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STARTING
FROM
11TH MAY
2022

ENGLISH MEDIUM
Time: 08:00 AM- 11:00 AM

HINDI MEDIUM
Time: 04:00 PM- 07:00 PM

IN BRIEF



'Local militants' count on the wane in Kashmir'

Srinagar

Security forces are engaging more foreign militants during encounters in Kashmir because the number of local militants has dropped, according to the Army.

NEWS ► PAGE 12

DGCA to inspect all SpiceJet aircraft

NEW DELHI

The DGCA will inspect the entire SpiceJet fleet of 91 aircraft after mid-air turbulence on Sunday left several passengers of a Mumbai-Durgapur Boeing 737-800 flight injured.

NEWS ► PAGE 14

SRIRAM'S IAS
INTERVIEW PROGRAM
ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING
FINE TUNE IT WITH OUR MOCK PANEL
AND CHAT WITH MR. SRIRAM
ENROL BY SCANNING THE CODE



THE HINDU
greets its readers on
the occasion of
ID-UL-FITR

No one can be forced to get vaccinated: SC

'Some State-level curbs on unvaccinated disproportionate'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday upheld the right of an individual against forcible vaccination and the government's COVID-19 vaccination policy to protect communarian health, but found certain vaccine mandates imposed by the State governments and Union Territory administrations disproportionate as they tend to deny access to basic welfare measures and freedom of movement to unvaccinated individuals.

A Bench led by Justice L. Nageswara Rao said such mandates wilted in the face of "emerging scientific opinion" that the risk of transmission of the infection from unvaccinated individuals was almost on a par with that from those vaccinated.

"With respect to bodily integrity and personal autonomy of an individual in the light of vaccines and other public health measures introduced to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, we are of the opinion that bodily integrity is protected under Article 21 (right to life) of the Constitution and no individual can be forced to be vaccinated," the court said.

The court struck a balance between individual right to bodily integrity and refuse treatment with the



Personal autonomy of an individual, which is a recognised facet of the protection guaranteed under Article 21 (right to life) encompasses the right to refuse to undergo any medical treatment in the sphere of individual health

JUSTICE L. NAGESWARA RAO
Supreme Court

government's concern for public health. A person has the right under Article 21 to refuse treatment, it said.

"Personal autonomy of an individual, which is a recognised facet of protection guaranteed under Article 21 encompasses the right to refuse to undergo any medical treatment in the sphere of individual health," Justice Rao observed.

Subject to scrutiny However, when the issue extended to "communitarian health", the government was indeed "entitled to regulate issues". But its right to regulate by imposing limits to individual rights was open to judicial scrutiny.

The judgment was a result of a challenge by Jacob Pulyel, a former member of National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

3,157 cases,
positivity rate
up at 1.07%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India's COVID-19 positivity rate went past 1% again after over two months as the country witnessed a single-day rise of 3,157 infections and 26 fatalities, according to Union Health Ministry data on Monday.

Data updated at 8 a.m. showed that the positivity rate stood at 1.07%. It was at 1.1% on February 27. Positivity rate refers to the percentage of tests that returned positive result.

Of the latest 26 fatalities, 21 are from Kerala alone. Odisha saw two deaths, while Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal reported one death each.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

EC sends notice to Soren over office-of-profit allegation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) has sent a notice to Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren over an office-of-profit charge against him for allotment of a mining lease in his name last year, an EC official said on Monday.

Under Section 9A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, Mr. Soren could face disqualification for entering into a government contract.

The Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the State had raked up the issue earlier this year, demanding the Chief Minister's resignation.

Misuse of power Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das had alleged that Mr. Soren misused his office by allotting a stone quarrying lease in his name on government land outside Ranchi while he was also the State Mines Minister.

Mr. Soren's party, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, has denied the allegations, saying that the mine was never functional and Mr. Soren had surrendered it.

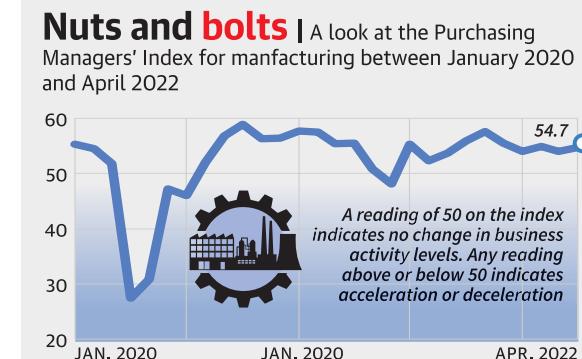
The BJP had made a representation to Jharkhand Governor Ramesh Bais, who then sent a reference to the poll panel to examine the matter.

Manufacturing quickens, input costs rise, shows PMI
'Consumer goods producers report a contraction'

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

India's manufacturing sector recorded a slight acceleration in new orders and output in April, indicates the S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), which rose to 54.7 last month from 54 in March, even as inflationary pressures intensified. A reading above 50 on the survey-based index indicates an expansion in business activity.

New export orders re-



bounded in April after a fall in March, but consumer goods producers reported a contraction during the month.

Rising commodity prices pushed up input costs at the

fastest pace in five months, while the rate at which producers passed on higher costs to consumers was the sharpest in a year.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

Decide on mercy plea of Rajoana, SC tells Centre

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday ordered the Union government to decide on the mercy petition of Balwant Singh Rajoana, sentenced to death for the assassination of Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh, preferably within two months.

A three-judge Bench led by Justice U.U. Lalit asked the Centre to decide the mercy plea without being influenced by the fact that the appeals of the other con-

victs in the case were still pending.

Rajoana has been in jail for over 25 years. The mercy petition was filed in 2012. The plea for Presidential mercy has been in limbo despite the government having decided over a year ago, in 2019, to spare his life in commemoration of the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

The court scheduled the next hearing in July.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

North may get respite from heat, says IMD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

North India can expect temporary respite from the heat, with rain expected in the next three days, the India Meteorological Department said on Monday.

This would lead to a fall in maximum temperatures by 3-4 degrees Celsius over most parts of northwest India and by 2-3 degrees over most parts of central India.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

Time to feast



Sunset meal: A family breaks its daily fast with iftar on the eve of Id at the Jama Masjid in Old Delhi on Monday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Kishor hints at plan to start own party

Poll strategist is expected to disclose his strategy at a press meet in Patna on May 5

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

Poll strategist Prashant Kishor said on May 2 last year, the day the results of the West Bengal Assembly election was announced, that he would be leaving the strategy space and exploring politics for himself.

Exactly a year later, he announced on Twitter that he was "turning a page", hinting at the formation of a new political outfit based on "Suraj" or good governance, starting from his home State of Bihar.

"My quest to be a meaningful participant in democracy and help shape pro-people policy led to a 10-year roller-coaster ride.

As I turn the page, time to go to the Real Masters, THE PEOPLE, to better understand the issues and path to 'Jan Suraj' - Peoples Good Governance. Shuruat #Bi-

har se (Starting from Bihar)," he tweeted. Mr. Kishor is expected to elaborate on his plans at a press conference in Patna on May 5.

The announcement comes after talks between Mr. Kishor and the Congress on him joining the party fell through. Sources close to Mr. Kishor told *The Hindu* that while plans to

launch a political party were yet to fructify, the exploration of issues leading to the formation of a political party had started.

"Just as Gandhiji did not at once come up with his political and social ideas, he travelled and went among the people to understand what their real problems are before giving

shape to his ideas, so will Prashant Kishor," said a source.

Good governance

"The idea is, of course, to possibly move to electoral politics, but not on the basis of any 'model' like Gujarat model or Kejriwal model or this or that, but on ideas of good governance. The tweet says the beginning is to be from Bihar, therefore it's clear that it's not limited to Bihar alone," said the source.

The Indian Political Action Committee, a company associated with Mr. Kishor, had however signed up with the Telangana Rashtra Samithi last week and it is not clear what role the outfit will play in his future political project.

NO POLITICAL SPACE FOR KISHOR, SAYS JD(U) ► PAGE 13

Uttar Pradesh police accused of killing daughter of accused

SHO suspended; probe ordered into death

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

The police in Uttar Pradesh's Chandauli district have been accused of allegedly beating to death the daughter of a person accused under the Uttar Pradesh Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act after barging into their house during a raid on Sunday.

While the family of the de-

ceased woman, who was in her early 20s, accused the police team of murder, a case was registered against the personnel for culpable homicide not amounting to murder. The local Station House Officer was suspended, even as a probe was launched into the death.

Forensic examination The cause of death remained unknown after the autopsy and the viscera was sent for forensic examination, Chandauli Superintendent of Police Ankur Aggar-

Punjab Cong. in-charge accuses Sidhu of indiscipline

Harish Chaudhary says former State unit chief 'portraying himself above party' in letter to Sonia Gandhi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

All India Congress Committee (AICC) in-charge for Punjab Harish Chaudhary has written to party president Sonia Gandhi, recommending that the party seek an explanation from former Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chief Navjot Singh Sidhu for "portraying himself above the party and setting an example for others to break party discipline".

The letter was written a day after Mr. Warring took charge as the new PCC chief, but has surfaced just days after Mr. Sidhu tweeted his selfie with Prashant Kishor, after negotiations between the Congress and the poll strategist broke down.

Noting that Mr. Sidhu re-

allowed to portray himself above the party and to set an example for others to breach the party discipline".

"It is, therefore, recommended that an explanation must be sought from Shri Sidhu as to why disciplinary proceedings should not be initiated against him," he added in his letter.

Mr. Chaudhary noted that from the time he took charge as the AICC in-charge for Punjab, Mr. Sidhu has continuously criticised the functioning of the Congress government, terming it corrupt and hand in glove with the Shiromani Akal Dal".

"As the party was fighting elections, it was inappropriate for Sidhu to set such a precedent. In spite of my repeated advice to Shri Sidhu to avoid such activities, he continued to speak against the government relentlessly," Mr. Chaudhary said.

Ignored party leaders

The AICC leader also mentioned that on the day Mr. Warring took charge as the Punjab Congress chief, Mr. Sidhu visited the party office but did not share the stage with other party leaders.



Navjot Singh Sidhu

lentlessly criticised the previous Congress government in the State despite being told not to do so, Mr. Chaudhary wrote, "Ma'am president, Shri Sidhu cannot be

Some relief from heatwave likely

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department on Monday said there has been an abatement of heatwave conditions across most parts of the country, including Delhi.

The maximum tempera-

ture is likely to fall by three to four degrees over the next three days. Dust storms are expected to hit Delhi on May 4 and 5. Later this week, the mercury is likely to soar again.

The maximum temperature in Delhi on Monday was

40.8 degrees Celsius, two degrees above normal.

The weather department has predicted a partly cloudy sky on Tuesday. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be between 40 and 27 degrees Celsius.

HC seeks Centre's response on petition to regulate polygamy

Petitioner says 'regressive practices derogatory to women' must not be encouraged

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday asked the Centre to respond to a petition to declare bigamy or polygamy by a Muslim husband, in the absence of prior consent of the existing wife or wives, as illegal.

A Bench of Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Navin Chawla gave the direction on a petition by a woman, Reshma, who said her husband is "planning to divorce" her and solemnise another marriage without taking her consent or making arrangements for Ms. Reshma and their child.



certifies that the husband has the capacity to provide equal treatment to all wives.

The petitioner also sought the framing of laws for compulsory registration of Muslim marriages. She stated that polygamy by a Muslim husband was permitted under Shariah laws only in exceptional circumstances.

"It is unfortunate that regressive practices derogatory to women, who constitute one-half of the Indian population, are being followed, propagated, and encouraged in the name of religion. Such practices, regressive to rights of women and which directly come into conflict with the fundamental rights of citizens, cannot be encouraged," the petition said.

Ms. Reshma, in her petition, sought directions to be framed to regulate polygamy by placing certain conditions on Muslim husbands looking to solemnise another marriage. She proposed that such husbands should be required to furnish a certificate from a judicial officer, which

The plea stated that polygamy was neither mandato-

Centre, Delhi govt's views sought on common syllabus

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday sought the views of the Centre and the Delhi government on a plea seeking to implement a uniform education system with a common syllabus and curriculum in schools.

A Bench of Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Navin Chawla also sought the views of the Central Board of Secondary Education and the Council for Indian School Certificate Examinations.

The petitioner said that while the syllabi of entrance examinations, such as JEE and CEPT, were common, the syllabi of CBSE, ICSE and State boards were totally different. This, he argued, resulted in students from different boards getting unequal opportunities.

BJP looting in name of digital classroom: AAP

We dare AAP to prove allegation: Kapoor

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

In response, Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said, "The allegation that the said NGO is associated with the Delhi BJP president is absolutely false. We dare AAP to prove these allegations, failing which they should apologise," he said.

Senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia alleged that municipal officials have been tasked to collect funds for an NGO run by Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta's associates.

"First, the BJP enlists the help of those close to its top leaders in Delhi to launch the 'Drop in Ocean' NGO. Following that, it develops a programme to digitise classrooms in municipal-run schools. Then, the civic body signs an MoU with an NGO to digitise classrooms," Mr. Sisodia said.

"The MoU stated that the NGO will raise funds for digitalisation of classrooms through corporate social responsibility (CSR). Instead of adhering to the MoU, the BJP has directed high-ranking officials of the civic bodies to seek funding from business men," Mr. Sisodia said.

The AAP leader claimed that the municipal corporation has formed a panel of its top executives and has asked them to raise CSR funds for this NGO from private firms.

IN BRIEF

COVID positivity spikes in city with fall in tests

NEW DELHI
The city's test positivity rate rose to 6.42% on Monday from 4.89% a day earlier, a government bulletin said. While the number of tests fell to 16,753 from 30,398 on Sunday, the number of new cases fell to 1,076 from 1,485. No new deaths were reported. Delhi currently has 5,744 active cases.

French to be introduced in 30 DBSE schools

NEW DELHI
The Delhi Board of School Education (DBSE) on Monday collaborated with Institut Francais en Inde (IFI - The French Institute in India) to introduce French in city's 30 government schools. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said the introduction of global languages like French will unlock new career options for the students.

BJP slams Delhi govt. over CM's Gujarat rally

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A day after Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal urged voters in Gujarat to choose his party over the incumbent BJP, the latter slammed the Delhi government.

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta on Monday asked the Delhi CM to share a list of judges, IAS officers or politicians whose children are studying in Delhi government schools. He said Mr. Kejriwal was misleading the people of Gujarat by making baseless statements.

Addressing a rally on Sunday at Bharuch in poll-bound Gujarat, Mr. Kejriwal had said voters in the State should choose AAP if they wanted employment and better schools and hospitals.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir																																																																									
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION RAMBAN																																																																									
(Short Term) NOTICE INVITING TENDERS																																																																									
(Single Cover)																																																																									
Fresh e-NIT No: 09 of 2022-23 Dated:27-04-2022 to e-NIT No: 106 of 2021-22 Dated:21-03-2022 (E-tendering).																																																																									
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Ramban invites tenders by e-tendering mode on %age rates from approved and eligible Contractors/Firms registered with J&K UT. CPWD, MES & Railways for the following work:-																																																																									
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S.No</th> <th>Name of Work</th> <th>Name of Division</th> <th>Estimated cost of Work (in Lacs)</th> <th>Cost of Tender Doc. (in Rs)</th> <th>Earrest Money (In Lacs)</th> <th>Time allowed for completion</th> <th>Time & Date of opening of tender (Technical Bid)</th> <th>Class of Contractor</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Macadamization of Approach Road to Polytechnic Ramban by way of providing and laying 150 mm thick 75mm thick WBM Gr-II,75 mm thick Wet mix and 25mm thick Premix Carpet over 50mm thick BM under City and Town roads 2022-2023.</td> <td>PWD (R&B) Division Ramban</td> <td>48.25</td> <td>600</td> <td>@ 2% of Adv. 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1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice 27-04-2022																																																																									
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents From 28-04-2022,10.00 A.M to 04-05-2022, 4.00 P.M																																																																									
3. Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting																																																																									
4. Bid Submission Start Date 28-04-2022 From 10.00 A.M																																																																									
5. Bid Submission End Date 04-05-2022 up to 4.00 P.M																																																																									
6. Submission of hard copy of tender documents Only successful bidder who is declared as L1 should submit the hard copy after opening of financial bids																																																																									
7. Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) -(The date should be one day after deadline for receiving of hard copies) 05-05-2022 at 12.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Ramban																																																																									
8. Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed																																																																									
1.The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per below schedule:																																																																									
Sd/- (Er. Vinod Kumar Gupta) Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Ramban																																																																									
DIP/J-1032/22																																																																									

U.P. RAJKIYA NIRMAN NIGAM LIMITED
(ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company)
Visheshwaraiya Bhawan Gomtinagar, Lucknow

Notice Inviting E-Tender

The General Manager, North West Zone, 108 Civil Lines Bareilly invites for and on behalf of Managing Director U.P. Rajkiya Nirman Nigam Ltd., online percentage rate bids in two bid system for the following work:
NIT No. : 2601/E-tender (NRHM/RNN/GM (B) / 2022-23 Date: 28.04.2022, Name of work : Construction of District Drug Ware House at district Budan, U.P. Estimated Bid Value : Rs. 709.62 Lakh (Civil Works: Rs. 595.64 Lakh, Electrical Works: Rs.113.98 Lakh), Earnest Money: Rs.14.20 Lakh, Period of Completion: 10 Months, Last Date & Time of submission of bids: Up to 02 PM Hrs on date 30.05.2022.

The bid forms and other details can be obtained / downloaded from the website : <https://etender.up.nic.in>. The NIT is also available on <http://www.uprrn.co.in>.



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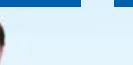


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DELHI : OFFLINE BATCHES

Morning Batch B11 Evening Batch B12

2nd May'22

16th May'22

(11:30 AM - 2:30 PM) (6:00 PM - 9:00 PM)

BHOPAL : OFFLINE BATCHES

27th June'22

(5:30 PM - 8:30 PM)

LIVE-ONLINE BATCHES

Morning Batch L4 Evening Batch L5

28th Apr'22

Timings DELHI	
TUESDAY, MAY. 03	
RISE 05:40 SET 18:58	
RISE 07:07 SET 21:24	
WEDNESDAY, MAY. 04	
RISE 05:39 SET 18:58	
RISE 07:49 SET 22:19	
THURSDAY, MAY. 05	
RISE 05:38 SET 18:59	
RISE 08:35 SET 23:12	

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	40	26
Safdarjung	40	26
Palam	40	28

Delhi Palam Today
42°C Heat wave to prevail. A dry weather to continue. Day will be hot and uneasy. Night will be comfortable. Pollution level will be severe.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
43°C The weather will be dry. Day will be hot and uneasy. Night will be uneasy. A severe pollution to continue. Heat wave to prevail.

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THE HINDU
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Now, demolition drive in Shahdara

EDMC calls it 'routine exercise'; residents say they are left homeless a day before Id

SAMRIDHI TEWARI
NEW DELHI

The East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) on Monday conducted an anti-encroachment drive at Mansarovar Park in Shahdara where people had encroached upon the pavements causing hurdles to pedestrians, said civic officials.

EDMC Mayor Shyam Sunder Aggarwal said the drive was a routine exercise for which plans were made 15 days ago. "We wanted to take action earlier but did not get police deployment," Mr. Aggarwal said.

The EDMC action comes a fortnight after an anti-encroachment drive was started by the North Delhi Municipal Corporation in the violence-hit Jahangirpuri in north-west Delhi. The drive was stopped midway after the Supreme Court ordered status quo.

Following the Jahangirpuri drive, Mayors of South and East Delhi Municipal Corporations had also announced that they will identify areas



People out on the streets following the EDMC's drive against encroachments in Shahdara on Monday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

under their jurisdiction to conduct anti-encroachment drives.

Hopes dashed

Sameem, a 30-year-old woman who was living with her family in a jhuggi on a footpath under the Shahdara flyover, said the drive has left them with no shelter, no bed, no clothes and no food. "Id this year will not be the same. We are fighting for our lives right now. We have no food and water. On the eve of Id, the municipal corporation has left us with no belongings

and little hope of a better life."

According to the people affected by the drive, their jhuggis, water tankers, utensils, clothes, furniture and all other household items were destroyed. "They asked us to leave these jhuggis and go back to where we came from. If it were that easy, why would we live in a place like this?" said 60-year-old Anna who was left stranded on the road.

Thirty-three-year-old Silochan said they would now have to defecate in the open

as the EDMC had demolished the bathrooms in the area. "Where would the women go now? Did the civic body think twice before demolishing our bathrooms?" she said.

Commenting on the EDMC drive, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) R. Sathiyasundaram said, "An encroachment removal programme of the EDMC took place below the Shahdara flyover near Mansarovar Park metro station. The pavement on roadside, which was encroached upon causing hurdles to the pedestrians, was cleared." He added that no permanent structures were disturbed and there was no loss of property or demolition of houses and eviction of any community.

A senior EDMC official said, "There is nothing political about the drive". Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta had on April 20 written to the South and East civic bodies to remove encroachments "by Rohingyas, Bangladeshis and anti-social elements" in their areas.

Jahangirpuri violence: two more arrested

Both spotted in CCTV footage: police

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Two more persons were arrested by the Delhi police in connection with the clashes that erupted in north-west Delhi's Jahangirpuri last month.

The accused were identified as 48-year-old Yunus and 22-year-old Sheikh Salim, both residents of Jahangirpuri. The police said the duo were arrested on Sunday. Yunus's brother Saleem Chikna has already been arrested in the case.

A senior police officer said during investigation of CCTV footage, Yunus was allegedly seen distributing swords to a crowd where



Festive cheer: People throng Jahangirpuri market on the eve of Id. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

the other accused, Sheikh, was also present. The two accused were absconding since April 16, the day the violence broke out in Jahangirpuri, the police said.

Job loss in pandemic pushed my brother to take up delivery job'

Zomato yet to approach us: victim's kin

ARNABJIT SUR
NEW DELHI

A day after a Zomato delivery executive died in a car crash in east Delhi's Shakarpur, his brother recalled how the victim had struggled to find a job during the pandemic and ended up joining one which proved fatal.

Krishna Prasad, the elder sibling of the victim, Guddu Prasad, 30, told *The Hindu* that his brother had come to the Capital from Kolkata around three years ago looking for a job.

Although Guddu studied only till Class XII, "he always wanted to be financially independent and lead a stable life", recalled Mr. Krishna, adding, "He always wanted to work hard and gradually move up the ladder... He was an ambitious person, but you can't change fate."

"He initially worked at a mall but after COVID-19 broke out, he lost his job and took up this vocation," Mr. Krishna said.

Speaking of the accident, he said, "We can't do anything about the company's policies... The whole job is about speed and if you don't deliver the food within a set time, some money is deducted. Guddu had himself opted for this job and didn't let us know much about the problems he faced."

Zomato has not yet approached the family regarding a compensation or any other assistance. "It's the duty of the company to provide financial assistance to its employee who has put his life at risk while doing his job," Mr. Krishna said.



Zomato delivery executive Guddu Prasad died in an accident in east Delhi on Sunday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A Zomato official said the company offers accidental insurance, along with other financial support, as per the victim's family requirements. A local team is trying to reach the family soon, the official added.

Guddu's demise is hurting the family both emotionally and financially. His father is suffering from heart ailments and needs frequent hospitalisation. "My brother's job helped me in bearing our father's medical expenses. So, it will be a huge struggle for me if we don't get the compensation," said Mr. Krishna.

This is not the first time the family lost a son in an accident. Guddu and Krishna's youngest brother succumbed to injuries after he met with an accident in 2015.

After getting the news of Guddu's death, Mr. Krishna rushed to Delhi from Kolkata. "It all happened so suddenly, my parents still cannot process that their son is no more," he said.

In the early hours of Sunday, a car crashed with Guddu's bike, killing two sisters travelling in the four-wheeler and the Zomato delivery executive.

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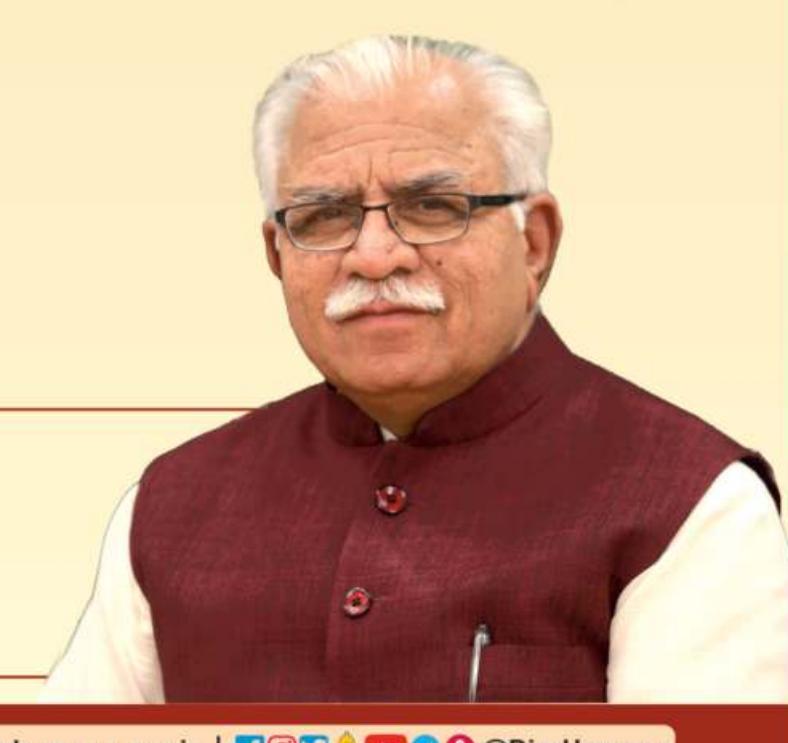
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Office of Executive Engineer Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Simdega						
Very Short Tender e-Procurement Notice (2nd Call)						
Tender Reference:-DWSD/JJM/SVS/SIM-15/2021-22(2nd Call) Date:- 02.05.2022						
Name of Work :- Construction of Cluster wise Single Village Water Supply Schemes based on Solar Energy Based Mini Rural Pipe Water Supply Schemes in different blocks of Simdega District which are not included in MVS/Other Schemes to supply water and house connection with 05 Years Operation and Maintenance works on "Turn Key Basis" Under D.W. & S. Division, Simdega for the Financial Year 2021-22 (JMM- Head)						
Sl. No.	Sub Cluster No.	Block	No. of Scheme	No. of FHTC	Estimated Cost (in Lakh)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)
1	5B	Bano	112	1806	753.04	7.54
2	6B	Bano	89	978	525.44	5.26
3	7B	Jaldega	150	2192	962.13	9.63
4	8B	Bansjor&Jaldega	74	1071	512.72	5.13
5	9A	Thethaitangar	125	1518	704.13	7.05
6	10A	Thethaitangar	162	1860	900.43	9.01
7	10B	Thethaitangar	133	1524	718.97	7.19
8	11B	Thethaitangar	170	1867	894.90	8.95
9	Date of Tender Uploading in Website					
10	Date of Pre-bid Meeting					
11	Last Date Receipt of Bid					
12	Last Date Submission cost of BOQ and EMD (in Hard Copy)					
13	Date of Opening Tender (Technical Bid)					
14	Name and Address of office Inviting Tender					
15	Name and Address of Tender Opening Officer					
16	Contact No. of e-Procurement office					
17	HelpLine No. of e-Procurement cell					

Note :- i) Tender is liable to be canceled at any time without assigning any reason.
ii) Estimated Cost & EMD Cost may be changed.
iii) Only Registered contractor in this department participate in said tender.
iv) Further detail can be seen on website <http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

My Name is Salshar Kumar S/o. Sunder Kumar, Rio. B- 88/3 Janta Flats Raghuvir Nagar Shivaai Enclave, Rajouri Garden near Bharat Gas Ground, W Delhi Pin-110027 in the name of my Class 10th (12th and Graduation). Father's Name is written as SURENDAR KUMAR. I hereby declare that my Father's name is SURENDAR KUMAR. That is my true and correct statement.

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CM YK

Amit Shah to hold series of poll strategy meetings

He will meet MLAs, MLCs and MPs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

As Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrived in Bengaluru on Monday night, political activity kicked up in the BJP State unit. The series of meetings he will chair with party leaders on Tuesday are expected to chalk out the strategy for the 2023 Karnataka Assembly polls.

Mr. Shah will participate in a lunch hosted by Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, which will see all MLAs, MLCs, and MPs from the party participate.

Roadmap for elections

He will later address a special meeting of party office-bearers and senior leaders at a star hotel in the city, where he is expected to discuss the strategy roadmap for the elections. He is also expected to chair the core committee meeting.

B. L. Santosh, BJP national general secretary (Organization), had on Sunday hinted that the party may go for fresh faces, denying tickets to several incumbent legislators, a strategy that has worked for the party in other States. These issues are expected to come up for discussion on Tuesday.

This is the second visit of Mr. Shah to the State in a



Union Home Minister Amit Shah ■ FILE PHOTO

month's time, indicating the party high command will drive the campaign in Karnataka.

Meanwhile, Mr. Shah has no scheduled programmes till Tuesday afternoon, when he is expected to hold a meeting with the Chief Minister and other senior leaders of the party.

Amidst speculation of leadership change, many in the party have denied them as mere 'rumours'. Former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyappa said Mr. Bommai was doing good work and there was no question of leadership change. Speculations were rife after Mr. Santosh's statement on Sunday that the BJP was opposed to dynastic politics and said leadership change was one of its strengths and he cited examples of Uttarakhand and Gujarat.

Mr. George's Sunday arrest had triggered a high-voltage political drama. Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) workers pelted

Kerala to seek cancellation of George's bail application

The former MLA was arrested on Sunday for hate speech

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government is poised to challenge the Magistrate's decision to release Kerala Janapaksham (Secular) leader P.C. George, ex-MLA, on bail in the politically charged hate-speech case.

On May 2, the State would move a petition in the district court seeking Mr. George's bail cancellation. The police had arrested Mr. George from his residence in Erattupettah in Kottayam early on May 1.

They had booked him on the charge of making incendiary comments against a particular group of people with the intention to cause communal discord and provoke rioting.

Meanwhile, Kerala Law Minister of State for External Affairs and BJP leader V. Muideedharan permission to meet Mr. George. Mr. George's remarks at the Ananthapuram Hindu Maha Sammelan had stirred controversy and drawn flak from organisations on either side of the political spectrum.

The police denied Union Minister of State for External Affairs and BJP leader V. Muideedharan permission to meet Mr. George. Mr. George's vehicle with eggs en route from Kottayam to Thiruvananthapuram. BJP and VHP workers demonstrated in support of Mr. George.



P.C. George

Mr. George's vehicle with eggs en route from Kottayam to Thiruvananthapuram. BJP and VHP workers demonstrated in support of Mr. George.

Leader of Opposition V. D. Sathesan had said Mr. George's 'incendiary statement' was extremely explosive that it would 'set light to water'.

Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) leader P. K. Kunhalikutty said people should rise above partisan politics and condemn the dissemination of such misinformation and hate speech that lays the ground for communal discord.

However, Mr. George has found support from the Sangh Parivar. Sources close to him said Mr. George had merely echoed the issues flagged by some segments of the Church.

File new plea on rejection of nod for Rahul's visit: HC

It had initially asked university to consider plea

MARRI RAMU

HYDERABAD

Justice B. Vijayen Reddy of the Telangana High Court on Monday directed Congress workers to file a fresh petition, challenging rejection of their application by Osmania University Registrar for permission to convene a face-to-face interaction of students with party president and MP Rahul Gandhi on the university premises.

Research scholar and Congress party spokesperson Manavatha Roy and three others moved a House Motion on Sunday seeking instruction to the Registrar to permit to convene the programme on May 7 at Ta-

They also stated they had to knock on the doors of the HC since the registrar did not respond to their representation, which was followed by personal visits to his office. Justice Reddy heard the House motion and initially directed the university authorities to consider the application of the petitioners for permission to organise the meeting.

"While the plea was about to be heard, I received a text message from the authorities stating that our application has been rejected," Mr. Roy said.

Additional forces have been deployed in Khargone, the IPS officer said. The decision about 24-hour curfew which the decision was changed.

The curfew in the city has been relaxed for nine hours – from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. – on Monday. Special Armed Force Commandant Ankit Jaiswal, posted temporarily in Khargone, said late on Sunday night.

Ex-BJP leader, 6 Rajor Dal office-bearers join AAP

AAP had made its debut in GMC polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

A former BJP leader and six office-bearers of Akhil Gogoi-led Rajor Dal from Assam joined the Aam Aadmi Party on Monday. Two local leaders of the State Congress also joined the party.

They were inducted into the party by in-charge of the Assam political affairs Rajesh Sharma in the presence of national secretary Pankaj Gupta and others.

Abujam Umpada Luwang had served the BJP as its morcha in-charge for Assam, Manipur and Tripura before quitting the party a few years ago.

Those who joined from the Rajor Dal included president Jitul Deka, vice-president Dibyajyoti Sarmah, executive member Binoy Deka, secretary Dipankar Kalita, and women cell convenor Anurupa Dekaraja.

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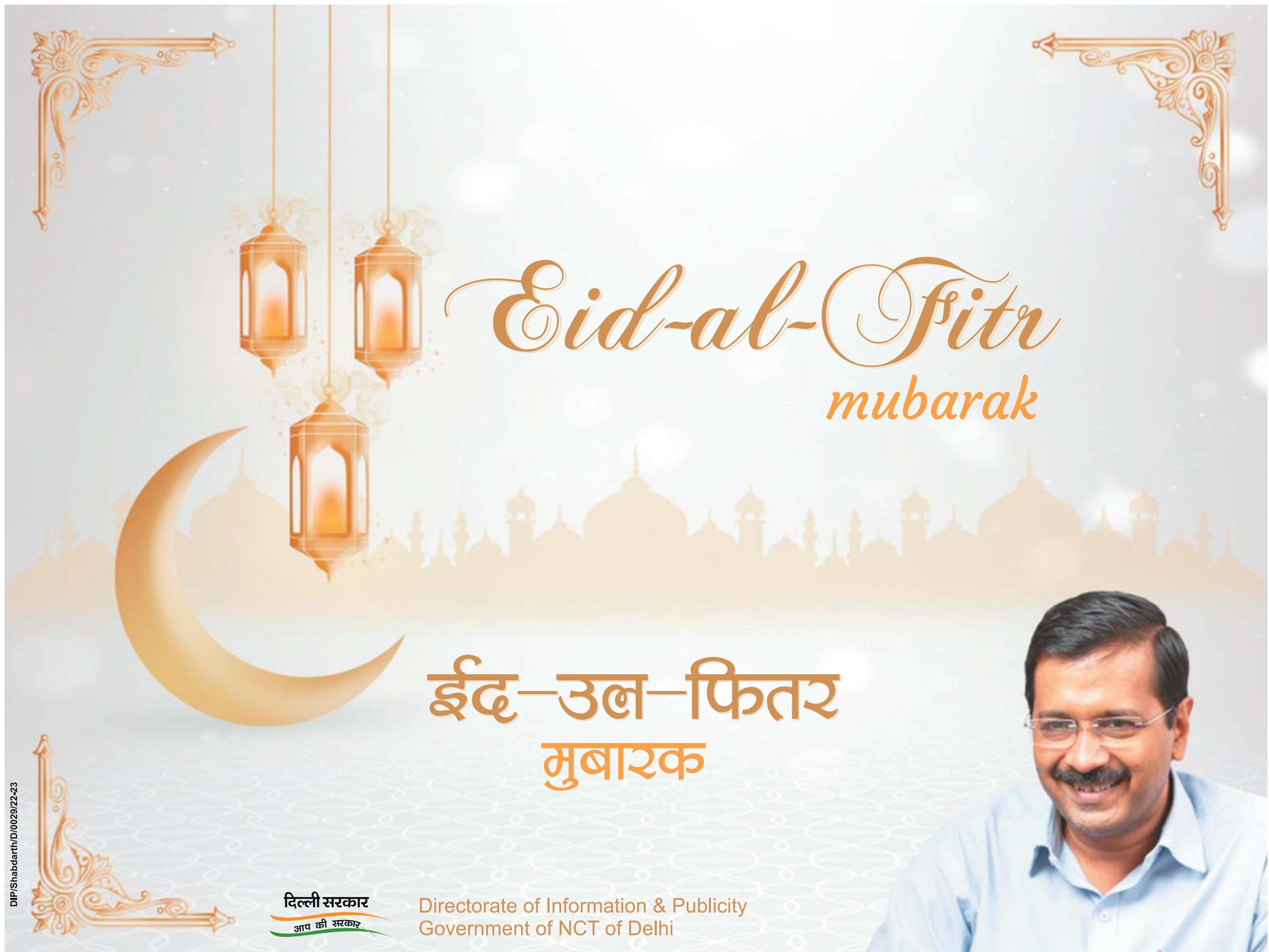
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Directorate of Information & Publicity
Government of NCT of Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

SEE SECTION U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused (1) Israr, S/o Yusuf, R/o Rain Basera, Parda Bagh, near patrol pump, Daryaganj, Delhi and (2) Mustaqeem S/o Raju R/o Meena Bazar, Footpath, Jama Masjid, Delhi have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case e-FIR No. 001798/22 u/s 379/411/34 IPC P.S. Hauz Qazi, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Israr and Mustaqeem cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Israr and Mustaqeem have absconded (or is concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Israr and Mustaqeem of case e-FIR No. 001798/22 u/s 379/411/34 IPC P.S. Hauz Qazi, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 04.06.2022.

By Order

Sh. Harun Pratap

Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate-02, Central Room No. 296A, 2nd Floor, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/1418/CD/2022-(Court Matter).

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that one accused Madan S/o Bali Ram, R/o H No. D-3/51, Section-16 Rohini, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 435/16 u/s 420/467/468/471/120B IPC has been registered at P.S. SB Dairy, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Madan cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Madan has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Madan of FIR No. 435/16 u/s 420/467/468/471/120B IPC has been registered at P.S. SB Dairy, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 02.06.2022.

By Order

Sh. Vaibhav Mehta

Ld MM North, Room No-114, Rohini Court, Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Raju S/o Meku Lal Pashi R/o Village Pindhari Kalan, PS Maharaj Ganj, Distt. Raibareli, UP has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case F.I.R. No. 687/2014 U/s 363/366/376 IPC & 4 POCSO Act, registered at P.S. Timarpur, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon that the said Raju could not be found and where it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused Raju has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Raju is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before 07.07.2022.

By Order

Sh. Kuldeep Narayan-01

Additional Session Judge

Roon No. 116, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

FAREWELL FUNCTION

Ahlcon International School, Mayur Vihar, Delhi organised a farewell party for the outgoing batch of class 12. The event was graced by the Director of Ahlcon Group of Schools Dr. Ashok Pandey, Principal Mr. Sanjay Yadav, Headmaster Senior School Mr. Punet Duggal. Headmasters, Assistant Headmasters, teachers and students were also present. The event was a grand success.

PAINTING COMPETITION



S.D. Public School, Pitampura, organised a Painting competition for classes 6 and 7, in collaboration with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) on the topic 'Green and Clean Energy' as a part of PCRA Saksham to create awareness among the students to conserve the natural resources for the safe and secured future of mankind. The winners of the competition were awarded with prizes. The school Principal Mrs. Archana Sharma urged the students to be responsible citizens.

A MOMENT OF PRIDE

Aarit Kapil, a class 2 student at Somerville School, was recently declared as a champion in the Delhi State Chess Tournament, under 8 category. Aarit will now be representing Delhi in the Nationals to be held in Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh in May 2022. This was a moment of immense pride for his school and his parents.



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GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER: PWD: BUILDING: ASSAM
CHANDMARI: GUWAHATI-3.

No. CE/TB-VI/44/2022/02

PRESS NOTICE

The Spl. Chief Engineer, P.W.D. Building (Health & Education), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 on behalf of the Governor of Assam, invites bids through Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode-m of contract (Single stage two-pmi bidding system) for the works detailed in the table below, from APWD registered Class-I(A) contractors having experience in similar nature of work. Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement website i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in

The bidders must be enrolled with-tendering web-portal www.assamtenders.gov.in

SI No.	Name of work	Bid Value
1	"Construction of Majuli University of Culture at Majuli, Assam" under NIDA.	Rs. 4679.83 Lakh

The Bid price may vary at the time of detail tendering, for which no claim will be admissible. All terms and conditions will be as per the Bidding Documents. The Press Notice will be a part of the Bidding Documents.

The Work will be Allotted only after receiving Government approval.

Spl. Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Building),
Health & Education
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3

Janasanyog /C/1577/22

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male Age : About 25-30 years, Height : 5'5". Build : Medium, wearing blue colour jeans pant, white colour dotted T-shirt and brown colour shoes in feet, was found dead in trains accident on 22.04.2022 between KM pole no. 1523/3 & 1, Upline near Sarita Vihar, Mathura Road, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 18-A dated 22.04.2022 u/s 174 Cr.P.C. has been lodged at P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for identification for 72 hours in the mortuary of Subzi Mandi, Delhi.

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

SHO - P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station, Delhi
Tel. No. : 011-24356743, 24358593
DP/126/FLY/22

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused Aditya Narayan Singh, R/o H. No. C-6/343, 643 Sultan Puri, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 232/19 dated 29.06.2019 u/s 33(1) A/58D Delhi Excise Act PS Alipur Distt. OND Delhi, and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Aditya Narayan Singh, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Aditya Narayan Singh, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Aditya Narayan Singh, Under the FIR No. 232/19 dated 29.06.2019 u/s 33(1) A/58D Delhi Excise Act PS Alipur Distt. OND Delhi, is required to appear before the court on or before 03.06.2022.

By order

Sh. Satvir Singh Lamba,
CMM (North) Rohini Courts,
New Delhi

DP/1794/ON/2022

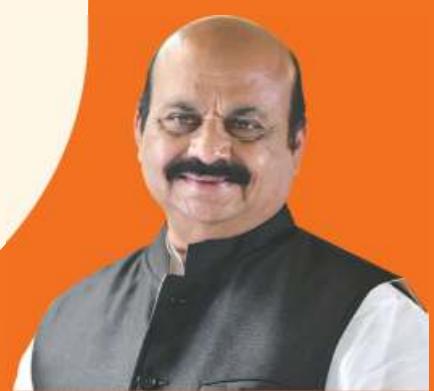
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Sri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India



NAVA KARNATAKA
FOR NAVA BHARATH

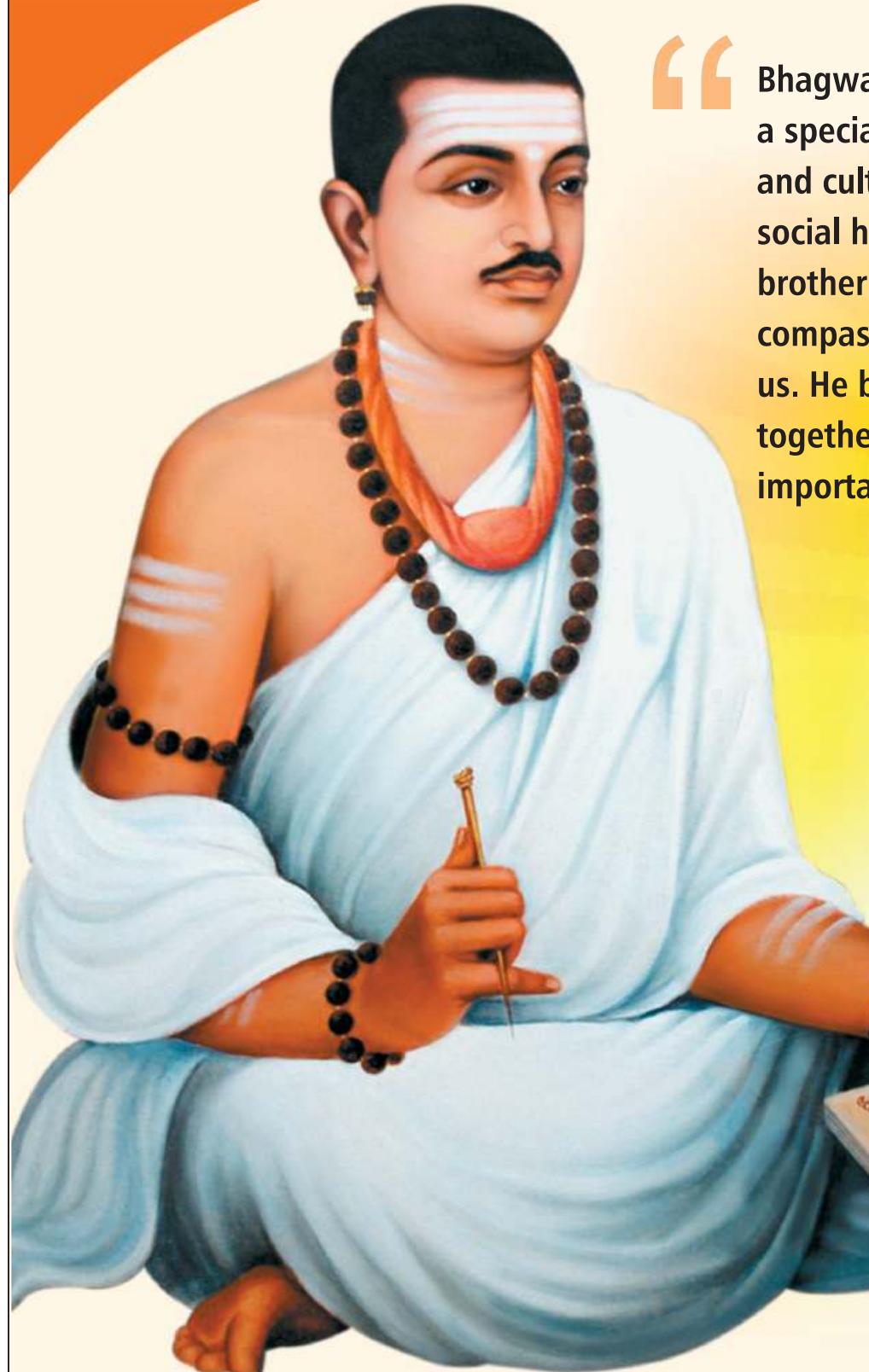


Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka

3 May 2022
Happy Basava Jayanthi

**Building an equitable and
harmonious society as envisioned
by Basavanna is our goal.**

Construction of Anubhava Mantapa to begin soon.



“Bhagwan Basaveshwara has a special place in our history and culture. His emphasis on social harmony, brotherhood, unity and compassion always inspires us. He brought our society together and gave importance to knowledge.**”**

- Narendra Modi



Garlanding the statue of Shri Basaveshwara on the occasion of Basava Jayanthi by Shri Amit Shah, Hon'ble Union Home Minister and Co-operation Minister at Basaveshwara Circle, Bengaluru. Time: 10 AM

“Basavanna is more relevant now than ever before. Vachanas (Sharana Literature) are guiding principles to lead a contented life.”

- Basavaraj Bommai

The Karnataka government is committed to building a New Anubhava Mantapa in Basava Kalyana, Bidar, where great saint, poet and social reformer Basavanna had established an **Anubhava Mantapa** (the world's first Parliament) in the 12th Century CE. The construction works will begin this month (May 2022).

Already, the Karnataka Government has sanctioned an amount of **Rs. 500 crore** and released a sum of **Rs. 200 crore** to implement the project. In addition, all historical places in Basava Kalyana, which propagated the idea of equality to the world, will also be developed.



As enshrined in our Constitution, - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19. NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

karnataka information
Department of Information and Public Relations



GST signals

Record revenues can smoothen upcoming Centre-State reform parleys

The first month of the new financial year has yielded a sharp surge in Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections, taking them well past ₹1.67 lakh crore – the highest, by a wide margin, in the five years since the levy was introduced by subsuming myriad State and central duties. In fact, GST revenues have scaled fresh highs in three of the last four months, having hit ₹1.41 lakh crore in January and ₹1.42 lakh crore in March. Overall GST revenues had grown 30.8% in 2021-22 to ₹14.9 lakh crore, despite slipping below the ₹1 lakh crore mark for two months when the second COVID-19 wave raged. The 20% year-on-year revenue uptick this April could be seen as a comforting signal about 2022-23 revenue prospects for policy makers at the Centre and the States, whose treasuries are fretting about the prospect of income falling off a cliff from July when the assured compensation for implementing the GST comes to an end. Compensation cess levies will persist till at least March 2026, but they will be used to pay off special borrowings of 2020-21 to bridge revenue shortfalls and recompense States. The Centre needs a mechanism to expedite payment of outstanding compensation dues to States (₹78,700-odd crore, or four months of dues). The Finance Ministry has blamed ‘inadequate balance’ in the Compensation Cess fund, and promised to pay up ‘as and when’ the requisite cess accrues.

If overall GST collections sustain around April levels, a dialogue with States on their pending dues along with those that will accrue from now till June, could become less thorny. But the conversation needs to begin soon. The GST Council, which has not met properly since September 2021, must be convened at the earliest. Higher tax inflows backed by improved compliance, should give the Council more flexibility to approach the impending rationalisation of the GST rate slabs, beyond a mere scramble to fill coffers and factor in larger socio-economic considerations. The Centre, which called the April inflows a sign of ‘faster recovery’, must also state whether these revenue levels warrant a rethink of its concern that the effective GST tax rate had slipped from the revenue-neutral rate envisaged at its launch. A clear acknowledgement is also needed that the higher revenues are not solely driven by a rebound in economic activity. Persistently higher input costs facing producers for a year and their accelerating pass-through to consumers, seen in higher retail inflation, have contributed too, along with tighter input credit norms introduced in the Union Budget. That revenue growth from goods imports has outpaced domestic transactions significantly in recent months, also suggests India’s consumption story is yet to fully resurface. Urgent policy action is needed to rein in the inflation rally and bolster consumer sentiment, so as not to sink hopes of more investments, faster growth and even greater revenues.

No short circuits

Safety is an imperative and should be built into the cost and utility of electric vehicles

A spate of incidents related to the burning of electric vehicles (EV) has resulted in the Union government announcing an expert panel to investigate the battery explosions causing them and a few manufacturers recalling batches of electric scooters after some caught fire. EVs have increasingly become a viable transportation device, with more than 11 lakh electric/battery-operated vehicles registered in India (Vahan database, April 2022). The increase in the utilisation of EVs has also been largely helped by the significant reduction in costs of lithium-ion batteries that have fallen by an estimated 89% since 2010. With climate change concerns driving governments, including India’s, to incentivise the shift to EVs, their manufacture for commercial use has undergone an acceleration with an increase in indigenous companies in the Indian market as well. The enhanced use of EVs and utilisation of the underlying technology is welcome as despite the institution of fuel emission norms and building these into fossil fuel-driven vehicles, the shift to EVs from petrol and diesel ones is expected to gain significant net environmental benefits. But it must also be remembered that the Li-ion battery packs that form the core of the technology, are sophisticated devices and there should be no compromise on the inbuilt safeguards.

An energy storage scientist explained in *The Hindu* (‘FAQ’ page, May 1, 2022), battery fires occur due to the convergence of heat, oxygen and fuel, and the controlled manufacturing of devices is specifically required to prevent these. Engineering higher safety into EVs can result in higher costs but the smooth functioning of Li-ion batteries without accidents is reliant on the absence of “shoddy engineering” and “cutting corner approaches”. With long-term device changes in Li-ion batteries such as the use of solid state electrolytes, special safety switches, etc. still some time away in implementation, the onus is on manufacturers and regulators to ensure that testing and certification standards related to battery management systems such as devices that prevent accidental shorting of the cells, and thermal management solutions among others are met in existing EV systems and supply chains. Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari has said that the Ministry of Road Transport will issue guidelines for EVs which would include tests for compliance with specific safety norms. While the regulation of a fledgling albeit growing sector that has shown a lot of promise but requires adequate safety norms to be put in place is an imperative, manufacturers and other companies in the EV supply chain should also proactively work in recalling defective batches of vehicles and ensuring safety compliance to prevent the recurrence of mishaps.

A grand old party, the demanding path to its revival

The Congress’s decline is to be seen in the context of majoritarianism as well as internal factors



ZOYA HASAN

The Congress party is no stranger to crises, but those it has faced since 2014 are unprecedented and probably the worst in the course of its long history. The party reached a historic low of 44 Lok Sabha seats in 2014 and that only increased to 52 in 2019. It has lost 39 out of 49 State elections since 2014. It managed to win only 55 of the 690 seats in the recent Assembly elections held in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Goa. A series of leaders have deserted the party – even those close to the Gandhi family. These defeats and desertions have raised questions and concerns about its very survival. The fact that Congress leaders held extensive talks with a much sought-after election consultant, and was planning to employ his services to revamp the party, brings into sharp relief the existential crisis of the Congress. How do we understand Congress’s existential crisis, and what are the prospects of revival?

A platform that does not work
Historically, the Congress had always come to power on a centrist platform reflecting its varied social base, but centrism does not work in deeply divided polity dominated by a politics of polarisation and communal mobilisation. Essentially, the old form of accommodative politics, which for long held together the Congress’s social coalition, is not capable of galvanising the imagination of new India. The Gujarat model of politics marked by an exclusive focus on

individual leadership as the driver of election campaigns, a strong sense of Hindu pride, a shift in popular attention to aggressive nationalist appeals regardless of reality or facts, and a complete rejection of the entire democratic past and superimposition of perception over performance appears to hold voters in thrall. Changes unleashed by liberalisation, globalisation, and the information-communication revolution initiated by the Congress have undercut its political ethos and ideological architecture to a greater degree than that of its principal rival. The Congress’s decline (and that of other Centre-Left and Left parties) needs to be seen in the context of transformations provoked by the growth and expansion of neoliberalism and majoritarianism, and other factors that are internal to the Congress, most notably, the strong resistance to structural changes within the party.

The party’s main problems
The Congress has faced three major structural problems in a political conjuncture defined by ‘the great moving Right show’, to borrow a phrase from cultural theorist Stuart Hall, and the polarisation engendered by it. These include the leadership issue, organisational stagnation, and the need to project and propagate a clear ideological alternative to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). I have explored these themes in my recent book on the Congress and am taking up some aspects of that here.

The Congress’s leadership crisis has undoubtedly played a role in its decline; however, the challenge facing the party is not just about the ineffectual leadership. Simply appointing a non-Gandhi will not dramatically alter the party’s dwindling fortunes. In fact, removing them might well reinforce the right-wing agenda. What the



Congress needs is an organisational regeneration, with democratisation at the front and centre. But fundamental issues concerning organisational change have been repeatedly set aside and weighed down by the debate on dynastic leadership and an obsessive focus on the Gandhis.

It is, however, important to reconstitute the party’s leadership at various levels through internal elections. This can transform the Congress into a more representative organisation and could give a boost to the party by changing the perception that it is a family business. At present, the top decision-making bodies are occupied by people who have either never contested a Lok Sabha or Vidhan Sabha election or did so decades ago. Their influence has however grown in direct proportion to the weakening of the party across India. These structural problems have existed for years, and yet the party has not faced them head on. It has demonstrated no urgency for drastic remedial measures despite defeat after defeat. The feeble attempts at revitalisation have focused more on regaining quick electoral viability than on addressing long-term structural issues.

Short on communication
By far the Congress’s biggest shortcoming is its inability to communicate its ideological positions and values clearly. The great challenge

is to define its message and communicate it to the electorate as an underpinning for political mobilisation. For this, it must unequivocally reaffirm its inclusive vision for a democratic India, and take credit for its past achievements, which resulted from an adherence to these commitments.

One big failure has been the Congress’s reluctance to tell its own story. The party did not publicise or highlight its distinctive approach, and that was one reason why it did not play to its strengths during the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) rule, allowing itself to be outsmarted by its critics. The BJP has correctly calculated that so long as it sustains the argument that the Congress was elitist, corrupt and dynastic, it can prevent the Congress from emerging as a credible alternative. What aids and abets these half-truths is the passivity of the Congress in defending its record and letting its achievements to be dismissed and derided, even as the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government successfully obfuscates data on its own underperformance in the last eight years.

Combating the communal

The key issue for the Opposition is defining its response to Hindu nationalism. While the Congress is largely agreed on the necessity of combating communal ideas, policies and promises, it has swung between making ideological compromises with majoritarian nationalism and plotting a frontal battle against it. It has often adopted a majoritarian tenor on certain controversial issues in the name of religious sentiment. However, this makes no sense amidst the growing influence of the Hindu Right. Both as a strategy and as an actuality, the mixing of religiosity and politics does not guarantee electoral dividends. Moreover, the conflict in India is not about the grow-

ing prominence of Hinduism in our public life, which most parties accept and promote, but about the BJP’s idea of nationalism, which is utterly exclusivist, pitted against the inclusive nationalism championed by the Congress during the freedom struggle.

Indian politics has never been more polarised than it is today; never before has the gulf been so wide. Hence, today, the battle is more fundamental; it is about the very idea of India – the idea of a diverse, pluralistic nation committed to liberal values. By remaining silent on the way in which nationalism has been redefined, the Congress has ceded the nationalist space to Hindu Right which poses as the pre-eminent torch-bearer of nationalism today even though organisations associated with it made no contribution to the freedom struggle, the crucible which defined Indian nationalism from which they were absent. Yet, its conception of Indian nationhood which it has fought for has prevailed, over the past decade and more, against the Congress’s inclusive ‘Idea of India’.

Defending a pluralist view of politics and governance is one aspect of the political strategy; the other is grounding its politics in the idiom of social justice which both sidesteps identity politics and resonates with an aggrieved population, alienated by the current dispensation’s policies and politics. Overall, the 137-year-old party’s revival depends on three things – a consistent narrative to counter divisive politics, the will to restructure the organisation, and drawing strength from constant public action rather than just elections.

Zoya Hasan is the author of the recently published book, *Ideology and Organization in Indian Politics: Polarization and the Growing Crisis of the Congress Party (2009-19)*

DC and Delhi engagement as a two-way street

Shaping opinion in Congress is a continuous process and needs efforts beyond formal and informal official interactions



K.V. PRASAD

The recent visit of Congresswoman Ilhan Omar to Pakistan and her trip to Pakistan Occupied Kashmir received condemnation from India, and the United States swiftly drew distance clarifying that the administration did not underwrite the journey by the Member of the House of Representatives from Minnesota.

As the centre

The Capitol Hill has a distinct place in the United States Constitution and its separation of powers. Members of the legislative branch work independently to write laws for the administration to implement. The Members of Congress take a special interest in foreign policy and carry out regular oversight over policies pursued by the government across the globe. These could be on a track different from the official policy pursued by the administration of the day. It is said each member’s thoughts on foreign policy are like that of the Secretary of the State.

Over the past couple of years, much water has flown down the Potomac in Washington DC and the nature of representation in the United States Congress has undergone a change in terms of the is-

sues members pursue. These in turn also depend on the nature of the districts, its constituents, issues of interest to the member and the larger political debate.

On issues with reference to countries or developments, views on the Hill are shaped by a combination of factors including outreach from the country at the official level, engagement of the diaspora with Members of the Congress and staff, advocacy and professional lobbies at work. These provide continuous inputs that supplement independent status papers published by the Congressional Research Service drafted by subject experts.

At times, the House or the Senate organises hearings on country/issue-specific subjects, for example the Senate Sub-Committee on Asia held last month on U.S. policy towards India, where, among other issues, Jammu and Kashmir figured. Some of these concerns do translate into a resolution, in turn having an amplifier effect. In the final run-up, what matters is a Congressional determination or passage of a legislation that binds the government.

Adding perspective, support
Today, while there are more Indian-Americans serving as Members of the House of Representatives than ever before, correspondingly, there is an exponential growth of the second generation of the community members who work in separate branches of the administration and the legislature, adding a diffe-



rent dimension. They bring to offices their own perspective which has been accumulated through personal exchange of information from friends in India and various public sources.

It is well established that there is bipartisan support for India in the U.S., especially the Congress, which means both the Democrats and the Republicans favour engagement and developing ties with the country, which in turn smoothens the work of successive administrations irrespective of which party enjoys a majority in Congress and has a President in the White House.

For instance, it took over two years of sustained work at all levels in the Congress before it passed the historic Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement (with India) amid determined opposition from the non-proliferation advocates on the Hill, a majority of them belonging to the Democratic Party. In the final stage, over 100 members on the House side and 13 Senators (including Independent Bernie Sanders) voted against it. It did not re-

flect the party line unlike the GOP Senators and a majority of Representatives who went with the decision of the Republican U.S. President, George W. Bush.

Among the Democrats who called a Nay was Congressman Jim McDermott, a founding member of the India Caucus. The vote reflected his commitment to non-proliferation that overrode his affection for India. A vote and stand taken by the Member does not follow party dictates but is driven by individual choice, unlike in India where the party takes a decision and members vote accordingly, and on important pieces of legislation through a whip.

Ilhan Omar raking up Kashmir in an Indian territory under occupation attracted sharp comment from New Delhi. Ms. Omar is known to advocate on issues such as education, environmental justice, immigration, and health care, while in the pursuit of foreign policy, the Congresswoman feels human rights, justice and peace should form the core and also represent domestic values. Her policy prescription does not favour sanctions or interventionist measures. Much of her public life work is well known as is her stand on issues of religion. Last December, she sponsored a Bill combatting international Islamophobia that was cleared by the House and is with a Senate Committee.

Migrating to the U.S. as a child from civil-strife torn Somalia, she got drawn towards public office, winning a seat in the Minnesota House five years ago by unseating

an established incumbent from a district with majority comprising a white population. In her book tracking the changing political landscape, *People Like Us: The New Wave of Candidates Knocking at Democracy’s Door*, author Sayu Bhajwani noted: “Omar’s...campaign [for state legislature] mobilised multiple stakeholders... the young, immigrants, and progressives... beyond individual voters... organisers in the Black Lives Matter movement, the business community, local imams and media in the East African Community...around issues that directly affected these communities.” Today, Ms. Omar is in a leadership role as the whip in the Democratic Party’s Progressives Caucus which remains influential.

Is many layered

There are voices reaching out to offices across the aisle on the Hill which project a different perspective of what is happening in India and other parts of the world. There are a number of Members who form opinions based on varied inputs and articulate these at various fora.

The need to continue engagement with offices in the Congress, its emerging leadership and build a counter-narrative would require effort beyond formal and informal official interactions. It is a continuous process and a two-way street.

K.V. Prasad is a senior journalist and former Fulbright-American Political Science Association Fellow in the U.S. Congress

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.

Oath and row

The subtle manner in which the oath in the “white coat ceremony” administered to greenhorns in the Madurai Medical college was replaced is condemnable (Page 1, May 2). The State’s government’s response is a befitting one. The wanton manner in which the Union Government is acting, bent on replacing English with Hindi, is one of the causes for creeping linguistic disharmony in India. The Union Government must stop its attempts to shovel Hindi down the throats of people in the non-Hindi speaking States forthwith. C. SACHIDANANDA NARAYANAN, Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu

■ Strange things are happening in our country these days as a part of a ‘revivalism’. The people of Tamil Nadu are passionately opposed to the imposition of Hindi. Then why try this again and again in an attempt to antagonise them? Why give room for the suspicion that an attempt is also being made to ‘safronise’ medical education, knowing fully well that it is bound to be an exercise in futility? The State government’s quick steps should send a message. G. DAVID MILTON, Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

■ Sanskrit may not be well spoken across the country, but the language has

significance and relevance. Books in Sanskrit are a treasure trove of knowledge. Is it a crime to take oath in an official language? We are only dividing people by language politics.

SRAVANA RAMACHANDRAN, Chennai

■ Hippocrates is considered to be the father of modern medicine worldwide and the oath in his name is made the pledge for medical practitioners for many generations across the globe. But in whosoever’s name it may be, the ethics and the values are the same for the noble profession. Indians are proud of the great doctors of ancient India. Perhaps the ‘Charak Shashthi’ could be

included with the Hippocratic oath. The main goal of the regulatory body must be to inculcate the spirit of noble profession in the minds and the daily practice of the budding doctor.

Dr. D.V.G. SANKARARAO, Nellimparla, Andhra Pradesh

■ A ‘faster recovery’
The Government may well pat itself on the back for GST collections touching record highs. But it is the higher prices which are responsible and not any economic recovery. The RBI is of the opinion that it is likely to take 12 years for the Indian economy to recover from the effects of COVID-19. Perhaps, the Finance Minister should

also do something on the employment front?

ANTHONY HENRIQUES, Mumbai

Plastic use

Experts are not tired of sounding caution in the use of plastic. At the United Nations Environment Programme’s fifth Environment Assembly, 175 countries are reported to have adopted a resolution to an internationally binding agreement towards ending plastic pollution by 2024. The fact is that a very negligible percentage of plastic created is said to be recycled. A good chunk, close to 91% may have found its way into the water bodies, resulting in irreparable damage.

K.V. SEETHARAMAIAH, Bengaluru



LIC is more than a corporate powerhouse

Creating employment opportunities for women is fundamental to its identity



C. SARAT CHANDRAN

It is a tribute to the Nehruvian vision that the large number of institutions created in the post-independent era have withstood the test of time and many of them have risen to global standards. From oil to steel, dams to highways, from the iconic IITs to the prestigious Institute of design, they have covered almost every segment of economic activity.

Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, described them as temples of modern India. Undoubtedly, India's emergence today as an economic powerhouse rests on the foundation of these remarkable institutions created in the early years of free India.

In 1947, India with a population of 345 million, a per capita income of ₹249.6 and literacy rate of 12% was one of the poorest countries in the world. Even amidst such an environment of deprivation and low income, Nehru felt the importance of social security and the need for promoting a culture of insurance. Thus, was born the idea of a state-run Life Insurance Corporation and LIC was established on September 1, 1956.

Initiative for women

LIC has steadily grown in the past six decades and today with over 290 million policy holders and an asset value of ₹38 lakh crore (\$520 billion), it ranks as one of the largest insurance companies in the world. Yet, when LIC celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2017, its biggest achievement was hardly mentioned – the fact that LIC created large scale employment for women right from its inception in 1956.

Thousands of women became LIC agents in the 1950s and 60s, when job opportunities were scarce. There was no entry barrier in terms of age or fixed time for work. Education requirement was a mere high school pass. Many of these women were housewives who could earn an extra income by selling LIC policies.

This was a period before the arrival of digital technologies and mobile phones. Very few households had



The organisation remains a colossus capturing 75% of the life insurance business in the country. •REUTERS

landlines and these women had to sell the policies through personal contacts. In fact, most of them did not have any marketing experience, yet LIC was able to create a vast army of motivated agents and inspiring stories emerged from them.

Usha Sangwan, the first woman to become the Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation of India described this initiative "as one of the great social experiments of the time, turning raw talents to mature professionals". LIC had an innovative reward scheme for the agents, offering a membership of exclusive clubs based on their performances. These clubs ranged from Manager's Club, progressively moving higher and higher to reach the top level of Chairman's club. Many agents climb these stairs fast to reach the top level to earn substantial amounts as commission.

A milestone in the history of India's insurance industry was the opening of the sector for private participation in the year 2000 and this caused widespread concern that LIC will find the competition tough and could very well be marginalised. Today, there are 24 private players in the life insurance space and many of them have foreign collaborations. Yet, LIC remains a colossus capturing 75% of the life insurance business in the country. Its claim settlement at 99.87% is far above the industry average of 84%.

Ms. Sangwan says, "much of the success has come from the incom-

parably dedicated twelve lakh agents. Many of them were women who have chosen a career that is essentially suitable for women's personality and talent. Their success in spreading the value of insurance is unimaginable".

Policies focused on savings

Innovation has been the single most important factor that underpins LIC's marketing strategy. In a country of vast poverty and low income, LIC recognised from the beginning that it cannot sell insurance as a risk cover on premature death. It therefore devised policies focussing on savings and the need for children's education and daughter's marriage which are fundamentals to family values in India. These policies also ensured that a part of the premium paid was returned at regular intervals before the maturity period, providing liquidity for emergencies. They simultaneously covered risk caused by death. LIC also differed from its new generation competitors in its marketing style and culture.

While the private players concentrated on technology-driven marketing, LIC's approach was significantly people-centric.

Everything about LIC from its logo with its two hands protecting a flame to its focus on India's rural population has a powerful impact on ordinary lives.

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the highly publicised Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana for

financial inclusion of over 300 million of the rural population on August 15, 2014, LIC was already there with its policies covering a rural population of 200 million.

It also established itself as a unique organisation among India's public sector enterprises. Yet that uniqueness is hardly recognised in India.

Skill India Mission

In his biography of master filmmaker Satyajit Ray, Andrew Robinson says, "Indians have an incredible capacity of ignoring home-grown success stories until the rest of the world discovers them".

The fact remains that LIC kept a low profile inspite of its many-sided achievements. When the Prime Minister launched the Skill India Mission, many foreign agencies and institutions saw a honeypot there and rushed to put their hands in. Yet no institution was more equipped to take on this massive task other than LIC of India.

Its over a million strong agents provide case studies that touch real India. It is this treasure of real-life situations that can form the basis of a strong skilling mission. The distinguished management guru C.K. Prahlad once observed that these case studies should be a part of the syllabus of management schools of India and must replace cases borrowed from foreign universities. LIC's training programme with its mix of online education and real-life case studies offer the best model for India's skill development programmes.

In India, education is more a means to find a job than a process to acquire knowledge. LIC's relevance comes from its track record of creating vast number of employment opportunities for ordinary Indians, male and female, urban and rural.

LIC is now at a transformational moment. Its listing on the bourses should lift LIC to be a part of the elite corporate community in India. Yet, the nation must not forget the fact that LIC was built on sweat and tears, pain and sacrifice of ordinary Indians. It is these democratic credentials that remain LIC's most valuable asset.

C. Sarat Chandran is Senior Fellow, London School of Economics

Delay and the pains of death row

The Supreme Court should step in and commute Balwant Singh Rajoana's death sentence



BALJEET KAUR

The Supreme Court has extended the deadline of April 30 by two months for the Centre to make a decision on Balwant Singh Rajoana's mercy petition, which is pending, with excruciating cost on the prisoner, for the last decade. Balwant Singh was awarded death sentence in the case of former Chief Minister of Punjab Beant Singh's assassination in 1995. A mercy petition was submitted by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) on his behalf in 2012. The President, Ram Nath Kovind, is to decide the fate of the petition after receiving a proposal from the Central government. The backdrop of the political history of this case indicates that the Centre may continue to avoid propelling the fate of Balwant Singh's mercy petition either way. In such a case, it may very well rest on the Apex Court to take the matter in its hands and end the pendency in line with the death penalty jurisprudence in India.

Mitigating circumstances

During his trial, Balwant Singh chose not to defend himself. In his statements, justifying his actions, he stated that Beant Singh was targeted as he was accountable for numerous deaths and disappearance of Sikh men in police custody during his tenure as the Chief Minister of Punjab. The High Court judgment records that Balwant Singh expressed his remorse over the killings of other "innocent persons", who died along with Beant Singh. Nevertheless, the death sentence was imposed on him first by the trial court in 2007, and confirmed by the Punjab and Haryana High Court in 2010. The sentencing carried out by these courts neglected the Supreme Court's mandate in *Bachan Singh vs State of Punjab* on stating special reasons before imposing the extreme punishment of death, as opposed to the norm of sentence of life, after their assessment of aggravating factors and mitigating circumstances, i.e. circumstances related to the crime and the convict's life history which exacerbate and alleviate respectively, the death worthiness of the convict. However, in this case, the discussion on sentence by the two courts was limited to the act of crime and expression of remorse. No mitigating circumstances including jail conduct, were recognised and appreciated.

After March 31, 2012 was fixed for his exe-

cution, political wrangling took centre stage. In the uproar among the Sikh community, the community institutions swung into action to find ways to stall Balwant Singh's hanging. Shiromani Akali Dal's (SAD) government expressed its inability to find a hangman and said the decision on pardoning him would be taken by the Central government as the crime took place in Chandigarh, a Union Territory. The SGPC filed the mercy petition on Balwant Singh's behalf which has remained pending for all these years.

Request for a speedy decision

Balwant Singh has spent 15 years on death row out of the total 27 years of his incarceration. In these years, he sent applications under the Right to Information Act to the offices of the President of India, Central and State governments requesting a speedy decision on the mercy petitions filed on his behalf.

While the time spent by a prisoner incarcerated should be critical, it is often ignored in the face of political considerations. In Balwant Singh's case, the issue of pardoning him by accepting his mercy petition is taking the risk of appearing in support of a terrorist. Punjab's politico-religious movement of the 1980-90, along with an active militancy, brought the Sikh community in a conflict with larger nationalist sentiments. Balwant Singh's action is a part of this context. Hence, the decision on the mercy petition is ripe with dual semantics of hurting a minority community, which is both a majority and politically powerful in Punjab, or appearing in support of a terrorist amidst State-sponsored hyper nationalism, further amplified by the majoritarian politics of the BJP.

The findings of Project 39A's report 'Deathworthy', a study on mental health of prisoners on death row in India, show that the segregated, alienated and stigmatised experiences of being on a death row may result in mental illnesses. Balwant Singh has endured a delay of 10 years in the decision of his mercy petition. Altogether, he has been imprisoned for 27 years, with severe toll on his physical and mental health. Yet, the indecision from the executive is likely to continue, with political considerations dwarfing any legal precepts that are core to decisions on death penalty cases. In this light, the Supreme Court can step in and commute Balwant Singh's death sentence on account of undue delay in disposal of the mercy petition, amounting to torture and violation of his right to life under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.

Baljeet Kaur is Mitigation Investigator with Project 39A, National Law University, Delhi. Views expressed are personal

STATE OF PLAY

Competing for Muslim votes

Political parties in Karnataka try to woo the community as Assembly polls inch closer

NAGESH PRABHU

Certain attempts to polarise votes on communal lines have gained ground in Karnataka, which is heading to Assembly polls barely a year from now. While the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) hopes to reap a rich harvest by consolidation of Hindu votes, the two opposition parties – Congress and Janata Dal (Secular) – have backed the Muslim community in varying degrees on a slew of issues that have been raked up, be it Muslim girls not being allowed to wear hijab in classrooms or disallowing Muslim traders to set up shops during festivals at Hindu temples. There is a political one-upmanship between the two to boost their "Muslim-friendly" image.

Meanwhile, players like All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) and Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) are keen to carve their spaces in the political arena. Though AIMIM and SDPI have been floating candidates, they might at best become "spoilers" for non-BJP entities as in other States. The tussle for electoral space is bound to become more intense with the entry of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP).

With the space getting crowded, the Congress and the JD(S) are in the race for giving political posts to Muslim leaders. JD(S) appointed former Union Minister C.M. Ibrahim as the president of its State unit. Congress has appointed U.T. Khader as deputy leader of the party in the Assembly. It has elevated Mohammed Nalapad, considered a protégé of State Congress president D.K. Shivakumar, as president of the party's youth wing.

Muslims constitute nearly 13% of the State's population. In the 2018 polls, Congress and JD(S) fielded 17 Muslim candidates each, largely in north Karnataka. While seven Congress candidates were successful, JD(S) drew a blank. In the by-elections held to Sindagi and Hangal constituencies in 2021, JD(S) fielded Nazeer



Karnataka

DATA POINT

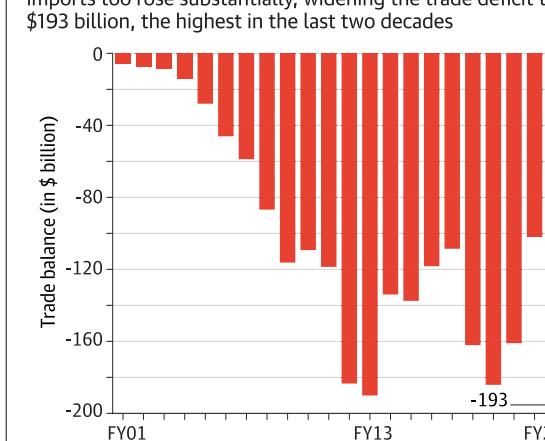


1. In absolute terms

The chart shows India's imports and exports in \$ billion. While the exports crossed the \$400-billion mark for the first time ever, the imports too grew substantially and crossed the \$600-billion mark. The drastic rise in the value of imports and exports is a reflection of high commodity prices due to COVID-19 and the Russia-Ukraine war.



2. Widening trade deficit | The chart shows India's trade balance (in \$ billion), i.e. the difference between exports and imports. While the exports expanded, imports too rose substantially, widening the trade deficit to \$193 billion, the highest in the last two decades.



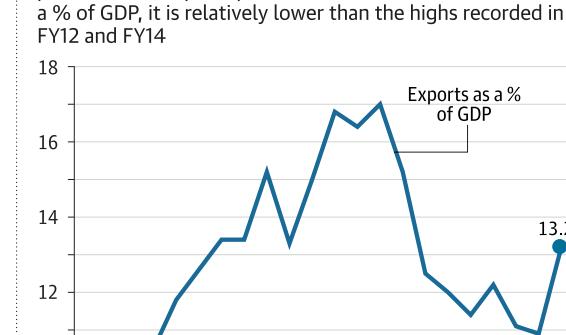
Perspective on the \$400 billion export mark

In FY22, India's exports crossed the \$400-billion mark for the first time ever. However, the import bill also passed \$600 billion. The steep climb in both the figures is a reflection of soaring commodity prices in the international markets due to the pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war. In fact, the upsurge in imports in FY22 widened the trade deficit to its highest level in two decades. The export peak achieved in FY22 was due to the rise in the value of commodities, rather than their volume. This is exemplified when exports are expressed as % of GDP (market prices). In FY22, despite the peak in absolute terms, exports as a % of GDP were relatively lower than the levels recorded in FY14. Meanwhile, the foreign exchange reserves were at a nine-month low in March 2022.

By The Hindu Data Team

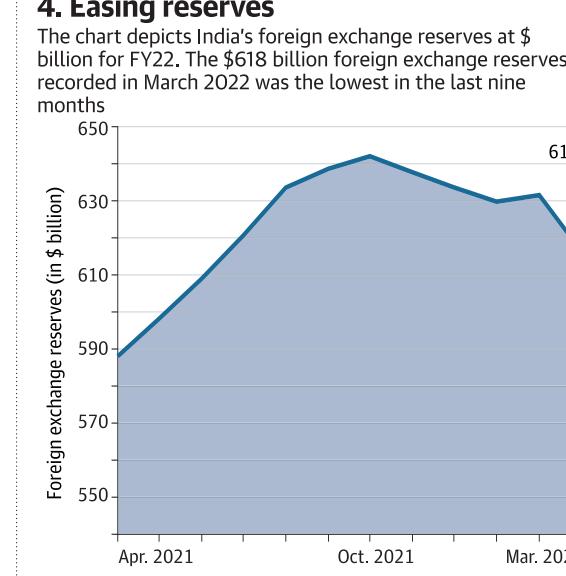
3. Exports as a share of GDP

The chart shows India's exports as a % of GDP (market prices). While exports peaked in absolute terms in FY22, as a % of GDP, it is relatively lower than the highs recorded in FY12 and FY14.



4. Easing reserves

The chart depicts India's foreign exchange reserves at \$ billion for FY22. The \$618 billion foreign exchange reserves recorded in March 2022 was the lowest in the last nine months.



The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 3, 1972

Russia's new submarine missile

London, May 2: The Soviet Union has flight-tested a new submarine-launched ballistic missile with a range of more than 3,000 miles, the International Institute of Strategic Studies reported. The Institute said that after surpassing the United States in land-based missiles, Russia now seemed likely to catch up with America's substantial lead in strategic missile-carrying submarines by the middle of next year – sooner than had been foreseen. The institute did not foresee a major war in the 1970s since "the Nuclear King's peace seemed to eliminate that fear". Half the Soviet combatant surface fleet will be equipped with missiles by 1975, the institute said. Russia is also building new nuclear-powered attack submarines, and its long-range submarines had been significantly improved in construction and weapon systems. However, the United States steadily pushed the qualitative improvement of its strategic nuclear forces, the survey said. The Chinese are building a new twin-jet fighter, a new radar system and improved, Soviet-type SAM2 ground-to-air missiles, the study said.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 3, 1922

On the verge of Civil war

Another fervent effort is being made to stop the outbreak of civil war in Ireland. The trouble in the north has been temporarily stayed by the Collins-Craig agreement but the terms of this arrangement are not recognised by the militant Republicans either on the Ulster border or in the southern counties. This extreme movement has, in fact, gone beyond the control of Mr. De Valera himself, for that gentleman has declared that he has no desire to make an appeal to arms at this juncture. The ultra-Republicans, however, seem at present to be the dominating element in the Irish military forces and nothing effective has yet been done to bring them under the control of the civil power. The authority of the Provisional Government is repudiated and a position has been reached in which armed force appears to be a determining factor. This state of things is roundly condemned by all the responsible and patriotic sections of the Irish people. With a view to putting an end to it, the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin and the Lord Mayor of that city (both ardent supporters of the Irish cause) have invited Mr. Collins and Mr. De Valera to a conference, from which it is hoped a truce will result.

Text & Context

NEWS IN NUMBERS



Indian accounts banned

18.05

In lakh, the number of Indian accounts banned by WhatsApp in March on the basis of complaints received from users via the grievances channel and through its own mechanism to prevent and detect violations, according to a monthly report published by the platform. The new IT rules, which came into effect in 2021 require digital platforms (with over 50 lakh users) to publish compliance reports every month, mentioning the details of complaints received and action taken. PTI

Power consumption

13.6

In percentage, the growth in power consumption in India in April. Power consumption grew to 13.98 billion units (BU), showing the impact of the early onset of summers and spurt in economic activities, according to power Ministry data. In 2021, power consumption in April was recorded at 117.08 BU, higher than 84.55 BU in the same month in 2020. The peak power demand met, which is the highest supply in a day, during April this year remained at an all-time high of 207.11 gigawatts (GW). PTI

Increase in coal supply

16

In percentage, the increase in coal supply to the power sector to 49.7 million tonnes (MTs) in April, owing to the high demand for the dry fuel from electricity generating plants, according to Coal India Limited (CIL). The organisation also stressed that it was planning to augment its dispatches further. The statement comes at a time when several parts of the country are grappling with power crisis. Coal India, which accounts for over 80% of domestic coal output, is one of the major suppliers of fossil fuels to the power sector. PTI

Inflation surge

29.8

In percentage, the surge in overall inflation recorded in Sri Lanka in April from 18.7% in March, according to official figures. Sri Lanka is in the grip of an unprecedented economic turmoil since its independence from Britain in 1948. The crisis is caused in part by a lack of foreign currency, which means that the country cannot afford to pay for imports of staple foods and fuel, leading to acute shortages and very high prices. These have triggered widespread protests in the country. PTI

More flee from Ukraine

5.5

In million, the number of people to have fled Ukraine since the war began on February 24, according to the U.N. Refugee Agency (UNHCR). The statistics were compiled from a variety of sources, mainly data provided by authorities from official border crossing points. Just over three million fled to Poland, while Romania has taken in 8,17,000 and Slovakia nearly 3,72,000, as of April 29. Meanwhile, U.S. President Joe Biden has proposed a \$33 billion package to arm Ukraine in its war against Russia. REUTERS

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

The debate on the national language

What were the Constituent Assembly debates about Hindi being made the 'national' language? What happened in 1965?

THE GIST

■ Under Article 343 of the Constitution, the official language of the Union shall be Hindi in Devanagari script.

■ The official language issue was hotly debated in the Constituent Assembly, and the provisions relating to it were formulated only after a compromise that English shall continue to be used for 15 years.

■ Jawaharlal Nehru had given an assurance in 1959 that English would remain in official use. However, the Official Languages Act, 1963, did not explicitly incorporate this assurance, causing apprehensions in Tamil Nadu. Violent protests broke out in the State in January 1965. When the Official Language Rules were framed in 1976, it was made clear that the Rules apply to the whole of India, except Tamil Nadu.

+ ■ Jawaharlal Nehru had given an assurance in 1959 that English would remain in official use. However, the Official Languages Act, 1963, did not explicitly incorporate this assurance, causing apprehensions in Tamil Nadu. Violent protests broke out in the State in January 1965. When the Official Language Rules were framed in 1976, it was made clear that the Rules apply to the whole of India, except Tamil Nadu.

K. VENKATARAMAN

The story so far: Remarks by a Hindi actor to the effect that Hindi is the national language of India sparked a controversy recently over the status of the language under the Constitution. Many were quick to point out that there is no national language for India, and that Hindi is the official language of the Union. The official language issue was hotly debated in the Constituent Assembly, and the provisions relating to it were formulated only after a compromise that English shall continue to be used for 15 years.

What is the status of Hindi?

Under Article 343 of the Constitution, the official language of the Union shall be Hindi in Devanagari script. The international form of Indian numerals will be used for official purposes.

The Constituent Assembly was bitterly divided on the question, with members from States that did not speak Hindi initially opposing the declaration of Hindi as a national language. Proponents of Hindi were insistent that English was the language of enslavement and that it should be eliminated as early as possible. Opponents were against English being done away with, fearing that it may lead to Hindi domination in regions that did not speak the language.

There were demands to make Sanskrit the official language, while some argued in favour of 'Hindustani'. There were differences of opinion over the script too. When opinion veered towards accepting Hindi, proponents of the language wanted the 'Devanagari' script to be adopted both for words and numerals. Some advocated that the Roman script be adopted, as it would facilitate faster learning of Hindi. The predominant opinion was in favour of adopting 'international numerals' (the Arabic form used and understood throughout the world) instead of Hindi numerals.

Ultimately, it was decided that the Constitution will only speak of an 'official language'. And that English would continue

to be used for a period of 15 years. The Constitution said that after 15 years, Parliament may by law decide on the use of English and the use of the Devanagari form of numbers for specified purposes.

What is the Eighth Schedule?

The Eighth Schedule contains a list of languages in the country. Initially, there were 14 languages in the schedule, but now there are 22 languages. There is no description of the sort of languages that are included or will be included in the Eighth Schedule. There are only two references to these languages in the text of the Constitution. One is in Article 344(1), which provides for the formation of a Commission by the President, which should have a Chairman and members representing these scheduled languages. The purpose of the Commission is to make recommendations for the progressive use of Hindi for official purposes of the Union and for restricting the use of English.

The second reference, found in Article 351, says it is the Union government's duty to promote the spread of Hindi so that it becomes "a medium of expression for all elements of the composite culture of India" and also to assimilate elements of forms and expressions from Hindustani and languages listed in the Eighth Schedule.

What were the 1965 protests about?

The Official Languages Act, 1963 was passed in anticipation of the expiry of the 15-year period during which the Constitution originally allowed the use of English for official purposes. Its operative section provided for the continuing use of English, notwithstanding the expiry of the 15-year period. This came into force from Jan 26, 1965, a date which marked the completion of 15 years since the Constitution was adopted.

Jawaharlal Nehru had given an assurance in 1959 that English would remain in official use and as the language of communication between the Centre and the States. The Official Languages Act, 1963, did not explicitly incorporate this assurance, causing apprehensions in some States as the January



1965 deadline neared. At that time, Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri reiterated the government's commitment to move towards making Hindi the official language for all purposes.

In Tamil Nadu, then known as Madras, the prospect of the use of Hindi as the medium of examination for recruitment to the Union public services created an apprehension that Hindi would be imposed in such a way that the future employment prospects of those who do not speak Hindi will be bleak. With the Congress government in the State taking the view that the people had nothing to fear about, protests broke out in January 1965. It took a violent turn after more and more student activists joined the protest, and continued even after key Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) leaders were arrested.

More than 60 people died in police firing and other incidents as the protests went on for days. The agitation died down later, but by then the Congress at the Centre realised

the sensitivity of the language issue among Tamil-speaking people. When the Official Language Rules were framed in 1976, it was made clear that the Rules apply to the whole of India, except Tamil Nadu.

What is the three-language formula?

Since the 1960s, the Centre's education policy documents speak of teaching three languages – Hindi, English and one regional language in Hindi-speaking States, and Hindi, English and the official regional language in other States. In practice, however, only some States teach both their predominant language and Hindi, besides English.

In States where Hindi is the official language, a third language is rarely taught as a compulsory subject. Tamil Nadu has been steadfastly opposing the three-language formula and sticks to teaching Tamil and English. It argues that those who need to know Hindi can learn on their own.

Against imposition: An anti-Hindi agitation by college students in Madras in January 1965. ■ HINDU PHOTO ARCHIVES

EXPLAINER

Embroiling Transnistria in the Russia-Ukraine War

Is Transnistria pro-Russia? What are Russia's intentions in involving the region in the ongoing conflict?

UMA PURUSHOTHAMAN

The story so far: As the Russia-Ukraine War completes over two months, Transnistria, the tiny breakaway region of Moldova, risks being dragged into the conflict.

Where is Transnistria? The de facto state lies between Moldova to its west and Ukraine towards its east. Often described as a "remnant of the Soviet Union", Transnistria declared independence like Moldova did soon after the break-up of the Soviet Union. When Moldovan troops attempted to take over the territory in 1990-1992, Transnistria was able to resist them because of Russian soldiers based in Transnistria. Since then, it has remained free of Moldovan control. However, most countries continue to see Transnistria as part of Moldova.

What is the political make-up of Transnistria?

Transnistria is not recognised as independent even by Russia and its economy is dependent on Russia for subsidies and free gas. Most Transnistrians have dual citizenship of Russia and Transnistria or triple citizenship of Moldova, Transnistria, and Russia. Unlike the rest of Moldova, which speaks Romanian, the majority of people in Transnistria speak Russian and use the

cyrillic script like Russians. It has its own government (which is pro-Russian), Parliament, armed force, constitution, flag, anthem, etc. In a referendum held in 2006, over 97% of Transnistrians voted for future integration with Russia and after the annexation of Crimea, the government asked if it could be absorbed into Russia. Russia, however, was not keen on this. But Transnistria is host to over 1,500 Russian "peacekeepers" and is home to a large Russian ammunition depot at Cobasna.

Why is it in the news now? Transnistria risks being drawn into the Russia-Ukraine war because of reports of a series of explosions in its territory. First, there was an attack by men using rocket-propelled grenades on its security headquarters, followed by an attack on a radio centre which broadcasts Russian news. There were also reports that a village which is host to one of the largest ammunition depots in Europe was hit by shots. No one has taken responsibility for these attacks in which there were no deaths. However, Ukrainian officials termed them as a deliberate provocation by Russia to intervene in Transnistria and Moldova while Russian officials blamed Ukraine for the attacks. After the explosions, Transnistria's President Vadim Krasnoselsky called for a 15-day red alert, with anti-terrorist security measures put in place. Men of fighting

age have been banned from leaving its territory. This is being read as a sign that Transnistria will be drawn into the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

There are fears in the West and in Ukraine that Transnistria could be used as a staging ground in the conflict between Russia and Ukraine and that Russia might use Transnistria to cut off the southwestern corner of Ukraine, leading to direct Russian intervention inside Moldova.

These fears were compounded by a Russian General, Rustam Minnekayev, asserting that Russian speaking people in Transnistria and Moldova are being oppressed, reminding observers ominously of Russia justifying its invasion of Ukraine by claiming to be acting on behalf of Russian speakers in the Donbass region oppressed by Ukraine. Added to this was his statement that Moscow intends to take over southern Ukraine, including the port city of Odesa, which would allow it access to Transnistria. This would create a land-bridge for Russia from southern Ukraine all the way to Transnistria.

Clearly, Transnistria's strategic location is important to the next phase of Russia's war on Ukraine. The region is not too distant from the Black Sea port of Odesa and also shares a relatively long border with Ukraine. If Transnistria comes under Russian control, it will enable Russia to create a

Russian-controlled corridor along Ukraine's Black Sea coast. If Russia succeeds in linking Odesa with Transnistria, the rest of Ukraine would become completely landlocked and the country would naturally be weakened. Moldova, on its part, fears that Russia will use Transnistria to launch an attack on it as Russia has long wanted Moldova to be in its sphere of influence.

What lies ahead? There is little Moldova, Europe's poorest country, can do in this situation. It is constitutionally neutral and has a very small military force. It is not a member of NATO. So, there is little chance of NATO coming to its rescue, particularly since NATO cannot give membership to countries which have border disputes with other countries.

Similarly, it is not a member of the European Union though it is pro-Europe. In March this year, Moldova had signed an official request to join the EU. However, this will take time and the country right now cannot comply with the EU's conditions for membership.

Meanwhile, all eyes will be on what Russia intends to do next in Transnistria as part of its war with Ukraine, which has already dragged on longer than expected.

Uma Purushothaman is Assistant Professor (Senior Scale) at the Department of International Relations, Central University of Kerala

Tensions in Transnistria

The small region wedged between Moldova to its west and Ukraine to its east risks being dragged into the ongoing conflict

TRANSNISTRIA FACTFILE

- Split from Moldova in 1991-92 war, amid collapse of the Soviet Union. Becomes a self-declared independent state not recognised internationally
- Referendum in 2006 saw 97.2% vote in favour of joining Russia

- It's a separatist region that permanently hosts estimated 1,500 Russian "peacekeeping" troops

- Population: 4,70,000

- Area: 4,000 sq km

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Apr 25-27, 2022: Transnistria officials claim series of incidents:

- Explosions hit state security HQ in Tiraspol. Separatist authorities blame Ukrainian "infiltrators"
- Blasts at Mayak radio centre damage Soviet-era masts used to broadcast Russian news

- Attack on military unit in village of Parcani, just outside Tiraspol

- Shots fired from Ukraine towards Kolbasina village, location of large Russian arms depot

Sources: AFP, BBC



■ Russia could use flare-up of tensions as pretext for invasion. If Russia reinforces Transnistria, it might then move on to Ukraine's key port city of Odesa

© GRAPHIC NEWS



KEYWORD

Quasi-federalism

Conscious effort on the part of the framers of the Constitution to ensure flexibility and accommodate diversity renders India's federalism an original form

VIGNESH KARTHIK K.R.

■ India consciously adopted a version of federalism that made the Union government and State governments interdependent on each other (with latter more vis-a-vis the former) thereby violating the primal characteristic of a federal constitution i.e., autonomous spheres of authority for Union and State governments.

■ There are four main reasons why India adopted a centralised federal structure. First was the partition of India and its concomitant concerns. The second reason was to forge a national civic identity. The third reason concerns the objective of building a welfare state and the final reason was to alleviate inter-regional economic inequality.

■ While the aforementioned reasons make a case for a centralised federal set-up, the structure's effectiveness is solely dependent on the intent and objectives a government aims to achieve.

■ While the aforementioned reasons make a case for a centralised federal set-up, the structure's effectiveness is solely dependent on the intent and objectives a government aims to achieve.

■ Professor Louise Tillin argues that a conscious effort on the part of the framers of the Constitution to ensure flexibility and accommodate diversity renders India's federalism an original form which is neither conventional nor reductive.

The reasons for a centralised federal structure

It is worth noting that the Indian National Congress (INC) vehemently opposed the discretionary powers of the provincial governors in the run-up to the 1937 elections and advocated in favour of autonomy. However, following the governance experience, in 1939, Nehru argued otherwise. Therefore, contextualising the choice of the framers of the Constitution provides a much-needed insight on the past, thereby helping one understand the present and imagine the future of India's federal ethos. Tillin presents at least four reasons that informed India's choice of a centralised federal structure.

First was the partition of India and the concomitant concerns. Anticipating the Muslim League's participation in the Constituent Assembly debates following the Cabinet Mission plan in 1946, the Objectives Resolution introduced by Jawaharlal Nehru in the Assembly were inclined towards a decentralised federal structure wherein States would wield residuary powers. Further, in his presidential address at the 44th session of the INC, J.B. Kripalani too spoke in favour of maximum autonomy to the States and regarded centralisation to be at odds with liberty. However, after the Partition a revised stand was unanimously taken by the Union Powers Committee of the Constituent Assembly, in favour of a strong Union with residuary powers and weaker States, to safeguard the integrity of the nation.

The second reason pivoted around the reconstitution of social relations in a highly hierarchical and discriminatory society towards forging a national civic identity as argued by Professor Katharine Adeney instead of immediate caste and linguistic identities. Dr. Madhav Khosla shows that Nehru and Ambedkar believed that a centralised federal structure would unsettle prevalent trends of social dominance, help fight poverty better and therefore yield liberating outcomes. The third reason concerns the objective of building a welfare state. Drawing from existing literature, Tillin shows that in a decentralised federal setup, redistributive policies could be structurally thwarted by organised (small and dominant) groups. Instead, a centralised federal set-up can prevent such issues and further a universal rights-based system.

The final reason involved the alleviation of

inter-regional economic inequality. The cotton mill industry in Bombay, and the jute mill industry in the Bengal region were subject to a 'race to the bottom' or rampant cost cutting practices. The Bengal region saw workers' rights and safety nets being thwarted by Anglo-Scottish mill owners. The Bombay region had an empowered working class – thanks to the trade unionists – thereby affecting the business interests of mill owners owing to race to the bottom practices in the adjacent cotton belt region mills.

Provincial interventions seemed to exacerbate inequalities. India's membership in the International Labour Organization, the Nehru Report (1928), and the Bombay Plan (1944) pushed for a centralised system to foster socio-economic rights and safeguards for the working and entrepreneurial classes.

The present and the future

While the aforementioned reasons make a case for a centralised federal set-up, the structure's effectiveness is solely dependent on the intent and objectives a government aims to achieve. For instance, Tillin observed that linguistic reorganisation would not have been possible if India followed a rigid or conventional federal system. In other words, the current form of federalism in the Indian context is largely a function of the intent of the government of the day and the objectives it seeks to achieve. The majoritarian tendencies prevalent today are subverting the unique and indigenised set-up into an asymmetrical one. *Inter alia*, delayed disbursal of resources and tax proceeds, bias towards electorally unfavourable States, evasion of accountability, blurring spheres of authority, weakening institutions, proliferation of fissiparous political ideologies all signal towards the diminishing of India's plurality or regionalisation of the nation – a process that is highly antithetical to the forging of a supra-local and secular national identity that preserves and promotes pluralism.

While it would be safe to argue that our federal set-up is a conscious choice, its furthering or undoing, will depend on the collective will of the citizenry and the representatives they vote to power.

Vignesh Karthik K.R. is a doctoral researcher at King's India Institute, King's College London. He tweets @krvtweets.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Good morning, sir."

"Good morning."

"Sir, do you write January 15th, 1960 or 15th January, 1960?"

"Well, there are several ways in which the date is written. Let's look at some of them. 15th January, 1960. January 15th, 1960. January 15, 1960. 15 January, 1960. 15/1/1960. All these are acceptable. When you write just the numbers, for example, 12/1/1960, it means 12th January, 1960. In the United States, 12-1-1960 means 1st December, 1960. Americans write the month first, then the date and then the year. In America 2/4/82 is not 2nd April, 1982 but 4th February, 1982. You must be careful. That's why Bernard Shaw said that the United States and Britain are two countries divided by the same language. I will give you another expression which is likely to cause misunderstanding."

An English lady staying in an American hotel said to the Manager:

"Please knock me up at six in the morning."

The Manager was taken aback at this request, for in American English 'to knock up' means 'to make pregnant'. What she meant was that the Manager should wake her up by knocking on the door. I know you want to know what happened to the English woman. I don't know myself. But the main thing is to remember that 'knock up' means one thing to an American and another to an Englishman."

"What's the difference between 'imaginary' and 'imaginative', sir?"

"Imaginary fears are not real fears. These are imagined by the individual concerned. Imaginary enemies are those who exist in one's imagination. 'Imaginary' means that which has no existence except in one's imagination. 'Imaginative' means 'having in a high degree, the faculty of imagination'."

He is an imaginative writer.

An imaginative person is one who has creative powers. Poets, novelists and artists are highly imaginative. An imaginary person doesn't exist; he is in one's imagination. An imaginative person is one who makes use of his imagination to create artistic forms. I hope I have made myself clear."

"Sir, what's the difference between 'aside from' and 'apart from'?"

"There is no difference. Both mean the same. 'Aside from' is American. Aside from this, do you have any other question?"

"No, sir."

"Well, let's call it a day. Goodbye."

"Thank you sir, Goodbye."

THE GIST

■ India consciously adopted a version of federalism that made the Union government and State governments interdependent on each other (with latter more vis-a-vis the former) thereby violating the primal characteristic of a federal constitution i.e., autonomous spheres of authority for Union and State governments.

■ There are four main reasons why India adopted a centralised federal structure. First was the partition of India and its concomitant concerns. The second reason was to forge a national civic identity. The third reason concerns the objective of building a welfare state and the final reason was to alleviate inter-regional economic inequality.

■ While the aforementioned reasons make a case for a centralised federal set-up, the structure's effectiveness is solely dependent on the intent and objectives a government aims to achieve.

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■ Professor Louise Tillin argues that a conscious effort on the part of the framers of the Constitution to ensure flexibility and accommodate diversity renders India's federalism an original form which is neither conventional nor reductive.

THE DAILY QUIZ

The United Nations declared May 3 as World Press Freedom Day. Here is a quiz on the press and journalists from across the world.

1 The UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize, awarded each year on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, was awarded to which individual in 2021? Where is the person from?

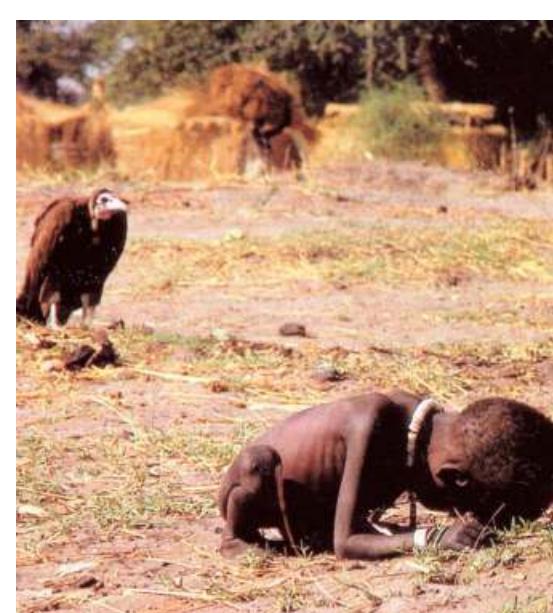
2 This declaration, adopted on May 3, 1991, in Namibia, is considered a benchmark for ensuring press freedom around the world. The ideas exchanged by African journalists and media professionals acted as a catalyst to encourage press freedom, independence and pluralism in Africa and in other parts of the world. What is the declaration called?

3 The right to freedom of opinion and expression which includes the freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media,

regardless of frontiers, is one of the rights stated under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Which article of the declaration supports the above stated right?

4 This country ranks 177th in the 2021 World Press Freedom Index published by Reporters without Borders. Article 35 of the constitution of this country provides its citizens with the right to observe press freedom in a free environment, however, Article 51 prohibits such activities citing national interest. Name the country.

5 National Press Day in India is celebrated every year on November 16. Which organisation in India started functioning from this day as a moral watchdog to ensure that press is not fettered by influence or threats?



◀ This picture won the Pulitzer Prize for Feature Photography award in 1994. Which photojournalist took this picture?

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

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The original publisher of Jawaharlal Nehru's *The Discovery of India*. Ans: Signet Press

2. The film which was Satyajit Ray's inspiration for his first directorial film, *Pather Panchali*. Ans: *The Bicycle Thieves* directed by Vittorio de Sica

3. One of the Ray's characters, Jayatay appears in the film *Sonar Kella*. In one of them Jayatay asks the hero about Feluda's waist and chest size to which he replies, "26 inches". In response, Jayatay says, "Are you a pig?" and then guffaws. The "nonsense" verse Jayatay was referring to in his rhetorical question. Ans: Sukumar Ray, Satyajit Ray's father, whose nonsense verse novella, *HajaBoRaLa* is referenced by Jayatay in his question

4. The film by Ray in which he made his debut as a music director. Ans: *Teen Kanya*

5. The film which is an adaptation of the book *Abataranika* by Narendranath Mitra. Ans: *Mahanagar*

6. The name of this actor who plays Arjun in *Joi Baba Felunath*. Ans: Kamu Mukherjee

Early Birds: Siriram Kalingarayar| Arnasree Chakraborty| Ronnie Chatterjee

FROM PAGE ONE

No one can be forced to get vaccinated, says SC

Dr. Puliyl, represented by advocate Prashant Bhushan, argued that certain vaccine mandates notified by States, including those that made vaccination a precondition for accessing any benefits or services, were violative of the rights of citizens and unconstitutional.

The Bench said courts had the authority to review whether the government's interventions into the personal autonomy of an individual and right to access means of livelihood met the "three-fold" requirements as expounded in the Constitution Bench judgment in K.S. Puttuswamy case (the judgment which upheld the right of privacy under Article 21).

The three-fold requirements include whether the legality of the limitations imposed by the government on individual rights presupposes the existence of a law. That is, the limitations should be backed by a clear statutory law. Second, the need for limitations should be proportionate to a legitimate state aim. Third, there should be rational nexus between the state's objectives for imposing the restrictions and the means adopted to achieve them.

Adverse events

The court directed the Centre to set up a virtual public platform at the earliest to facilitate individuals and private doctors to report adverse vaccine events without compromising privacy.

The Bench including Justice B.R. Gavai, in a judgment, held that India's paediatric vaccination policy against the COVID-19 virus was in tune with "global

scientific consensus" and the opinions of expert bodies such as the World Health Organization, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

However, the court held that materials published by the government did "not warrant the impression that the emergency use authorisation for Covishield and Covaxin vaccines was given in haste without thorough review of the data".

The court reiterated that subject to the protection of the privacy of individuals, with respect to ongoing and future trials, "all relevant data to be published under the statutory regime must be made available to the public without undue delay".

The court concluded that the Union government's current vaccination policy met the requirements and "cannot be said to be unreasonable and manifestly arbitrary".

The policy reflected the "near unanimous views of experts on the benefits of vaccination in addressing severe infection, oxygen requirements, hospital and ICU admissions, mortality rate and stopping of new variants from emerging".

The court hence "suggested" that, as long as the infection rate remained low or until any new development or research justified the imposition of "reasonable proportionate restrictions on unvaccinated individuals", all authorities, including private organisations and educational institutions, review their restrictions for the time being.

Local militants' count on the wane in Kashmir, says Army

Aadhaar cards recovered from 2 slain foreigners in a recent encounter

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR



Few options: The decline in participation of locals is pushing foreign militants to come out of their hideouts. ■ FILE PHOTO

Security forces were engaging more foreign militants during encounters in Kashmir because the number of local militants has dropped, according to Lieutenant-General D.P. Pandey, General Officer Commanding (GoC) of the Army's 15 Corps.

"A majority of foreign

militants were staying quiet and pushing local youth to the forefront to carry out attacks. Of late, the number of local militants has gone down significantly and the foreigners were feeling compelled to come out of their hideouts. This is why security forces were able to establish contacts [during encounters]," he said during a media interaction in Srinagar.

Lt. General Pandey, who has been assigned a new job, flagged the issue of recovery of valid Aadhaar cards from two foreigners killed in a re-

cent encounter. "This indeed is a challenge. If a person [foreign militant] comes out during a live encounter, having a valid Aadhaar card, it is difficult to challenge him," he stated. He reiterated that infiltration had dropped since the agreement between India and Pa-

kistan in 2020.

"This year, only one infiltration attempt was made and was foiled by alert troops. No major infiltration

was reported from across along the LoC this year. A robust counter-infiltration grid has been put in place by the Army on the LoC," he noted.

Narco-militant module

Meanwhile, the police on Monday said they busted an inter-district narco-militant module and arrested two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) "militant associates" along with 800 grams of heroin and arms in north Kashmir's Ba-

ramulla district. "During a routine joint checking at Chenad crossing, the Bara-

mulla police and the Army's 52 RR stopped two persons travelling in a tipper. During the search, 800 grams of contraband heroin-like substance was recovered from the vehicle. Both persons were arrested," the police said.

The arrested youth were identified as Nisar Ahmad Khan from Khahmoh area of Rafiabad, Baramulla, and Mohd Rafiq Khan from Lountha area of Tangdhar, Kupwara. "They admitted that they were working with the LeT and in close contact with handlers of the LeT across and working with LeT associates/ overground workers. Upon their disclosure, one AK 47 magazine, 15 live rounds of AK 47 and one Chinese grenade were recovered from the stepney of the vehicle," the police said.

CBI books Choksi in yet another case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered yet another case against Gitanjali Gems Limited, its fugitive director Mehul Choksi and others for allegedly cheating the IFCI Limited of ₹22.06 crore.

In its complaint, the IFCI Limited alleged that during 2014-18, it had disbursed the entire loan amount of about ₹25 crore to Gitanjali Gems on the basis of pledged shares, gold, diamonds and jewellery.

The accused soon started defaulting on load repayments. In order to recover the defaulted amount, IFCI Limited invoked the pledge and got a fresh valuation of the pledged jewels done. Their valuations dropped by 90% from the declared figures, revealing that they were pledged by projecting a highly inflated value.

MHA report flags NSCN-IM attacks

The Naga group was responsible for 44% of insurgency-related incidents in 2020

VIJAYITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM) was involved in 44% of insurgency related incidents in Nagaland in 2020, the annual report of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has said.

In 2015, the Union government signed a framework agreement with the NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, to find a solution to the Naga political issue. The negotiation is yet to be concluded.

Before this, the Government of India signed a formal ceasefire agreement with the NSCN-IM in 1997 and it was extended indefinitely since 2007.

Split into many groups
The umbrella NSCN group that came into being in 1980 following the failure of the 1975 Shillong Accord has further split into many



A ceasefire agreement was signed by the Centre and NSCN-IM in 1997.

groups. According to the 2019-20 annual report of the MHA, these insurgent groups are the NSCN (IM) led by Thuingaleng Muivah, the NSCN (K), NSCN/NK led by Neopao Konyak-Kitovi and the NSCN/R led by Y. Wangtien Konyak.

"Though steps have been taken by the government from time to time to control insurgency, the NSCN factions continue to indulge in factional violence and other

violent/illegal activities affecting normal life in the State," the 2019-20 report said.

The 2020-21 annual report said that, "Presently, various factions of the NSCN viz. NSCN(NK), NSCN(R) and NSCN(K-Khango) are under ceasefire with the Government of India. Currently, only one faction of the NSCN/K-Yung Aung faction, largely based in Myanmar, remains active," it said.

The report added that in 2020, Nagaland witnessed a 45% decline in the number of violent incidents compared to 2019 (2019 - 42, 2020 - 23) and the State witnessed no civilian and security forces' deaths in the year.

Counter-insurgency
"Counter-insurgency operations led to neutralisation of two insurgents, arrest of 222 insurgents and recovery of 84 weapons in the State in 2020. The NSCN/IM accounted for about 44% of the in-

States told to expedite scheme for disabled

Beneficiaries selected from 75 districts

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

As part of the celebrations of 75 years of Independence, the Union Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry has asked the States to speed up implementation of the Unique Disability ID (UDID) scheme for persons with disabilities (PwD) who have been selected for their connection with the Freedom Struggle from among 75 districts across India.

In a letter to the States on April 29, the Department of Empowerment of PWD under the Ministry said the Rural Development Ministry had selected the UDID programme as a part of its 90-day campaign ending on July 27 in districts "selected on the basis of unsung heroes of India's freedom struggle" under Azadi ka Amrit Mahtava.

The campaign aimed for 100% coverage of 17 Central schemes in the 75 districts, it said.

For the UDID project, the department said the targets were to clear all pending applications, digitise data of PwD who had been issued manual certificate and generate UDID cards for them and register those PwD with 40% disabilities who had not been enrolled onto the UDID portal yet.

Publicity programmes

Apart from this, the Ministry suggested intensive publicity programmes, setting up of district-level committees to oversee the progress and holding camps along with the rural development authorities, alongside camps for other Central schemes.

Among the selected districts are Ballia in Uttar Pradesh, native place of Mangal Pandey; Purba Midnapore in West Bengal, the home district of Matangini Hazra; and Alirajpur in Madhya Pradesh, where Chandra Shekhar Azad was from.

IN BRIEF



HC stays arrest of former AAP leader

CHANDIGARH The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Monday stayed the arrest of former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and poet Kumar Vishwas in connection with a case of allegedly making 'inflammatory statements' against Delhi Chief Minister and AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal, accusing him of having links with 'separatist elements'.

It added that in Arunachal Pradesh, the Naga insurgent groups were involved in perpetrating violent incidents. It said the NSCN-IM was involved in 11 incidents, the NSCN/KYK in five incidents and the NSCN/U and ENNG in two and one incidents respectively.

As many as 21 cases of kidnapping were reported in Arunachal Pradesh in 2020.

"While Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura remained by and large peaceful, there is a marked improvement in the security situation in other States of the region. In 2020, insurgency-related violence declined by 42% in Arunachal Pradesh, 12% in Assam, 23% in Manipur and 45% in Nagaland compared to 2019," the MHA report said.

Hardik drops Congress from Twitter profile bio

NEW DELHI In yet another sign of distancing himself from the Congress, Hardik Patel, the working president of the Gujarat Congress, has dropped the party name from his Twitter profile bio. The move has triggered buzz about his putative exit just months before elections in the State. Lately, the young leader has publicly criticised the Congress leadership while appreciating the BJP and its decisive leadership. The Congress's "hand" symbol has also been removed. In recent years, many leaders who have exited the Congress have usually dropped the first hint by changing their Twitter profile bio.

HC permits Nizamuddin centre to remain open

NEW DELHI The Delhi High Court on Monday permitted certain portions of Nizamuddin Markaz, which has been closed since March 31, 2020, to stay open till October 14. Justice Jasmeet Singh extended the interim order passed on April 1 on reopening certain portions of the premises in view of Ramzan and Id. The court had clarified that only religious prayers and namaz will be allowed during this period.

"No Tablighi activities" will be allowed on the premises, the court had specified.

Govt. won't interfere in BHU Iftar row: Maurya

VARANASI U.P. Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya on Monday said the State government won't intervene in Banaras Hindu University's iftar party row but suggested that the programme should have been avoided. The controversy should not have been invited by organising such a programme on the BHU campus, Mr. Maurya told reporters. "No such work was ever done on the university campus established by Pt Madan Mohan Malviya," he said. Mr. Maurya, however, clarified that the matter is between the university and students.

SC to hear plea on hate speech against Muslims

Jamiat's petition to come up on May 9

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court agreed to hear on May 9 a petition filed by the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind for action against the repeated instances of hate speeches against Muslims across the country.

A Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar said the court would examine the plea by Jamiat national president Maulana Mahmood A. Madani, who said hate speech feeds into a system of discrimination and has a cumulative effect on the dig-

nity of a group/community.

The petition cited inflammatory speeches made by Yati Narasinghanand Saraswati, the anti-Muslim slogans made at the Jantar Mantar rally, the campaign and protests against Friday 'namaz' in Gurugram where protesters disrupted congregations at designated plots by spreading cow dung, rallies held in Tripura in which derogatory slogans were made against the Prophet, speeches made by Sufi Pal Amu and Santhosh Thammaiah, and so on..

"We, as Europeans, think that one cannot isolate trade from other very relevant dimensions connected to trade," Mr. Van den Berg said, when asked if the European Union could not settle for a quick EU-India FTA focussed on areas of mutual agreement, with more thorny issues set aside for separate resolution. "Economics, trade and investments are very much connected - 70% - 80% of global trade is connected to investments. If we invest in each other's societies, you must also have dialogues on how we address environment issues and climate challenges

protection agreement, then the premium for insurance against risk of investment loss is higher," he observed. "Companies look for two things - certainty and transparency. An investment protection agreement gives certainty," he added, highlighting the significance of investment protection in trade negotiations.

"Our view is that there is a joint responsibility for the public and private sector to ultimately save our planet. So that's why we connect trade with environment but also trade with social issues," he said while on a visit to the office of *The Hindu*.

"When a company does business in a country that does not have an investment

Cannot isolate trade from investment, climate issues'

Netherlands Ambassador stresses investment protection

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

It is not possible to isolate trade from other issues related to trade including investment and the climate while negotiating a free trade agreement (FTA), Netherlands Ambassador to India Marten Van den Berg stressed on Monday.

"We, as Europeans, think that one cannot isolate trade from other very relevant dimensions connected to trade," Mr. Van den Berg said, when asked if the European Union could not settle for a quick EU-India FTA focussed on areas of mutual agreement, with more thorny issues set aside for separate resolution. "Economics, trade and investments are very much connected - 70% - 80% of global trade is connected to investments. If we invest in each other's societies, you must also have dialogues on how we address environment issues and climate challenges

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In tandem: Marten Van den Berg called for joint action from the public and private sectors to save the planet. ■ PICHUMANI K.

tion aspect then that would have a positive impact on investments."

Asked if India's position on the conflict in Ukraine was influenced in part by the West's response to India's border problems with China, he said: "It was never framed that way. I am not sure if that was the case, but it was not framed that way."

The Dutch government was sensitive to India's concerns, the Ambassador said, adding: "We are aware of the tensions between India and China, and also of China's position on security issues in the South China Sea. We are very much aware of the maritime security tensions. Netherlands was also one of the few European nations that had a policy paper on the Indo-Pacific that was welcomed by India."

North India may get respite from heat: IMD

However, no significant change in maximum temperatures over Gujarat and Maharashtra is expected in the next two days.

But temperatures are expected to rise again in the northwest, central India, Gujarat and Maharashtra in the latter half of the week. No significant change in

maximum temperatures are likely over the remaining parts of the country.

Light, moderate, isolated rainfall accompanied with thunderstorms and lightning was very likely over Jammu-Kashmir-Ladakh-Gilgit-Baltistan-Muzaffarabad, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand in the next 24 hours.

Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in Delhi emerged as the second busiest airport in the world in March 2022, toppling the Dubai International Airport, according to travel data provider OAG.

IGI saw a total of 36.11 lakh seats deployed by various airlines. The top 10 busiest airports rankings by the OAG are based on the total domestic and international seat capacity and the frequency of flights. The airport replaced Dubai International Airport which witnessed 35.54 lakh seats. Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport (ATL

No victory for anyone in Russia-Ukraine war: PM

In the first leg of his Europe visit, Modi signs agreements with Germany on partnership for sustainable development

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BERLIN

India believes no country would emerge victorious in the Russia-Ukraine war as all will suffer losses, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday, after holding talks with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz as both leaders reiterated the need for an immediate cessation of hostilities.

Addressing a joint press event with Mr. Scholz after co-chairing the 6th inter-governmental consultations between the two nations, Mr. Modi said India was concerned over the humanitarian impact of the conflict and had provided aid to Ukraine.

Mr. Modi, who arrived here on Monday morning on the first leg of his three-nation Europe trip that will also take him to Denmark and France, held talks with the German Chancellor on key



Warm reception: Narendra Modi greeting the Indian diaspora in Berlin on Monday. ■ PTI

areas of bilateral cooperation under the overall strategic partnership.

He also invited German participation in India's Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign.

The two leaders inked the Joint Declaration of Intent establishing the Indo-German Partnership for Green and

Sustainable Development under which Germany intends to strengthen its financial and technical cooperation and assistance to India with a long-term goal of at least €10 billion of additional commitments till 2030.

On the Ukraine crisis, Mr. Modi said from the start, In-

dia called for an immediate cessation of hostilities and stressed that talks were the only solution to resolve the dispute. "We believe that there will be no victorious party in this war and all will suffer losses. Therefore, we are on the side of peace," the Prime Minister asserted.

Mr. Scholz said that through its attack on Ukraine, Russia has violated fundamental principles of international law.

A joint statement issued after the talks said "Germany reiterated its strong condemnation of the unlawful and unprovoked aggression against Ukraine by Russian Forces". The statement further said Germany and India expressed their serious concern about the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and "unequivocally condemned" civilian deaths in Ukraine.

In a joint statement, both countries also stressed the significance of a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific and underlined the importance of unimpeded commerce and freedom of navigation in accordance with international law.

Germany is going to main-

tain and intensify its various commitments on the ground and India is amongst its very important partners in the region, the German Chancellor said. Mr. Modi and Mr. Scholz strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including any use of terrorist proxies and cross-border terrorism, the statement said.

G-7 summit

In his remarks, Mr. Scholz said he has also invited Mr. Modi to the G-7 summit in Germany and emphasised that India's role is important in the global economy, and climate change talks.

The Prime Minister also held an interaction with the Indian community in Germany as part of his visit. He urged the members of the diaspora to help take India's products to the global stage.

Ministry of External Affairs said in a press release. "Ways to further vitality of partnerships" were discussed, the MEA tweeted.

The Indian business delegation was led by Sanjiv Bajaj, President Designate, CII Chairman and Managing Director, Bajaj Finserv.

Baba N. Kalyani, C.K. Biria, Puneet Chhatwal, Salil Singh, Suman Sinha, Dinesh Khara, C.P. Gurnani and Deepak Bagla were part of the Indian delegation.

The German business delegation included representatives of Siemens, BASF, Bosch, Volkswagen, GFT Technologies Schaeffler and Deutsche Bank.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar too participated in the meeting.

T.N.'s Sri Lanka aid proposal gets Centre's approval

EAM S. Jaishankar spoke to Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

The Union government has accepted Tamil Nadu's proposal to send aid to the people of Sri Lanka, who have been severely affected by the prevailing economic crisis in the island nation.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Monday thanked Union External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar for accepting the State government's request.

In a social media post, Mr. Stalin said, "A personal thanks to Hon'ble @DrSJaishankar for accepting TN's request to help the people of SL. Am sure that this humane gesture will be greatly welcomed by all and help to improve the warmth and cordiality between nations. Let the goodwill grow in all spheres."

As for the State govern-



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in Chennai. ■ PTI

ment's earlier proposal for sending humanitarian assistance to the Tamil community in Sri Lanka. Mr. Jaishankar said the Sri Lankan government will accept inclusive relief on a Government-to-Government basis. The Foreign Secretary had spoken to the Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary and on April 16 highlighted that the Sri Lankan government would be open to humanitarian support on a Government-to-Government basis. Tamil

leaders in Sri Lanka were of the view that such humanitarian gestures at a time like this needed to be inclusive.

"This may be reflected in the distribution of supplies. The matter could, therefore, be coordinated by our High Commission, supplementing assistance already underway. The Ministry of External Affairs and our High Commission in Sri Lanka will be happy to facilitate assistance on the lines proposed," the Union Minister said.

Welcoming the move, Chirag Paswan stated that there was an urgent need in Bihar for leaders who are willing to work rising above the caste lines. Speaking to *The Hindu*, he said Bihar was in dire need of leaders who were committed to working for its development.

"Even after so many years, where the other States have progressed, Bihar is still fighting for the basic necessities. We are still strug-

No political space for Kishor, says JD(U)



Friendlier times: In this photo dated June 9, 2019, Prashant Kishor, centre, is seen with Nitish Kumar and K.C. Tyagi. ■ PTI

gling for roads, water connection, education, employment and medical facilities. Ultimately, it is for the State people to take the call. We need leaders who will work beyond the caste lines and compulsions of alliance politics," he observed.

JD(U) secretary general K.C. Tyagi told *The Hindu*, "Any individual or group of people can form any political outfit. But as far as Bihar is concerned, the government of Nitish Kumar is going very well on all the deve-

lopmental indices. There is no scope for a regional or a national outfit to the Nitish model of governance in the State."

RJD reaction

The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) is watching the development from a distance.

"What exactly is Mr. Kishor's objective. We so far do not know. In 2015, when Nitish Kumar was going to take oath as Chief Minister, Mr. Kishor accompanied him. Nitish ji had gone ahead and

declared him as the future of Bihar and then they publicly fell out. Anyway, political parties cannot be formed overnight. You can't simply press a button to erect an institution. We shall wait and see," party leader Shivanand Tiwari said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kishor has started building the ground to construct his political outfit. On Monday, he met noted Right to Information (RTI) activist Shiv Prakash Rai and social activist Guddu Baba at Patna's Sheikhpura House to discuss Bihar's political situation.

Sources close to Mr. Kishor told *The Hindu* that he would meet around 100 social activists, intellectuals and members of civil society from across the State in the next few days to explore possibilities of his imminent plunge into politics.

Mr. Kishor is likely to meet social activist Mukesh Hisaria, Pravez Aziz, Irfan Alam and others. He is expected to visit Bihar districts beginning in June.

Bypolls to 3 Assembly seats on May 31

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Monday announced bypolls to three Assembly seats, including Champawat in Uttarakhand where Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami is set to contest.

Polling for the seats, including Brajrajnagar in Odisha and Thrikakkara in Kerala, would be held on May 31 and the counting of votes on June 3, according to the schedule. Mr. Dhami lost the Khatima seat during the Uttarakhand Assembly election in March. In April, the BJP MLA from Champawat, Kailash Chandra Gahtori, resigned to make way for Mr. Dhami.

Counting of votes will be held on June 3, the EC said. The nomination process will begin on May 4 when the notification will be issued. May 11 will be the last date for filing nominations.

AAP expels Himachal leader over 'pro-Khalistan' tweets

'Party firmly believes in unity of nation'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SHIMLA

The Aam Aadmi Party has expelled its Himachal Pradesh social media in-charge Harpreet Singh Bedi over his alleged "pro-Khalistan" tweets.

The move came after the ruling BJP on Sunday accused Mr. Bedi of openly supporting Khalistan, alleging that he had put out a series of tweets in its support some years ago.

In a tweet, the State unit of AAP said, "Views expressed by Harpreet Singh Bedi in his tweets are against Aam Aadmi Party's ideology & do not represent the opinion of the party in any way".

"The party hereby expels him (Harpreet Singh Bedi) from all posts with immediate effect".

In another tweet, it said, "AAP firmly believes in the unity & integrity of our great nation & would never tolerate anyone writing anything against our country".

Mr. Bedi had in 2012 and 2020 posted a series of anti-India and pro-Khalistan tweets, demanded new currency for the separatist group, and posted a dollar that depicted the "Republic of Khalistan" with a photo of the group's leader,



BJP State general secretary Trilok Jamwal had told the media.

Referring to another alleged tweet by Mr. Bedi, Mr. Jamwal had said he had mentioned that Sikhs could demand Khalistan as per the Constitution.

Funding by separatists

Mr. Bedi's tweets clearly indicated that AAP's national convener Arvind Kejriwal was associated with Khalistanis and that the separatist group had been funding his party, the BJP leader had alleged.

Mr. Jamwal had claimed that after he raised the issue, Mr. Bedi had deleted his Twitter account but said he had screenshots of those tweets.

भारत सरकार/Government of India		
आंतरिक विभाग/Department of Space		
राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष नियंत्रण संगठन /Indian Space Research Organisation		
राष्ट्रीय सदूर सर्वेन केंद्र/National Remote Sensing Centre		
बालानगर, हैदराबाद/balanager, Hyderabad 500 037		
ADVERTISEMENT NO. NRSC/RMT/2022 Dt. 02.05.2022		
NOTIFICATION FOR CONTRACT EMPLOYMENT		
NRSC invites applications for following post(s) on Contract basis:		
POST CODE	NAME OF THE POST	NO. OF POSITIONS
01	Quality Manager (Q.M)	01
For detailed advertisement candidates are advised to visit NRSC website: www.nrsc.gov.in		
Last Date for Receipt of Applications: 23.05.2022		
"Government strives to have a workforce which reflects gender balance and women candidates are encouraged to apply"		

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU		
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT		
Buildings (C&M) circle, Tirunelveli – 627 002.		
TYPE OF CONTRACT: LUMP SUM		
(Pre Qualification (Two Cover System) & Rate Tender System)		
Short Term Tender Notice No : 04/2022-2023 / Dated: 02.05.2022		
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu sealed Tenders are invited from the contractors registered in Public Works Department in the appropriate class to the office of the Superintending Engineer, PWD, Buildings (C&M) circle, Tirunelveli.		
Tender Schedule Available Date : 05.05.2022 to 19.05.2022 Upto 5.45 PM.		
Tender Schedule Receiving last Date : Up to 3.00 PM on 20.05.2022		
Tender Opening Date : At 3.30 PM on 20.05.2022.		
Total No. of Work : 1		
Total Approximate Value of Works : Rs.5620.00 Lakhs.		
For further details and tender documents visit the website www.tenders.tn.gov.in and www.intenders.gov.in		
Superintending Engineer PWD., Buildings(C&M) circle, Tirunelveli-2.		

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA		
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER		
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KENDRAPARA-JAJPUR.		
AT/PO- NAYABAZAR, CUTTACK -753004, Tel No. 0671-2444488, Email- serv_kpl@yahoo.com		
No. Tender Online RCK-12/22	Letter No.-	Date :-
e-Procurement NOTICE		
1. Name of the work : Tender for the road projects of Constituency wise R.D Roads developed under MMSY Scheme during 2021-22 in the Dist. of Kendrapara-Jajpur		
2. Class of contractor : Special Class & Super Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.		
a) Estimated cost more than Rs.6.00 Crore & upto Rs.15.00 Crore		
b) Estimated cost more than Rs.3.00 Crore & A & Special Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.		
c) Estimated cost more than Rs. 40.00 Lakh & B & A Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.		
d) & Rs.3.00 Crore		
3. Time for Completion : As specified in the Column-6 of the Annexure.		
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached		
5. Other Details :		
Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding
		From To
1	Tender Online RCK - 12/22	06.05.2022 at 11.00 A.M. to 05.00 P.M.
		19.05.2022 up to 05.00 P.M.
		21.05.2022 at 11.30 A.M.
		Will be intimated later
Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification		
Technical Bid Financial Bid		
Date & Time of opening of tender		
Date & Time of opening of envelope A & B		
Tenderers are requested to note that tender is being invited through e-procurement. Tender documents can be obtained online from MMRDA e-Tendering Portal : https://etendermmrda.maharashtra.gov.in . For detailed information and subsequent Addendum/ Corrigendum (if any), please log on to above e-Tendering Portal.		
For any additional information & help for uploading & downloading the e-Tender, please contact MMRDA's e-tendering service desk at the following e-mail address: etendersupport@mailmmrda.maharashtra.gov.in or call on 022-26597445.		
In case of any query/ clarifications, tenderers are requested to contact Shri. Sushil Chandra, Director (Maintenance) at his Email: sushil.chandra@mailmmrda.maharashtra.gov.in		
Date : 03.05.2022		
Place : Mumbai		

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HOMOEOPATHY
Jawaharlal Nehru Bhartiya Chikitsa Ayurved Homoeopathy Anusandhan Bhawan
No.61-65, Institutional Area, Opp. D' Block, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110 058
Phone : (Direct) 011-28522906 E-mail: nchindia21@gmail.com Website : www.nch.org.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

It has come to the notice of this Commission that some Homoeopathic Medical Colleges/Institutions are misguiding and misinterpreting the public (parents and aspirants) alluring for admissions in BHMS and MD (Hom.) courses in their Colleges and giving publicity that the students who have not qualified the NEET examination can take admissions in their Institutions/Colleges. Such information are false and misleading. The students who have not qualified NEET Exam may be permitted by the Colleges to fill the vacant seats after exhausting NEET qualified candidates list, as directed by some of the Hon'

IN BRIEF



Ex-Petroleum Secretary is new adviser to PM

NEW DELHI
Former Petroleum Secretary Tarun Kapoor has been appointed an adviser to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Personnel Ministry said on Monday. Mr. Kapoor superannuated as the Secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on November 30, 2021. "The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Mr. Kapoor, as adviser to the Prime Minister, in the PMO for two years," it said. **PTI**

Trinamool celebrates victory anniversary

KOLKATA
West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said that May 2 would henceforth be called 'Maa, Maa, Manush Divas'. It is on this day last year that the Trinamool Congress registered a thumping victory over the BJP in the Assembly election, winning 213 of the 294 seats, to form the government for the third consecutive term in the State. *Maa, Maa, Manush* (Mother, Land and People) is the slogan of the Trinamool Congress. "I am ever grateful to our *Maa, Mati, Manush* for having shown to the high and mighty, last year on this day, the indomitable courage of Bengal," the Trinamool Congress chairperson said.

Two tremors hit Gir Somnath in Gujarat

VERVALA
Two successive tremors of 4 and 3.2 magnitude jolted a village in Gujarat's Gir Somnath district on Monday morning, officials said. Residents of Talala village, located some 25 km from Veraval, woke up from sleep and ran out of their homes after experiencing the tremors, but there was no report of any casualty or damage to property, said officials. The first tremor of 4.0 magnitude was recorded at 6.58 a.m., with its epicentre 13 km north-northeast of the village, the Institute of Seismological Research (ISR) said. **PTI**

Haryana BJP MLA vows to make India 'Hindu Rashtra'

CHANDIGARH
A BJP legislator from Haryana took an oath on Monday to make India a Hindu nation. Ambala (city) MLA Assem Goel took the pledge along with others at an event held by a social organisation in Ambala. Later, the legislator told reporters that the vow taken by him was in capacity as a 'Hindu' and not that as a BJP MLA. He said he also favoured the Uniform Civil Code. In a video of the event that has emerged on social media, a group of people can be heard asserting that to ensure that India is declared a Hindu nation, they will, if needed make or take sacrifice.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

SC apprised of school dropouts over COVID-related penury

Court told that there was no information about children who left school

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court's attention was drawn on Monday to the reality that an unaccounted number of children may have dropped out of school because their parents, though alive, lost their jobs or families got displaced during the COVID-19 outbreak.

So far, the court has mainly focused on identifying children orphaned or who have lost one of their parents to the pandemic. A Bench led by Justice L. Nageswara Rao learnt that very little was known about children who were forced to drop out of school during the COVID-19 upsurge when their families lost their sole means of sustenance. In fact, the court wondered whether children who dropped out because their parents lost their liveli-

Though schools have resumed classes, many students remain at home out of difficult circumstances at home. **PTI**

hood may equal, if not best, the number of children orphaned by COVID-19.

The Supreme Court's *amicus curiae*, advocate Gaurav Agarwal, said these children who left school to support their families had not got the attention they deserved. While authorities such as the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and the State go-

vernments were actively collecting data on COVID orphans, children who dropped out of school hardly get a mention on the sole reason that their parents or guardians were still alive.

He said such children also do not figure in the NCPCR's "Bal Swaraj" portal. There was no information, even on the Internet, about children who left school after their

parents lost their jobs or the families got displaced due to migration of labour, the *amicus curiae* submitted. He said the only way forward to track these children would be to have the Education departments verify their details.

"Education is the fundamental right of these children... Why can't the State come to their rescue," Justice Rao asked. The court ordered the NCPCR to "ponder" over the issue raised by Mr. Agarwal and submit its suggestions for a way out on the next date of hearing. The Bench asked the States and Union Territories also to respond to the issue and come up with a course of action to "ensure that dropouts due to the adverse effects of COVID would not continue".

The Bench scheduled the hearing next week.

DGCA to inspect all SpiceJet aircraft after injuries to fliers

Two remain in ICU with injuries due to mid-air turbulence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) will inspect the entire SpiceJet fleet of 91 aircraft after mid-air turbulence on Sunday left several passengers of a Mumbai-Durgapur Boeing 737-800 flight injured. Two of them are in the intensive care unit and one is in another ward.

The flight encountered severe turbulence during descent while preparing to land around 5 p.m. on Sunday. Fourteen passengers and three cabin crew were injured. The injuries were on the head, spine, shoulder and face, the aviation regulator said.

Not up to scratch?

"As a precautionary measure, we have decided to examine the maintenance standards of SpiceJet's entire

A view of the cabin of the turbulence-hit SpiceJet plane to Durgapur. **PTI**

fleet. The airline has often been found wanting in this aspect. If needed, we may ground a few planes and ask the airline to address shortcomings before they are allowed to fly again," a senior DGCA official said.

The airline operates a

fleet of 69 Boeing 737s and 22 Q400s.

The DGCA has also off-rostered the pilot, the co-pilot and the aircraft maintenance engineer who leased the aircraft.

The regulator has categorised the event as an "accident". This means the investigation will now be handled by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau.

According to the International Civil Aviation Organization, there are three categories of occurrences – incidents, accidents and serious accidents. It is an accident if a person is fatally or seriously injured or the aircraft sustains damage or it goes missing.

Civil Aviation Minister Jyoti Raditya Scindia called the incident unfortunate and said the matter was being dealt with "utmost seriousness & deftness".

HC to hear Mevani case on May 27

THE HINDU BUREAU
GUWAHATI/NEW DELHI

The Gauhati High Court on Monday stayed the adverse remarks made by a district judge against the Assam police while granting bail to Independent Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mevani in an assault case on April 29.

Hearing an appeal filed by the Assam government, Justice Devasish Baruah clarified that the order should not be interpreted as a stay on the grant of bail by the district judge.

Mr. Mevani was arrested on April 20 for an allegedly offensive tweet against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a complaint was lodged in Kokrajhar dis-

tict.

A. Chakravarty, the judge of the District and Sessions Court in western Assam's Barpeta, had observed that the second case was false and said the Assam police should undergo reforms to give credibility to their versions related to the killing or shooting of several alleged criminals in its custody.

The court has fixed May 27 as the next date of hearing of the case.

Addressing a press meet in New Delhi, Mr. Mevani said the arrest by the Assam police was a conspiracy at the behest of the Prime Minister's Office to 'destroy' him ahead of the Assembly elections. He announced that he would take to the streets and call for a Gujarat bandh on June 1 over a range of issues.

Over 1-crore cataract surgeries pending: govt.

Campaign to clear backlog to start

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Ninety-three lakh cataract surgeries were performed between 2020 and 2022.

Mr. Mandaviya is also scheduled to chair the 14th conference of the Central Council of Health & Family Welfare (CCHFW), an apex advisory body of the Health Ministry, as "Swasthya Chinatán Shivir", at Kevadia, Gujarat, from May 5 to 7.

The objective of the three-day conference is to review the implementation of policies and programmes relating to the medical and public health sectors and to recommend ways and means for better implementation of these policies/programmes for the benefit of the common people," he said.

The delays were caused due to medical establishments slowing down surgeries due to the pandemic in the past two years, he said.

Cataract surgeries would be now done under a special campaign to clear the backlog and the States would be given guidance to conduct the same. "The government has proposed to increase the number of cataract surgeries to be carried out progressively in the financial year 2022-23 [75 lakh], 2023-24 [90 lakh] and 2024-25 [105 lakh]," he stated.

He is currently touring Europe, and is expected to travel east for the Quad summit in Japan, expected to be held on May 23 and 24.

SUHASINI HAIDAR
KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW YORK/NEW DELHI

Ahead of Buddha Purnima (birth anniversary) on May 16, the government is planning a visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Lumbini in Nepal, the Buddha's birthplace recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, sources confirmed.

National Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba is expected to be in Lumbini to mark the occasion, the sources added.

The visit, which comes a month after Mr. Deuba travelled to India for a bilateral visit, is not expected to include a stop at Kathmandu at present.

The visit to Nepal will be one of three trips the Prime Minister will undertake in May, since he restarted international travel after the Omicron variant of the novel coronavirus spread.

He is currently touring Europe, and is expected to travel east for the Quad summit in Japan, expected to be held on May 23 and 24.

Close bonds: Narendra Modi during a visit to the Pashupatinath temple in Nepal in May 2018. **AP**

special three-day event planned for the first Buddha Purnima being celebrated since the pandemic broke out in 2020.

Lamp-lighting event

Temple trustees have told local media that the two Prime Ministers will take part in the lamp-lighting ceremony at the temple. According to the sources, the Ministry of External Affairs and security officials have already conducted a reconnaissance of the arrangements for the visit, as have Nepal's government officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Culture.

Mr. Modi will fly from Delhi to the recently inaugurated Kushinagar International airport, and then fly by helicopter to Lumbini, a short distance from the India-Nepal border.

This would mark Mr. Modi's first visit to Nepal since he was re-elected in 2019. In his previous term, he visited Nepal on four occasions, including twice in 2014 and twice in 2018.

Mr. Deuba is also expected to attend the May 16 ceremonies, which are a part of a

Probe team submits report on Mon killings

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

police officials in Nagaland confirmed that the report – a chargesheet – was submitted to the District and Sessions Court in mid-April. But a district official said the report would be resubmitted after the public prosecutor made some additions.

"The contents of the report cannot be divulged

now," a SIT member said.

According to the Mon official, scrutinising a report to make it a watertight case for prosecution or trial was a routine practice.

In case of alleged crimes committed by the Central forces while discharging official duties, prosecution

sanction is required to be ob-

tained from the Union government before submitting a chargesheet in a court.

The SIT was constituted a day after 13 people were killed in the botched ambush and resultant violence. Two others – a soldier at Oting and a civilian in Mon, about 60 km away – were killed too.

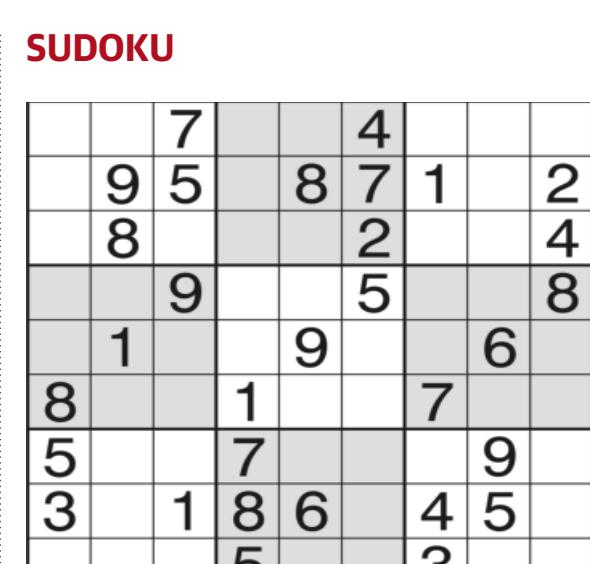
Don't cause communal friction on Id: MNS chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray, who had earlier issued an ultimatum to the community and the State government to remove loudspeakers from mosques by May 3, urged

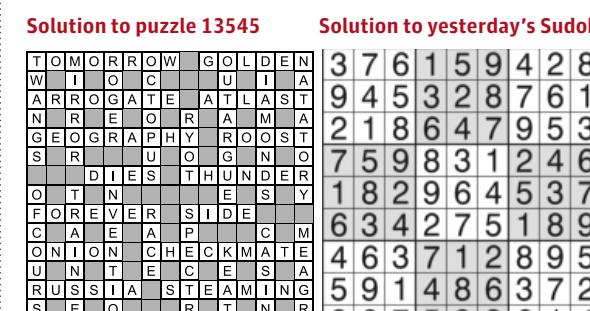
his followers not to cause any communal friction on Id by performing 'aaratis'. Mr. Thackeray, who had said the MNS had no wish heighten social tensions, tweeted that the loudspeakers' issue was a social, not a religious problem.

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13545



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

FAITH

Special prayers & Eid-ul-Fitr

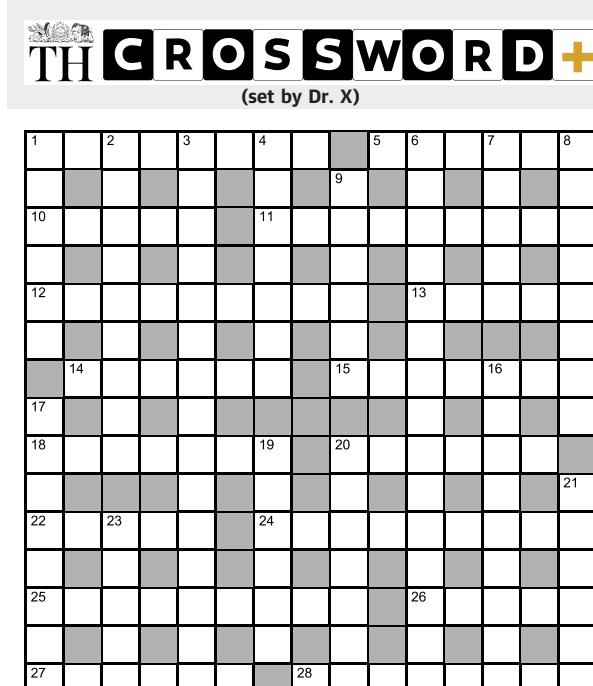
Muslims around the world celebrate the Eid-ul-Fitr marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan, observed as a month of fasting, self-reflection, repentance, purification of the self, and pursuits of piety. The Eid is the celebration of the successful completion of the holy month and is an expression of gratitude to the God for the believers are rewarded. Celebrating this day, Muslims congregate at mosques and Eidgahs for a special prayer to express their gratitude to the Almighty. Every Muslim is obligated to offer zakat al-fitr to the needy before the celebratory congregational prayer to ensure that nobody goes hungry on the day of the Eid.

The holy month of Ramadan commemorates the first revelation of the Holy Quran and Muslims spent their day and night in prayers and recitation of the Quran. Muslims, through their prayers and fasting, seek to connect with the divine, cleanse their inner-self and build a society with character. Muslims stop their routine way of living as part of their efforts to realise the ethical self and the moral society Islam wants to create. This helps crush ego and arrogance, and annihilates greed and vanity. The fasting is self-regulated and it reflects the freedom bestowed on humans.

Fasting is not about mere abstinence from drinking, eating, and sexual pleasures. It is to augment piety, self-reflection, and self-restraint. It promotes the ethics of compassion, simplicity and kindness. For Muslims, faith (imaan), and piety can't be attained through formal ritualism alone, it requires believers to fulfil their responsibility to the fellow beings too. The spirit of Ramadan is to make the world a better place to live, which will be rewarded by the almighty God.

P.K Abdul Rahman

TH CROSSWORD (set by Dr. X)



ACROSS

- Use sexier moves to enthrall college sweetheart (8)
- Ignores urges to consume heroin finally (6)
- Deception to get hold of complete genetic sequence (5)
- Centre ordered – maintain distance, showing restraint (9)
- Force returns to investigate about trouble in European city (9)
- Posh woman in retro joint is not married (5)
- Fixed grimace in onset of rabid seizure (6)

CM YK

SSS426 Date: 03/05/2022 www.knowthegame.com

A N D - N D E

China's economy falters amid COVID woes

Companies and investors unsure about how govt. plans to balance 'zero-COVID' approach and growth

ANANTH KRISHNAN
HONG KONG

A long-time China investor's declaration that the Chinese economy was "in the worst shape in the past 30 years" has underlined growing concerns over growth amid Beijing's continued emphasis on harsh COVID-19 lockdowns.

Those fears have deepened following latest data, released over the weekend, showing a slowdown in manufacturing and services to a two-year low.

The ruling Communist Party's Politburo met on Friday and pledged a slew of policies to support embattled sectors, from real estate to tech, which had already been reeling from regulatory interventions by the Xi Jinping government before the latest spread of Omicron cases and widening lockdowns.

The Politburo meeting, at the same time, said the country would follow the stringent "zero-COVID" approach favoured by President Xi.

That has left companies



Deepening crisis: Employees at work on a truck assembly line at a factory in Qingzhou in Shandong province. • AFP/FILE

and investors unsure about how the government plans to meet what some analysts say are contradictory targets as it balances zero-COVID and growth.

Rare comments that emerged this past weekend from prominent investor Weijian Shan, chairman of Hong Kong private equity firm PAG and a major investor in China who has broadly been positive about the economy, portrayed a dire picture of the current situation

so in the worst state in three decades.

The more than month-long lockdown of Shanghai has had spillover effects likely to severely hurt growth in the second quarter. The economy grew 4.8% in Q1. Most economists say it is unlikely now that the government will meet its 5.5% annual growth target.

Data released this weekend showed activity in manufacturing and services sectors fell to a two-year low. The manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) shrank to 47.4 from 49.5 in March, the Hong Kong-based *South China Morning Post* reported, while the official non-manufacturing PMI contracted to 41.9 in April from 48.4 the previous month.

The spillover impact of zero-COVID curbs has also hit the agriculture sector because strict measures "have hampered the movement of farmers and materials," financial magazine *Caixin* reported last week.

While spring cultivation had begun, farmers in provinces with tight curbs such as Jilin, the second-largest province for corn production, said they were facing labour shortages and difficulties in securing seeds and fertilisers.

Movement of goods across provinces has also been severely impacted because provincial governments have been, on the one hand, tasked by Beijing to stamp out COVID-19, while, on the other, to keep transport channels open. Faced with the seemingly contradictory objectives, most local governments have so far prioritised maintaining zero-COVID over growth.

Many farmers have also been unable to work because of being placed under lockdown.

One farmer told *Caixin* he was unable to return home last month for spring planting as he was not given a travel permit because of COVID-19 curbs.

EU slaps anti-trust charge against Apple

The tech firm is accused of blocking rivals from its iPhone payment system

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRUSSELS

The EU accused Apple on Monday of blocking rivals from its popular "tap-as-you-go" iPhone payment system, opening a fresh battlefield between the U.S. tech giant and Brussels.

"The preliminary conclusion that we reached today relates to mobile payments in shops, by excluding others from the game," said Margrethe Vestager, the EU's anti-trust chief.

"Apple has unfairly shielded its Apple Pay wallets from competition. If proven this

behaviour would amount to abuse of a dominant position, which is illegal under our rules," Ms. Vestager told reporters.

The European Commission, the bloc's competition watchdog, specifically charged the iPhone maker with preventing competitors trying to enter the contactless market "from accessing the necessary hardware and software... to the benefit of its own solution, Apple Pay".

The accusation is the latest salvo against U.S. tech giants by EU regulators, who have also taken aim at Ap-



Margrethe Vestager
ple's music streaming and e-book businesses.

The company is also a main target of the Digital Markets Act, a landmark EU law that will prohibit Apple and other US tech giants from privileging their own

services in its products and platforms.

The EU's outline of the case came after the commission launched an investigation in 2020 that was fuelled by complaints from European banks that resist paying a fee to Apple in order to reach their customers via apps.

The battle comes as tech giants eye personal finance as a new moneymaker, with Google, Amazon and Facebook owner Meta also seeking ways to replace credit cards or the need of carrying a wallet.

New Zealand allows tourists after 2 years

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KYIV

vehicles from UNICEF and other international NGOs were on standby.

Delay in evacuation

In coordinated efforts between Ukraine, Russia and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), another evacuation had been hoped to start first thing on Monday but by lunchtime, there was no sign of movement.

Several hundred Ukrainian soldiers and civilians have been sheltering in the maze of Soviet-era underground tunnels underneath the steelworks, many of whom require medical attention.

Mariupol is an important strategic hub connecting the Russian-held southern and eastern parts of Ukraine and has seen some of the worst of the fighting.

After failing to take the capital Kyiv in the first few weeks of the war, Moscow's Army has refocused on the east of Ukraine, notably the Donbas region, which includes the pro-Russian separatist areas of Donetsk and Lugansk.

Fighting is particularly intense around Izyum, Lyman and Rubizhne, as the Russians prepare their attack on Severodonetsk, the last eastern city still held by Kyiv, Ukraine's general staff said.

ELSEWHERE

'Pak. govt. may suspend Nawaz's conviction'

Pakistan government is considering suspending former PM Nawaz Sharif's conviction in corruption cases to offer him a chance to plead afresh before a court of law, according to reports. The 72-year-old three-time PM, against whom several graft cases were launched by the government of former PM Imran Khan, left for London in November 2019 after the Lahore High Court granted him four-week permission allowing him to go abroad for his treatment. PTI

Eight killed in Philippines housing fire

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MANILA

Eight people died, including six children, when a fire ripped through a poor community in the Philippines capital of Manila on Monday and destroyed 80 houses, a fire official said.

Another three people were injured in the blaze which started around 5 a.m. on the second floor of a house in a crowded, informal settlement inside the campus of the University of the Philippines.

It took nearly two hours to extinguish the inferno, Senior Fire Officer Greg Bichayda said. The victims were trapped inside their homes as "the fire spread quickly", he said.

More than 13 million people live in the densely populated capital, with tens of thousands in overcrowded slums where fires are common. Many of the residents have fled rural poverty to live in Manila where there are more jobs.

Tunisia announces 'national dialogue' without Opposition

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TUNIS

Tunisian President Kais Saied has announced the launch of "national dialogue" to help resolve a political crisis following his controversial power grab, but excluding critical Opposition groups.

Mr. Saied, a former law professor elected in 2019 amid public anger against the political class in the North African nation, sacked the government on July 25 last year, later moving to rule by decree in moves opponents dubbed a "coup".

In a speech late on Sunday, Mr. Saied said a commission would manage "the

national dialogue", a measure demanded repeatedly by the G7 nations and EU.

Mr. Saied's proposed talks will include four groups which, together as the "National Dialogue Quartet", jointly won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2015 for its work in building what was, at the time, the only democracy that emerged from the 2011

Arab Spring.

The four groups are the Tunisian General Labour Union (UGTT), the Tunisian Confederation of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts (UTICA), the Tunisian Human Rights League and the Tunisian Order of Lawyers.

On Sunday, UGTT leader Noureddine Taboubi appealed to Mr. Saied to launch the national dialogue.

However, Mr. Saied ruled out participation of those "who sabotaged, starved and mistreated the people", suggesting it would not include parties and civil society organisations which have denounced his seizure of power.



इन्दौर विकास प्राधिकरण
INDORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



Date: 02/05/2022

TENDER ID 2022_DTCP_200579_1 (1st Call)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Online tenders are invited on Percentage of project cost basis from the Consulting Organization / Firm / Individual qualifying the eligibility criteria as per tender document. Tender documents can be purchased from Website <https://www.mptenders.gov.in>. Help manual can be seen on the portal of e-procurement system.

S. No.	NAME OF WORK	Estimated cost of Project (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Cost of Tender form + GST(Rs.)	Time allowed for completion including rainy season	Eligibility Criteria	Last date & Time of Purchase and Submit Tender	Remarks
01	RFP For Selection of an Architectural Consultant for designing of Master Plan for Mixed land use Development with Planning and Designing of First Phase Building in proposed Startup Park at Super Corridor Indore	450.00 Crores	900000/-	23600/-	36 Months including Rainy Seasons	As Specified in RFP documents	26/05/2022 upto 17:30 Hrs	GST shall be paid separately as per applicable rates. So Tender Rates should be quoted accordingly

Note:-

- The Firms should have registration with Employees Provident Fund, GST and PAN. Copy of registration is to be submitted along with tender document. In case if the firm is not having registration then an application for the registration will be also considered.
- All details relating to the Bid Document(s) can be viewed and downloaded free of cost on the website.
- Tender Document can be purchased after making online payment of portal fees through Credit/ Debit/ Cash Card/ internet banking.
- Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper.
- Any type of exemption in Tender Form Fees/EMD will not be allowed and Tender without Tender form Fees/EMD shall be rejected prima-facie.
- If you have any Technical query regarding this tender please write to A.K. Khare (Mob: 9406621090) at idaindore7@yahoo.in. For query regarding online submission of this tender call Shri Mukesh Jadhav on 9301340967.

(A.K. Khare) Chief City Planner
Indore Development Authority
Mob: 9406621090

Israel slams Russia over Lavrov's Nazism remarks

The Minister had said that 'the biggest anti-semites were Jews'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TEL AVIV

Israel on Monday lashed out at Russia over "unforgivable" comments by its Foreign Minister about Nazism and anti-Semitism – including claims that Adolf Hitler was Jewish. Israel, which summoned the Russian Ambassador in response, said the remarks blamed Jews for their own murder in the Holocaust.



Sergey Lavrov

were Jewish," he said, speaking to the station in Russian, dubbed over by an Italian translation.

In some of the harshest remarks since the start of the war in Ukraine, Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid called Mr. Lavrov's statement "unforgivable and scandalous and a horrible historical error."

"The Jews did not murder themselves in the Holocaust," said Mr. Lapid, the son of a Holocaust survivor. "The lowest level of racism against Jews is to blame Jews themselves for anti-Semitism."

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett also condemned Mr. Lavrov's comments.

"His words are untrue and their intentions are wrong," he said. "Using the Holocaust of the Jewish people as a political tool must cease immediately."

'Heavy fighting' in Ukraine's east

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KYIV

Ukrainian authorities were hoping on Monday to evacuate more civilians from the besieged southern port city of Mariupol, as Russia's offensive in the east of Ukraine continued with "active and heavy" fighting.

Kyiv said more than 100

civilians were evacuated over the weekend from the sprawling Azovstal plant,

the last holdout of Ukrainian forces in Mariupol which has been surrounded by Russian forces since they invaded Ukraine on February 24.

They were awaited on

Monday in Ukraine-controlled Zaporizhzhia, where



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MARKET WATCH

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	56,976	-0.15
US Dollar	76.48	0.03
Gold	50,936	-1.34
Brent oil	107.34	---

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	856.55	0.15
Apollo Hosp	4304.75	-149.60
Asian Paints	3200.00	-37.20
Axis Bank	727.35	-1.25
Bajaj Auto	3623.45	-10.10
Bajaj Finance	14957.45	-46.20
Bharti Airtel	741.35	2.35
BPLC	366.45	3.85
Britannia Ind	3271.30	-7.95
Cipla	976.60	-4.60
Coal India	187.65	4.80
Divis Labs	4509.65	-4.25
Dr Reddy's Lab	4123.90	-8.05
Eicher Motors	2552.50	-77.85
Gasim Ind	1679.55	-12.75
HCL Tech.	1066.90	-12.35
HDPC	2264.00	34.30
HDPC Bank	1403.70	19.10
HDPC Life	579.85	-2.55
Hero MotoCorp	2487.30	-19.35
Hindalco	484.40	1.75
Hind Unilever	2230.50	-4.35
ICICI Bank	741.00	-2.30
IndusInd Bank	1018.10	39.55
Infosys	1541.00	-26.55
ITC	263.15	3.60
JSW Steel	731.95	4.80
Kotak Bank	1774.35	-16.40
L&T	1679.45	-14.90
M&M	921.35	-0.75
Maruti Suzuki	7634.75	-83.05
Nestle India Ltd.	18440.55	110.25
NTPC	157.50	1.30
ONGC	156.35	-4.10
PowerGrid Corp	231.55	3.80
Reliance Ind	2780.45	-9.80
SBI Life	1081.05	-24.45
State Bank	491.00	-5.30
Shree Cement	26230.20	308.70
Sun Pharma	923.40	-5.25
Tata Consumer Products	824.40	0.65
Tata Motors	432.85	-4.75
Tata Steel	1295.20	24.15
TCS	3542.40	-4.30
Tech Mahindra	1231.20	-27.80
Titan	2386.55	-71.65
UltraTech Cement	6679.00	48.75
UPL	830.25	7.35
Wipro	495.00	-13.80

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	76.32	76.64
Euro	80.29	80.66
British Pound	95.90	96.31
Japanese Yen (100)	58.71	58.96
Chinese Yuan	11.55	11.60
Swiss Franc	78.39	78.73
Singapore Dollar	55.07	55.31
Canadian Dollar	59.26	59.54
Malaysian Ringgit	17.52	17.61
Australian Dollar	53.93	54.20

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



TVS Motor unveils new NTorq 125 XT scooter

CHENNAI
TVS Motor Company has unveiled a new variant of its sporty 125cc scooter TVS NTorq 125 XT, with updated features, priced at ₹1,02,823 (ex-showroom New Delhi). This variant is coupled with SmartXonnect connectivity platform, TVS Motor said.

BoB cuts interest rate on car loans to 7%

MUMBAI
State-run Bank of Baroda (BoB) announced a 25 basis points (bps) reduction in its car loan interest rates to 7% per annum from 7.25% earlier. The lender also said it has reduced processing charges to a flat ₹1,500-plus GST for a limited period up to June 30, 2022. PTI

SPORT

Priya outclasses Dutee in women's 200m

Jain varsity athlete completes a double, having won the 400m on Sunday

KHELO VARSITIES

SPORTS REPORTER

BENGALURU

Priya Mohan outclassed Dutee Chand to clinch the women's 200m event in the Khelo India University Games here on Sunday. Jain University's Priya (23.9s) turned on the jets at the bend to comfortably defeat the more experienced Dutee (24.02s).

Priya completed the double at the championship, having secured the 400m gold on a rain-drenched track on Sunday night. "The turnaround time after the 100m last night was quite less. My recovery was not ideal, so my timing in the 200m was not very good," Priya said.

"My race strategy was to stay with her (Dutee) in the first 80m. I have the stronger finish, which worked in my

HDFC Q4 net rises 16% as home loan demand improves

Mortgage loan disbursements jumped 37% in FY22

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (HDFC) on Monday reported fourth-quarter standalone net profit rose 16% to ₹3,700 crore, from ₹3,180 crore in the year-earlier period, as demand for home loans improved.

Sales momentum rising' For the 12 months ended March 31, 2022, the mortgage lender reported net profit of ₹13,742 crore, a 14.3% increase from ₹12,027 crore. Individual approvals and disbursements grew 38% and 37%, respectively, in the fiscal year, HDFC said.

"Growth in home loans



Work in progress: The pipeline of loan applications continues to remain strong, says HDFC. ■ KARUNAKARAN M

was seen in both, the affordable housing segment as well as in high-end properties," the lender said in a statement. "The increasing sales momentum and new project launches augurs well for the housing sector," the

company added.

During the year, 29% of home loans approved in volume terms and 13% in value terms had been to customers from the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and Low Income Group (LIG).

The average home loan to the EWS and LIG segments stood at ₹11.2 lakh and ₹9.7 lakh, respectively, it said.

₹30 dividend'

The board recommended a dividend of ₹30 per equity share of face value of ₹2 each for the year ended March 31, compared with ₹23 in the previous year. The dividend pay-out ratio is 40%, HDFC said in a filing.

"The demand for home loans and pipeline of loan applications continues to remain strong," it said.

Assets under management stood at ₹6,53,902 crore as at March 31, 2022, as against ₹5,69,894 crore in the previous year.

Tata Steel to stop Russia coal imports on supply uncertainty

'Supplies from U.S., other markets to make up for shortfall'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Tata Steel Ltd., one of the major importers of Russian coal in recent months, has decided to stop procurement from the country citing 'uncertainties' over supplies following international sanctions imposed on it after Ukraine invasion.

"To ensure business continuity, we have sourced alternative supplies of raw materials, as transactions with Russian suppliers and bankers at present come with a lot of uncertainties as a result of international sanctions imposed on Russia," a Tata Steel spokesperson said in a statement.

"The demand for home loans and pipeline of loan applications continues to remain strong," it said.

Assets under management stood at ₹6,53,902 crore as at March 31, 2022, as against ₹5,69,894 crore in the previous year.



through reliable supplies from overseas at a time when shortage of coal is threatening to disrupt energy generation in India.

'Diversified supplies'

"We believe that impact will not be there as the company has a very diversified procurement mechanism with supplies coming from Mozambique to Australia," Kamlesh Bagmar, deputy head of research at Prabhu das Lilladher said.

"Increased supplies from U.S. and other markets are likely to make up for the shortfall, if any."

Tata Steel shares gained 1.84% to ₹1,295.10 apiece on the BSE on Monday when the Sensex slid 0.15%.

Power use rises 13.6% to 132.98 bn units in April

Early summer, pickup in economy cited

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Power consumption in the country grew 13.6% year-on-year to 132.98 billion units (BU) in April, showing the impact of the early onset of summers and spurt in economic activities, according to Power Ministry data.

On an average, the PSU supplied 1.66 MT of coal per day to power plants, in the coming months. Coal India, which accounts for more than 80% of domestic coal output, is one of the major suppliers of the fossil fuel to the power sector.

Power consumption in April last year was recorded at 117.08 BU, which was higher than 84.55 BU in the same month of 2020.

Experts are of the view that power consumption and demand rose unprecedentedly mainly because of the early onset of summers and showed that greater economic activities are pushing commercial and industrial requirements of electricity in the country.

On the other hand, the peak power demand met, which is the highest supply in a day, during April this year remained at an all-time high of 207.11 GW. The peak power supply stood at 182.37 GW in April 2021 and

Unemployment in April climbs to 7.83%: CMIE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

The unemployment rate in the country climbed to 7.83% in April from 7.6% in March, according to data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

The unemployment rate in urban areas was higher at 9.22% compared with 8.28% in March, the data released on Monday showed. In rural areas, the rate was 7.18% in April compared with 7.29% in the previous month.

Unemployment was the highest in Haryana at 34.5%, followed by Rajasthan at 28.8%, Bihar at 21.1% and Jammu and Kashmir at 15.6%, the data showed.

LIC IPO anchor investor quota oversubscribed

REUTERS

MUMBAI

The IPO of India's biggest insurer, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), has got off to a good start, with the ₹732 million of shares reserved for so-called anchor investors oversubscribed at the upper end of the price range, a banking source said.

It said loan book growth would be driven by factors such as 'the largely underpenetrated market, favourable demographic profile, government thrust on housing and a favourable regulatory and tax regime that supported the growth outlook'.

As on December 31, 2021, the total loan book of AHFCs stood at ₹66,221 crore and constituted about 6% of the

NMDC output, sales increase 1% in April

Firm eyeing 50 MT, says CMD Deb

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

India's largest iron-ore producer NMDC reported 3.15 million tonnes (MT) of production and 3.12 MT sales in April, recording an almost 1% increase each, compared with the year-earlier period.

Iron ore production in April 2022 was 0.6% more than the output in the year earlier, while sales were 0.9% higher. It continues to register growth in its performance, NMDC said.

This was the highest production in April in NMDC's history. It came in the backdrop of the firm producing over 42 MT in 2021-22.

"FY23 has started on the right note for us and is a reflection of the team's hard work aligned with the company's strategic posture," CMD Sunit Deb said.

"Our adoption of new technology and digital initiatives is strengthening our supply chain and making NMDC future ready."

"We are confident that NMDC will grow to become a 50 MT mining company in the near future," he added.

Deb said the firm is eyeing 50 MT of sales in April.

Deb said the firm is eyeing 50 MT of sales in April.

Deb said the firm is eyeing 50 MT of sales in April.</p

Knight Riders cruise past Royals, snap five-match losing streak

Spinners Anukul and Narine restrict the Rajasthan side to 152 before Shreyas, Rana and Rinku power the chase; Samson top scores for RR

IPL 2022

SANTADEEP DEY

MUMBAI

The Kolkata Knight Riders spinners proved too wily for the Rajasthan Royals batters, helping the side set up a seven-wicket win during their return leg fixture at the Wankhede Stadium on Monday.

All-rounder Anukul Roy shone with the ball in his very first outing in purple-and-gold, finishing with figures of 4-0-28-1 as KKR finally got its campaign back on track after five straight losses.

Sunil Narine was impressive as usual – albeit not on the field – conceding just 19.

After Shreyas Iyer's men chose to bowl, Umesh Yadav provided the breakthrough with a blinder off his own bowling to send Devdutt Padikkal back to the dugout.

Jos Buttler struggled against Narine. Along with skipper Sanju Samson (54, 49b, 7x4, 1x6), the English opener only managed to take Royals to 38 in the PowerPlay.

Snaring the big fish

Tim Southee snared the big fish in the ninth over. Buttler, looking to break the shackles, flat-batted to a leaping Shivam Mavi at long-on.

Karun Nair then fell to Anukul, who smartly dragged back his length. Ryan Parag also took the long walk back shortly after.

Samson, meanwhile, huffed and puffed to a fifty before skying a full-length delivery to deep midwicket.



Stars of the night: Anukul kept the Royals batters on a leash before Rinku struck a few meaty blows to take the Knight Riders home. ■ SPORTZPICS/IPL



Shimron Hetmyer (27, 13b, 1x4, 2x6) breathed some much-needed life into the innings as 30 runs were scored in the last two overs.

The spin duo

Royals had in their ranks two of the three bowlers who have taken the most wickets against Knight Riders – Ash-

win and Yuzvendra Chahal. The duo tried to check the flow of runs further. But Shreyas (34, 32b, 3x4, 1x6) and Nitish Rana (48 n.o., 37b, 3x4, 2x6) kept the scoreboard ticking.

Rana, who hasn't been dismissed by Ashwin in the IPL, took on the off-spinner in the 11th over, clobbering

him for two fours and a six.

The 60-run partnership off 43 balls came to an end when Samson confidently went for a referral after a wide call.

UltraEdge's call

Although it seemed Shreyas had played and missed, UltraEdge suggested

otherwise.

Rinku Singh (42, 23b, 6x4, 1x6), who walked in at 92 for three in 12.5 overs, was in fine touch.

With support from Rana – his contribution to the 66-run stand was only 17 – the target never looked big enough.

SCOREBOARD

RAJASTHAN ROYALS

Jos Buttler c Mavi b Southee 22 (25b, 3x4), Devdutt Padikkal c & b Umesh 2 (5b), Sanju Samson c Rinku b Mavi 54 (49b, 7x4, 1x6), Karun Nair c Rinku b Anukul 13 (13b, 1x4), Ryan Parag c Anukul b Southee 19 (12b, 1x4, 2x6), Shimron Hetmyer (not out) 27 (13b, 1x4, 2x6), R. Ashwin (not out) 6 (5b); Extras (lb-2, w-5, nb-2); 9; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 152.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-7 (Padikkal, 2.1 overs), 2-55 (Buttler, 8.3), 3-90 (Karun, 13.1), 4-115 (Parag, 16.6), 5-115 (Samson, 17.1).

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING

Umesh 4-1-24-1, Anukul 4-0-28-1, Narine 4-0-19-0, Mavi 4-0-33-1, Southee 4-0-46-2.

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS

B. Indrajith c R. Ashwin b Prasidh 15 (16b, 2x4), Aaron Finch b Kuldeep Sen 4 (7b), Shreyas Iyer c Samson b Boult 34 (32b, 3x4, 1x6), Nitish Rana (not out) 48 (37b, 3x4, 2x6), Rinku Singh (not out) 42 (23b, 6x4, 1x6); Extras (lb-4, w-11):

15; Total (for three wkts. in 19.1 overs): 158.

ROYALS BOWLING

Boult 4-0-25-1, Prasidh 4-0-37-1, Kuldeep Sen 3.1-0-28-1, R. Ashwin 4-0-33-0, Chahal 4-0-31-0.

Toss: KKR.

KKR won by seven wickets with five balls to spare.

Innings scan

RR	Dots	KKR
50	42	42
13	14	14
5	4	4
38/1	32/2	32/2
7.60	RR	8.24

Next assignment

RR: May 7 vs. PBKS

Wankhede, 3.30 p.m.

KKR: May 7 vs. LSG

MCA Stadium, 7.30 p.m.

POINTS TABLE

Teams	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
Gujarat Titans	9	8	1	16	0.377
Lucknow Super Giants	10	7	3	14	0.397
Rajasthan Royals	10	6	4	12	0.340
Sunrisers Hyderabad	9	5	4	10	0.471
Royal Challengers Bangalore	10	5	5	10	-0.558
Delhi Capitals	9	4	5	8	0.587
Kolkata Knight Riders	10	4	6	8	0.060
Punjab Kings	9	4	5	8	-0.470
Chennai Super Kings	9	3	6	6	-0.407
Mumbai Indians	9	1	8	2	-0.836

After the KKR-RR match on May 2

On-a-roll Titans meet inconsistent Kings

Gujarat has fired in all departments, Punjab must regroup



SHAYAN ACHARYA

NAVI MUMBAI

The last time Gujarat Titans faced Punjab Kings in an Indian Premier League fixture, Rahat Tewatia hit two sixes off the last two deliveries to seal the deal for the new entrant.

And when the two teams meet at the D.Y. Patil Stadium on Tuesday, Gujarat Titans, which has won eight out of nine games, will once again be pinning its hopes on Tewatia.

Match-winner

After being roped in by Titans for a whopping ₹9 crore in the auction, the all-rounder from Haryana has justified his price tag, emerging as one of the match-winners for the franchise.

TODAY'S MATCH



DY PATIL, 7.30 P.M.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 1

GT 1 | PBKS 0

PREVIOUS MEETING

GT won by six wickets,

2022

STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD)

Titans have fired in every department, under the watchful eyes of captain Hardik Pandya. While Wriddhiman Saha and Shubman Gill have made their presence felt as openers, the middle-order has been looked after well by captain Hardik, Da-

vid Miller and Rashid Khan. Coming into the tournament after a long break, Hardik has so far amassed 308 runs in the tournament and has led the side from the front.

Punjab Kings, on the other hand, has been inconsistent with five defeats in nine outings and it needs to regroup in a bid to stay in contention for the playoffs spot.

Even though captain Mayank Agarwal, batters Shikhar Dhawan, Jonny Bairstow and Liam Livingstone have done well in patches, consistency has been an area of concern.

While pacer Arshdeep Singh has impressed, seasoned campaigners Kagiso Rabada and Rahul Chahar need to shoulder more responsibility.

Rahul would also tell you that it is not always the sheer pace, the variations, or the left-arm's angle which aids Mohsin. It also involves shrewd cricketing acumen.

From setting Pant up with a barrage of short balls before pushing the fuller length to do him in, to flummoxing an unsuspecting Liam Livingstone of Punjab Kings with a slower ball, Mohsin has been ticking all the right boxes.

After warming the bench for three seasons with Mumbai Indians, he has now made the most of his opportunities at his new home. Mohsin, who played his only First Class match in 2020 and made his List-A and T20 debuts in 2018, has picked up eight wickets from four matches in the ongoing edi-

tion of the IPL. His economy rate is a miserly 6.07, with his strike rate and bowling average being 10.50 and 10.63 respectively.

Handy batter

He has shown he can be handy with the bat as well, scoring an unbeaten six-ball 13 against Kings. While he got off the mark with a 91m six, he also played a drive through cover off the last ball of the innings to take his side past 150 (153/8).

Mohsin seemed chuffed when he stepped onto the dais to receive his very first IPL Player-of-the-Match award for his four-wicket haul against Capitals. "I am so happy today. My mom and dad would be seeing this on TV," he said.



Mohsin Khan. ■ SPORTZPICS/IPL

Pujara is up and running again

Clinches the title with a 5-4 win on penalties



In seventh heaven: Kerala had the last laugh in the final against Bengal. ■ SAKEER HUSSAIN

SANTOSH TROPHY

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

MANJERI

Nearly 27,000 people filled up the Malappuram District Sports Complex Stadium long before the kick-off of the final of the Santosh Trophy National football championship on Monday night. The team they came to cheer for, Kerala, made it a memorable night for them.

Kerala lifted the title for the seventh time, beating Bengal 5-4 in the penalty shootout. After regulation time failed to produce a goal, the teams were tied 1-1 after extra-time.

"I feel the lack of game time was the big reason why he could not be consistent over the past three seasons," said Arvind, who remains Pujara's only personal coach till date.

peating itself: Kerala's last triumph had also come after a shootout against Bengal, four years ago at Kolkata.

Earlier, in normal time, both sides had plenty of chances to score as they played some exciting end-to-end football.

In the shootout, Bengal had to pay dearly for Sajal Bag's miss off the second attempt. All the other penalties went in.

When the last of those kicks, taken by Kerala's M. Faslurahman, kissed the right top corner, the stadium erupted once again.

The result: Bengal 1 (Dilip Orawi 97) drew with Kerala 1 (Muhammed Safnaf 116). Kerala won 5-4 in shoot-out.

It was a case of history re-

Anand steps aside to let youngsters have a chance

CHESS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

A 20-member team will represent India in the Chess Olympiad to be held at Mammallapuram, near here, from July 28 to August 10.

As is the norm, the team selection was based on the average rating of the player in the last three rating lists released by World Chess Organisation (FIDE).

Vidit Gujrathi,

Villarreal has its task cut out

Will Emery engineer another big result, this time against Liverpool?

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PARIS

The Champions League is heading toward a third all-English final in four seasons unless Spanish rivals can overturn first-leg losses.

Villarreal surpassed expectations to reach the final four after upsetting former champions Juventus and Bayern Munich, and Liverpool was unable to inflict a knockout blow at Anfield.

Still, Unai Emery, a master of strategy in knockout competitions, faces the enormous challenge of engineering a comeback over a Liverpool side that is seeking a historic quadruple of the Champions League, Premier League, FA Cup and League Cup titles.

Villarreal will rely on an attack that shares with Real Madrid the highest number



Hard at work: Villarreal players at a training session on Monday. • AFP

of goals scored at home in the Spanish league this season (38).

Home advantage

At its Estadio de la Ceramica, Villarreal also beat Bayern Munich 1-0 in the quarter-

nals and had to settle for a 1-1 draw with Juventus despite outplaying the Italian side.

Emery is hoping that Gerard Moreno can play after he missed the first match with a leg injury, but the Spain striker remains doubt-

ful. Emery rested several starters, including forward Arnaut Danjuma, during Saturday's 2-1 loss to Alaves that left Villarreal seventh in the Spanish league.

For the team from a small town near Spain's eastern

Junior WC heartbreak behind us: Bichu Devi

Players eager to learn from the senior side, says the goalkeeper

HOCKEY

ANI
BENGALURU

Indian junior women's goalkeeper Bichu Devi Kharibam said that the heartbreaking loss to England is now behind them and the players are now looking forward to their exposure with the senior side. "We were all very upset after that match and some of us could not stop crying. We were so close to standing on the podium and it was quite hard to accept the defeat," said Bichu.

"We also received so much love after we came back and many hockey fans messaged us personally and told us how we have to keep our chins up. It is very overwhelming to receive this kind of reaction despite losing the medal. This motivates us more to do well," she said.

Bichu Devi along with vice-captain Ishika Chaudhary, Akshata Abaso Dhekkale, and Sangita Kumari among others have been credited for their performance with a place in the senior core group.



Motivation: The reaction despite losing the medal is overwhelming, says Bichu Devi. • TWITTER/@SPORTS_ODISHA

Cairns talks of match-fixing trials

Former all-rounder recounts the struggle he endured

CRICKET

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WELLINGTON

New Zealand cricket great Chris Cairns feels he can talk candidly about the pain of match-fixing allegations brought against him now that he has survived multiple health scares.

The former all-rounder spoke publicly for the first time on Monday about the court battles to clear his name spanning 2012 to 2015.

Interviewed on a podcast hosted by media company NZME, Cairns said the high-profile trials had consumed his life and that he had harboured "anger and animosity" after having his credibility scrutinised and his career effectively shredded – even though he was never found guilty.

Cairns told the health battles carried a silver lining –



Chris Cairns. • GETTY IMAGES

"Maybe during that time it (the match-fixing trials) built up the steel in me that allowed me to survive what I went through - because it was about survival at that time. I was on my own, cast as the villain, that was my role."

"Building that resilience up, who's to say that wasn't a contributing factor in helping me fight."

In March 2012, Cairns successfully sued former Indian Premier League commissioner Lalit Modi for libel, after Modi alleged on Twitter that the New Zealander had been involved in match-fixing in 2008.

Cairns won costs and damages.

Despite losing all cricket-related work in the wake of a trial he described as "horrendous", Cairns says he doesn't regret taking action against Modi.

"But now, after the last seven months, it's so far down my thinking. It's not a priority. It seems like another time, another place."

"I harboured a lot of anger and frustration, but I carried that silently. I dug my hole in Australia and got on with life but I was angry," he said.

"I have had a very roller coaster start to 2022 and I want to focus and utilise the time between tournaments in improving my technique and skills," Pramod said in a statement on Monday.

Sukant said they have three back-to-back tournaments after the Brazil International and that he wanted to keep the momentum.

"I have had a very roller coaster start to 2022 and I want to focus and utilise the time between tournaments in improving my technique and skills," Pramod said in a statement on Monday.

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