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Ashok Gehlot, Chief Minister, Rajasthan

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Department of Information and Public Relations, Rajasthan

'India guided by Sri Lankans' interests'

MEA statement supports democratic processes, people's welfare, but makes no mention of Rajapaksas

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

In its first reaction to days of violence that led to the resignation of Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, the government on Tuesday said that India will be guided by the "best interests" of the Sri Lankan people. The statement, which made no mention of the Rajapaksa government itself, signals that New Delhi will continue to provide Sri Lanka with economic support but not political support during the current crisis, prioritising people-to-people ties instead, senior officials indicated.

"As a close neighbour of Sri Lanka, with historical ties, India is fully supportive of its democracy, stability and economic recovery," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said in response to questions about the situation in Sri Lanka.

"India will always be guided by the best interests of the people of Sri Lanka expressed through democratic processes," he added, in a reference to street protests since early April that have turned violent over the weekend, with several homes and cars set on fire, and at least 8 people have been killed, 200 injured in clashes between political groups,



Connecting dots: A Sri Lankan man holding the national flag as police officers conduct investigation into the aftermath of clashes, in Colombo on Tuesday. ■AP

and attacks by ruling party supporters.

Detailing India's assistance to Sri Lanka in the past few months, the MEA spokesperson said that India has extended support worth more than \$3.5 billion, and that "the people of India have provided assistance for mitigating the shortages of essential items such as food, medicine, etc.". The support package includes a billion dollar credit line for essential imports, and half a billion

dollar line for fuel, debt payment deferrals of loans totalling a billion dollars, and a \$400 million currency swap that has been extended until mid-July.

Public anger

As public anger over the mismanagement of the situation by President Gotabaya and his brother Prime Minister Mahinda has spilled onto the streets, the Modi government has kept a close watch on the situation, but sought

to keep a distance from the Sri Lankan leadership. "In a fluid political situation, it makes sense to emphasise people to people relations," a senior official said. Apart from the instability that the situation in the neighbouring country generates, New Delhi has also been worried about a rise in refugees fleeing food shortages and other hardships on the island nation.

Former Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka

(2009-13) Ashok Kantha said the MEA spokesperson statement "nuances" India's position.

"As first responder, we will do whatever is required by Sri Lanka – and this includes our support totalling more than \$3.5 billion. But when it comes to the Political stalemate, we don't want to take sides," he told *The Hindu*, adding that there is "a massive erosion in the support base of the Rajapaksa, and India will not take a position on the government itself."

Apart from the credit lines and debt waivers, the government and the Tamil Nadu government have sent consignments of rice and other supplies, hoping to help tide over the crisis.

India has also committed to help Sri Lanka with a bailout plan from the World Bank, and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had met with Sri Lankan Finance Minister Ali Sabry in Washington during the Spring meetings in April.

A team from International Monetary Fund (IMF) has now begun negotiations with officials in Colombo over the bailout plan, including tough reforms needed by the government for financial support.

China infra projects in focus as crisis worsens

Many of them are now gathering dust

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HAMBANTOTA

construction, losing \$300 million in six years.

In 2017, a Chinese state-owned company was handed a 99-year lease for the seaport – a deal that sparked concerns across the region that Beijing had secured a strategic toehold in the Indian Ocean.

Overlooking the port is another Chinese-backed extravagance: a \$15.5 million conference centre that has been largely unused since it opened. Nearby is the Rajapaksa Airport, built with a \$200 million loan from China, which is so sparingly used that at one point it was unable to cover its electricity bill.

In the capital Colombo, there is the Chinese-funded Port City project – an artificial 665-acre island set up with the aim of becoming a financial hub rivalling Dubai. But critics have already sounded off on the project becoming a "hidden debt trap".

China is the government's biggest bilateral lender and owns at least 10% of its \$51 billion external debt. But analysts believe the true number is substantially higher if loans to state-owned firms and Sri Lanka's central bank are taken into account.

The borrowing contributed to Sri Lanka's dire fiscal predicament.

"Fiscal profligacy over many decades and weak governance... got us into trouble," Murtaza Jafferjee, chairman of Sri Lanka's Advocata Institute think tank, said.

The Hambantota port was unable to service the \$1.4 billion in Chinese loans rung up to finance its con-

State of turmoil



Rising rage: (Clockwise from top) People walking past a burnt bus in Colombo on Tuesday; a pro-government supporter showing a tattoo of former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa in Colombo on Monday; and security personnel standing guard near Mr. Mahinda's official residence Temple Trees on Tuesday, a day after it was torched by protesters. ■AP

Troops given shooting orders to 'control' violence

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's tri-forces on Tuesday received shooting orders to "bring violence under control", authorities said, amid a spate of retaliatory attacks targeting government members.

"Defence Ministry has ordered the tri-forces to shoot at persons causing harm to life or involved in theft of property," the Army said.

On Monday, Rajapaksa supporters assaulted peaceful anti-government protesters, who have demanding that the ruling clan quit over a crippling economic crisis, at agitation sites in different locations.

The violent mob attack in



Resolute stand: Anti-government demonstrators staging a protest near the President's office in Colombo on Tuesday. ■AP

triggered violence by some anti-government elements, apparently outraged by the attack on protesters. They vandalised and torched

more than 100 structures, including homes, have been set to fire in the past two days, according to Army media.

"The Secretary [to the Ministry of Defence] has given the orders," Army spokesman Lt. Col. Nalin Herath told *The Hindu*. Asked about the rationale behind the move, he said: "Despite a police curfew that came into effect yesterday, violent incidents have continued in different parts. This is for us to assist the police to control the situation," he said, after widespread criticism over police "inaction" on Monday. Military personnel were instructed to use "required force", he added.

Sri Lanka is in a state of emergency since Friday, which accords sweeping powers to military and police.

UN condemns escalating violence in Sri Lanka

Human rights chief urges restraint, meaningful dialogue

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GENEVA

UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet on Tuesday condemned the escalating violence in Sri Lanka amid the severe economic and political crisis and urged the authorities to prevent further unrest.

Ms. Bachelet urged restraint and meaningful dialogue to address the grievances of the population, after deadly clashes in the worst violence in weeks of protests.

"I am deeply troubled by the escalation of violence in Sri Lanka after supporters of the Prime Minister attacked peaceful protesters in Colombo yesterday May 9 and the subsequent mob violence against members of the ruling party," Ms. Bachelet said in a statement.

Ms. Bachelet said her office would monitor the situation closely and voiced hope that Sri Lanka would find a peaceful solution to the crisis to alleviate suffering, strengthen democracy and human rights, and prevent further violence. Supporters of the ruling Rajapaksa family on Monday attacked unarmed protesters who have been demonstrating peacefully for weeks.



Michelle Bachelet

come together to demand greater transparency, accountability and participation in democratic life, the UN high commissioner for human rights added.

Address root causes

"I urge the Sri Lankan government to engage in meaningful dialogue with all parts of society to find a pathway forward and address the socio-economic challenges people, especially vulnerable and marginalised groups, are facing," Ms. Bachelet said.

"I call on the government to address the broader political and systemic root causes that have long perpetuated discrimination and undermined human rights."

Ms. Bachelet said her office would monitor the situation closely and voiced hope that Sri Lanka would find a peaceful solution to the crisis to alleviate suffering, strengthen democracy and human rights, and prevent further violence. Supporters of the ruling Rajapaksa family on Monday attacked unarmed protesters who have been demonstrating peacefully for weeks.

Mahinda will not flee country, says son

Anger against family a bad patch: Namal

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

Mahinda Rajapaksa – who resigned as the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka after his supporters attacked anti-government protesters and sparked a day of violence – will not flee the country, his son said on Tuesday.

The 76-year-old heads a political clan whose hold on power has been shaken by months of blackouts and shortages in the island nation, which is suffering its worst economic crisis since independence in 1948.

Mr. Mahinda had to be evacuated by the military from his official residence on Monday night after it was besieged by an angry crowd.

But his son Namal, himself once touted as a future national leader, said the Rajapaksa family had no plans to leave Sri Lanka despite weeks of protests demanding they relinquish power.

"There are a lot of rumours that we are going to leave. We will not leave the country," he said, describing the surge of national anger against his family as a "bad patch".

He added that Mr. Mahinda would not step down as a lawmaker and wanted to play an active role in choosing his successor.

Mr. Mahinda was taken to an undisclosed location after protesters on Monday night breached the compound fence at Temple Trees, his official residence in the capital Colombo. "My father is safe, he is at a safe location and he is communicating with the family," said



Mr. Namal, who served as the country's Sports Minister until a Cabinet shake-up last month.

The Rajapaksa clan has dominated Sri Lanka's politics for much of the past two decades. Mr. Mahinda's younger brother Gotabaya Rajapaksa remains in office as President, with extensive executive powers and command over the security forces.

Weeks of peaceful protests against the government turned violent on Monday when supporters of Mr. Mahinda were bussed into the capital from the countryside and attacked demonstrators.

Anti-government crowds defied a nationwide curfew to retaliate against government supporters late into the night. They set alight the homes of dozens of pro-Rajapaksa politicians, while a controversial museum dedicated to the family was razed to the ground in the country's south.

Mr. Namal said his family believed that Sri Lankans had a right to protest. "We will always stand by our people," he added.

Cricket stars slam govt. after deadly unrest in island nation

State-backed violence, says former captain Sangakkara

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

Sri Lankan cricket greats Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene have hit out at the government after five people were killed in political violence and more than 200 injured.

Current and former cricketers enjoy a massive fan following in Sri Lanka and their comments carry weight. "Peaceful protesters demanding for their basic needs and rights attacked by despicable thugs and goons

backed by the thugs and goons in the government. Disgusting," Sangakkara wrote on Twitter.

"This is state-backed violence. Intentional and planned," Sangakkara, a former Sri Lanka captain and now head coach of Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League, added.

Jayawardene, coach of IPL franchise Mumbai Indians, attached a video of a woman being beaten and tweeted: "This is how they attacked a female protester

in front of police officers... shame on you @PodujanaParty and government of SL for using violence."

Leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga also weighed in on Twitter, writing: "Cowardly and Barbaric! Two words that sum up today's attack on innocent & PEACEFUL Sri Lankan Protesters. "I am disappointed to even think we have such leadership in our country. My heart is with everyone standing United for this cause."



Resolute stand: Anti-government demonstrators staging a protest near the President's office in Colombo on Tuesday. ■AP



Santoor maestro Pandit Shivkumar Sharma passes away
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Elon Musk to reverse Twitter ban on former U.S. President Trump
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Marcos Jr., son of late Philippine dictator, wins presidency
page 13



Gill, Rashid star as Titans make it to the playoffs
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IN BRIEF



SDMC bulldozers reach New Friends Colony

NEW DELHI
The bulldozers of South Delhi Municipal Corporation reached the upscale New Friends Colony on Tuesday and removed encroachments outside houses even as residents objected to the drive.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

HC extends protection from arrest to Bagga

CHANDIGARH
The Punjab and Haryana High Court extended till July 6 the protection from arrest granted to BJP leader Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga in connection with the inflammatory remarks case.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 10

Rain lashes A.P. coast as Asani moves closer

NEW DELHI
The tropical storm 'Asani' in the Bay of Bengal became a severe cyclonic storm on Tuesday and is advancing towards Andhra Pradesh, though forecasts indicate that it won't make landfall.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 10



OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 5

Can sedition accused get protection, asks SC

Court gives 24 hours for response from Centre

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday indicated a willingness to wait, though wondering for how long, for the government to "re-examine" the colonial law of sedition.

However, the court asked the government to respond within the next 24 hours on how it intended to protect the interests of people already arrested and facing prosecution under Section 124A (sedition) of the Indian Penal Code. The court further sought the government's response on whether the use of the British-era law could be suspended in view of the reconsideration process.

"We will definitely take into consideration that you are doing a serious exercise of reconsideration of the law. We should not appear unreasonable... But there are concerns. One is about cases which are already pending. The other is the future misuse of Section 124A during the reconsideration. The Attorney-General has himself said there is abuse... How are you going to protect the interests of the people from this abuse while the reconsideration exercise is on," Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana asked Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing



Whenever there is misuse [of sedition law], there are the constitutional courts and remedies

TUSHAR MEHTA

Solicitor-General



Meanwhile, those booked will be in jail for months... we cannot ask each and every individual to go to court

N.V. RAMANA

Chief Justice of India

for the Centre.

The court said the reconsideration process could not be an open-ended one. "How long will you take for the 'reconsideration' of the law?" CJI Ramana asked.

"We will definitely take into consideration that you are doing a serious exercise of reconsideration of the law. We should not appear unreasonable... But there are concerns. One is about cases which are already pending. The other is the future misuse of Section 124A during the reconsideration. The Attorney-General has himself said there is abuse... How are you going to protect the interests of the people from this abuse while the reconsideration exercise is on," Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana asked Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing

"We will decide the question of how much time should be given," Chief Justice Ramana said.

On the issue of protecting people from the misuse of sedition law, Mr. Mehta said

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

RELATED REPORTS ▶ PAGE 11

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+ Death toll in Sri Lanka rises to 8

220 hospitalised a day after pro-Rajapaksa mob attacked protesters

MEERA SRINIVASAN

COLOMBO

The Sri Lanka police's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has been tasked with probing the concerted attack on anti-government protesters, the police said on Tuesday, a day after a pro-Rajapaksa mob went on a rampage at agitation sites in capital Colombo and in central Kandy district.

The death toll in the attacks, which the protesters accused the police of "simply watching", rose to eight on Tuesday. Nearly 220 persons were hospitalised after suffering injuries in the brutal assault, and in the targeted, violent retaliation by incensed citizens. Dozens of houses belonging to Ministers and Members of Parliament, including the Rajapaksa ancestral village home, were torched.

The Bar Association of Sri



Remains of the night: A burnt vehicle near the official residence of Mahinda Rajapaksa on Tuesday. □ AFP

made to restore political stability through consensus, within constitutional mandate & to resolve economic crisis."

According to the Sri Lankan Constitution, the President must appoint as Prime Minister any lawmaker he thinks commands a majority in Parliament. However, the government has no Prime Minister-in-waiting, who has yet claimed having the confidence of the majority of lawmakers.

The main Opposition party, along with its allies and other parties, has fewer than half the number of seats in the 225-member Parliament. Leader of the Opposition Sajith Premadasa has emphatically said he will not be part of any interim arrangement under the current President.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

EDITORIAL ▶ PAGE 6

Rename Lutyens' Delhi roads after brave sons of country: BJP

Guru Gobind Singh, Gen. Rawat among suggested names

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta on Tuesday demanded that prominent streets and lanes named after Mughal rulers in Lutyens' Delhi be renamed after the "brave sons of the country".

Terming the current names "symbols of slavery", Mr. Gupta said roads should be named after "symbols of bravery" such as Guru Gobind Singh, Maharama Pratap and the country's first CDS General Bipin Rawat.

The BJP leader, who had recently demanded renaming of 40 villages in Delhi citing the same reason, wrote to the New Delhi Municipal Council and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who is also a member of the Council.

Naming roads after "invaders like Akbar, Humayun, Babar and Aurangzeb" was part of the "appeasement politics" of successive Congress governments, Mr. Gupta said. "This change should not be seen from the prism of Hindu-Muslim as it is the wish of the common people of Delhi," he added.

"Akbar Road should be renamed Maharama Pratap Road, Humayun Road should be changed to Maharsi Valmiki Road while Shahjahan Road should be called CDS General Bipin Rawat Road. Aurangzeb Lane should be renamed Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Lane and Babar Lane should be called Khudiram Bose Lane," Mr. Gupta said.

"It is regretful that the Congress carried this baggage of

slavery for so many years," he added.

Reacting to Mr. Gupta's remarks, the Delhi Congress said the BJP, after failing in the "bulldozer politics" of hatred, was trying to disturb communal amity with its move to rename historic places and roads in the city.

Delhi Congress chief Ch. Anil Kumar said, "I appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to rename the new Parliament building after Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, and also name all the gates of the building after rishi-munis and mahapurush of the country."

The Aam Aadmi Party, when contacted, did not offer any comment on the issue.

PROTESTS OUTSIDE QUTUB

MINAR ▶ PAGE 2

'Minority' tag: Centre's U-turn irks SC

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

The Centre's shifting stand on who can grant minority status to communities left the Supreme Court displeased on Tuesday even as the political push for giving Hindus the "minority" tag in as many as 10 States where the religious community is numerically low turns increasingly strident.

On March 25, the Ministry of Minority Affairs, in an affidavit, told the court that both the Centre and States had "concurrent power" to notify minorities. It had even said that States could also recognise a community as a minority. Hardly two months later, the Ministry reversed its own position.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

CMYK

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this Person Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 50 Years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'4", Face: Long, Complexion: Shallow, Built: Medium, Face: Round, Wearing: White T-Shirt (Free Fire Battle Ground Written) & Grey Color Pant and One Eyed Person (Right Eye), was found Dead at Infront of Fire Station, SPM Marg, Delhi on dated 06.05.2022.

In this regard a DD No. 16-A u/s 174 Cr.P.C, dated 06.05.2022 has been lodged at P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi. The Dead Body has been preserved in Subz Mandi Mortuary Mortuary, Delhi for 72 hours for identification.

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

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

SHO
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: http://cbi.nic.in Ph.: 011-011-23953776, 8750870122
Fax: 011-24368639 DP/2272/N/2022
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 ZIP NET No. - UIDB 22LG0018

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Sameer Alam S/o Mohd. Gulam, R/o Quarter No.9, Budh Vihar, Begumpur, Delhi has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 029348/2020 u/s 379/411 IPC at P.S. Rajinder Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Sameer Alam cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Sameer Alam has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Sameer Alam of FIR No. 029348/2020 u/s 379/411 IPC at P.S. Rajinder Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 08.07.2022.

By Order
Sh. Rishabh Kapoor

Metropolitan Magistrate-03,
Central District, Room No. 150,
DP/1426/CD/2022 (Court Matter)
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr.P.C)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Manohar Lal Kumawat, S/o Sh. Radhey Sham Kumawat R/o Vill. Piprali Lakhipura, PO Purohit Ka Bas, Distt. Sikar, Rajasthan has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 44/15 u/s 25/54/59 A/Act, P.S. IGI Airport, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Manohar Lal Kumawat cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Manohar Lal Kumawat has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Manohar Lal Kumawat of FIR No. 44/15 u/s 25/54/59 A/Act, P.S. IGI Airport, New Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 05.08.2022.

By Order,
Sh. Akash Jain

Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate-01, Room No.02,
DP/07/IGIA/2022 Main Building, Patiala House Court, New Delhi

Demonstration outside Qutub Minar leaves tourists baffled

SAMRIDHI TEWARI
NEW DELHI

For 50-year-old Nasir Khan, a tourist from Gujarat, the visit to Qutub Minar on Tuesday turned out to be very different from what he had imagined. Mr. Khan, who had come to the heritage monument to appreciate its magnificence, found the site closed in anticipation of a demonstration called here by right-wing outfits.

Soon after his arrival, Mr. Khan saw protesters in the area demanding that the Qutub Minar be renamed as "Vishnu Stambha". The protesters blocked roads leading

to the monument, gathered outside the complex and recited the Hanuman Chalisa – leaving many tourists baffled.

"Raising issues about the origins of a site is becoming a pattern now. Qutub Minar is India's heritage and it should be protected at all costs," Mr.

Khan said. He added that such propaganda ends up fueling fire between communities.

Aashika, 28, another tourist who had turned up on Tuesday to explore the monument, said, "We need to leave politics out of such historical sites. We must understand that such heritage sites are independent spaces and they should be respected for what they represent."

Yashpal, a dhaba owner near Qutub Minar, called the demonstration a "political move", adding that debate among commoners would yield no result because, at

the end of the day, it was the government that took all the important decisions.

Raja Kumar, 22, a local vendor supporting the demands of the protesters, said, "This fight has been going on for a long time and the Hindus are entitled to their rights."

Police detain protesters at Qutub Minar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Members of some right-wing groups recited the Hanuman Chalisa outside the Qutub Minar complex on Tuesday and staged a protest demanding that the monument be renamed 'Vishnu Stambha'.

Bhagwan Goyal, international working president of right-wing outfit United Hindu Front, said the Qutub Minar was a 'Vishnu Stambha' built by King Vikramaditya of Paramara dynasty. "Qutubuddin Alibak later claimed credit for it after destroying 27 temples in the complex," he said.

The protesters were detained by the Delhi police. DCP (South) Benita Mary Jaiker said around 44 demonstrators of right-wing outfits – United Hindu Front and Rashtravadi Shiv Sena – were detained and added that no permission was granted for the demonstration.

The protest was staged on a day when the BJP demanded that prominent streets and lanes named after Mughal rulers in Lutyens' Delhi be renamed after "brave sons of the country".

City court acquits five accused of plotting terror

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A trial court on Monday acquitted five people accused by the Delhi police of plotting a kidnapping for ransom in order to raise funds for Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in India.

The Delhi Police Special Cell had arrested the five men – Mohd Shahid, Mohd Rashid, Ashabuddin, Abdul Subhan and Arshad Khan – for being in touch with one Javed Balluchi, a Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist, through a Pakistani phone number.

Lack of evidence

However, the court noted that the investigating officer of the Delhi police had made no efforts to collect the particulars of the owner of the Pakistani phone number, which allegedly was claimed by the police to belong to Javed Balluchi.

Additional Sessions Judge Dharmendra Rana, in his order on Monday, said after considering the evidence and testimony on record, the prosecution had miserably failed to prove its case beyond the shadow of a doubt.

He said all that the prosecution had been able to prove was that a few Indian citizens were in touch with someone with a Pakistani phone number.

"However, that by itself is not sufficient to presume that accused Javed Balluchi actually existed or that the accused persons conversing with him were involved in any conspiracy to commit any terrorist act or kidnap any rich businessman," the court ruled.

The court also observed, "In the absence of any particulars regarding the identity of the device where the intercepted conversation was stored and subsequently downloaded, the very authenticity of the conversation becomes shrouded in doubt and the very sanctity of the evidence becomes tainted."

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified Male (depicted in the photo) name: Unknown, residence and family is Unknown about 30-35 years of age was found dead at AIIMS Hospital, Gate No. 03, under foot over bridge in the area of PS Hauz Khas, Delhi. In this regard a DD/FIR No. 42A, dated 30.04.2022 has been registered at PS Hauz Khas, Delhi. The dead body of deceased was sent to AIIMS Hospital where he was declared brought dead. The dead body has been preserved

at AIIMS Hospital. His physical description is as under:-
Sex: Male, Age: About 30-35 years, Height: 5'6" ft., Built: Thin, Face: Oval, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Red T-Shirt & Grey Lower.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or Telephone Numbers.

SHO
P.S. Hauz Khas, Delhi
Ph.: 011-26536716
Mob. No: 8750870821

DP/191/SD/2022

NATIONAL JUDICIAL ACADEMY

Bhadbada Road, P.O. Suraj Nagar, Bhopal-462 044 (M.P.)
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1.	Jr. Steno Entry Operator	Level - 6 Rs. 35,400 - 1,12,400	01	Graduate with good command over English shorthand and computer. Minimum three years experience of the work.

Applications, complete in all respect, should be received by NJA (in person/by post/by courier) in a sealed cover addressed to "The Registrar (Administration), National Judicial Academy, Bhadbada Road, Suraj Nagar P.O., Bhopal-462044" latest by 20.06.2022. Application form and other terms and conditions are available in Academy website www.nja.gov.in.

REGISTRAR
(ADMINISTRATION)
M.P. Madhyam/104697/2022

Government of Himachal Pradesh

JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

Online bids on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Pragpur on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned work from the contractors/firms of appropriate class enlisted with Himachal Pradesh Jal Shakti Vibhag.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Earnest money	Cost of tender form	Time limit
1.	Improvement & Extension of source of LWSS Dadasiba (Dadavan Dada Kalehar) in tehsil Dadasiba District Kangra HP (SH:- Construction of reinforcement cement concrete overhead storage tank of 85000 litre capacity with 15 metre staging height)	1997500/-	37500/-	400/-	Six months

1. Tender documents and other instructions can be downloaded or viewed online from the portal <http://ptenders.gov.in>, by the interested bidders/firms/individuals registered on the website which is free of cost.
2. Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with "Single Stage Two Envelope" Bidding Procedure. Bid security, and eligibility documents as per eligibility information and criteria and Financial bid should be put in separate envelop and all two separate envelops should be put together in a single envelop. The bids shall be submitted online electronically.
3. Bid evaluation criteria: Technically Qualified lowest evaluated bidder (L1) will be considered as a successful bidder. However, the acceptance of the proposal will rest with the Jal Shakti Department who does not bind itself to accept the lowest proposal, and reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the proposals received without assigning any reason.
4. As the bids are to be submitted online and are required to be encrypted and digitally signed, the bidders are advised to obtain Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from suitable vendors or from any authorized agency at the earliest.
5. KEY DATES WILL BE AS UNDER:-

a	Date of Online publication	09.05.2022 at 5:00 PM
b	Downloading of e-tender Documents	From 09.05.2022 at 5:00 PM to 17.05.2022 at 11:00 A.M.
c	Date of submission of e-tender	From 09.05.2022 at 5:00 PM to 17.05.2022 at 11:00 A.M.
d	Physical submission of eligibility criteria, pre-qualification documents, earnest money deposit and cost of tender documents (in original)	Upto 11:00 A.M. on 17.05.2022.
e	Date of opening of bids:	

- 1) Cover-1 Eligibility information and Criteria
- 2) Cover-2 Financial Bid

On 17.05.2022 at 11.30 A.M.

Shall be intimated separately

6. TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

- 1) The e-tender documents shall be uploaded online in 2 (Two) covers:-
 1. Cover-1 shall contain Scanned copies of "eligibility information and criteria"
 2. Cover-2 shall contain the "Financial bid" on the prescribed format.
- 2) Cover-1 shall contain Scanned copies of following "eligibility information and criteria" (Scanned copies to be uploaded):
 - (i) The Earnest Money should be deposited (through offline mode) duly pledged in favor of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Pragpur in the shape of National Saving Certificate in any Post Office in H.P. or Time Deposit Receipt/FDR of any Scheduled/ Nationalized Bank, having its branch at Dehra or Pragpur and should reach the Office of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Vibhag Division Pragpur on or before the date and time of opening of the technical bid.
 - (ii) The cost of tender form through offline mode as shown above in shape of Demand Draft, only drawn in favor of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Pragpur payable at Pragpur.
 - (iii) Copy of Certificate of registration with I&PH Department (Now JSV) in appropriate class and latest renewal thereof.
 - (iv) Income Tax PAN No. (Permanent Account No.), GST registration, EPF registration and latest clearance certificate thereof, are to be submitted with the eligibility criteria.
 - (v) The authorization letter regarding digital signature certificate (DSC) of the person authorized by the registered tenderer to upload the bid, be uploaded along with the other documents online.
 - (vi) A scanned copy of undertaking that I have carefully studied all the terms and conditions stipulated in the contract document before quoting the rates.
 - (vii) The tenderer shall have to submit an affidavit of being not blacklisted by Govt. Departments.
 - (viii) Similar work done certificate/completion letter of awarded works need to be uploaded.
- 4) Cover-2 shall contain "Financial Bid" which will be opened at a later date to be notified separately & shall be opened only of those contractors /firms whose documents as per eligibility Information "Cover-1" are found in order. The Financial Bids shall contain only Financial Bid /Offer on departmental schedule of quantity/BOQ where contractor /firms will quote his/her offer for each item.
7. Earnest money of L1, L2 and L3 shall be retained for a period of 120 days.
8. No subletting of work by the contractor is permissible.
9. In case, opening day is a holiday, the tenders shall be opened on next working day.
10. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 days.
11. Ambiguous/telegraphic/ Conditional tenders or tenders by Fax /E-mail shall not be entertained/considered in any case.
12. Conditional bids are liable to be rejected without assigning any reasons.
13. The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Pragpur reserves the right to reject/cancel any or all the tenders/bids without assigning any reason(s).
14. Any enquiry regarding tender can be obtained on e-mail of the divisional office under e-mail address i.e xeniphpragpur@gmail.com and office telephone No. 01970-245045.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division
Pragpur

HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED

(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)

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Ph No.: +91-651-2225878; e-mail Id: pdt.juidco@gmail.com

CIN: U45200HJ2013SGC001752

Date :05/2022/05

PR No.: 268287

Tender ID.: 2022_JUADB_5783

Timings	
DELHI	
WEDNESDAY, MAY 11	
RISE 05:34 SET 19:03	
RISE 14:09 SET 02:32	
THURSDAY, MAY 12	
RISE 05:33 SET 19:03	
RISE 15:08 SET 03:04	
FRIDAY, MAY 13	
RISE 05:33 SET 19:04	
RISE 16:08 SET 03:36	

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 39 28
Safdarjang 39 28
Palam 39 29

Delhi Palam Today
41°C The heat wave like conditions to prevail. Day will be hot and uneasy with gusty winds. Night will be warm and uneasy.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
42°C The weather will be dry. Day will be hot and uneasy with strong dusty winds. Night will be slight warm.

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IN BRIEF

Respond to Saif's bail plea: HC to Delhi police

NEW DELHI The Delhi High Court on Tuesday asked the police to respond to a bail plea by Khalid Saifi related to the north-east Delhi riots 'larger conspiracy' case. Mr. Saifi's counsel said her client was in custody for over 800 days.

E-rickshaw fines rise after Delhi High Court order

Court had directed Transport Department to take stringent steps against those without documents

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH

NEW DELHI After being reprimanded by the Delhi High Court in April, the Transport Department has tightened the noose on e-rickshaws and autos plying without fitness and registration certificates, leading to more e-rickshaw drivers being fined in the last month.

Increased vigil

As many as 3,273 challans were issued against e-rickshaws in the first four months of 2022 in the Capital, the Transport Department told the High Court in an affidavit on Monday. The marked increase in the number of challans against e-rickshaws came after the High Court's observation last month – jumping from 694 in March to 1,984 in April.

There are 80,583 e-rickshaws plying on Delhi roads

Residents cry foul as bulldozers descend on New Friends Colony

People should think twice before encroaching upon public land, says SDMC official

MUNEEF KHAN

NEW DELHI The bulldozers of the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) reached the upmarket New Friends Colony on Tuesday.

Several encroachments in the form of gardens and sheds outside the houses were removed by the South civic body officials in the presence of police and paramilitary personnel.

Clearing the way

According to the SDMC, encroachments were removed from a 2-km stretch in the area. A total of 12 sheds were removed along with mesh-like structures constructed outside houses that were obstructing the right of way on the footpaths.

When asked whether the civic body was planning anti-encroachment drives in other affluent parts of south Delhi, a senior SDMC official said that action will be taken "as and when we receive as-



A bulldozer removing encroachments outside a house in New Friends Colony on Tuesday ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

sistance from the police."

Many residents of New Friends Colony objected to the demolition drive, describing it as a "form of bullying".

Meghana, a local, said a wire mesh along the boundary wall of her 30-year-old residence was brought down by a bulldozer, despite the civic officials "never" having served her notice.

Another resident saw politics at play behind the drive. "The municipality's drive in

Shaheen Bagh on Monday was a failure and was painted as an attempt to target minorities. Now, they have carried out this face-saving exercise against us," the resident said.

Makes no sense'

"We are disturbed by the hawkers who encroach upon our roads and make it difficult for us to move around. But the civic officials instead removed our plants and trees, which makes no

sense," she said.

An SDMC official said the civic body did not have to issue notices before taking action against encroachments.

"Those who construct such garden-like structures must be aware that they have encroached upon public land. People should learn a lesson from this drive and voluntarily remove such encroachments," the senior SDMC official added.

Meanwhile, AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan, in a letter to the SHO, New Friends Colony Police Station, said the drive was being carried out at the behest of Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta. He demanded that a complaint be registered against those involved in "illegally" uprooting a tree, which the MLA said had been done in violation of the Forest Act and Delhi Preservation of Trees Act (1994). On Tuesday, similar drives were also conducted in Mongolpuri, Vasant Kunj and Raghbir Nagar.

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Home delivery of liquor gets in-principle approval

Decision not yet official; BJP has been opposing the move

NIKHIL M BABU

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Cabinet has given 'in-principle approval' for home delivery of liquor in the city. The proposal is now pending before the Lieutenant-Governor, sources told *The Hindu*.

However, the proposal may take some time before being implemented as it requires an amendment to the Delhi Excise Act, 2009. The amendment then needs to be passed by the Delhi Assembly and subsequently approved by the L-G.

According to sources, the 'in-principle approval' was given at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on May 5.

Despite multiple requests, a Delhi government spokesperson did not offer a comment on the development.

The Delhi government is also looking at a model followed in West Bengal, where liquor is home delivered through private players, sources said.

The BJP has been critical of the move to deliver liquor to homes. The BJP leaders said the Chief Minister instead of focusing on free medicine and ration was making provisions to have liquor served at the doorstep.

The frequent face-offs between the AAP government and the Centre-appro

pointed L-G may further delay the implementation, sources said.

Failed attempts

Delhi Excise (Amendment) Rules, 2021, in a gazette notification on May 31 last year, had allowed home delivery of alcohol through mobile apps and websites. However, the idea never got off the ground as the rest of the formalities were not finished.

The Delhi Excise Rules, 2010, being followed earlier, also allowed home delivery of liquor booked through emails and faxes. However, it was never implemented due to pending clearances, said officials.

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HC to give verdict on marital rape today

Pleas in court seek its criminalisation

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

tober 2017, the Supreme Court increased it to 18 years.

NGO, Men Welfare Trust (MWT), which is opposing the batch of petitions seeking criminalisation of marital rape, had argued that sexual intercourse between a husband and wife cannot be treated as rape within marriage, the NGO said.

In India, marital rape is not defined in any statute or law. Petitioners NGO RIT Foundation, All India Democratic Women's Association and a marital rape victim, have challenged as unconstitutional an exception to Section 375 of the IPC, that defines rape.

The exception says sexual intercourse by a man with his wife aged 15 years or above is not rape even if it is without her consent. In Oc-

Cyclone Asani impact keeps heatwave away

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Moisture-carrying eastern winds under the influence of cyclone Asani brought down the temperature in the Capital, with the maximum temperature settling at 39.5 degrees Celsius, which is normal for the season.

The India Meteorological Department had earlier forecast a heatwave for the city for the next five days with the maximum tempera-

reaching 45 degrees Celsius by May 14. This forecast has been changed due to the impact of the cyclone with no heatwave forecast for the next two days.

After a prolonged heatwave gripped the Capital in April due to the absence of western disturbances which are common during the season, May started on a cooler note with rain, thunderstorms, and strong winds providing respite from the heat.

PUBLIC APOLOGY TO AZIM PREMJI AND WIPRO GROUP UNDER HON'BLE SUPREME COURT'S ORDER DATED MARCH 10, 2022

I, R Subramanian, Advocate, registered with the Bar Council of the State of Telangana and residing at 2/583, Singaravelan Road, 1st Cross Street, Chinna Neelankarai, Chennai-600115 hereby make an unconditional and unreserved apology for the harassment caused to Sri. Azim Premji, Mrs. Yasmeen Azim Premji and the Wipro group of companies and their directors including Sri. Srinivasan Pagalthivarthi, their executives, auditors and chartered accountants including Sri. G Venkateswara Rao, Partner, M/s Ramraj & Co., Chartered Accountants, and also Sri. M R Bhat, former Registrar of Companies, Karnataka by the various legal proceedings initiated against them in various courts and tribunals and by the complaints and representations made against them before various government, quasi-judicial and other authorities. I categorically admit that all these proceedings / complaints / representations, and the allegations contained therein were founded on incorrect understanding of facts and legal provisions and the same should never have been initiated or made at all. Accordingly, I have given an undertaking to the Hon'ble Supreme Court that I shall withdraw all such legal proceedings / complaints / representations etc. unconditionally. I have also further undertaken to the Hon'ble Supreme Court that I will not, in future, file any proceedings or make any complaint or representation whatsoever on any ground whatsoever against Sri. Azim Premji, or any member of his Group.

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- Details:** Visit CSL Website www.cochinshipyard.in→ Services and Products→ Marine Engineering→ Joining Instructions. Application form to be downloaded, filled up and e mailed to metihod@cochinshipyard.in. Hard copy to be sent by speed post / courier to HOD, MARINE ENGINEERING TRAINING INSTITUTE (METI), Vigyan Sagar, Girinagar - 682020, Ernakulam, Kerala before 31st JULY 2022.
- Contact:** E-mail: metihod@cochinshipyard.in, Telephone: 0484-4011596 / 2926264, Mobile - 8129823739 / 9447195982

Thrissur keeps its date with Pooram after two years

Unprecedented crowd converges at Thekkinkadu Maidan to savour an assortment of ceremonies, elephant parades

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THRISSUR

An unprecedented crowd, literally a sea of humanity, converged at the Thekkinkadu Maidan in the heart of the city to savour the fun and frolic of Thrissur Pooram on Tuesday.

Celebrated after a gap of two years, people thronged the maidan to soak in the carnival spirit.

Celebrated with full-fledged rites, customs, and festivities, Thrissur Pooram kept its promise to be picture perfect. Even mild drizzle that began during the Kudamattam ceremony added to the carnival spirit.

The religiously conservative, yet headily carnivalesque, Thrissur pooram is a curious assortment of ceremonies, traditional ensembles, pyrotechnic shows, and elephant parades.



In a ceremonial way, Thrissur Pooram marks the processions of deities from 10 participating temples to the premises of Sree Vadak-

kunnathan Temple. The main participants of the 36-hour festival are deities of the Thiruvambadi and Paramekkavu temples.

Earlier in the day, an elephant that turned unruly created panic at the venue. However, the animal was brought under control be-



(Clockwise from left) Elephants lined up; ilanjithara melam and mortars for the fireworks at the Thrissur Pooram.

■ K.K. MUSTAFAH AND K.K. NAJEEB

fore it caused any damage. Elephant Machad Kannan, which was paraded for Cheru Pooram, ran amok when it reached Manikan-

dan. However, it could not run fast as it was chained on all four legs. Later, the elephant was removed from the Pooram venue.

New hate speech case against P.C. George

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOCHI

Over 10 days after he was arrested for an alleged hate speech at the Ananthapuri Hindu Maha Sammelan in Thiruvananthapuram, the Palarivattom police in Kochi on Tuesday registered a *suo motu* case against former MLA P.C. George on the charge of delivering a hate speech on communal lines at a temple festival at Vennala in the city.

He has been charged under Sections 153 A (promoting enmity between groups on the basis of religion) and 295 (injuring or defiling a



P.C. George

place of worship with the intent to insult the religion of any class of people) of the Indian Penal Code.

Mr. George was arrested in connection with the first

Karnataka MLC polls on June 3

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Tuesday announced polls for seven Karnataka Legislative Council seats on June 3.

The term of the seven MLCs – Laxman Sangappa Savadi, Ramappa Timmapur, Alluru Veerabhadrapa, H.M. Ramesha Gowda, Veena Acharya S., Narayana Swamy K.V. and Lahar Singh Sirova – is set to end on June 14.

According to the EC schedule, nominations for the polls will be open from May 17 to May 24 and polling and counting will be held on June 3.

NDA candidate files nomination papers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOCHE

A.N. Radhakrishnan, Kerala vice-president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), on Tuesday filed his nomination papers as the candidate of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) for the upcoming byelection in the Thrikkakkara Assembly constituency.

The party's dummy candidate, T.P. Sindhumol, too filed her nomination. Independent candidate Bosco Louis also filed his nomination papers before returning officer Vidhu A. Menon on Tuesday, said a communication from the Public Relations Department.

Mr. Radhakrishnan was accompanied by BJP State president K. Surendran.

Meanwhile, the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church has denied making any contributions in its official capacity towards Mr. Radhakrishnan's election fund.

A spokesman of the Church said Geevarghese Mar Yulius, Bishop of Ahmedabad, was a friend of Mr. Radhakrishnan and had come to seek his blessings before filing the nomination.

A contribution was then made by the bishop towards Mr. Radhakrishnan's election fund on the basis of his personal friendship.

ENTERPRISE CONNECT

2-day-long International Conference on Environmental Diversity and Environmental Jurisprudence at Chandigarh University, Gharuan inaugurated by Vice President, India



Asserting that nature has been harmed beyond repair in the human race's quest for development, Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday called for a people's movement of eco-conscious lifestyles enabled by serious introspection and bold actions and policies to combat the impact of climate change and protect the environment. Governor of Punjab, and Administrator, UT Chandigarh, Shri Banwarilal Purohit, Honble Justices of the Supreme Court of India, Justices B.R. Gavai and Surya Kant, United Nation Resident Commissioner in India, Shombi Sharp, Justice Shri Mohammad Rafiq, Chief Justice, High Court of Himachal Pradesh, representatives from 20 countries including Judges, High Commissioner, Ambassadors, Environmentalists, Lawyers, Experts in Biodiversity and Environmental Jurisprudence from all over the globe, former Supreme Court Judge and former NGT chairman, Justice (Retd.) Swatanter Kumar, S. Satnam Singh Sandhu, Chancellor, Chandigarh University, besides 4000 students participated on the day one of the conference, which is being organised with a vision to formulate the roadmap and future direction to India's efforts at attaining the global targets for environment protection and climate change. In his inaugural address, Naidu said that man-made causes have led to climate change as well as driving a million species to extinction. The Vice President said that India has been leading the way for the world in forging a collective action by various countries under the International Solar Alliance as seen in the recent COP26 Summit in Glasgow. Lauding the Indian higher judiciary for upholding environmental justice over the years, he suggested that "lower courts too must uphold an eco-centric view and keep the best interests of the local populations and biodiversity in their judgments." He called for stringent action against violators of pollution laws and strict enforcement of the 'Polluter Must Pay principle.'

Highlighting the contributions of the National Green Tribunal, Naidu said for training more legal practitioners in environmental law, making poorer sections aware of their rights, creation of specialised benches, and making legislations that maintain a fine balance between 'ecology and economy'. Emphasising the importance of such international conferences, Shri Naidu said that "we have to learn from each other globally and adopt best practices from all over the world". He appreciated Chandigarh University for its initiative and hoped the conference will open a new chapter in environmental protection in the country. Speaking on the occasion, Hon'ble Governor, Punjab And Administrator, UT Chandigarh Shri Banwarilal Purohit said that human development in the 21st century is directly linked to protecting environmental resources from mindless consumption and destruction.

Power minister Harbhajan Singh directs TSPL to expedite overhaul of unit 2 and to ensure reliability of all units

Power Minister Punjab Sh. Harbhajan Singh visited 1980 MW Talwandi Sabo Power Ltd. (TSPL), coal based thermal plant (3x600 MW) situated at village Banawala, Distt. Mansa here yesterday. This was informed by a PSPCL spokesman here today in a press note. Sh. Harbhajan Singh Power Minister expressed serious concern over the repeated outages of TSPL units due to boiler snags. Minister said that last year also TSPL could not ensure availability of all units, so now authorities of the TSPL have been directed to maintain availability of all the three units throughout the summer and paddy season so that the consumers of the State do not face any power shortage. TSPL was also directed to start generating power from its Unit no. 2, the earliest, so as to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the state consumers. Power minister inspected coal stock at site and directed TSPL to ensure sufficient coal

for running all units especially during paddy season lest the state is constrained to take penal action against the firm. Further, he added that the temperature this year broke all records making this March India's hottest in 122 years since 1901. The extreme heat & sweltering weather continued unabated in April-2022. Due to the dry season & intense heat waves, temperature in the country has crossed 46°C resulting into unprecedented power demand in the month of April-2022 in comparison to last year's. Such intense heat in the Northern Region coupled with coal shortage prevailing in the country has resulted in scarcity of power available in the exchange. Despite such scenario, PSPCL has catered to peak demand of 9986 MW on 30-04-2022 from all its resources in comparison to 6860 MW of last year. PSPCL supplied on average 6821 MW during the month of April 2022 which is 32% more than monthly average of 5162 MW supplied during April 2021. To meet this increased demand, PSPCL has purchased 305 MUs at more Rs.11 per unit in the month of April 2022 against only 177 MUs purchased in 2021 at Rs.3.48 per unit.

Jammu tourism organises Jammu Heritage festival at Ramnagar Fort

Continuing the Celebration of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' Directorate of Tourism, Jammu organized Jammu Heritage Festival at Ramnagar Fort on 05.05.2022 in collaboration with District Administration, Udhampur and Archaeological Survey of India. This was the second program in the series of Heritage Festival as the first was conducted at Bhangar Fort, Reasi. While addressing the media Sh. Vivekanand Rai, Director Tourism, Jammu explained that the sole purpose of organizing these events is to promote Heritage Tourism in Jammu. Ramnagar is not only popular for Ramnagar Fort but also for its scenic beauty, pleasant weather, local cuisine and tourist sites. This event comprised of a number of heritage and entertaining activities like Heritage Walk, Poetic Recital, Story telling, folk singing, Rock Band, Fusion Dance, Folk Dance, Folk Singing. Performances by local celebrities like Ms. Juhi Singh, Mr. Amit Kundal, Mr. Rabjet Singh was enjoyed by the audiences, Punjabi Singer Shivaji Singh Dhaliwal enthralled the huge audience of about 10,000 with his singing. People from different walks of life participated as audience which included tourists, students, locals, Vloggers, Media persons and officers/officials of different departments. In the morning session, Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur, Smt. Indu Kanwal Chib alongwith Chairman, District Development Council, Udhampur, Sh. Lal Chand, DDCs and BDCs of Ramnagar, Assistant Superintending Archaeologist, Sh. Manoj Joshi and Assistant Archaeologist, Sh. Lal Karan flagged off the Heritage Walk and said that it is a new beginning for the Ramnagar and shall lead to encourage tourism in Ramnagar and it was a feast for eyes. The history of the historic Ramnagar fort was briefed by Sh. Shivdev Singh, President Ramnagar Heritage Society, President, Municipal Committee Ramnagar, Smt. Beni Devi, SDM Ramnagar, Sh. Gopal Singh, Sh. Naresh Kumar, Deputy Director Publicity, SDPO Ramnagar, Ms. Sheena Saini, Assistant Directorate Tourism, Jammu were also present among others on the occasion.

PSPCL gears up to meet state's growing demand

Punjab Minister for Power and Public Works, Minister Harbhajan Singh today paid a special visit to Rajura Thermal Power Plant along with Chairman cum Managing Director of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) Baldev Singh Srivari. Interacting with the reporters after meeting top management of Nabha Power Limited, which operates 2x700 MW Rajura Thermal Power Plant, the Power Minister said PSPCL was all geared up to meet the increased power demand of the state even during the upcoming paddy season. On the issue of the coal crisis, the minister said, "Not only Punjab but the entire country is facing coal crisis. But, Punjab is still in a better position than other states." He said that the power demand had already crossed 8500 MW and the power minister was meeting this demand, which was 40 per cent more than the previous year. He said that all measures were being taken to ensure an uninterrupted and reliable supply of electricity to all sections of the state, be it agricultural, industrial, commercial or domestic consumers. He said that efforts were being made to operationalise the Pachwara coal mines and the supply of coal from this mine to the thermal power plants of the state was expected to start by the end of June. He said that as the demand increased manifold, the state government was working to ensure that all state owned and private thermal plants operated at full capacity. Talking to reporters, PSPCL CMD Chairman cum Managing Director Baldev Singh Srivari said that the power minister had directed to maintain availability of all the three units throughout the summer and paddy season so that the consumers of the State do not face any power shortage. TSPL was also directed to start generating power from its Unit no. 2, the earliest, so as to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the state consumers. Power minister inspected coal stock at site and directed TSPL to ensure sufficient coal

A Business Initiative

Singh Srivari lauded the contributions being made by the Rajura Thermal Power Plant. He said the performance of this plant was better than the others and this plant has undoubtedly proved to be the backbone of the state's energy sector. Rajura MLA Neena Mittal said that it was a matter of pride that the Power Minister had today visited the thermal plant in her constituency which, according to her, was playing a crucial role in bridging the gap of demand and supply in Punjab. Earlier, senior officials of Nabha Power welcomed the Power Minister and apprised him of the plant's performance. They told the minister that the plant availability factor (PAF) of the Rajura Thermal has been more than 96% during the paddy season in the last few years, especially during the last two years when PAF has been consistently 100%.

CIAB celebrates 10th Foundation Day

Center of Innovative and Applied Bioprocessing (CIAB) celebrated its 10th Foundation Day on 06th May, 2022. This is an autonomous institute aided by the Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India, carrying out research in the area of secondary agriculture and bioprocessing. A distinguished gathering of more than 300 individuals including heads of the institutes, faculty and students joined this event in a hybrid mode. Program was started with plantation of trees in CIAB campus. Prof. Ashwani Pareek, Chief Executive Officer, CIAB welcomed all the guests & dignitaries and presented a report on institution journey and achievements. He mentioned that institute has established a state of art infrastructure in a very short span of time and is playing an important role in generating world class knowledge in the area of bioprocessing. He also highlighted that CIAB is working on the strategies to make use of agro-waste biomass for value added products and processes development to enhance the farmers income and waste to wealth. Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Director, CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology, Palampur delivered the foundation day lecture on "How Bioresources Could be Used to Generate Bioeconomy?" He has presented the availability of huge bioresources and the potential to harness them for value addition. He has highlighted the importance of technology development for the sustenance of bioresources as well as technology development for recovery of useful molecules from such bioresources for food, and pharma sector. Advancement in process development and innovation in technology could be effective tool in improving the bio-based economy. We need dedicated efforts to explore bioresources for bioeconomy generation.

Prof. Raghavendra P. Tiwari, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Punjab, Bathinda was the chief guest in the foundation day. He has highlighted the importance of bioprocessing for industrial growth and societal upliftment. Institutions should build up focused areas of research to develop technologies for industrial growth and ultimately to boost the economy of the country. There is need to strengthen the linkages between academic institutions, R&D labs and industries.

SJVN Conferred with Most Efficient & Profitable Mini Ratna of the Year Award

Sh. Nand Lal Sharma, Chairman & Managing Director, SJVN today informed that in yet another major achievement, SJVN has been conferred with the Most Efficient & Profitable Mini Ratna of the Year Award. Dalal Street Investment Journal has conferred the award to SJVN for playing crucial role in economic growth of the nation. SJVN is scripting the economic growth story of the nation. Company achieved its highest ever Capital Expenditure of Rs 5259.39 crores against the target of Rs 5000 crores for the fiscal year 2021-22 and helped the nation to recuperate from economic slump caused by the global pandemic." said Sh. Nand Lal Sharma. SJVN has emerged as a major player in Power Sector in India and neighboring countries. With the total portfolio of 31000 MW and 52 projects under various stages of development, SJVN plans to invest Rs 75000 crores in next five years and Rs 1.8 lakh crores in next ten years. This will result in employment generation, infrastructure development and overall socio-economic growth of the country. SJVN started with a Single Hydro Project of 1500 MW in 1988. Today 2016.5 MW is under Operation and the company has presence in India and in neighboring countries of Nepal & Bhutan. SJVN now holds a diversified portfolio of Hydro, Thermal, Wind and Solar Power Projects, Power Transmission and Power Trading. The company has recently formed a subsidiary company SJVN Green Energy Limited for developing renewable energy projects. Established in 1986, the Dalal Street Investment Journal (DSJ) is India's No. 1 equity research and capital investment magazine which cater to the needs of its reader-investors.

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The end of a brand

The fall of the Rajapaksas in public esteem underscores limits of muscular nationalism

The resignation of Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, amidst extraordinary scenes of violence as part of the widespread public uprising against his family's rule, marks the abrupt fall of a political brand that has been dominating the country for the better part of the last decade-and-a-half. Venerated by large sections of the majority Sinhalese as a national hero who defeated the Liberation Tigers, Mr. Mahinda could never have imagined that his teeming support base would be replaced by swarming protesters so vehemently opposed to him that he would have to leave 'Temple Trees', his Colombo residence, for safety. Thousands of protesters have been demanding the resignation of all the Rajapaksas occupying various posts, including President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, as the economic crisis became unbearable with a huge shortage of food and fuel, as well as the means to buy them. Until a few days ago, the Rajapaksas appeared heedless of the demand, as the country sought to overcome the crisis through overseas aid and bailout packages. However, as the protests spiralled, it appeared that the President wanted his elder brother to resign as Prime Minister. Amidst the political uncertainty, a violent attack on the protesters in Colombo, allegedly by supporters of the Prime Minister, set off a series of incidents that resulted in deaths and injuries, even as houses of political leaders, including the ancestral home of the Rajapaksas in Hambantota, were targeted by arsonists.

Mr. Mahinda's resignation may not be enough to assuage the protesters and the political instability may continue. Anyone taking up the post of Prime Minister now will have to command public trust as well as have the will to steer the country towards economic recovery. President Gotabaya will have to choose someone who can command a parliamentary majority, but the current mood of public anger may deter anyone who has been associated with the Rajapaksa regime. The Opposition leader, Sajith Premadasa, has already declined an offer to head a government under a Gotabaya Presidency. For India, which has responded to the crisis with financial and material aid worth \$3.50 billion, the situation presents a unique dilemma: its continued support should not be seen as a means of keeping an unpopular regime going; nor can it look the other way as shortages persist, causing misery for the common folk. In its reaction to the situation, India has said it supports Sri Lanka's democracy, stability and economic recovery and that it "will always be guided by the best interests of the people of Sri Lanka expressed through democratic processes". This can only mean that it does not want to be seen as extending political support to the present regime, but prioritises the people's interests. A larger message from the demise of the Rajapaksa brand is that muscular nationalism and majoritarian mobilisation may not be an endless reservoir of support, and will be of no avail when the masses face economic hardship.

Measuring the change

India should invest more to enhance the reliability of various socio-economic surveys

The fifth edition of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) provides a valuable insight into changes underway in Indian society. It throws light on traditional parameters, for instance immunisation among children, births in registered hospital facilities, and nutritional levels. While there is a general improvement in these parameters, there were mixed signals in nutrition. Gains in childhood nutrition were minimal as were improvements in obesity levels. The prevalence of anaemia has actually worsened since the last survey in 2015-16. But the survey's major contribution is its insight into behavioural and sociological churn. When highlights were made public last year, the focus was on India's declining total fertility rate that had, for the first time in the country's history, dipped to below the replacement level, or a TFR (Total Fertility Rate) of 2.1. If the trend were to persist, India's population was on the decline in line with what has been observed in developed countries, and theoretically means improved living standards per capita and greater gender equity. Because this TFR had been achieved across most States, two notable exceptions being most populous Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, it was also evidence that population decline could be achieved without coercive state policies and family planning has struck deep roots. The more detailed findings, made public last week, suggest that this decline is agnostic to religion.

The fertility rate among Muslims dipped to 2.3 in 2019-2021 from 2.6 in 2015-16, the sharpest among all religious communities when compared to the 4.4 in NFHS 1 in 1992-93. Another set of subjective questions that the NFHS attempts to answer using hard data is gender equity. Less than a third of married women are working and nearly 44% do not have the freedom to go to the market alone. However, a little over 80% have said that they can refuse demands for sex from their husband. This has implications for legal questions surrounding marital rape. Only 72% of Indian men think it is not right to coerce, threaten or use force on a woman if denied sex, which again points to the vast territory that needs to be covered in educating men about equality, choice and freedom in marriage. This question made it for the first time in the family health survey as did another question, about the number of registered births and deaths, in the family survey. Multiple surveys such as the NFHS, Sample Registration Surveys, the Census, labour, economic surveys and ways of interrogation are necessary for insights about a country as vast and complex as India; the Centre should invest more substantially in improving their reliability.

Control inflation by acting on liquidity

Inflation in India cannot be described just as 'cost-push'; an abundance of liquidity has been an important factor



C. RANGARAJAN

The recent action of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to raise the repo rate by 40 basis points and cash reserve ratio (CRR) by 50 basis points is a recognition of the serious situation with respect to inflation in our country and the resolve to tackle inflation. Inflation has assumed a menacing proportion in almost all countries. The situation is the worst in the United States where the consumer price inflation stood (in March 2022) at 8.56%, a level not reached for several decades. Consumer price index (CPI) inflation in India stood (in March 2022) at 6.95%. It is expected to rise further in April. India's CPI inflation has been fluctuating around a high level. As early as October 2020, it had hit a peak of 7.61%. It had remained at a high level of over 6% since April 2020. It did come down after December 2020 but has started rising significantly from January 2022.

On the other hand, the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation had remained in double digits since April 2021. The GDP implicit price deflator-based inflation rate for 2021-22 is 9.6%.

Impact on production

Even though the RBI's mandate is with respect to CPI inflation, policymakers cannot ignore the behaviour of other price indices. In the 2008-09 crisis, central banks of developed countries, particularly the Fed, had been blamed for overlooking the sharp rise in asset prices, even though CPI inflation was modest.

After the advent of COVID-19, the major concern of policymak-

ers all over the world was to revive demand. This was sought to be achieved by raising government expenditure. This is the standard Keynesian prescription. The severe lockdowns imposed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 restricted the mobility of people, goods and services.

Thus, the expansion in government expenditure did not immediately result in increased production in countries where the lockdown was taken seriously. India belongs to this category. As V.K.R.V. Rao pointed out in the 1950s, the Keynesian multiplier did not work when there were supply constraints as in developing countries. That is why he argued that the multiplier operated in nominal terms rather than in real terms in such countries. Something similar has happened in the present case where the supply constraint came from a non-mobility of factors of production.

Issue of inflation

Nevertheless, the prescription of enhanced government expenditure is still valid under the present circumstances. Perhaps the increase in output could happen with a lag and also with the relaxation of restrictions. Initially, the focus of monetary policy in India has been to keep the interest rate low and increase the availability of liquidity through various channels, some of which have been newly introduced. However, the growth rate of money was below the growth rate in reserve money. This is because of lower credit growth which also depends on business sentiment and investment climate. Thus the money multiplier is lower than usual. The Government's borrowing programme which was larger went through smoothly, thanks to abundant liquidity.

Even as the economy picked up steam in 2021-22, inflation also be-



came an issue. As mentioned at the beginning, this is a worldwide phenomenon. In the U.S., the explanation has been quite simple. There has been a balance sheet explosion of the Fed. On January 1, 2020 the total assets (less some items) of the Fed stood at \$4.17 trillion and in April 2022, at \$8.96 trillion. This massive expansion in assets is the result of quantitative easing which essentially means liquidity support provided by the Fed.

The Fed Chairman has made strong statements expressing the need to reduce the size of the assets. The Fed is planning to shrink its balance sheet by \$95 billion a month. It raised the policy rate by 50 basis points a few days ago. In India too there is a shift in monetary policy. The latest monetary policy reiterates the stance as one of "to remain accommodative while focusing on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation remains within the target going forward, while supporting growth". Without efforts to curtail liquidity, inflation will not come down.

I go back to a point which I have been making several times recently. While discussing inflation, analysts including policymakers focus almost exclusively on the increases in the prices of individual commodities such as crude oil as the primary cause of inflation. The

Russian-Ukraine war is cited as a primary cause. True, in many situations including the current one, they may be the triggers. Supply disruptions due to domestic or external factors may explain the behaviour of individual prices but not the general price level which is what inflation is about. Given a budget constraint, there will only be an adjustment of relative prices.

Besides the fact that any cost-push increase in one commodity may get generalised, it is the adjustment that happens at the macro level which becomes critical. A long time ago, Friedman said, "it is true that the upward push in wages produced inflation, not because it was necessarily inflationary but because it happened to be the mechanism which forced an increase in the stock of money". Thus, it is the adjustment in the macro level of liquidity that sustains inflation.

Inflation and growth

The possible trade-off between inflation and growth has a long history in economic literature. The Phillip's curve has been analysed theoretically and empirically. Tobin called the Phillip's curve a 'cruel dilemma' because it suggested that full employment was not compatible with price stability. The critical question flowing from these discussions on trade-off is whether cost-push factors can by themselves generate inflation. Tobin said at one place that inflation 'is neither demand-pull nor cost-push or rather it is both', even though he did not agree with Friedman's extreme position that there would be no pure cost-push inflation.

In the current situation, it is sometimes argued that inflation will come down, if some part of the increase in crude prices is absorbed by the government. There may be a case for reducing the duties on petroleum products for the simple

reason that one segment of the population should not bear excessive burden. The same consideration applies to food prices. But to think that it is a magic wand through which inflation can be avoided is wrong. If the additional burden borne by the government (through loss of revenue) is not offset by expenditures, the overall deficit will widen. The borrowing programme will increase and additional liquidity support may be required.

Concomitant decisions

Commenting on the increase in repo rate and a rise in CRR, some have commented that this is double whammy. No, these are concomitant decisions. Central banks cannot order interest rates. For a rise in the interest rate to stick, appropriate actions must be taken to contract liquidity. That is what the rise in CRR will do. In the absence of a rise in CRR, liquidity will have to be sucked by open market operations. As the RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das put it in his statement, "Liquidity conditions need to be modulated in line with the policy action and stance to ensure their full and efficient transmission to the rest of the economy."

Inflation in India cannot be described just as 'cost-push'. Abundance of liquidity has been an important factor. The April Monetary Policy statement talked of a liquidity overhang of the order of ₹8.5 lakh crore. Beyond a point, inflation itself can hinder growth. Negative real rates of interest on savings are not conducive to growth. If we want to control inflation, action on liquidity is very much needed with a concomitant rise in the interest rate on deposits and loans.

C. Rangarajan is a former Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister and a former Governor, Reserve Bank of India

This food regulator needs to step up to the plate

The FSSAI should be impartial and uninfluenced by the same food industry which it has to control and regulate



K.R. ANTONY

In science and academics, the search for the truth is the main driving force for advancement. Ego and stubbornness are stumbling blocks. When it comes to policymaking for millions of people in India with regard to their health and safety, it should be guided by science and hard evidence generated from systematic research.

The interview, "Expert panel will study star rating: FSSAI CEO" (*The Hindu*, Inside pages, May 6, 2022), with Arun Singhal, CEO, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), reflects a different story. The FSSAI is a regulator on healthy and safe foods produced in the country, constituted by the government, for the people and funded by tax-payer's money. It should be impartial and uninfluenced by the same food industry which it has to control and regulate.

"Six rounds of stakeholder consultations already conducted" – a line in the interview – do not exempt the FSSAI from any more consultations if pending issues have still to be sorted out. Unresolved issues may require more consultations with the new evidence generated. If the consultation is dominated by the industry, how can consumer interest be protected adequately? The classification of foods, as healthy or unhealthy, is a technical or

professional step. This should be decided by a governance body such as the FSSAI or food and nutrition experts or professionals. Not by the food industry or manufacturers.

There are health concerns

What is our concern? The consumption of junk foods that are high in calories, sugar, fat and salt lead to the early onset of obesity among adolescents, insulin insufficiency, and in adulthood results in diabetes, hypertension, cardiac and renal diseases. We need to reduce the production, the marketing and the availability of such unhealthy foods and even if available, change consumer behaviour in purchasing such processed food by due warning of their contents using the labels on the packets. We appeal to their reasoning and responsible decision making to dissuade them from purchasing dangerous foods.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has issued a threshold for sugar, salt, fat, and calories per 100 grams of processed food packaged or 100 ml of liquid beverages bottled. Unless we generate competing technical data for the Indian population, we have to abide by WHO norms.

A technical group set up by the FSSAI has undertaken an evaluation of processed foods on the racks of Indian supermarkets and found 96% of products for one component and 62.8% for three components are above WHO thresholds. We cannot relax thresholds to suit the industry but industry must alter its composition to healthy limits. The FSSAI must ensure that.

Any order or guideline issued in

public interest must be mandatory from day one. We cannot have the flexibility of voluntary adoption and staggered implementation as suggested by Mr. Singhal. The regulator cannot be pleading on behalf of food producers with various untenable excuses to not implement its own stipulations. That is an absolute abdication of its power and purpose. It does not make sense to allow a voluntary adoption of rules, and if someone does not adopt the regulation, relaxing the norms later. Will one ever allow voluntary adoption of wearing helmets while riding two-wheelers or locking a seat belt while driving a four-wheeler over a long period and then agree for a relaxation of norms if compliance is poor? Is this a regulator's way of functioning?

No one denies that the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad – mentioned in the interview as having conducted a consumer survey involving 20,500 people – is an institution of repute. So too are the other IIMs in the country, the Indian Council of Medical Research, the International Institute for Population Sciences, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, the National Institute of Nutrition Hyderabad. Were they invited and given a chance to bid for such a

platform for political parties, could be reasonably construed as an indictment – that the drive is indeed motivated more by political calculations than any genuine concern for making the capital free of unauthorised constructions.

■ It is shocking to see the attitude of the Rajapaksa family and its near desperation to cling to power. The family must take responsibility for its actions and allow the formation of a new interim government.

■ The resignation of the Sri Lanka Prime Minister was a step too late amid a worsening situation. The situation might not have turned very ugly, as it has now, had the Prime Minister taken this decision earlier. One hopes that the situation returns to normal soon.

KAMIL S.V.,
Androth island, Lakshadweep

Bulldozer politics

The Delhi Municipal Corporation's anti-encroachment drive is suspect in more ways than one (Page 1, May 10). The Supreme Court's line, that it would not be reduced to a

large expensive study? Financial regulations mandate requesting for a minimum three bids.

On package labelling

So how is the front of package labelling (FOPL) to be done? Is it by the methods of Multiple Traffic Lights (MTL), Monochrome GDA, Nutri-Score, Warning Labels, and Health Star Rating (HSR)? If the objective of the study is to find out "which kind of FOPL is most comprehensible, acceptable and yet effective in influencing purchase intentions", the methodology must meet that objective, it would be ideal to provide the crystallised information in the best acceptable way for consumption and leave it open for the consumer to decide. We have done it with tobacco packs and alcohol bottles.

The participants of the study must have the capacity to objectively evaluate the various formats of FOPL based on the information content. They must have the ability to compare and identify least harmful, or identify higher content than recommended. Why do we seek the opinion of the consumer who is not knowledgeable or unlettered? It is pointless.

The methodology states that the profile of the respondent is captured after the respondent has made a choice rating of the FOPL. There must be some tools to assess the basic level of understanding and then decide on the inclusion or the exclusion of the participant from the study. There is no exclusion and inclusion criteria based on the profile of the respondent, before conducting an opinion poll.

The authors admit in this study that 13.8% of respondents have not

had schooling at all or are illiterate while 28%-35% of respondents are those who never read food labels. Therefore, they should have been excluded from making a relative comparison between labels in this study. Will one ever ask a teetotaller for his opinion on the relative merits of three comparable brands of whisky?

Children have been left out

At the same time, the exclusion of young adolescent children aged 10-18 years – who are big consumers of packaged biscuits chips and bottled soft drinks – from the study is a big methodological error. It is a case of significant missing data.

The "priming of the respondent" is an unnecessary step, with questionable benefits in the methodology. It complicates the study design with several levels of stratification and no conclusive findings emerging. Unfortunately, no firm policy guideline tips can be derived from the findings of this elaborate expensive study as it has many avoidable methodological errors.

The FSSAI cannot go ahead with a draft regulation based on a highly contested study design and whose findings are not yet peer reviewed. Its decision to stick to a Health Star Rating based on an algorithm known to the food industry only, as a front of pack labelling, is without sound logic or evidence.

Dr. K.R. Antony is a pediatrician at Kochi, an independent monitor, National Health Mission, and a former Director of the State Health Resource Centre, Chhattisgarh

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Sri Lankan crisis

The swift and ugly developments in Sri Lanka, though not unexpected, have cost Mahinda Rajapaksa his high profile job (Page 1, "Amid rising violence, Mahinda Rajapaksa quits as Sri Lanka PM", May 10). The crisis-ridden island nation is a clear example of how misgovernance and a failure to assess the pulse of the people can trigger violence, mass upheaval, and disorder. It will be a gargantuan task now to win over the trust of the people, restore peace and order, re-rail the battered

economy and revive routine affairs. The ball is in the President's court.

V. JOHAN DHANAKUMAR,
Chennai

■ Let us hope that peace returns at the earliest. The government and the President should also step down before anger boils over. Sri Lanka should go in for fresh elections and the people elect a government they believe can bail them out of the current crisis.

K. RAMACHANDRAN,
Chennai

■ Going forward, a new interim government, if

formed, must be extremely vigilant as it has to tackle an economy that is in the doldrums. There is now a window of opportunity for India to prove that it is an all-weather ally of Sri Lanka.

AANYA SINGHAL,
Noida, Uttar Pradesh

■ It is shocking to see the attitude of the Rajapaksa family and its near desperation to cling to power. The family must take responsibility for its actions and allow the formation of a new interim government.

TANISHA JOSHI,
Pune

A victory for crime victims

A recent Supreme Court judgment provides greater participation for victims in the criminal justice process



G.S. BAJPAI & ANKIT KAUSHIK

In stating that the victim of a crime ought to be heard at all stages of a trial, the Supreme Court judgment, in *Jagjeet Singh v. Ashish Mishra* (2022), essentially becomes a cause for celebration for victim rights advocates. This is historic in many ways as the courts in India have never made such a fervent plea for victim justice. While denying bail to Ashish Mishra in the Lakhimpur Kheri case, the court made sharp remarks legitimising the claims of victim to participate in the criminal justice process. The court observed that international instruments and trends as well as the recommendations of the law reform reports were in favour of granting greater participation for victims of crime.

Impact on victims

The judgment has far-reaching victimological implications. On a principled note, the court observed that our criminal justice system conflates the presence of the state with the presence of the victim. Such conflation is attributable to the traditional understanding of the criminal process wherein the trial is a contest between the state and the accused only. In sociologist and criminologist Nils Christie's terminology, if we consider the conflict to be property, then the state claims ownership over the same. The conflict as property, however, must be restored to its rightful owner – the victim.

The court then goes on to observe that the victim cannot be asked to wait till the commencement of the trial to assert their right to participate in the proceeding. The victim has a legally vested right to be heard at every step post the occurrence of the offence. This court's observations have the potential to impact several important facets of the criminal process. First, the victim as defined in Section 2(wa) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) becomes a victim only after an accused has been charged with the offence. The judgment, however, overcomes this



Guru Sevak Singh, a farmer, poses with the photograph of his brother Guruvinder Singh, who was killed during the farmers' protest in Lakhimpur Kheri on October 3, 2021. ■REUTERS

bar to provide the victim with the right to be recognised as a victim immediately after the occurrence of the offence.

Second, a victim, not being a complainant, has been deterred from several substantive pre-trial rights under the CrPC including the right to approach the superior police officer in case of a refusal to register an FIR, the right to be informed about the progress of the investigation or the decision not to investigate, and the right to be informed on the filing of the final/closure report. Though the judgment clarifies that the complainant and victim are two different entities in the law, it simultaneously states that the victim has 'unbridled participatory rights' right from the stage of the investigation. This translates to a pronouncement that the victim must have all rights that a complainant has, and much more.

Third, the court observed that the participatory rights of the victim extend all the way to the stage of appeal or revision. The Supreme Court has also observed that the rights of the victim must not be termed or construed restrictively.

If they are comprehensively applied, these observations have the effect of securing a gamut of rights for

the victim at the trial stage including the right to be informed of the proceedings, the right to protection, the right to speedy justice, the right to present arguments and written submissions, the right to examine witnesses, the right to be heard at sentencing and the right to be compensated and restituted.

The road ahead

These progressive observations are bound to have an indelible impact on the way we perceive our criminal justice processes. Nevertheless, an implementation of the judgment in its letter and spirit is bound to face challenges on two important fronts. The first challenge lies in the enunciation of the rights which the judgment seeks to secure. While the judgment grants participatory rights to victims at all stages of the criminal process, it remains to be seen how the judgment is interpreted in the future and which rights are consequently identified.

In the absence of such clarity, it also remains to be seen how the judgment will be applied by the lower courts in practice. It is true that some practices granting the victim substantive rights, such as the right to file a protest petition at the time of filing the final report/closure report,

have emerged purely from judicial precedents. However, these practices have evolved over time and have required much judicial discourse to become settled. In the light of the same, it seems that it will not be easy to implement the judgment immediately. This was a high-profile case and therefore made the headlines. One wonders how many victims have the capacity to approach the highest court of the country for justice.

A second challenge is that at the moment, there are several provisions and judicial precedents which stand in the way of a comprehensive guarantee of such rights to the victims. For instance, Section 301 limits the right of the victim's participation at the trial in a court of session to submission of written arguments after evidence is closed in the matter. This position has received judicial affirmation in the case of *Rekha Murarka v. State* (2019), wherein the Supreme Court proffered that granting victims a right to participation at trial may lead to the trial becoming a 'vindictive battle' between the victim and the accused.

Perhaps the best way to tackle both these challenges is to give legislative recognition to the principle of participation which has received the judicial stamp of approval. The CrPC of 1973 is largely based upon the CrPC of 1898. Both these enactments carry scant provisions in terms of access, participation, assistance, protection and compensation to victims of crime. The amendments defining the victim and granting them the right to legal representation and more are hardly adequate to substantively secure internationally recognised rights for victims of crime.

There is an urgent need to amend the CrPC in order to facilitate the recognition of victim rights and to create a statutory framework enabling the same. The recommendations of the Committee for Reforms in Criminal Laws take note of such a need and are expected to work on these lines. Such legislative incorporation can grant recognition to the rights of victims as well as secure their implementation by the lower judiciary as well as the functionaries of the criminal justice system.

G.S. Bajpai is Vice-Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab, where Ankit Kaushik is an Assistant Professor

The learning grounds of Ukraine

Over two months into the Russia-Ukraine conflict, it is time for India to draw some interim lessons



MANMOHAN BAHADUR

Mariupol has fallen (sans the Azovstal steel mill), the existence of the 'Ghost of Kyiv'

fighter pilot has been officially denied by Ukraine, the media reports that Europe is trying to fully phase out its dependency on Russian energy and that some embassies are reopening in Kyiv – but, even as the Ukraine-Russia conflict recedes from the public glare, the misery for the common citizen continues. This is expected to last many more months, if not years, considering the East-West politics and great power equations at play and the resilience shown by the Ukrainians (with copious armament supplies from the West). Over two months into the conflict, it is time to draw some interim lessons.

Alliances matter

First, alliances do matter in this interconnected world no matter how powerful a country may be. So, while the David in the conflict has the backing of Europe and NATO, the Goliath too is pulling out all stops to make sure that China's sentiments stay with it and India continues its fine balancing act, a victory for Moscow given India's democratic credentials and the not-so-subtle pressure brought on by the West on New Delhi. With time these equations may change when the practical realities of geo-economics start biting and the weightage of theoretical geopolitics starts waning; money power talks decisively in real life. A long-term sustainable view that looks after India's interests through linkages with other like-minded nations is therefore vital, especially since our neighbourhood is not benign. Though it is too early to say that a truncated Ukrainian nation is what would emerge when the conflict ends, what we have witnessed is that brute 'power' has spoken; here, there is a vital lesson for India.

Second, the key to power is intelligence, just as it is to combat. American intelligence was right about Russian President Vladimir Putin's intentions to go to war. 'Political war' was at play, as a CNN report put it; it was all part of a strategy to prevent Moscow from launching a false flag operation and blame Ukraine for starting it. In the event, Mr. Putin himself had to announce the launch of a "special military operation." That high-resolution satellite imagery is now commercially available to any nation that is willing to pay

levels the playing field a bit in modern warfare. Most of the strategic intelligence, though, is gathered during peacetime and one would only be sage to remember the adage that in international relations there are no permanent friends, only permanent interests. So, while it is important to have tactical knowledge of enemy dispositions, what is much more vital is to discern the thought process of the adversary's leadership.

Third, leadership counts and good leaders have an intangible positive impact – an almost axiomatic reality re-emphasised by the visuals and pep talks tweeted by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky these past months, as he conveyed two vital messages from the streets of Ukraine. The first was that the Ukrainian leadership was intact and second, their executive head was in the fight as much as the citizens were; that he has never appeared in a business suit, and always in combat fatigues (even while meeting foreign leaders), has added a halo to his standing. Contrast this with the flight of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani as the Taliban closed in on Kabul – resistance collapsed and Afghan soldiers melted away; here, the Ukrainians have given the Russians a run for their money.

Yardstick of deterrence capability

Finally, in the realm of realpolitik a country's vital interests can be protected only by that country, and hence the potency of a nation boils down to its Comprehensive National Power (CNP). CNP is a true yardstick of a nation's deterrence capability and its ability to fight if deterrence fails, as it takes into account social and political stability, aspects of economic strength, natural resources, geography, R&D capability, manufacturing capacity and quality of its national leadership. For India, surrounded by two adversarial nations, a true appraisal is necessary since the government's well-meaning *aatmanirbharata* drive has still to reach take-off speed. A nation doesn't become *aatmanirbhar* overnight and New Delhi has to allocate available resources to imports that would still take place (especially in the defence sector) while domestic capability and capacity is ramped up in parallel. Social cohesion is another vital ingredient in CNP and needs the leadership's focused attention at all times in our multicultural and multi-religious polity. With international relations in a churn, a new rising power in China, Russia trying to regain its lost status and Pakistan not turning any friendlier, it is imperative that there be no chink in India's deterrence armour.

Air Vice Marshal Manmohan Bahadur VM (retd) is former Additional Director General, Centre for Air Power Studies, New Delhi. Views are personal

STATE OF PLAY

Decisions in haste

For the DMK government, this month has been marked by a couple of controversial episodes

D. SURESH KUMAR

The M.K. Stalin-led DMK government's move into its second year in Tamil Nadu this month was marked by two controversial episodes. Within days of taking the decisions to punish the Madurai Medical College Dean following a row over an oath-taking ceremony and to ban the ancient palanquin-bearing ritual of the Dharmapuram Adheenam, the government had to revoke them. In hindsight, both decisions appeared to have been taken in haste; the latter case also called into question the DMK government's resolve in dealing with Hindu religious practices.

The government had removed the Dean and placed him on 'wait list' after first-year medical students were administered the Mararishi Charak Shapath instead of the conventional Hippocratic Oath during the white coat ceremony. The Charak Shapath was recommended by the National Medical Commission as early as February. While the recommendation was instantly opposed for its "regressive nature" by the Indian Medical Association and some political parties in Kerala, there were hardly any voices against it back then in Tamil Nadu. The government too did not issue any specific direction against the use of the oath, much earlier, in other government medical colleges, emerged. With the AIADMK questioning the action and the medical fraternity backing the Dean, the government had no option but to reinstate him citing his good work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Parallel to this, another controversy played out when the Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) of Mayiladuthurai district issued an order banning the 'Pattina Pravesham', a religious ceremony during which the seer of the Dharmapuram Adheenam, a Saivite mutt, is carried by devotees on a

Tamil Nadu

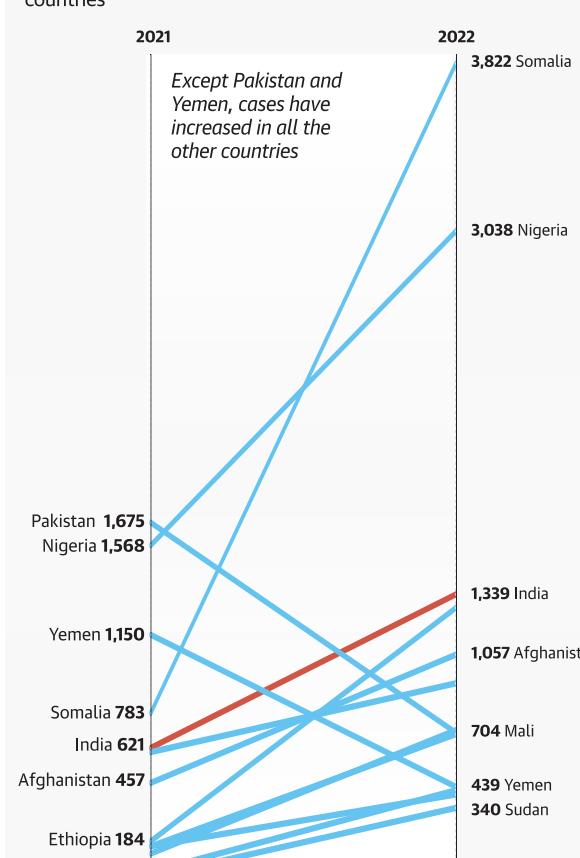
DATA POINT

Measles threat looms large

doubled in the first two months of 2022 compared to 2021. A similar pattern was observed globally, as measles cases increased by 79% in the same period. The WHO labelled this development as a "worrying sign" and cited pandemic-related disruptions and diversion of resources from routine immunisation as the major reasons for the rise. For instance, in India, the first dose coverage of the measles vaccine dropped to 88% in 2020 from 100% in 2018. The relaxation of movement restrictions is another factor that heightens the risk of larger outbreaks. By Vignesh Radhakrishnan and Rebecca Rose Varghese

1. RISE IN CASES |

The chart shows measles cases in the first two months of 2021 and 2022 in select high burden countries



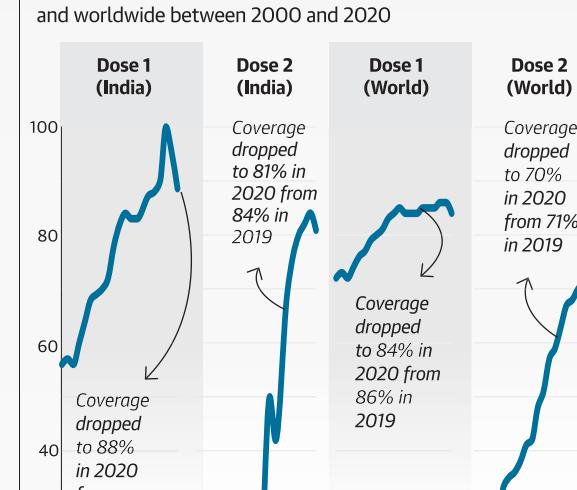
3. TOTAL DOSES |

The number of first doses of the measles vaccine administered in India dropped to 25.6 crore in 2021 compared to over 27.4 crore each year in 2018, 2019 and 2020



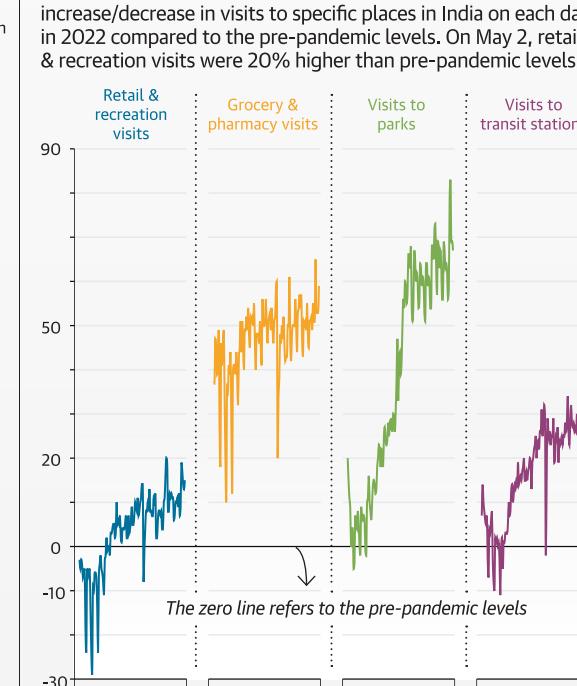
2. VACCINE COVERAGE |

The chart shows the coverage of the first and second doses of the measles vaccine in India and worldwide between 2000 and 2020



4. EASE IN RESTRICTIONS |

The chart shows the increase/decrease in visits to specific places in India on each day in 2022 compared to the pre-pandemic levels. On May 2, retail & recreation visits were 20% higher than pre-pandemic levels



The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 11, 1972

Govt. serious about land reforms

New Delhi, May 10: The Union Food and Agriculture Minister, Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, said in the Rajya Sabha to-day that the Government was very serious in effecting land reforms as early as possible. Replying to the debate on the working of his Ministry, Mr. Ahmed said there was no truth in the allegation that the Prime Minister was not serious in this matter and hence delays occurred. The Prime Minister, on the other hand, was taking all action necessary not only for the enactment of ceiling laws but in their proper implementation as early as possible. The delay occurred due to unnecessary controversy on the subject. He said that Land Reforms Committee postponed the decision till Chief Ministers met and took a uniform decision. "I have no doubt whatever decision is taken, it will be followed by all States," he added. Referring to the sugar industry, Mr. Ahmed said the Government was considering a long range policy for increasing sugar production and providing a proper price to sugarcane growers.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 11, 1922

Water supply scheme

Calcutta, May 10: The Calcutta Corporation this evening discussed the question of raising a loan of fifty-one lakhs for water supply improvement scheme. The Chairman pointed out that it was a matter of urgency to arrange for funds and the first payment in connection with the scheme would have to be made in September and it was therefore considered advisable to apply to the Government for the sanction of the loan at once. The Finance Committee sometime ago considered that in the present state of the Indian Money Market it might be advisable to raise the loan in England particularly as payments would have to be made chiefly in that country and has since been advised that the English Market was favourable and daily improving and that no time should be lost in putting loan on the Market. The Chairman added that in deference to the wishes of members of the Committee enquiries should be made of the Imperial Bank as to whether it was agreeable to underwrite rupee loan and if so its terms and if the latter were favourable, which the majority of the members of the Committee considered unlikely, the matter be again brought before the Corporation and they could then modify their decision and apply for sanction for a rupee loan.

Text & Context

NEWS IN NUMBERS



Deadly fever

12 The number of deaths from Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever since the start of the year in Iraq. The tick-borne disease, also known as Congo fever, causes severe haemorrhaging, with people usually catching it through contact with the blood of infected animals, according to the World Health Organization. The disease has a fatality rate of between 10 and 40% of all cases. "The total number of cases of haemorrhagic fever is 55, including 12 recorded deaths," Iraq's health Ministry spokesman Seif al-Badr told a press conference. AFP

Surging inflation

6.70 The percentage by which inflation in Denmark rose in April, its highest level since 1984, as electricity and heating prices spiked. The consumer price index rose from 5.4% in March, according to official figures from Statistics Denmark. When excluding energy prices, the so-called core inflation rate was 3.6% which Statistics Denmark said was the highest since 1990. The agency said that it was largely price increases for tobacco and holiday home rentals that drove up core inflation compared to March. AP

Thermal power

9 The percentage by which India's coal-based power generation registered a rise at 1,02,529 million units (MU) in April as compared to the year-ago period. This comes at a time when the country is facing a major power crisis. The gas-based power generation which has fallen drastically in the country aggravated the crisis. The coastal thermal power plants are now generating around half of their capacity because of the sharp rise in the prices of imported coal. This has resulted in a gap between the demand and supply of electricity. PTI

Rupee recovery

12 In paise, the amount by which the rupee recovered to end at 77.32 (provisional) against the U.S. dollar on Tuesday, supported by a rebound in regional currencies and a fall in crude oil prices. However, weak domestic equities and persistent foreign fund outflows restricted the gains, forex traders said. In the previous session, the rupee had slumped 54 paise to close at a record low of 77.44 against the U.S. dollar. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.03% to 103.68. PTI

Sedition cases

326 The number of cases registered in the country under the controversial colonial era law of sedition between 2014 and 2019. According to the Union Home Ministry data, a total of 326 cases were registered under the sedition law — the highest, 54, in Assam — between 2014 and 2019. Out of the cases registered, chargesheets were filed in 141 cases while only six people were convicted for the offence. However, according to the data, not a single case led to conviction between 2014 and 2019. PTI

EXPLAINER

Moderating the publisher-platform relationship

What does the new Canadian Bill strive to achieve? How do tech giants profit off news publishers?

THE GIST

SRIRAM SRINIVASAN

■ On April 5, the Canadian government introduced a Bill that seeks to make Internet platforms such as Google and Facebook pay news publishers for use of their content.

■ The government website lists four expected outcomes of the legislation. They include a framework that supports "fair business relationships between digital platforms and news outlets," sustainability in the news ecosystem, maintenance of press independence, and diversity within the news landscape.

■ Google has responded to the new Bill by stating that it has "serious concerns about some unintended consequences the proposed Online News Act will have on news in Canada and the search experience that Canadians know and trust."

The story so far: On April 5, the Canadian government introduced a Bill that seeks to make Internet platforms such as Google and Facebook pay news publishers for use of their content. The logic and the intent of the Bill is similar to what Australia implemented last year. The development is of interest to governments across the world, some of which are said to be mulling such a law, as also the larger media industry.

What is the idea behind it? The Bill seeks to regulate digital news intermediaries, its summary says, "to enhance fairness in the Canadian digital news marketplace and contribute to its sustainability." The government website lists four expected outcomes of the legislation. They include a framework that supports "fair business relationships between digital platforms and news outlets," sustainability in the news ecosystem, maintenance of press independence, and diversity within the news landscape.

According to the *Toronto Sun*, Canada's Heritage Minister Pablo Rodriguez said in a press conference after introducing the Bill, "Right now, the health and future of the news industry – especially local news – are at risk." He has also been quoted as saying, "We want to make sure that the news media and journalists are fairly compensated for their work. Now more than ever, Canadians need reliable and credible information, especially in a time of greater mistrust and disinformation."

The Canadian Bill is an acknowledgement of the lopsidedness of the news media industry. This is similar to what prompted Australia to pass a law last year to make platforms pay publishers. The genesis of this was a 2019 report by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, the country's regulator, which saw platforms such as Google and Facebook as having "substantial bargaining power in relation to many news media businesses." The legacy media, which has seen enormous business challenges over the last two decades, was seen as no match for the mammoth platforms with billion-plus users that have

grown and prospered in the digital era.

It is in a similar backdrop that such a Bill has been introduced in Canada. Public broadcaster CBC in an article, said, "According to government figures, more than 450 news outlets in Canada have closed since 2008 and at least one third of Canadian journalism jobs have disappeared over that same time period. News businesses have struggled to make money from their content after losing major revenue streams, such as classified ads and print subscriptions. In an era of cord-cutting, some private and public broadcasters also have struggled to monetise their airwaves and pay for local, regional and national radio and TV news. The dominance over advertising once enjoyed by legacy media is over. Google and Facebook have a combined 80% share of all online ad revenue in Canada and rake in an eye-popping \$9.7 billion a year, according to government data."

How does the Canadian Bill propose to correct this imbalance?

It aims to correct the imbalance much in the same way the Australian law hoped to do – by ensuring platforms negotiate commercial deals with news publishers. If they can't agree on a deal and mediation fails, "a mandatory arbitration framework" will kick in as a last resort.

What is the nature of the publisher-platform relationship in the digital age?

In the digital world, platforms have become the most important gateways to journalistic content produced by legacy news media. Their relationship has till recently been largely about how publishers can use tools and strategies to better use the reach provided by these platforms. Google and Facebook provide much of the traffic for a lot of traditional news publishers. The platforms play a major role in news discovery. But it is now acknowledged all over the world that the platforms are able to make much of the money from this arrangement while publishers struggle. The publishers also have to contend with frequent changes to the platform algorithm, which comes with the real threat of them

losing a large amount of readers all of a sudden.

The 'money' talk has come into being only lately, as a result of growing realisation in government and regulatory circles across the world about the increasing control that internet platforms have over news dissemination. France is another country which has forced internet platforms to enter into agreements with publishers. The enabling legislation is based on EU copyright rules, which according to a *Reuters* report, "allow publishers to demand a fee from online platforms showing extracts of their news."

The last few years have seen Google coming up on its own with a framework under the 'news showcase' programme to license content from publishers across the world. This, it says, is to "support quality journalism." Facebook had spoken of a similar programme last year.

How have platforms reacted to the Bill?

Ottawa Citizen quoted Google spokeswoman Lauren Skelly as saying that the company has "serious concerns about some unintended consequences the proposed Online News Act will have on news in Canada and the search experience that Canadians know and trust." The paper said Google "appears to be taking a different tack than Facebook's parent company Meta by reaching out to the government." It said, "Last week, a Meta representative told MPs the company hasn't ruled out blocking news in Canada" over the new Bill.

While the Australian Bill was being discussed, Google had threatened to shut down its search engine in that country while Facebook talked of banning news from being shared in its products there. But these proved to be just empty threats. They stayed on, striking deals with news publishers as per the new law.

What next?

The Bill is at the stage of a second reading at the House of Commons. Whatever final shape the Bill takes, it is clear that there is a growing debate across the world on the need to regulate internet platforms especially when it comes to news. The U.K. is said to be



considering rules to correct the imbalance in the media industry. In India, early this year, the Competition Commission of India, the country's competition watchdog, ordered investigations into Google, the basis being "the bargaining power imbalance and denial of fair share in the advertising revenue," as alleged by the Digital News Publishers Association, a group of the digital arms of India's leading media companies. In the process of the order, the watchdog did take note of the legislation in Australia and France.

EXPLAINER

The grim forewarnings of a global study on birds

How many species of birds are on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List?

RAHUL KARMAKAR

The story so far: The State of the World's Birds, an annual review of environmental resources published on May 5 by nine natural sciences and avian specialists across the globe, has revealed that the population of 48% of the 10,994 surviving species of birds is declining. The report led by the Manchester Metropolitan University gives an overview of the changes in the knowledge of avian biodiversity and the extent to which it is imperilled.



What are the key findings of the study?

The study found that 5,245 or about 48% of the existing bird species worldwide are known or suspected to be undergoing population declines. While 4,295 or 39% of the species have stable trends, about 7% or 778 species have increasing population trends. The trend of 37 species was unknown. The study draws from BirdLife International's latest assessment of all birds for the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List that shows 1,481 or 13.5% species are currently threatened with global extinction. These include 798 species classified as vulnerable, 460 as endangered and 223 as critically endangered while 52 species were

considered to be data deficient. About 73% species are estimated to have fewer than 10,000 mature individuals, 40% have fewer than 2,500 mature individuals, and almost 5% have fewer than 50 mature individuals. The bird species are non-randomly threatened across the avian tree of life, with richness of threatened species disproportionately high among families such as parrots, pheasants and allies, albatrosses and allies, rails, cranes, cracids, grebes, megapodes, and pigeons. The more threatened bird species (86.4%) are found in tropical than in temperate latitudes (31.7%), with hotspots for threatened species concentrated in the tropical Andes, southeast Brazil, eastern Himalayas, eastern Madagascar, and Southeast Asian islands.

What is the importance of birds to ecosystems and culture?

Birds are a truly global taxon, with one or more species occupying all habitats across the earth's terrestrial surface including urban environments with no natural analogues. Birds contribute toward many ecosystem services that either directly or indirectly benefit humanity. These include provisioning, regulating, cultural, and supporting services. The functional role of birds within ecosystems as pollinators, seed-dispersers, ecosystem engineers, scavengers and predators not only facilitate accrual and maintenance of biodiversity but also support human endeavours such as sustainable agriculture via pest control besides aiding other animals to multiply. For instance, coral reef fish productivity has been shown to increase as seabird colonies recovered following rat eradication in the Chagos archipelago. Wild birds and products derived from them are also economically important as food (meat, eggs). Approximately 45% of all extant bird species are used in some way by people, primarily as pets (37%) and for food (14%). The cultural role of birds is perhaps more important than any other taxonomic group, the study says. Beyond

its symbolic and artistic values, birdwatching is a global pastime practised by millions of people. Garden bird-feeding is valued at \$5-6 billion per year and growing by four per cent annually.

What are the threats contributing to avian biodiversity loss?

The study lists eight factors, topped by land cover and land-use change. The continued growth of human populations and of per capita rates of consumption lead directly to conversion and degradation of primary natural habitats and consequent loss of biodiversity, it says. Although global tree cover increased between 1982 and 2016, including by 95,000 sq. km in the tropical dry forest biome and by 84,000 sq. km in the tropical moist deciduous forest biome, this has been driven by afforestation with plantations (often of non-native species) plus land abandonment in parts of the global North, with net loss in the tropics. The other factors are habitat fragmentation and degradation, especially in the tropics; hunting and trapping with 11 to 36 million birds estimated to be killed or taken illegally in the Mediterranean region alone; the impact of invasive alien species and disease (971 alien bird species introduced accidentally or deliberately to

230 countries over the centuries have affected the native species); infrastructure, energy demands and pollution; agrochemical and pharmaceutical usage (pesticide ingestion kills an estimated 2.7 million birds annually in Canada alone); global trade teleconnections; and climate change.

Can the avian biodiversity loss be stemmed?

Yes. The study says ornithologists have a good understanding of the spatio-temporal patterns of avian diversity compared to many other taxa and the measures needed to slow down and ultimately reverse avian biodiversity loss. "The growing footprint of the human population represents the ultimate driver of most threats to avian biodiversity, so the success of solutions will depend on the degree to which they account for the social context in which they are implemented, and our ability to effect changes in individual and societal attitudes and behaviours. Emerging concepts of conservation social science can inform efforts to address biodiversity loss and to achieve more effective and sustainable conservation outcomes, linking birds to human well-being, sustainability, climate resilience, and environmental justice," it says.

THE GIST

■ The State of the World's Birds, an annual review of environmental resources published on May 5 has revealed that the population of 48% of the 10,994 surviving species of birds is declining.

■ Birds contribute toward many ecosystem services that either directly or indirectly benefit humanity. These include provisioning, regulating, cultural, and supporting services.

■ The continued growth of human populations and of per capita rates of consumption lead directly to conversion and degradation of primary natural habitats and consequent loss of biodiversity.



TOOLBOX

Wolfram|Alpha: a free online computer algebra system

Apart from computational queries, it also acts as an encyclopedia.

JYOTIRMOY BHATTACHARYA

While the idea of doing mathematics on a computer usually brings up images of number-crunching supercomputers, there also exists a long history of using computers to do mathematics not in terms of numbers but in terms of formulae. Given expressions in terms of algebraic symbols, these computer algebra systems (CAS) can carry out mathematical operations such as differentiation, integration, root finding or simplification and produce a result which is also expressed in the form of symbols.

Computer algebra systems

At present the most used general purpose CAS is the commercial system Mathematica but there are other commercial and open-source alternatives as well as specialised software for specific branches of mathematics such as number theory or group theory. The disadvantage of using these systems is that one has to interact with them in a specialised programming language which must be learnt first. And the commercial systems don't come cheap at all. A basic online-only "Home & Hobby" license for Mathematica that does not allow research or commercial use costs \$188/year.

For quite a few years now, Wolfram Research, the makers of Mathematica, have provided a free online alternative in the form of Wolfram|Alpha (<https://www.wolframalpha.com/>). Wolfram|Alpha has two ambitious goals: to accept queries in natural English language instead of a programming language with a rigid syntax and to go beyond computer algebra to become a universal knowledge base and computational engine. These ambitions perhaps reflect the maverick personality of Wolfram Research founder Stephen Wolfram, an ex-physicist who has grandiose visions of revolutionising science and computing. Just like these visions, it turns out Wolfram|Alpha delivers much less than it promises. The natural language processor easily gets confused and the knowledge base is hit and miss. Yet, once one has developed a feel for its limitations, Wolfram|Alpha is a remarkable tool for a quick calculation or fact check.

Mathematical calculations

One can plot 2-D and 3-D functions on Wolfram|Alpha. For example, to plot $x \sin(x)$ from -5 to 5 we can enter the query:

plot $x \sin(x)$ for x from -5 to 5

A multiplication sign is not required between x and $\sin(x)$ and the interval of the plot can be stated in plain English. This produces the following output. (see Query 1)

One can see that Wolfram|Alpha not just produces the plot but also gives the arc-length of the curve. This is generally the case with all queries, with result pages consisting of multiple panels with different kinds of information about the problem.

3-D curves can also be plotted. For instance:

plot $(x^2+y^2)e^{-(x^2+y^2)}$

will produce this result. (see Query 2)

Here we entered the expression using the common caret (^) operator for exponentiation. There is also an equation-editor like "math-input" interface provided for building up complicated expressions by selecting from a palette of templates.

Solving equations

One can also solve equations of various types using this open-source CAS. Polynomials (solve $x^3-3x^2+2x=1$), systems of simultaneous equations (solve $x+y=0, x-y=1$) and equations involving trigonometric and other special functions (solve $\sin(x)=0.5$) can be solved through Wolfram|Alpha.

It can even decode diophantine equations such as

$5m + 3n = 11$ over the integers

which by the way gives you the answer to the puzzle: "If you have a five litre bottle and a three litre bottle how can you measure out exactly 11 litres of water?" From the equation, 'm' is the number of times you pour in water from the five litre bottle and 'n' would be the number of times your pour in water from the three litre bottle. The negative values of these variables indicate that water is to be poured out instead of being poured in.

Calculus functions like integration can also be done. An indefinite integral query, expressed once again in English-like language,

integrate $1/(x^2+y^2)$ with respect to x produces not only multiple alternative expressions for the integral but also plots and series expansions.

Definite integrals and derivatives are also supported. Differential equations and systems of differential equations can also be solved. The following query,

solve $\sin(t)-y'(t)-y''(t)=0$

produces not just a symbolic solution but useful plots of transitional and steady-state behaviour and series expansions of the solution. (see Query 3)

Non-mathematical calculations

One of the most useful non-mathematical features of Wolfram|Alpha is its ability to do unit and currency conversions. Google Search also supports some of these conversions, but Wolfram|Alpha's coverage is much broader. For instance, Google will fail the query

Rs. 50 lakh /bigha * 1200 sq. ft in yuan while Wolfram|Alpha produces an answer.

It can also solve questions related to date and time. Queries like:-

16 weeks from May 9, 2022
days between May 9, 2022 and August 1, 1978
May 9, 2:30 p.m. pacific time in india
second saturday in may 2022

produce expected results.

Financial calculations such as present value, future value, IRR (internal rate of return) are also supported by this software. For example, the query

mortgage

brings up an interactive EMI calculator.

Wolfram|Alpha also supports many kinds of scientific and engineering calculations. You can specify the input data in the query or you can enter just the name of the formula (see below) and Wolfram|Alpha will present you with a form which will allow you to fill in the inputs.

Plank's law

Low pass filter

balance $H_2 + O_2 = H_2O$

cantilever steel beam

Apart from computational queries, Wolfram|Alpha also acts as an encyclopedia. Many domains are covered, including: scientific data

("water", "bond energy of tnt", "naja"), mathematics ("gamma function"), nutrition ("cup of tea"), exercise ("brisk walk"), geography ("shanghai"), history ("battle of plassey"), finance("AAPL") and economics ("indian price level").

Pros and cons

Compared to Wikipedia, Wolfram|Alpha's knowledge base has pros and cons. In its favour is the fact that it is curated by a single organisation and therefore, unlike Wikipedia, one can expect it to be free from errors introduced by not-so-knowledgeable users or sheer vandalism. While Wikipedia's community process keeps such errors from going out of control, it cannot fully eliminate them. Also, if one is interested in bare facts, Wolfram|Alpha's uncluttered presentation helps.

However, Wolfram|Alpha has two serious disadvantages compared to Wikipedia. One, on Wolfram|Alpha, sources and methods are given in a cursory manner and links to primary sources are not provided. Therefore, it becomes difficult for the user to verify the quality of data for themselves. Two, the very bare-bones format which makes Wolfram|Alpha great as a factbook means that no context is provided for the information, and it is practically impossible to learn about an unfamiliar topic by browsing through the results.

Beyond Wolfram|Alpha

Beyond the free offering described above, Wolfram|Alpha offers two kinds of subscription-based plans. The first, Wolfram|Alpha Pro, which starts at \$7.25/month, allows users to upload their own data and image files for analysis. It also provides step-by-step working for mathematical problems as well as a problem generator which would be useful for students.

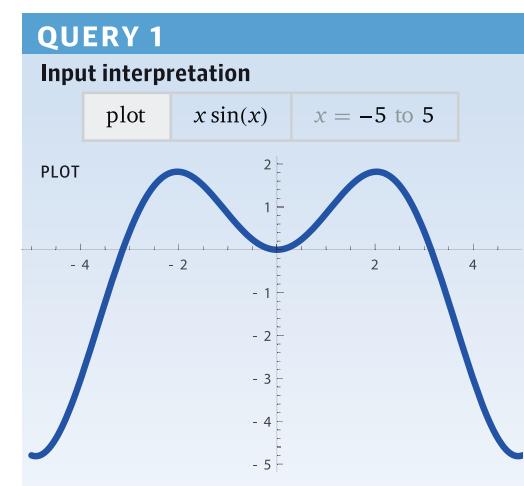
The second, Wolfram|Alpha Notebook Edition, which starts at \$22/month, provides a document-based notebook interface familiar to users of Mathematica or Jupyter. These notebooks consist of cells with queries followed by their results as well as non-query text or images added by the user.

Most importantly, results of one query can be operated upon by later queries allowing a complex calculation to be built up step-by-step. There are also paid Wolfram|Alpha apps for iOS and Android.

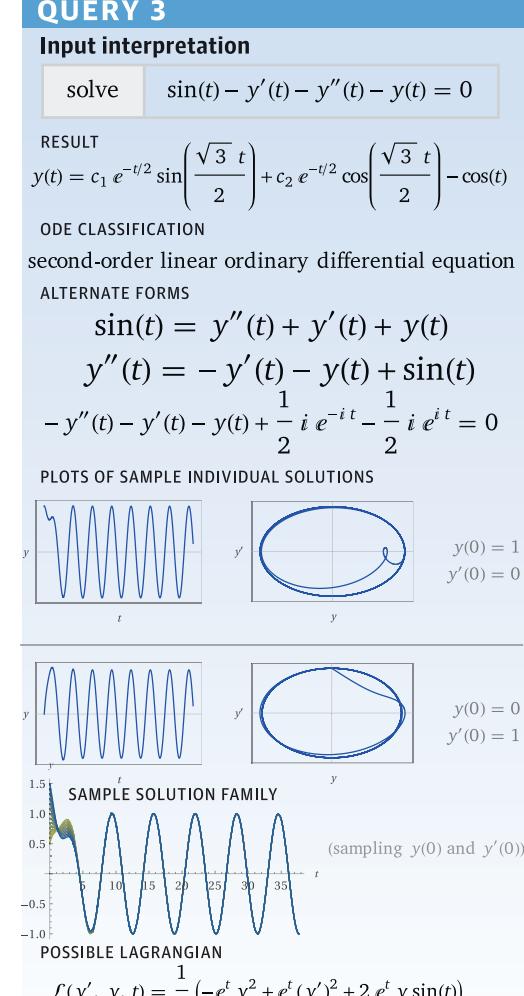
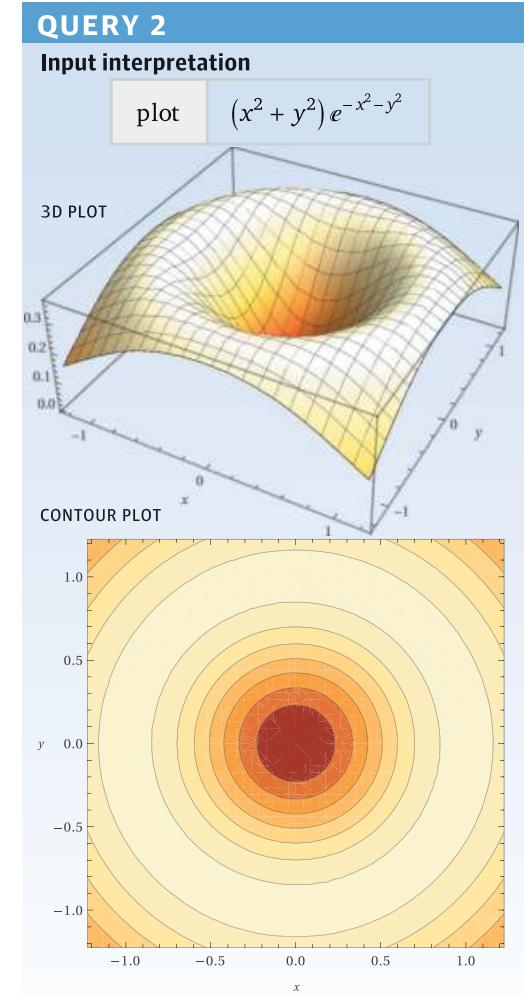
While Wolfram|Alpha is good for quick one-off calculations, students and professionals in quantitative subjects would find that beyond a point the natural language interface becomes a hindrance when doing symbolic mathematics – it is verbose and for more complex tasks one has to second-guess how the system would interpret a query. It is then time to switch to a genuine computer algebra system.

If Mathematica is out of reach, a good open source alternative is Maxima [<https://maxima.sourceforge.io/>]. There is also the Sage Math project [<https://www.sagemath.org/>] which brings together many open-source symbolic mathematics programs (including Maxima) into a common interface.

The author teaches Economics at Ambedkar University, Delhi.



$$\text{ARC LENGTH OF CURVE} \quad \int_{-5}^5 \sqrt{1 + (x \cos(x) + \sin(x))^2} dx \approx 20.70008543...$$



$$\text{SAMPLE SOLUTION FAMILY}$$

$$\text{POSSIBLE LAGRANGIAN}$$

$$\mathcal{L}(y', y, t) = \frac{1}{2} (-e^t y^2 + e^t (y')^2 + 2 e^t y \sin(t))$$

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to letters@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Text & Context'

The Hindu is introducing a new section called Toolbox, which will explain how to use software and hardware tools for everyday use. This will be of interest to learners, students, hobbyists, and anyone keen on using tech tools in their daily lives.

THE DAILY QUIZ

India observes National Technology Day on May 11 to mark the anniversary of the Pokhran nuclear tests of 1998. Every year, the day is observed to recognise the achievements and contributions of scientists and engineers.

1 A scientist who worked in the fields of physics and astronomy, he developed an equation to determine the ionisation state of the various elements making up the star. A Lok Sabha MP, he also prepared the original plan for the Damodar Valley Project. Who is he?

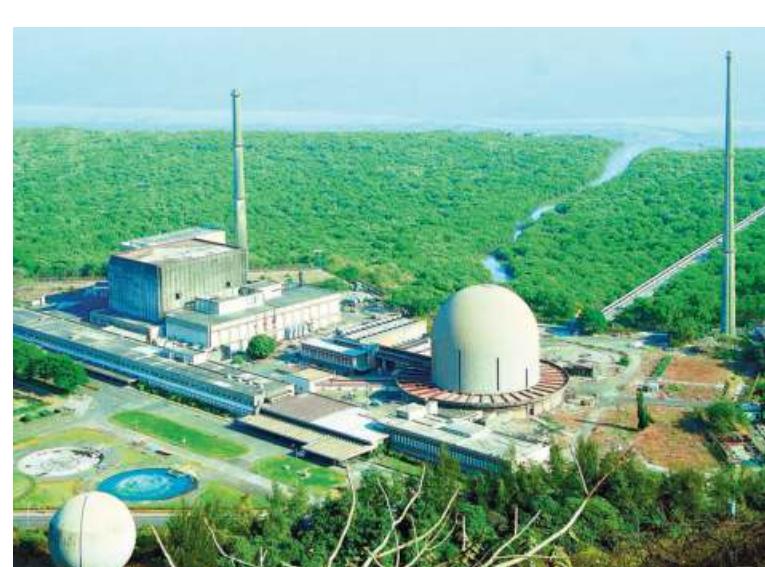
2 The number 1729 is named after two mathematicians. One of them explained that it is the smallest number expressible as the sum of two cubes in two different ways. Who are the two scientists after which this number is named?

3 Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, an Indian statistician, founded the Indian Statistical Institute, and for his contributions, he has been considered the father of modern statistics in India. He is best known for introducing a statistical measure in 1936. What is it called?

4 The Indian Astronomical Observatory has one of the world's highest located sites for optical, infrared and gamma-ray telescopes. Operated by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, it is situated at an elevation of 4,500 meters. Where is it located?

5 This is a national-level research institute for genomic medicine in India. An autonomous institution under the government of India, this is the first institution in India explicitly devoted to research, training, translation, service, and capacity-building in biomedical genomics. Which is this institute?

6 PARAM is a series of supercomputers designed and assembled by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing in Pune, India. The first one in the series, built from scratch, was launched in the year 1991. Name the supercomputer.



◀ Identify this place.

Please send in your answers to the dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Questions (abridged) and Answers of the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The second event in a men's decathlon. Ans: Long Jump

2. The second-largest Union Territory. Ans: Jammu and Kashmir

3. Alan Shepard became the second human to achieve this distinction. Ans: Go to space. Yuri Gagarin was the first

4. The second line of this classic read: 'However little known the feelings or views of such a man may be on his first entering a neighbourhood, this truth is so well fixed in the minds of the surrounding families that he is

considered as the rightful property of some one or other of their daughters.' Ans: Pride and Prejudice. The first line, "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife."

5. The second in line to the British throne. Ans: Prince William, Duke of Cambridge

6. The Star Wars movie titled 'Star Wars, Episode II'. Ans: Attack of the Clones

7. The second heaviest organ in the human body. Ans: Liver

Visual: The flag of the world's second youngest nation. Ans: Kosovo

Early Birds: Anand Coilpillai Ranjan Anil Kumar Arnasree Chakraborty

FROM PAGE ONE

Can sedition accused get protection, asks SC

Mr. Mehta said it would be hazardous to completely stop the operation of a penal provision. "Till this exercise is over, people can approach the courts, which will consider each case on the basis of their individual facts and deliver justice," he replied.

Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, on the Bench, asked whether the Centre could issue a directive to the States to keep the law in abeyance pending reconsideration.

"The people operating Section 124A at the ground level are local police and civil authorities... You [Centre] have to tell them that sedition is being revisited and use of Section 124A should be suspended in the

meantime," Justice Kant addressed the Centre.

'Don't defer hearings'

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, C.U. Singh and Gopal Sankaranarayanan, for the petitioners, urged not to defer the sedition hearings on the government's word. "It is the privilege of the legislature to reconsider or frame a new law. Let them take six months or a year and do it. But it is Your Lordships' duty to deal with our challenge against the present law..."

Director-General of Police V.K. Bhawra said on Tuesday that the explosives used appeared to be trinitrotoluene (TNT). No one was present in the room where the projectile hit on Monday evening, shattering a few windowpanes.

Responding to whether it was a terror attack, the DGP said, "Whatever will come out in the investigations, we will let you know."

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann held a high-level meeting of senior officers of the Police Department on May 10. He said a few inimical forces were constantly

Police suspect TNT in projectile fired at Intelligence Wing HQ

Chief Minister holds meeting of senior police officers; Opposition flays AAP

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH



Strict vigil: Police personnel stand guard after a blast outside the Punjab Police's office in Mohali, on Monday. ■ PTI

ly trying to foment trouble across the State.

An official statement said the DGP apprised the Chief Minister of the developments. A few suspects had been taken into custody for further interrogation.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government has come under severe criticism from Opposition parties. The incident is being seen as a major intelligence failure.

to maintain the peace and security in Punjab," the Congress leader said.

Congress Lok Sabha member Manish Tewari said on Twitter that he saw history repeating itself. "This is how it all began in 1980. It soon went completely out of control. Within 40 months, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was compelled to dismiss a Congress government and rest is history."

Former Minister and former State president of the BJP Manoranjan Kalia said "if police headquarters are not safe, there is a big question mark over the safety of the common man".

He alleged that the Chief Minister had been complacent about security.

Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal said the Mohali blast had exposed serious security lapses in Punjab.

Death toll in Sri Lanka violence rises to eight

The Parliament stands adjourned till May 17.

In fact, the recent turbulence could discourage bilateral partners and creditors from extending the promised support, a tweet from a top World Bank official showed. "We are deeply concerned with the perpetration of violence in #SriLanka. Those responsible are only standing in the way of the country's immediate economic recovery and making the task even more difficult for development partners," World Bank Country Director Faris Hadad-Zervos said.

Meanwhile, many fear

that the violence that erupted on Monday may escalate, with several incidents of vandalism and torching reported on Tuesday.

In a tweet, former President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga warned of a possible military takeover of the country. "I appeal to all our citizens who have carried on a wonderful struggle for Justice and Democratic governance so PEACEFULLY, to be aware that saboteurs may be used to incite violence in order to pave the way for military rule. Please use your organisational skills to halt this danger," she said.

CBI nabs 6 FCRA division officials on graft charge

Agency acts on Ministry's complaint

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In a nationwide crackdown, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Tuesday conducted searches and apprehended about six officials of the Foreign Contribution [Regulation] Act (FCRA) division of the Union Home Ministry along with others for allegedly facilitating illegal clearances to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) under the Act, in lieu of bribes.

Based on the Home Ministry's inputs, the CBI carried out searches on 40 premises of the suspect NGO representatives, middlemen and FCRA division officials in Delhi, Rajasthan, Chennai, Hyderabad, Coimbatore, Mysore and other places. It nabbed some accused persons, including public servants, while bribes were being exchanged, said a CBI source.

Around half a dozen officials and others were picked up for questioning by the agency to determine their role. During the searches so far, *hawala* transaction details of about ₹2 crore have also been found.

A Home Ministry spokesperson said the CBI took the

action on a complaint from the Ministry. "The complaint was examined and the complicity of a few Home Ministry officials was found to be true," said a Home Ministry official.

The FCRA registration of several thousand NGOs has been up for renewal since 2021, a process that has been affected by the pandemic. The Ministry has given several extensions due to the slow-renewal process, the latest deadline has been revised to June 30.

"Due to the slow renewal process, many consultant groups sprung up and advertised on websites. In complicity with the MHA officials, they were not only indulging in corruption to get the renewals done but were helping the NGOs which had received notices for FCRA violations," said the official.

The FCRA registration of nearly 6,000 NGOs had ceased to operate from January 1 as MHA refused to renew their application or the NGOs did not apply for registration.

There were 16,890 FCRA-registered NGOs as on Tuesday, down from over 22,000 on December 31, 2021.

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The "wide consultations" would avoid "any unintended complications in future with regard to such a vital issue", it reasoned with the court.

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'Govt. can't speak on Parliament's behalf'

During seditious hearing, lawyers remind Centre that Section 124A reconsideration entails legislation

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

The government's affidavit asking the Supreme Court to keep the seditious case pending during the reconsideration of the colonial law is at odds with a Constitution Bench judgment which held that the government cannot speak for or make promises to the court on behalf of Parliament.

While the Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana said it "respects the government's word", Justice Surya Kant, speaking from the Bench, made it a point to observe that "the government cannot give guarantees on behalf of the Parliament".

Arguments were made in court that a "reconsideration"

"of Section 124A would entail the legislative process. The Supreme Court cannot give the Parliament a deadline to complete the process. Neither can the government promise the Supreme Court a specific outcome from the Parliament. The Parliament stands alone and independent in its domain of law-making. Then how can the government, through an affidavit, ask the Supreme Court to halt its constitutional duty to examine the constitutionality of Section 124A?"

"The deponents of the affidavits filed in court may speak for the parties on whose behalf they swear to the statement. They do not speak for the Parliament. No



one may speak for the Parliament and Parliament is never before the court," the Constitution Bench had held in the Sanjeev Coke Manufacturing Company versus Bharat Coking Coal Limited case in 1982.

The judgment held that the court was the only "authentic voice" which may echo

or interpret Parliament's voice once a statute leaves the Parliament House.

"Validity of a legislation is not to be judged merely by affidavits filed on behalf of the State, but by all the relevant circumstances which the court may ultimately find and more especially by what may be gathered from what the legislature has itself said," the Constitution Bench had stressed.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, who drew the attention of the top court to the Sanjeev Coke judgment, said there was a "pattern" to the filing of such affidavits by the government side.

"When the Puttuswamy case (privacy) was about to

be closed, the government filed a memo in the Supreme Court saying the Justice B.N. Srikrishna Committee has been formed to look into the issues. In the marital rape case before the Delhi High Court, the government said it is reconsidering the law..." Mr. Sankaranarayanan submitted amidst objections from Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal said the court could not wait merely because there was an "intention" to reconsider the seditious provision, the doing of which may take six months to a year. "The legislature makes laws. It is for you [Supreme Court] to decide whether a law is constitutional or not," he said.

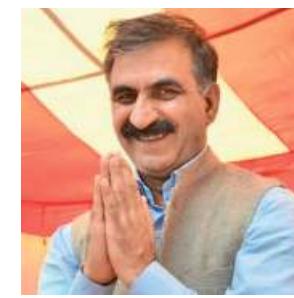
INTERVIEW | SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU

'We promise transparency'

The party will work to bring systemic change, says the Congress' campaign committee chief for Himachal Pradesh

NISTULA HEBBAR

Campaign committee chief for the Congress in Himachal Pradesh, Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, says the main contest in Himachal Pradesh for the Assembly elections will be between the Congress and the BJP, and the AAP is only a third party. Excerpts:



where is the new leadership?

■ She is also part of the new leadership. She has been an MP representing the party and now she has been made State unit chief. She represents the Congress's ideology and the new team around her reflects the same. Our aim is to dislodge the Jairam Thakur-led BJP government, and the bypoll results of last year have made it clear that the people of Himachal, who are an aware electorate, understand the somnolent nature of that government.

Anything specific that you will be offering?

■ Himachal Pradesh, despite not having a huge population, has the fifth highest unemployment rate. We will bring in programmes to address that issue of not just providing employment, but self-employment. We promise to bring in a 'Transparency Act' under which all public representatives and government servants will have to disclose assets every year; [and] acquisition of property, source of funds will have to be disclosed. We will also bring in a "Responsibility Act", wherein officials and government servants will be held responsible for the quality of services rendered by the government.

(For full interview, go to bit.ly/Sukhu)

Panel wanted changes to seditious law

Either withdraw the section or amend legislation, expert committee suggested

VIJAYA SINGH

NEW DELHI

A panel of experts constituted by the Union Home Ministry to suggest reforms to the British-era Indian Penal Code (IPC) has recommended amendments to the seditious law, a senior government official told *The Hindu*.

The Committee for Reforms in Criminal Laws appointed in 2020 submitted an exhaustive report in March, which examined Section 124A (sedition) and others of the Indian Penal Code.

The official said there were two schools of thoughts – either completely withdraw the law or amend the particular section.

"The panel was largely of the view that if sedition could be dropped and included as a sub-set in a wider range of crimes committed against the State, a person cannot be made to languish in jail for writing a newspaper article. It has to be seen if that article led to serious law and order problems, mere presumption is not suffi-

cient," the official said.

A questionnaire sent by the committee for public consultation in 2020 had under a category called the "Offences Against the State" asked, "Does the offence of sedition under Section 124A require omission or any amendment in terms of its definition, scope and cognisability?"

The committee examined and recommended changes to the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Evidence Act. "Simply criticising the

State should not be enough to invoke sedition, let there be a guilty mind – whether such act wanted disturbance? The term sedition is colonial. When there is no king, how can a provision meant to protect the king be there?" said the official citing the report's recommendations.

The panel concluded that sedition can be amended and included in the category of crimes against the State to protect its sovereignty, integrity and security.

Pawar hails Centre's stand on law review

STAFF REPORTER

MUMBAI

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday welcomed the Centre's stand on reviewing the sedition law, stating that the archaic law should not be used against citizens of a free country.

Addressing a press conference in Kolhapur, Mr. Pawar said, "The right to dissent against the government shouldn't be suppressed by terming it as sedition."

How do you see the Aam Aadmi Party's plans of entering the electoral fray in Himachal Pradesh?

■ This is not the first time it's happening in Himachal Pradesh that a third party, other than the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP], has tried to enter the contest, especially in the Assembly polls. Last time, there was a Morcha [Loktantrik Morcha Himachal Pradesh], which took 4-5% of votes. Before that, Pandit Suk Ram's party was there, which took around 6% of the vote, etc.

Many times, people who don't get tickets from the main two parties join such outfits. You will see that in the next couple of months, hardly anyone will join the AAP. Close to the polls, on being denied ticket, many hopefuls will join such outfits. The people of Himachal also know this.

Will it not affect the balance in a bipolar contest?

■ During the Assembly polls,

two types of Congress and BJP [candidates] are in the fray – those who get party ticket, [and] others who switch over or fight independently.

This always happens but the contest is always between the two main parties.

What is it that you will be going to the people with, as campaign committee chief?

■ I believe that it's after 40 years that we are getting new leadership in the Himachal Congress. It was in 1982 that Vir Bhadra Singh ji became Chief Minister and occupied leadership positions.

Now, I have been appointed as campaign committee chief. For us, power is not an end in itself, we want to come to power to make a difference to the system and to governance. We are asking for votes for a chance to effect that systemic change.

But the new Pradesh Congress Committee chief, Pratibha Singh, is the late Vir Bhadra Singh's wife...so

Bengal lax in preventing illegal migration: Shah

Home Minister lauds Assam's efforts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday attributed the "lack of success" in preventing illegal migration from Bangladesh to the non-cooperation of the Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal.

At a rally in Guwahati to mark the first anniversary of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government in Assam, he indicated that West Bengal had become a hurdle before the Centre's bid to check "infiltration" along the India-Bangladesh border.

"The Assam government is helping the Centre by standing like a wall against infiltration. This is why we are getting a lot of success in

Assam. But there is no success in Bengal because of non-cooperation there," the Home Minister said.

Mr. Shah said there were data to show that the cases of illegal migration got reduced substantially under the BJP rule in Assam since 2016. "Some work is left and once completed, infiltration can be completely checked," he said. Mr. Shah said past features of Assam, such as violence, agitation, insurgency have been replaced by peace, development, health and education. The reign of peace was the reason the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act was removed from Assam. "After 30 years, AFSPA has been removed from 60% areas of Assam," he added.

"The Assam government is helping the Centre by standing like a wall against infiltration. This is why we are getting a lot of success in

Let ceasefire hold, says Chinar Corps chief

Lt. Gen. Aujla takes charge in Srinagar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR

Lt. Gen. Amardeep Singh Aujla, who assumed command of the strategic Kashmir-based 15 Chinar Corps on May 10, has expressed optimism that the ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan along the Line of Control (LoC) "will further enable improvement of the overall security situation", an Army spokesperson said.

After assuming office in Srinagar's Badami Bagh Cantonment, Lt. Gen. Aujla expressed satisfaction with the improved security parameters in the Kashmir Valley, the spokesperson said.

The Army officer, with an illustrious military career spanning 35 years, has said he will work closely with the

civil administration and society to further the cause of peace and prosperity in Kashmir. "[With] the support of all community members, Kashmir will move one step closer to its glorious past while leaping forward in the development barometers." Lt. Gen. Aujla, who paid homage at the Chinar Corps Memorial at Badami Bagh Cantonment in Srinagar, said.

He called upon combatants to take additional steps to connect with citizens and work together.

Lt. Gen. Aujla, who served in J&K over multiple tenures since 1987, earlier held an appointment at the Army Headquarters in the office of the Director General of Information Technology.

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CIN: L24230TN1985PLC011637

Extract of consolidated and standalone audited financial results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2022

(Rs. in Crores except for EPS data)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Consolidated				Standalone			
		Quarter ended		Year ended		Quarter ended		Year ended	
		31-03-2022	31-03-2021	31-03-2022	31-03-2021	31-03-2022	31-03-2021	31-03-2022	31-03-2021
1	Total Income from Operations	1806.94	1341.95	5891.99	3798.73	648.64	413.59	2012.15	1288.74
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Profit / (Loss) from Joint Venture (JV) and Associate and Profit on redemption of investment in JV (before Tax, Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items) (Refer note b below)	280.10	225.29	795.55	413.40	166.70	64.44	433.63	55.57
3	Profit / (Loss) from JV and Associate and Profit on redemption of investment in JV	–	257.65	–	149.26	–	–	–	–
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Profit / (Loss) from JV and Associate and Profit on redemption of investment in JV (before Tax, Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items) (Refer note b below)	280.10	482.94	795.55	562.66	166.70	64.44	433.63	55.57
5	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) (Refer note b below)	280.10	480.60	795.55	546.98	166.70	62.10	433.63	39.89
6	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) (Refer note b below)	231.64	364.10	648.65	410.08	148.12	58.83	379.48	43.63
7	Total Comprehensive Income for the period	365.86	367.38	783.46	388.00	273.70	58.93	505.48	43.96
8	Equity Share Capital	79.06	67.04	79.06	67.04	79.06	67.04	79.06	67.04
9	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 5/- each) (Not Annualised) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -								
1	Basic:	14.65	27.16	43.66	30.58	9.37	4.38	25.54	3.25
2	Diluted:	14.65	27.16	43.66	30.58	9.37	4.38	25.54	3.25

Notes:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarter and year ended Audited financial results filed with stock exchanges under Regulation

'Use same phone no. for both doses'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Health Ministry on Tuesday said that after receiving the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccination, a beneficiary needs to schedule for, or get the, second dose of the same vaccine with the same mobile number used at the time of first dose of vaccination.

In case a beneficiary uses a separate mobile number for the second dose and schedules a vaccination, it will automatically be recognised as a first dose. Also the same identity proof is not allowed to be used across two different mobile numbers, it cautioned. The Ministry said that CoWIN platform has successfully served as the digital backbone for India's COVID-19 vaccination programme.

Merging certificates

It noted that there is a provision for scenarios where an individual may have provided two identity proofs under the same mobile number registered. If the name, age and gender match as per the photo ID proofs submitted by the beneficiary, CoWIN prompts for merging the two first dose certificates to give a single fully vaccinated certificate for both the doses.

Eight issues that were commonly observed have been incorporated for individuals to digitally rectify, with a provision at services centres and a helpline to call. Similarly, any individual could also merge their two first dose certificates with ease, if there is a match in name, age and gender and the two registered accounts are known to the individual.

More stringent norms for social media platforms in the works'

It is aimed at increasing accountability; will initiate talks soon: govt. source

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

The government is working to bring in more stringent norms for social media platforms aimed at increasing accountability for content on these platforms, which may lead to dilution of safe harbour rules that protects intermediaries from being held liable for third-party content on their platform, a senior government source told *The Hindu*.

"Today Internet, social media, digital...is part of our lives. Now, that is giving us a huge advantage on one side and it is causing a serious risk on the other side...We have to see how do we accelerate that advantage and at the same time reduce the risk...to mitigate risks...whatever legal structure we



Tightening up: The new norms may lead to the dilution of safe harbour rules. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

make, it needs to have cyber security as a key element. Other key elements are accountability of social media and protection of personal data," the source said.

The work is going on this and the government will soon initiate discussions with industry and stakeholders on the new framework.

"If you look at Europe, East Asia, many States of the United States... Each and every place is moving towards more accountability of social media. What does that mean... basically it means that when you are reading something you know that someone is accountable for what is written... accounta-

bility which is applicable in the world like with papers and magazine, this should be there in the digital world as well. That is the fundamental construct towards which everybody is moving," the official, who did not want to be named, said.

Safe harbour rules

Asked about the safe harbour rules, the official said that many countries are moving to newer legislation where there is no concept of "complete safe harbour" and the world is trying to move away from that. "The new IT rules laws came into effect last year...They have served a purpose but social media is moving forward so we need newer laws to keep pace with this..." the source added.

Post-mortem report rules out murder charge

BJP leader was found dead in Kolkata

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

gal's Advocate-General S.N. Mookherjee.

Political murder'

The State BJP leadership, however, insisted that it was murder. BJP leader Priyanka Tibrewal, who is also appearing in the court on behalf of the family, said that circumstantial evidence suggested that he was killed.

The body of Arjun Chaurasia was found in an abandoned Railway quarters near his residence on May 6.

The BJP alleged that it was a "political murder".

The court directed that the post-mortem report be handed over to West Ben-

Minor rape survivor not given nod for abortion

The girl is 29 weeks' pregnant

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court recently refused to allow termination of 29 weeks' pregnancy of a minor, rape survivor and directed the Maharashtra government to deposit ₹50,000 in her account.

A Division Bench heard the plea filed by her father, a daily wage earner, on behalf of his minor daughter seeking termination of her pregnancy. On May 4, the court directed the Dean of Sir J.J. Group of Hospitals to consti-

tute a medical board as per the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act.

The report submitted on May 6 stated, "The termination of pregnancy of this time (foetus weighs almost 1.5 kg) will result in a pre-term viable baby requiring intensive care management.

If the child survives the intensive care, there is a likelihood of severe lifelong morbidities, which can be avoided if the baby is delivered near term. Hence it is advisable to continue the pregnancy."

Shivkumar Sharma: a sound of spirituality from the Valley

Doyen of santoor passes away leaving behind a regal legacy

ANUJ KUMAR

Pandit Shivkumar Sharma, the maestro who etched an image of the Kashmir Valley and a sound of spirituality every time he struck a chord on his santoor, transcended for a divine concert on Tuesday.

Sharma, 83, who was on regular dialysis, died at his Pali Hill residence in Mumbai after a heart attack, family sources said.

A symbol of the Shaivite and Sufi tradition of Jammu and Kashmir, the Padma Vibhushan awardee toiled to make the folk instrument acceptable on the classical firmament. When critics said santoor was not fit for the *meends* and *gamaks*, Sharma made it possible through his striker, without indulging in any fancy experiments. A master of both *ragdaari* and *riyaz*, he had been drawing crowds with his solo concerts and his discs broke records. Over the years, santoor and Shivkumar Sharma became synonymous.

If his charismatic persona raised the heartbeats, his sublime santoor invariably soothed the nerves. He would etch images of the breeze caressing the grass in the Valley, of flocks of sheep grazing, and a shepherd meeting a young girl in the shikara, all on his modest instrument that is said to have emerged from the Shashtha Tanti Veena and later came under the spell of Sufi music.

Shivkumar Sharma started as a tabla player but his father, Uma Dutt Sharma, a musician who worked in All India Radio, wanted him to take up santoor. The instru-



SHIVKUMAR SHARMA (1938-2022)

ment suited an introvert Sharma because of its soft, spiritual appeal that does not seek attention. He had the rare ability to separate the man from the artist and perhaps that is why he could critique his performance, even when playing on stage.

Plaudits never mattered to him as once his santoor was tuned, Sharma would become one with himself. He would say that an artist should become a *drashta* (onlooker) on stage and would advise the audience to listen and not applaud for the stature of the artist.

Evoked romance

Though he could invoke all the ragas, Sharma's favourites were those that evoked romance and its pathos, like *Jhinjhoti*. Perhaps, that's why filmmaker Yash Chopra turned to him and flautist Hariprasad Chaurasiya for composing music when he made a shift from action to romantic films.

From *Silsila* to *Darr*, the duo tuned a young India to the idea of love and separation, never hurting the sentiments of the purists, seldom leaving the commoner out of their canvas. Be it *Dekha Ek Khwab* or *Jadoo Teri Nazar*, the tune is enough to make the hearts go aflutter. Their folk compositions such as *Rang Barse* and *Mere Haath Main* continue to be in great demand during festivals and weddings.

Sharma and Chaurasiya met in the late 1950s and gradually struck a bond that resulted in a hugely popular album *Call of the Valley* that spurred a craze for instrumental music and resulted in several copycats.

His son Rahul would take forward his legacy but that bewitching smile that surfaced on his face every time he got the right answer to the question he posed to the tabla accompanist will remain etched in the memory of music lovers.

41 pilots and crew members suspended

They failed breath analyser tests

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has suspended nine pilots and 32 crew members for periods ranging from three months to three years for testing positive in breath analyser tests.

The action was taken by the DGCA between January and April.

Breath analyser tests were carried out on all cockpit and cabin crew before the pandemic but were suspended after concerns that they could further the spread of COVID-19, and the DGCA resumed these in a staggered manner.

New instructions
In March, it issued instructions requiring airlines to



Upon DGCA orders, 50% of the cabin crew undergo breath analyser tests.

ensure 50% of their cabin and cockpit crew underwent the tests.

Two pilots and two cabin crew have been suspended for a period of three years for testing positive for the second time. The remaining 37 crew members were suspended for a period of three months.

Jayeshbhai Jordaar gets nod for release with disclaimers

Delhi HC wants warnings on illegality of sex determination

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday asked the makers of the upcoming movie *Jayeshbhai Jordaar* to insert in certain scenes a disclaimer concerning the illegality of the practice of sex determination of a foetus.

A Bench of Justice Navin Chawla and Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri also gave its nod to the release of the Ranveer Singh-starrer film. It asked Yash Raj Films to insert a prominent disclaimer in two scenes.

"We appreciate the message but you have to tell people that it is an offence... If you are sending a message, send it loud," it said while



hearing a petition seeking deletion of certain scenes from the movie.

The Bench also watched the relevant portion of the film which is scheduled to be released on May 13 during the course of the hearing.

Counsel for the filmmak-

er, advocate Jayant Mehta, said the disclaimer will be inserted prominently in the concerning scenes in English as well as Hindi.

Mr. Mehta stated that the movie begins with a disclaimer which takes the entire screen and the story is "about a social evil and blind faith in certain practices" and its message has to be seen from its context.

Advocate Pawan Prakash Pathak, appearing for petitioner "Youth Against Crime", argued that certain scenes in the film's trailer promoted sex selection techniques which are a violation of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act.

A 13-year-old child on a wheelchair was not allowed to board a flight to Hyderabad as he was in a state of "panic", according to a statement.

Army chief gets Param Vishisht Seva Medal

Defence investiture ceremony held

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The court of the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities on Tuesday sent a notice to IndiGo for not allowing a child with disabilities to board a flight at the Ranchi airport.

In the notice, Deputy Chief Commissioner Mrityunjay Jha said "*prima facie* this court is inclined to take the view that such act of denying access to *divyangan* amounts to 'abuse' and 'exploitation'.

Such act amounts to deprivation of the Rights of *Divyangan*".

Marcos Jr. wins Philippines presidency

Thirty-six years after the fall of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, his son is voted to power in a landslide

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MANILA

The son of late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos cemented a landslide presidential election victory on Tuesday, after Filipinos bet a familiar but tainted dynasty could ease rampant poverty – while dismissing warnings the clan's return will deepen corruption and weaken democracy.

With an initial count almost complete, Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr had secured over 56% of the vote and more than double the tally of his nearest rival, liberal Leni Robredo.

His now unassailable lead of 16 million-plus votes spells another astonishing reversal in the fortunes of the Marcos family, who have gone from the presidential palace to pariahs and back again in the space of a few decades.

Double blow

The Marcos victory is a hammer blow to millions of Filipinos who hoped to reverse



Legacy returns: Ferdinand Marcos Jr., left, with running mate Sara Duterte at their last campaign rally on May 7. • AP

course after six years of increasingly authoritarian rule by President Rodrigo Duterte.

Far from repudiating Mr. Duterte's excesses, voters elected his daughter Sara as Vice-President by a landslide in a parallel vote.

In 1986, Marcos Sr and kleptocratic First Lady Imelda Marcos were chased into exile by the "People Power" revolution.

Marcos Jr steadfastly re-

fused to denounce his family's brutal and corrupt excesses in a campaign marked by a systemic whitewashing of history.

With memories of the regime fading with time and muddied by countless misleading Facebook posts, voters turned to Mr. Marcos to rekindle past glories.

"He will lift our country from the poverty we're experiencing now," said supporter and retired police officer

Anthony Sola, who described himself as elated with the result.

The 50-year-old dismissed allegations that the Marcos family stole about \$10 billion during their last period in power: "I don't believe they stole money, because if they did, they should have been imprisoned already."

Despite an Oxford education and jet-set lifestyle, Mr. Marcos was able to tap into both anti-elite anger and economic malaise.

Some 43% of Filipinos consider themselves poor, and 39% more feel they are on the borderline, according to a March poll by the Social Weather Survey.

Delivering a late-night address from his campaign headquarters in Manila on Monday, a beaming Mr. Marcos thanked volunteers for months of "sacrifices and work" but stopped short of claiming victory.

A fully certified tally is not expected before May 28. On the streets, hundreds

of ecstatic supporters set off fireworks late into the night, waved the national flag and clambered onto parked cars to chant in victory.

Mr. Marcos' spokesman Vic Rodriguez told government television he believed "it is clear" that "we have now a President-elect in the person of Ferdinand Bongbong Marcos Jr".

Rights activists, Catholic leaders and political commentators all warned against returning the Marcos clan to power. "This election could have been our biggest chance for radical change," said Mae Paner, 58, a political satirist who was part of the People Power movement.

"There will be more death, there will be more debt, there will be more hunger. The Marcoses will steal."

Ms. Robredo, the current Vice-President, admitted "clear disappointment" about the result but vowed to continue the fight against poor governance.

Russia pounds vital port of Odesa, targeting supply lines

Ukrainian fighters continue to defend port city of Mariupol

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ZAPORIZHIA

Russia forces pounded the vital port of Odesa, Ukrainian officials said on Tuesday, as part of an apparent effort to disrupt supply lines and weapons shipments. On the other end of the southern coast, they hammered a steel plant where Ukrainian fighters are denying Moscow full control of another critical port.

Days after the rescue of the last civilians trapped at the plant in Mariupol, authorities said about 100 were still believed to be in the network of underground tunnels under bombardment.

The strikes come as the grisly toll of the war continued to take shape, with the Ukrainians saying they found the bodies of 44 civilians in the rubble of a building in the northeast that was destroyed weeks ago.

The Ukrainian military



Grinding strikes: Emergency personnel working near a building damaged after a missile attack in Odesa. • REUTERS

said on Tuesday that Russian forces fired seven missiles at the crucial Black Sea port of Odesa, hitting a shopping centre and a warehouse. One person was killed and five were wounded, the military said.

Ukraine alleged at least some of the munitions used dated back to the Soviet era, making them unreliable in targeting. But the Center for Defense Strategies, a Ukrainian think tank tracking the war, said Moscow did use some precision weapons against Odesa: Kinzhal, or "Dagger," hypersonic air-to-surface missiles.

Ukrainian, British and American officials warn Russia is rapidly using up its stock of precision weapons and may not be able to replenish, raising the risk of more imprecise rockets being used.

In a first, Prince Charles delivers Queen's Speech

She is facing recurring mobility issues

REUTERS
LONDON

Britain's heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles and Prince William took centre stage amid the pomp and pageantry of the opening of Parliament on Tuesday, replacing the 96-year-old Queen Elizabeth who missed the grand set-piece event with health issues.

With the Queen forced to withdraw for the first time in almost 60 years, Prince Charles stepped in to read out the government's legislative agenda at the Palace of Westminster, the first time he has taken on such a major constitutional duty.

The Queen, the world's oldest and longest-reigning monarch, has been absent from nearly all high-profile public events in recent months. She was forced to miss the speech due to a recurrence of mobility issues.

Prince Charles, who had attended the opening of Parliament alongside his mother in recent years, wore an admiral's uniform to read out the agenda from a throne. While the queen would announce "My Government will," Prince Charles said "Her majesty's government will..."

The State Opening of Parliament is an event of huge pomp and pageantry which traditionally sees the Queen



Prince Charles read out the government's legislative agenda at the opening of Parliament. • AFP

travelling to the Assembly in a State Coach, escorted by mounted soldiers, while the Imperial State Crown and other regalia travel ahead in a carriage of their own.

The ceremony embodies the centuries-old separation of power between the Crown, the elected House of Commons, the House of Lords and the judiciary.

The monarch dons the Robe of State before leading a procession to the upper chamber where she formally opens a new session of parliament, reading a speech written by the government outlining its legislative plans.

She reads the document in a formal and neutral tone to avoid any sense of approval or disapproval of the policies, an approach also taken by her son on Tuesday.

Elon Musk to reverse Twitter ban on Trump

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

Elon Musk said he will reverse Twitter's permanent ban of former President Donald Trump if the Tesla CEO follows through with his plan to buy the firm.

Mr. Musk, speaking at a virtual event, said the ban on Mr. Trump was a "morally bad decision" and "foolish in the extreme."

He said permanent bans of Twitter accounts should be reserved for scam accounts or automated bots.

Twitter banned Mr. Trump's account in January 2021 for "incitement of violence" following the insurrection at U.S. Capitol.

"I think that was a mistake because it alienated a large part of the country and did not ultimately result in Donald Trump not having a voice," Mr. Musk said. "So I think this may end up being frankly worse than having a single forum where everyone can debate. I guess the answer is that I would reverse the permanent ban."

But with fresh talks looming to iron out difficulties, Mr. Johnson told his Irish

Northern Ireland Protocol unsustainable, says Johnson

Unionists are refusing to join government until it is scrapped

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Post-Brexit trading arrangements in Northern Ireland are unviable and need urgent reform to unblock the province's power-sharing Assembly, U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Tuesday.

Pro-UK unionists have vowed not to nominate Ministers to the Northern Ireland Assembly in Belfast until the protocol governing trade is scrapped.

That has raised the prospect of paralysis at the legislature, just days after Sinn Féin became the biggest party for the first time.

Mr. Johnson and his government have repeatedly risked confrontation with the EU by threatening to trigger a suspension clause in the protocol, which keeps Northern Ireland largely in the European single market.

Downing Street said.

Last week's elections

"further demonstrated that the protocol was not sustainable in its current form", Downing Street said.

London's position, at least verbally, backs the unionists, who claim that Irish



Boris Johnson

counterpart Micheal Martin in a call that the situation was now "very serious".

He told Mr. Martin that the 1998 Good Friday Agreement that brought peace to Northern Ireland after 30 years of violence "was being undermined", his office said.

Last week's elections "further demonstrated that the protocol was not sustainable in its current form", Downing Street said.

Online application and the details of qualification, experience and instructions to the candidates for the post are available in the Institute's website : www.rgniyd.gov.in.

Sd-

Chief Engineer (WWM)

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

Amount put to tender: Rs. 396.40 Lakhs. EMD: Rs. 5.95 Lakhs.

Last date and time for receipt of tenders will be on 26.05.2022 upto 17:30 hrs.

The technical tender opening is on 30.05.2022 at 16:00 hrs. The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

Sd/-

DIPR/CP/MA/449/2021-22

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

Wear Mask

Follow Physical Distancing

Maintain Hand Hygiene

EU says Russia hacked satellite ahead of invasion

'Cyberattack facilitated military assault'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRUSSELS

The European Union on Tuesday accused the Russian authorities of carrying out a cyberattack against a satellite network an hour before the invasion of Ukraine to pave the way for its assault.

It marked the first time the EU has formally blamed the Russian authorities for carrying out a cyberattack against a satellite network between Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland to the south.

The compromise was introduced to avoid the return of hard border infrastructure between Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland to the south.

Keeping the border open was a key plank of the Good Friday Agreement.

The U.K. government has

accused the EU of inflexibility, claiming that implementing the deal it signed to the letter is causing "economic and political disruption".

European Commission vice-president Maros Sefcovic, who is spearheading talks, has urged London to dial down the rhetoric after previously warning it risked a trade war if it acts on its own to pull the protocol.

"The cyberattack took place one hour before Russia's unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022 thus facilitating the military aggression."

The statement said the attack caused significant disruptions "across public authorities, businesses and users in Ukraine, as well as affecting several EU member states."

Mr. Borrell said that previously, the bloc has only said that cyberattacks had come from within Russia, but that it now had enough evidence to attribute this hack to the Russian state.

"We will have to work together with Ukraine, our international partners on how to prevent, discourage, deter and respond to these cyberattacks that we certainly attribute to the Russian Federation," he said.

European providers said in March that the targeting of U.S. satellite operator Viasat threw thousands of Internet users offline in Germany, France, Italy and Poland.

Russia invaded Ukraine in the early hours of February 24 in what appeared to be an attempt to quickly oust the country's leadership.

RajCOMP Info Services Limited (RISL)
C-Block, 1st Floor, Yojana Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur.
RISL invites e-bids from the eligible bidders for the following:

NIB No./Date/ Unique bid no.	Particulars	Estimated Cost/EMD	Start date/ Last date
812/05-05-2022 (RIS2223SL000014)	RFP for Selection of Agency for study, design development and implementation of Rajasthan Supply & Inventory Management System (RajSIM) and Operations & Maintenance Services for a period of five years	Rs. 6.00 Cr/ Rs. 12.00 Lacs	05-05-2022 31-05-2022

Details can be seen on the websites <http://risl.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://dotc.rajasthan.gov.in>. Bids are to be submitted through <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> or <http://RajSamvardh.C2/221586>

SA (Joint Director)

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY. e-Tender Notice

Tender No: Re T No.25/2022-23/SE/Q, JJM - Kareepra- construction of OHSR, laying pumping main, gravity main distribution supply and installation of pump sets, renovation of existing pump house and WTP, construction chlorination room etc in Kereepra panchayat. EMD: Rs. 50,000. Tender fee : Rs. 15000+2700 (it will be paid by the contractor on reverse charge basis while filing his return). Last Date for submitting Tender : 01-06-2022, 02:00pm

Phone : 04742745293
Supervising Engineer : PH Circle Kollam

Website : www.kwala.kerala.gov.in www.etenders.kerala.gov.in KWA-JB-GL-6-176-2022-23

No.: BWSSB/CE(WMM)/ACE(WMM)-1/TA-1/226/2022-23 Date: 09.05.2022

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only through e-Procurement Portal) (3rd Call)

BWSSB invites tender in two cover system from eligible tenderers for the work of Construction of 15 MLD ISPs at KSRTC Printer Press Road, Shantinagar.

Amount put to tender: Rs. 396.40 Lakhs. EMD: Rs. 5.95 Lakhs.

Last date and time for receipt of tenders will be on 26.05.2022 upto 17:30 hrs.

The technical tender opening is on 30.05.2022 at 16:00 hrs. The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

Sd/-

DIPR/CP/MA/449/2021-22</p

MARKET WATCH

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	54,365	-0.19
US Dollar	77.34	0.12
Gold	50,983	-0.47
Brent oil	104.53	-1.76

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	769.10	-23.50
Apollo Hosp.	3686.90	-79.45
Asian Paints	3086.35	-81.10
Axis Bank	659.75	-3.95
Bajaj Finance	3592.45	-24.30
Bajaj Finserv	13630.10	-153.75
Bajaj Finance	5928.45	-108.50
Bharti Airtel	719.65	8.15
BPCL	335.45	0.05
Britannia Ind.	3246.55	-5.50
Cipla	926.15	-12.15
Coal India	170.05	-13.00
Divis Lab	4296.35	-65.25
Dr Reddys Lab	3914.00	8.20
Eicher Motors	2415.55	71.25
Giasin Ind.	1542.10	-9.65
HCL Tech	1072.55	-3.55
HDPC	2201.30	33.00
HDPC Bank	1341.05	21.20
HDPC Life	559.20	-4.65
Hero MotoCorp	2469.75	-23.00
Hindalco	423.00	-21.10
Hind Unilever	2180.40	63.75
ICICI Bank	711.30	0.95
IndusInd Bank	910.75	21.05
Infosys	1553.00	-17.35
ITC	259.75	-3.20
JSW Steel	645.30	-33.05
Kotak Bank	1797.15	29.65
L&T	1607.95	-8.20
M&M	888.35	-6.95
Maruti Suzuki	7515.90	155.60
Nestle India Ltd.	16520.60	16.25
NTPC	155.45	-3.55
ONGC	154.45	-10.30
PowerGrid Corp	243.65	-1.50
Reliance Ind.	2474.65	-43.65
SBI Life	1081.05	16.60
State Bank	475.20	-0.70
Shree Cement	24300.60	242.30
Sun Pharma	861.85	-23.55
Tata Consumer Products	745.80	-12.45
Tata Motors	391.75	-12.20
Tata Steel	1164.90	-87.35
TCS	3438.75	-6.35
Tech Mahindra	1242.30	-18.85
Titan	2137.35	-45.85
UltraTech Cement	6366.45	141.85
UPL	789.80	12.20
Wipro	477.65	-5.50

Debt norms cloud States' borrowings'

Deducting off-budget borrowings will lift transparency, but end up cramping States' fiscal room: ICRA

VIKAS DHOOT

NEW DELHI

With States' borrowing limits for this year set to be cut in tune with their off-budget borrowings since 2020-21, some States that had borrowed more in the pandemic years could face challenges in raising resources, ICRA said on Tuesday.

While the rating agency expects States to borrow ₹8.4 lakh crore during FY23, with a borrowing limit of 3.5% of GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product), the off-budget debt calculations could lead to large downward adjustments in some States' effective borrowing room even as uncertainty around payment of GST compensation dues has confounded borrowing plans.

Noting that while including off-budget borrowings



In a spot: States facing large cuts in debt ceilings may have to resort to ways and means advances or overdrafts. ■ FILE PHOTO

raised by State entities in States' own debt would raise transparency, some States could find this change difficult to comply with given the 'perceived proliferation' of such borrowings since COVID-19's onset, ICRA said. Those facing large cuts in their debt ceilings on this account would have to pare

borrowings and resort to ways and means advances or overdrafts from the RBI.

It was difficult to gauge the downward adjustments to be made to each State's borrowing limits due to the paucity of data on off-budget borrowings and guarantees extended by the States, ICRA observed, adding that States

like Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Telangana, had sharply raised extension of guarantees to State entities in 2020-21.

The Centre typically conveys the net borrowing ceiling for each State at the start of the fiscal, and this year it has indicated that all incremental off-budget borrowings since 2020-21 will be adjusted from the ceiling. States have also been offered an additional borrowing limit of 0.5% of GSDP tied to specified power sector reforms, and a leeway equivalent to contributions to the National Pension System for government employees.

Tentative participation
The uncertainty about borrowing room appears to be reflecting in States' tentative participation in auctions of

State Development Loans. On Tuesday, even as yields on State Development Loans spiked, Haryana and Punjab borrowed ₹2,000 crore though they had not indicated any plan to participate in this week's issuances.

Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh together raised ₹500 crore more than they had planned to. Eight States that had planned to borrow ₹6,300 crore, however, did not bother to participate.

ICRA economists noted that the timing of revenue flows from the Centre for GST compensation, tax devolution and the ₹1 lakh crore loan offered for capital spending will be critical as front-loading the remittances would lift the likelihood of enhanced capital spending, whereas back ending would pare the borrowing amount.

ports to countries such as Egypt and Portugal had also increased, said Executive Director of Texprocil Siddhartha Rajagopal. The figures indicated that Indian exporters were finding new markets, he said. There had been an increase in volume of exports too, especially for yarn and fabrics, Mr. Rajagopal pointed out.

"We need to wait and watch the sustainability of this growth as there are supply chain constraints, high raw material prices, etc. These are adding to the woes of the trade," he added.

Prices of cotton may remain high and Indian exporters should rebuild their business model, factoring in high raw material prices to remain competitive, industry sources said.

Discoms' supply costs to rise 5% on coal imports'

Panel to decide on tariff for customers

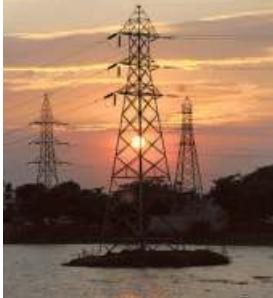
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The Union government's measures to ease power supply constraints through higher coal imports are likely to increase the cost of supply for discoms by 4.5-5% in FY23, rating agency ICRA said on Tuesday.

On May 5, the Ministry of Power had issued a directive, stating that all imported coal-based power plants shall generate power at their full capacity to meet growing demand, ICRA stated.

As per this directive, all States and power generating companies based on domestic coal will have to import at least 10% of their fuel requirement for blending with domestic coal. This directive by the Ministry is valid



till October 31, 2022.

As the present power purchase pacts do not provide for a pass-through of the fuel cost, the tariff for supply from these plants under PPAs shall be worked out by a committee with representatives from the Ministry, the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and the CEA Commission, considering the prevailing coal prices.

India exported a record 1.4 million tonnes (MT) of wheat in April, four trade sources said, providing some relief to grain markets as buyers scramble for alternatives to Black Sea supplies hit hard by the war in Ukraine.

April is the first month of the fiscal year. India, the world's second-biggest wheat producer, exported a record 7 million tonnes of the grain in fiscal 2021-22.

India is the only major supplier of wheat at this time of year, and its exports of the grain have surged since Russia invaded Ukraine in late February. "In May, shipments could rise to 1.5 MT," said a New Delhi-based dealer.

SBI raises interest rates on bulk term deposits

MUMBAI

The country's largest lender State Bank of India on Tuesday announced an increase of 40-90 basis points in interest rates on several bulk term deposits. PTI

BusinessLine



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Cotton textile exports hit \$15.29 bn, beat target

'Supply chain constraints are a worry'

M. SOUNDARIYA PREETHA

COIMBATORE

Cotton textile exports exceeded the government's FY22 target to reach \$15.29 billion, including raw cotton, according to provisional data available.

Manoj Kumar Patodia, chairman of Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (Texprocil), said the government's target was \$13.6 billion. Exports in FY21 had amounted to \$9.8 billion.

All cotton textile and clothing products – yarn, fabrics, and madeups – had seen growth, according to data with Texprocil. Exports to countries such as Bangladesh, the U.S., Portugal and Sri Lanka had seen a significant jump. Yarn exports to China had risen and cotton textile ex-

Switch to introduce 12-metre e-bus

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Electric commercial vehicle manufacturer Switch Mobility said it planned to unveil its maiden 12-metre electric bus at the European Mobility Expo in Paris on June 7.

Termed 'Project ODIN', the 12-metre bus is expected to be the lightest 'widely available' bus in the market. It boasts of a monocoque design and is equipped with the latest NMC battery technology and Switch's pioneering digital tools, the company said in a statement, adding that deliveries for India would commence from next month. Switch is also set to unveil its new Indian e-LCV in early 2023, it said in the statement.

April first-year premium rises 84% for life insurers

LIC's premium doubles to ₹11,717 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

Life insurance companies reported a robust 84.2% increase in first-year premium to ₹17,939.62 crore for April on the back of a good show by market leader, the Life Insurance Corporation of India.

For LIC, the first-year premium rose 141.3% to ₹11,716.70 crore (₹4,856.76 crore), a development that is bound to bring cheer for the behemoth ahead of its stock market listing.

Private life insurers logged a 27.5% growth in total first-year premium (FYP) to ₹6,222.92 crore, the new business statement for the 24 insurers issued by IRDAI showed. Of the 22 operational private firms, six reported a decline in the FYP.

Emkay Global said in a re-

search report that a three-year compound annual growth (CAGR) rate would present a true picture of expansion, considering a stringent nationwide lockdown in April 2020 and the impact of the COVID-19 Delta wave in April last year.

On a three-year CAGR basis, private life insurers had RWRP (retail weighted received premium) growth of 18% as against 5% for LIC, as per Emkay Global.

Mercedes may cross best ever sales in India: MD Challenges, however, remain: Schwenk

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

NEW DELHI

German luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz expects to surpass the previous best year in India, surpassing the previous best sales of 15,500 cars in 2018, driven by strong demand and a slew of new products to be introduced during the current year, a senior company official said.

"What gives me the confidence is that on the one hand I see extremely strong demand. We sold over 4,000 units in the first quarter and have an order book of about 5,000 cars," Martin Schwenk, Managing Director & CEO, Mercedes-Benz India, told The Hindu. "This is largely because of two reasons viz. one is we have extremely strong products

and very new products, and the other is that there is a positive business climate. A lot of our customers are from business areas."

He added that the only challenge is to produce the cars due to various uncertainties such as part shortage and logistic issues. "We have a strong link between sales, production and logistics functions now in our company which enables us to move to a level to limit the problems, but they are there... and they will remain with us for the next three-six months, even longer."

"I think we will have to live with it but with healthy demand, strong products and a capable management which manages the shortage... we should be able to get there," he said.

राजस्थान सरकार कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग वृत्त अलवर

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निविदा सुचना संख्या 2/2022-23

राजस्थान के ग्राम्य महोलों की ओर से निविदाएँ सुच

Sublime Gill and wily Rashid star as Titans clinch playoffs berth

Opener's second successive half-century holds the Gujarat innings together; the Afghanistan spinner, Dayal and Sai Kishore skittle out Super Giants for 82

IPL 2022

AMOL KARHADKAR
PUNE
He should have been dismissed for a golden duck. Instead, Shubman Gill emerged Gujarat Titans' saviour as it returned to winning ways and also sealed its progress in IPL-15.

Rashid Khan, the other high-profile pre-auction signing for the franchise, then teamed up with debutant R. Sai Kishore to bamboozle the Lucknow Super Giants batters as Titans registered a 62-run win at the MCA Stadium on Tuesday and became the first to book a spot in the playoffs.

On a surface that had bounce, Gill carried his bat after being dropped by debutant Karan Sharma in Mohsin Khan's fiery first over.

Once Mohammed Shami had K.L. Rahul's number for the second time this season, and left-arm pacer Yash Dayal struck twice in the PowerPlay, the spinners took over to bundle out Super Giants for 82, the second-lowest total of the season.

The victory also justified captain Hardik Pandya's decision to bat first as it was the sixth consecutive time at this venue that a chasing team fell short.

While Titans bounced back in style after losing their previous two games, the loss halted Super Giants' four-



Gujarat's Titans: Gill shouldered the batting responsibility with an unbeaten 63 before Rashid derailed Super Giants' chase with a four-for. ■ SPORTZPICS/IPL



POINTS TABLE

Teams	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
Gujarat Titans (Q)	12	9	3	18	0.376
Lucknow Super Giants	12	8	4	16	0.385
Rajasthan Royals	11	7	4	14	0.326
Royal Challengers Bangalore	12	7	5	14	-0.115
Delhi Capitals	11	5	6	10	0.150
Sunrisers Hyderabad	11	5	6	10	-0.031
Kolkata Knight Riders	12	5	7	10	-0.057
Punjab Kings	11	5	6	10	-0.231
Chennai Super Kings	11	4	7	8	0.028
Mumbai Indians (E)	11	2	9	4	-0.894

After the LSG-GT match on May 10

Q: Qualified; E: Eliminated

SCOREBOARD

GUJARAT TITANS

Wridhiman Saha c Avesh b Mohsin 5 (1b, 1x4), Shubman Gill (not out) 63 (49b, 7x4), Matthew Wade c de Koch b Avesh 10 (7b, 2x4), Hardik Pandya c de Koch b Avesh 11 (13b), David Miller c Badoni b Holder 26 (24b, 1x4, 1x6), Rahul Tewatia (not out) 22 (16b, 4x4); Extras (1b, w-6): 7; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 144.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-8 (Saha, 2.4 overs), 2-24 (Wade, 4.2), 3-51 (Hardik, 9.1), 4-103 (Miller, 15.6).

SUPER GIANTS BOWLING

Mohsin 4-0-18-1, Chameera 4-0-34-0, Avesh 4-0-26-2, Krunal 4-0-24-0, Holder 4-0-41-1.

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS

Quinton de Kock c Sai Kishore b Dayal 11 (10b, 1x6), K.L. Rahul c Saha b Shami 8 (16b, 1x4), Deepak Hooda c Shami b Rashid 27 (26b, 3x4), Karan

Sharma c Miller b Dayal 4 (4b, 1x4), Krunal Pandya st. Saha b Rashid 5 (5b, 1x4), Ayush Badoni st. Saha b Sai Kishore 8 (11b, 1x4), Marcus Stoinis run out 2 (2b), Jason Holder lbw b Rashid 1 (2b), Mohsin Khan c Rashid b Sai Kishore 1 (3b), Dushmantha Chameera (not out) 0 (0b), Avesh Khan c Saha b Rashid 12 (4b, 2x6); Extras (w-3): 3; Total (in 13.5 overs): 82.

FALL OF WICKETS

(de Koch, 3.3), 2-24 (Rahul, 4.5), 3-33 (Karan, 5.5), 4-45 (Krunal, 7.3), 5-61 (Badoni, 10.5), 6-65 (Stoinis, 11.2), 7-67 (Holder, 11.6), 8-70 (Mohsin, 12.6), 9-70 (Hooda, 13.1).

TITANS BOWLING

Shami 3-0-5-1, Hardik 1-0-8-0, Dayal 2-0-24-2, Joseph 2-0-14-0, Rashid 3.5-0-24-4, Sai Kishore 2-0-7-2.

Toss:

Gujarat Titans.

MoM: Shubman Gill.

GT won by 62 runs.



Hoping for turnaround: Kuldeep, who has blown hot and cold this edition, will be keen to get his act right. ■ SPORTZPICS/IPL

Capitals brace for well-oiled Royals

Kuldeep, Chahal come face to face in crucial clash

ABHISHEK MUKHERJEE

NAVI MUMBAI

After a massive setback to its bid to make the playoffs, Delhi Capitals will aim to be more flexible and resilient when it faces Rajasthan Royals in an IPL-15 contest at the D.Y. Patil Stadium here on Wednesday.

A spot in the playoffs will still be possible even if Capitals are beaten, but all remaining games will have to be won and other results need to go their way.

Capitals were lacklustre with both bat and ball against Chennai Super Kings on Sunday. Khaleel Ahmed's spell was the lone bright spot, and he will be expected

to hit similar lengths and create similar angles to unsettle the Royals batting line-up.

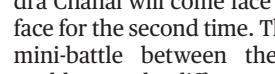
And, if his efforts are backed up by the thus-far profligate Shardul Thakur and Anrich Nortje, it could make a huge difference.

Coach Ricky Ponting will expect the batters to take more responsibility than they did against Super Kings. Royals' well-oiled bowling outfit will come hard at them. Prithvi Shaw is set to miss another game as he hasn't yet returned from hospital.

For Royals, Trent Boult and Prasidh Krishna will be the key bowlers. A win will

likely lift them to second in the points table. Spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal will come face to face for the second time. The mini-battle between them could prove the difference.

TODAY'S MATCH



vs. DELHI CAPITALS

DY PATIL, 7.30 P.M.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 25

RR 13 | DC 12

Previous meeting

RR won by 15 runs, 2022

STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD)



High flying: Purple Cap holder Chahal will look to ride the momentum. ■ SPORTZPICS/IPL

Bumrah showed how to bowl

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MUMBAI
Australia fast bowler Pat Cummins took three wickets in one over to return figures of three for 22 as Knight Riders defeated Mumbai Indians by 52 runs on Monday. This was despite Jasprit Bumrah's spell of five for 10.

Cummins said Bumrah had found an approach that worked on the pitch. "I thought he showed us that, you know, top of the stumps back of a length," Cummins said. "Game plan was really simple. Try to bowl straight lines, back of a length and it worked."

CSA drops racism charges against Boucher

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

JOHANNESBURG
Cricket South Africa announced on Tuesday that all charges against head coach Mark Boucher have been withdrawn, leading to the abandonment of a disciplinary hearing which was due to start on May 16.

The 45-year-old former Test wicketkeeper was facing charges of racism, laid by CSA, which could have resulted in his dismissal. The governing body admitted in a statement that there was "no basis to sustain any of the disciplinary charges".

The allegations against Boucher followed Social Justice and Networking hearings last year into discrimination in cricket.

Boucher was accused by former teammate Paul Adams of leading a song with racially derogatory words during meetings after matches. Adams announced on Sunday that he was not prepared to testify at the hearing. CSA noted in its statement that Boucher had apologised to Adams.



Mark Boucher. ■ GETTY IMAGES

Thorpe seriously ill, in hospital

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

LONDON

Former England batter and assistant coach Graham Thorpe is "seriously ill" in hospital, the Professional Cricketers' Association said on Tuesday. Thorpe, 52, had accepted the job of Afghanistan head coach following his departure from the England set-up after a 4-0 defeat in the Ashes.

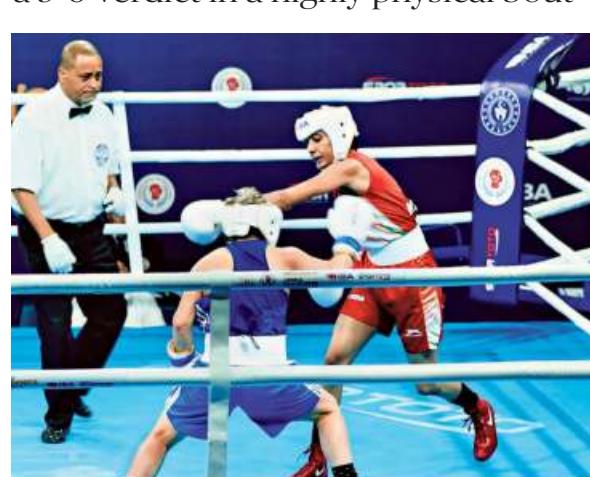
The PCA released a statement at the request of Thorpe's family, which read: "Graham Thorpe has recently fallen seriously ill and is currently in hospital receiving treatment. His prognosis is unclear at this stage and we ask for privacy for him and his family at this time."



Thorpe. ■ FILE PHOTO

Nitu sends seasoned Steluta packing

The reigning National champion wins a 5-0 verdict in a highly physical bout



Take that! Nitu was too good for Steluta and won a unanimous decision. ■ TWITTER@BFIFOFFICIAL

BOXING WORLDS

SPORTS BUREAU

Two-time World youth champion Nitu Ghang has sent seasoned Romanian boxer Steluta Duta packing in her 48kg opening round bout in the World women's boxing championships at Istanbul on Tuesday.

Making her World championships debut at the elite level, reigning National champion Nitu beat Steluta 5-0 in a highly physical bout.

Nitu relied on her swift movement to dominate the second round as well despite getting a caution.

Steluta, who was cautioned in the final round, lost steam. Nitu took advantage of her better endurance level to deliver some fine combinations, forcing a standing count on her opponent who was long range.

Sreenidi puts Gokulam's title dreams on hold

Lalromawia does the star turn for the winner with a first-half hat-trick

I-LEAGUE

SPORTS BUREAU

Sreenidi Deccan FC stole the moment of triumph from title aspirant Gokulam Kerala FC by downing the latter 3-1 in the penultimate round encounter of the I-League at the Naihati Stadium, near Kolkata, on Tuesday.

Sreenidi Deccan forward Lalromawia did the star turn scoring an impressive hat-

trick in the first half to help the debutant put it across one of the most formidable outfits in the tournament.

Gokulam pulled one back right after the break through Sharif Mohammad, but lost its way thereafter when Sharif was ejected in the 54th minute for his second booking of the match.

Redoubtable record
Gokulam, which was the overwhelming favourite with a redoubtable record of re-

maining unbeaten in 21 I-League matches for well over a year, suffered the unexpected defeat to see the title fight extending to the last round.

With 40 points from 17 matches, Gokulam remains the leader but will now have to secure that elusive point required for the title, against local favourite Mohammedan Sporting in the last round which will be played at the Salt Lake Stadium on Saturday.

The results: Gokulam Kerala FC 1 (Sharif Mohammad 47) lost to Sreenidi Deccan FC 3 (Lalromawia 19, 34, 37).

Rajasthan United FC 0 lost to Mohammedan Sporting 2 (Brandon Vantaramdika 2, 56).

Djokovic advances with his 60th win at Rome

Shapovalov also makes the third round; injury forces Raducanu to retire

ITALIAN OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Rome
Novak Djokovic's love affair with Rome continued as the five-time champion picked up his 60th victory at the Italian Open with a 6-3, 6-2 success over Aslan Karatsev on Tuesday.

The women's US Open champion Emma Raducanu, however, was forced to retire from her first round against Bianca Andreescu, still struggling with a back injury she picked up in Madrid last week.

Djokovic has never lost before the quarterfinals at the tournament and is now just three victories shy of joining the 1,000 match-wins club.



Landmark beckons: Djokovic is just three victories shy of joining the 1,000 match-wins club. ■ AFP

Denis Shapovalov beat Nikoloz Basilashvili 6-4, 7-6(5) to move to the third round.

Grigor Dimitrov and Stefanos Tsitsipas will square off for the second time in seven days after the Bulgarian

moved past American qualifier Brandon Nakashima 6-3, 6-4 in first round action on Tuesday.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Sports 18, Voot Select, VH1, MTV & Jio TV, 7 a.m.
Badminton: Sports 18 & Voot Select, 7.30 a.m.
IPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
La Liga: Sports 18, Voot Select, MTV & Jio TV, 12 a.m. (Thursday)
Premier League: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), Star Sports 3 & SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 12.15 a.m. (Thursday)

IN BRIEF



Woods, Mickelson in PGA Championship field

Former World No. 1 Tiger Woods and defending champion Phil Mickelson were named in the field for next week's PGA Championship on Monday. Woods returned from injuries at last month's Augusta Masters, but has not played since. Mickelson has not played since triggering an uproar in February with his remarks concerning the new Saudi Arabia-backed LIV Golf Series. AFP

Shakib tests positive for COVID-19

DHAKA
 Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Hasan tested positive for Covid-19 on Tuesday and was ruled out of this week's first Test against Sri Lanka, the country's cricket authorities said.

Om advances

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Om Patel overcame Kushagra Arora 6-7(7), 6-1, 6-3 in the boys' pre-quarterfinals of the Asian under-14 tennis tournament on Tuesday.

The results (pre-quarterfinals): Boys: Om Verma bt Shashank Kamati 6-4, 6-3; Amogh Damle bt Purahan Yadav 7-6(3), 6-2; Tavish Pahwa bt Miranik Rawat 6-0, 6-3; Levin Safoor Mydeen bt Adhiraj Thakur 6-0, 6-1; Shaurya Bhardwaj bt Anuj Sarda 6-1, 6-1; Om Patel bt Kushagra Arora 6-7(7), 6-1, 6-3; Vaibhav Charotra bt Shrivraj Bhole 6-3, 7-5; Kanishk Kathuria bt Rudra Batham 6-1, 6-4.

Girls: Divya Ungrish bt Anjali Meka 6-2, 6-1; Aradhya Verma bt Meher Sharma 6-1, 6-3; Aleena Farid bt Pia Pallav Mistry 6-1, 6-2; Sri Lakshmi Purmani bt Gahana Lamappulage Don (Sri) 6-3, 3-6, 6-1; Shaivi Gaurav Dalal bt Manvi Gupta 6-1, 6-0; Neelakshi Lather bt Aura Malik 6-3, 6-2; Hirva Rangani bt Diya Chaudhary 1-0 (retired); Prachi Malik bt Nandini Kansal 6-3, 6-1.

Indian women seal quarterfinal berth

Sindhu leads 4-1 romp over the USA



Business as usual: Sindhu once again was at the forefront of India's victory. ■ BADMINTONPHOTO/COURTESY OF BWF

UBER CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BANGKOK

The Indian women's badminton team sailed into the knockout stage of the Uber Cup after humbling USA 4-1 in a lopsided Group D match here on Tuesday.

India, who had defeated Canada 4-1, notched up a second successive win to cement a top-two spot in its group.

PV. Sindhu once again led the proceedings with a 21-10, 21-11 win over Jennie Gai, the doubles pair of Tanisha Crasto and Treesa Jolly then beat Francesca Corbett & Allison Lee 21-19, 21-10; Aakash Kashyap bt Esther Shi 21-18, 21-11; Simran Singh & Ritika Thaker lost to Lauren Lam & Kodi Tang Lee 12-21, 21-17, 21-13; Ashmita Chaliha bt Natalie Chi 21-18, 21-13.

Big wins for Odisha, HP

SPORTS BUREAU

Odisha and Himachal Pradesh remained unbeaten, winning their second respective Pool H matches on Day Five of the 12th Hockey India senior women National Championship in Bhopal on Tuesday.

With only two matches played on the day, favourite Odisha registered a comprehensive 11-0 win against Kerala in the first game.

Himachal won 8-0 against Telangana, with Narinder Kaur scoring a hat-trick.

Important results: Pool H: Odisha 11 (Punam Barla 2, Rojita Kujur 2, Dipti Lakra 2, Janhavi Pradhan 2, Bimla Barwa, Neha Lakra, Sunita Lakra) bt Kerala 0; Himachal 8 (Narinder Kaur 3, Mahima Chauhan 2, Ritu Rani 2, Hardeep Kaur) bt Telangana 0.

Ronit, Aryan take UBCA to final

Ronit Berry scored 46 runs and Aryan Raj made 44 as Uday Bhan Cricket Academy beat Shivaji Cricket Academy by three wickets to enter the final of the RV Sports T20 tournament.

The scores: SCA 144/7 in 20 overs (Kaushal 27, Arjun Singh 26, Akash Kumar 2/34) lost to UBCA 146/7 in 18 overs (Ronit Berry 46, Aryan Raj 44, Bharat 39, Badal Biswal 4/27).

Akshay, Aarav shine in DCH's triumph

Man-of-the-Match Akshay Sharma picked up four wickets while Aarav Singh made 48 as Delhi Cricket Hub beat Telefunken Club by one wicket to lift the 16th All India RC Sharma memorial Under-14 tournament. Lakshay Narang was named