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Foundation Course GENERAL STUDIES PRELIMS cum MAINS 2023

DELHI: 19 AUG, 1 PM | 5 AUG, 1 PM | 26 JULY, 1 PM | 17 JULY, 5 PM | 7 JULY, 1 PM | 29 JUNE, 9 AM

PUNE: 20th June | **AHMEDABAD:** 22nd July | **CHANDIGARH:** 25th Aug

HYDERABAD: 8th Aug | **JAIPUR:** 30th July | 16th Aug | **LUCKNOW:** 25th Aug

फाउंडेशन कोर्स सामान्य अध्ययन 2023

▶ प्रारंभिक, मुख्य परीक्षा और निबंध के लिए महत्वपूर्ण सभी टॉपिक का विस्तृत कवरेज

DELHI: 2 अगस्त, 9 AM | 24 जून, 1 PM | **LUCKNOW:** 7 जुलाई, 9 AM | **JAIPUR:** 16 अगस्त, 4 PM

ABHYAAS MAINS 2022 ALL INDIA GS MAINS MOCK TEST (OFFLINE)

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SALUTE THE SOLDIER

A TRIBUTE TO BRAVE HEARTS
26TH JULY



The CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of these brave-hearts. On this day, they laid down their lives at the altar of duty. Their courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to them for their noblest deeds.

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL DELHI CANTT

SADAR BAZAR ROAD, DELHI CANTT-110010
www.apsdelhicantt.com, 25693777, 25692720

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are invited from firms/manufacturers/dealers with professional expertise for following -
(a) UPgradation of MP Hall Sound System.
(b) Modernization of Auditorium Stage Lighting.
RFPs with specification can be downloaded from school website www.apsdelhicantt.com. Tender Form duly completed in all respect be submitted to APS Delhi Cantt by 01 Aug 2022 till 1030 hrs along with DD (Tender Form Fee & EMD) as per RFP in favour of Army Public School Delhi Cantt. For any queries contact APS Delhi Cantt on 25693777, 25692720.

Presiding Officer

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Website: www.ujvnl.com

RO No. 461 Time Extension Notice-1 Dated: 25/07/2022

Due to unavoidable reasons the extreme short term tender No. 12/EE(G)/CPH/2022-23 for "Rectification of damaged stator winding, re-assembly, testing & commissioning of 60 MW Generator Unit-3 at Chibro Power House" is being extended as below:
Last date for downloading of tender: 28-07-2022 (Up to 13:00 Hrs.)
Last date for submission of tender: 28-07-2022 (Up to 15:00 Hrs.)
Date of opening of tender: 28-07-2022 (At 16:00 Hrs.)
Other terms & condition will remain same. For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website www.ujvnl.com.
EE(G),Chibro
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

NORTHERN RAILWAY

NOTE

Subject - Regarding EOI for beautification of Railway area at station approaches for development of green cover in jurisdiction of Sr.DEN V. The Expression of interest, for beautification of Railway area at station approaches along the track for development of green cover/patches by planting low height plants at its own costs, is to be called in the following various stations alongwith:
1. Hazrat Nizamuddin - Palwal Railway Line.
2. Delhi Sarai Rahilla - Rewari Railway Line.
3. Delhi Avoiding Line (DAL) between Hazrat Nizamuddin station & Patel Nagar Railway station.
A link is to be provided in EOI, which will flash in Home page of Engineering Tab in Delhi Division of Northern Railway Website.
The interested Individuals/parties/Organizations may visit the Website. The link given below for further details:
i) The Guidelines with regard to execution of the work.
ii) Details of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be executed.
iii) The requisite sketches/plans for the above work at each station. 1864/2022

Serving Customers With A Smile

उत्तराखण्ड पॉवर कॉर्पोरेशन लि.

(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम)
कार्यालय अटिगाँवा अडियन्ता, विद्युत परियोजना खण्ड, विक्रम नगर, 6 के समीप, रुड़की-247667
ई-मेल: etdorklee@uapcl.org, etdorklee@yahoo.co.in, दूरभाष: 9412107475

निविदा तिथि विस्तार सूचना

इस खण्ड द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा संख्या 14(W)/22-23 जोकि दिनांक 26.07.2022 में सायं 3:00 बजे खोली जानी थी किन्ही अपरिहार्य कारणों से दिनांक 02.08.2022 को सायं 3:00 बजे खोली जायेगी एवं निविदादाता दिनांक 02.08.2022 को दोपहर 12:00 बजे तक खण्ड कार्यालय में निविदा प्रपत्र जमा करा सकेगी। अन्य नियम व शर्त यथावत रहेगी।
घांटांक: 822 वि.प.ख.सं. / दिनांक: 25.07.2022 अटिगाँवा अडियन्ता
"राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाये" विजली बचाने हेतु एल.ई.डी. बल्ब का प्रयोग करें
(टोल फ्री नं. - 1912) विद्युत बिलों के 2007 ऑनलाईन भुगतान हेतु www.upcl.org
पर जायें। (विद्युत चोरी की सूचना टोल फ्री नं. 1800 419 0405/फैक्स संख्या: 0135-2760911 पर दें)

भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड

(भारत सरकार का स्वतंत्र उपक्रम) (A Navratna Undertaking of Govt. of India)
Regd. Office & Investors Relation Centre: CONCOR Bhawan, C-3, Mehra Road, New Delhi-110 076
Tel. Nos.: 011-4122 2500/0700, Email: investorrelations@concorindia.com
Website: <http://www.concorindia.com>

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 47 read with Regulation 29 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on 04th August, 2022 to inter-alia consider and approve the Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter ended on 30th June, 2022 and declaration of Interim Dividend for 2022-23, if any, to the shareholders.
Further, in terms of SEBI (PIT) Regulations, 2015, as amended, the Trading Window for dealing in Equity Shares of the Company is closed for all designated persons & their immediate relatives for the period from 01st July, 2022 till the expiry of 48 hours after declaration of the Financial Results of the Company for the quarter ended on 30th June, 2022.
This information is also available on the website of the Company and the websites of the Stock Exchanges where the Company's shares are listed viz. BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com) and the National Stock Exchange of India Limited (www.nseindia.com)
For & on behalf of Container Corporation of India Limited
Sd/-
Date: 22.07.2022
Executive Director (Finance) & CS

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Engineer/Construction/Northern Railway, Tilak Bridge, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under Single-packet system for the following work.

Sl. No.	Name of work and location	Approx. Cost of work	Earliest Money to be deposited	Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document
1.	Carrying out final Location Survey, Geotechnical studies Preparation of GAD of Bridges Drawing, preparation and submission of DPR & other preliminary activities in connection with 3rd line between Shakurbasti-Rohatk.	75 (Seventy Five) Days	Rs. 1.00 crore only	Tender may be uploaded up to 11.30hrs on 16/08/2022 on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the Bids of which will be opened at 11.30hrs on 16/08/2022.	The detailed tender's document will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 27/07/2022 to 16/08/2022 and bidders will be able to offer their technical and financial bid from 02/08/2022. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document.

Tender Notice No: 472-ACS-C-FLS-TKJ Dated: 22.07.2022
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1859/22

कार्यालय, नगर पालिक निगम, कोरबा (छत्तीसगढ़)

ई-प्रोक्च्यूरमेंट निविदा सूचना

दिनांक 22.07.2022
एकीकृत पंचायत प्रणाली अंतर्गत स्वयं श्रेणी में पंचायत केन्द्रों से निर्माण/सुधार निर्माण कार्य हेतु (Online) आनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

क्र. सं.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में)	निविदा डालने की अंतिम तिथि
1	Laying of Clear Water Gravity main & Distribution pipeline in Darsi Zone, due to widening of CC Road from Darsi Dam to Gopalpur (2nd Call)	232.44	08.08.2022 (T.No. 105260)

उपरोक्त कार्य की निविदा की जानकारी ई-प्रोक्च्यूरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है, साथ ही निगम के वेब साइट www.korbamunicipal.nic.in एवं www.korba.urbanecg.gov.in पर भी देखी जा सकती है।
।। स्वच्छ भारत निर्माण में योगदान दें ।।
हस्ता/-
कार्यालय अभियंता
नगर पालिक निगम
कोरबा (छत्तीसगढ़)

40011

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'MY ELECTION IS PROOF THAT THE POOR IN INDIA CAN HAVE DREAMS AND FULFIL THEM TOO'

President Droupadi Murmu

Says India must move forward on 'twin tracks of sabka prayas, sabka kartavya'



President Droupadi Murmu reviews a guard of honour at the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Monday. *Renuka Puri* MORE REPORTS, PHOTOS, PAGES 8, 10

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

SAYING THAT her election "reflects the dreams and capabilities of crores of women and daughters", President Droupadi Murmu on Monday urged the country to move forward on the "twin tracks of *sabka prayas* (everyone's effort) and *sabka kartavya* (everyone's duty)".

In her speech, shortly after taking oath as India's 15th President, Murmu said: "It is satisfying to me that the people who were devoid of development for years — the poor, Dalits, backward and the tribals — can find representation through me. My election has the blessings of the poor of the country and reflects the dreams and capabilities of crores of women and daughters of the country... It is

the power of our democracy that a daughter born in a poor house, a daughter born in a remote tribal area, can reach the highest constitutional post of India."

Murmu, 64, is the first President to be born after Independence. "That I attained the post of President is not my personal achievement. It is the achievement of every poor person in India. My election is proof of the fact that the poor in India

can have dreams and fulfil them too," she said. She assured that the interests of people, especially the women and youth, will be "paramount" to her while in office.

"It is a coincidence that my political career started when the country was celebrating its 50th year of Independence. And today, in the 75th year of Independence, I have been handed this responsibility. I am

honoured to take on this responsibility at a historic time when India is gearing up to achieve the vision of the next 25 years," she said in her address, which lasted a little over 18 minutes.

Citing the Santhal, Paika, Kol and Bhil revolutions, she said: "All these revolutions strengthened the tribal contribution in the freedom struggle. We derived inspiration from the sacrifice of

BENGAL SCHOOL JOBS SCAM

Admit cards, list of candidates in Bengal minister's house: ED to court

Partha Chatterjee called Mamata four times after arrest, got no response: ED

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA
KOLKATA, JULY 25

A LIST of 48 candidates with roll numbers for posts of primary teacher; documents related to the appointment of Group D staff, including admit cards for recruitment tests; and, a list of candidates under the letterhead of a former TMC MLA.

These are among the records allegedly recovered from the home of West Bengal Industry and Commerce Minister Partha Chatterjee by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) during searches conducted on July 22 in connection with the state school jobs

scam, according to court records obtained by *The Indian Express*. Chatterjee, who is also secretary general of the ruling TMC, was arrested in the case by the ED on July 23. He was the state's Education Minister when the alleged scam took place in 2016.

The papers seized are listed in a plea filed by ED in the Calcutta High Court on July 23 seeking quashing or modification of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's order for Chatterjee to be taken to SSKM hospital for check-up and treatment.

The court records also include an arrest memo filed separately by the ED. It claims in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Partha Chatterjee in Kolkata on Monday. *Express*

BUSINESS AS USUAL



Govt data: FEMA, PMLA cases triple in first 3 yrs of NDA-II versus NDA-I

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

THE TOTAL number of cases registered by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) has jumped almost three times in the first three years of the second term of the BJP-led government (2019-20 to 2021-22) as compared to the corresponding period in its first term (2014-15 to 2016-17).

According to data shared by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary in a written

reply to Lok Sabha on Monday, the ED registered 14,143 cases under FEMA and PMLA between 2019-20 and 2021-22, as compared to 4,913 cases in 2014-15 to 2016-17 — an increase of over 187 per cent.

The break-up shows that 11,420 FEMA cases were taken up for investigation in the first three years of the second term, up from 4,424 cases in the first three years of the first term — an increase of over 158 per cent.

The cases registered under PMLA increased by more than five times in this period — from 489 between 2014-15 to 2016-17 to 2,723 in 2019-20 to 2021-22 — a jump of over 456 per cent.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

THE WORLD



RUSSIAN GOAL TO OUST ZELENSKY: LAVROV

POPE APOLOGISES TO CANADA'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

5G AUCTION: WHAT'S AT STAKE AND WHO IS BIDDING

Myanmar executes four political prisoners, including former MP

DAVID RISING
BANGKOK, JULY 25

MYANMAR'S GOVERNMENT confirmed on Monday that it had carried out its first executions in nearly 50 years, hanging a former lawmaker, a democracy activist and two other political prisoners who had been accused of a targeted killing after the country's



Ex-lawmaker Phyto Zeya Thaw; activist Kyaw Min Yu

military takeover last year. The executions, first announced in the state-run *Mirror Daily* newspaper, were carried out despite worldwide pleas for clemency for the four men, including from United Nations

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Phone to pen, minister to cop: Complaints of graft soar in Punjab

NAVJEEVAN GOPAL
CHANDIGARH, JULY 25

AN APPLE watch, a pen camera, a camera inside a mobile phone charger. These are among the gadgets used by complainants in Punjab against a range of targets — from politicians to bureaucrats and other government officials — after the AAP government launched a massive anti-corruption drive after coming to power in the Assembly elections in February.

Official data accessed by *The Indian Express* show that from March 23, when Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann announced an anti-corruption "action" phone line, till July 11, a total of 2,94,670

EXPLAINED A message in numbers

THERE IS a message behind the action against an AAP minister, a senior bureaucrat, a police officer and a top civic functionary, among several others. The AAP government in Punjab is going all out to cement the party's image as the citizen's ally against graft.

complaints were received. Of these, 3,751 complaints were received with audio or video

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

4 Cong MPs suspended for rest of session, party says bid to intimidate

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

THE FACE-OFF between the government and the Opposition over the latter's demand for an urgent discussion on price rise and the hike in GST rates escalated on Monday with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla suspending four Congress MPs for the remaining part of the current session for "misconduct". Accusing

IN PARLIAMENT



RAJYA SABHA PROCEEDINGS DISRUPTED THRICE

Look for 'ectomorph' body type, zig-zag riding: Delhi Police chief's tips for identifying snatchers

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

A PERSON with an 'ectomorph' body type and bikers riding either a dilapidated or high-end motorbike in a zig-zag manner with only the front rider wearing a helmet — these are some of the things Delhi Police personnel have been told to keep an eye out for to identify snatch-



ers and robbers. A circular issued by Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana on July 18 outlines "Operation Hawk-Eye", which was launched in Delhi's Outer North police district with the "objective to curb street crimes, snatching and robbery". In the circular, Asthana said the operation should have a decentralised structure with team members selected by Assistant Commissioners of Police (ACPs) and Station House Officers (SHOs).

"Four to seven spotters should be deployed depending upon the crime incidence, profile

Shuvajit Dey

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

FIRE MR CHATTERJEE
Centre's use of agencies is dodgy but that's no alibi. TMC must confront growing corruption within

ODISHA AIIMS SAYS MINISTER STABLE

EXPLAINED PAGE 15

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New Delhi

FROM PAGE ONE

President

'Dharti Aaba' Bhagwan Birsu Munda Ji for social upliftment and patriotism. I am happy that many museums are being built across the country dedicated to the role of the tribal communities in our freedom struggle.

Paying tribute to India's freedom fighters, Murmu said the country will have to move quickly on the twin tracks of "sabka prayas" (everyone's effort) and "sabka kartavya" (everyone's duty) to fulfil their expectations. "In our country full of diversities, we are engaged in the making of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' by adopting many languages, religions, sects, food habits, lifestyles and customs," she said. "I was born in that tribal tradition which has lived in harmony with nature for thousands of years. I have realised the importance of forests and water bodies in my life... We take necessary resources from nature and serve nature with equal reverence. This sensitivity has become a global imperative today," said Murmu, the country's first tribal woman President.

Quoting tribal poet Bhim Bhoi, she said: "Mojeban pachhe narke padi thau, jagato uddhar heu", which translates as "working for the welfare of the world is far greater than one's own interests". In her address, Murmu touched on various issues, including the NDA government's "Digital India" and "vocal for local" initiatives and its Covid vaccination programme.

Earlier in the day, Murmu was administered the oath of office by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana in Central Hall of Parliament, in the presence of outgoing President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Union ministers, chief ministers, heads of diplomatic missions and Members of Parliament among others.

After the short ceremony, Murmu and Kovind were escorted amid the roll of drums and blowing of trumpets. There was a national salute by the President's Bodyguard at Gate No 5 of Parliament, after which the new President and her predecessor were escorted in a ceremonial procession to Rashtrapati Bhavan. The new Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces then inspected a tri-services guard of honour in the forecourt.

In her first tweet as President, Murmu greeted the nation with "Johar, Namaskar".

Kovind and his family were given a formal send-off by the Prime Minister and other dignitaries as well as the Rashtrapati Bhavan staff.

Saying that Murmu assuming the Presidency is a "watershed moment for India especially for the poor, marginalised and down-trodden", Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted: "In her address after taking oath, President Droupadi Murmu Ji gave a message of hope and compassion. She emphasised on India's accomplishments and presented a futuristic vision of the path ahead at a time when India is marking Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav."

Murmu, a Santhal tribal from Mayurbhanj district of Odisha, defeated Opposition candidate Yashwant Sinha, securing 64.03 per cent of the total votes polled. Her daughter, Itishree, works in a bank in Odisha.

ED to court

section, "Name of relative/ friend whom the person taken into custody intends to inform", that Chatterjee called Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee four times after his arrest at 1.55 am on July 23 but could not reach her.

The memo, filed by Mithilesh Kumar Mishra, Investigating Officer and Assistant Director, Kolkata Zonal Office II, ED, claims that Chatterjee called the Chief

Minister at 2.32 am, 2.33 am, 3.37 am and 9.35 am. It also claims that the Minister refused to sign the arrest memo.

On July 24, the High Court directed the ED to take Chatterjee to AIIMS-Bhubaneswar by an air ambulance. On Monday, AIIMS-Bhubaneswar executive director Ashutosh Biswas said Chatterjee "doesn't require hospitalisation at this time" and that the medical reports have been sent to the High Court.

The records listed in the ED plea also include documents allegedly linked to "immovable properties" and "companies" of Chatterjee's aide and co-accused in the case, Arpita Mukherjee. According to the ED, Chatterjee was in "regular contact" with Mukherjee through a specific mobile number.

The ED has also alleged in its plea that Chatterjee was involved in the "illegal appointment in lieu of money" of primary teachers, assistant teachers from Class 9-12 and Group D staff.

It states that Rs 20 crore was allegedly recovered from the Tollygunge premises of Arpita Mukherjee, which is described as "nothing but the proceeds of crime generated in relation to the criminal activities for giving illegal appointments..."

It lists a "total of more than 20 cell phones... recovered from the premises of Ms Arpita Mukherjee, the purpose and use of which is yet to be ascertained."

The ED plea in the High Court details the documents allegedly seized:

- "...documents relating to appointment of Group D staff... like admit cards of the candidates, summary of the final results in (a recruitment test of) 2016 for the post of Group D staff, intimation letters for verification of testimonials and personality test... after the post of clerk of Indranil Bhattacharya". The ED has not detailed the identity of Bhattacharya.
- "List of candidates of Group D post at the letterhead of Shri Ananta Deb Adhikari, Admit card of 3rd Regional Level Selection Test for non-teaching staff (Group D) of Samapati Thakur, Application form for recruitment of clerk and Group D staff in respect of Samapati Thakur, a list of 48 candidates for upper primary teacher with roll number etc which indicates that Partha Chatterjee was actively involved in the appointment of Group D staff."

The ED has not detailed the identity of Thakur. When contacted by The Indian Express, Ananta Deb Adhikari, former TMC MLA of Maynaguri and current chairman of Maynaguri municipality in Jalpaiguri, said: "I do not remember the year when I sent those recommendations. But I did send some names as an MLA. All the MLAs did at that time. Some of the recommendations from other MLAs have been cleared. But my list was not cleared and no one on the list got jobs. I guess that is why it was there at Partha Chatterjee's house."

Adhikari said: "My son has passed MSc and BED and my daughter has passed MA in English and BEd. I tried to get them jobs as teachers in government schools but that, too, did not happen."

According to the ED's plea, "a number of other incriminating documents and electronic devices relating to the generation of proceeds of crime have been recovered during the course of search at various premises and which are to be confronted with the accused persons and the trail of money is to be further investigated".

On the direction of the Calcutta High Court, the CBI is investigating alleged irregularities in the recruitment of Group C & D staff and teachers in government and aided schools on the recommendations of the West Bengal School Service Commission. The ED is investigating the money laundering aspect of the alleged recruitment scam.

Myanmar's Foreign Ministry had rejected the wave of criticism that followed its announcement in June, declaring that its judicial system is fair and that Phyo Zeya Thaw and Kyaw Min Yu were "proven to be masterminds of orchestrating full-scale terrorist attacks against innocent civilians to instill fear and disrupt peace and stability".

"They killed at least 50 people," military spokesperson Major General Zaw Min Tun said at a televised news conference last month. He said the decision to hang the prisoners conformed with the rule of law and the purpose was to prevent similar incidents in the future.

The military's seizure of power from Suu Kyi's elected government triggered peaceful protests that soon escalated to armed resistance and then to widespread fighting that some UN experts characterize as a civil war. The last judicial execution to be carried out in Myanmar is generally believed to have been of another political offender, student leader Salai Tin Maung Oo, in 1976 under a previous military government led by dictator Ne Win.

AP

were involved in violence.

"Punishing them with death is a way to rule the public through fear," he told The Associated Press.

Among those executed was Phyo Zeya Thaw, a former lawmaker from ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party. Also known as Maung Kyaw, he was convicted in January by a closed military court of offences involving possession of explosives, bombings and financing terrorism.

His wife, Thazin Nyunt Aung, told the AP the world needs to hold the military accountable for the executions. "They have to pay," she said.

The US embassy in Myanmar said it mourned the loss of the four men and offered condolences to their families while decrying the decision to execute them.

"We condemn the military regime's execution of pro-democracy leaders and elected officials for exercising their fundamental freedoms," the embassy said.

In China, a longtime ally of Myanmar's military, Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian refused to comment on the executions, saying Beijing "always upholds the principle of non-interference in other countries' internal affairs."

Phyo Zeya Thaw, 41, was arrested last November based on information from people detained for shooting security personnel, state media said at the time. He was also accused of being a key figure in a network that carried out what the military described as terrorist attacks in Yangon, the country's biggest city.

Phyo Zeya Thaw had been a hip-hop musician before becoming a member of the Generation Wave political movement formed in 2007. He was jailed in 2008 under a previous military government after being accused of illegal association and possession of foreign currency.

Also executed was Kyaw Min Yu, a 53-year-old democracy activist better known as Ko Jimmy, for violating the counterterrorism law. He was one of the leaders of the 88 Generation Students Group, veterans of a failed 1988 popular uprising against military rule.

He had already spent more than a dozen years behind bars for political activism before his arrest in Yangon last October. He had been put on a wanted list for social media postings that allegedly incited unrest, and state media said he was accused of terrorist acts including mine attacks and of heading a group called Moon Light Operation to carry out urban guerrilla attacks.

The other two, Hla Myo Aung and Aung Thura Zaw, were convicted of torturing and killing a woman in March 2021 who they allegedly believed was a military informer.

Elaine Pearson, acting Asia director of Human Rights Watch, said the legal proceedings against the four had been "grossly unjust and politically motivated military trials".

Thomas Andrews, an independent UN-appointed expert on human rights who had condemned the decision to go ahead with the executions when they were announced in June, called for a strong international response.

"I am outraged and devastated at the news of the junta's execution of Myanmar patriots and champions of human rights and decency," he said in a statement. "These individuals were tried, convicted and sentenced by a military tribunal without the right of appeal and reportedly without legal counsel, in violation of international human rights law."

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Aung Myo Min, human rights minister for the National Unity Government, a shadow civilian administration established outside Myanmar after the military seized power in February 2021, rejected the allegations the men

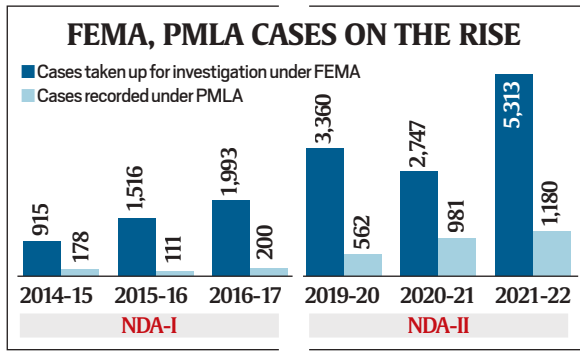
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ED overdrive: FEMA, PMLA cases triple

According to the year-wise data, 2021-22 saw the highest number of money laundering and foreign exchange violation cases in the last eight years of the Modi government. In 2020-21, the ED filed 5,313 cases under FEMA (the previous high was 3,627 cases in 2017-18); and 1,180 under PMLA (up from 981 in 2020-21).

The reply, filed in response to a question asked by JD(U)'s Rajiv Ranjan alias Lalan Singh, states: "During the last 10 years, the Directorate of Enforcement has taken up around 24,893 cases for investigation under the provisions of FEMA and has recorded around 3,985 cases under PMLA."

But an analysis of the data shows that 22,130 FEMA cases, or 89 per cent of the total cases, were filed in the last eight years. Similarly, 3,555 PMLA cases, or



89 per cent of the 3,985 cases, were filed in the last eight years.

According to the information shared by Chaudhary, till March 31, 2022, the ED had registered a total of 5,422 cases under PMLA ever since the law was enacted, of which 65.66 per cent were filed in the last eight years. "Till 31.03.2022, the Directorate of Enforcement

recorded around 5,422 cases under PMLA. It is pertinent to mention here that, after recording of a case under PMLA, necessary action as per provisions of PMLA is taken which resulted in attachment of proceeds of crime to the tune of Rs 1,04,702 crore (approx), filing of prosecution complaint in 992 cases resulting in confiscation of Rs

869.31 crore, and conviction of 23 accused persons under PMLA," Chaudhary said.

Similarly, a total of 30,716 cases were filed under FEMA till March 31, 2022, of which 72 per cent were registered in the last eight years. "Till 31.03.2022, the Directorate of Enforcement has taken up around 30,716 cases for investigation under FEMA. It is pertinent to mention here that after taking up a case for investigation under FEMA, necessary action as per provisions of FEMA is taken which resulted in issuance of 8,109 Show Cause Notices (SCNs). Further, 6,472 SCNs were adjudicated under FEMA, thereby imposing penalty of around Rs 8,130 crore. Further, assets to the tune of Rs 7,080 crore (approx.) have been seized under FEMA," Chaudhary said.

Congress MPs

the rest of the session, which was passed by a voice vote. The Monsoon Session ends on August 12.

While the Opposition has been demanding an immediate discussion on price rise and the hike in GST rates of essential commodities, the government has maintained that it is ready for a discussion, but it can only be held after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recovers from Covid.

When the House met at 2 pm, the Speaker said the government was ready for a discussion as demanded by the Opposition. He told the members not to display placards, saying he would be left with no option but to take action to uphold the dignity of the House. With the Opposition unrelenting, Birla repeated the warning. "I am requesting you again that it is the responsibility of the members to uphold the dignity of the House. Whosoever displays placards... I am telling you for the last time... they will not be allowed to be part of the proceedings," he said.

Before adjourning the House till 3 pm, Birla said: "If you want to have a discussion, I am ready to start the discussion at 3 pm. But if you want to display placards and indulge in slogan shouting... then after 3 pm, you will have the right to show placards and shout slogans outside the House... this House cannot function like this. I am requesting you for the last time... those members who show placards before the Chair, who want to break the dignity of the House... after 3 pm, they will get adequate time and opportunity outside the House."

When the House reassembled at 3 pm, the protests continued. Agarwal then invoked Rule 374 and named the members, saying they had shown "stubborn behaviour", "deliberately and continuously disrupted proceedings" and ignored House rules and directions of the Speaker.

Joshi moved the motion which said, "That this House having taken serious note of the misconduct of Manickam Tagore, T N Prathapan, S Jothimani and Ramya Haridas and utter disregard to the House and the authority of the Chair and having been named by the Speaker resolve that the above mentioned members be suspended from the service of the House for the remainder of the session under Rule 374(2)".

According to Rule 374, "The Speaker may, if deems it necessary, name a member who disregards the authority of the Chair or abuses the rules of the House by persistently and wilfully obstructing the business thereof." Rule 374 (2) says "if a member is so named by the Speaker, the Speaker shall, on a motion being made forthwith put the question that the member (naming such member) be suspended from the service of the House for a period not exceeding the remainder of the session."

The Congress said the action against the MPs was a "blot on democracy" and accused the government of trying to "intimidate" the Opposition for raising people's issues.

"We have only two demands: withdrawal of GST on essential commodities and a discussion on price rise. We have been demanding this for the last six days. We have been giving adjournment notices every day but the government is not relenting. There is no unruly behaviour by us. We did not hurt the dignity or decorum of the House. It is our right to protest when the government doesn't listen to our legitimate demand for a discussion on the hardships faced by the people," Jothimani told The Indian Express.

The government, she said, is afraid of holding a discussion. "The government says let Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman return, and they will hold a discussion. Remember it was Defence Minister Rajnath Singh who replied to a discussion on the farm laws. And it was the late Arun Jaitley who replied to a discussion on the Rafale issue. He was the Finance Minister then and Sitharaman was the Defence Minister," she said.

"So all these are excuses to avoid a discussion. Why can't the Prime Minister come to the House. He is the head of the government. He can listen to the discussion and answer. It is our legitimate right to seek a discussion in Parliament. This government thinks they can scare us by suspending us. That is not going to happen. We will continue our fight. If raising the issues of people on the floor of Parliament is a crime, we will commit that crime again and again," she added.

Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the government was resorting to suspension to throttle the voices of the Opposition. "I must appreciate the moral rectitude and intrepidity of those suspended members, and will double-down our efforts to expose the anti-people policies of this government," he said.

Coming out in support of the MPs, BSP leader Danish Ali tweeted: "How unfortunate is that, two young women MPs from weaker sections (Haridas and Jothimani) have been suspended from Lok Sabha just for demanding a discussion on price rise, the very same day when a woman from an oppressed class took oath as the President of India." - WITH AVISHKEG DASTIDAR, NEW DELHI

Punjab

recordings, 1,862 were about various government departments and 1,740 were found to be irrelevant or non-specific in nature.

"We are following the mandate of the state government and the Chief Minister. There is zero tolerance for corruption. Anyone found to be indulging in corruption will not be spared," Chief Director of Punjab Vigilance Bureau Varinder Kumar said.

Among the complaints received during the period for which data was available, 149 with audio or video recordings were sent to the Vigilance Bureau, which filed 33 FIRs and arrested 52 persons, including 24 civilians, 15 police officials and 13 from government officials.

The most famous of these complaints led to the sacking of

the AAP's own Health Minister Vijay Singla two months ago. Singla and his OSD Pardeep Kumar, who is also his nephew, were arrested on May 24 after being booked in a corruption case related to an alleged demand for two per cent commission against payments made to contractors for work under the Punjab Health Systems Corporation (PHSC).

The Indian Express has learnt that the complainant Rajinder Singh, an executive engineer on deputation with PHSC, recorded several conversations between him, Singla and Kumar, including at least one using an Apple watch.

Consider some of the other key complaints, cases and arrests under this anti-corruption drive:

JUNE 2: Mohali Divisional Forest Officer Guramanpreet Singh and contractor Harmahinder Singh were arrested in a corruption case. IFS officer Vishal Chauhan was arrested more than a month later, on July 7, under sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The complainant, World Wide Immigration Consultancy Services director Davinder Singh Sandhu, alleged that Rs 1 crore in monthly installments of Rs 10 lakh, and Rs 5 lakh in sale of land, were demanded by the accused for clearance of his project in Masol and Tanda villages of Mohali.

Sandhu alleged that on refusal to pay the bribe, a "false case" was registered against his father Colonel BS Sandhu (ret'd) for allegedly causing damage to forest flora. The complainant used a camera installed inside a mobile phone charger to record the accused.

The questioning of contractor Harmahinder Singh in this case also led Vigilance sleuths to book Congress leader and former Forest minister Sadhu Singh Dharamsot and nine others, including his party colleague and successor at the Ministry Sangat Singh Gilzian, IFS officer Amit Chauhan and DFO Guramanpreet.

The second case was registered on June 6 after a diary allegedly belonging to the contractor and containing details of corruption totalling crores of rupees in the Forest department was recovered. On July 13, Vigilance arrested Gilzian's nephew Daljit Singh Gilzian for allegedly acting as a middleman in the case.

JUNE 20: IAS officer Sanjay Popli was arrested by Vigilance on a complaint from Karnal-based contractor Sanjay Kumar on the action line. Popli is in judicial custody.

Kumar alleged that Popli, during his stint as Chief Executive Officer in the Punjab Water Supplies and Sewerage Board, demanded a kickback of one per cent for clearing bills related to a Rs 7.3-crore contract for laying a pipeline at Nawanshahr, and accepted a bribe of Rs 3.5 lakh and Rs 5,000.

On June 25, Popli's son Kartik Popli was found dead inside their Chandigarh house when a Vigilance team arrived to recover 12 kg of gold and other valuables allegedly accepted as bribes. In this case, the complainant used a pen camera to record a junior government of-

ficial accepting the bribe in a car allegedly on behalf of Popli.

JUNE 28: Vigilance in Amritsar arrested Pathankot Drug Inspector Bableen Kaur for allegedly demanding a bribe of Rs 90,000 from a local resident for the online grant of a license to open a medical store.

JULY 6: Congress leader and former chairman of Amritsar Improvement Trust Dinesh Bassi was arrested in a Vigilance case for alleged irregularities, mainly in the allotment of a plot at a throwaway price to a woman after the death of her father, who had unsuccessfully tried to gain ownership of the property through litigation. According to investigators, the plot was later put up for sale at market price.

JULY 6: The police arrested Faridkot Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Lakhvir Singh for allegedly accepting Rs 10 lakh as bribe from a drugs peddler for "not nominating him in the FIR registered under NDPS Act in Tarn Taran". The case has been transferred to Vigilance.

Delhi snatchers

increases with time," Asthana said in the circular, marked to all of Delhi's 15 Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs). Asthana said these personnel can also continue carrying out their regular beat duties.

"One or two CCTV experts, who have full knowledge and access to CCTV cameras installed in the area" should also be deployed, the circular added.

The idea for implementing Operation Hawk-Eye came after it was found that the Outer North district had recorded an unusually high number of snatching and robbery cases this year. A total of 206 incidents of snatching were reported this year until June 28, up from 134 last year. Also, 109 robbery cases were reported this year, compared to 73 last year.

"There should be a control desk, and team members of Hawk-Eye should register their presence with the control desk via GPS location sharing. Their positioning is an outcome of the temporal and spatial analysis of crime patterns and the prevalent dynamics in that area. Whenever they will catch a suspect, they will inform the control desk as well as the police station", after which a police vehicle will be dispatched to apprehend the suspect, Asthana wrote in the circular.

He also said there would be a dedicated interrogation team, called the "scorpion squad", consisting of two to three personnel who keep track of the "latest mobile numbers used by criminals, their general activities and the whereabouts of those released on bail".

"A specialised interrogation team is a crucial segment and asset as it will not only interrogate the targets when caught, but also undertake sustained follow-up when the criminals are released on bail," the circular said.

Asthana added that DCPs of other districts should also adopt this model as per their requirements. "It should be reviewed on a regular basis, and necessary modifications should be carried out based on the performances and outcomes," he said.

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WERE SET TO RETURN TO HONG KONG WHERE THEY WORKED

Mother, daughter among 3 dead as car rams bus in Delhi

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, JULY 25



(Clockwise from top left) Jamna (62), Jyoti (27) and Nisha Sharma (32)

A WOMAN, her daughter, and a relative were killed while two others, including a one-year-old child, were injured after their car rammed into a stationary cluster bus at a depot in Outer Delhi's Swaroop Nagar Monday morning. Police said the victims were travelling from Himachal Pradesh to Delhi.

The deceased have been identified as Jamna (62), her daughter Jyoti Sharma (27), and Jamna's sister's daughter-in-law Nisha Sharma (32). Jamna was a restaurateur and Jyoti a primary school English teacher in Hong Kong. Nisha lived with her husband in Ghaziabad. Her one-year-old son Atharv was also with her at the time. The family said he is on a ventilator at Fortis Hospital.

According to police, a PCR call was made around 7 am from Nangli Pooana. Police rushed to the spot and found a damaged Hyundai i20 car with a Himachal Pradesh registration plate. The bus driver was waiting for passengers to board the vehicle when the accident took place. All five injured persons were rushed to BJRM Hospital where the women were declared dead on arrival.

Brijendra Kumar Yadav, DCP (Outernorth), said: "All (the victims) were residents of Himachal Pradesh's Hamirpur district. The baby and another relative, Sunil, were shifted to private hospitals. Sunil was driving and suffered head injuries. The victims were on their way to Delhi when they rammed into the bus which was en route to Azadpur." The impact was such that vehicle's front portion was mangled.

Police said Jamna and Jyoti were coming to Delhi to meet their relatives before leaving for Hong Kong. As their immediate family isn't in India, police said their relatives claimed the bodies. Police said they are checking

CCTVs to ascertain the sequence of events.

'We were waiting to see them when we got a call about the crash'

Everyone in the Sharma family in Delhi was waiting to see Jamna and Jyoti as the duo were set to leave the country on August 3. Most of them had not met Jyoti in years. On Monday morning, when they were preparing for a gathering, a call from police about the crash left them shocked.

Jamna's sister-in-law, Neena Sharma, said, "We were all very proud of them. They left everything and shifted to Hong Kong 20 years ago. They opened a small restaurant and soon became successful restaurateurs. Jamna's son, Pradeep, is also a big chef in London... We had so many plans... they were also planning to shop in Delhi before leaving."

Jamna and her husband Jagannath ran a restaurant named 'Sharma Ji' in Hong Kong but shut it down before the pandemic in 2020. Jagannath then shifted to Canada for some time and opened a restaurant there while she came back to India last year and was staying at her house in Himachal Pradesh with other relatives. Last month, Jyoti took a break and came to see her mother.

"Jamna was excited to go back and meet her husband. Jyoti also wanted her mother to come back and stay with her. We would hear stories about Jyoti and her friends travelling to different countries... We have informed Pradeep and Jagannath. It will take them at least a day to get here..." added Neena.

Meanwhile, Nisha's family was inconsolable. Her husband, Vijay, is an architect.

Nisha had gone to Himachal last week for a family function. Nearly an hour before the accident, Vijay had called her and asked about her location. He was planning to pick her up near Outer Delhi as the others were heading to Uttam Nagar. Around 6.40 am, he received a call about the accident. He and others rushed to the spot but were asked to go to the hospital.

"Nisha had gone to attend a family function in Himachal for a few days and hitched a ride with Jamna to reach home sooner... everything was fine on the call. We don't know what happened. Nisha was dead by the time we reached. Their elder daughter, Nivi, doesn't even know about her mother's death and brother's condition. We are all scared. Atharv has multiple fractures..." said Sushil Sharma, her brother-in-law.

Glimpses of 37th Ambassadors' Meet
Fostering International Economic Cooperation
held on 22nd July 2022
The Durbar Ballroom, Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi



GUEST OF HONOUR



Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh
Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Govt of India



Shri Rameswar Teli
Hon'ble Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Labour & Employment, Govt of India

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EVENT

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President



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Sr. Vice President



Mr. Sanjeev Agrawal
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New Delhi



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NOTICE

Extract of Standalone Financial Results for the quarter ended on 30th June 2022

Particulars	Quarter ended on 30.06.2022	Quarter ended on 31.03.2022	Quarter ended on 30.06.2021	Financial year ended on 31.03.2022
	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited
Total revenue from operations	32,021.09	36,680.93	27,689.55	129,021.35
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	8,237.33	10,715.04	11,437.00	44,326.10
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	8,182.53	10,638.59	11,589.68	44,090.65
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax	6,114.17	7,839.46	8,780.07	33,011.18
Total comprehensive income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	6,117.99	8,187.15	8,810.68	33,706.08
Paid-up equity share capital [Face value ₹ 10 per share]	1,222.37	1,222.37	1,203.04	1,222.37
Reserves excluding revaluation reserves				124,211.39
Securities premium reserve	31,288.89		31,222.00	31,288.89
Net Worth	125,318.65	125,433.76	100,470.33	125,433.76
Paid-up Debt Capital	10,909.93		13,594.44	13,674.99
Net Debt Equity Ratio	0.30	0.30	0.36	0.30
Earnings per equity share:				
Basic earnings per share ₹ 10 each (not annualised) - in Rupees (after exceptional items)	50.03	64.14	72.02	270.33
Diluted earnings per share ₹ 10 each (not annualised) - in Rupees (after exceptional items)	50.01	64.12	71.92	270.13
Debenture Redemption Reserve	2,046.00	2,046.00	2,046.00	2,046.00
Debt Service Coverage Ratio	2.34	10.82	14.21	14.36
Interest Service Coverage Ratio	19.80	28.83	19.43	22.84

Extract of Consolidated Financial Results for the quarter ended on 30th June 2022

Particulars	Quarter ended on 30.06.2022	Quarter ended on 31.03.2022	Quarter ended on 30.06.2021	Financial year ended on 31.03.2022
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
Total revenue from operations	63,430.07	69,323.50	53,465.43	243,959.17
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	11,945.50	12,139.26	12,259.08	50,360.93
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	11,906.26	11,864.97	12,076.75	50,226.87
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax	7,714.00	9,835.12	9,768.34	41,749.32
Total comprehensive income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	1,103.09	10,353.74	10,382.86	43,054.74
Paid-up equity share capital [Face value ₹ 10 per share]	1,221.21	1,221.21	1,201.87	1,221.21
Reserves (excluding revaluation reserves) and Non controlling interest				115,877.25
Net Worth	109,361.92	114,443.04	80,242.14	114,443.04
Net Debt Equity Ratio	0.48	0.52	0.91	0.52
Earnings per equity share:				
Basic earnings per share of ₹ 10 each (not annualised) - in Rupees (after exceptional items)	63.59	79.91	74.24	332.35
Diluted earnings per share of ₹ 10 each (not annualised) - in Rupees (after exceptional items)	63.57	79.88	74.13	332.09
Debenture Redemption Reserve	2,046.00	2,046.00	2,046.00	2,046.00
Debt Service Coverage Ratio	3.26	9.74	7.16	9.18
Interest Service Coverage Ratio	18.25	17.59	9.27	12.82

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Standalone and Consolidated financial results for the quarter ended on 30th June 2022 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Standalone and Consolidated results for the quarter ended on 30th June 2022 are available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges (www.nseindia.com/www.bseindia.com) and the Company's website (www.tatasteel.com).

T V Narendran
Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director
Mumbai: July 25, 2022

Koushik Chatterjee
Executive Director & Chief Financial Officer

TATA STEEL

VACCINATIONS IN LAST 24 HOURS
16,215

PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL: 161
OXYGEN SUPPORT: 27
VENTILATOR SUPPORT: 5

DELHI TOTAL CASES
19,48,955

	Total	Vacant
HOSPITAL BEDS	9,451	9,290
ICU BEDS	2,115	2,083

	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
July 24	729	520	2	13,097
July 25	463	609	2	5,657
Total	2,548*	19,20,104	26,303	3,94,17,650

*Total active cases in Delhi

	July 24	July 25
Cases	N/A	N/A
Deaths	N/A	N/A

	Cases	Deaths
GURGAON	163	179
NOIDA	0	1

AFTER DELHI SEES ITS FIRST CASE

Monkeypox: Hospitals told to report all suspected cases, examine history

ANONNA DUTT
 NEW DELHI, JULY 25

A DAY after a 34-year-old West Delhi resident tested positive for monkeypox — becoming the capital's first case as well as the country's first instance of local transmission — district surveillance teams in the city have been asked to remain vigilant and create awareness about the disease while clinicians have been asked to report all suspected cases to the government and take detailed history of people with pox-like lesions to ensure they do not have monkeypox.

While the source of the infection for the first case hasn't been determined yet, none of his contacts who were asked to quarantine have developed any symptoms so far.

"As communicated earlier, it is mandatory for all health facilities to notify any suspected case of monkeypox to the district surveillance unit concerned," according to a communication from the state integrated disease surveillance team to district officials and hospitals.

Two officials, on condition of

EXPLAINED
On the ground

WITH DELHI reporting its first monkeypox case, district surveillance teams have been asked to remain vigilant and create awareness about the disease. Doctors have also been asked to find out if any patient has had a history of chicken pox, as skin lesions occur in both diseases.

anonymity, said that in a meeting of the district surveillance teams, they were informed that doctors have been asked to take down detailed history of those with chicken pox. "With the possibility of monkeypox being considered chicken pox because of skin lesions, doctors have been advised to take detailed history of patients in order to determine whether it could be monkeypox," said one of the officials.

"All district surveillance units should ensure to enhance



Lok Nayak Hospital has been designated as the nodal centre for isolation of patients with the viral infection

District teams have so far identified 13 contacts of the patient, including family members and the doctor who referred the patient. "None of them are symptomatic so far," said an official, adding, "We do not know if the patient came in contact with any international travellers while he was in Himachal (where he had travelled). It is unlikely that he might have gotten the infection from a friend who also had fever because their symptoms happened more than 21 days before. And, for monkeypox, 21 days is considered to be the incubation period — time from getting the infection to developing the symptoms."

The 34-year-old had a history of two weeks of fever and rashes.

Monkeypox is a self-limiting viral infection that spreads from person to person through large respiratory secretion or contact with lesions of the infected person or contaminated objects. However, unlike say influenza or Covid-19, transmission of monkeypox through respiratory droplets takes prolonged face-to-face contact and usually happens only in the case of families and healthcare workers.

health facility-based surveillance for monkeypox followed by required community based interventions, as per the guidelines," said the communication.

Lok Nayak hospital, where the first patient is currently admitted, has been designated as the nodal hospital for isolation of patients with the viral infection, with the communication stating, "A ward at Lok Nayak hospital is reserved for isolation of suspected/confirmed cases of monkeypox, therefore any such

case must be referred and isolated at Lok Nayak hospital in coordination with district surveillance officers."

The isolation wards in the hospital — on the fifth, sixth, and seventh floor of the emergency block that are used for infectious diseases such as dengue and Covid-19 — are currently undergoing renovation. In fact, the patient is admitted to the seventh floor where work on attaching door frames and partitions was underway on Monday.

35,000 more CCTVs to come up on busy roads

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, JULY 25

AFTER INSTALLING around 1.33 lakh CCTVs across streets and colonies in the city under Phase 1, the Delhi government is going to install 35,000 more cameras every 100 metres on busy roads to increase safety of pedestrians and commuters.

As part of Phase 2, the cameras will be installed on stretches, measuring 1,400 km, under the jurisdiction of the Public Works Department (PWD). Officials said work on the second phase is in progress and will be completed by December.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who also holds the PWD portfolio, Monday held a meeting of the expenditure finance committee (EFC) and reviewed several key projects. He directed PWD officials to ensure installation of CCTV cameras on all roads under its jurisdiction.

He also directed the department to set up an Integrated Control Centre, where the feed of all cameras can be received and used towards improving roads.

Apart from the CCTV project, the Deputy CM further reviewed the progress of various other PWD projects sanctioned by the EFC such as installation of 115-feet high Tricolour installations at 500 places, the double-decker flyover being built between Yamuna Vihar and Bhajanpura as part of the Maujpur-Majlis Park Metro corridor, and free WiFi.

So far, 497 high-mast flagpoles have already been installed and the rest will be covered before August 15, said officials, adding that the government has fulfilled its promise of free WiFi by installing it at 11,034 places across Delhi.



The cameras will be installed on stretches, measuring 1,400 km, under the jurisdiction of the PWD



FACELIFT

Work underway for beautification of footpaths near India Habitat Centre at Lodhi Road. *Abhinav Saha*

Ukraine-returnees protest, demand that they be allowed to complete degrees in India

SUKRITA BARUAH
 NEW DELHI, JULY 25

DOZENS OF medical students who returned from Ukraine with the outbreak of war are in the middle of a hunger strike in the capital, demanding that they be allowed to complete their degrees in Indian universities.

These students returned to India in March and have been attending their classes online, even completing a semester remotely. However, with the war raging on, a section of students is trying to raise the pressure to be accommodated in Indian universities.

"I came back to India on March 4 and online classes started around two months after that and I completed my third year that way. Our next semester will begin online in September,



The students returned to India in March and have been attending their classes online. *Express*

which is just not enough in medical studies. Countries like Ghana and Nigeria have absorbed students who returned from Ukraine and we also want to be accommodated in India," said Harsh Goel (21) from Muzaffarnagar, a student of Ivano Frankivsk

National Medical University. The protesting students are not looking at universities in other countries as an option.

"The options that are around are Poland, Georgia, Hungary, Slovakia and Romania and these are considerably more expensive.

The reason so many of us go to Ukraine is that it's more affordable," said Shubham Majumdar (25) from Gurgaon, and a student of Kharkiv National Medical University who has completed four years there.

Shubham said that during his online classes, he can sometimes hear sirens wailing while teachers are teaching. "Online learning is only theoretical, in medicine, we have to have practical training. It's been a few months and I'm starting to feel helpless about my future. The lack of options has made it seem like my four years may go to waste," he said.

On Friday, in reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar stated that the National Medical Council has not given permission to transfer or accommodate any foreign medical stu-

dents in any Indian medical institute or university. He stated that there are no provisions to admit students from Ukraine in the Indian Medical Council Act 1956 and the National Medical Commission Act, 2019, as well as the regulations to accommodate or transfer medical students from any foreign medical institutes to medical colleges in India.

"There will just be a few thousand students who want to be accommodated, I feel it should be done as a one-time exception because it's a situation arising due to war. Validity and recognition of transferring to a university in another country is also questionable. If there are no options, we'll just have to continue learning online which isn't valuable," said Madhumalini S Nambiar (22) from Faridabad, a student of Poltava State Medical university.

'Forced conversions': HC tells BJP leader he has to show more than just apprehensions

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, JULY 25

OBSERVING THAT the central and state governments are free to make laws against forced religious conversions, the Delhi High Court on Friday told the petitioner, BJP leader Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, that he has to show more than his apprehensions for the court to pass any direction to the State.

Upadhyay had argued that Delhi has become a safe haven for illegal religious conversions and there is no law to book people for it. He submitted that accused in such cases are booked under Section 295A IPC and similar provisions in absence of a proper law. He also said that foreign-funded organisations were luring people to convert by promising treatments for ailments like cancer.

"What is the material? These are newspaper reports. How does one take cognizance? You cannot simply handover newspaper reports for this court to take cognizance," said the division bench of Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela.

The court said there is no disagreement that courts cannot advise or direct the government but for that, petitioner has to make out his case first. "Please give us instances. Has anyone made a complaint and action not been taken by the executive? You have to show more than your apprehension," it said. The court said

Mosque protected monument, says Centre in HC; Waqf Board, mosque management challenge submission

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, JULY 25

IN RESPONSE to a petition challenging the alleged stopping of prayers since May at a mosque in South Delhi, the Centre Monday told the Delhi High Court that the masjid situated adjacent to the eastern gate of the Qutub Minar is a protected monument. According to rules, prayers are allowed at protected sites only if they were "functioning places of

worship" at the time the Archaeological Survey of India took charge of them.

The oral submission was made by a counsel representing the central government before the bench of Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri. Advocate Kirtiman Singh also told the court that a Saker court is hearing a matter involving the mosque in question and sought time to seek further instructions in the matter.

The submission was challenged by the counsel represent-

ing the mosque management and Delhi Waqf Board. Advocates Wajeeh Shafiq and M Sufian Siddiqui argued that the issue was being confused with the other mosque located inside the Qutub Minar complex.

The petition states that the Mughal Mosque is situated at the entrance of the Qutub Complex and is different from the nearby Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque with regard to which the Saker court is currently hearing a case. The Mughal mosque is not a notified

protected monument and has never been closed for worship before, states the plea.

Advocate Siddiqui, representing the mosque management, told the court that prayers were stopped there in May, and insisted with the court to seek a written reply from authorities. However, Justice Ohri granted the Centre and ASI more time to seek instructions and listed the case for further hearing on September 12. A formal notice for reply hasn't been issued yet. Earlier, on July 14

too, the court had granted the counsel representing the ASI and Centre time to seek instructions.

The petition states that the mosque is not a protected monument and "on the contrary, there are visible signs of a live mosque, viz chamber/Hujra of Imam, a duly appointed Moazzin, place of ablution with taps and water supply, toilet with water supply, a drainage system, rows of prayer mats and provision to secure the entire premises through doors".

Dry spell: 176 liquor vendors shut in Delhi in month and a half

MALLICA JOSHI & GAYATHRI MANI
 NEW DELHI, JULY 25

AN EXODUS of liquor vendors from nine zones in the city has led to the shutting down of 176 liquor shops in the national capital between June and July this year.

Amid allegations of corruption and impropriety in the implementation of the new liquor policy in Delhi, which has set off a war of words between the L-G and the AAP government, the excise department has been dealing with a larger problem that could impact revenue collection. Between June 5 and July 18, 176 liquor vendors in Delhi shut down and nine out of 32 zones were left unserved, with no shops operating in these areas. These include Safdarjung Enclave, Vikaspuri, Inderpuri, Rajouri Garden, parts of Mayur Vihar, Preet Vihar, Andrews Ganj and Kalkaji.

The new excise policy was introduced in Delhi in November last year. It made sweeping changes to the nature and functioning of liquor trade in the city. The government exited the customer-end of the trade entirely, shutting all government-run liquor vendors, and sale of liquor since then has been handed over exclusively to private players. Before the policy was implemented, there were 849 liquor shops in the city.

The BJP had staged protests and started campaigns against the government, claiming that the new policy facilitated the opening of many more new liquor shops in the city, and that it wanted to promote alcoholism. On the ground, however, the number of active shops never went past around 650, well below the number that was open before the policy came into effect.

The reasons, experts say, are

many. Several shops opened in non-conforming areas such as near schools or places of worship and faced protests from residents. They were eventually forced to shut down. In some cases, new shops opened in an area where there was no demand. The third reason was that despite the policy stating that vendors would be free to offer discounts as they liked, the government clamped down on offers, especially 'buy one-get one' schemes that vendors started after the matter went to court.

"All this resulted in a situation where the amount spent by the vendor in getting the licence was higher than the sale, with no foreseeable improvement in coming months. As a result, many players completely exited the business, leaving several zones unserved. This also meant that sales from these areas dropped and there was a general pessimism in the market, which is persisting," a senior government official said.

Another government official said: "Delhi is a finance surplus state. The liquor policy was expected to make that position more secure. However, we are in a situation where we can't even keep liquor vendors open. This is worrying."

Meanwhile, the L-G office said it has received complaints from a group of lawyers alleging cartelisation in liquor trade and of the alleged involvement of black-listed firms in retail. L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena has directed Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar to look into complaints and submit a report within two weeks. The L-G has asked the CS to submit the report to CM Arvind Kejriwal too.

The Delhi government spokesperson, when reached for a comment, said, "We welcome any enquiry or investigation. We know there's no truth to the claims. Delhi government will continue working for the welfare of the public unhindered."

India, Pak, Bangladesh can reunite, says Khattar



He was speaking at an event in Gurgaon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 GURGAON, JULY 25

HARYANA CHIEF Minister Manohar Lal Khattar Monday said that India, Pakistan and Bangladesh could unite just like Germany's reunification.

Describing the Partition during the independence of the country as "painful", the CM said, "The Partition should not have happened... *Lekin Congress ke kuch logon ko satta lena ki shayad jaldi thi... agar thoda sa chhod dete satta ko, toh aisa ho sakta hai ki 5, 10, 20 saal baad... Partition nahi hua hoga* (Some people in Congress maybe wanted to grab power quickly. If they had let go of some power, then it could have been possible that 5, 10 or 20 years later Partition would not have happened). We want that we have good relations with our neighbours... *East Germany aur West Germany ikathe ho sakte hain... toh Bharat, Pakistan, Bangladesh nahi ikathe ho sakte* (East Germany and West Germany can unite, then can't India, Pakistan and Bangladesh unite?)"

Khattar was speaking after inaugurating a three-day national training camp of the BJP's Minority Morcha at BJP's office in Gurgaon on Monday afternoon.

Taking a jibe at the Congress, the Haryana CM said that the only target of the Congress has been how to rule the country and how to use minorities as a vote bank. He said that the goal of the Bharatiya Janata Party on the other hand has been "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas."

Referring to the neighbouring countries, the CM said that in our country, a woman from the most backward section has become the President in a democratic manner, and that this was possible only in India.

"While President Droupadi Murmu is taking oath here... at the same time there is chaos in Bangladesh and Pakistan... *kisi desh ka rashtropati bhag raha hai* (The President of a country is running away)... there is no peace there. We want peace and tranquility," he said.



KARGIL Vijay Diwas

26th July

In Memoriam: Kargil War martyrs from Uttarakhand

India observes Kargil Vijay Diwas on July 26 every year in honour of the victorious Operation Vijay and its martyrs. On this day in 1999, India effectively regained control of the high outposts that Pakistan had captured. More than 60 days were spent fighting in the Kargil war. On July 26, it came to a conclusion, with lives lost on both sides. India won the war and regained control of every piece of the territory it had previously possessed, restoring the pre-war situation. Close to 75 soldiers of Uttarakhand sacrificed their lives in the Kargil War and 30 such soldiers were awarded gallantry medals for their indomitable courage. The Kumaon and Garhwal regiments of the state had a significant role in the Kargil war to vanquish the enemy. Unfortunately, 54 soldiers of the Garhwal Regiment were martyred and almost every regiment consisted of brave soldiers from Uttarakhand. Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated every year in the Kargil-Chus sector and the national capital New Delhi, where the Prime Minister of India pays homage to the soldiers at the Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate. Events are also organised all over the country to commemorate the contributions of the Indian Armed Forces. Uttarakhand can never forget the Kargil War as there were no districts in the state that had not lost their valiant sons. Today, the entire state is bowing down to its brave sons. **Mahavir Chakra winners:** Major Vivek Gupta and Major Rakshak Adhikari. **Vir Chakra winners:** Vajirbhai Singh, Anandya Prasad, S.K. Sinha, Sudhiman Gurung, Sashinshah Ghiloi, Rajesh Pradhan and Rajesh Shrivastava. **Army medal:** Mohan Singh, T.B. Kishor, Harbhaur, Nagpal Singh, Bhatnagar Prasad, Jagat Singh, Surman Singh, Double Singh, Chardin Singh, Mohan Singh, Kohan Singh, Shiv Singh, Surendra Singh and Ganay. **Men in Dispatch:** Ram Singh, Harsingh Thapa, Bhandra Singh, Vikram Singh, Man Singh, Mangal Singh, Balwant Singh, Anil Dobral, Praveen Kishore, Arjun Son and Anil Kumar.

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PRESIDENT MURMU SIGNS IN

It is satisfying to me that the people who were devoid of development for years – the poor, Dalits, backward and the tribals – can find representation through me.”

PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU, IN HER SPEECH AFTER TAKING OATH OF OFFICE



UNI



Praveen Khanna

Clockwise from top: Chief Justice of India Justice N V Ramana administers oath of office to President Droupadi Murmu during her swearing-in ceremony at Central Hall of Parliament on Monday; External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with NSA Ajit Doval and others at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan after the oath ceremony; outgoing President Ram Nath Kovind takes the guard of honour; Kovind's convoy heads to Parliament; Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets Murmu and Kovind. Renuka Puri

Opp sticks to demand for discussion on price rise, disrupts RS

ESHAROY
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

RAJYA SABHA on Monday could function only for 127 minutes amid protests by the Opposition for not being allowed to discuss the price rise issue. Amid sloganeering, the Rajya Sabha was adjourned thrice – first time by Vice-Chairman Harivansh, and then twice by Dr Sasmit Patra who was in the Chair.

The debate on the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill, 2022, was continually interrupted in the Upper House.

When NCP MP Dr Fauzia Khan, who was calling the attention of the Health Minister to the rising cases of post-Covid complications, an issue that was slated for debate, rose to speak, she said the price rise should be discussed first. “All the notices (Rule 267) are on the price rise issue. Since the Chairman has not admitted this, we will not be discussing it,” said Harivansh.

Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge (Congress) said they had been demanding a debate on the price rise for six days. “This is why we have given notices under Rule 267. This is a big issue for the public. Why the government doesn't want to discuss this?” he said.

Derek O'Brien of the Trinamool Congress said since 2017, the government has not admitted notices under Rule 267 even once.

Leader of the House Piyush Goyal said that the disruptions by the Opposition were disappointing. “There are many important steps that the government has taken as a result of which there is less price rise in the country than in other nations. The government wants a discussion, it is the Opposition that is running away from it,” Goyal said.

On continuous disruptions in the House and notices under Rule 267, Union minister Bhupendra Yadav said: “The matter of Rule 267 has been raised – there has been commotion around this since morning. Now, point of order is being raised under Rule 259. You should accept that under Rule 258, the Chairman's ruling is final. If members create disorder in the House – then it should be published in the bul-



Opposition members protest in the Rajya Sabha on Monday. P77

letin that they did not obey the ruling of the House. Under Hamid Ansari, this used to be done, so that the country knows that those who are demanding point of order are the ones who don't follow it. This should be revived.”

During the debate on the Weapons of Mass Destruction Amendment Bill, which is aimed at freezing finances and assets that are used for financing the WMD, BJP member Ajay Pratap Singh said that victims of terror attacks in India and elsewhere have just one crime – that “they belong to a different belief system”. Singh also said that during a national crisis under the Congress rule, then opposition leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee had agreed to rise above politics and support the government on national security. “Vajpayeeji did not think of political gains on matters of national security,” said Singh.

Objecting to Singh, AAP's Raghav Chadha raised a point of order under Rule 110, on the scope of debate, pointing out that Singh had not been discussing the merits of the Bill at all.

Many BJP members hit out at the Opposition for not letting the debate to happen. “I think, the members of the Opposition must understand the significance of this legislation. This is a very important legislation to control financing to weapons of mass destruction and terror activities. This discussion was supposed to have happened last Thursday. This was only delayed to allow the Opposition members to participate in the debate. But the manner in which the Opposition is behaving is extremely disturbing,” said GVL Narasimha Rao of the BJP.

5 QUESTIONS

‘Govt afraid to discuss real issues, they want to scare Opp’



CONGRESS MP
MANICKAM
TAGORE SPEAKS
TO MANOJ CG

Four Congress MPs, including you, were suspended for the remainder of the House session. What is your reaction to this?

We have been demanding a discussion for the last six days. We had been giving adjournment notices every day demanding discussion on the increase in fuel prices and hike in GST rates. Today (Monday) is the sixth day. And today also the Government did not concede to our demand. We just want a discussion on the hardships faced by the people. The government is afraid to discuss such real issues. They want to scare the Opposition by suspending us. We are not afraid.

When the House met at 2 PM, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said the Government was ready for discussion. Have they given a date and time for the discussion? They are not fixing the time and date. They are merely saying we are ready for a discussion. They are saying a discussion can be held once Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recovers from Covid. A discussion on fuel price

hike does not require the presence of the Finance Minister.

What is the alternative?
A discussion has to be held. There are precedents. If you remember, it was Defence Minister Rajnath Singh who replied to a discussion on the farm laws. And it was the late Arun Jaitley who replied to a discussion on the Rafale fighter jet issue. He was the Finance Minister then and Sitharaman was the Defence Minister.

Before announcing the suspension, the Speaker warned you repeatedly not to show placards
Most of the journalists are not allowed to cover Parliament, citing Covid protocols. Even the third wave has ebbed. But Covid protocols are still in place in Parliament. Secondly, Sansad TV does not show Opposition protests. They don't show why we are protesting. The cameras don't turn to the Opposition benches. We want to tell the public that we are protesting and raising their issues. So we are constrained to show the placards. Because the world does not know why we are protesting. They don't give a chance for our leader to speak in the House.

What is your next plan?
We are fighting for the issues of the people. We followed all Parliamentary norms... The party will take a call on the future strategy.

Opp alleges protocol violation in seat for Kharge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

THE OPPOSITION on Monday alleged that the government deliberately disrespected Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge by making him sit on a seat “not commensurate with the position he holds” during the oath-taking ceremony of President Droupadi Murmu in the Central Hall of Parliament.

The government, however, denied the charge and accused the Opposition of misleading the people by levelling such “baseless” allegations. Opposition leaders said Kharge was seated on the extreme left of the front row.

Opposition members in Rajya Sabha wrote to Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu, expressing “shock” at what they called “deliberate disrespect shown” to Kharge. A similar letter was sent to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla by Congress leader in the House Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

“Today, at the swearing-in ceremony of the President, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge was made to sit on a seat not commensurate with the position he holds. We are writing to express our shock and



Congress president Sonia Gandhi with Mallikarjun Kharge in the Central Hall of Parliament on Monday. P77

protest at this deliberate disrespect shown to a very senior leader, violating the warrant of precedence and not in accordance with pro-

col courtesies due to him,” the letter said. Among signatories of the letter sent to the Rajya Sabha Chairman were members of the Congress, Shiv Sena, NCP, CPM, CPI and TMC. The one sent by Chowdhury were signed by several Congress Lok Sabha MPs.

Reacting to the charge, Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha Piyush Goyal accused the Opposition of trying to mislead the people by levelling baseless allegations. “I want to tell the House that two days ago (on Saturday)... there was a function organised by Parliament. In that function, the Leader of the Opposition was given a seat next to the Prime Minister in the Central Hall of Parliament. Prime Minister, Leader of the House and Leader of the Opposition... all three were given seats next to each other,” Goyal said in the Rajya Sabha.

“But the Leader of Opposition did not attend the programme... it was the farewell of a Constitutional authority. The Chairman and the Speaker had sent out the invitation, but the seat given to the Leader of the Opposition was empty,” he said.

“In today's programme, the seating arrangement was made according to the Home Ministry's order of precedence... warrant of protocol. In that (the table of precedence), the Leader of the Opposition is ranked

seventh... If we go by that order... the Leader of the Opposition should have been seated on the third row... when we saw the Leader of the Opposition on the first row, we felt happy... that instead of the third row in the order of precedence... he has been given a seat in the first row... But when he raised objection... that he was seated in a corner... the staff requested him to shift to a middle seat. It happened before my eyes... he was requested to move to a middle seat but he refused,” he said.

According to the table of precedence, cabinet ministers, chief ministers within their respective states, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, former Prime Ministers and leaders of opposition in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha are ranked seventh. Chief ministers outside their states are ranked eighth in order. Attacking the Opposition for raising such an issue, Goyal said this shows the mindset... “they don't have any issue... and they don't want to let the House function”.

Union Minister Prahlad Joshi said there was no violation of protocol in the oath-taking ceremony. “In order of precedence, leader of opposition is equivalent to a cabinet minister. Strictly going by that, his seat comes in the third row. But to respect seniority of Kharge ji, he was provided seat in the first row itself,” Joshi said.

Yet to get inputs on NCF from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Bengal and Telangana: Govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

THE CENTRE has not yet received inputs from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Telangana in revising the National Curriculum Framework (NCF), which will be the foundation of future NCERT textbooks, the Ministry of Education informed Lok Sabha on Monday.

“NCERT has initiated the processes of development of National Curriculum Frameworks using a bottom-up approach where in states and UTs are also involved in providing their inputs drawing from grassroots levels. Till now, except Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Telangana, all states and UTs have come forward to provide their inputs,” the



The response is to a question raised by Cong MP Kodikunnil Suresh. File

Accordingly, most states and UTs have forwarded their inputs to the Ministry of Education. The changes suggested by BJP-led

ministry said in a written response to a question from Congress MP Kodikunnil Suresh. The NCF is being revised for the fifth time since Independence. Apart from 25 expert groups at the national level, panels were also formed at the level of the states and UTs to prepare to recommend the required changes in various subjects.

Karnataka have drawn charges of “saffronisation” from Opposition parties and civil society groups.

There were allegations that lessons on Bhagat Singh have been dropped from class 10 Kannada textbooks, which also found mention in Suresh's Lok Sabha question.

“The Karnataka state government has informed that they have revised the 6th to 10th Social Science and 1 to 10th Kannada Language textbooks for the year 2022-23. While revising the textbooks, the chapter or concept related to freedom fighter Bhagat Singh has not been expunged from any class textbooks. At present, Karnataka state government curriculum textbooks have the concepts about Bhagat Singh in 7th and 10th classes,” the ministry responded.

MoS Choubey in LS: Committee set up to look into translocation of Asiatic Lions

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

MINISTER OF State for Environment Ashwini Choubey on Monday told Lok Sabha that the government has set up a committee to look into translocation of Asiatic Lions.

Responding to a question from Maharashtra BJP MP Sanjay Ramchandra Patil, Choubey in his written reply said, “A committee was constituted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change with a view to assess the suitability of habitat for lions in potential sites in Gujarat and make recommendations regarding facilitation of natural dispersal of lions and the modalities for establishment of lion population in newly identified sites in the state of Gujarat.”



Ashwini Choubey

The government had in previous years been considering the translocation of Asiatic Lions to other states, a proposal that never materialised. Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh had been identified by the Centre as one of the protected areas that could house the Asiatic Lion and had therefore been prepared to receive them. With preparations already complete, and no translocation of the lions in sight, the park will now receive India's first lot of cheetahs from Africa next month.

Patil asked the Environment Ministry whether there were any plans to translocate

the Asiatic Lions, whether the government was taking steps to support the translocation, and whether there has been a delay in the conservation efforts.

“The committee has recommended a participatory management approach for expanding lion population, greater involvement of communities and awareness and sensitization programmes, especially in newly occupied territories,” said Choubey.

The ministry is providing financial assistance to the state of Gujarat for lion conservation activities, including habitat improvement, water management, grassland development and prey augmentation.

“These activities will also facilitate the natural dispersal of lions beyond the Gir landscape,” said Choubey.



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



THE TITLE DEBATE

WITH DROUPADI Murmu being sworn in as the new President, an old debate on what should be the term to address the President is back. When Pratibha Patil became the first woman President, there was an intense discussion on the term with women activists alleging that the word "Rashtrapati" was gender-biased and patriarchal. When there was a suggestion that a woman President could be addressed as "Rashtrapatini", experts had outright rejected it. Incidentally, how to address a President was a point of discussion even in the Constituent Assembly. Member KT Shah had suggested that a woman President could be called "Neta" and one suggestion was "Karnadhar (captain)" but Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru rejected them all and finalised on "Rashtrapati". During the freedom movement, Congress presidents were addressed as "rashtrapati".

POINTS OF ORDER

THE RAJYA Sabha witnessed a record 14 points of order raised during the one-and-a-half hour debate on the Weapons of Mass Destruction Bill on Monday. As members of the ruling BJP made accusations against Opposition members for "misleading the nation" and "disrupting" House proceedings, the Opposition members called for points of order under Rules 110, 238, 239 and 259. AAP's Raghav Chadha, TMC's Derek O'Brien and Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, RJD's Manoj Jha, CPM's John Brittas, and Congress's Pramod Tiwari raised the points of order against ruling party speakers. Sasmith Patra, who was in the Chair, assured members that the remarks will be examined, and if found unparliamentary, will be expunged from the records. O'Brien even raised a point of order against Leader of the House Piyush Goyal, saying he had spoken out of turn, standing in the third row instead of being seated in the first row, where he was meant to be, thus being in violation of the Rules of the House.

PROTEST MODE

THE CONGRESS wanted to stage a "satyagraha" at Rajghat on Tuesday to protest against the ED summoning of party chief Sonia Gandhi but the party did not get permission from the authorities. The suspension of four Lok Sabha MPs also came unexpected. The party has now decided that its MPs will stage a protest in Parliament premises, hoping that other Opposition parties will also join in since many of them are facing the ED heat. Senior leaders and office-bearers will stage a "satyagraha" at the AICC headquarters itself instead of taking out a march, which earlier resulted in police detention.

K-Rail: Didn't approve SIA, Railway Board tells HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JULY 25

THE RAILWAY board on Monday, in an affidavit, told the High Court that it has neither approved nor concurred with the social impact assessment (SIA) and survey was being held by the Kerala government. Under the Act, when a state government is conducting a SIA, the Centre has no role in it. However, if the K-Rail Corporation, being a company, is involved in the SIA and spending its funds for the purpose, such expenditure will be at its own risk and responsibility. "It is reiterated that, so far, no approval has been granted by the Railway Board for the project and, therefore, any action for acquisition of land taken by any authority is premature," said the affidavit.

PAYS TRIBUTE TO LATE SP LEADER HARMOHAN SINGH YADAV

PM takes dig at Opposition, says obstructing govt work

'Opposing a party or an individual should not turn into opposition to the country'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JULY 25

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Monday targeted the Opposition, especially the Congress, for opposing the decisions taken by his government, saying that some Opposition parties were putting obstacles in the work of his government because when they were in power, they could not implement their decisions.



PM Narendra Modi

Addressing the 10th death anniversary of late Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Harmohan Singh Yadav virtually, the PM said the interests of the country and society are always bigger than ideologies. "In recent times, there has been a trend to put ideological or political interests above the interest of the society and the country. Many times, Opposition parties put obstacles in the work of the government because when they were in power, they could not implement the deci-

sions taken by themselves," Modi said, adding that people do not like such behaviour. "It is the responsibility of every political party that opposing a party or an individual should not turn into opposition to the country. Ideologies and political ambition have their place, and they should have. But, country, society and nation come first," the PM said as he cited the 1971 war, the nuclear test and the fight against Emergency. Recalling the words of former

prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Modi said: "Vyakti se bada dal, dal de bada desh kyuki dalon ka astitva loktantra ki vajah se hai aur loktantra ka astitva desh ki vajah se (Parties exist because of democracy and democracy exists because of the country). Most of the parties in our country, especially all the non-Congress parties have also followed this idea and the ideal of cooperation and coordination for the country," PM said as he targeted the Congress.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister paid tributes to Harmohan Singh Yadav, a towering figure and leader of the Yadav community. Yadav, who was a Shaurya Chakra awardee, later joined politics and served as a Member of Parliament, Legislative Council as well as Assembly. Modi also invoked Dr Ram Manohar Lohia's concept of cultural strength and said that in the original Indian thought, society was not an issue of contention or debate and was seen as a frame-

work of cohesion and collectivity. He said that Dr Lohia worked to strengthen the cultural strength of the country by organising Ramayana fairs and caring for the Ganga river.

With Droupadi Murmu taking oath as the country's President on Monday, the PM said that for the first time after Independence, a woman from the tribal community has assumed the highest office of the country and called it a "big day for India's democracy".

"For serving the society, it is necessary that we accept the spirit of social justice, and adopt it. Today, when the country is celebrating 75 years of Independence, it is very important to understand this and move in this direction," he added.

Senior BJP leaders, including UP Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana and former deputy chief minister Dinesh Sharma, attended the death anniversary event of Yadav in Kanpur.

CLAIM OVER SHIV SENA SYMBOL

Uddhav faction moves top court, seeks stay on proceedings before EC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

THE UDDHAV Thackeray faction in the Shiv Sena has approached the Supreme Court, challenging the Election Commission proceedings over the claims for the party's election symbol 'bow and arrow' by the Chief Minister Eknath Shinde group.

The application was filed in an already pending petition filed by the party general secretary Subhash Desai, challenging the June 30 invitation by the Maharashtra Governor to Shinde to form the government.

Desai pointed out that when the petition was taken up by the SC on July 11, the bench had orally directed the Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly not to proceed further on the disqualification petitions pending before him and to keep the same in abeyance. Thereafter on July 20, the counsel appearing for Speaker had assured the court that no further proceedings will be conducted in the matter of disqualification under the Tenth Schedule.

The matter was fixed for final hearing in the first week of August.

However, in the meantime, the Election Commission of India "purportedly...initiated proceedings" under Para 15 of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, "interalia seeking to be recognised as the 'real Shiv Sena' by the EC, and are claiming the right to use the election symbol 'bow and arrow'."

Desai further said he had urged the EC not to proceed with the matter or take any precipitative action "as substantially similar matters are pending" before the SC. The plea pointed out that the SC's oral observation to maintain status quo was also brought to the notice of the Commission.

He pointed out that since the very status of the persons who had moved the EC as MLAs "is currently indeterminate and said the issue is itself pending before" the SC, "these persons cannot be considered as MLAs of Shiv Sena and their claim or affidavits in this regard cannot be relied upon, and therefore," the Commission "should not proceed with the matter at this stage".

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KARGIL VIJAY DIWAS

26 JULY, 2022



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BATTLE OF TOLONING

Indian Army launched its attack on Tololing in the last week of May 1999. Point 4590 was captured on 06 June 1999. Tololing was captured by gallant troops by 12 June 1999.



BATTLE OF TIGER HILL

Tiger Hill was one of the highest peaks in the Dras - Kargil Sector. Eviction of Pakistani troops from this feature was one of the most important objectives for the Indian Army during the Kargil operation and the peak was captured on 04 July 1999.



BATTLE OF KHALUBAR

Khalubar Ridge due to its location, dominates all approaches towards the Line of Control. Our Artillery destroyed enemy sangars, disrupted communication & supply lines. Some of the most heroic deeds of valour were witnessed in this sector.



BATTLE OF POINT 4875

Point 4875 located in Mushkoh Valley dominated National Highway from Dras to Matayan. The troops of Indian Army fought valiantly to recapture this strategically important peak.



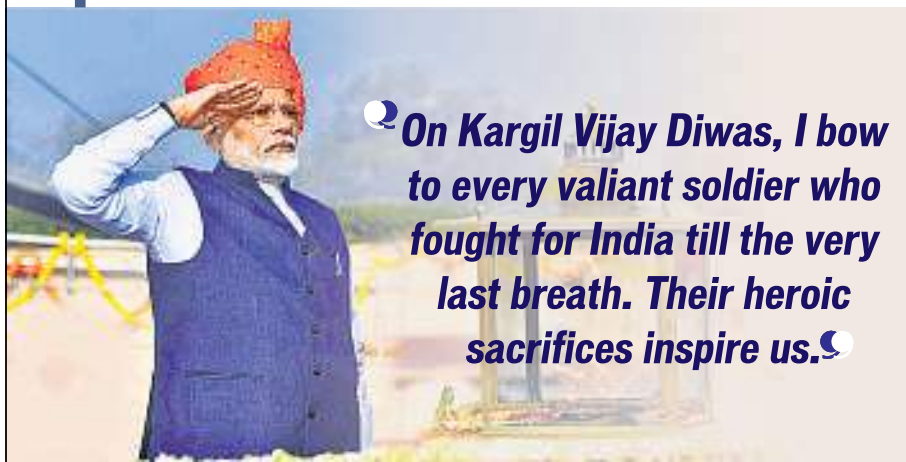
OPERATIONS IN BATALIK

The first success of Operation Vijay was achieved in this Sector in the area of Rockfall on 09 June 1999. The subsequent attacks were launched on Point 4875, Garhi, Point 5000 and Jubar Complex. The Batalik Sector was cleared of the enemy by 07 July 1999.



OPERATIONS IN KAKSAR

This was the area where the first Indian patrol while moving to re-occupy the winter vacated posts, got ambushed. This Sector saw bitter fighting and Indian Army launched multiple attacks to dislodge the Pakistanis.



On Kargil Vijay Diwas, I bow to every valiant soldier who fought for India till the very last breath. Their heroic sacrifices inspire us.



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JAMMU & KASHMIR
BSF SI shoots himself dead, say officials

Jammu: A BSF sub-inspector allegedly shot himself dead at a post along the India-Pakistan international border on Monday, officials said. Ramdev Singh was found lying in a pool of blood and his personal assault weapon was found by his side when a junior rank soldier reached his room at 6.35 am. He belonged to the 12th battalion and was commanding a platoon of the BSF. He is suspected to have shot himself dead from his service weapon, officials said. Singh hailed from Rajasthan's Sikar district. **PTI**

KARNATAKA
'Extremely radicalised' youth arrested

Bengaluru: An "extremely radicalised" youth from Assam has been arrested here by the Central Crime Branch of Bengaluru and police say a probe is on to find out if he has links with any terror outfit. Akhtar Hussain Lashkar, who was working as a food delivery executive, was picked up on Sunday night from a rented flat. Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said the police have also detained his "accomplices". **PTI**

RAJASTHAN
'Contaminated' water: 3 dead, 12 hospitalised

Kota: Three inmates of a shelter home for destitute died and 12 others fell ill here possibly after drinking contaminated water, an official said on Monday. The condition of the inmates at Apna Ghar deteriorated Sunday night after which they were rushed to a hospital. The dead included two women. Prima facie, food poisoning caused by drinking water from a borewell in the shelter home is the reason for it, said Kota Collector O P Bunker. **PTI**

NEW DELHI
Flag foundation chief hails new flag code

New Delhi: Former Congress MP Naveen Jindal has hailed the Central government for changing the country's flag code to allow Tricolour's hoisting day and night, saying it is a "very progressive decision" that will definitely encourage more people to display the flag with dignity and pride. Jindal, who is the president of Flag Foundation of India, had given a representation to the government in this regard in 2009. Earlier, the Tricolour was allowed to be flown from sunrise to sunset. Jindal said the move will boost the government's 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. **ENS**

WEST BENGAL SCHOOL JOBS SCAM: MINISTER IN ED NET**'No hospitalisation needed': AIIMS Bhubaneswar to discharge Partha**

ED granted custody of TMC leader, his aide Arpita till August 3

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JULY 25

THE ALL India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar, on Monday said that West Bengal minister Partha Chatterjee, who was arrested in connection with the school teachers' recruitment scam case, did not require hospitalisation as he did not have any serious illness and will be discharged later in the day.

The hospital authorities said they had sent Chatterjee's medical reports to the Calcutta HC which on Sunday had ordered to shift the minister to the central tertiary healthcare centre in Odisha after the ED objected to the TMC leader being admitted to the West Bengal government-run SSKM Hospital in Kolkata.

Dr Ashutosh Biswas, executive director of AIIMS, Bhubaneswar, said, "Chatterjee has some chronic problems but he does not have any serious illness to be admitted to hospital. We have examined him. He will be discharged today as he doesn't require hospitalisation at this time."

Chatterjee was flown from Kolkata to Bhubaneswar in an air ambulance on Monday morning. He was taken to the airport from the SSKM in 25 minutes after a green corridor was created.

The Calcutta HC had also instructed the AIIMS to send Partha's report by 3 pm on Monday. The AIIMS submitted the report within the specified time, it is learnt, Dr Ashutosh Biswas said.

"Partha Chatterjee has four-



Partha Chatterjee was flown to Odisha on Monday.

five types of ailments for which he has been taking medication for a long time," Dr Biswas said. The medical board in the AIIMS report said, "After a detailed evaluation, the committee is of the opinion that Mr Partha Chatterjee has been suffering from multiple chronic illnesses for a long time. Whatever problems he is having currently are attributed to the chronic illnesses and no active medical intervention is required right now. However, he is advised to continue treatment for these ailments as well as periodic evaluation."

According to the report, Chatterjee complained of mild breathlessness on exertion for many years for which he requires frequent oxygen support, nebulisation in night. Partha also has "on-and-off bilateral pedal oedema" for which he is taking intermittent diuretic and is having regular follow-ups with a nephrologist for renal dysfunction, the report says. He has been complaining of dizziness for the last few days which is not associated with headache, palpitation, gait disturbance and vomiting, the report read.



West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee presents the Banga Bibhushan Award to Nirmala Banerjee, mother of Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee, at an event in Kolkata on Monday. Partha Paul

Punish one if found guilty, I don't even spare my minister: Mamata

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JULY 25

BREAKING HER silence on the arrest of Partha Chatterjee, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said only those found guilty of wrongdoing should be punished.

Addressing the gathering during the state government's Banga Bhushan award ceremony in Kolkata, she said, "I will not get into the details of the case as it is sub-judice. We have full faith in the judiciary. We want a time-bound probe into the matter. If someone is found guilty, the person should be punished accordingly, be it life imprisonment. I won't mind. But I condemn the malicious cam-

paign against me," she said. Distancing herself from the scam, Banerjee said, "Throughout my life, I have been against corruption but I do not support injustice. However, I am unhappy with the recent developments. I do not spare anyone, even if that person is a minister, MP or MLA... If one makes a mistake, they better apologise and rectify it... The CPI(M) and BJP are dragging my name into the case but I will not let them succeed." Reiterating her party's demand for a time-bound probe, the TMC chief said, "We want a fast-track court to hear the matter, otherwise it will be like the Saradha case, which is pending for over 10 years and there is no verdict or justice." "The crime was done by the

CPI(M), but the TMC was targeted... The ongoing media trial at the behest of the BJP is reprehensible... The BJP is doing this to change people's perception. Scared of the July 21 Martyrs' Day rally, they (BJP) sent ED officials the very next day to carry out raids. The BJP and CPI(M) leaders should remember that they also have skeletons in their cupboards," she said, taking potshots at the Centre. If the School Service Commission (SSC) case pertains to some years back, then why was it not reported then, she asked. The TMC has no links with the person from whose place the money was recovered," she said, adding, "If I visit Durga Puja pandals and interact with people, does it mean I know them personally?"

PRIVACY POLICY: HC RESERVES ORDER**'It's not that they have stopped': CCI on WhatsApp sending pop-up reminders**

SOFI AHSAN
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

STATING THAT WhatsApp hasn't stopped implementation of its 2021 privacy policy, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Monday said that its probe into the policy was purely through the prism of the Competition Act and it should be allowed to continue with the same.

Following the completion of arguments, the division bench of Delhi High Court Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad reserved its decision on the appeals of Meta and WhatsApp against CCI probe into WhatsApp's privacy policy update of 2021.

The CCI had last year come to a prima facie conclusion that the conduct of WhatsApp in "sharing of users' personalised data with other Facebook companies, in a manner that is neither fully transparent nor based on voluntary and specific user consent" appears unfair to the users.

Additional Solicitor General N Venkataraman, representing the CCI, Monday submitted that the challenge pending before the Supreme Court against the privacy policy will not affect its probe as the writ petitions there have nothing to do with the question of abuse of dominance by the Meta-owned company. He further said that by the time the apex court comes to a decision, WhatsApp would have already shared data as there is no stay in the matter.

Venkataraman submitted before the court that even now WhatsApp sends pop-up re-

mindings regarding the privacy policy to users who haven't accepted its updated terms and conditions. "It is not that they have stopped. What about people who have (already) opted in. We have voluntarily pressed the button sometime without realising," the ASG argued.

He added, "There is no stay on policy nor have they withdrawn the same" and even if the Supreme Court were to set aside the privacy policy in future, WhatsApp would have to be examined for the "non-withdrawn" period.

WhatsApp on July 9 last year had told the court that it will not be limiting the functionality of its messaging app in case a user does not consent to its latest privacy policy and will maintain the approach at least till the data protection Bill comes into effect.

The CCI told the division bench that the single-judge bench dismissed the cases of Meta and WhatsApp in April 2021 but the case hasn't moved forward due to the pendency of the appeals. Submitting that it has lost much time, the CCI asked the court to evolve law to see that the statutory body is compensated for the delay. The Supreme Court has come down heavily against those using judicial process to stall investigation, Venkataraman submitted.

Meta Platforms, owner of Facebook and WhatsApp, last week had argued that the CCI's ongoing probe against it with regard to the messaging app's privacy policy was "no innocuous investigation". The tech giant had termed the competition regulator's actions as intrusion in its business and said there was no proof it was abusing its market dominance.

WORLD LEADERS CONGRATULATE PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU**Ready to work with Murmu: Xi**

Beijing: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday congratulated his Indian counterpart Droupadi Murmu on assuming office, saying he stands ready to work with her to enhance political mutual trust, properly handle differences and push bilateral ties forward on the right track.

In his first communication to Indian leadership since April 2021, Xi pointed out that China and India are important neighbours, and a healthy and stable China-India relationship is in line with the fundamental interests of the two countries and their people.

In his congratulatory message, Xi said he attaches great importance to China-India relations, and stands ready to work with Murmu, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. **PTI**

I hope your activities as the head of state will promote the development of the Russian-Indian political dialogue and productive cooperation for the benefit of our friendly nations and in interests of stronger international stability and security."



VLADIMIR PUTIN
RUSSIAN PRESIDENT

**PRESIDENT'S FAMILY**

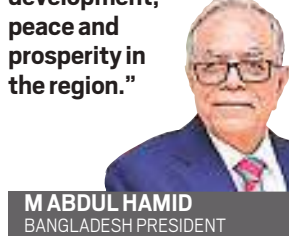
Itishri Murmu, daughter of President Droupadi Murmu, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, Monday. Prem Nath Pandey

Your appointment to this chief responsibility in one of the largest democracies is testimony to the trust and confidence the government and the people have placed in your caliber and political acumen."



RANIL WICKREMESINGHE
SRI LANKAN PRESIDENT

I also look forward to working with you not only to advance mutual interests between our countries but also to step up efforts in the cause of development, peace and prosperity in the region."



M ABDUL HAMID
BANGLADESH PRESIDENT

In Odisha, students get an icon, villagers hope for a turnaround

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, JULY 25

THE STREETS of Rairangpur in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha were deserted for some time as people were glued to TV sets and big screens set up in the town to witness Droupadi Murmu's oath-taking ceremony as the 15th President of India. This preceded and followed by widespread festivities and prayers as people exchanged sweets and danced.

About 20 km away at Pahadpur village where a Trust set up by Murmu runs a residential school — Shyamcharan-Lakshman-Sippun (SLS) School — students and teachers, too, were all-eyes-and-ears as she delivered the maiden speech being the constitutional head of the country.

The SLS School in Kusumi block of Mayurbhanj district, which was established in 2016, remains one of the most sought-after educational institutions for the poor tribal as well non-tribal families. Murmu often visits the school as the project is close to her heart because it has been named after her deceased husband and two sons. Her daughter Itishree Murmu looks after the operations of the school through the Trust.

Hemanand Giri, one of the teachers, said, "This school is a reflection of what our President said in her speech. She started this school to help the children of the poor. Most of the students here come from poor backgrounds, but



Celebrations erupt at Uparbeda village, Droupadi Murmu's birthplace, in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha, Monday. Express

they belong to all communities." Pahadpur is Murmu's in-laws' village, which is around 13 km from her birthplace, Uparbeda village, also in the same block. Satish Chandra Pratihaari, SLS School manager, said since the day of the announcement of her candidature for the top post, the environment here has been festive.

"The students are elated. They want to be like her — down to earth, simple, and caring. Murmu used to sow paddy in her fields and would also get engaged in the harvesting. She is rooted to the culture," he said.

Murmu also owns some acres in Pahadpur and grows paddy. Pratihaari said before her name was announced for the Presidential polls, Murmu was in the village to oversee the harvesting of around 60 quintals of paddy,

which was sold to a primary agriculture cooperative society (PACS). "However, there was a little glitch... she had undergone a cataract surgery and her biometric details had changed and she had to make her Aadhaar card again to complete the process for sale of the produce. Imagine a person going to Raisina Hills such things," he said.

Uparbeda panchayat mukhiya Jamuna Hembrem said the whole village is anxiously waiting for Murmu's visit. Another resident, Manohar Behra, who is a lecturer at a college in Mayurbhanj, said people's expectations have grown since Murmu's elevation. "Now that she is our President, our problems will be solved. We have high hopes, and trust her. The electricity has reached the village and nearly 20 households are awaiting a connection."

Four prime accused in Una flogging case get bail

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, JULY 25

THE GUJARAT High Court on Monday granted regular bail to four key accused among 41 accused in the 2016 Una flogging case where Dalit men were attacked by purported cow vigilantes in Gir Somnath district. This is the first time in six years that the accused have been granted bail by a court of law.

The court, however, imposed restrictions on the four accused — Ramesh Jadav, Pramodgiri Goswami, Balwantgiri Goswami and Rakesh Joshi — from entering Gir Somnath district except to attend the court, "till the deposition of the first informant and the victims are over". The court also ordered for the addition of the secretary of legal department of Gujarat as a party to the litigation and issued notice, returnable by August 5, directing that the department "shall make appropriate arrangement for conclusion of the trial" and "shall assure co-operation by special public prosecutor".

The direction came following submission by lawyers of the accused that at least on 13 occasions, the trial court adjourned the trial owing to the absence of the special public prosecutor and that the additional district and sessions judge of Veraval, where the trial is being conducted, had to issue notice to the special public prosecutor to remain present.

The court of Justice Nikhil Kariel further directed the HC registry to call for details from the trial court on witnesses yet to be examined and sought that the sessions court "shall suggest an appropriate timeline for completion of the trial... the trial being adjourned only on a weekly basis".

The court also directed the four accused to "furnish the address of residence outside Gir Somnath... to the IO (investigating officer) and also to the trial court at the time of execution of the bond". It also directed the accused to not change the residence without prior intimation to the concerned trial court, and to mark their presence twice in a month at the nearest police station.

Fresh Bihar NDA rumblings as Nitish gives central events a miss

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, JULY 25

DAYS AFTER it appeared that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent Bihar visit has patched up the strained ties between the two ruling NDA coalition partners in the state, Chief Minister and Janata Dal (United) supremo Nitish Kumar may have got miffed with his senior ally, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), afresh.

Nitish seems to have registered his displeasure with the BJP by skipping three major back-to-back central meetings or events, including the swear-

ing-in of the new President of India, Droupadi Murmu on Monday.

First, the Bihar CM kept himself away from the July 17 CMCs meeting on matters concerning the national flag, which was convened by Union home minister Amit Shah. On July 22, Nitish also chose not to attend the farewell dinner event hosted by Prime Minister Modi for the outgoing President Ram Nath Kovind.

Sources said Nitish has been reportedly "upset" with Bihar Assembly Speaker Vijay Kumar Sinha's "inept handling" of the concluding function of the Assembly's centenary celebrations, which was attended by PM

Modi on July 12. While the PM and Nitish praised each other on the occasion, the latter was reportedly not pleased with Speaker Sinha, who is from the BJP, for not mentioning his name in the invitation card for the event.

The Bihar BJP seems to be intrigued by Nitish's latest skipping bids, as it believes that PM Modi and Union minister and senior BJP leader Dharmendra Pradhan have already assuaged the CM's perceived bruised sentiments by sending out clear signals that he will continue to lead the NDA in the state.

On Nitish's move not to attend President Murmu's swear-



Nitish Kumar

ing-in in the Central Hall of Parliament, Bihar BJP President Sanjay Jaiswal told The Indian Express, "There is nothing to comment on the matter. It is his (CM's) individual choice."

The BJP's national spokesperson Guru Prakash Paswan echoed Jaiswal's line, saying "I do not think much can be read into the Bihar CM's absence (at the Centre-held functions). It is a matter of personal choice. We would have definitely appreciated his presence there in Delhi today. But it would have little impact on our alliance".

While JD (U) national president Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh refrained from making any comments on Nitish's absence from major central events, the party's spokesperson Neeraj Kumar said, "Our party has been duly represented by our MPs during the President's

oath-taking ceremony."

Another JD(U) leader said that Nitish has his way of doing politics. "At times, even we do not know what he has been up to. But there are signs of displeasure that might crystallise in days to come".

Since Pradhan's visit to Patna late last month, during which he clarified that Nitish would continue to remain the CM until the 2025 Assembly polls, the Bihar BJP, taking cues from the central leadership, has halted its sniping on the JD(U) leadership. In the weeks prior to Pradhan's public statement, the two allies had sparred over a host of issues ranging from the Centre's Agnipath

scheme and the saffron party's population control proposals, to the caste census and law and order issues. Significantly, Nitish also holds the home portfolio.

Gearing up for the 2024 general elections, the central BJP has called a meeting of its different morchas (wings) in Patna during July 30-31, which will see the participation of about 700 delegates. The meeting, to be attended by BJP national president JP Nadda and Amit Shah,

would discuss the party's plans for speeding up its social engineering drive. Nitish may also keep a close tab on its deliberations to recalibrate his party's strategies.

Gujarat: 7 dead after consuming spurious liquor

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, JULY 25

AT LEAST seven people died and over 20 others were hospitalised in various cities of Gujarat after they allegedly consumed spurious liquor in a village in Botad on Monday.

According to police and district administration officials, the incident occurred after several residents of Botad allegedly consumed spurious liquor, also known as "Lattha" in local parlance. The victims, all men, belong to Ahmedabad, Botad, Surendranagar, as per officials.

"Seven were brought dead to the Community Health Centre in Dhandhuka of Ahmedabad district after they allegedly consumed hooch. The victims are from Ahmedabad, Botad, Surendranagar. The bodies have been sent for postmortem. Six others have been shifted to civil hospital in Ahmedabad, their condition is stable," said Dr Shailesh Parmar, chief district health officer of Ahmedabad.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Botad District Collector BA Shah, said, "Till evening, we have received confirmed reports of three deaths from Rojid village while 15 others are admitted in Bhavnagar's Sir T Hospital."

Police and administration officials rushed to Rojid village in

Botad Monday and said the casualty figures are likely to rise. According to officials, the victims consumed spurious liquor Sunday night and their health started deteriorating Monday.

The state government has formed a special investigative team (SIT) to probe the sale of spurious liquor.

Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) DIG Deepan Bhandari said that the Gujarat ATS is also providing assistance in probe.

Termed the incident "unfortunate", Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal who arrived in Porbandar on a two-day visit to the state, said, "Despite prohibition in Gujarat, everyone knows that illegal liquor is available. Who are these people selling illegal liquor? It is obvious that they are receiving political patronage. Where does all this money go and who are the patrons in this, it should be investigated."

Demanding strict action against those involved, Gujarat Congress spokesperson Manish Doshi said, "Everyday, illicit liquor worth crores is being consumed with government patronage... Government is busy issuing circulars on prohibition even as anti-social elements are freely selling liquor. We demand the home department take strict action against those involved and implement the prohibition act strictly."

Speaking to The Indian Express, Botad District Collector BA Shah, said, "Till evening, we have received confirmed reports of three deaths from Rojid village while 15 others are admitted in Bhavnagar's Sir T Hospital."

UP: CM conducts aerial survey of kanwar yatra

AMITSHARMA
MEERUT, JULY 25

CHIEF MINISTER Yogi Adityanath on Monday undertook an aerial survey of the ongoing kanwar yatra in western Uttar Pradesh districts of Baghpat, Meerut, Ghaziabad and Muzaffarnagar as senior administrative officials showered flowers on kanwariyas.

The kanwar yatra, which concludes on Tuesday, is being held after a two-year hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The CM's helicopter reached the Siddhpeth Parshurameshwar Puramahadev temple in Baghpat in the afternoon and made four rounds of the temple complex amid chants of "Har Har Mahadev" and "Yogi, Yogi". An estimated 20 lakh devo-

tees are expected to visit the temple in Baghpat where the Shrawani fair began on Monday.

While the chief minister undertook the aerial survey of the yatra, top administrative and police officers lined up on the road from Saharanpur to Ghaziabad to shower flowers on kanwariyas. They also distributed the National Tricolour to kanwariyas as part of the "Har Har Tiranga" theme to mark the 75th anniversary of Independence Day.

In a video conference with officials, the CM directed that health posts be set up at various places along the route. There should not be any display of weapons or processions of that kind, the CM said. He also instructed district magistrates and SPs to personally go to the spot where any untoward incident takes place.



PILOT SURVIVES AIRCRAFT CRASH

A trainer aircraft from a private aviation academy, which was being flown by a 22-year-old woman trainee pilot, crash-landed on a field in Indapur taluka of Pune district on Monday morning. The trainee pilot sustained minor injuries in the crash.

Top court stays Patna HC order on Bihar Vidyapith

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

THE SUPREME COURT on Monday stayed proceedings before Patna High Court in a PIL in which the High Court had asked the Bihar government to bring in a "special legislation" to turn the entire 32-acre campus of Bihar Vidyapith in the state capital into a national monument.

A bench of Justices S A Nazeer and J K Maheshwari stayed the proceedings on a plea by the Vidyapith Society, which challenged the High Court order as "erroneous" and "in breach of settled principles".

The Vidyapith Society, which was inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi and had as its chairman the first President Dr Rajendra Prasad, pointed out in its plea filed through Advocate Fozia Shakil that the 32 acres included two houses in which Prasad had lived during his lifetime, and that these were converted as private museums in his memory. The High Court's intervention began after a 2021 PIL urged it to intervene in maintaining the "pitiable condition" of Prasad's memorial at Ziradei village in Bihar's Siwan district.

Appearing for the Society, Senior Advocate Shyam Diwan said the two museums were located only on approximately 2 acres on the 32-acre campus

The case then expanded to include "two other historically significant properties" in Patna that are "also ill-maintained" - Prasad's "last abode" Sadakat Ashram and Bans Ghat, "where his mortal remains were assigned to fire".

Invoking "constitutional obligation" to preserve cultural heritage, the Patna High Court cited the Convention On Protection Of The World Cultural And Natural Heritage and UNESCO Declaration Concerning The International Destruction Of Cultural Heritage as the basis to bring in a law to acquire the premises. It issued a notice to the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) to submit a report on the status of the museums on the campus.

The High Court order stated that after interacting with Janhvi Sharma, ADG (Conservation) at

ASI headquarters, Delhi, on April 20, the court was "of the firm view that for purposes of proper management and control of all three places, i.e. two museums at Bihar Vidyapith, Sadakat Ashram, and Bans Ghat... having historical value and importance, perhaps the government was required to take certain measures, one of them being bringing out special legislation". The property, the court said, "cannot be managed by [a] few, howsoever well-intentioned their thoughts and actions may be".

Appearing for the Society, Senior Advocate Shyam Diwan said the two museums were located only on approximately 2 acres on the 32-acre campus. Besides, there were about 12 institutions running from the campus of this private society, which included BEd colleges, school, hostel, entrepreneurship centre and library among others and more than 2,000 students and various staff will be affected by the High Court order, he pointed out.

The High Court, argued Diwan, was wrong in directing the relocation of all of these educational institutions away from the two museums. The Supreme Court has now asked the parties to maintain status quo.

MASS ROW

Vatican seeks Ernakulam archbishop's resignation, priests reiterate support

SHAJUPHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
JULY 25



Antony Kariyil.
Facebook/Bp
Antony Kariyil

IN AN unprecedented development, the Vatican has sought the resignation of Ernakulam archbishop Antony Kariyil, after he failed to implement a uniformed method of offering the Mass, the most important form of worship in the Christian world.

Kariyil has been leading a revolt of priests of the archdiocese against Church head Cardinal George Alencherry in the last one year over the liturgical issue.

The Kerala-based Syro-Malabar Church, one of the prominent Eastern Churches under the Vatican, had introduced a uniform Mass in all dioceses under the Church in November last year, but the archdiocese of Ernakulam had refused to implement the directive of Alencherry, who had the backing of Vatican in this regard. Kariyil had the support of the majority of the priests and a section of laymen, who had even clashed in many parishes over the bid to foist the uniform Mass.

On Monday, around 200

priests who are backing Kariyil, gathered at the arch-bishop's house in Kochi to pledge solidarity with him. The priests passed a resolution saying that they would not accept the removal of Kariyil as the head of the archdiocese.

The resolution said, "The move to get the resignation of Kariyil shows that the Vatican does not want to solve the crisis in the Church or the archdiocese. Such a decision would only push the archdiocese into further crisis. Neither the priests nor the laity of the archdiocese would accept the decision of the Vatican to remove Kariyil as the head of the archdiocese," said the resolution, released by Fr Sebastian Thaliyan.

The resolution demanded the resignation of Cardinal Alencherry, whose name had got embroiled in a shady sale of Church property, involving black money. "It is the Cardinal who should quit. His land dealings had

caused heavy loss for the archdiocese. By influencing the state and the Central governments, the Cardinal has been trying to wriggle out of the land scam," it said.

The dispute over offering Mass had prevailed in Kerala Catholic Church for several decades. While a section of priests offers the Mass facing the people, another does so facing the altar. In certain other dioceses, the Church follows a mix of both. Bishops and priests have been divided over the conduct of Mass. As per the uniform mode of offering Mass, priests and bishops across the Church in all dioceses perform the ritual facing the altar throughout the service.

The crisis over the liturgy came close on the heels of the controversial land dealing which had even led to the removal of Alencherry as the archbishop of the archdiocese in 2019. Although Alencherry is the head of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church in Kerala, he does not have any administrative role in the archdiocese of Ernakulam.

In the past, Cardinals used to have administrative responsibility in the archdiocese of Ernakulam.

CAPITATION FEE SCAM

ED raids multiple premises of Church of South India

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
JULY 25

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate Monday raided multiple premises, including the headquarters, of the Church of South India (CSI) here in connection with an alleged scam related to accepting capitation fee for admission in a medical college run by the Church.

The raids were held as part of an ED probe into the case that the Church-run Dr Somervell Memorial CSI Medical College, Karakonam, had accepted a capitation fee for MBBS admission and that the deal involved black money. The raided premises included residences of CSI South Kerala Bishop Dharmaraj Rasalam, medical college director Dr Bennet Abraham (who had contested in Lok Sabha elections in 2014), and CSI Church

Raided premises included residences of CSI South Kerala Bishop

secretary Praveen.

Earlier, the Church had faced an allegation that capitation fees collected from the students were parked in a separate account without any receipts or bills. The admission to the college had been embroiled in controversy after 11 students were found having produced fake community certificates in 2018.

Last year, state crime branch probed into allegation that the college did not give admission to students from whom capitation fees were collected. Although crime branch had reported to court that it could not find evidence for the alleged crime, the court early this year had rejected the probe report.

UP: 8 die as buses collide on e-way

Barabanki: Eight people were killed and 16 injured when a Delhi-bound bus rammed into a parked bus on Purvanchal Expressway here on Monday.

SP Anurag Vats said around 4.45 am, a private double-decker bus from Bihar's Muzaffarpur on its way to Delhi collided with another bus parked on Purvanchal Expressway under the Lonikatra police station area.

Assistant Superintendent of Police Manoj Pandey said the accident took place near an eatery close to Narendrapur Madraha village. The parked bus was on its way to Delhi from Sitamarhi, also in Bihar. There were 36 passengers altogether in the two double-decker buses and police suspect the driver was sleepy at the time of the accident.

At present, nine injured are being treated at the Lucknow trauma centre and three at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in the state capital. Other passengers were sent to their destinations after administering first aid. PTI

'Cow can also take lead in carbon trading'

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

OBSERVING THAT there is a need to undertake a study to ascertain whether gases emitted from dung of indigenous cows are poisonous, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Parshottam Rupala said on Monday that cow can also take lead in carbon trading.

Speaking after launching the NDDB MRIDA Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary company of National Dairy Development



Parshottam Rupala

Board (NDDB), Rupala said, "Gas emission me kya hamari indigenous gaay ka jo cow dung hai, usme se nikalne wali gas jahrelee hai ya koi alag hai, us vishay ke bhi research kame ki avashyakata hai (There is a need to conduct a research to ascertain whether the

gases emitted by the dung of indigenous cows are poisonous or these are different.)"

"There is a tradition of using only cow dung for coating of the floor in our country. There must be a mystery behind it. I don't believe that there can be any superstition or unscientific facts in the saying of our sages. Therefore, that must be an experiment of the complete science. This needs to be taken forward," Rupala said.

He further said that cow can play a leading role in carbon trading. "Carbon trading me gaay

bhi netriva kar sakti hai... Wo bhi indigenous cow, (Cow can also take lead in carbon trading... That too an indigenous cow)," Rupala said.

He said that the government has taken several initiatives for doubling farmers' income.

Sanjiv Kumar Balyan, Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; Minister of State for Fisheries L Murugan; Secretary Atul Chaturvedi; and Additional Secretary Varsha Joshi were also present on the occasion.

Another student found hanging in hostel room in TN

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, JULY 25

A WEEK after the death of a schoolgirl in Kallakurichi in Tamil Nadu, which led to violent protests, a similar death was reported at a school in Tiruvallur district Monday morning. The body of a 17-year-old girl was found hanging in her hostel room by a member of the school staff, according to the office of the Tiruvallur Police Superintendent.

The girl, who lived in the hostel of a government-aided school in the district, called her parents on Sunday night, according to the police.

"The girl told her friends Monday morning that she would be late to school. After an hour, she hadn't arrived at school, so staff members went to check her hostel room. They found her hanging from the ceiling," police said.

Senior police officers, including a Deputy Inspector General (DIG) and an Superintendent of police (SP), rushed to the school after the case was reported.

The FIR that was filed by the local police was also transferred to the Crime Branch-Criminal Investigation Department (CB-CID), a specialised unit of the state, for a detailed probe. Police transferred the case immediately to CB-CID as per the procedure mandated by the Madras high court order passed after the Kallakurichi regarding deaths of children in schools.

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POSSESSION NOTICE
(For Immovable property)

Whereas,
The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Punjab National Bank, Circle SASTRA Ara, 1st Floor, Mahuli kothi, Near Peer Baba More, Ara-802301 under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13 read with rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 11.01.2022 calling upon the Borrower M/s Gayatri Mini Rice Mill through its Prop. Sh. Mukesh Kumar Pandey, S/o Triveni Pandey, Sh. Rakesh Kumar Pandey S/o Sh. Triveni Pandey, Sh. Rajesh Kumar Pandey S/o Sh. Triveni Pandey, Sh. Triveni Pandey S/o Sh. Gayatri Pandey to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 17,78,365.00 (Rupees Seventeen Lakhs Seventy Eight Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Five Only) and interest there on within 60 days from the date of notice/date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 20th day of July, 2022.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Punjab National Bank for an amount of Rs. 14,94,105.22 (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Ninety Four Thousand One Hundred Five and Paise Twenty Two Only) as on 30.06.2022 along with future interest and expenses from 01.07.2022 until payment in full.

The Borrower's/Guarantor's/Mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect to time available to redeem the secured assets.

Description of immovable property

All that part and parcel of the property situated at Mauza-Chakiya, Thana No.- 658, PS-Kudra, Khata no. 41, Plot No. 29, Near Starting Over Bridge Kudra, PO+PS-Kudra, Distt.-Kaimur (Bhabhua), Bihar-821108, Total Area-11Decimals(05.00 Decimal + 06.00 Decimal), Sale Deed No. 9947, Dated 20.08.1991 and Sale Deed No. 9948, Dated 20.08.1991, Owned by Sh. Mukesh Kumar Pandey, Sh. Triveni Pandey, Sh. Rajesh Kumar Pandey and Sh. Rakesh Kumar Pandey. **Boundary:**-North-Road, South-Bhabhua Kudra Road, East-Shiv Deni Mali, West-Bhuneshwar Pratap Singh.

Date : 20/07/2022
Place : Arrah
Authorized Officer
Punjab National Bank
Secured Creditor

Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran
Offers e-Auction of
Residential and Commercial Properties in Hisar and Panchkula Zones
On 4th August, 2022

Residential properties in Hisar Zone				Commercial properties in Hisar Zone				Commercial properties in Panchkula Zone			
Sr. No.	Sector	Urban Estate	No. of Plots	Sr. No.	Sector	Urban Estate	No. of Plots	Sr. No.	Sector	Urban Estate	No. of Plots
1	23	Bhiwani	6	1	13	Bhiwani	10	1	15	Panchkula	10
2	11	Fatehabad	43	2	13-CB	Bhiwani	7	2	27	Panchkula	10
3	5	Hansi	28	3	23	Bhiwani	3	3	20	Panchkula	10
4	33 (P-I)	Hisar	16	4	CCentre	Bhiwani	19	4	2	Panchkula	2
5	9-11	Hisar	10	5	TC-Bhattu	Fatehabad	5	5	IA-1	Panchkula	5
6	MGA	Hisar	1	6	AMKT	Hansi	10	6	10	Ambala	15
7	PLA	Hisar	3	7	11(AB-PH-3)	Hisar	5	7	18-MI	Jagadhri	10
8	ADAMPUR	MTAdampur	5	8	11(AB-PH-4)	Hisar	5	8	TDL-C	Jagadhri	5
9	19 (P-I)	Sirsa	33	9	13-P	Hisar	3	9	5	Karnal	19
10	20-2	Sirsa	2	10	14 (PKT-A)	Hisar	5	10	4-Transport Nagar	Karnal	5
11	20 (P-III)	Sirsa	21	11	16-17	Hisar	10	11	17	Kurukshetra	5
12	MGA	Hisar	21	12	MGA	Hisar	21	12	3	Kurukshetra	8
13	OLD COURT	Hisar	16	13	OLD COURT	Hisar	16	13	30	Kurukshetra	5
14	RCCADM	MTAdampur	2	14	RCCADM	MTAdampur	2	14	20	Kaithal	15
15	19 (P-I)	Sirsa	15	15	19 (P-I)	Sirsa	15	15	25	Kaithal	10
16	20-2	Sirsa	6	16	20-2	Sirsa	6	16			
17	20 (P-III)	Sirsa	15	17	20 (P-III)	Sirsa	15	17			
18	OBS	Sirsa	5	18	OBS	Sirsa	5	18			

Registration will close one day before the scheduled date of e-Auction, at 5 pm.

e-Auction Portal
<https://hsvpny.org.in>
e-Auction will start at 10:00 AM

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Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran
C-3, HSVP Complex, Sector-2, Panchkula 134 139, Haryana.
E: hsvpny.org.in | T: 1800-180-3030 | hsvpny.org.in

The detailed information of the sites and terms & conditions of e-auction will be available on <https://hsvpny.org.in>.



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

FIRE MR CHATTERJEE

Centre's use of agencies is dodgy but that's no alibi.
TMC must confront growing corruption within

THE ARREST OF Partha Chatterjee, Commerce, Industry and IT Minister in West Bengal, in connection with an alleged money laundering case leaves the Trinamool Congress (TMC) with a lot of questions to answer. Chatterjee is not just any minister, he is the number two in the Mamata Banerjee cabinet and secretary general of the party. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) took Chatterjee into custody a day after it raided the premises of his aide Arpita Mukherjee and claimed to have seized Rs 21.20 crore in cash besides foreign currency, ornaments and property papers from her apartment. The party has refused to take action against Chatterjee until the charges against him are proven. Considering that cash was allegedly seized from Chatterjee's aide and the evidence the agencies have flagged regarding his links to the irregular recruitment of school teachers, the TMC's defence is unconvincing — and self-defeating.

Of course, the ED's record of booking Opposition leaders is dodgy. But the TMC can't hide behind that. Since it first won office in 2011 and captured the state's political imagination storming the Left citadel, it has done little to check how its growing power on the ground marginalised opponents, spread fear and formed "syndicates" that corrupted many local transactions — from real-estate to extortion. Many ministers and party functionaries have been embroiled in corruption scandals. The Saradha ponzi scheme — and later the Narada sting operation — have entrapped several TMC leaders. Investigations, including by the CBI, could not achieve closure in these scandals while some politicians who came under scrutiny shifted parties and escaped the net. The TMC has since won multiple elections, and with formidable majorities but, curiously, it hasn't used its political space to flush out the corrupt and wash the taint. Indeed, the Kolkata High Court's remarks on an ED plea against Chatterjee being shifted to SSKM Hospital in Kolkata is a severe indictment of the government's conduct with regard to due process. The court minced few words: "...it would not be impossible for the accused with the aid of other political executives to take shelter under the garb of serious illness and medical treatment to evade interrogation. If this happens, Lady Justice will be cursed by the tears of hundreds and thousands of deserving candidates whose future was sacrificed in lieu of money."

At a time when the TMC is seeking to expand its footprint beyond West Bengal and its leader Mamata Banerjee attempts to take the moral high ground on a range of issues — from probity to transparency — the corruption within undermines her credibility. The party needs to confront the growing corruption within and purge those feeding it however high they may be. That will be the only way it can do justice to the mandate it's got. The CM can begin by firing Chatterjee and although that may not clean up the mess, it could signal that when it assured the state *poribortan*, its promise wasn't entirely empty.

SAVING MSMEs

Payment delays are crippling the sector. Public and private sectors must pay up what is due

OVER THE PAST few years, the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector has been battered by a series of shocks. From demonetisation to the transition to the goods and services tax to the pandemic, MSMEs have borne the brunt of the disruption in economic activities during each of these periods. While there are indications of this segment of the economy picking up, there are also signs that its financial position remains stretched. Data from the RBI's most recent financial stability report showed that while gross non-performing assets of the MSME sector have dipped recently, they remained uncomfortably high. At the end of March 2022, bad loans in the MSME sector stood at 9.3 per cent. Further, as the report also pointed out, restructured MSME loans, constituting around 2.5 per cent of total advances, remain a source of concern. During these periods of disruption, the larger firms have benefitted at the expense of MSMEs — as per CRISIL, more than a quarter of the country's MSMEs have lost market share due to the pandemic.

MSMEs also face another peculiar problem, that of delayed payments. As reported in this paper, delayed payments are a critical issue for the sector, especially for the micro and small enterprises. The sheer magnitude of the delayed payments, from both private and public sector customers, complicates their cash flow management, increasing their working capital requirements, and impacting their financial position and business prospects. Among the MSMEs, for the smaller enterprises, delayed payments as a percentage of sales, have seen a sharp rise over the past few years. This problem is more acute in labour intensive segments such as construction, retail trade and transport. The government has been cognisant of this issue and has urged both central and state departments as well as public sector enterprises to clear their dues to MSMEs within 45 days of receipt of goods. Yet, as reported in this paper, the issue remains.

In recent times, there are signs of a turnaround. Bank credit to MSMEs has picked up pace sharply in the quarter ending March 2022. But, considering that the government's relief measures were largely through the formal banking channels — under the widely used emergency credit line guarantee scheme loans worth Rs 3.32 lakh crore were sanctioned till April 2022 — the formal MSMEs are likely to have recovered faster. Among the informal MSMEs, those who have linkages to the formal parts of the economy would have also recovered quicker — after all, an upsurge in demand would have led to a pick up in ancillary industries and service units. The informal MSMEs who operate mostly among themselves are likely to have suffered the most. Considering that MSMEs employ a sizable part of India's labour force, and are also suppliers to the larger economy, their financial distress has far reaching consequences. Appropriate steps should be taken to ease their woes.

SILVER LINING

With a medal at Eugene World Championship, Neeraj Chopra raises the bar for Indian athletes

NEERAJ CHOPRA KNOWS before everyone else whether his throw is a good one — the signature roar is a giveaway. On Saturday evening in Eugene, USA, that Chopra roar was missing. Trailing at the halfway stage of a major final for the first time in his still-nascent career, the Olympic champion did under pressure what he frequently does otherwise — produce a big throw and vault into medal position. Ultimately, his effort of 88.13m was enough to secure a silver medal, making it the best-ever performance by an Indian at the athletics World Championship.

The medal was a reminder that Chopra is an outlier in Indian track and field, where the sight of an athlete botching up on a big stage had become painfully familiar. Chopra, on the other hand, has unfailingly shown new facets to his game every time he competes. When the self-taught athlete won the junior world title, in 2016, he gave a glimpse into his confidence and athletic abilities. At Tokyo, it was his uncluttered approach and chutzpah — demolishing the field with just a couple of throws — that stood out. And in Eugene, he showed he had it in him to deliver when pushed to the wall.

Chopra's critics will argue he did not win the gold. But that's also the beauty and unpredictability of sports. At the Olympics, Grenada's Anderson Peters did not qualify for the final. But he returned stronger to record three 90-plus throws to defend his world title. For Chopra, the next challenge will be to cross the hallowed 90m-mark. Chopra's recent performances suggest it's just a matter of time before he joins the elite group. Despite his skyrocketing popularity and the distractions that come along, Chopra will continue to soar — and roar.



VIKRAM PATEL

THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED United Nations' "World Population Prospects" has attracted much media attention because of its projection that India will surpass China as the world's most populous country next year, much sooner than originally expected. Amongst the many important perspectives which have been discussed are concerns about how the phase of jobless growth we are currently witnessing threatens to squander the country's unique demographic dividend. The report has, once again, shone the spotlight on the importance of investing in women's education and reproductive rights, rather than coercive population control policies. Indeed, the continuing growth of the population in the coming decades is now largely driven by increasing life expectancy, rather than babies being born.

I can see the impact of increasing life expectancy from very close quarters: My father is now 89 years old, an age which would have been inconceivable at the time of our Independence when life expectancy was around 30 years. Certainly, in the highly privileged social class to which my family belongs, such an advanced age is no longer exceptional. Indeed, as India celebrates her own coming of age, turning 75 this year, the population projections suggest that the country is already home to 30 million persons who are 75 or older. I will reach this milestone in 2039. By that time, the World Population Prospects estimates there will be nearly 100 million persons older than 75 in India. This is a staggering number of people who are no longer in the workforce and who are at a much greater risk to be living with and dying from a chronic, often disabling, health condition.

I have watched, with great sadness, my father struggle with such a disabling condition over the past decade, which has left him largely bed-ridden and in need of full-time care. Thanks to his wealth, he has been able to pay for three full-time caregivers, a family physician who reviews his health every week at home, a physiotherapist who visits three times a week and, when there is a crisis, a hospital physician who will arrange admission to a tony city hospital at short notice. Like my mother who finally passed away after a long struggle with multiple health con-



VIBHUTI NARAIN RAI

IDON'T consider it prudent to debate issues with highly polarised dimensions because one can't expect any fruitful outcome from such an exercise. Yet, I am constrained to give a rejoinder to certain presumptions arrived at in an article by Abhinav Kumar ('An inconvenient truth', IE, July 14), a senior member of the Indian Police Service, in which I also had the opportunity to spend more than three decades of my life. I feel it necessary because if the sweeping generalisations, through which Kumar tries to give us his understanding about certain very serious issues of governance or the lack thereof, are not rebutted, they may create incorrect impressions. It is all the more necessary to give a rejoinder as the author reminds us of his identity as an IPS officer by referring to "our own Rajendra Kumar" but very conveniently forgetting Sanjiv Bhatt and RB Sreekumar, two outstanding members of the service who are in jail because they had the courage to stand up against the rulers of the day.

Kumar feels that big administrative lapses are more systemic failures and any attempt to point fingers at the person in the driver's seat is to "place too much faith in the ability of two or three individuals". He has given three examples, which are significant occasions of the total collapse of the law and



ASHA for the elderly

An ageing India will need more caregivers.
Community health workers could be the answer

As the population projections show, India is rich with human resources who are young and looking for work and we could simultaneously address two population challenges by empowering working-age adults who are jobless in the service of elders. What elders need, most of all, is a caring and compassionate person, with the requisite skills, to accompany them on the last journey of their lives. India's ingenuity in leveraging community resources to address her complex problems presents a unique opportunity to make her a country which offers a hopeful future for both her elderly and her young people.

ditions some years ago, my father has been able to survive to this ripe old age primarily because he has been able to pay vast sums of money, out of pocket, for the diverse types of care he needs. I will never forget one occasion when my mother had survived yet another acute medical crisis, and her care-giver remarked to me that no one in her village would have lived as long as my mother had with her health conditions.

Mercifully though, neither of my parents was afflicted by dementia. No illness can be more devastating for the person, and their families, than dementia, a condition associated with ageing and resulting from progressive degeneration of the brain. Dementia poses an enormous burden of care as one gradually loses the ability to care for oneself and to think, plan and behave in a rational way. A recent paper which synthesised 20 epidemiological studies, including nearly 90,000 individuals from India, reported that about 8 per cent of the population over 75 was afflicted by this condition. One estimate from the reputed Alzheimer's Association suggests that the country is already home to 4 million people with dementia; this number will grow dramatically in the future as the population ages. The final, most difficult, stage of dementia, by which time the person will need round-the-clock care for even the simplest activities of daily living, can linger for up to three years. Where once our multi-generational families could be relied upon for caregiving (of course, this was typically done by the women in the family), the population transition has been accompanied by dramatic changes in the family structure and an increasing proportion of the elderly will live only with their elderly spouse or alone.

A hugely important question in the light of the population projections is the country's preparedness for the exponentially increasing needs for care for people with chronic conditions like dementia. Such care typically extends well beyond the narrowly defined clinical treatment of specific diseases and encompasses a range of services — in particular, primary care which integrates care for diverse health conditions, home-based nursing, palliative care and rehabilitation. A short answer is virtually none at all. There is

no comprehensive, community-based, care system for elders. Families have to make their own arrangements through out-of-pocket payments for each service which is needed. Even if the family has the money, the services needed are not even available in most places. This means the vast majority of elders in India are left to their own devices. In a country where civic infrastructure, such as public transport, is insensitive to the needs of persons with different abilities, many elders with disabling conditions will be trapped in their homes, eking out the last years of their lives alone and forgotten by society.

There is a solution which is in plain sight. One of India's singular contributions to population health has been its deployment of frontline workers to deliver promotive and preventive healthcare. India's celebrated Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) have been singularly responsible not only for the dramatic reductions in maternal and infant mortality contributing to our increased life expectancy, but also to achieving our impressive Covid vaccination coverage. They were deservedly awarded the WHO Director-General's Global Health Leaders Award in May for their outstanding contribution towards protecting and promoting health. The ASHA program is a template for building a community-based workforce, anchored in the large and growing network of government Health and Wellness Centres across the country, to support the diverse health and social care needs for elders. As the population projections show, India is rich with human resources who are young and looking for work and we could simultaneously address two population challenges by empowering working-age adults who are jobless in the service of elders. What elders need, most of all, is a caring and compassionate person, with the requisite skills, to accompany them on the last journey of their lives. India's ingenuity in leveraging community resources to address her complex problems presents a unique opportunity to make her a country which offers a hopeful future for both her elderly and her young people.

The writer is The Pershing Square Professor of Global Health at Harvard Medical School

BLAME GAME

For administrative lapses during trying times, leadership too bears responsibility

We must remember what then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was trying to remind the nation of when he mentioned 'raj dharma' and, more importantly, to whom. We must remember that the world's opinion matters in these globalised times.

order machinery in this country. His arguments make it clear from the very beginning that he is concerned about Teesta Setalvad getting so much attention after her arrest and the "ignorant" trying to paint the then Gujarat leadership as being responsible for what happened during the 2002 communal riots in the state.

Anybody who has even a little knowledge of the system of governance in India knows that it is always top driven. A few glaring examples of commission and omission may be taken from the article itself. One could wonder what the fate of the Babri mosque in Ayodhya would have been if there had been no Narasimha Rao at the helm of affairs in New Delhi on December 6, 1992? Could the structure have been demolished in the presence of a huge contingent of armed policemen? Similarly, would the violence against Sikhs after Indira Gandhi's assassination have been possible if the government of the day had decided to intervene effectively? One can scan the newspapers of the first week of November 1984 and it is clear that the violence took place only in states that had Congress governments. Luckily, in those days, nearly half of India was ruled by non-Congress parties and no major incidence of violence took place in those parts, thus making it clear that the chief executive of the state

really mattered.

The third example needs some detailed analysis because the whole argument is built to give the chief minister of Gujarat in 2002 the benefit of the doubt. Kumar tries to convince us that the administration watched as Muslims were brutalised for a week or so because of the "failures of systemic proportions involving hundreds if not thousands of individuals, who are both state and non-state actors." It is shocking to see a senior IPS officer who is supposed to be the leader of the force denying the role of the leadership in a trying situation. A leader is the most decisive factor, both in times of war and peace. What happened in those dark times in Gujarat was certainly war.

We must remember what then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was trying to remind the nation of when he mentioned "raj dharma" and, more importantly, to whom. We must remember that the world's opinion matters in these globalised times and the tremendous sympathy that Setalvad has received makes it very clear that our judicial pronouncements or the clean chit given by an SIT has not convinced everyone.

The writer, a retired IPS officer, is the author of Hashimpura 22 May, a chronicle of the 1987 custodial killings

JULY 26, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

PRESIDENT ZAIL SINGH ZAIL SINGH ASSUMED office as the seventh president of the republic with a solemn pledge to carry out his tasks without fear or favour and live up to the noble traditions of his predecessors. In his first address to the nation minutes after being sworn in, Zail Singh called for greater discipline in national life to safeguard against dangers to the political and social system. Singh, the first Sikh to occupy the highest office, was sworn in by the Chief Justice, Y V Chandrachud, at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

PLO RESOLUTION

PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANISATION

chairman Yasser Arafat signed a document for a visiting US congressional delegation accepting all UN resolutions recognising Israel's right to exist, US Congressman Paul N McCloskey Jr announced. McCloskey, a Republican from California, said Arafat had met the condition for US recognition of the PLO. "I intend to go back and I hope my colleagues will join me in recommending to Secretary Shultz that we now open negotiations with the PLO," McCloskey said.

UNIONS STRIKE

THE NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY Year, declared by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, is steadily heading towards ending up as a year

of lower industrial growth, more layoffs and strikes, resulting in a record number of man-days lost. According to the latest figures, there has been a distinct fall in the rate of growth of industrial production in 1982. Strikes in various parts of the country have caused an alarming rise in man-days lost. Trade union circles anticipate more strikes in some major industries in the coming months.

NEW HOME MINISTER

BANGLADESH CHIEF OF Intelligence, Major-General V M K Chowdhury, was appointed the Home Minister by the Chief Martial Law administrator, Lt-Gen H M Ershad, Radio Bangladesh reported.

The nuclear response

Japan, India are beginning to rethink ambivalence on the nuclear threat from China. With partners, they can form credible deterrence



RAJA-MANDALA
BY C RAJA MOHAN

LAST WEEK'S REPORT on Asian nuclear transitions by Ashley Tellis of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and Japan's debate on its atomic options underline the shared security challenges for Delhi and Tokyo. At the root of that common nuclear challenge is the continuing growth in Chinese military power and the rapid modernisation of Beijing's nuclear arsenal. India and Japan may have had good reasons until now to take a relaxed view of Chinese nuclear weapons. Both believed China's modest nuclear arsenal does not pose an existential challenge to either of them. But three factors compel them to rethink this complacent calculus.

First, China is modernising and expanding its nuclear arsenal as part of the general military transformation. Some estimates say China's arsenal could grow to 1,000 warheads by 2030 from about 350 now. Second, Xi Jinping's China has taken a more muscular approach to its territorial disputes, including with India and Japan. China's tactics of salami slicing and coercive diplomacy have come into sharp view in the East China Sea that Beijing shares with Japan and the vast Himalayan frontier with India. Third, the Ukraine crisis has revealed that if a nuclear weapon power invades and seizes the territory of a neighbour, the rest of the world is reluctant to directly confront the aggression for fear of an escalation to the nuclear level. Russia made this amply clear with its threat to use nuclear weapons if the US and NATO decide to join the war.

While Tokyo has woken up to the full implications of nuclear-armed Russia's aggression against Ukraine, Delhi's strategic discourse is yet to dive deep into the emerging challenges of deterring a nuclear China. One factor seems obvious — India is a nuclear weapon power and Japan is not. But that only presents a partial picture. While Japan does not have nuclear weapons, it relies on the US nuclear umbrella for its security.

But Indian and Japanese capacity to deter China is eroding steadily thanks to the problems with India's minimum deterrence posture and the US nuclear umbrella over Japan. The traditional nuclear narratives in India and Japan are part of the problem. But China is puncturing the nuclear moralpolitik in both Tokyo and Delhi. India and Japan have long presented themselves as champions of nuclear disarmament. Both Indian and Japanese positions are imbued with deep ambivalence. Despite its call for total nuclear disarmament, India never agreed to give up its own nuclear weapons. Japan, as the world's victim of nuclear bombing, had even a higher moral claim than India as the champion for the global abolition of nuclear weapons. But Japan's narrative is shaded by one reality — Tokyo's reliance on the US nuclear umbrella. Today neither Delhi nor Tokyo is ready to sign the 2017 Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

The real issue is not the gap between the disarmament rhetoric and the importance of



C R Sasikumar

nuclear weapons for the security of India and Japan. It is the problem presented by the expanding Chinese nuclear arsenal and its growing sophistication. Locked in a confrontation with the US, China is determined to raise its nuclear profile.

As China closes the economic and military gap with the US, there is a darkening shadow over the credibility of the US-extended deterrence for Japan. This uncertainty is transforming the Japanese security debate. For India, the question is whether its nuclear restraint and policy of minimum deterrence are enough to prevent China's bullying. In his report "Striking Asymmetries: Nuclear Transitions in Southern Asia", Tellis explores the emerging challenges to the Indian posture from China's nuclear modernisation.

In Japan, former prime minister Shinzo Abe, who was assassinated earlier this month, called for a fresh look at Japan's nuclear policy. He was by no means asking Japan to make its own nuclear weapons. He was suggesting that Tokyo must consider "nuclear weapon sharing" with the US. The model is Europe, where several countries including Belgium, Italy, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands have arrangements to participate in the US nuclear weapon deployment and use. Kishida, however, was quick to reject the proposal.

At his speech at the NPT review conference next week, Kishida is expected to affirm the enduring Japanese commitment to nuclear disarmament. Kishida is elected to the lower House of the Japanese parliament from Hiroshima which saw the first use of nuclear weapons on August 6, 1945. For Kishida, nuclear abolition is a deep personal conviction. Next week, he will become the first prime minister to address an NPT review conference. He will also host the next G-7 summit in Hiroshima. While rejecting nuclear solutions to Japan's problem of deterring China, Kishida's focus has been on raising the defence expenditure, developing sophisticated conventional weapons, beefing up the alliance with the US and widening the circle of Asian as well as European military partners.

Unlike Japan, India has no constraints on its nuclear weapons programme except the ones it has imposed on itself. The idea of "minimum deterrence" is one of those. In the wake of the nuclear tests of 1998, India quickly an-

Despite its call for total nuclear disarmament, India never agreed to give up its own nuclear weapons. Japan, as the world's victim of nuclear bombing, had even a higher moral claim than India as the champion for the global abolition of nuclear weapons. But Japan's narrative is shaded by one reality — Tokyo's reliance on the US nuclear umbrella. Today neither Delhi nor Tokyo is ready to sign the 2017 Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

nounced a policy of minimum deterrence and a doctrine of no-first-use of nuclear weapons. Tellis points to India's extraordinary restraint and a reluctance to rush into building an ever larger nuclear arsenal since 1998.

The big question is whether this conservatism in India's nuclear posture can or should be sustained in the face of China's military modernisation, nuclear expansion and strategic assertiveness. The Tellis report, detailed and technical, should provide a basis for a fresh Indian debate about its nuclear weapons policies.

Tellis also calls on the US to revise its attitudes to India's nuclear weapons programme. In the past, the US insisted on constraining India's nuclear weapon programme. Today a strong Indian nuclear deterrent against China is critical for the geopolitical stability of Asia and the Indo-Pacific and in the US interest.

Tellis suggests that the US should be prepared to facilitate India's development of more sophisticated nuclear warheads as well as improve the survivability of the Indian deterrent against the expanding Chinese nuclear arsenal. He suggests that the US should midwife an agreement under which France would help India accelerate the development of an Indian underwater deterrent based on ballistic missile carrying submarines (SSBN) as well as nuclear attack submarines (SSN).

The "INFUS" agreement — between India, France and the US — would be even more ambitious than "AUKUS" in which the US and UK have agreed to help Australia build nuclear-powered submarines (SSN). Unlike Australia, India is a nuclear weapon state.

Tellis is calling both Delhi and Washington to reconsider entrenched nuclear assumptions in the two capitals. While the resistance to his ideas will be strong, Delhi and Washington will have to respond, sooner than later, to the dramatic changes in the global environment triggered by the rise and assertion of China. Meanwhile, the US and Japan are moving swiftly to rework their strategies to deter China. While Japan's priority is to transform its conventional forces, India might need to consider both conventional and nuclear modernisation.

The writer is senior fellow, Asia Society Policy Institute, Delhi and a contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

It is evident that the consequences of climate change will severely affect low-income countries. The authorities need to focus on addressing the issue of production rather than relying on imports.
— THE KATHMANDU POST

Dealing with Long Covid

It's time to treat Covid as a regular disease, develop protocols



ANAND KRISHNAN

LIKE ALICE, we have reached a fork in the pandemic road. The answer, as the Cheshire cat said, depends on where we want to go. Unlike Alice, we do know where we want to go: Back to pre-Covid "normalcy". But we are not sure which road will take us there. Before we discuss what needs to be done to get there, let us summarise the current status and the lessons learnt in the last two years.

Though the pandemic is not over, its worst phase is behind us as seen by relatively low levels of hospitalisation and fatality. This is owing to the combined effect of widespread natural infection and vaccination. Life is slowly returning to normal, with large gatherings at weddings and celebrations making a comeback. But the virus continues to evolve with each strain causing a spike in cases/hospitalisation/deaths. Fatigue is setting in at all levels — the media, public as well as the government.

The two major challenges are the spectre of Long Covid and the continued focus on booster shots. There is no herd immunity as neither natural infection nor the current vaccines are preventing re-infections. Long Covid is poorly understood but it is becoming clearer that it is something that we should be seriously worried about. It has varied presentations and we are still nowhere near developing a common pathway to these conditions. We have to accept that the virus is not going anywhere. With that understanding, my suggestions would be:

Mainstream COVID: We have been treating Covid as a separate vertical or as an exception to the rule. It is time to take it as any other disease being treated in the healthcare system. It should treat Covid-19 in routine care like influenza and at best, in a separate infectious diseases ward where necessary protective measures are in place. Workplaces/schools should define a policy to deal with sporadic cases with the least amount of disruption to routine.

Strengthen surveillance: Establish a national integrated hospital-based severe acute respiratory infection surveillance system which covers SARS-CoV-2, influenza and other respiratory viruses. It should tell us about the real-time trend of hospitalisations due to respiratory infections, identify the virus and the strain causing it through regular genomic sequencing and provide data for assessing vaccine effectiveness. Based on experience, we should be able to define thresholds for action especially related to managing the capacity of the healthcare system to deal with a surge.

Revisit immunisation policy: There is evidence that the current vaccines developed with the first strain of the virus are losing their effectiveness. We simply cannot go on giving boosters with the same set of vaccines. It is time that we started looking at vaccines with newer variants to deal with

antigenic drift as is done routinely in influenza. More importantly, we need to go beyond the emergency use authorisation (EUA) given to vaccines and reassess their role in routine immunisation based on more data on safety and efficacy that is now available. Some of the questions to consider would be whom (whole population or only high-risk groups) to vaccinate and the need for annual boosters.

Invest in research: There are still many unknowns in Covid infection. Some important ones are understanding the mechanisms, manifestations, and treatment modalities of Long Covid, a better understanding of immunological mechanisms involved and the continued quest for a universal vaccine. Research on specific treatments for acute infection is also worthwhile. Point-of-use tests and diagnostic workflow to improve the efficacy of testing, as well as the effectiveness of behavioural interventions, would also provide useful information.

Reassess the role of public health and social measures: Lockdowns, travel restrictions, and containment zones have served their purpose and should be discontinued. Thermal checking and hand rubs at the entry of shops/malls should have been stopped a long time back. Mandatory mask use in high-risk settings (crowded and closed public spaces including air travel) should continue. The rest should be left to individuals, depending on their risk perception. Vaccine mandates for travel should be discontinued.

Prepare for an antigenic shift: This is the most important flashpoint. What happens when a completely new strain causes a pandemic? We have learnt many lessons on how to respond quickly to a new pandemic. Rapid response of containment at the original site is critical. We are likely to have a new vaccine in double-quick time next time but we have a long way to go to ensure that it is distributed equitably globally. A much higher emphasis on financial protection of the vulnerable population is needed.

Another area where we need to work better nationally and globally is sharing data and intellectual property rights. Narrow commercial and national interests still prevail. Despite many efforts, we have not made sufficient headway in the global health security framework and mechanisms.

From the national point of view, the most important thing for the government to do is to review the institutional frameworks and mechanisms for future pandemic responses. While we may have such mechanisms, their capacity is suboptimal and autonomy is doubtful. One important lesson that we have learnt is that a pandemic response is as much political as it is technical. A healthy respect for each other and keeping one's individuality while working as a team is important.

My final advice is to the reader: You still need to avoid getting infected and prevent its spread further. Go back to your normal life, follow government directives, take additional precautions if you are at high-risk, isolate yourself if you have symptoms and seek care if they worsen. Sometimes we have to make our own road to the destination.

The writer is professor, Centre for Community Medicine, AIIMS, New Delhi. Views are personal

Shooting the messenger

Criminalisation of journalists betrays inability to deal with difficult facts



SHAH RUKH ALAM

[Cleopatra, the Queen to the messenger: What say you? Strikes him.

Horrible villain,
I'll spurn thine eyes, like balls before me!
I'll unhair thy head!

Thou shalt be whipped with wire and stewed in brine.

Messenger: Gracious madam, I only bring news]

— Anthony and Cleopatra, Act 2 Scene 5 [set in 40-30 BC; written in 1606]

CLEOPATRA'S ATTITUDE towards messengers translates in the present times into a suspicion of journalists, protesters and fact-checkers. The state makes allegations of conspiracies to destabilise it by broadcasting "bad news", or create disharmony by reporting news of hate crimes, and then puts many of the messengers in jail. Like Cleopatra, it seems to believe that reporting about violence, or threats of violence excites passions and causes discomfort. When it is reported to international audiences, it causes embarrassment. When the incarcerated reporters plead their bail applications, the state insists that they must not be allowed to come out, and if at all they do, they must be barred from writing, or tweeting, or speaking.

The Supreme Court recently protected one such hapless messenger, endorsing his right to continue tweeting, even as he is released on bail in multiples cases that blame his reportage for causing disharmony. It is this attempt to reconstitute writing about violence as an offence of disruption and desta-

bilisation that is especially curious.

In that case, the state reportedly argued thus: "See the Sitapur case. There was a speech by Bajrang Muni where he has a lot of followers. On April 2, he makes objectionable speeches. Nobody comes forward for complaint. On April 7th, the accused here makes it viral. He does not tag Sitapur police. He makes it viral. Speech was about raping women of particular community. Within few areas, there was major communal tension in Sitapur area."

If we were to not treat this argument as nonsensical and made only for the purpose of registering the state's presence in court, it acquires an odd quality. The state is arguing that the systemic hate speech, often violence, and delivered to large crowds in public spaces is not a dangerous and destabilising thing in itself, until the time that it is reported to a larger community, whose passions are inflamed upon hearing of such incidents. It is akin to a group of friends being really upset with one amongst them, and boycotting her because every time they gossip about somebody, she snitches. She goes and tells them what was said about them, causing great frictions. But this is an inaccurate analogy. For one, hate speech is mostly delivered publicly, often in the presence of those it is targeting. It is propagated on social media platforms, and often enough on TV. Even when it is delivered in enclaves, it is systemic and has a cumulative effect on peoples' perceptions. Years of cultural and political propaganda have painted Muslims as predators of land,

livelihood and women, disloyal to the nation and changed the way people interact with them. It has triggered both structural violence (in calls for social boycotts, which translate into ghettoisation, in their sharp decline in representation in Parliament and government,) and direct violence. We have been subjected to gigabytes of unverified information about Muslims on WhatsApp.

In this context, the primary incident of hate speech, threats of sexual violence or an actual hate crime is the offence. Its broadcast is a natural way to protest the incident, if the state won't immediately respond to such offences. Reportage is not violence. Bona fide broadcasting of "bad things", unless one is directly invoking retaliatory violence, is not problematic. If the state, and the courts do not respond, then naturally in a democracy, counter-publics — those who feel excluded from wider public discourse and therefore set themselves up in political opposition — would want to mobilise public opinion to pressure the state into action.

Why is the state so scared of counter-publics? There is the overwhelming shadow of Partition upon everyone's sub-consciousness — to the exclusion of many other examples of Muslim mobilisation, both "progressive" and "conservative", which might be considered nationalist and democratic — that tends to put everyone on guard. However, non-violent counter-publics mostly expand democratic politics, not obstruct them. If the state wants to prevent such political formations, then, rather than

criminalising political mobilisation of some groups, it should quickly intervene so that large parts of the population don't feel excluded from society. There is also a new anxiety about "global conspiracies" to broadcast "Indian bad news" to global audiences. It displays an ignorance of how news and ideas travel in a wired world. How "word associations" are formed across continents.

In my experience, informed global audiences do not necessarily rely on tweets to form opinions. Sometimes they rely on primary material like court transcripts: From what is actually argued in court; from parliamentary debates and speeches, and from judgments: Like how we in India formed an opinion about Roe v. Wade from what the judgment itself conveyed, not from viral tweets about it. I happened to be with a professor of law in the US, when he paused on the word "syndicate" while reading an oral transcript of a court hearing as reported in 'Bar and Bench'. The state was referring to those who consistently report "bad news" as part of a "syndicate" and guilty of conspiracies. "Hmm..." he said. "Syndicate? We first used the word in the late 19th-early 20th century to refer to Italian-American mafiosi who indulged in organised crimes of gambling, extortion and such. I wonder what the counsel means in this particular context?" I shrugged my shoulders. "McCarthyism, I believe", he concluded.

The writer is a lawyer practising in the Supreme Court

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CHINA QUESTION

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'US-India tango' (IE, 25 July). Undoubtedly, the India-US partnership has elevated to a new pace, especially in the field of defence and technology. Further cooperation between the two nations will surely contain China, too. But when it comes to the Indo-China border dispute, it is India who needs to strengthen its muscles in the field of defence and space technology and provide high-level training to our armed forces. Chinese aggression around our borders needs to be dealt with urgently, and no one but us can do so.

Atharva Yadav, Dehradun

WIDENING GAP

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Address the skew', (IE, July 25). India's dream of becoming the Vishwaguru is in jeopardy if it cannot educate its populace, across markers of caste, class, gender and religion. The parliamentary presentation of the education ministry shows low intakes and high dropouts in the reserved category. This means that the gap in society is only widening with time. The heterogeneity of India is not represented in our elite tech and B-schools.

Abhishek Kumar Anshu, Patna

IRONIC DEMOCRACY

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'A President for the Republic' (IE, July 25). The pres-

ent dispensation intends to reconstruct India on Hindutva lines. The elevation of a tribal woman to the position of President is likely to be a hollow development. B.R. Ambedkar's words about the prevailing "social and economic contradictions" and "democracy as a top dressing" continue to be relevant in significant nooks and crannies of the country. Tribal communities continue to suffer from loss of liberty and the ignominy of being called "anti-national" elements. Ironically, the state has long suppressed the right to livelihood and property of the community whose member is now President.

Dev Athawale, Amravati

HISTORY & MOVIES

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'RRR is not a history lesson' (IE, July 25). There is no denying that audiences go to watch a movie purely for entertainment purposes. The same, however, cannot be said when it comes to "historical" movies, as these are, for the audience, a portrayal of the actual events of history. Filmmakers play fast and loose with facts while making films with historical subjects, leading to dissemination of misinformation and the glorification or deminorisation of certain figures. Propaganda movies have used the same playbook in recent times. Filmmakers' creativity and imagination must, of course, find a place in the treatment of the subjects, but not at the cost of historical accuracy.

Samuil Hassan Quadri, Bikaner

5 held for promising RS seats, governorship

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

THE CENTRAL Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested five people for allegedly promising various people Rajya Sabha seats, governorship and chairmanship of government bodies in lieu of money. The agency has alleged the accused dropped names, one impersonated as a senior CBI officer and demanded Rs 100 crore from the victims.

been identified as Kamlakar Prem Kumar Bandgar from Latur in Maharashtra; Mahendra Pal Arora from Delhi; Abhishek Boora from Ghaziabad; Mohd. Aijaz Khan from Delhi; and Ravindra Vitthal Naik from Belgaum in Karnataka. According to CBI, the accused entered into a criminal conspiracy "with the sole ulterior motive of cheating private persons by falsely assuring them for arrangement of seats in Rajya Sabha, appointment as Governor, appointment as Chairman in different govern-

ment-run organisations under central government ministries and department against huge pecuniary consideration". The agency on Monday conducted searches at seven locations in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka and claimed have recovered incriminating material, including WhatsApp conversations and other evidences. The agency has alleged that Abhishek Boora was in regular touch with Kamlakar Bandgar where they discussed how to use the latter's connections with

highly placed government officials who play pivotal role in such appointments. The CBI has alleged that Bandgar impersonated as senior CBI officer and told Boora, Arora, Khan, and Naik to bring any sort of work that he could fix in lieu of payment.

The accused, CBI alleged, would "often drop names of the senior bureaucrats and political functionaries for impressing upon the client approaching them for some work either directly or through middleman like Abhishek Boora". According to the CBI, Bandgar, impersonating as senior CBI officer, "has been threatening the officers posted in police stations for showing favour to some person known to him, for influencing the investigation of ongoing cases".

The arrested accused were produced before the competent court in Delhi on July 22 and 23 and are currently on bail.

National Award for sync sound to a dubbed film confounds makers

TANUSHREE GHOSH
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

AFTER THE 68th National Awards, honouring films from 2020 owing to Covid delays, were announced last week, Kannada film *Dollu* became the talk of the town. Director Sagar Puranik's debut feature bagged two awards — the best Kannada film, and "Location Sound Recordist (for sync sound films only)". The second award has, however, stirred up a storm. Oscar and National Award-winning sound mixer Resul Pookutty and *Dollu*'s sound engineer Nithin Lukose had tweeted about the "erroneous judgement" of awarding a dubbed film in the 'sync sound category'.

"This cannot happen at the level of National Awards," said

Lukose, "Sync sound is location sound mixing; this was not at all done for the film, which was dubbed at a Bengaluru studio. This is, perhaps, the first time something like this is happening in the awards' history. The DFF (Directorate of Film Festivals) which is now merged under NFDC and confers the National Awards) must respond."

The filmmakers are equally confused as the application form only mentioned the Location Sound Recordist category. "There was no additional clause in brackets (for sync sound films only), without which the award is justified; if it were there, I'd have never signed it, it's ethically, morally wrong," said Puranik, who'd earlier won the 2019 National Award Special Mention for his non-fiction shortfilm *Mahaan Hutatma* (2018). "The



Dollu won the Best Kannada Film and Best Audiography (Location Sound Recordist) award at the 68th National Film Awards.

recorded since the director wanted "perfect sound and to avoid creating additional problems in post-production". The winner of the said award Jobin Jayan, whom Lukose sent to do "effects recording", said, "I've done additional recording, but that cannot be called sync sound."

A junior administrative official at DFF said it's not possible to review/scrutinise the 300-400 applications. "We gave the applications to the jury and they gave us their judgement." "We didn't see the applications, we got a list of categories and names," said filmmaker and jury member Viji Thampi, adding, "We gave the award, unanimously, for location sound recordist. We appreciated their drum playing, which can't be pre-recorded, and it wouldn't have been easy to record. We saw the movie in a theatre, where it's not easy to judge/differentiate sync from dub. We thought only for the drums we should give the award." He further said, "There were no sound engineers in the jury."

jury must have understood our difficulty and hard work in recreating the music. It could be a clerical error; even we aren't aware why the brackets were added. It's not there for any other film/winners. We never claimed the film to be sync sound nor applied in that format/category," says producer Pavan Wadeyar, who's a commercial Kannada director. *Dollu*, which speaks of urbanisation's effect on indigenous folk art forms like 'dollar kunita' drum dance, is dubbed. Only the audio of its performances was re-

NORTHERN RAILWAY						
TENDER NOTICE- Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System)						
SN	Tender Notice No. & date	Name of work with its location	Approx. Cost of work	Amount of Earnest Money	Completion period of the work	Date & time for submission of tender & opening of tender
1.	32-W-SERV-SPAN-DLI-22-23 dated 25.07.2022	Loading, leading & unloading of service span from different location over DLI division to SSEBRM/SSB store, fabrication of loose fittings of service span in the jurisdiction of AXENB/LSPL/TKJ	Rs. 9816299.85	Rs. 196300.00	(08) Eight Months	Upto 15.00 hrs on 17.08.2022 Opening of tender after 15.00 hrs on same day
2*	32-W-BR-247B-REPL-DLI-GZB dated 25.07.2022	Replacement of Top Flange Plate of Rail girder, cross frame, lateral bracing & provision of side pathway at Br. No-247B on DLI-GZB section.	Rs. 12093634.66	Rs. 210500.00	(06) Six Months	Upto 15.00 hrs on 17.08.2022 Opening of tender after 15.00 hrs on same day

Note: (I) Above tenders are available on website, IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded. (II) S. No. 2* is Re-Invitation of tender.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,
ANGUL IRRIGATION, CIRCLE, ANGUL, ODISHA
PIN - 759143, email : seangulirrigation@gmail.com
'e' Procurement Notice-ACEAIC- 01 /2022-23

S. No.	Particulars	Value
1	Total No. of Works	01 (One) No. Civil, Electrical, PH & Fancy works
2	Estimated Cost put to tender	Rs. 172.40 Lakh (Excluding GST)
3	Tender Paper Cost	Rs10,000/- (Non Refundable) with GST as applicable
4	Class of Contractor	'B' & 'A' equivalent Grade / Class
5	Period of Completion	4 (Four) Calendar Months
6	Availability of Bid Documents and receipt of bid through online	From 10-00 A.M of 27.07.2022 to 5-00 P.M of 19.08.2022 in the website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in)
7	Date, time & place for opening of online Technical Bid	22.08.2022 at 11-00 A.M in the o/o the ACE, Angul Irrigation Circle, Angul
8	Date, time & place for opening of online Financial Bid	07.09.2022 at 11-00 A.M in the o/o the ACE, Angul Irrigation Circle, Angul
9	Date, time & place for finalization of tender through transparent lottery system if required	14.09.2022 at 11-00 A.M in the o/o the ACE, Angul Irrigation Circle, Angul
10	Digital Signature Certificate	The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III
11	Name and Address of Officer Inviting Tender (OIT)	Additional Chief Engineer, Angul Irrigation Circle, Angul, A/P/O:- Angul, Dist.-Angul, Odisha, e-mail ID - seangulirrigation@gmail.com

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal of Government of Odisha at www.tendersodisha.gov.in/
Sd/- Additional Chief Engineer,
Angul Irrigation Circle, Angul.
OIPR- 32081/11/0001/2223

ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सेल पेरजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग झारखण्ड, राँची

ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट अल्पकालीन निविदा (प्रथम आमंत्रण)
(प्रथम श्रद्धि पत्र - PR No-274066)

ई-टेंडर रेफरेंस नं०- Sub Cluster (JJM Dhanbad-2)/07/2022-23 दिनांक:- 18-07-2022

क्र०	कार्य की विवरणी	Cluster No.	योग्यता की संख्या	प्रारंभिक राशि (लाख में)	अंश राशि (लाख में)	परिमाण विपत्र राशि (रु० में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	
1	Construction of 2845 Nos. FHTC in Block Topchanchi, comprising of suitable R.C.C./Frame Structure ESR, distribution lines, Source (as required) all complete job in Brahmandiha & Adjoining Village in Topchanchi Block of District Dhanbad for the Year of 2021-22	Sub Cluster-1A	101	890.78	8.91	10000.00	9 Month + 1 Month Trial Run	
2	Construction of 1737 Nos. FHTC in Block Topchanchi, comprising of suitable R.C.C./Frame Structure ESR, distribution lines, Source (as required) all complete job in Madaidih & Adjoining Village in Topchanchi Block of District Dhanbad for the Year of 2021-22	Sub Cluster-1B	61	546.84	5.47	10000.00		
3	Construction of 1883 Nos. FHTC in Block Topchanchi, comprising of suitable R.C.C./Frame Structure ESR, distribution lines, Source (as required) all complete job in Korkotta & Adjoining Village in Topchanchi Block of District Dhanbad for the Year of 2021-22	Sub Cluster-2A	56	546.95	5.47	10000.00		
4	Construction of 1671 Nos. FHTC in Block Topchanchi, comprising of suitable R.C.C./Frame Structure ESR, distribution lines, Source (as required) all complete job in Pawanpur & Adjoining Village in Topchanchi Block of District Dhanbad for the Year of 2021-22	Sub Cluster-2B	64	553.34	5.54	10000.00		
5	Construction of 1876 Nos. FHTC in Block Topchanchi, comprising of suitable R.C.C./Frame Structure ESR, distribution lines, Source (as required) all complete job in Pradhankhanta & Adjoining Village in Topchanchi Block of District Dhanbad for the Year of 2021-22	Sub Cluster-2C	68	601.67	6.02	10000.00		
6	वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	From 25-07-2022, 4:00P.M						
7	वेबसाइट पर बिड प्राप्ति तिथि / समय	26-07-2022 upto to 01:00P.M						
8	प्री-बीड बैठक का स्थान एवं तिथि	अभिचंता प्रमुख का कार्यालय, पेरजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, नेपाल हॉल, झारंडा, राँची						
9	बीड प्राप्ति के लिए अंतिम तिथि / समय	08.08.2022, 4:00P.M						
10	निविदा की हार्ड कॉपी जमा करने की तिथि / समय / स्थान	कार्यालयक अभियंता, पेरजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल संख्या-02, धनबाद / अधीक्षण अभियंता, पेरजल एवं स्वच्छता अंचल, धनबाद / क्षेत्रीय मुख्य अभियंता, पेरजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग दुमका प्रखंड, दुमका।						
11	निविदा प्राप्त बिड खोलने की तिथि / समय	12-08-2022 upto to 01:00 P.M						
12	निविदा प्रकाशित करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता।	कार्यालयक अभियंता, पेरजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल संख्या-02, धनबाद।						
13	निविदा खोलने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता।	कार्यालयक अभियंता, पेरजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल संख्या-02, धनबाद / अधीक्षण अभियंता, पेरजल एवं स्वच्छता अंचल, धनबाद।						
14	प्रोक्वोरमेंट पदाधिकारी का सम्पर्क संख्या	7992394524						
15	ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाइन संख्या	0651-248045						

किसी भी प्रकार का बदलाव <http://Jharkhandtenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।
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निविदा में प्रारंभिक राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है। उत्तरदाता अग्रज की राशि मान्य होगी।
कार्यालयक अभियंता,
पेरजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल संख्या-02, धनबाद।
PR.No.274427 Drinking Water and Sanitation(22-23)-D

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION SATNA, DIST - SATNA (M.P.)

Notice Inviting e-Tenders

NIT No 01/01 01/02,01/03/SCDW/e-tendennng/2022-23 Date 22/07/2022

Online tender through e-tendering is invited by Satna Municipal Corporation (SMC), Satna, (M.P.) for the works of given in the table below.

S. No	Tender No.	Name of the work	Probable amount of contract	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document (in Rupees)	Time of completion
1	2022_UAD_212794_1	Design, Engineering, Procurement and Construction of Three [3] numbers Sewage Treatment Plants of 4 MLD 4 MLD and 3 MLD Capacity for Wastewater flowing through Umri, Gahera & Khermai Nallah respectively including Three [3] Years Defect Liability Period and Operation and Maintenance of STP and allied facilities for Five [5] Years along with RCC lining of Umri Nallah, Gahera Nallah & balance work of Khermai Nallah and Branches of all Three [3] Nallahs at Satna	91,64,39,119/-	45,83,000/-	50,000/-	18 Months (Including monsoon and 3 month trial run)
2	2022_UAD_212796_1	Design Engineering, Procurement & Construction of four (4) nos of RCC Overhead Storage Tanks and providing & laying of potable water distribution pipeline feeder main from Annicut to existing 18 MLD WTP feeder line from existing WTP complex to proposed Overhead Storage Tanks (OHST) to Mahadeva Transport Nagar Banjara Talaab and Chandrashay Vriddhashram and 1 no of GLSR at WTP with Defect Liability Period of entire scheme for 3 year in Satna	30,85,48,886/-	15,43,000/-	50,000/-	12 Months (Including monsoon and 1 month trial run)
3	2022_UAD_212797_1	Design Engineering Procurement and Construction of Augmentation Works of 18 MLD & 40 MLD existing Water Treatment Plants including Operation and Maintenance of augmented facilities for 5 Years in Satna	20,83,05,834/-	10,42,000/-	50,000/-	12 Months (Including monsoon and 3 month trial run)

Interested Bidder can view the NIT on website <http://www.mptenders.gov.in> and www.mpurban.gov.in.
The Bid Document can be purchased only Online 17:30 of 23.07.2022 to 17:30 of 22.08.2022.
Amendment to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in Newspaper.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
MUNICIPAL CORPORATION SATNA (M.P.)
Date 22/07/2022

ROURKELA SMART CITY LIMITED, ROURKELA

Udit Nagar, Rourkela-769012, Email: rourkelascl@gmail.com

BID ID:-RSCL/1548/2022 DATE: 09/07/2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

The Chief Executive Officer, RSCL invites bids from eligible contractors for the following project:

S. No.	Name of the Project	Estimated Cost of the Project Rs. (In Lakhs)
1	Construction and repair of Bitumen surface from Panposh Chowk to Ambedkar Chowk in Rourkela on Percentage Rate Basis.	99.50
2	Construction of Footpath work from Panposh Chowk to Ambedkar Chowk in Rourkela on Percentage Rate Basis.	94.35
3	Rehabilitation of existing divider form Panposh Chowk to Ambedkar Chowk in Rourkela on Percentage Rate Basis.	96.72
4	Development of Landscape Including footpath work near Tarani Mandir flyover and Nexa Show room on Percentage Rate Basis.	86.67

Tender Fees is Rs.11,800/- each to be deposited with the bid which is Non-refundable. The complete BID documents can be viewed/downloaded from official portal of Rourkela Municipal Corporation (<https://www.rmc.nic.in>) or e-procurement portal of Odisha <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> from 12.07.2022 to 28.07.2022 (up to 17:00 Hrs. IST). Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on 19.07.2022 at 12.30 P.M. in the Conference Hall of RSCL. For queries, intending bidder may contact General Manager (E&T) vide Phone no. 9437638780 and Email Id: rourkelascl@gmail.com.

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
Rourkela Smart City Limited
OIPR- 13080/11/0009/2223

MADHYA PRADESH RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

(An Agency of Govt. of M.P., Panchayat & Rural Development Department)
Block-2, Vth Floor, Paryawas Bhawan, Arera Hills, Jail Road, Bhopal-462011
RFP No.: 10124/WB/MPRRDA/ Date : 25.07.2022

SELECTION OF CAMPAIGN AGENTS (CAs) FOR IMPLEMENTING ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN IN MADHYA PRADESH UNDER COMMUNITY PARTICIPATORY ROAD SAFETY PROGRAM (CPRS)

The Government of Madhya Pradesh (hereinafter called "Borrower") has received financing from the World Bank (the "Bank") in the form of a "loan" (hereinafter called "loan") toward the cost of Madhya Pradesh Rural Connectivity Project.

The Client now invites proposals for Selection of Campaign Agents (CAs) for Implementing Road Safety Awareness Campaign in following district of Madhya Pradesh under Community Participatory Road Safety Program (CPRS) on e-procurement portal <https://mptenders.gov.in> from 30.08.2022 after 11:00 Hrs. in the following lots;

S. No.	District	Lot No.	Blocks included in the Lot	Contract Period
1	Dhar	1	Gandhwani, Manawar, Umarban & Dharamपुरी, Nalchha	6 Months
		2	Khushi, Nisarपुर, Bagh & Dahi	6 Months
		3	Tirla, Dhar, Sardarpur & Badnawar	6 Months

The RFP may be viewed, downloaded and submitted up to 12.08.2022, 15:00 Hrs. from the e-procurement portal.
M.P. Madhyam/105628/2022 CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (TENDER)

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, BHOPAL

Water Work Department

Municipal Corporation Rest House, Shyamla Hills, Bhopal
Office Telephone No. 0755-2701663, 2701669

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

First- Call

Online Percentage Rate Tenders are invited on Form 'A' from the appropriate firm that registered in Office of the Madhya Pradesh (Centralized PWD Registration Cell) for following work. The tender documents can be obtained online on the website <http://mptender.gov.in> as per the Key Dates in the Notice published on the above website.

S. No.	NIT No./Cell	Tender ID.	Details of Works	Estimated Cost (INR)	Earnest Money (EMD)	Cost of Tender Fee
1.	45 First call	2022_UAD_212308_1	Survey, Designing Drawing, Providing laying, testing, and commissioning of different size DI-K9, pipe line for Feeder line at 9 Acre, New Shabri nagar, Old Nehru nagar Over Head Tank Ward No. 29 Under Zone 06, Bhopal Estimated based on SOR- MPUADD Water Supply Sewerage and tube well Work, 2021	19832740.00	99164.00	12500.00

Critical Dates
Publish Date: 22-July-2022 09:00 AM
Bid Submission Start Date: 22-July-2022 09:00 AM
Bid Opening Date: 24-Aug-2022 11:00 AM
Submission End Date: 22-Aug-2022 06:00 PM

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Namada Project, W.W.D.
Municipal Corporation, Bhopal

T.N. 402/02/2023

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Corrigendum-1

In connection to E-Auction notification for the Catalogue no DLI-ADVT-JUL-1 which was published in various newspapers for the Work of Commercial Advertisement Rights through Vinyl Wrapping on Exterior of Trains having primary maintenance over Delhi Division and Videowalls at Anand Vihar Railway Station for a period of five years which was scheduled to be start at 1000 hrs through IREPS on 28.07.2022, has been withdrawn due to technical reasons. No.: 7PUB/NR-DLI0COMM(PUB)/9/2022 Dated: 22.07.2022

1876/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office:- PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813; Website: www.pspcl.in
Phone No. - 0175-2207649, Email id:- se-it1@pspcpl.in
TENDER ENQUIRY No. 278/DIT-1089A Dated 25.07.2022

Superintendent Engineer/IT (A&PM), Ground Floor PSPCL Head Office, The Mall, Patiala invites e-tender for Procurement of Web Application Firewall (WAF) for cyber security of Web Applications at PSPCL Data Center, Patiala. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 25.07.2022, 5:00 PM onwards.

NOTE:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

C-287/22 15899/Pb

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that one person **Named: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown**, was found dead in Front of Rain Basera, Kalka Ji, New Delhi on 07.07.2022 at 09:30 am. in the area of P.S. Sun Light Colony, Delhi. In this regard a case has been lodged vide DD No. 67A dated 07.07.2022 at P.S. Sun Light Colony, Delhi. The description of the dead person is as under:- **Age: 40 years, Sex: Male, Height: 5' 5", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Wearing: White & blue colour checked lungi.** If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Sun Light Colony, Delhi
DP/286/SE/2022 Ph: 011- 26348324, 8750870928

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused namely Sant Prasad, S/o Sh. Kanshi Ram, R/o: 100 Double Storey, New Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 90/2020 U/s 188 IPC has been registered at P.S. Rajinder Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said Sant Prasad cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Sant Prasad has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said Sant Prasad accused of FIR No. 90/2020 U/s 188 IPC, P.S. Rajinder Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 12.09.2022.

By Order
Sh. Vinod Kumar,
Metropolitan Magistrate-03,
Central District, Room No. 150,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/1671/CD/2022

Moradabad Municipal Corporation

Pili Kothi, Jalka Compound, Moradabad-244001 (U.P.)

E-Procurement Tender Notice

Ref. No: 106/Ex. Eng./Env./NNM/2022-23 Date 25.07.2022

Tender reference	Date
87/Ex.Eng./Env./NNM/2022-23	29-06-2022

Name of Work/Description of Item: "Design, Supply, Construction, Installation & implementation of 100 TPD Construction and Demolition waste processing plant with Operation & Maintenance of Ten years period in Moradabad City (U.P.) on EPC Contract mode"

Cost of RFP: Non-refundable/Non-adjustable fee of INR 6,000/- + 18% GST=7,080/- (INR Seven Thousand Eighty Only). The payments to be made in the form of RTGS/NEFT from any nationalised bank to the account details as mentioned below; Bank of Baroda Beneficiary Name: NAGAR NIGAM MORADABAD E-TENDERING, A/c No - 27050100020717, IFS code - BARBOLYMOR (5th Character is Zero)

Earnest Money Deposit (E.M.D.): Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Refundable amount of Rs. 5,33,000.00 (Five Lakh Thirty Three Thousand Rupees Only) The payments to be made in the form of RTGS/NEFT/FDR/NSC/ Bank Guarantee from any nationalized bank/Scheduled bank of India in favour of the "Municipal Commissioner, Moradabad Municipal Corporation, Moradabad" payable at 'Moradabad'.

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Uttar Pradesh e-Procurement Portal <https://etender.up.nic.in> from 26/07/2022 at 10:00 Hours (IST) onwards. Online bids are invited for the following works up to 02/08/2022 at 16:00 hours. Technical Bid will be opened on same day at 17:00 hours at Office of the Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam, Pili Kothi, Moradabad.

For more details on the tender and bidding process you may please visit the above mentioned portal.

NOTE:- 1- All eligible/interested consultants are mandated to get enrolled on e-Procurement portal (<https://etender.up.nic.in>).
2- Contractor can contact Help Desk for any clarification of their doubts regarding the process of Electronic Procurement System.

(Rajeev Kumar Rathi)
Ex. Eng./Environment Engineer
Nagar Nigam Moradabad

ASSIDC

(Govt. Of Maharashtra Undertaking)
Tel: 022-2611122

CORRIGENDUM NO.3

The last date of submission of RFP for Selection of Master Franchisee for Marhathi (E-tender ID : 2022_MSSID_803627_1) is extended till 01.08.2022 upto 17.00 Hrs. The details are available on Government website www.mahatenders.gov.in.
Place: Mumbai, Date:26.07.2022 General Manager

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5G auctions today: who's bidding, and what's at stake for whom

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

THE COUNTRY is poised to take a major step towards the 5G era with its biggest-ever spectrum auction beginning Tuesday. A total of 72 GHz of airwaves will be up for bidding, with participation from four entities — Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and Adani Data Networks, a subsidiary of the Adani Group. They have submitted earnest money deposits (EMDs) — a key marker of bidding intent — to the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). Reliance Jio has put in Rs 14,000 crore, compared to Rs 5,500 crore by Bharti Airtel, Rs 2,200 crore by Vodafone Idea, and Rs 100 crore by the Adani Group.

Which bands will be auctioned?

A total 72,097.85 MHz (72 GHz) of spectrum

with a validity period of 20 years will be put on auction from July 26. The auction will be held for spectrum in the frequency bands 600 MHz, 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1,800 MHz, 2,100 MHz, 2,300 MHz, 3,300 MHz and 26 GHz.

"It is expected that the Mid and High band spectrum will be utilised by telecom service providers to roll out 5G technology-based services capable of providing speed and capacities which would be about 10 times higher than what is possible through the current 4G services," according to a statement by the Union Cabinet issued last month.

What is the significance of the EMD amount?

The amount of EMD signals the intent of a company about the amount of spectrum it wishes to buy as it indicates its bidding strategy and spectrum-buying capacity.

An applicant is given eligibility points depending on its EMD, based on which it can target a certain quantum of airwaves in selected spectrum bands. According to analysts, based on the Adani Group's EMD, it could possibly buy spectrum worth Rs 700 crore.

What does the difference in EMD amounts tell us?

With such a huge gap between the Adani Group's EMD and that by each of the other three telcos, especially Jio, experts believe that the Adani conglomerate might not directly take them on in the consumer 5G space, at least for now. However, the Adani Group, which has said it is entering the auction to build private 5G networks, could possibly become a competitor of telecom companies in the enterprise solutions vertical, according to analysts.

ADANI: Since the Adani Group has previ-

ously clarified that it has no intention of entering the consumer 5G space and is participating in the spectrum auctions to build captive private networks, analysts tracking the field believe that the company might bid in the 26 GHz millimetre band, which is a high-speed, low-latency band, and thus ideal for private networks. In a report, Credit Suisse said Adani's low EMD compared to the others "does indicate that its participation in the spectrum auction will largely be limited to the 26GHz band", which is the "cheapest band for enterprise use cases".

JIO: Jio, meanwhile, can buy spectrum worth around Rs 1,30,000 crore and could also bid for the premium 700 MHz band, which is best suited for consumer-related applications.

"... we expect Jio to bid ~100-150MHz in 3.5GHz band, 500MHz in 26GHz band and also potentially 5-10MHz in 700MHz band or selectively add to its spectrum holdings in

800MHz and 1800MHz bands," Credit Suisse said in its report.

AIRTEL: With an EMD of Rs 5,500 crore, Airtel is expected to restrict its bidding in the 3.5 GHz and 26 GHz band, Credit Suisse said. "Additionally, Airtel could also look to selectively add spectrum in 900MHz and 1800MHz bands in circles such as Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, etc."

VODAFONE: Credit Suisse said Vodafone Idea "will be able to bid for only minimum required spectrum: ~50MHz in 3.5GHz band and 400MHz in 26GHz bands".

Does it mean Adani is not directly competing against the other telcos?

The Adani Group has previously said it is participating in the auctions only to build private networks for business verticals such as airports, power generation plants, logistics, and ports, among others. While reports

by Credit Suisse, Morgan Stanley, Nomura and others reaffirm that the Adani Group might not be competing with the telcos in the consumer 5G space, the conglomerate has not stated categorically that it will deploy these private networks at just its own business verticals.

According to DoT's rules on setting up private 5G networks that were released last month, entities can lease spectrum from telecom companies to set up their own private networks. Experts believe that this is one potential area where the Adani Group could directly compete against the other three telecom companies — by possibly leasing spectrum to other entities. This, clubbed with the general view that enterprise solutions will primarily drive revenues for telecom companies as far as 5G is concerned, it could mean that the Adani Group is looking at that bigger share of the overall revenue pie.

TELLING NUMBERS

Toll of human-animal conflict on tigers, elephants and people

BETWEEN 2018-19 and 2020-21, 222 elephants were killed by electrocution across the country, 45 by tigers, 29 by poachers and 11 by poisoning. Among tigers, too, 29 were killed by poaching between 2019 and 2021, while 197 tiger deaths are under scrutiny. These figures emerge after adding up data tabled in Lok Sabha on Monday by Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Forest, Environment and Climate Change, in a written response to a question on human-animal conflict raised by Senthilkumar (DMK).

Among human casualties of conflict with animals, elephants killed 1,579 humans in three years — 585 in 2019-20, 461 in 2020-21, and 533 in 2021-22. Odisha accounted for the highest number of these deaths at 322, followed by Jharkhand at 291 (including 133 in 2021-22 alone), West Bengal at 240, Assam at 229, Chhattisgarh at 183, and Tamil Nadu at 152.

Tigers killed 125 humans in reserves between 2019 and 2021. Maharashtra accounted for nearly half these deaths, at 61. For tiger deaths caused by human activity, the Lok Sabha reply did not provide a state-wise break-up.

Among the 222 elephant deaths caused by electrocution, Odisha accounted for 41, Tamil Nadu for 34 and Assam for 33. Odisha (12 out of 45) also had the highest number of elephant deaths caused by tigers, followed by West Bengal (11) and Assam (9). Poaching deaths were highest in Meghalaya (12 out of 29) while poisoning deaths were highest in Assam (9 out of 11, including 8 in 2018-19 alone).

"As a result of concerted efforts made for protection and conservation of wildlife, the population of several wildlife species like Tigers, Elephants, Asiatic Lion, Rhino etc. in the country has increased," the Minister said in his reply.

"Assessments of human-wildlife conflicts indicate that the main causes of human wildlife conflict include habi-

Tigers	2019 2020 2021		
	Humans killed by tigers	50	44
Tigers: natural deaths	44	20	4
Unnatural, not poaching	3	0	2
Tiger deaths under scrutiny	22	71	104
Poaching deaths	17	8	4
Seizure	10	7	13

Elephants	2018-19 19-20 20-21		
	Humans killed by elephants	—	585
Elephants killed by trains...	19	14	12
... by electrocution	81	76	65
... by poaching	6	9	14
... by poisoning	9	0	2

533 Humans killed by elephants in 2021-22

Elephants killed by electrocution	2018-19 19-20 20-21		
	Andhra Pradesh	2	5
Assam	9	11	13
Chhattisgarh	6	2	7
Jharkhand	1	5	5
Karnataka	9	8	9
Kerala	6	4	2
Meghalaya	0	5	0
Nagaland	4	2	1
Odisha	24	9	8
Tamil Nadu	10	15	9
Uttar Pradesh	3	3	0
Uttarakhand	3	2	N/R*
West Bengal	4	5	10

*NR: information not received from state. Source: MoEFCC, Lok Sabha reply

at loss, growth of population of wild animals, changing cropping patterns that attract wild animals to farmlands, movement of wild animals from forests area to human dominated landscapes for food and fodder, movement of human beings to forests for illegal collection of forest produce, habitat degradation due to growth of invasive alien species, etc.," he said.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

SIMPLY PUT

The executions in Myanmar

The execution of four political prisoners, in defiance of international appeals, takes Myanmar back decades. What does the move mean for the rest of the world, including India, and their engagement with the junta?

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

THE MYANMAR junta's execution of four political prisoners, two of them well-known in Myanmar and abroad as pro-democracy activists, signals the military rulers' defiance of appeals by the international community not to carry out the death sentences and to free political prisoners arrested since the February 2021 coup. The executions, likely to have taken place on Saturday in the infamous Insein prison in Yangon, may have also been intended to spread fear among those in the resistance.

When Myanmar announced its intention in June, the United Nations, the United States and France, and international human rights organisations had condemned the decision, but the junta had dismissed the criticism as "reckless". It did not consider an appeal from a friend either. Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, said to be close to the junta, wrote to Gen Min Aung Hliang, the military ruler who goes by the designation of chairman of the State Administration Council, on June 12. "I would like to earnestly request you [to] refrain from carrying out the death sentences," he wrote on June 11, saying he was motivated by "deep concern and sincere desire to help Myanmar achieve peace and national reconciliation", he wrote, according to a report in the *Frontier Myanmar* at the time.

"At least 50 innocent civilians, excluding security forces, died because of them," spokesman Zaw Min Tun is reported to have said. "... Required actions are needed to be done in the required moments."

The last known executions in Myanmar were in 1988, according to Amnesty International. While death sentences were handed down even after that, it is certain that there were no executions at least in the last 10 years, when the junta began to put in place a controlled transition to democracy.

The February 2021 military coup, following an election sweep by Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD), reversed the transition, taking Myanmar back three decades to 1990, when the military cancelled Suu Kyi's first election victory and jailed her for the next 20 years. The executions have confirmed that the regression is complete.

Thousands have been arrested in the 18 months since the coup. The news site *Myanmar Now*, quoting the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, reported that 117 people have been sentenced to death by military tribunals, including 41 in absentia.



Courtesy: DW



Courtesy Myanmar Now



Courtesy Myanmar Now

PHYTO ZEYA THAW, 41 (above left) was a hip-hop musician and former lawmaker from Aung San Suu Kyi's (to his left in photo) National League for Democracy; convicted in January by a closed military court of offences involving possession of explosives, bombings, and financing terrorism.

KO JIMMY, 53 (above right, with Aung San Suu Kyi) was one of the leaders of the 88 Generation Students Group.

veterans of a failed 1988 popular uprising against military rule. He had already spent more than a dozen years behind bars for political activism before his arrest in Yangon last October.

HLA MYO AUNG (left in photo) and **AUNG THURA ZAW** were convicted of torturing and killing a woman in March 2021 who they allegedly believed was a military informer.

AP

Soon after grabbing power last year, the junta added 23 penal offences to crimes that attract the death penalty. In March 2021, it imposed martial law in many areas, handing over both executive and judicial functions to the military. Proceedings in the military tribunals take place behind closed doors and have been condemned as unfair trials.

The four executed were Phyto Zaya Thaw, Ko Jimmy, Hla Myo Aung, and Aung Thura Zaw. The last two were convicted of torturing and killing a woman in March 2021 who they allegedly believed was a military informer.

According to *Myanmar Now*, Ko Jimmy and Phyto Zaya Thaw were accused of leading and planning guerrilla attacks against the junta's forces and allied militias last year. They were tried under terrorism charges as the junta has labelled all resistance as terrorism. These two were well-known, had a high social media profile, and could mobilise people for protests.

Ko Jimmy, also known as Kyaw Min You, was arrested last October. Days after taking over, the junta had issued an arrest warrant for him, accusing him of inciting unrest and threatening "public tranquillity" with social media posts critical of the coup. For the next eight months, he had moved locations frequently while participating in demonstrations.

In 1988, Ko Jimmy was jailed for his role in the student uprising against General Ne Win following the military ruler's demonisation of several currency denominations rendering savings of students useless. The general had to resign at the end of July 1988, and August 8, 1988 (also known as 8888), was celebrated as victory day. Those who participated in the protest are known as 88 Generation.

Ko Jimmy spent nearly 20 years in jail, until his release in 2012. He is survived by his wife, Nilar Thein, also a well known 1988-generation activist, and a teenage daughter.

Phyto Zaya Thaw was arrested in November. He was Myanmar's pioneer hip hop artist who went by the state name Nitric. His band was known as Acid. He won elections as an NLD candidate in 2012 and 2015, and worked closely with Suu Kyi.

He had cut his political teeth during the 2007 anti-junta "saffron revolution", so-called because of the participation of a large number of Buddhist monks.

The executions pose a dilemma for countries that have advocated engagement with the junta to persuade and encourage them to pick up the threads of the transition to democracy once more.

Given its security concerns in the

Northeast states, and its concerns about China growing a bigger footprint in Myanmar, India has so far adopted a policy of engaging with the junta, but also pushing the generals to return to democracy.

Days after the coup, the US, UK, EU, Canada and Australia imposed sanctions on several generals, ranging from travel bans and freezing of assets to denial of financial, legal and medical services. With Russia and China opposing, the UN Security Council did not discuss a sanctions resolution against Myanmar, and instead called on the junta to desist from violence and release all political prisoners.

Earlier this year, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said India did not believe in imposing sanctions, and placed faith in ASEAN's position on Myanmar and its efforts to engage it.

In March this year, Myanmar Foreign Minister Wunna Maung Lwin was invited to the virtually held BIMSTEC meeting hosted by Colombo, which India also attended. The US had criticised Myanmar's participation.

In June, New Delhi's decision to keep the junta out of an ASEAN meeting of foreign ministers was attributed to pressure from India's Quad allies.

Amid the international condemnation of the executions, New Delhi will face another round of pressure to take a harder line on the junta than it has been prepared to take so far.

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Losing weight: Research, gaps between meals, and customising your diet

EXPERT EXPLAINS

DR SURANJIT CHATTERJEE

From The Indian Express panel of specialists, exclusive insight

WHILE EATING habits or scheduling meals in a day is a subjective choice and differs from person to person, there are two main schools of thought regarding healthy eating habits and the required gap between meals — eating three or fewer large meals, or eating frequently but in smaller portions. How frequently one eats is often believed to influence the amount of weight one sheds or keeps. It has been suggested in conventional dietary knowledge that eating frequent

and controlled portions activates the body's functioning requirements and prepares it for the next meal. It quickens a person's metabolism and helps burn more calories.

What research shows

According to research published in the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics* in 2015, a large number of small meals may be associated with improved diet quality and lower body mass index (BMI). However, this may have certain implications on the behavioural approaches for controlling obesity. While the study draws inferences based on clear observations of a target group, other research suggests that eating less, more frequently, and keeping the body engaged in digestive activities might not have a significant impact on a person's metabolism or help burn more calories during the day.

A cross-sectional study from 2019 compared eating fewer than three meals per day with eating more than four, and found that

the latter increases HDL (high-density lipoprotein) cholesterol and lowers fasting triglycerides more effectively. Higher levels of HDL are associated with a reduced risk of heart disease. This study showed no difference in total cholesterol or LDL (low-density lipoprotein) cholesterol. Besides, it only suggested association, not causation.

Life situations differ

It is important to understand that the optimal diet plan for a person depends on various factors such as lifestyle, nature of profession, chronic illnesses or conditions, etc. The daily routine of some individuals may not leave them with sufficient time to have three big meals every day. Also, having large meals may make them lethargic, resulting in decreased productivity.

For such individuals, grazing-style eating, coupled with the intake of smaller portions, could be a better option to stay full and focused. But frequent meals mean you have

to be vigilant about calorific value. Theoretically, you may need 1,800 calories to maintain your weight and choose to eat six small meals daily. But can you realistically confine each meal to around 300 calories?

Medical conditions

Diet plans are also influenced by the medical conditions of an individual. For instance, diabetic individuals can start feeling weak or worse, experience a drop in their sugar levels, if they have long gaps between their meals. Having a meal plan with more frequent but controlled food portions may be more effective for them.

Eating frequently might become a problem for those who can't control their portion sizes, medically known as stimulus-bound eating. This can lead to the consumption of food that one likes in larger portions, leading to weight gain. Self-control is not quite their forte. It is better for such people to consume full meals in controlled

settings. Eating three big meals can lead to satiety, leaving one feeling full for a longer period and maintaining their concentration.

Watch gaps — and research

Planning a healthy eating routine involves limiting calorie consumption according to the body's requirements, dividing those calories across the day, and fixing the gaps between meals. Gapping often becomes the deciding factor in the success of your dietary goals.

Research continues to evolve in the domain of healthy eating habits. Given the importance of being in the recommended BMI range and the relationship between the gut microbiome and one's health, such research is crucial. However, it is important to be aware that findings are often nuanced and contingent on a variety of factors. One might end up drawing simplistic conclusions leading to fad diets and yo-yo dieting, in which one swings between weight loss and weight gain.

Sustainability is key

Remember, there is no conclusive evidence to determine the relationship between meal frequency, body composition and the risk of obesity. Given the plethora of recommendations — which are sometimes contradictory — one's best course of action is to strive for healthy eating habits that are sustainable over the long term.

Developing a personalised meal plan based on one's calorie intake recommendations, consumption of a higher proportion of healthier calories, and an eating frequency that works for their circumstances will be a good start when embarking on a healthy eating and weight journey.

Dr Suranjit Chatterjee is Senior Consultant, Internal Medicine, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, New Delhi.

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MEANWHILE

'GOODFELLAS' ACTOR PAUL SORVINO DIES

Paul Sorvino, an imposing actor who specialized in playing crooks and cops like Paulie Cicero in "Goodfellas" and the NYPD sergeant Phil Cerretta on "Law & Order," has died. He was 83. In the 1970s, he acted alongside Al Pacino in "The Panic in Needle Park" and with James Caan in "The Gambler," and was among the ensemble in William Friedkin's "The Brink's Job."

TOP OF THE WORLD



US Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi

CHINA

Taiwan holds drills amid Pelosi visit concern

Beijing: Taiwan's capital staged air raid drills Monday and its military mobilised for routine defence exercises, coinciding with concerns over a forceful Chinese response to a possible visit to the island by US Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. While there was no direct link between China's renewed threats and Taiwan's defensive moves, they underscore the possibility of a renewed crisis in the Taiwan Strait. Air raid sirens were sounded in Taipei and the military was holding its annual multi-day Han Kuang drills. Meanwhile, China delivered sterner warnings to US officials about Pelosi's possible visit. "We are seriously prepared," spokesman Zhao Lijian said on Monday. AGENCIES

TUNISIA

Vote on plan to give President more power

Tunis: Tunisians are voting Monday for a controversial new constitution put forward by President Kais Saied that critics say will formalise his power grab and reverse hard-won democratic gains in the North African nation. The new constitution gives the office of the president all executive powers and removes key checks and balances. Critics warn Saied's new political structure could pave way to a new autocracy. AP

MYANMAR

Suu Kyi bribery trial to continue

Bangkok: A court in military-ruled Myanmar ruled on Monday that there is sufficient evidence for the bribery trial of ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi to continue, a legal official said. A legal official who is familiar with Suu Kyi's cases said she was formally indicted Monday on two corruption counts on charges of allegedly receiving \$550,000 in bribes in 2019 and 2020 from Maung Weik. AP

ZIMBABWE

Gold coins debut as legal tender

Harare: Zimbabwe has launched gold coins to be sold to the public in a bid to tame runaway inflation that has further eroded the country's unstable currency. The unprecedented move was announced Monday by the country's Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe to boost confidence in the local currency. The central bank disbursed 2,000 coins to commercial banks on Monday. AP

IRAN

IAEA cameras to remain off

Dubai: Iran will keep the UN nuclear watchdog's cameras turned off until a 2015 nuclear deal is restored, the head of the country's Atomic Energy Organization said on Monday, state media reported. Nuclear chief Mohammad Eslami also said Iran would not agree to address alleged unexplained uranium traces as demanded by IAEA, adding that the 2015 nuclear deal had cleared Iran of so-called PMD allegations. REUTERS

GAZPROM TIGHTENS SQUEEZE ON GAS FLOW TO GERMANY

Russian goal to oust Zelenskyy: Lavrov

Says no barriers to Ukraine grain export, defends strikes

AGENCIES
KYIV, JULY 25

RUSSIA'S TOP diplomat said Moscow's overarching goal is to topple the government of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, making Russian war aims more explicit as its forces keep pummeling Ukraine with artillery barrages and air strikes. The remark from Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov comes amid Ukraine's efforts to resume grain exports from its Black Sea ports.

Speaking to envoys at an Arab League summit in Cairo late Sunday, Lavrov said Moscow is determined to help Ukrainians "liberate themselves from the burden of this absolutely unacceptable regime." Lavrov accused Kyiv and "its Western allies" of spouting propaganda intended to ensure Ukraine "becomes the eternal enemy of Russia."

"Russian and Ukrainian people would continue to live together, we will certainly help Ukrainian people to get rid of the regime, which is absolutely anti-people and anti-historical," he said.

Lavrov argued that Russia was ready to negotiate a deal to end hostilities in March when Kyiv changed tack and declared its intention to rout Russia on the battlefield, adding the West has encouraged Ukraine to keep fighting.

"The West insists that Ukraine must not start negotia-



Volunteers clear debris from a building destroyed by a Russian rocket in the village of Yahidne, Chernihiv Region, Ukraine. AP

tions until Russia is defeated on the battlefield," Lavrov said, adding that there are no barriers to the export of grain from Ukrainian ports.

Russia also tightened its gas squeeze on Europe on Monday as Gazprom said supplies through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline to Germany would drop to just 20% of capacity. Gazprom said flows would fall to 33 million cubic metres per day from 0400 GMT on Wednesday because it needed to halt the operation of a Siemens gas turbine at a compressor station on instructions from an industry watchdog. Germany said it saw no technical reason for the latest reduction.

E Gas cut: A strategic game plan

THE MOVE to cut gas supply smacked of Putin's intention to use energy exports as a cudgel to punish and divide European leaders by loosening or tightening taps as it suits him. Experts believe Russia is playing a strategic game. Fluctuating already low flows is better than a full cutoff as it manipulates the market and optimises geopolitical impact.

Ukraine unbowed, even Russians expect defeat: Zelenskyy

Destroyed 50 Russian arms depots: Kyiv

REUTERS
JULY 25

AFTER FIVE months of Russian attacks, Ukraine will continue to do all it can to inflict as much damage on its enemy as possible, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address on Sunday.

"Even the occupiers admit we will win," he said as he hailed the upcoming day of Ukrainian statehood, July 28, a new annual holiday that Zelenskyy announced in August last year. "We hear it in their conversations all the time. In what they are telling their relatives when they call them."

Like every day in the last months, Zelenskyy said that Ukraine was not letting up. "We do everything to inflict the highest possible damage on the enemy and to gather for Ukraine as much support as possible."

Meanwhile, in the war front, Ukraine said its forces had used US-supplied HIMARS rocket systems to destroy 50 Russian ammunition depots since receiving



Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy

the weapons last month.

In comments on national television, Defence Minister Oleksiy Reznikov underlined the growing impact that the High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) are having as Ukraine tries to repel Russia's invasion. "This cuts their (Russian) logistical chains and takes away their ability to conduct active fighting and cover our armed forces with heavy shelling," Reznikov said.

Russia says it has destroyed several of the HIMARS systems though Ukraine has denied this. In the latest such report, Russia's Defence Ministry said on Monday its forces had destroyed an ammunition depot for HIMARS systems in the Khmelnytskyi region in western Ukraine. Ukraine also it hoped to resume grain exports from the Black Sea region this week.

SUNAK vs TRUSS

China biggest threat to Britain; targeted India, says Sunak

Truss sets out investment plans

AGENCIES
LONDON, JULY 25

CHINA REPRESENTS the "largest threat" to Britain and the world's security and prosperity this century and there is evidence to suggest it has targeted countries from the US to India, UK Prime Minister candidate Rishi Sunak said on Monday.

The 42-year-old former Chancellor set out a series of plans he would undertake if elected the prime minister, including building a new NATO-style military alliance of "free nations" to defend against Chinese "technological aggression".

"I would close all 30 of China's Confucius Institutes in the UK - the highest number in the world," said Sunak as part of his leadership campaign pitch.

"China and the Chinese Communist Party represent the largest threat to Britain and the world's security and prosperity this century... I will build a new international alliance of free nations to tackle Chinese cyber-threats and share best practice in technology security," he said.

British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss will set out plans to create new low-regulation investment zones and more freeports on



Rishi Sunak and Liz Truss

Monday, stepping up her campaign to be next prime minister

Truss said she will set out how, if she was appointed PM, she would work with local communities to identify sites for re-development for investment zones, or what her team has described as "full fat freeports".

Such zones would have a low tax burden to drive investment and construction. "Instead, by creating these new Investment Zones we will prove to businesses that we're committed to their futures and incentivise them to stimulate the investment that will help deliver for hardworking people."

Many injured in shootings in British Columbia

THE NEW YORK TIMES
JULY 25

SEVERAL PEOPLE were injured and one man was in custody after shootings in at least three locations outside Vancouver, British Columbia, on Monday morning, the police said.

It was not immediately clear how many people were injured or whether anyone had been killed in the shootings, which prompted the authorities to send emergency alerts to cell-phones in the area. They said that a homicide team had been dispatched to the area.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said they responded to reports that shots had been fired "at several different scenes throughout the city and township of Langley," about 30 miles south-east of downtown Vancouver.

"Out of an abundance of caution, an Emergency Alert was issued until investigators can confirm that the suspect was acting alone," Sergeant Rebecca Parslow of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said in a statement.

One alert said that one of the shootings involved "transient victims." That alert described the suspect as a white man with dark hair who was wearing Carhartt coveralls and a T-shirt with a blue-and-green camouflage pattern.

At 7.20 am local time, the police said, they took a man into custody who they believed was the lone suspect. The motive for the shooting was unclear. The police asked the public to avoid the downtown area of Langley.

Record number of Australians in hospital as Covid cases surge

REUTERS
SYDNEY, JULY 25

THE NUMBER of Australians admitted to hospitals with Covid-19 hit a record of 5,450 on Monday, official data showed, as the spread of Omicron sub-variants strains the healthcare system nationwide.

The figure has grown since late June, as BA.4 and BA.5 strains became dominant since they can evade immune protection, whether from vaccination or prior infection, while experts say latter can be as infectious as measles.

The number of those in hospitals is the highest since the emergence of the coronavirus, exceeding January's high of 5,390 during the first wave of Omicron. Daily tolls have also risen, topping 100 on Saturday for the first time.

Covid spike: Pak to monitor Indian passengers

Islamabad: Indian passengers arriving in Pakistan through air or land routes, including via the Kartarpur Corridor, will undergo telescopic monitoring at all entry points, *The Express Tribune* reported. PTI

Over 1,000 retirement homes have suffered outbreaks, the government said. With several aged care centres battling a shortage of staff, the support of defence personnel in such facilities is to be extended until September end, an official said.

Lanka to restrict fuel imports for next 1 yr

China's help sought with trade, investment and tourism: Lankan envoy

REUTERS
COLOMBO, JULY 25

SRI LANKA will restrict fuel imports for the next 12 months because of a severe shortage of foreign exchange, its energy minister said on Monday.

"Due to Forex issues, fuel imports has to be restricted in the next 12 months," Sri Lanka's Minister for Power and Energy, Kanachana Wijesekera, said in a tweet, explaining the rationale behind a fuel rationing system that will be implemented this week.

The rationing system is among the first steps that Sri Lanka's President Ranil Wickremesinghe will take to ease the impact of the crisis.

Sri Lanka has also asked China to help with trade, investment and tourism to help it grow sustainably, Colombo's envoy to Beijing said on Monday as it negotiates for an emergency \$4 bil-



A cooking gas distribution centre in Colombo. Reuters

lion package to help it emerge from an economic meltdown.

Ambassador Palitha Kohona's emphasis on China as a key to Sri Lanka's economic recovery reflects Beijing's status as

one of Sri Lanka's two largest foreign creditors, along with Japan.

Kohona said Colombo wants China to ask its companies to buy more Sri Lankan black tea, saffron, spices and garments and to

Travel ban on six leading activists

Colombo: A magistrate court on Monday slapped an overseas travel ban on six protesters leading the anti-government demonstrations for months against the Sri Lankan government's mishandling of the worst economic crisis. The six activists, including a trade union leader, were charged with being part of an unlawful gathering in mid-June and were given bail after their arrest. PTI

make Chinese import rules more transparent and easier to navigate.

He said Beijing could also help by pouring further investment into vast China-backed port projects.

POPE APOLOGISES TO CANADA'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

'I humbly beg forgiveness for evils inflicted'

THE NEW YORK TIMES
MASKWACIS, JULY 25

POPE FRANCIS offered a sweeping apology to Indigenous people on their native land in Canada on Monday, fulfilling a critical demand of many of the survivors of church-run residential schools that became gruesome centres of abuse, forced assimilation, cultural devastation and death for over a century.

"I humbly beg forgiveness for the evil committed by so many Christians against the



Pope Francis at the Ermineskin Cree Nation Cemetery in Maskwacis. AP

Indigenous peoples," Francis said to a large crowd of Indigenous people, some in traditional dress

and headdress, in Maskwacis, Alberta, the site of a former residential school. The Pope made his apology in a pow wow circle, a covered ring surrounding an open space used for traditional dancing and drumming circles.

Francis, who arrived at the event being pushed in a wheelchair, added that his remarks were intended for "every Native community and person" and said a feeling of "shame" had lingered since he apologised to representatives of Indigenous people in April at the Vatican.

He said he was "deeply sorry"

for the ways in which "many Christians supported the colonising mentality of the powers that oppressed the Indigenous peoples."

"I am sorry," he continued, to applause. "I ask forgiveness, in particular, for the ways in which many members of the church and of religious communities co-operated, not least through their indifference, in projects of cultural destruction and forced assimilation promoted by the governments of that time, which culminated in the system of residential schools."

PEATLANDS AND RAINFORESTS IN CONGO BASIN PROTECT PLANET BY STORING CARBON

Congo to auction land to oil firms: 'Our priority is not to save planet'

RUTH MACLEAN
& DIIONNE SEARCEY
DAKAR, SENEGAL, JULY 25

THE CONGO, HOME to one of the largest old-growth rainforests on Earth, is auctioning off vast amounts of land in a push to become "the new destination for oil investments," part of a global shift as the world retreats on fighting climate change in a scramble for fossil fuels.

The oil and gas blocks, which will be auctioned in late July, extend into Virunga National Park, the world's most important gorilla sanctuary, as well as tropical peatlands that store vast amounts of

carbon, keeping it out of the atmosphere and from contributing to global warming.

"If oil exploitation takes place in these areas, we must expect a global climate catastrophe, and we will all just have to watch helplessly," said Irene Wabiwi, who oversees Congo Basin forest campaign for Greenpeace in Kinshasa.

The Congo's about-face in allowing new oil drilling in environmentally sensitive areas comes eight months after its president, Félix Tshisekedi, stood alongside world leaders at the global climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland, and endorsed a 10-year agreement to protect its rainforest, part of the vast Congo Basin, which is second



Peatlands in Equateur province in Congo last year. NYT

in size only to the Amazon.

The deal included international pledges of \$500 million for the Congo, one of the world's poorest nations, over the first five

years. But since then, the world's immediate priorities have shifted.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine sent oil prices soaring and led to American and British bans on

Russian energy and, last week, a call to ration natural gas in Europe.

At the same time, Norway, a leading advocate of saving forests, is increasing oil production with plans for more offshore drilling. And US President Joe Biden, who pledged early in his term to wean the world from fossil fuels, traveled to Saudi Arabia recently, where he raised the need for more oil production. Back home, Biden's ambitious domestic climate agenda is largely doomed.

The Congo has taken note of each of these global events, said Tosi Mpanu Mpanu, the nation's lead representative on climate issues and an adviser to the minister of hydrocarbons. Congo's sole goal

for the auction, he said, is to earn enough revenue to help the struggling nation finance programs to reduce poverty and generate badly needed economic growth.

"That's our priority," Mpanu said last week. "Our priority is not to save the planet."

The Congo announced the auction in May, with a video posted on Twitter that showed a shining river nestled in a deep bed of lush rainforest. The video quickly cut to a close-up of a filling station pump, where yellowish gas gushed into an automobile tank. American and French oil giants Chevron and TotalEnergies were tagged in the post.

Environmental groups were

outraged. Last week Congolese officials doubled down, expanding the number of blocks - vast parcels of land - up for grabs, from 16 to 30, comprising 27 oil and three gas blocks. TotalEnergies said it didn't intend to bid, and Chevron did not respond to a request to comment. Other oil major producers also declined to comment.

The auction highlights a double standard that many political leaders across the African continent have called out: How can the West, which built their prosperity on fossil fuels that emit poisonous, planet-warming fumes, demand that Africa forgo their reserves of coal, oil and gas in order to protect everyone else? NYT

17 ECONOMY



GOLD

₹51,145



RUPEE

₹79.78/USD



OIL

\$104.10



SILVER

₹54,351

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of July 21

SENSEX: 55,766.22 ▼ 306.01 (-0.55%) NIFTY: 16,631.00 ▼ 88.45 (-0.53%) NIKKEI: 27,699.25 ▼ 215.41 HANG SENG: 20,562.94 ▼ 46.20 FTSE: 7,297.87 ▲ 21.50 DAX: 13,300.97 ▲ 47.29

International market data till 1900 IST

IN CASE OF COMPANIES NOT SHARING DATA WITH REGULATOR

Eye on pvt firms, govt may define 'ownership' of non-personal data

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

THE GOVERNMENT could look at clearly defining "ownership" of non-personal data held by big-tech platforms, such as Google, Meta and Amazon, if they refuse to share such data with a regulator as proposed in the draft National Data Governance Framework, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

The draft framework, announced by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) in May, looks at acquiring non-personal data from the Government and persuading private companies to share this data for the benefit of start-ups in the country.

The draft also proposes the setting up of an India Data Management Office (IDMO), which will be in charge of designing and managing the platform that will process requests and provide access to non-personal

datasets for Indian researchers and start-ups, and act as the sector's regulator.

Asked how the Government will ensure that private companies share non-personal data, given that the provision is non-binding, a senior official said: "Once we have a functional IDMO, the Government will share all the non-personal data in its possession with it. As a second step, we will request private companies to also share certain datasets with the IDMO. In case they refuse, then the Government might get into the ownership of such data and how private companies can claim exclusive ownership over it."

In its most basic form, non-personal data is any data set that does not contain personally identifiable information. It could include aggregated information, such as the overall health data of a particular demography, weather and climate data of an area, and traffic data, among others.

EXPLAINED
Lack of clarity

THE DRAFT National Data Governance Framework currently lacks key details on this subject – including the types of non-personal datasets that companies would be expected to share.

The idea of harnessing economic benefits from aggregated non-personal datasets was first proposed by a MEITY-appointed committee headed by Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan.

In a draft report of January 2021, the committee recommended the identification of certain "high value datasets", which could be shared for the purpose of encouraging innovation and ensuring national security.

A member of the committee,

who did not wish to be identified, said that "communities" should ideally be allowed to claim certain rights over the data they produce on platforms like Google, Amazon, Uber, etc., collectively.

However, tech companies have so far opposed sharing non-personal data with the Government, citing violation of trade secrets and intellectual property rights.

"While offering their services to users, companies collect data on them and the subsequent non-personal data that is used to train their algorithms is value addition that the company has done on its part. Ideally, companies should have ownership over non-personal data since their underlying technologies derive value out of the raw data that they collect, which helps in finally making sense of those datasets," said a senior executive from a top tech firm.

The government official said that while companies have

reaped "significant economic benefits" from non-personal data, it has not trickled down to users who fundamentally help generate this data.

"Non-personal data that has been derived after processing personal data and collected by the companies to train their own algorithms is eventually monetised by them. Tech companies have earned billions of dollars by virtue of that," the official said.

"However, the state and citizens do not get any value out of it even though the underlying information in non-personal datasets held by companies is generated by individuals. The jury is out on who actually benefits from such data. Our view is that right now, it is just the big tech companies who are benefitting out of it," he said.

The IT Ministry did not respond to a request for comment from *The Indian Express*. Google did not respond to emailed queries while Amazon and Meta (Facebook) declined comment.

'Undisclosed foreign income: ₹14.8K cr tax demand raised'

Finance Minister informs Lok Sabha

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

ASSESSMENTS HAVE been completed for 368 cases, raising tax demand of Rs 14,820 crore under the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman informed the Lok Sabha on Monday in a written reply.

In cases related to deposits made in unreported foreign bank accounts in HSBC, undisclosed income of more than Rs 8,468 crore has been brought to tax and penalty of over Rs 1,294 crore has been levied, she noted.

She also said 648 disclosures involving undisclosed foreign assets worth Rs 4,164 crore were made in the one-time three months compliance window, which closed on September 30, 2015, under the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015, adding that the amount collected by way of tax and penalty in such cases was

Debt by PSUs as state's borrowing

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha that borrowing by state public sector undertakings or their special purpose vehicles (SPVs) will be considered as borrowing by the state government needing consent.

41% rise in direct tax mop-up in Q1

New Delhi: Net direct tax collection in the April-June quarter of the current fiscal rose by 41 per cent to Rs 3,54,569.74 crore from Rs 2,50,881.08 crore during the same quarter of last fiscal, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary informed the Lok Sabha on Monday. PTI

about Rs 2,476 crore. The data provided by the Finance Minister is up to May 31, 2022.

On queries regarding money deposited in Swiss banks by Indians, Sitharaman said: "There is no official estimate of the amount of money deposited by Indian citizens and companies in Swiss banks".

However, she said some recent media reports have stated that funds of Indians in Swiss banks have risen in 2021 as compared to 2020.

These media reports have also mentioned that these deposits do not indicate the quantum of the alleged black money held by Indians in Switzerland. The minister said that Swiss

authorities had conveyed that the Swiss National Bank (SNB) annual banking statistics should not be used for analysing deposits held in Switzerland by residents of India.

Further, they have said that to analyse Indian residents' deposits held in Switzerland, another data source should be used, which is called "locational banking statistics", which the SNB collects in collaboration with the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

As per the same media reports, Sitharaman added, "locational banking statistics" of the BIS showed a fall of 8.3 per cent during 2021 in deposits by Indian individuals in Swiss banks.

SECTOR WATCH
AUTOMOBILES & TECH

How Maruti, other automakers are driving in metaverse



A screengrab of the NEXAverse, via Nexa Experience website

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

MARUTI SUZUKI has unveiled a metaverse rendition of NEXA, its premium brand of vehicles, with its new mid-sized sport utility vehicle Grand Vitara in an immersive way. The NEXAverse allows users to select an online avatar, with interactive activity capabilities.

What is NEXAverse?

NEXAverse is an online 3D version of NEXA line of car showrooms, where users will be able to shop for vehicles starting with the Grand Vitara in an immersive way. The NEXAverse allows users to select an online avatar, with interactive activity capabilities.

Why has Maruti Suzuki launched NEXAverse?

NEXAverse is an online 3D version of NEXA line of car showrooms, where users will be able to shop for vehicles starting with the Grand Vitara in an immersive way. The NEXAverse allows users to select an online avatar, with interactive activity capabilities.

The company is putting its weight behind the NEXAverse given the preference of the younger audiences to shop virtually. The company said it would invest 10-15% of its innovation budget — around Rs 6-8 crore — on the NEXAverse.

Which other automakers are entering metaverse?

Global car brands such as MG Motor and Volvo also have unveiled their metaverse equivalents, MGVerse and VolvoVerse, respectively. Carmakers are also leveraging metaverse technologies to enhance their manufacturing processes. BMW has partnered Nvidia while Hyundai has partnered Unity — to build virtually accessible 3D digital twins of their factories — with an aim to allow employees to collaboratively assess modifications and adjustments to production lines in the early planning stages.

Eight PSUs surrender 11 coal mines, says Joshi

New Delhi: Eight public sector companies have submitted requests to surrender 11 non-operational coal mines under an amnesty scheme, Parliament was informed on Monday.

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi said that till date, the government has received requests for surrender of 11 coal blocks allotted to three Central PSUs and five state PSUs following the policy being issued.

"Ministry of Coal has issued an amnesty scheme in May 2022 granting one-time window to allottee government companies to surrender non-operational coal mines without penalty," Joshi explained. The government had earlier allowed the PSUs to surrender non-operational mines without giving any reason.

The government had said that the move would release several coal mines which the PSU allottees were not in a position to develop or were disinterested and could be auctioned as per the auction policy. PTI

PRALHAD JOSHI
Coal Minister

'Flexible workspace leasing by India Inc rises 59%

Leasing of flexible workspace by corporates rose 59% in April-June to 28,167 desks in eight cities, Cushman & Wakefield said

75% Combined share of Bengaluru, Pune and Hyderabad within the top eight cities, in terms of total enterprise deals in flexible seats, since 2021

17,691 Desks in coworking centres leased by enterprises in April-June quarter of last year



City	April-June 2021		April-June 2022	
	Deals	Seats	Deals	Seats
Bengaluru	5,839	10,386	267	1,456
Hyderabad	2,565	5,611	941	1,364
Pune	5,049	5,721	95	295
Delhi-NCR	445	2,378	2,490	956

ON THE OVERALL OFFICE LEASING MARKET, FIRST HALF OF 2022 SAW YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH OF:

71% IN GROSS LEASING
108% IN NET LEASING

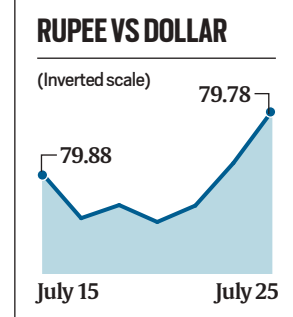
Source: Cushman & Wakefield/PTI

Fed hike looms, Re rises on weak dollar

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

THE RUPEE rose by 12 paise to close at 79.78 against the US dollar on Monday due to a weak dollar in overseas markets and an improved appetite for riskier assets.

Stronger regional currencies also supported the rupee sentiment ahead of the US Fed policy decision on Wednesday. Weak domestic equities and FII outflows, however, capped sharp gains. At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 79.86 against the greenback and moved in a range of 79.70 to 79.87 in the day trade. In the previous session, the rupee had closed at 79.90 against the American currency. On the domestic equity mar-



ket front, the BSE Sensex ended 306.01 points or 0.55 per cent lower at 55,766.22, while the Nifty declined 88.45 points or 0.53 per cent to 16,631.00. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital market on Monday as they sold shares worth Rs 844 crore. WITHPTI

Ex-Goldman VP, others charged with insider trading

REUTERS
NEW YORK, JULY 25

A FORMER Goldman Sachs banker, a former FBI agent trainee, a technology executive and others were charged on Monday with insider trading in separate schemes that together generated millions of dollars in profits, US prosecutors said.

Among those charged were former Goldman vice president Brijesh Goel, who faces six counts of securities fraud and obstruction of justice for allegedly giving a co-conspirator non-public information about potential mergers and acquisitions beginning in February 2017. The co-conspirator, identified by the SEC as Goel's friend Akshay Niranjani, used the tips to trade in securities of some of the companies targeted for deals and split \$280,000 in profits with Goel, prosecutors said.

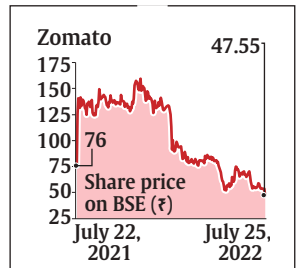
Year after listing, Zomato falls to new low as lock-in ends

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

ZOMATO'S SHARES closed at an all-time low of Rs 47.55 on the BSE on Monday, as the year-long lock-in period for its pre-IPO ended last Friday.

In the early hours of trading, the company's scrip fell as low as Rs 46, nearly 40 per cent below its issue price of Rs 76.

Last Friday, the mandatory lock-in for promoters, employees and other shareholders — who bought Zomato's stock before its initial public offering (IPO) — ended. It means these shareholders are now free to sell their shares, which, analysts say, is the major reason behind the massive sell-off Zomato's stock witnessed on Monday. Sebi rules state that if a company has no identifiable promoters, then its pre-IPO shares are locked-in for a period of one year. "Following the lock-in period of one year, the pre-offer shareholders may sell their shareholding in



Sebi rules state that if a company has no identifiable promoters, then its pre-IPO shares are locked-in for a period of one year

our company, depending on market conditions and their investment horizon," Zomato said in a red herring prospectus before its IPO. "Further, any perception by investors that such sales might occur could additionally affect the trading price of the equity shares," the food delivery platform had added. The last time Zomato's stock took such a severe beating was after its acquisition of Blinkit last month. In the subsequent four sessions, Zomato's stock had plunged by over 20 per cent.

Zomato was the first major startup to list on the bourses last July and saw a blockbuster open-

BRIEFLY

Bullion bourse

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi will on Friday launch India's first international bullion exchange at GIFT City.

Tesla subpoena

Bengaluru: Tesla disclosed it got a second subpoena on June 13 from the US SEC over CEO Elon Musk's tweets in 2018 about taking the firm private. REUTERS

ESIC payroll

New Delhi: Around 14.9 lakh people in May joined the ESIC-run social security scheme, as per NSO data. PTI

AUSFBQ1

New Delhi: AU Small Finance Bank posted a 32% on-year rise in net profit at ₹268 crore for Q1 FY23, with the quarter being the best in last five years in terms of business momentum and collections. ENS

DELHI JAL BOARD : DELHI SARKAR
OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER (M)-10
TENDERING DIVISION (M)-10
ROOM NO. 103, 1st FLOOR, ENGINEERS BHAWAN, NEAR MOOL
CHAND CROSSING, ANDREWS GANJ, NEW DELHI-110049
Mail: - eem10.djb@gmail.com. Mob: - 9850291341

S. No.	Name of work	Reserve price	Date of release of tender in e procurement solution	Last date and time for download & RTGS through e procurement solution
1	Hiring of 2 nos. deslitter for cleaning of sewer lines / manholes in narrow lanes of Ward No. 558 & 575 Jangpura Assembly Constituency under EE(M)-41 (AC-41 Jangpura)	Item rate	2022_DJB_226604_1 23.7.2022	6.8.2022 upto 2.00 PM
2	Hiring of suction cum jetting machine of 4000 ltr. Capacity for Maintenance of sewerage system in Jangpura Assembly Constituency under EE(M)-41 (AC-41 Jangpura)	Item rate	2022_DJB_226604_1 23.7.2022	6.8.2022 upto 2.00 PM

It is for publishing in the leading newspaper please. Further details in this regard can be seen at govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 254 (2022-23)

STOP CORONAVIRUS
"WEAR MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE."

भारत सरकार / Government of India,
वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय / Ministry of Commerce & Industry
सोनी - विशेष आर्थिक क्षेत्र प्राधिकरण / SEEPZ-Special Economic Zone Authority
अंधेरी (पूर्व), मुंबई - 400 096/ Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400 096
टेल / Tel. : 022-28294728 फॅक्स / Fax : 28291385
ई-मेल / E-mail: dcseepz-mah@nic.in, वेबसाइट / Website: www.seepz.gov.in

No. SEEPZ-SEZ/ESTATE/IP/27/2021-22 Date: - 26/07/2022

TENDER NOTICE

Sub: Engagement of Contractor for Clearance / Disposal / Removal of Investment Powder Waste from SEEPZ-SEZ premises.
(CPPP Portal Ref. ID - 2022_SEEPZ_702168_1)

Tenders are invited for aforementioned work by SEEPZ-SEZ Authority, Mumbai through online mode. The Tender Document along with procedure of online submission of bid is available at websites <http://seepz.gov.in> and <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.
Online Tenders will be accepted on or before 9th September 2022 till 17:00 Hrs and same will be opened on 12th September 2022 till 12.00 Hrs.

-sd-
Assistant Development Commissioner/
Estate Manager
SEEPZ SEZ, Mumbai

Classifieds PERSONAL

Smartly D/o Sh. Devinder Singh W/o Sh. Vijay Kumar R/o C-10, Hazara Park Shivpuri, Street No.32, Chander Nagar, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051 have changed my name to Simran Mehta for all purposes.

I, YJYOTI W/O JITENDER KUMAR R/O 93-B, LIG FLATS DDA, RAMPURA, DELHI-110035, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO JYOTI AGGARWAL.

I, Kushbu Srivastava, W/o Mrinal Srivastava R/O A-2211, First Floor, Sector A, Near Gate No.5, Greenfields, NHPC Colony Faridabad, Haryana-121010, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Khushboo Khrivastava.

PUBLIC NOTICE Be it Known that my clients VIJAY RAJOTEAYA S/O RAMESH RAJOTEAYA R/O D-31 Manglapuri Village Palam Colony New Delhi-110045 have discovered and severed all his relation with his son named PRASHANT RAJOTEAYA aged 28 years and debarred him from his movable and immovable properties' assets due to his mis-behaviour.

PUBLIC NOTICE BE IT KNOWN TO ALL CONCERNED that my client Rajesh Kumar S/O Mukesh Kumar R/O Sector-10 of House No. 108, Gali No. 12, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi-110043, have control and concern over his son named Shroya Singh. By this notice my client hereby disowns and debarns all his movable and immovable properties and interests and liest etc along with claim or interest in respect of his all properties including movable and immovable assets.

PUBLIC NOTICE BE IT KNOWN TO ALL CONCERNED that my client Mr. Chand Prasad Gupta, S/O Late Sh. Ram Kumar Gupta, R/O C-234, behind PVR Sonia, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018, have discovered and disinherited to his son, namely Vinesh Gupta and his wife, with immediate effect from his movable and immovable properties.

PUBLIC NOTICE My clients Mr. Noorul Islam S/O Noor Mohd. and Shahnaz Parveen W/O Noorul Islam Both R/O House No 182/ 183, Block B, Old Seema Puri, Jai Colony, Delhi-110095, have discovered their son Mohd. Iqbal and his wife Shabnam from all movable and immovable properties and also severed all relations from them because of his disobedient and disrespectful behaviour of my client. My client will not be responsible for the acts and actions of their son and his wife.

CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION Department of Culture, Chandigarh Administration UT Secretariat, Ground Floor, Sector-9, Chandigarh. Expression of Interest (E.O.I) Expression of Interest (E.O.I) is invited from interested experienced agencies/individuals/company (ies) for "Restoration, Preservation, Conservation and Management of Capital Complex (UNESCO World Heritage), Chandigarh: Completion of Martyr's Monument Stone Art Work".

Table with 2 columns: Start Date for submission EOI (26.07.2022), Last Date for submission EOI (12.08.2022 by 5.30 PM).

Secretary Department of Cultural Affairs, Chandigarh Administration

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male Age : Approx. 35 years, Height : 5'6", Complexion : Wheatish, Build : Normal, Face : Round, Identification : Tatoo mark of ARUN & OM on right hand, wearing White & blue colour linear shirt, grey colour jeans, grey colour hawai sleeper on foot was found dead on 18.07.2022 at DDA ground, Behind Moti Ratan Apartment, Gandhi Vihar, Timarpur, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 83A dated 18.07.2022 u/s 174 Cr.P.C. has been lodged at P.S. Timarpur, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this found person may kindly inform to the following:- SHO : P.S. Timarpur, Delhi49 DP/2602/N22 Tel. No. 011-28882356, 9990120649

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE

- 1. Name of the Work :- PMGSY Road Works
2. Total No. of work :- 1 No. (One)
3. Estimated Cost :- Rs. 293.02 lakhs (Approximately)
4. Eligible Class of Contractor :- 'B', & 'A', (of Odisha P.W.D.) or relevant Class of other licensing authorities (as per annexure).
5. Period of Completion :- 9 Calendar months for the work.
6. Other details :-

Table with 5 columns: Procurement Officer, Bid Identification No., Availability of tender On-line for bidding, Last Date & Time of seeking Tender, Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W. Circle, Balasore.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway, Delhi Division, New Delhi invites e-Auction through IREPS (https://ireps.gov.in) for allotment of contracts of advertisement at following railway stations/locations:

Table with 3 columns: Media of Advertisement, Railway Stations/Location/Tractions, Last Date & Time of Opening of Tender.

All contractors who intend to participate in the e-auctions conducted through E-Auction Leasing module of IREPS should fulfill following mandatory requirements before they can submit their bids: Registration on IREPS for E-Auction Leasing module using IREPS User Account for E-Auction Leasing module.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Alcaraz loses Hamburg thriller; first tour title for Musetti



Lorenzo Musetti (R) with the trophy after beating Alcaraz. AP

Hamburg: Lorenzo Musetti needed six match points to upset top-seeded Carlos Alcaraz 6-4, 6-7 (6), 6-4 in the final of the Hamburg European Open. The 20-year-old Italian claimed his first tour-level title in 2 hours, 47 minutes. Alcaraz was aiming to improve his 5-0 record in finals and was also chasing his fifth title this year alone after wins in Madrid, Barcelona, Miami and Rio de Janeiro. The 19-year-old Spaniard fought back from 5-3 down in the second set and saved five match points to take the Hamburg final to a third set. But Musetti didn't fold and the 62nd-ranked player from Carrara, Italy, finally took his chance at the sixth time of asking. American Bernard Pera beat top-seeded Anett Kontaveit to win the women's final on Saturday. —AP

8 Aus players head to India for camp

Sydney: Australian batter Will Pucovski and seven other players will travel to Chennai for a 10-day training camp next month as part of an exchange programme with MRF Pace Foundation. The 24-year-old Pucovski had made his Test debut against India in January last year but had dislocated his shoulder during the match and had to undergo surgery. He then suffered a concussion last October, which kept him out of action. The eight players will integrate with local players in training and in a two-day and one-day match. Former Sri Lanka all-rounder Thilan Samaraweera is part of the coaching group. Australia pace legend Glenn McGrath will also be present as a coach as a part his role as a consultant at the MRF Academy. —PTI

Bengaluru FC, Kerala to play against EPL teams

Mumbai: Bengaluru FC and Kerala Blasters FC reserve squads will take on English Premier League sides in the Next Generation Cup. The tournament is part of the longstanding partnership between Premier League and Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL) to support the development of football in India. The youth squads of the two ISL clubs had qualified to compete in the international tournament by virtue of finishing in the top two in a qualifying event held earlier this year. —PTI

Lankan bowlers lead the way on Day 2 vs Pak

Galle: Sri Lanka took hold of the second test against Pakistan after its bowlers came good Monday on the second day at the Galle International Stadium. After being criticized for being unable to defend 342 runs in the first test, the Sri Lankan spinners tightened their lines and bowled to good lengths to help the hosts to an 187-run lead in their bid to even the three-match series. Off-spinner Ramesh Mendis ran through Pakistan's middle order to finish 3-42. Agha Salman, who debuted in the opening match, was the brightest of the Pakistani batters with his first half-century. He made 62 before being dismissed on the final ball of the day when he edged to Dhananjaya de Silva at first slip off the bowling of Prabath Jayasuriya. —PTI

Ferrari seek silver linings after title blow

London: Ferrari searched for silver linings after Sunday's French Grand Prix left them licking self-inflicted wounds, with fans fearing Formula One's oldest and most glamorous team had blown their title chances yet again. Charles Leclerc remained Max Verstappen's closest challenger but the Ferrari driver is now 63 points behind his Red Bull rival, with 10 races remaining, thanks to a mistake of his own making. —REUTERS

Sole vaulter

REUTERS
EUGENE, JULY 25

ARMAND DUPLANTIS brought down the curtain on the World Championships in stunning fashion on Sunday, breaking his own pole vault world record in the final act of the 10-day track and field meet in Eugene. After the United States claimed emphatic victories in both the men's and women's 4x400 metre relays, Duplantis took centre stage and duly delivered a perfect finale for the first championships on American soil. The Swede sailed over 6.21 metres to surpass his previous mark by one centimetre - set in March en route to winning gold at the World Indoor Championships - and complete his collection of medals by claiming a first world title. "It's great; I cannot complain," Duplantis said. "Actually, I did not think about the record that much today... I really wanted to win the gold so badly. It was the medal I was missing. So when I was on this height, it was like everything came together and it happened from there." American Chris Nilsen took silver with 5.94 metres on countback from Ernest John Obiena, whose bronze was the first-ever world medal for the Philippines. Unheralded Nigerian Tobi Amusan had earlier stolen the show in the women's 100 metres hurdles, rocketing to a new world record of 12.12 seconds in the semi-finals. She then won the gold in what was initially announced as a world record 12.06, although excessive wind speeds meant her time was ruled out. "The goal was to come out and to win this gold... The world record is a bonus," said Amusan, who finished 0.17 seconds ahead of Jamaican Britany Anderson while Puerto Rico's Olympic champion Jasmine Camacho-Quinn went home with bronze. American Athling Mu held off British rival Keeley Hodgkinson to add the world 800 metres title to her Olympic crown while Germany's Malika Mihambo, also a gold medalist in Tokyo, retained her long jump title. Jakob Ingebrigtsen of Norway made up for this runner-up finish in the 1,500 metres with a convincing victory in the 5,000 metres, where reigning Olympic champion and world record holder Joshua Cheptegei faltered and finished in ninth place. "I needed it," Ingebrigtsen said. "I felt really good today... but 5 kilometres is a tough race." French world record holder Kevin Mayer regained the decathlon title after impressive performances in the pole vault and javelin, seizing opportunity after a competition-ending injury to Olympic champion Damian Warner. In the morning session, Italy's Massimo Stanò claimed a one-second victory over Masatora Kawano of Japan in the men's 35km race walk, adding a world gold to his Olympic crown. The United States wrapped



Armand Duplantis of Sweden cleared 6.21 metres (20 feet, 4 1/2 inches) to best his world record by 1 cm. Reuters

ONE FOR RECORD BOOKS

- 14** Number of athletes - 8 women & 6 men - who won gold medal in their individual event at the Tokyo Olympics and repeated the feat at the World Championship.
- 33** Number of medals the USA won at the C'ships, a record.
- 20** Number of World Championship medals (14 gold, 3 silver, 3 bronze) USA sprinter Allyson Felix bowed out with, also a record.

up the championships by consolidating their place at the top of the medals table with a championship record 33 medals. The men's quartet came home in two minutes, 56.17 seconds and strengthened the Americans' stranglehold on the event. The United States has now won eight of the past nine world titles and eight of the past 10 Olympic golds.

World Athletics to introduce repechage round at Paris Games

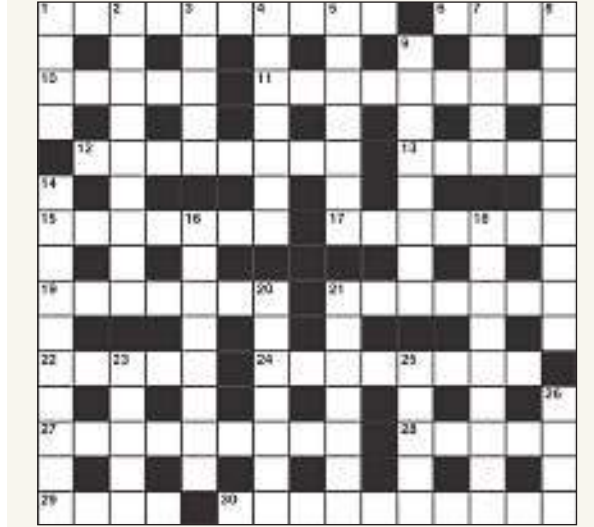
REUTERS
JULY 25

WORLD ATHLETICS will introduce a repechage round in individual track events from 200 metres to 1500m at the Paris 2024 Games, the global governing body for athletics said on Monday. The repechage round takes place after the initial qualifying rounds, and gives athletes who have failed to make the cut for the later rounds of an event a second chance at qualification. It is already a part of the format of other Olympic sports like wrestling and taekwondo.

Sebastian Coe

The introduction of a repechage round - rubber-stamped by the World Athletics Council - will also apply to hurdles events. "More exposure" It will not be implemented in the 100m, which already features preliminary heats. "In the new repechage format, athletes who do not qualify by place in round one heats, will have a second chance to qualify for the semi-finals by participating in repechage heats," World Athletics said in a statement. "This will replace the former system of athletes advancing through fastest times in addition to the top placings in the first round heats." World Athletics president Sebastian Coe said the decision had been taken after consultation with athletes and broadcasters. "We believe this... will make progression in these events more straightforward for athletes and will build anticipation for fans and broadcasters," Coe said. "The repechage rounds will give more exposure to our sport during the peak Olympic period and will be carefully scheduled to ensure that every event on our Olympic programme retains its share of the spotlight."

CROSSWORD 4803



ACROSS
1 Four voices in noisy combination (10)
6 What a dirty film! (4)
10 Dispatched to the interior? (5)
11 A lower tender sought by the farmer (9)
12 In a way one has to admire a negotiator (8)
13 Old priest in Roman Catholic memorial (5)
15 Rail cut in order to reduce the length (7)
17 Aspired in a way to helplessness (7)
19 Free in general (2,5)
21 They go on tiny feet (7)
22 A man has to put up with being excited (3,2)
24 It may describe one singularly successful (4-4)
27 Young officer is awkward but learns (9)
28 Consumer items that are cut and polished (5)
29 Female having to carry oxygen pump (4)
30 Though concerned possibly resented it (10)

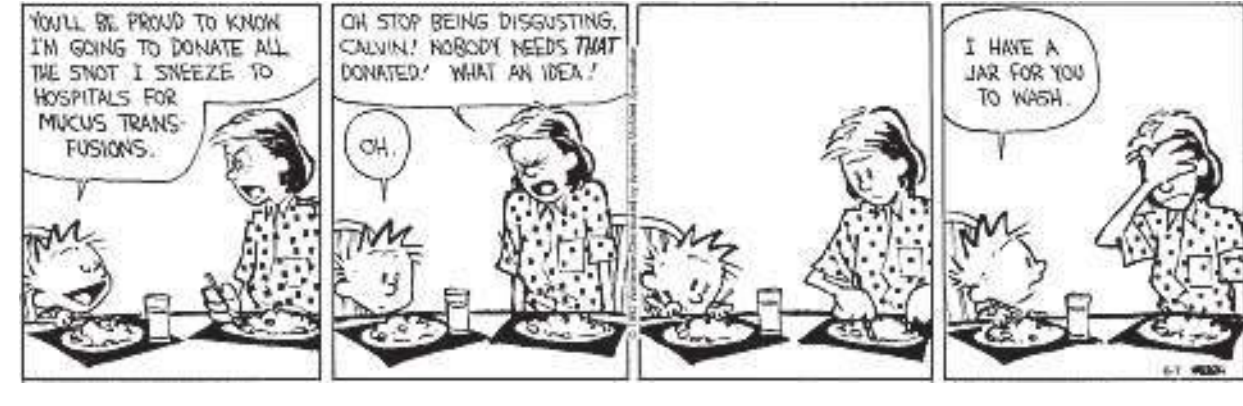
DOWN
1 Two persons competed (4)
2 Most important architectural monument to see? (9)
3 Plants gun if deception is required (5)
4 Novel article and story (7)
5 It's possibly true Ted said (7)
7 Animal arrived and left (5)
8 She needs a hand to get to work (10)
9 Open coal fires I left to go out (8)
14 Play leading roles in entertainment (3,2,5)
16 Suddenly burly Pat got reformed (8)
18 Change for the better? (9)
20 Earnest if devious oriental (7)
21 It weighs the remainder (7)
23 Restriction also includes a bachelor (5)
25 Held a conference about a measure (5)
26 A building to get rid of (4)

Solutions Crossword 4802: Across: 1 Work out, 5 Expel, 8 Interding, 9 Art, 10 Same, 12 Long shot, 14 Dulcie, 15 Ensnare, 17 Argument, 18 Vera, 21 Ova, 22 Kidnapped, 24 Satyr, 25 Sell-out, Down: 1 Waits, 2 Rat, 3 Owns, 4 Tripod, 5 Engaging, 6 Playhouse, 7 Litotes, 11 Malignant, 13 Wigmaker, 14 Deacons, 16 Anodes, 19 Audit, 20 Nail, 23 Pro.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip. Smile, it is the ___ that fits the ___ of everybody's ___ - Anthony J. D'Angelo (3, 4, 5)

HVAEE
EFLCY
LLORT
AISHKK

SOLUTION: HEAVE, TRIOL, FEEL, CKARKS

SUDOKU 4907

Difficulty Level 4s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

2		4			3			
	5				1			
8	9	1		4				
2	3	4		8				
		9						
3	8	7		5				
6	4	2		9				
	1			2				
3			6			8		

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4906

4	2	5	1	8	7	6	9	3
3	9	8	4	6	2	5	7	1
1	6	7	3	5	9	8	2	4
7	3	1	5	4	8	9	6	2
5	8	2	9	1	6	4	3	7
6	4	9	2	7	3	1	8	5
8	1	6	7	3	4	2	5	9
2	5	3	8	9	1	7	4	6
9	7	4	6	2	5	3	1	8

DAY TODAY BY PETER VIDAL

- ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**
For the last few weeks you may have been caught in a fog, unable to see your way forward with your usual clarity. Several planets are now hovering on the very brink of a new sector of your chart, heralding a fresh phase of energetic restlessness.
- TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**
An unusually complex relationship between the Sun and Mercury should make for a lively and satisfying week, mainly from the social point of view. Personal contacts could help your progress at work, but this is no time to take dubious offers at face value: look a little deeper.
- GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**
You may still feel a little out on a limb or out in the cold, but there's a great deal you can do to re-establish ordinary human contact. The influence of that energetic sign Aries will soon have you back on form, boosting your social confidence and giving you the edge over your rivals.
- CANCER (July 22 - July 23)**
It's at work that the main problems are likely to crop up. This may come as a surprise to those of you who imagine that personal affairs are most important. Intimate and family issues should be dealt with smoothly over the next forty-eight hours if possible.
- LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**
You've done well, no doubt about that. However, you can best make further progress by offloading some financial responsibilities and cutting your costs. Allow loved ones to take over the reins if you think you can trust them. If you can't, then you can at least offer them some constructive advice.
- VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**
There are some wonderful planetary alignments this week to encourage and sustain you, including aspects to Jupiter, the planet of reckless optimism. It's a week to go wild socially, if that's not too out of character. But one word of warning: if you do let your hair down then anything could happen; and I mean anything.
- LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**
Venus and Mars are in their own ways both so constructive that we can only conclude that for once you feel like a square peg in a square hole. In other words, you are getting on very well indeed. Just one condition, though, you need to clear up all unfinished emotional business.
- SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**
It's a superb moment to cut through your routine chores and daily tasks with a spot of lateral thinking. You know full well that there are ways to be more efficient with your time and resources, and now may be the moment to cut out the dead wood that's been holding you back.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)**
You're walking an emotional tightrope, but even today there's an impetuous mood in the air which suits you. You'll be free to chop and change and cancel agreements, but don't be surprised if more conventional people look askance at your behaviour.
- CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**
The most advantageous sectors of your solar chart at the moment are without a doubt those pointing to your financial fortunes. Although it looks as if there'll be a slight hiccup in personal matters, business relationships should be perfectly profitable.
- AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**
Your social stars are still very strong and, although one friendship or attachment should have weathered recent storms, you must now ensure that you are not getting too carried away by your thoroughly individual emotions. What you need now is a sense of stability.
- PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**
You're now entering a high-spending phase. Over the next few weeks, you'll be juggling your finances as only a true Piscean can. Everything about the present time suggests an easy ride, so don't make life difficult for yourself. And don't tangle with authority figures.

I can't say I threw away my wicket but I should have converted into hundreds. It's really fortunate to get to fifty (back to back) but I should have converted into hundred.

SHREYAS IYER ON NOT SCORING A CENTURY VS WI

MCA to meet to discuss major changes in constitution

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI JULY 25

THE MUMBAI Cricket Association (MCA) has called a special general body meeting on July 29 to discuss major proposed changes to its constitution, including abolishing voting rights of international cricketers, allowing individuals above 70 to hold posts, and making the Apex Council act through the secretary instead of the CEO.

Each state association under the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had to change its constitution following the Supreme Court order on the Lodha Committee's recommendations. The Lodha Committee gave voting rights to all former international players in their respective association, barred any individual from holding a post after reaching 70 years of age, and in an attempt to make administration more professional, gave more power to the respective Chief Executive Officers to run the BCCI and state associations.

In a notice about the proposed changes sent to all its members, the MCA explained that it has clubs as its members and there is no individual voter in the association. Instead the MCA wants international players to be made associate members without any voting right.

"No individual member like Patron members, donor members, etc. has any voting rights. Also the Lodha Committee had only recommended that International players should be granted memberships of the Association. Assigning voting rights to international cricketers would amount to altering the foundation of the applicant Association. However, international players can be Associate Members and shall be invited and shall attend the meeting and make their contributions/suggestions," the MCA proposal states.

With respect to the 70-year age limit, the MCA feels the "disqualifications are too wide", and there is no reason to impose restrictions on members of the Governing Council. According to the MCA, if persons without sufficient experience are made to represent its interests in the BCCI, there will be no recognition for Mumbai's contribution to Indian cricket. In order to protect the interests of the MCA, people with experience of negotiation and personal interaction with other member associations should be made the representatives.

"Disqualification on the basis of age is neither fair nor practical. There are many examples of administrators who have served the game of cricket beyond the age of 70 years. MCA owes much of its success to the great leadership of administrators who contributed to the Association even after they were 70 years old. MCA strongly feels that the game should not be deprived of their expertise," the MCA explanation reads.

The *Indian Express* spoke to some former cricketers, who opposed the proposal of abolishing their voting rights. "They can't make any change to the constitution because as per the Supreme Court order, if any changes need to be made by any association, they will have to approach the Supreme Court first. Only after the Supreme Court gives its nod can the association make these changes," the former India cricketer said.

Shukla set to be Bengal coach

Laxmi Ratan Shukla is set to be the Bengal senior team's head coach, while WV Raman will be the batting coach. An announcement in this regard is expected from the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) on Tuesday. Shukla will replace Arun Lal, who stepped down at the end of this season. Lal was successful as Bengal coach, taking the team to the 2019-20 Ranji final and guiding the side to the semifinal this term. However, after Bengal lost to MP, Lal, 66, stepped down, citing "fatigue". Former India opener Wasim Jaffer was the CAB's first choice, but he has already taken up the role to coach the Bangladesh U-19 team.

Lovlina alleges 'mental harrasment' after coach not allowed at CWG village

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JULY 25

WITH ONLY three days to go for the opening of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, controversy gripped the Indian contingent after Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain accused the Indian officials of 'mentally harassing' her.

The boxer claimed her preparations for the CWG were hampered after her coach Sandhya Gurung, a Dronacharya Awardee, was not allowed inside the Games village when the team checked in on Sunday. Lovlina claimed she was being continuously harassed and added her other coach was sent back to India.

The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) said the Indian Olympic Association was responsible for accreditation. Late on Monday, the IOA — following an intervention from sports

minister Anurag Thakur — released a statement that a 'special request' has been made to the organisers to 'provide Ms. Gurung with requisite accreditation.'

Earlier in the day, Lovlina, in a Twitter outburst, did not accuse anyone directly but claimed she was a victim of 'continuous harassment'. "Today with a lot of grief, I want to tell everyone about the continuous harassment going on with me. The coaches who helped me win an Olympic medal are always being side-lined which has severely impacted my training schedule," Lovlina wrote.

She added: "One of the coaches is Sandhya Gurungji, who is a Dronacharya awardee. I had to plead with folded hands to get my coaches included in the contingent. I am feeling mentally harassed because of this ordeal. Right now, my coach Sandhya Gurung is standing outside the CWG village and not being allowed to enter. Just eight days before



Lovlina Borgohain has claimed her preparation has been impacted. File

the start of my event, my training schedule has been hampered. My other coach has been sent back to India," she said.

Lovlina alleged that she endured similar treatment before the World Championship in

I had to plead with folded hands to get my coaches included in the contingent. I am feeling mentally harassed because of this ordeal."

LOVLINA BORGHAIN
OLYMPIC BRONZE MEDALLIST

Istanbul and was concerned that her performance could 'suffer' because of the 'politics'.

"I don't understand how will I focus on the Games (CWG) amidst all this? My world championships also suffered because of this. I don't want my CWG to be affected due to politics. Hoping I will overcome this politics and win a medal for my country. Jai Hind."

Soon after, officials across sporting bodies swung into damage-control mode. Talking to Press Trust of India, BFI secretary Hemanta Kalita said they had to abide by the quota sys-

tem imposed by the organisers.

"Based on the number of athletes who have qualified there is 25 per cent quota. So we had four officials, which includes coach, doctor etc.," PTI quoted Kalita as saying. "We had requested the IOA and they have increased the quota to eight. Four will stay inside the village and four have to stay outside, they can enter the village, and spend the day but at night they have to go back out."

News agency ANI quoted a sports ministry source as saying: "Union Sports minister Anurag Thakur is looking into the matter of Lovlina Borgohain and has directed the ministry officials to be in touch with Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and resolve the issue as soon as possible."

The IOA said they received a 'late request' for Gurung's accreditation but have made a 'special request' to deal with the issue on a 'priority basis'.

Compare and contrast

India is expected to dominate a few events at CWG while struggle in some but how does level of competition weigh up against Asian Games?

COMMONWEALTH

GAMES, 2022

2 DAYS TO GO

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JULY 25

WITH THE Commonwealth Games and Asian Games being limited-field events in some respects — due to history and geography respectively — there are sports in which medals are tougher to earn at one stage than the other.

Some sports feature world champions at the CWG, while some others have Asian powerhouses. As such, the Indian medal hauls in the same sport at the two events can vary considerably. A look at what the Indian contingent can expect to encounter in various sports at the two Games:

ATHLETICS

Champs in Asia, strugglers at CWG

On the Asian circuit, Indians have done well with China and Japan being the only other major medal contenders. Indians have amassed 254 medals so far at the Asian Games with 38 percent of participants finishing on the podium in the last edition — the 2018 Jakarta Games.

But it's a different ball game altogether at the Commonwealth Games with top contenders like Australia, Canada and England, just to name a few, entering the picture. India has just 28 medals at CWG. For Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra, the CWG is virtually a replay of the World Championships with another face-off with Grenada's Anderson Peters awaiting him in Birmingham.

BOXING

Average at both events

India's position in the all-time medal tally in boxing at the CWG and Asian Games does not see much difference. The country is placed 10th with a total of 37 medals in the CWG and eighth at the Asian Games with 57 medals. But significantly, most of India's success at the Asian Games came in the late 1980s and 1990s. While the Indian boxers have won eight gold medals at the Commonwealth Games, where England leads the all-time medal tally with 60 gold, India has won nine gold medals at the Asian Games. However, at the 2018 edition, Indian boxers won only two medals — Amit Panghal's gold and Vikas Krishan Yadav's bronze.



PV Sindhu became the first Indian shuttler to win a silver medal at the Asian Games four years ago. In contrast, India have won medals at CWG by the dozen. PTI

But from the CWG the same year, the boxers returned with nine medals including three gold, three silver and three bronze medals, including two medals in women's boxing. While the Indian boxers have to face counterparts from countries like England, Canada, Scotland and Northern Ireland in CWG, the main challenge at the Asian level comes from boxing powerhouses like South Korea, Thailand, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

GYMNASTICS

Eyeing a perfect landing

Be it the Commonwealth Games or the Asian Games — India has only recently started to make its presence felt. At the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi, Ashish Kumar won a silver and a bronze medal — the country's first-ever in a major competition. That was followed by a bronze by Dipa Karmakar in the 2014 edition at Glasgow.

Since then, Indian gymnasts have not won a single medal at the Commonwealth or Asian Games. Karmakar was fourth in the

vault event at the Asian Games in 2014 and didn't make an appearance in 2018.

At the 2022 Birmingham Games, England and Canada are expected to dominate. For India, 27-year-old Pranati Nayak, a two-time Asian Championship bronze medallist, will spearhead the contingent. She finished 20th at the 2014 CWG and eighth in the 2018 edition in the individual section.

HOCKEY

Own goals galore

At the Asian Games, the men have often choked under pressure, as seen in the last edition in 2018. India are head and shoulders above the rest of the continental teams, evidenced by the fact that they are almost always the only Asian side pushing for medals at major global events. Yet, their superiority hasn't always reflected on the field, where they've lost out due to silly mistakes at crucial junctures.

In contrast, their failure to win the gold medal at the CWG is largely because of one team — Australia, who have won the title in

BADMINTON

FLUCTUATING FORTUNES

THE 2006 CWG was one of the first competitions where Saina Nehwal, who won a crucial singles tie to help India win the team bronze, showed her capabilities. This time, Aakarshi Kashyap — who takes Saina's place in the squad — will have a similar opportunity. But it won't be easy, given that the CWG always throws up a tricky opponent, especially from Canada (read: Michelle Lee).

In 2018, India emerged as the best nation at CWG badminton for the first time, eclipsing Malaysia who had held that title since 1998. Given the depth in the men's game, India would fancy their chances this time as well but there'll be some mouth-watering clashes in the individual event, with world champion from Singapore, Loh Kean Yew, and Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia in the mix.

While three or four gold medals can be a realistic target from the CWG, it's different at the Asian Games, given that all the heavyweights from world badminton descend there. India hasn't won a single gold medal at the Asian Games — they have seven from the CWG — and have just one silver after PV Sindhu became the first Indian to reach an Asiad final in 2018, where she lost to Tai Tzu-Ying. In fact, Saina's bronze in that edition was India's first singles medal at the Asian Games in 36 years.

every edition. Hockey at CWG has always been competitive due to the presence of England and New Zealand, apart from Australia, with Pakistan, Malaysia, Canada and South Africa having the ability to spring a surprise.

The women have been on an upward curve in both events and even though they haven't come close to matching the gold at the 2002 CWG, they reached their first Asian Games final after 20 years in the last edition, losing narrowly to Japan. They'll fancy their chances at the next Asian Games but the CWG could remain a step too far, given how strong Australia and England are.

WEIGHTLIFTING

125 medals at CWG, 14 at Asiad

The contrast in the competition in weightlifting between the CWG and Asian Games can be gauged from the fact that India comes second with 125 medals, including 43 gold, behind Australia's medal tally of 159 medals in the all-time medal list of the CWG while it has won only 14 medals — five silver and

nine bronze — in the history of the Asian Games.

The last time an Indian weightlifter won a medal at the Asian Games was in 1998 when Karnam Malleswari won silver in women's 63 Kg category while at the last Commonwealth Games in 2018, India topped the medal tally in the sport with a total of nine medals including five gold.

The main reason for disparity is that powerhouses like China, Iran, South Korea, Japan, North Korea, Kazakhstan and Chinese Taipei dominate the Asian Games which feature several world champions. Come Birmingham, Indian weightlifters are expected to dominate before reality hits them at next year's Asian Games with perhaps the exception of Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Mirabai Chanu.

TABLE TENNIS

Living in China's shadow

The Chinese are the most dominant force in table tennis, which makes the Asian Games a tough nut to crack. India have won 20 medals in table tennis since the sport was introduced at the CWG in 2002 while they've won just two bronze at the Asian Games so far. India are 11th in the table tennis medal tally at the Asian Games, while they are third behind Singapore (50) and England (20) at the CWG.

Gold Coast 2018 was India's best-ever show at the CWG with eight medals. Manika Batra was the star of the show, winning gold in the women's singles, silver in women's doubles partnering Mouma Das and bronze in the mixed doubles with G Sathiyan. Both the men's and women's team won gold in the team event.

WRESTLING

Laggards in Asia, leaders at CWG

At the Commonwealth Games, India sits pretty in the second position behind Canada, winning a total of 102 medals including 43 gold. When it comes to the Asian Games, the situation changes dramatically — 59 medals overall and only 11 gold.

For Indian wrestlers, the selection trials to get into the CWG squad are tougher than competing at the Games themselves, where since 1970, Indians and Canadians have dominated the event. The fight for gold across categories is largely between these two countries, while Nigeria has given the Indians a tough fight in some women's weight classes.

At the Asiad, Indians have been in Iran's shadow, with South Korea being dominant in men while Japan in women. When Yogeshwar Dutt won gold in 2014, it was for the first time in 28 years that an Indian wrestler finished on top of the podium at the Asian Games. In 2018, Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat won titles in their categories, a rare occasion when India finished with two gold medals.

INDIA TOUR OF WEST INDIES

In series-winning knock, Axar proves he has batting ability to prosper

ABHISHEK PUROHIT
JULY 25

AXAR PATEL has been so much of an understudy to Ravindra Jadeja that eight years since his international debut, he has played all of six Tests, 40 ODIs and 23 T20Is. And in the handful of games he's got, the spotlight has squarely been on his white-ball run-squeeze and red-ball five-fors.

It is only in the last couple of years or so that his batting has begun to garner some attention. More evidence of that potential came in his unbeaten 64 off 35 balls, a maiden ODI half-century that won India the ODI series against West Indies in Trinidad on Sunday.

Memorably, in October 2020, Axar had hit Jadeja for three sixes in the last over to win an Indian Premier League game in Sharjah for Delhi Capitals against Chennai Super Kings. In the Mumbai Test against New Zealand last December, he'd shown both sides of his batting range; a patient 52 off 128 — his maiden Test fifty — in the first innings — was followed by an unbeaten 41 off 26 in the

second as India were looking to declare. In IPL 2022, he came in at 104 for 6 in a chase of 178 and took DC home against Mumbai Indians with an unbeaten 38 off 17 balls at Brabourne Stadium.

In the past few years, Axar has worked on his hitting game, especially at DC, under head coach Ricky Ponting, assistant coach Pravin Amre and former assistant coach Mohammed Kaif. A realignment of his front foot while lofting down the ground, holding his hitting shape and developing scoring areas square of the wicket have expanded his stroke options.

The left-hander has always had the basics of both defence and attack in place, having been nicknamed 'Jayasuriya' in hometown Nadiad in Gujarat for his big hitting in junior days. His coaches would try to keep him focused on the red ball, but he would also take out time to have fun in tennis-ball cricket. Playing with regular and scuffed-up tennis balls — bowled with pinched grips to turn and bounce awkwardly on cement and other uneven surfaces — honed his defensive and driving technique. Axar had to make sure he was to the pitch of the ball, and adjust



Axar Patel scored 64 off 35 balls. AP

quickly if he couldn't get there in time.

But at the higher levels, his career has played out in the shadow of his fellow all-rounder. Opportunities with the national side have been irregular, and even in the IPL, he has been known for his four accurate, economical overs more than anything else. And it is probably not easy to keep pushing oneself if one is mostly going to remain on the

national bench.

"When he came to DC, he was perhaps a bit happy-go-lucky. But gradually, he realised that he would have to push even harder if he wanted to be consistently in the reckoning for India as an all-rounder," Kaif had told this paper before IPL 2022.

And that meant spending more time working on his batting. Axar's front foot would come down towards mid-off when he looked to hit straight. As a result, despite his reach, the bat-swing would get obstructed and he couldn't manage a good connection. "We worked on getting the front foot to come down in the direction of mid-on or at least straight, thus freeing up the hitting zone," said Kaif.

Technical tweak

It took a while, but Axar has made it a part of his set-up now. All his straight boundaries in the second ODI in Trinidad were played with the straightest of front feet, placed well inside the line of the ball.

Axar said that he had gone in with a positive mindset at 205 for 5 in the 39th

over, with another 107 required. "Hundred-odd is chased in the last 10 overs in the IPL. So, I went in with the intent that we could do it here as well, and not let it get to us that we have to get so many runs still. Our thinking was that we would take at least one chance every over," Axar told Yuzvendra Chahal on *bcci.tv*. After the Brabourne chase against MI, where he had lofted Jasprit Bumrah for six over long-on, Axar had said that he tried to maintain his shape and react to the ball instead of clouding his mind with too many thoughts.

"I was maintaining my shape," Axar had said. "When you see you have to get so many runs and only so many balls are left, you can start thinking that I should loft the ball there, or that I can hit the sweep. But I keep talking to Ricky and I have worked on staying in the moment, about seeing the ball and hitting the ball. So that is what I was trying to do."

Another aspect of his game that Axar has improved is attacking the wide yorkers designed to prevent him from sloggling through midwicket. "His release stroke would be through midwicket but bowlers would bowl

wide yorkers to him. Then he worked on hitting that particular delivery through and over point," said Amre.

Axar's 182 runs in IPL 2022 came at a strike rate of 151.66. He is not yet elite finishing material — India had sent him ahead to save Dinesh Karthik for the death against South Africa in Cuttack — but at least his batting has started to enter the conversation more often.

"He does not get too many chances with the bat but his intent is pretty good, and his confidence has been high since he hit Jadeja for those sixes," said Amre. "He is basically a sharp, smart cricketer who has an understanding of the game situation. He works out quickly which bowler to target, and when to turn the strike over if there is a set batsman at the other end. And it may not be apparent, but he does have the ability for power-hitting." And it is beginning to make its presence felt now.

BRIEF SCORES: West Indies 311/6 in 50 overs (Hope 114, Pooran 74; Thakur 3/54) lost to India 312/8 in 49.4 overs (Patel 64 not out, Iyer 63, Samson 54; Joseph 2/46, Mayers 2/48) by 2 wickets