tzu will stop her by it on the Tour or at the biggies. There's no way around the Olympic silver medallist, and there's only so much of marvelling at her wizardry that you can carry on, without noticing that the rabbit being pulled out of the magician's hat is Sindhu. They call them bunny in sports. But a quick recap of Friday: Sindhu correctly reads the drift from the favourable side and pins Tai back, forcing her to drive hard from baseline on her backhand. Playing high tosses is the only solution or shuttles get dumped into the net. Tai Tzu's flick-tosses hover tantalisingly and are used to smash as the Indian takes the opener.

She's at the receiving end of the two-paced drift in the second, trailing 2-10, and the Taiwanese starts nailing her cross-net shots when Sindhu attempts a dribble. The crisp angles are outrageous even if a temporary lull, with errors raining down from Tai, teases Sindhu into believing she could wrap this in two as she reaches 13-17. But the switch flicked back on, Tai Tzu stubs those delusions.

In the decider, Sindhu's Plan A to hoard points from the favourable side crumbles. She



Sindhu lost 21-13, 15-21, 13-21 on Friday.

FIL

either has no Plan B thereafter (and Tai Tzu doesn't do two slumbers in one match) or the desired backup is not working. The pace of rallies and flat exchanges gets frenetic, and Sindhu is sucked into the whirlwind, throwing caution to a cackling drifty wind. One notable feature of the World Championships 2019 outmanoeuvring of Tai Tzu Ying was the precise inputs from the coaching bench Sindhu got in closing out. While revving up her aggression and boosting her confidence was one part of that campaign, the court strategy in that masterclass - varying the pace, dictating the length of the rally, mixing the strokes, was not about homework and data analytics and a predetermined Plan A. Or B or C. It was intuitive, on-court inspired instructions from the voices behind her, and aggression that was innate to the strategy, not just a roar. The sixth straight loss has a common missing link, and it's what coach Park will need to work on: juggling tricks against the juggernaut.

Prannoy goes flat again

HS Prannoy once again couldn't follow up on a big win and pull out the next day's knockout match, as he went down 21-18, 21-16 to Jonatan Christie. The Indonesian celebrated audibly, perhaps still seething from the 3-0 Thomas Cup defeat India struck down on the powerhouse over the summer.

Prannoy lacked sharpness at the net, and his attack couldn't gather steam, as the always steady and smart Christie used body smashes and loopy drops to Prannoy's far forehead corners to get the job done. A charge to the net in

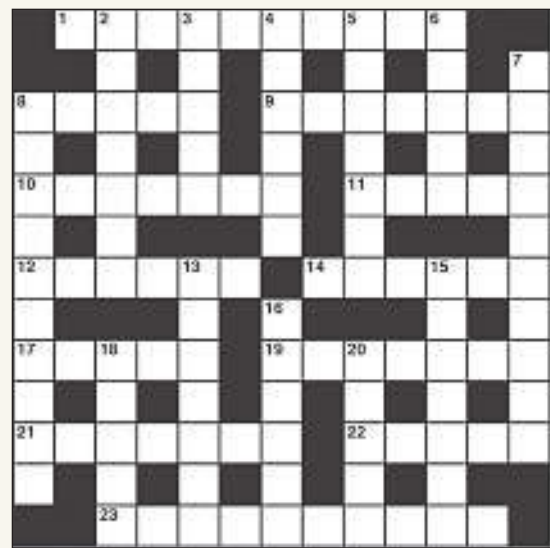
follow-up was Prannoy's only effective point-surety. Christie kept rallies short and precise with no frills to win quickly.

Going ahead, Prannoy will need to take some hard calls and turn choosy about tournaments. "He needs to be very picky about tournaments for he needs time between tournaments to train and sharpen his game," former international Anup Sridhar suggests.

Sure, others might make pitstops at every port of call, and ranking can take a hit. But Anup reckons now would be a good time to plan a smarter schedule and ensure Prannoy goes for the title wins rather than plodding along at every tournament. "He needs the breakthrough wins, knowing on his day he can beat anyone." The recurring losses after the heady scalps can be tough to process as certain losses linger. "When you lose with a poor score, it can take a bigger toll mentally. So Prannoy needs to decide now for the next 2-3 years before desperation sets in. Even Lin Dan at his peak played 30-40 percent fewer tournaments than others. Back to back tournaments are not easy on his body," Anup stresses. The big man with the beastly backhand might need to take a cue from Viktor Axelsen, another smart planner, who even skipped his home tournament once.

"Six-eight big tournaments and three-four smaller ones with enough spacing, while others play 22-23. Indonesia he likes, and some others like All England, Worlds he should play. But strike out the ones where he's not done well. Playing in select meets needs a rare kind of discipline. But it'll help him focus," Anup ends.

CROSSWORD 4783



- ACROSS**
- To make a quick getaway go by air (4,6)
 - Wild spree for noblemen (5)
 - In grave trouble certainly in a pickle (7)
 - Colours blended in Dresden (7)
 - New trade is valued (5)
 - Prompt delivery (6)
 - Taking part temporarily (6)
 - It's too much - put in some water! (5)
 - A sign of a poisonous insect (7)
 - Someone calling for a mask - that's about it (7)
 - Symbol revered in Shinto temples (5)
 - Accommodation for a model family (5,5)
- DOWN**
- Put in order for dead men to be replaced (7)
 - Girl raised in oriental island (5)
 - It's pointlessly subject to being extravagant (6)
 - Somewhat green and briefly in charge of a class (7)
 - Firm close to being smashed (5)
 - Man of the match (10)
 - Society described by letter (10)
 - State building of topical style (7)
 - One thing you still gain when on a decline (7)
 - Enters the office uninvited? (6)
 - Facilitated a seed's germination (5)
 - Best dismissed by the party (5)

Solutions Crossword 4782: Across: 1 Lay off, 4 Nomads, 9 Patrick, 10 Swami, 11 Onset, 12 Lash out, 13 Spirit level, 18 Oarsmen, 20 Enact, 22 Amity, 23 Emulate, 24 Celery, 25 Beings. Down: 1 Lapdog, 2 Yetis, 3 Fritter, 5 Oasis, 6 Anatole, 7 Stints, 8 Skeleton key, 14 Partial, 15 Execute, 16 Mosaic, 17 Stress, 19 Mayor, 21 Again.

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.

Wanting to be someone you're not is a waste of the person you are. — Kurt Cobain (5,6)

SAREE [Shaded squares: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100]

AAZNST [Shaded squares: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100]

IVORS [Shaded squares: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100]

COOXPW [Shaded squares: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100]

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4883

Difficulty Level 2s
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.

1	7	8						
		8	3		1			
9	3		7		2			
				2	5	3		
	4	5	1	2				
8	5	3						
6	2		8		5			
	1	4	9					
			8		1	4		

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4882

7	4	1	2	5	8	9	3	6
2	9	3	1	7	6	8	4	5
6	8	5	9	4	3	1	7	2
3	7	9	5	6	2	4	1	8
4	5	2	7	8	1	6	9	3
1	6	8	4	3	9	5	2	7
8	1	4	6	2	7	3	5	9
5	3	7	8	9	4	2	6	1
9	2	6	3	1	5	7	8	4

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Two regions of your chart are stimulated today, one dealing with lovers, the other with friends. What links the two is the thought that it is people who are older, or otherwise more experienced, who prove most attractive. Perhaps you're just impressed by their wisdom.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Only you know what you require in order to feel emotionally secure and eventually other people will come round to the idea that you must be allowed to do as you please. If you have any sense, you'll set out your personal demands sooner rather than later.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You may look far afield for adventure and interest. If you're travelling today the end results could be very far-reaching, perhaps because the people you meet or the places you see will transform your life's ambitions. And don't let today's tension get to you.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

A continuing planetary emphasis on money, in all its forms, eclipses any other consideration in your chart. Sooner or later every question will come back to a matter of value, cost and material security. Even intimate relationships could run aground when it comes to deciding who pays for what.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

One factor still holds supreme, your emotional and dramatic lunar aspects. If you're feeling sorry for yourself then you've picked up the wrong end of the stick, so get up, get on out there and play the game of life for all it's worth. It's simpler than it seems.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Don't shrink from taking on more responsibilities but, by the same token, if you are to fulfil all promises and obligations, you may have to shed a few marginal commitments. It's all a matter of good organisation. A partner may cause confusion, but nothing you can't handle.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

The only possible area of concern or commitment involves work so, if this doesn't apply to you, you may take this opportunity to indulge yourself in any and every enjoyable activity you can think of. And, if younger relations need help, make sure it's constructive.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

You may feel that all is not quite right at home, but there are as many indications of helpful developments as of unhelpful ones. It's important to focus on formal arrangements and on those relationships which display a genuine commitment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

Any discussions will very easily become bogged down in details, excessive caution or cries of 'you'd never get away with it' or 'you couldn't afford it'. There may be a point to such objections, but you'll have to summon up your courage and take decisions.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

You could still be forced to deal with financial issues which may be too big for any one person, but a new and helpful factor is now introduced into the equation. You should therefore consider the ethical issues and assert your own unique rights.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Serious developments should now be conferring certain benefits upon you. However, the first lesson you must learn is that change is not always easy, and that other people may not share your ambitions. That's something they'll have to come to terms with.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Spend as much time as you like by yourself, and if that means spending the day in bed, that's your business. Just for once other people will have to learn that you're not a soft touch, unless you want to be, that is. You can set the pace and call the shots.

“Last year I was talking to Pant and I told him I am getting bored seeing you throwing it away in the same fashion everytime, aren't you bored as well? So why don't you try something different, something more outrageous....like a reverse sweep maybe? And I saw his eyes light up. It's very important to back a player's ability”

RAVI SHASTRI, FORMER INDIA COACH

BRIEFLY

British Grand Prix prepares for protest

Silverstone: British police said they have credible intelligence a group of protesters are planning to disrupt the Grand Prix at Silverstone this weekend and issued a pre-emptive warning on Friday by telling them not to put themselves or drivers at risk. With a record three-day attendance of 400,000 expected to descend on the circuit 90 minutes outside London, the race is one of the British summer's sporting highlights and has in the past been a magnet for protesters.

REUTERS

India football coach meets CoA

New Delhi: The fate of his contract extension is still not known, but Indian football team head coach Igor Stimac appears to be chalking out plans for the national team's assignments ahead. Stimac's existing contract ends in September. He met the Committee of Administrators (CoA) on Friday virtually for the first time after the panel took charge of the affairs of the All India Football Federation (AIFF), following the ouster of the Praful Patel-led dispensation. Three senior players — Sunil Chhetri, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and Sandesh Jhingran — who wear the captain's armband on rotational basis, also met the CoA members.

PTI

Australia win 1st Test by 10 wickets

Galle: Sri Lanka collapsed in stunning fashion as Australia won their first test before lunch on the third day by 10 wickets at Galle Stadium on Friday. Australia started the day still batting in its first innings. Resuming on 313-8, Australia was all out for 321 and a lead of 109. In its second bat, Sri Lanka made only 113 in 23 overs, its shortest all-out innings in test history. Australia was left with five runs to win, and David Warner scored 10 to finish the match after four more balls. After its first win in Sri Lanka after batting second, Australia leads the series 1-0. The second and last test starts on July 8 at the same ground. Australia spinners Nathan Lyon, Travis Head — who didn't bowl in the first innings — and Mitchell Swepson took all 10 wickets in Sri Lanka's second innings.

AP
Brief scores: Australia 321 (Green 77, Khawaja 71, Ramesh 4-112) and 10 for 0 beat Sri Lanka 212 (Dickwella 58, Lyon 5-90) and 113 (Head 4-10, Lyon 4-31) by 10 wickets

Biles, Rapinoe to get Presidential Medal

New York: Four-times gymnastics Olympic gold medalist Simone Biles and twice football World Cup winner Megan Rapinoe are among 17 people set to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest United States' civilian honour, the White House said on Friday. The honour, awarded to those who have made "exemplary contributions" to the United States, global peace or other endeavors, will be presented on July 7. "These seventeen Americans demonstrate the power of possibilities and embody the soul of the nation," the White House said in a statement.

REUTERS

It's Dhoni, it's Gilchrist, no it's Pant

With a combination of breath-taking swagger and percentage cricket, Rishabh shows he is a worthy heir of past greats

SANDIP G
JULY 1

UNDER THE gloomy Edgbaston skies, Rishabh Pant made another leap into greatness. He cracked 146 off 111 balls in a staggering exhibition of counterpunching to make the first day of the series-decider undoubtedly India's.

For much of the day, the match was under the iron clutches of England. After old-stager James Anderson and fledgling Matthew Potts had struck in unison to plunge India to 98/5, Pant and Ravindra Jadeja combined to add 222 runs to not only fish India out of danger but put them in the ascendancy. When the pair parted, India had galloped to 320 runs.

It's beginning to be a recurring theme — the team in shambles, series on the line, bowlers with their tails up and then walks in a short, slightly stout cheerful young man, who without any evident ounce of strain, without any speck of uncertainty, changes the match. MS Dhoni was coolness redefined, but his face raged with intensity, those eyes blazed with resolve.

Pant, in Tests at least, has redefined the boundaries of coolness Dhoni has set. He emanates none of that scorching intensity. He bats with a chuckle, a sense of light-heartedness, as if he has turned up for a Sunday evening club game with his chums after a siesta, against the most prolific swing bowler ever, or the fiercest young bowler around. Even after running down the ground and waving Anderson down the ground for a four, he was spotted having a giggle with the fast bowler, who by now was as much amused as accustomed to Pant's eye for the unthinkable.

Anderson was again sublime, but Pant didn't spare him. Just the fourth ball he had faced, the second off Anderson in destructive rhythm, the left-hander slithered down the ground and tried to fetch him into the sight-screen. He failed, then grinned and later, repeated those strokes. Later, Pant reverse-scooped the swing-bowling colossus for a couple, then missed an almighty heave-ho, almost swinging himself off his feet. Undeterred, he thumped him over his head for a four.

When your spearhead bowler is treated with such swaggering disdain, the morale of the rest just crumbles, like a balloon pricked by needle. None of Matthew Potts, Stuart Broad, Ben Stokes, and least of all Jack Leach, knew how to stop him, at least contain. How churlish it seems that Stokes thrust Leach as a snare. Before this game, Pant had plundered 88 runs in 57 balls off the left-arm spinner. En route to his fifth Test hundred, he hammered him for five fours and a six. The move backfired as it gave Pant an irresistible tempo.

The lynching of Leach included — soon after Pant completed his hundred — 20 runs in four balls. The 10-for in the last Test outing, against New Zealand, might have looked like it occurred ages ago.

All in a day's work

But Pant's most glorious virtue is that he makes counterpunching some of the fiercest quicks in the world — from Anderson to Kagiso Rabada, Pat Cummins to Mitchell Starc — look ridiculously commonplace, or freakishly routine in Test matches. A classic instance was when Potts rumbled in just after tea. The first was a lifter that beat him. Potts scowled; Pant evaded. Pant responded with two fours in the next three balls, blasting a drive between mid-off and cover before he manoeuvred room for himself and lashed him through point. Broad was fleeced through covers before he was tucked for a couple to complete a sensational hundred.



Rishabh Pant smashed 19 fours and four sixes in his 111-ball 146 on Friday.

Reuters

So much of Pant was like peak Gilchrist — from unhurried stroke-play to the preternatural ability to sense a moment, seize it and snatch the game away from the adversaries, the ability to put a smile on his face even in the face of adversity and the capacity to soak up pressure. There have been several unworthy pretenders to be likened to Gilchrist. Preposterous as it might sound, Pant is the closest anyone has reached in his vicinity. There have been several greats-in-their-own-rights wicketkeepers during and post Gilchrist — Kumar Sangakkara was a legend without debate, so were Dhoni and Brendon McCullum, amidst a slew of pretenders — but no one has embodied the free-spiritedness of Gilchrist like Pant, or exhilarated the audience like him. Without burden, without pain, without complication.

Behind the outer layer of dazzle and daring, there is not only self-belief but also a calculative mind. Pant doesn't attempt to reverse-scoop every ball he faces; nor does he

slash at every ball outside off-stump. If one re-watches each innings — the tempo is more or less the same, the shots he plays are similar. Initially, he tries to unsettle the bowler with a stroke of audacity, before settling down. Then for 30-40 balls, he plays just percentage cricket — drives full balls, cuts those close to the stumps with a swirl of his wrists — before expanding and unpacking his full repertoire. There could be strains of unorthodoxy in his game, but predominantly, he plays orthodox strokes. The soundness of his defensive technique often goes unnoticed — unlike most colleagues, he had time to defend, be it leaning forward or rocking back. Largely, he judiciously left balls outside off-stump.

After Kohli's disintegration of form, Pant is the most-awaited Indian batsman in the middle. There is anticipation, hope and belief that something special would unfold. He would sometimes infuriate — he is still only 24 — but on gloomy days like those at

Edgbaston, he spreads light.

SCOREBOARD AT STUMPS

India are 338 for 7

India 1st innings:	
S Gill c Z Crawley b J Anderson	17
C Pujara c Z Crawley b J Anderson	13
H Vihari lbw M Potts	20
V Kohli b M Potts	11
R Pant c Z Crawley b J Root	146
S Iyer c S Billings b J Anderson	15
R Jadeja	83*
S Thakur c S Billings b B Stokes	1
M Shami	0*
Extras: 4b 16lb 12nb 0pen 0w	32
Total (73.0 overs)	338*

Fall of Wickets: 1-27 Gill, 2-46 Pujara, 3-64 Vihari, 4-71 Kohli, 5-98 Iyer, 6-320 Pant, 7-323 Thakur
England Bowling: Anderson 19-4-52-3, S Broad 15-2-53-0, M Potts 17-1-85-2, J Leach 9-0-71-0, B Stokes 10-0-34-1, J Root 3-0-23-1

Winless to winsome: The incredible story of Van Rijthoven

NAMIT KUMAR
JULY 1

TIM VAN Rijthoven was not supposed to be at Wimbledon. Until three weeks ago, according to every conceivable metric used to judge elite-level tennis, the 25-year-old was nowhere near the sport's oldest and grandest stage. He had never won a senior ATP Tour-level match, and his solitary appearance was a first-round loss at the ATP 250 event in Winston-Salem back in 2016: the result of a Lucky Loser entry to the main draw thanks to a last-minute withdrawal.

Van Rijthoven, the biggest underdog story of the Championships this year, will now take to three-time defending champion and arguably the greatest player of all time, Novak Djokovic, in the fourth round at SW19 on Sunday. He was handed a last-minute wildcard to the main draw after his heroics at the Libema Open last month, where he went on to win his first-tour level match and the title one week later. He has been in equally inspiring form in London this week, taking down 15th seed Reilly Opelka and 22nd seed Nikoloz Basilashvili.

Dutch TV channel RTL reported that it was former player Raemon Sluiter who urged Van Rijthoven's coach Igor Sijsling to

request Wimbledon for a wild card which he did, and was granted.

Sluiter would also say that Van Rijthoven's story reminded him of the comic 'De Wondersloffen van Sjakie'. It was the Dutch version of the popular British comic Billy's Boots, where the main character Billy finds a special boots that magically turns him into a fabulous football player when he wears them. Only, Van Rijthoven has achieved the astounding transformation without any boots, but the fairytale-ish ambience does stand out.

Fairytale home title

As a native of the Netherlands, Van Rijthoven was handed a main draw wildcard at the ATP 250 event in 's-Hertogenbosch last week. The Dutchman went on to lift the title one week later, but there was precious little luck involved.

After he was handed an extremely difficult draw, the 25-year-old ground out results throughout the week with some excellent grasscourt tennis and impressive control over his nerves. He ousted Mathew Ebden in two tiebreakers, before overturning a one-set deficit against Indian WELLS champion and tournament third seed Taylor Fritz.

Second seed Felix Auger-Aliassime was the first top 10 player he defeated during the



Van Rijthoven was handed a main draw wildcard at the ATP 250 event in 's-Hertogenbosch last week.

week, against whom he needed to edge a tight deciding-set tiebreak in the semifinal. Van Rijthoven went on to defeat top seed and World No. 1 Daniil Medvedev in a 6-4, 6-1 drubbing.

"Amazing week. (You) destroyed the No. 2 (at the time) in the world in straight sets in the final, so I think it must be a good feeling!" Medvedev said during his on-court speech.

Van Rijthoven's all-court playing style is a bonus on grass, but his game is far from one-dimensional. He is an all-court player

with good court coverage and hits the ball cleanly. His 6'2" frame also ensures a largely reliable serve. But it is his return of serve that often gives him the edge.

Against Medvedev, a player whose serve hardly lets him down, he was able to fashion 10 break-point opportunities against the Russian. Against the big-serving Opelka in the second round at Wimbledon, he amassed six.

Although he was only able to break the American's serve once, Van Rijthoven saved all five break points on his own serve and stayed toe-to-toe with his opponent's big game, showing impressive mental strength to eventually prevail 6-4, 6-7(8), 7-6(7), 7-6(4) — a vintage grasscourt score line if there ever was one.

Djokovic, fresh off a thumping win against compatriot Miomir Kecmanovic, will be wary of any lapses on his serve on Sunday, especially considering the shot has not been tested much yet.

Mental, physical problems after impressive juniors

After the 's-Hertogenbosch final, Medvedev revealed how he remembered playing Van Rijthoven during his junior years. "An amazing match today. Keep it going. I remember you from juniors, you have the talent so now you need to make more matches

like this and more tournaments like this," the Russian said.

A contemporary of both Fritz and Medvedev, Van Rijthoven actually had quite a promising juniors career. He ended 2014 with a juniors ranking of World No. 24, and his last appearance at the All England Club saw him win a quarterfinal over current World No. 8 Andrey Rublev, who was the top-ranked junior player at the time.

Following his senior debut in 2016 though, the physical and mental challenges that go with a full-time tennis career took their toll. Injuries plagued his progress, and he began feeling the pressure. "A lot was expected of me in the past," he was quoted as saying by the Tennis Channel. "I couldn't do that then. I want to make it happen for myself now. I've matured in that regard. I enjoy the job more these days."

Beyond a certain age, the summit of elite-level sports begins to slip away from once-promising athletes. In that regard, Van Rijthoven, now 8 matches unbeaten in three weeks, has kept the fairytale going and made good of his opportunity at Wimbledon.

While he is unfortunate not to get the 180 ranking points he ordinarily would have at SW19, a well-earned challenge against one of the game's all-time greats, on its most famous stage, awaits the 25-year-old.

Luckless Kohli, masterful Anderson, woeful top order

SANDIP G
JULY 1

AS THE barrel-chested Matthew Potts barged into his teammates in joy after terminating Virat Kohli, the former India skipper stared helplessly at Rishabh Pant, the non-striker, before he flashed a wry smile into the distance. As though fate was conspiring against his resurrection.

Kohli felt luckless, for he exuded more confidence than most of his top-five colleagues. He was leaving well — until that moment of indiscretion — blocking stoutly, disciplined outside the off-stump and looking like the 2018 vintage. But his split-second dilemma to shoulder arms or not ended in a benign ball well outside off ricocheting from the underside of the bat onto his stumps. But Potts's bounce was troubling him — he had him nearly chopped on. This wrecker-ball did not bounce as much, and Kohli was a trifle late to decide.

The rest of his colleagues, though, departed in familiar fashion. Shubman Gill nicked behind, pushing hard at a shortish Anderson ball, after looking fluent in his 24-ball 17 run stay that included four boundaries. Gill perhaps was not expecting this length from Anderson. This one bounced a trifle more than Gill had gauged and shaped away to destabilise him. The frame was eerily identical to his dismissal in the first innings in the practice game against Leicester.

It was another testament that Anderson is one of his sport's master craftsmen. The new ball barely misbehaved, before the lacquer wore off, and so Anderson resorted to wobble seamers and good length balls, harnessing movement off the surface rather than in the air.

This was not classical Anderson slapping full lengths and moving the ball this way and that. This was Anderson with a deep understanding of the batsmen's minds, conditions and surface. He had tormented Cheteshwar Pujara throughout the series, so he had no plan to alter his default plans.

Pepper him with good-length balls and flip in the away-bender. Pujara would get sucked into a hard-handed semi-forward defensive thrust and edge behind. Pujara seemed undercooked — Broad spooked him with nip-backers, one of them was adjudged lbw, before it was reversed. He, thus, was a walking invitation for Anderson.

Shreyas Iyer is dodgy against the short ball. So Anderson bowled short, with a leg slip for the reflexive stab from Iyer. Iyer, who was emphatically driving Potts and reversing the momentum, eventually gloved down the leg-side to Sam Billings.

From the other end, rumbled in Potts. Despite strapping in build, there is a litness about him, a rare fusion of grace and power. He struck just when Hanuma Vihari and Virat Kohli were rebuilding. There was an element of good fortune in both dismissals. Vihari was blasted in front of the stumps of what seemed like a natural variation — the seam, in mid-air, suggested that the ball would move away, but after landing, it boomed into Vihari's pads. The batsman was stupefied and did not account for exaggerated movement. Then arrived the Kohli moment. His litany of woes continues.

SANIA AND PAVIC IN RD 2

London: Indian ace Sania Mirza, who is making her final Wimbledon appearance, and Mate Pavic advanced to the second round of mixed doubles event with a hard-fought win over David Vega Hernandez and Natela Dzalamidze here on Friday. The Indo-Croatian duo won 6-4 3-6, 7-6(3) in a first round match. Mirza, who has already announced her retirement at the end of this season, and her Czech partner Lucie Hradecka had earlier lost in the opening round of women's doubles event. The 35-year-old Indian had won her maiden doubles title alongside Martina Hingis, back in 2015. In a video footage uploaded on the official Twitter handle of Championships, Mirza said she is going to miss Wimbledon but it's time to move on. "There are things in life which take priority over playing tennis matches and I am at that stage now," she said. PTI