

The Hindu

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Govt. reaches out to all OIC members

MEA sends heads of missions memo on dealing with diplomatic fallout

SUHASINI HAIDAR

NEW DELHI

In its responses to the diplomatic storm over the comments made by BJP leaders Nupur Sharma and Naveen Kumar, the government took a stern view of the statement by the 57-member Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), but it subsequently made a special effort at ensuring that Indian Ambassadors based in every OIC country were briefed and sent “talking points” to deal with the situation on June 5.

Significantly, the reference to the leaders as “fringe elements” was not in the brief by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), sources said. It had possibly emerged from a telephone conversation and was used “mistakenly” in the press statements issued by the embassies in Doha and Kuwait.

The phrase had caused some consternation within the MEA as well as among officials in the countries that lodged protests against the comments, as it appeared to be misleading, given that Ms. Sharma and Mr. Kumar were prominent leaders of the BJP before the party took action against them. “The initial press statements wrongly described them as fringe elements,” an official said, adding that the intention of the phrase was to convey that the views they had expressed were “views of the fringe, not the government or the party”.

The six-point memo was sent to all the heads of mission (HOMs) in OIC countries on Sunday, hours after the Ambassadors in Qatar and Kuwait were summoned.

The missive, cleared by Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra, and sent by the MEA's Gulf Division, a copy of which *The Hindu* has seen, told them to "monitor the developments and report them promptly" to New Delhi. It also counselled them to draft a statement in case they were summoned by the host government, which made all the points: that the Indian government respects all religions; that the comments denigrating a religious personality did not represent the government or the BJP, that "strong action" had been taken against those making the comments, and that the BJP had issued its own press release reiterating these points.

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Army selection training schools to come up in coastal districts

Depending upon their success, BCs Welfare Department to consider extending the facility to other districts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MANGALURU



Social and Backward Classes Welfare Minister Kota Srinivas Poojari speaking at a press conference in Udupi on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Backward Classes and Social Welfare Minister Kota Srinivas Poojary said on Tuesday that the Backward Classes Welfare Department will open army

selection training schools in the three coastal districts within this month.

Speaking to reporters in Udupi, Mr. Poojary said that the move is aimed at encouraging and providing proper training to the youth from the coastal region, who were not much keen on joining the defence forces.

While the selection training school in Dakshina Kannada will be named after Rani Abbakka, the one in Udupi will be named after Koti-Chennayya and the other one planned in Uttara Kannada district will be named after Hinja Naik, the Minister said. Mr. Poojary told *The Hindu* that a Government Order to this effect will be issued in a day or two and the facility will be functional before the end of June. The premises of residential schools being run by the Backward Classes Welfare Department that also have accommodation facility will be utilised for the training.

Training will be offered free to the youth from different sections of society. However, the duration of the training and other issues are yet to be finalised, he added.

Depending upon the response and success of the training schools in the three districts, the department will consider extending the facility to other districts too, the Minister said.

Speaking about the eight years of the Narendra Modi Government at the Centre, Mr. Poojary said that the Union Government has rolled out many pro-people policies in its endeavour to provide good administration, service and ensure welfare of the poor. The Centre has so far released over Rs. 1.29 lakh crore to the State for various projects and schemes other than Karnataka's statutory share.

Schemes, including Ayushman Bharat, have helped the poor to get free treatment at hospitals, particularly during COVID-19. The Union Government through the Ujjwala scheme has provided affordable cooking fuel facility to the poor.

Responding to the name board of Nathuram Godse in Bola village, Karkala taluk, Mr. Poojary said that it was an uncivilised act by some people.

Neither the State Government nor the panchayat has had any role in it and the board has already been removed, he added.

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Two States, one panchayat: Kotia can't be better placed

Odisha-A.P. boundary row festers, but residents are not complaining

[SATYASUNDAR BARIK](#)

BHUBANESWAR



Sukila Tadingi from Kotia panchayat shows his voter IDs issued by A.P. and Odisha. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Rarely does a village in India have two ‘elected’ sarpanches wielding their authority and implementing welfare schemes. However, when Kushe Harka, the 45-year-old woman sarpanch, and Liu Gemel, the 40-year-old male sarpanch, walk through the dusty lanes of Phagunasineri village, they command equal respect, and villagers on their part also get developmental works implemented under their leadership. While Liu Gemel represents Odisha, Kushe Harka represents Andhra Pradesh.

In Phagunasineri village, tucked away in the forested hilly areas along the Odisha-Andhra Pradesh border, Tila Pangi flashes two land pattas (record of rights) issued separately by Odisha and Andhra Pradesh under the Forest Rights Act 2006.

A few houses away in Phagunasineri, Tulsi Pangi sends her three-year-old son to an anganwadi run by the Odisha government while her six-year-old elder son would learn Telugu and pursue school education with the Rs. 15,000 financial support extended by Andhra Pradesh.

At the heart of the ‘dual citizenry’, lies an over seven-decade-old Odisha-AP border dispute that has peaked in recent times and is getting wider with every passing day. Both States are busy flooding welfare schemes at mere mention by the tribals.

Odisha and A.P. have challenged each other’s administrative control over Kotia gram panchayat or Kotia group of villages comprising 21 revenue villages. The Supreme Court has ordered status quo over possession over Kotia.

Double bonanza

For the first time in 2021, Andhra Pradesh set up polling booths in Kotia villages and held direct panchayat elections in some villages. A year later in 2022, Odisha held elections to three-tier panchayati raj institutions in the same set of villages. On both occasions, hundreds of villagers, who possess two separate voter identity cards issued by Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, happily exercised their franchise – a rare voting right enjoyed by them.

The double bonanza is not confined to voting rights only. A significant size of tribal population in the Kotia panchayat avail subsidised food grain under the National Food Security Act from the two States. Eligible elderly population get old age pension separately from Odisha and A.P.; similarly, pension for widows, destitutes and differently-abled persons flow from two sources.

The Odisha government has announced a special package of Rs. 150 crore for the forest region. About Rs. 120 crore of the fund has already spent on physical infrastructure in the Kotia panchayat. Not many panchayat headquarters in Odisha can boast of a community health centre, police station, bank, residential English medium school, separate hostels for students and a helipad.

A.P. is also investing heavily in social security schemes for Kotia villagers by deploying officials who have been assigned to personally deliver government benefits at their doorsteps.

Recently, Andhra Pradesh carved out a new district called ‘Manyam’ from Parvatipuram, including disputed Kotia as its own.

In 1936, Odisha was the first state formed on linguistic basis in the country.

According to *Koraput Gazetteer*, after formation of the province of Odisha, it had all along been having revenue, criminal and civil jurisdiction over Kotia.

The boundary dispute actually arose in March 1955 when some officers of AP Government tried to collect rent from Kotia, which was a group of un-surveyed villages. Odisha protested the move. No solution emerged. “When both the states prepared to conduct general election in the disputed villages in the year 1967, the then Home Minister Y.V. Chavan mediated between two CMs on September 12, 1968,” says the *Gazetteer*.

As the matter remained unsolved, Odisha moved the Supreme Court in 1968. The SC has since then ordered maintaining the status quo. In Kotia GP, there are 28 villages.

Of these villages, 21 are disputed while seven are undisputedly Odisha villages. In early 2021, Odisha government again moved SC challenging panchayat elections in three villages of Kotia by Andhra Pradesh.

In last few years, Andhra Pradesh has mobilized its administration and ensured that villagers from about 100 Odisha villages (under six different tahsils) take part in their elections. The neighbouring State is building documentary evidence to stake claim on more Odisha villages

Gadadhar Parida

Former District Collector, Koraput

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‘Operation Kanthuvatti’ launched

DGP Sylendra Babu orders State-wide drive to curb usury

[S. VIJAY KUMAR](#)

CHENNAI

Hours after a constable died by suicide allegedly due to harassment by a usurious moneylender in Cuddalore district, Director-General of Police C. Sylendra Babu on Tuesday ordered the launch of ‘Operation Kanthuvatti’ across Tamil Nadu to curb the menace.

Commissioners/Superintendents of Police were told to take up cases of usury pending at all police stations and initiate action under the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Charging Exorbitant Interest Act, 2003, against the suspects.

Investigation officers were told to launch searches at suspected locations after obtaining legal opinion and informing the jurisdictional courts to seize incriminating documents, valuables, property documents, signed blank cheques, promissory notes and securities that the victims of usury might have pledged to borrow at high rates of interest, police sources said.

Calling for a thorough follow-up action and successful prosecution of usury cases, Mr. Sylendra Babu said officers who did exemplary work in ‘Operation Kanthuvatti’ would be suitably recognised.

The issue of usury took a turn when constable M. Selvakumar of Cuddalore district ended his life.

Police sources said Selvakumar, attached to the Xth Tamil Nadu Special Police Battalion, Ulundurpettai, had borrowed Rs. 5 lakh from a moneylender at Mathuvanaimedu in the district in 2020. He signed blank

stamp papers as guarantee. Police inquiries revealed that he repaid Rs. 3 lakh by bank transfer and Rs. 2 lakh in cash.

However, the moneylender made entries in the blank stamp papers to make out that Selvakumar had taken Rs. 12 lakh in loan and pressured him to settle the remaining Rs. 6 lakh. The accused person even lodged a complaint with the crime branch police who asked Selvakumar to repay the loan at the earliest to avoid legal action.

Unable to bear with the pressure, he ended his life on June 1. While going to the office of the Superintendent of Police, Cuddalore, to report his grievance, he fell unconscious near the district court campus. Selvakumar was admitted to hospital where he died on Tuesday, the sources said. The moneylender was taken into custody.

(Assistance for overcoming suicidal tendency is available on State Helpline 104 .)

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Tamil Nadu tops food safety index

Gujarat, Maharashtra take top slots

[SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT](#)

NEW DELHI

Safety check | Tamil Nadu topped 20 large States in terms of food safety, according to the 4th State Food Safety Index. A look at the top 10 States

RANK STATE	SCORE
1 TAMIL NADU	82
2 GUJARAT	77.5
3 MAHARASHTRA	70
4 HIMACHAL	65.5
5 WEST BENGAL*	58.5
5 MADHYA PRADESH*	58.5
6 KERALA	57
7 UTTARAKHAND	55
8 ODISHA*	54.5
8 UTTAR PRADESH*	54.5
9 KARNATAKA	52.5
10 RAJASTHAN	50.5



*Ranks 5 and 8 were shared by two States each

Tamil Nadu topped the State Food Safety Index (SFSI) this year, followed by Gujarat and Maharashtra. Among the smaller States, Goa stood first, followed by Manipur and Sikkim.

Among the Union Territories, Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi and Chandigarh secured the first, second and third ranks. Health Minister Mansukh

Mandaviya felicitated the winners on Tuesday. The SFSI measures the performance of States on the basis of five parameters set by the Health Ministry. The rating is done by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

Speaking on the occasion of World Food Safety Day, Dr. Mandaviya said the States had an important role in ensuring food safety and healthy food practices . “It is the need of the hour that we come together to ensure a healthy nation,” he noted.

Dr. Mandaviya launched various initiatives by the FSSAI, including the ‘Eat Right Research Awards and Grants – Phase II’. Eat Right Creativity Challenge – Phase III, a school-level competition, and the logo for AyurvedaAahar. This logo, which contains the initials of Ayurveda and Aahar with five leaves symbolising the five elements of nature, would be beneficial in creating a unique identity for food products, says a pressnote.

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Farmers in State given tractors under YSR Yantra Seva

Rs. 175-cr. subsidy credited into accounts of 5,260 farmer groups

[STAFF REPORTER](#)

GUNTUR



The tractors provided to farmers as part of YSR Yantra Seva, in Guntur.T. VIJAYA KUMAR

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy here on Tuesday launched YSR Yantra Seva, a scheme under which the farmers are provided tractors and combined harvesters ahead of the kharif season.

The Chief Minister, on the occasion, also credited an amount of Rs. 175 crore towards subsidy into the bank accounts of 5,260 farmer groups.

At the programme, Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy flagged off the 1,200 tractors and 20 combined harvesters that were handed over to the farmers from eight districts.

Addressing a public meeting later, he said his government was hand holding the farmers right from the stage of sowing seeds to marketing of agricultural produce.

“In a first, the government has set up Rythu Bharosa Kendras, which have emerged as a one-stop solution for all the needs of the farmers. We have also encouraged the farmers to form into groups and providing them implements at 40% subsidy. We have also provided bank loans at low interest. Farmer groups have to pay 10% of the money and get all farm implements at a subsidy,” he said.

Dig at Naidu

The TDP government headed by N. Chandrababu Naidu used to provide farmers tractors basing on the recommendations of the MLAs, he said.

“Mr. Naidu used to involve in the purchase of tractors and indulge in corruption,” he alleged, and added, “Now, the farmers have the right to choose the tractor and the company, and the government will provide subsidy.” Stating that the government would establish 10,750 YSR Yantra Seva Kendras in every Rythu Bharosa Kendra at a cost of Rs. 2,016 crore, the Chief Minister said the combined harvesters would be made available at the 1,615 cluster-level yantra seva centres to be established in the districts where paddy is cultivated. “Today, we are providing 3,800 tractors to the RBK-level yantra seva centres, and in the future they will be given to all the RBKs,” he said.

“We are crediting Rs. 175 crore as subsidy into the accounts of 5,260 farmer groups. With this, we have given tractors and implements worth Rs. 700 crore to 6,780 RBKs,” he said.

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New rules allow ex-officers to hold CDS post

However, the age limit of 62 leaves many out of race

DINAKAR PERI

NEW DELHI



The post of CDS is vacant since the death of Gen. Bipin Rawat in December 2021.KAMAL KISHORE

Setting the stage for appointment of the next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), the government has amended Service Rules of the Army, Navy and Air Force, allowing retired Service Chiefs and three-star officers eligible for consideration for the country's top military post.

However, with an age limit that the retired officer should not have attained 62 years on the date of appointment, retired Service chiefs are largely ruled

out, especially so for the present consideration.

“... The Central Government may, if considered necessary, in public interest, so to do, appoint as CDS, an officer who is serving as Lieutenant General or General or an officer who has retired in the rank of Lieutenant General or General but has not attained the age of 62 years on the date of his appointment,” the amendment in the Service Rules of the Army states in the gazette dated June 6, 2022. Similar amendment was made in the service rules of Navy and Air Force as well.

As the government considers several officers for the post, this amendment makes all three-star rank officers who have retired in the last two years eligible, as Lieutenant Generals in the Army, Vice-Admirals in the Navy and Air Marshals in the Air Force retire at the age of 60.

The gazette notification of December 2019, before the appointment of the first CDS, did not specifically state that serving officers of Lieutenant General rank and equivalent are eligible.

In December 2019, the government approved the creation of the post of CDS, who would also function as the Principal Military Adviser to the Defence Minister and Permanent Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee.

In addition, the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) was created as the fifth department in the Ministry of Defence (MoD), with the CDS functioning as its Secretary.

Gen. Rawat, who had served as the 27th Army Chief from December 31, 2016 till December 31, 2019, took over as the first CDS on January 1, 2020. He, along with his wife Madhulika Rawat and 12 others, was killed in a chopper crash on December 8, 2021.

The age limit for the CDS’s post is 65 years with no fixed tenure defined, unlike for the Service Chief which is three years of tenure or 62 years of age. After the appointment of the CDS, the armed forces were brought under the ambit of the DMA, which also deals with works relating to the three Services, and with procurement exclusive to the Services, except capital acquisitions which remains with the Department of Defence.

The broad mandate of the CDS includes bringing about “jointness” in “operations, logistics, transport, training, support services, communications, repairs and maintenance of the three Services, within three years of the first CDS assuming office”.

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In Doha, Venkaiah talks of inclusion

Vice President says Modi government's philosophy is ' sabka sath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas and sabka prayas'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI



Qatar's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Soltan bin Saad Al Muraikhi with Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu in Doha on Tuesday, ahead of his departure to India.PTI/twitterPTI/twitter

On the last day of his nine-day international tour that concluded in Qatar, Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu said “inclusion” is the firm foundation underlying the Indian Constitutional architecture and it finds an echo in the philosophy of the Modi government, which believes in “*sabka sath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas* and *sabka prayas*”.

He was addressing the Indian diaspora in Doha on Monday. His speech comes in the backdrop of international outrage over the alleged derogatory remarks on Islam made by BJP leader Nupur Sharma, which drew condemnation from several Muslim nations.

Qatar was the first country to officially take up the issue with New Delhi.

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SSC results a wake-up call: officials

At 67.26, the pass percentage is lowest in almost 20 years

[P. SUJATHA VARMA](#)

VIJAYAWADA

Besides the curse of COVID-19 pandemic that kept students out of classrooms for two subsequent years (2019-2020 and 2020-21), the fact that the government has taken a tough stand against people resorting to or encouraging malpractices in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) public examinations this year has greatly contributed to the low pass percentage obtained by students.

“The super successful SSC examinations’ bubble has finally burst and there are no two opinions about it. The SSC results has brought us face-to-face with the reality. This is the actual existing education scenario in the State. It has been for last several years, but people were made to believe that schools in the State excelled in the public examinations,” said an official of the Education Department and added, “We need to get real and gear up to improve the standards and prepare our students for ‘real’ examinations.”

The 10th Class examinations conducted by the Board of Secondary Education in April 2022 saw only 67.26 % of the total 6.15 lakh candidates clearing the all-important Board exams.

“The pass percentage is lowest in the last almost 15 to 20 years. There is no denying the fact that the pandemic wreaked havoc with the education sector bringing down the learning outcomes drastically across the world and Andhra Pradesh is no exception,” said an official in the department of Government Examinations, adding that above 90% results obtained by many schools in the State in the last many years was a sham.

“This is a wake up call for all of us and we need to focus on preparedness of the next batches of students, making the best of the resources available,” said the official. The results this time had brought to the fore some hard facts that need to be taken seriously. Nearly two lakh students failed and of the total 11,650 schools in the State, 79 schools recorded zero pass percentage. Of them 36 schools were in the private sector and 18 were aided schools.

“To demonstrate that the government is serious about cleansing the exam system, the AP Public Examinations (Prevention of Malpractices and Unfair Means) Act, 1997, was invoked against 75 persons who resorted to “malpractices,” said Director, Department of Government Examinations, D. Devananda Reddy, informing that 55 of them were government teachers.

“Long gap of two years that kept students away from classroom teaching, insufficient time left for teachers to take up ‘revision’, children breaking away from the practice of study hours after school hours, and changes made in the question paper model have contributed to the low performance of students,” said K. S. Lakshmana Rao, MLC. “ This should serve as an eye-opener and students, parents and teachers should invest sincere efforts to scale-up the results,” said a people’s representative.

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Digital profile of all students to be readied

Minister inaugurates Sahitham portal

STAFF REPORTER

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

An opportunity for continuous updation of all students' details through a 'digital student profile' and analysing and improving it will be provided as part of the Sahitham project, Minister for General Education V. Sivankutty has said.

He was speaking after inaugurating the Sahitham project's portal www.sahitham.kite.kerala.gov.in at the KITE Victers studio here on Tuesday.

Sahitham's objective is mentoring of students by teachers so as to know them better and contribute to their development ("Kuttiye ariyuka, kuttiye valarthuka"). The portal has been designed by KITE (Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education) with the academic support of the State Council of Educational Research and Training

The Sahitham portal allows teachers to track the learning progress of students, including their social skills, language skills, numerical ability, social awareness, aptitude for science, and record these online.

Besides the basic details available on the Sampoorna portal, a student's social and cultural background, family environment, and areas in which special support is needed will be included in the student profile. This will help teachers plan remedial measures in their role as mentors, Mr. Sivankutty said.

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‘COVID cases will rise if safety measures are not reiterated’

Health Secretary calls for efforts to arrest trend

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI



J. Radhakrishnan

Health Secretary J. Radhakrishnan on Tuesday warned of a steady, if not a steep increase in COVID-19 cases, if the need to wear masks in crowded and closed places, vaccination and maintaining physical distancing were not reiterated.

Against the backdrop of reports of higher COVID-19 cases in Kerala, Maharashtra, Karnataka among other States including Tamil Nadu and detection of BA.4 and BA.5 sub-lineages of Omicron variant in Tamil Nadu, the Health Secretary called for efforts at all levels to arrest the trend by involving all stakeholders and sensitising the people.

In a communication to District Collectors and other officials, he said so far, the cases reported were mild but as the numbers increased, mortality among those with co-morbidities or elderly, especially those whose immunity levels have gone down was also likely to increase.

It would be prudent to take the warning signs seriously as Monday's dip in cases was more likely due to lower testing during the weekend. Higher numbers are anticipated during the weekdays due to focussed testing, he said.

Greater Chennai Corporation followed by Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram, Coimbatore and Tiruvallur were reporting cases regularly. Now, Madurai, Vellore, Erode, Thanjavur and Ranipet had cases. A total ranging from 14 up to 17 out of the 38 districts were reporting cases off and on.

He said that every week, at least one new institutional cluster was detected. Similarly, there were sporadic clusters in families and workplaces after functions, events, gatherings or even hospital visits for other conditions.

He said over 43 lakh persons were yet to take the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, while 1.21 crore persons were yet to take the second dose despite being eligible. A special mega camp was being planned on June 12.

He added so far, public health experts were of the view that there was no need for any immediate panic as till now, there were only localised increases with identifiable reasons in select districts and sporadic cases in others. However, Mr. Radhakrishnan called for steps to prevent, control and reverse the trend of increasing fresh cases as quickly as possible.

Inter-State fake currency racket busted in Charla

Accused circulated the money among gullible Adivasis

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

An inter-state fake currency racket involved in printing and circulation of counterfeit currency notes in Charla mandal in the tribal heartland of Bhadrachalam division was busted by the Charla police with the arrest of seven members of the gang, including a woman.

Police said a minor boy was also detained in connection with the racket. The police seized counterfeit notes in the denomination of Rs. 200, Rs. 500 and Rs. 2,000 as well as a computer and other paraphernalia used for printing fake currency notes from the possession of the arrested.

Those arrested were identified as Naresh, Prem Kumar, Sd. Iqbal and G Sarveshwara Rao from Charla mandal, and M Vinod Kumar, K Jeevarathnam and P Jayalakshmi from Guntur district in AP. They were arrested by the Charla police on Monday, a police press release said.

Another member of the gang identified as P Murali Krishna was arrested by the Kavali police in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh two months ago, police added.

The members of the inter-State gang operated the “fake currency racket” in Charla mandal in a clandestine manner to circulate “counterfeit currency notes” in the remote tribal pockets by targeting gullible Adivasis.

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Police issue summons to Nupur Sharma

She and her family given Delhi police cover following death threats

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

On a day the Delhi police provided security to suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma and her family, following an FIR filed on her complaint that she was getting death threats, the Maharashtra police issued summons to her to appear before them on June 22.

She has been asked to be present at the Mumbra police station to record her statement in connection with her controversial remarks on Prophet Muhammed during a television debate on May 28.

She has been booked under sections 295A (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs), 153A (promoting enmity between different groups and other clauses of the Indian Penal Code).

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Girl killed allegedly by father

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MYSURU

A 17-year-old girl has been strangled to death allegedly by her father at Kaggundi village of Periyapatna taluk. The girl, belonging to Vokkaliga community, was in a relationship with a boy from the Dalit community and her family was opposed to this.

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Al Qaeda arm threatens strikes in India

JUNE 08

Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) has threatened that it will carry out attacks in India in the backdrop of the controversial statements on the Prophet made by two BJP leaders. A statement purportedly issued by the AQIS has called for attacks in Delhi, Mumbai, Gujarat and U.P. “In response to this affront, the hearts of Muslims all over the world are bleeding and are filled with feelings of revenge and retribution,” it declared.page 10

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Pulling power

JUNE 08



*Friendly fight*Rabha tribal women take part in a tug-of-war with men during the Baikho festival at Chakabaha village in Kamrup district of Assam on Tuesday.PTI-

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YouTuber held in Goa for ‘abusing’ Bengal CM

Kolkata Police pick up Roddur Roy

[SHIV SAHAY SINGH](#)

KOLKATA

YouTuber Roddur Roy was arrested by the Kolkata police on Tuesday. According to reports, Mr. Roy was arrested from Goa after the police traced his location to the western coastal State.

A number of complaints were filed against Mr. Roy at several police stations in the city and also at the Kolkata Police’s cyber crime cell alleging that he made derogatory remarks against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in a video, which was shared on social media following the death of singer KK in Kolkata last week. Among those who complained to the police was Trinamool Congress (TMC) Rajya Sabha MP Santanu Sen.

The police are likely to bring Mr. Roy to Kolkata and produce him before a city court. Though popular, Mr. Roy’s videos have often had abusive content and obscene language. In a recent video, for which a number of complaints were lodged with the city police, Mr. Roy is seen targeting not only the CM but also number of Ministers of the State government.

Mr. Roy is not a stranger to controversy. In the past, there was outrage when he distorted the lyrics of a song by Rabindranath Tagore.

While Trinamool Congress spokesperson Kunal Ghosh welcomed the arrest and said that the YouTuber should have been arrested long ago, BJP leader Anupam Hazra said it was only after Mr. Roy used derogatory language against the Chief Minister that he had been arrested. “He should be

arrested long ago for distorting the song by Rabindranath Tagore,"" the BJP leader said.

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Swapna points a finger at CM, Kerala officials

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOCHI

Swapna Suresh, an accused in the diplomatic channel gold smuggling case, levelled allegations against Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his family members besides some top bureaucrats, including M. Sivasankar, the former Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, in connection with some smuggling activities.

Swapna also raised allegations against K.T. Jaleel, a Minister in the previous Cabinet led by Mr. Vijayan, and C.M. Raveendran, who was in the Chief Minister's Office earlier.

The allegations were made in a statement given before a magistrate in Ernakulam under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, she said.

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‘No lapses’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

VIJAYAWADA

Director of School Education S. Suresh Kumar on Tuesday clarified there was no discrepancy in the SSC Public Examination results, as was being claimed in some social media platforms. Responding to reports that students who had obtained marks lower than 35 had been marked as ‘Pass’, he said the pass marks was 10 for handicapped students.

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Six rape accused officially arrested

[STAFF REPORTER](#)

HYDERABAD

The police on Tuesday night formally announced the arrest of six persons, including five Children in Conflict with Law (CCL), in the sensational minor girl's gang-rape case of Jubilee Hills.

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Heavy rain forecast

MANGALURU

With heavy rain forecast between Friday and Sunday in Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada districts, India Meteorological Department has asked farmers in the region to postpone sowing and other agricultural activities on these days.

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DKMUL to bear 75% of cow insurance premium

MANGALURU



A Milk Producers Cooperative Society at Hadavu village in Byndoor taluk of Udupi district. ANIL KUMAR SASTRY ANIL KUMAR SASTRY

The Dakshina Kannada Cooperative Milk Producers Union (DKMUL) will spend close to Rs. 3.3 crore towards extending insurance cover to milch cows of dairy farmers who are members of milk societies in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts this financial year. D KMUL is extending this facility for the third year to help dairy farmers come out of the loss suffered on account of sudden death of their cows for whatever reason.

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Home Guards gears up for monsoon

MANGALURU

Dakshina Kannada Home Guards has now deployed minimum of two home guards each at eight beaches to ensure that tourists did not venture into sea during the rainy season as sea will be rough, according to the District Commandant of the unit Murali Mohan Chuntaru.

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Many keen to perform yoga at Mysuru palace

MYSURU



Yoga enthusiasts rehearsing at the Mysuru palace. M.A. Sriram M.A. Sriram

The participants at the Mysuru palace for the International Day of Yoga will be limited to 15,000. It is going to be a big task for the administration to finalise the participants with requests from various quarters for an opportunity to take part in the event.

This article was downloaded by **calibre** from <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/many-keen-to-perform-yoga-at-mysuru-palace/article65506103.ece>

‘Will shed my blood but not allow Bengal division’

KOLKATA



Mamata Banerjee interacting with the local people in Alipurduar district on Tuesday. PTI

Accusing the BJP of helping separatist groups in north Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said she was ready to shed her blood, but will not

allow any territorial

division of West Bengal. Her remarks come a day after videos of KLO chief Jibon Singha appeared in the public domain. The separatist leader was seen threatening the CM.

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Day after being hit by SUV, victim still shaken

NEW DELHI



(Left) Delhi Police personnel with Anuj Choudhary, the accused SUV driver; the accused seen in altercation with the victim PTI, Special Arrangement

A day after he was hit by a speeding SUV, Shreyansh, a 22-year-old student, is still recuperating from his injuries. A video of the incident, which went viral on social media, shows the SUV driver hitting Shreyansh after a verbal spat and speeding away.

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BTP to support Congress in Rajya Sabha election

JAIPUR

The Bharatiya Tribal Party, which has two members in the Rajasthan Assembly, on Tuesday announced its support to the candidates fielded by the ruling Congress in the Rajya Sabha elections. The BTP took the decision after meeting Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot in Udaipur.

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Fresh COVID-19 cases rise to 144 in State

CHENNAI

New COVID-19 cases rose to 144 in T.N. on Tuesday. Out of the 38 districts, 14 reported fresh cases, with Chennai logging 82 cases.

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Former Punjab Minister held on graft charges

CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Vigilance Bureau in the early hours of Tuesday arrested former Forest Minister and Congress leader Sadhu Singh Dharamsot for his alleged involvement in organised corruption.

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‘Nehru, Indira burnt fingers working against RSS’

BELAGAVI



Nalin Kumar Kateel

“Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Siddaramaiah has lost his mind. Like a mad man, he keeps making noises occasionally and criticises everything we do. That is only for publicity. There is neither meaning in what he says

nor any logic behind it," BJP State president Nalin Kumar Kateel said in Belagavi on Tuesday.

This article was downloaded by **calibre** from <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/nehru-indira-burnt-fingers-working-against-rss/article65505906.ece>

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Advisory Board on disability not reconstituted since 2020

It is to meet on June 24 to decide on Accessible India Campaign, says official

DAMINI NATH

NEW DELHI



*The Central Advisory Board must facilitate the evolution of a comprehensive policy on disabilities.***B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM**

The Central Advisory Board (CAB) on Disability, which is mandated to meet every six months under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, has not been reconstituted since the previous Board's three-year term ended in November 2020, something that has been flagged by activists.

On Monday, at a press conference to discuss the “achievements” of his Ministry during the eight years of the Narendra Modi regime, Union Social

Justice and Empowerment Minister Virendra Kumar did not respond to a question about the targets of the Accessible India Campaign, whose deadline is set to end in June.

Instead, Anjali Bhawra, Secretary of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), replied that the CAB would hold a meeting on June 24 where the achievements of the Centre and the States would be discussed. She did not comment on whether the deadline would be extended. However, as on Tuesday, the CAB had not been reconstituted but the process was on, according to DEPwD officials who requested not to be named. The government had appointed the CAB on November 8, 2017, naming government officials and nominated members.

The CAB, which has a three-year tenure, is supposed to function as the “national-level consultative and advisory body on disability matters”, according to the Act. The panel is meant to “facilitate the continuous evolution of a comprehensive policy for the empowerment of persons with disabilities and the full enjoyment of rights”, the Act says.

Satendra Singh, a physician and disability rights activist, said he had written to the Ministry in December 2021 and again in May this year reminding them about the reconstitution of the CAB. Dr. Singh said the only response he had received was the one informing him that his email had been forwarded to the officer concerned.

Need of the hour

“The CAB is the highest policy making body for disability issues. It was the need of the hour during the COVID-19 pandemic, but the government did not reconstitute it. It’s strange to see the Ministry giving COVID as an excuse for non-constitution as the entire world switched to remote meetings as reasonable accommodation. The CAB is needed the most as we didn’t have a permanent Chief Commissioner for PwD, Rehabilitation Council of India and National Trust chairpersons,” Dr. Singh said.

Muralidharan, general secretary of the National Platform for the Rights of the Disabled, said the delay in reconstituting the CAB “revealed the lack of seriousness” on the part of the government. “This government has been high

on rhetoric and less on delivery. This has been more than exposed by the missing of targets year after year in the flagship Accessible India Campaign. Merely constituting the CAB is also not enough. It has to meet regularly and have meaningful discussions. In the current format, the CAB is heavily loaded by bureaucrats and officials and has very minuscule representation from people with disabilities and their organisations. In any case, it is the chosen few who will make it to the board,” he said.

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BTP to support Congress in RS election

Bharatiya Tribal Party leaders hold discussions with Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot in Udaipur

[SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT](#)

JAIPUR



Randeep Surjewala, Mukul Wasnik and Pramod Tiwari are the Congress nominees to the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan.PTI-

The Bharatiya Tribal Party (BTP), which has two members from Dungarpur district in the Rajasthan Assembly, on Tuesday announced its support to the candidates fielded by the ruling Congress in the Rajya Sabha elections. The BTP took the decision after meeting Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot in Udaipur, where Congress MLAs and Independents are staying at a resort.

After earlier announcing that it would abstain from voting, the BTP had softened its stand two days ago by offering “conditional support” to the

Congress.

The party, which wields considerable influence in the tribal-dominated regions of southern Rajasthan, had sought an assurance on its demands, including the dropping of cases against tribal youth in the Kakri-Doongri violence of 2020, and appointments to a backlog of vacancies.

BTP MLAs Rajkumar Roat and Ram Prasad, accompanied by some tribal leaders, discussed several issues with Mr. Gehlot “in a positive atmosphere” and put forth their demands while agreeing to support the Congress candidates, said sources in the Chief Minister’s Office. The two BTP legislators said they would stay at a place other than the resort till the June 10 polling.

Besides the MLAs representing Dungarpur’s Chorasi and Sagwara seats, tribal leaders who met Mr. Gehlot included Kantibhai Adivasi, Manilal Garasiya and Mohanlal Roat.

The BTP, which was an ally of Congress, had in December 2020 severed ties with the ruling party and announced withdrawal of support to it over the issue of the latter blocking the election of a BTP-backed Independent candidate to the post of Zila Pramukh during the panchayat body polls.

With the BTP’s latest decision, the Congress has reached a comfortable position after securing an assurance of support from the 13 Independent MLAs as well as six Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)-turned-Congress MLAs, who had earlier shown resentment, alleging that they were being ignored.

Meanwhile, the Congress on Tuesday wrote to the State’s Chief Electoral Officer, Praveen Gupta, urging him to maintain vigilance in the run-up to the Rajya Sabha polls. Chief Whip and Minister Mahesh Joshi said the Election Department should keep a close watch on those involved in attempts at poaching and take strict action against them.

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India aims to join NSG, says Jaishankar

‘As a nation with a nuclear industry, India looks forward to Group, overcoming political impediments’

[PRESS TRUST OF INDIA](#)

NEW DELHI



S. Jaishankar with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. China has been stridently opposing India's NSG bid primarily on the grounds that New Delhi is not a signatory to the NPT.PTI-

India is looking forward to joining the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), overcoming the political impediments that are against global interest, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Tuesday.

He made the remarks in an address to the foreign diplomatic corps based in India during an event hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to mark eight years of the Narendra Modi government.

“Strengthening a rules-based order is a natural inclination of a polity like India. We value all opportunities to contribute to it,” he said.

Mr. Jaishankar said India’s membership of the MTCR (Missile Technology Control Regime), Australia Group and the Wassenaar Arrangement are significant. All these groupings are multilateral export control regimes.

“As a nation with a substantial nuclear industry, we also look forward to joining the Nuclear Suppliers Group, overcoming the political impediments that are against global interest,” Mr. Jaishankar said.

The 48-member NSG is an elite club of countries that deals with the trade in nuclear technology and fissile materials besides contributing to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

China has been stridently opposing India’s NSG bid primarily on the grounds that New Delhi is not a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Its opposition has made India’s entry into the group difficult as the NSG works on the principle of consensus.

Mr. Jaishankar also articulated India’s foreign policy priorities.

“The India that you live in and report on is obviously different from the one before. It has development as its focal point, whether at home or in foreign policy. It is a daily proof that democracies can deliver,” he said.

“Its human development indices improve constantly, even as it rises to meet unprecedented challenges. This is a polity with an enhanced popular participation in its decision making and greater authenticity in its expressiveness,” he said.

“It is one that harmonises its national interests with its international obligations. Appropriately, as India celebrates 75 years of independence, it seeks to do so with the world,” the foreign minister added.

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India aims to join NSG: Minister

S. Jaishankar was speaking on foreign policy decisions of the government

[SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT](#)

NEW DELHI



S. Jaishankar with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. China has been stridently opposing India's NSG bid.PTI-

In a message aimed at China blocking India's membership at the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on June 7 said that India looks forward to joining the NSG, overcoming "political impediments".

Mr. Jaishankar was addressing foreign diplomats in Delhi, on the foreign policy achievements of the Modi government in the past eight years.

“We want to make in India, but make with the world. India has a deep belief of the world being a family and expresses it through greater development. Last eight years has seen a tripling of our lines of credit commitments,” Mr. Jaishankar said.

The 48-member NSG is an elite club of countries that deals with the trade in nuclear technology and fissile materials besides contributing to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

“Strengthening a rules-based order is a natural inclination of a polity like India. We value all opportunities to contribute to it,” he said.

Mr. Jaishankar said India’s membership of the MTCR (Missile Technology Control Regime), Australia Group and the Wassenaar Arrangement are significant.

All these groupings are multilateral export control regimes.

Stating that “India is proof that democracies can deliver”, the Minister said the country’s neighbourhood first policy is “clearly associated with a generous and non reciprocal approach to our immediate proximities”.

Mr. Jaishankar remarked that the Indian foreign policy has been displaying greater conceptual and operational clarity. “There has been a spike in our activities for the global south,” he said.

“FTAs that India has concluded and negotiations on the way with others have picked up momentum,” Mr. Jaishankar added.

Regarding COVID-19, the Union minister said that the pandemic has brought out “the overcentralised model of globalisation.” China has been stridently opposing India’s NSG bid primarily on the grounds that New Delhi is not a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Its opposition has made India’s entry into the group difficult as the NSG works on the principle of consensus.

“The India that you live in and report on is obviously different from the one before. It is a proof that democracies can deliver,” he said.

(With PTI inputs)

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‘BJP looking to rewrite Constitution’

P. Chidambaram says such a future must be prevented

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI



P. Chidambaram

The BJP is trying very hard to get a two-thirds majority in the Rajya Sabha and if they achieve that, they will definitely rewrite the Constitution, former Union Minister P. Chidambaram claimed on Tuesday, warning that if such a situation comes to a pass, the country will not remain peaceful anymore.

Mr. Chidambaram was speaking at the end of the two-day brainstorming meet of the Tamil Nadu Congress in Mamallapuram to deliberate on the resolutions passed at the Udaipur *Chintan Shivir*.

“They already have two-thirds in the Lok Sabha. They are trying very hard for two-thirds majority in the Rajya Sabha. If they get that, they will definitely rewrite the Constitution. Once they do that, this country will not remain a peaceful country any more and will turn into a land of riots. We have to say this out loudly now itself, warn everyone. No point saying it after it happens. This has to be prevented,” Mr. Chidambaram said.

On the recent suspension of the BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma and the Delhi media cell head Naveen Kumar Jindal, Mr. Chidambaram said these two were “only loudspeakers of their master’s voice, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and others”. “Was it these two who started this type of rhetoric? They are only tools, arrows. The bows are held by their masters,” he said, while welcoming the action against them.

TNCC president K.S. Alagiri said the party would hold massive protests in various parts of the State from June 28 to July 1 against the BJP’s actions and policies.

There are 20 crore Muslims in India. How can you run a country without giving them economic, political rights?

P. Chidambaram

Former Union Minister

This article was downloaded by **calibre** from <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/bjp-looking-to-rewrite-constitution/article65505651.ece>

MVA leaders give pep talk to MLAs

Uddhav, Pawar meet legislators in Mumbai

STAFF REPORTER

MUMBAI

In a scene reminiscent of 2019 when the Shiv Sena, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Congress, along with smaller parties, displayed a show of strength to form the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, all the MLAs came together yet again on Tuesday evening to work for the victory of the sixth candidate of the ruling alliance in the Rajya Sabha election.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, NCP chief Sharad Pawar and senior Congress leaders both from the State and the Centre briefed the MLAs on the importance of the June 10 election.

According to sources, the CPI(M)'s lone MLA Vinod Nikole too joined the meeting.

Interestingly, the Samajwadi Party with two MLAs on Tuesday asked the MVA what it had done for minorities since the time the alliance came to power. "I have written to the Chief Minister and expect a response from him," said SP MLA Abu Azmi.

Later in the day, Mr. Thackeray reportedly held talks with Mr. Azmi, but it was not clear whether the issues were resolved between the two.

At the meeting with the MLAs, Mr. Thackeray reportedly referred to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her resolve to counter the BJP.

NCP chief Sharad Pawar reportedly exhorted the MLAs to stand firm and united as MVA. “We are sure to win the election, all four seats. We have enough numbers and there shouldn’t be any uncertainty about our victory,” he said.

For the BJP, with its 106 MLAs and the support of six others (including four Independents), victory of two of its candidates is certain. The battle will be between the Sena’s Sanjay Pawar and the BJP’s Dhananjay Mahadik for the sixth seat. The NCP has already announced its intention to transfer its extra votes to Mr. Sanjay Pawar, the Sena’s second candidate .

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Air sports in the country to have an oversight body

Minister for Civil Aviation unveils national air sports policy

JAGRITI CHANDRA

NEW DELHI



Floating fun: The air sports industry in the country is worth Rs. 80-100 crore. NIVEDITA GANGULY

For the first time in India, air sports such as paragliding or hot-air ballooning will come under a four-tier governance structure with the Air Sports Federation of India (ASFI) as the apex body which will oversee aspects such as regulation, certification, accidents and penalties.

Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister for Civil Aviation, on Tuesday unveiled the national air sports policy. “Air sports is one area which has the ability to

transform into a huge industry,” he said.

He said that the air sports industry in the country was today worth Rs. 80-100 crore, with nearly 5,000 providers, which could grow 10 times in terms of revenue and yield 1 lakh direct jobs apart from a multiplier impact on the economy.

Four-tier structure

The policy lays down a four-tier governance structure with the ASFI at the top, followed by national associations for individual sports and their regional and district-level units.

The ASFI will be an autonomous body under the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) which will represent India at global platforms related to air sports such as the World Air Sports Federation and will also conduct competitions across the country through different national air sports associations.

The ASFI will provide governance over different aspects such as regulation, certification, competitions, awards and penalties, and will publish its draft guidelines within a period of six months. It will be chaired by the Secretary, MoCA, who will nominate up to three eminent experts related to air sports as members of the ASFI governing council. Sports that will come within its ambit are aeromodelling, model rocketry, amateur-built and experimental aircraft, ballooning, drones, gliding, powered gliding, parachuting, paramotoring, powered aircraft and rotorcraft.

“Initially, these bodies will receive financial support from MoCA. It is a virtuous cycle, because once we have our teams participating in international events, more funds will flow in,” said Amber Dubey, Joint Secretary (MoCA).

The government will also look at various incentives to encourage the sport such as reducing GST on air sports equipment from 18%-28% to 5% or less, Mr. Scindia said.

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Joint count of elephant and big cats

Survey will rely on robust scientific methods to count the animal population

JACOB KOSHY

NEW DELHI



According to the last count in 2017, there are 29,964 elephants in India.

The Union government will for the first time this year present a unified count of the tiger, leopard and elephant populations of the country, according to officials in the Union Environment Ministry.

The tiger survey is usually held once in four years and elephants are counted once in five years. According to the most recent 2018-19 survey, there are 2,967 tigers in India. According to the last count in 2017, there are 29,964 elephants.

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, on August 12, 2021 made public the population estimation protocol to be adopted in the all-India elephant and tiger population survey in 2022.

Elephant numbers would be estimated by States based on DNA analysis of their dung droppings and statistical techniques.

Tigers are counted by deploying camera traps, identifying individuals based on stripes, as well as statistical analysis.

Obsolete methods

Tiger scat and its DNA analysis is usually used only when camera traps are impractical to deploy say, in difficult terrain, said Y. Jhala, wildlife scientist at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, and an expert on wildcat surveys. Because elephants number more than tigers and are hard to tell apart from camera-trap images alone, it is more economical and feasible to use their dung for identification.

The ‘head count’ method, or one currently deployed to count elephants, was “obsolete” and frequently led to double-counting, he added.

“Resources, time and energy will be saved from having a common estimate. This is the first time that a robust scientific method based on statistical techniques will be implemented,” said S.P. Yadav, Director of the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

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Sequestered MLAs being ‘trained’ on how to vote

Polling for Rajya Sabha seats has some specific rules

[NISTULA HEBBAR](#)

NEW DELHI

Congress MLAs from Rajasthan and Haryana, BJP MLAs from Rajasthan, and Shiv Sena MLAs in Mumbai are being sequestered in resorts ahead of the June 10 polling to Rajya Sabha seats to prevent any poaching from the other side, as elections for seats in at least four States — Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Haryana — will go down to the wire. What is equally interesting is that MLAs are also being “trained” on how to vote in these polls without getting disqualified.

Rajasthan BJP president Satish Poonia said that such a training was being imparted to party MLAs as many of them are first-timers.

One of the most interesting innovations in Rajya Sabha polling comes from an incident that happened as late as 2016, when during a closely fought contest in Haryana, a “rebellion” by Congress MLAs helped Independent candidate, media baron Subhash Chandra (in the poll fray from Rajasthan, this time), win. Indian National Lok Dal candidate, R. K. Anand, lost. Votes of at least 12 Congress MLAs were deemed invalid as they had been marked with pens not authorised for voting.

A furore broke out as the Congress and INLD demanded that the polls be countermanaged. Following this controversy, the Election Commission made it mandatory for all voters to use only the pen provided by the polling officials, a special pen with violet ink, and ink of any other colour used on the ballot will be deemed as an invalid vote.

The other thing that parties are anxious to tell their MLAs while voting in the Rajya Sabha polls is the question of showing the vote before casting. In the same Rajya Sabha poll in Haryana, current AICC general secretary Randeep Surjewala's vote was deemed invalid as he showed his marked ballot to Kiran Choudhry. The Rajya Sabha has a system of a limited kind of open ballot. To subvert attempts at cross voting, in defiance of the party whip, each MLA has to show his/her marked ballot to the party's authorised agent before putting the vote into the ballot box. Showing the marked ballot to anyone other than the authorised agent would make the vote invalid.

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Four militants killed in three operations in Kashmir

Sticky IEDs dropped by drones from Pak. seized, defused

[PEERZADA ASHIQ](#)

SRINAGAR



Against terrorism: BJP members staging a protest against Pakistan after three 'sticky bombs' were recovered. PTI-

Four militants were killed in three back-to-back anti-militancy operations of the security forces in Kashmir valley in the past 24 hours.

Three sticky IEDs dropped by drones from across the border were seized and defused near the International Border (IB) in Jammu's Akhnoor Sector.

The police said an LeT militant was killed and three escaped during an encounter with the security forces in north Kashmir's Baramulla on Monday.

The police identified the slain militant as Hanzalla from Lahore.

In a separate operation in Kupwara, two LeT militants were killed in a gunfight in the Chaktaras-Kadi area. “One of the two slain terrorists has been identified as Tufail, a Pakistani,” IGP Vijay Kumar said. In Shopian, a militant was killed, the police said. Officials identified the militant as Nadeem Ahmad Rather, alias Kamran from Kulgam.

Three IEDs were recovered near the International Border in Jammu’s Akhnoor Sector. A BSF spokesman said alert troops fired two rounds on hearing a humming sound from an object about 800 metres in the air on Monday.

Two ‘hybrid’ militants and their two associates were arrested in south Kashmir’s Shopian in connection with an IED blast that killed one soldier and injured three others on June 2 in Shopian’s Sedow area.

This article was downloaded by **calibre** from <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/four-militants-killed-in-three-operations-in-kashmir/article65505570.ece>

ED seizes Rs. 2.8 cr. in cash, 1.8-kg gold

Delhi Minister's house searched

[DEVESH K. PANDEY](#)

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has seized 133 gold coins weighing 1.8 kg and Rs. 2.85 crore in cash during the searches in connection with the money laundering case against Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain and others.

On Monday, the searches were conducted at the residence of Mr. Jain and his wife Poonam Jain, and on the premises of Ankush Jain, Vaibhav Jain, Naveen Jain and Siddharth Jain, directors of Ram Prakash Jewellers Private Limited; G.S. Matharoo, chairman of Lala Sher Singh Jivan Vigyan Trust, which runs Prudence Group of Schools; Yogesh Kumar Jain, director in Ram Prakash Jewellers; and father-in-law of Ankush Jain.

“Investigation revealed that one accomplice member of Lala Sher Singh Jivan Vigyan Trust had provided accommodation entries for the transfer of land from the company beneficially owned by Mr. Jain to the family members of accomplices in order to alienate the property and to frustrate the process of confiscation,” said the agency on Tuesday.

The probe is based on an FIR registered by the CBI in August 2017 against Mr. Jain and others. In December 2018, the CBI had filed a chargesheet against the accused persons alleging that Mr. Jain, while holding the office as a Minister in the Delhi government from February 2015 to May 2017, acquired assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. Provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act were invoked.

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‘BHEL, LIC played key role in development’

Amit Shah lauds the Planning Commission

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) and the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) played a key role in the development of the country due to the far-sightedness of the Planning Commission, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday.

Mr. Shah said development would have derailed in the country if the Planning Commission, renamed NITI Aayog, was not there.

“We have seen the research-based development done by Planning Commission. When BHEL was envisioned, it would have been only to make electrical components. But today when we analyse its contribution, 91% of the factories use components made by BHEL. Imagine if BHEL was not there what could have happened,” the Home Minister said.

He was speaking at the inauguration of the National Tribal Research Institute.

“When LIC was founded, it would have appeared that government has created just an insurance company but after 60 to 65 years when one looks back at the contribution made by LIC, we find that it provided social security to middle and lower middle class social society. Similarly, this NTRI will play a pivotal role in the development of tribal persons in the country,” he said.

Left-wing extremism

He said the Narendra Modi government had brought down the number of districts affected by Left-wing extremism in the country by 70%. The Minister added that the Modi government had increased the budget for Eklavya residential schools to Rs. 1,418 crore this financial year from Rs. 278 crore.

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‘Constructive approach key to India-Pak. ties’

The minister said she supported resolution of the Kashmir issue in accordance with the U.N. resolutions.

[PRESS TRUST OF INDIA](#)

ISLAMABAD

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock on Tuesday said that a constructive approach and confidence building measures between Pakistan and India were key to improvement of their ties.

Ms. Baerbock, who is in Pakistan on her maiden visit to the country, made the remarks here during a joint press conference along with her Pakistan counterpart Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

Responding to a question, Ms. Baerbock said she supported resolution of the Kashmir issue in accordance with the United Nations resolutions. She also welcomed the Line of Control ceasefire agreed upon in 2021 and stressed the need for both sides to reduce tensions. Mr. Bilawal said peace in South Asia was “contingent upon peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue.”

The Minister said the international community must immediately take notice of the increasing incidents of alleged persecution of minorities and rising tide of Islamophobia in India.

He said Pakistan wanted peace, but it required a rational approach.

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Rahul Gandhi meets family of slain singer

Will ensure justice is delivered, he says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH



Rahul Gandhi meets the family of the late Sidhu Moosewala in Mansa.PTI-

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday hit out at the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab, blaming it for a complete breakdown of law and order in the State.

Mr. Gandhi met the family of slain Punjabi singer Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, known as Sidhu Moosewala, at their Moosa village residence in Mansa district to express condolences. He said the AAP government in Punjab was not capable of maintaining peace and calm in the State. The Congress, he added, would ensure that justice was delivered to Moosewala's family.

On May 29, Moosewala was shot dead by a few assailants at Jahawarke village, a day after his security cover was trimmed. He contested the 2022 Assembly election as the Congress candidate from the Mansa constituency.

After meeting the family members, Mr. Gandhi said on Twitter, "It is difficult to describe the grief that the parents of Congress leader Sidhu Moosewala ji are going through. It is our duty to give them justice, and we will do so."

The daylight killing of Moosewala highlighted the problem of gangster-related crimes in Punjab, which have become increasingly bloody and frequent over time, putting the AAP government on the back foot surrounding the deteriorating law-and-order situation in the State.

Eight arrested

Meanwhile, the Punjab police said they had arrested eight persons for providing logistic support, conducting recce and harbouring the shooters of Moosewala.

The police have also identified four shooters involved in the crime.

This article was downloaded by **calibre** from <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/rahul-gandhi-meets-family-of-slain-singer/article65505594.ece>

Compassionate appointments to be decided in 6 months: SC

‘Making families wait for years unacceptable’

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Government appointments on compassionate grounds to family members of employees who died in the harness should be made within six months from applying, the Supreme Court has said in a judgment.

A Bench led by Justice M.R. Shah said the very intention behind “compassionate appointments” is to render immediate help to families of dead government employees. Time is of essence. Making these families wait for years is hardly compassionate on the part of the government, it said.

“A family of a deceased employee may be placed in a position of financial hardship upon the untimely death of the employee while in service and the basis or policy is immediacy in rendering of financial assistance to the family of the deceased consequent upon his untimely death,” Justice Shah explained. He referred to cases in which bereaved families in dire financial straits were made to wait for decades.

The judgment came in a case in which a man, who applied for a junior clerk’s position on compassionate grounds in the Odisha government after the death of his father who was an excise inspector, was made to wait for more than five years even as the case travelled all the way up to the Supreme Court.

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COVID-positive Sonia seeks time from ED

She was supposed to appear on June 8

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI



Sonia Gandhi

Congress president Sonia Gandhi's office has written to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) seeking a fresh date to appear before the agency in the *National Herald* case as Ms. Gandhi has not yet tested negative for COVID-19, a party source said on Tuesday.

Ms. Gandhi's office has also attached the COVID-19 test reports of June 1 and 7 along with its request for a fresh date.

Ms. Gandhi was scheduled to appear before the ED on Wednesday while her son and former party chief, Rahul Gandhi, is to appear before the agency on June 13 in connection with a money laundering case involving the *National Herald*. The Congress chief, however, tested positive for COVID on June 2. She and her son have been summoned by the ED as it wants to record their statements under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The case to investigate alleged financial irregularities under the PMLA was registered about nine months ago after a trial court took cognisance of an Income Tax Department probe carried out on the criminal complaint filed by former BJP MP Subramanian Swamy.

Mr. Swamy had approached the court alleging that the assets of Associated Journals Ltd. (AJL), which published the *National Herald* newspaper, were fraudulently acquired and transferred to *Young Indian*, in which Ms. Gandhi and her son owned 38% shares each. *Young Indian* paid Rs. 50 lakh to the Congress for transferring the Rs. 90 crore debt to it. The Congress argued that *Young Indian* was a not-for-profit company so it can neither accumulate profits nor pay dividends to its shareholders.

(With PTI inputs)

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Owaisi asks MVA to make offer if it wants support

For high stakes Rajya Sabha polls, both MVA and BJP are seeking support of Independents, smaller parties

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PUNE

With both the ruling tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition and the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) soliciting the support of Independents and smaller parties in the high stakes Rajya Sabha elections in Maharashtra, All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaduddin Owaisi on Tuesday claimed no one from the ruling MVA had contacted them yet.

Mr. Owaisi, who was speaking in Nanded, further said that if the ruling alliance of the Shiv Sena, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Congress did indeed wish to claim the AIMIM's support, then the MVA ought to make its communication clear and in the open. Despite holding a meeting with party functionaries, Mr. Owaisi and other AIMIM leaders did not come up with any decision to support either the MVA or the BJP.

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Maharashtra parties brace for council polls

Elections for ten seats in the upper house of the State legislature will be held on June 20

[STAFF REPORTER](#)

MUMBAI

Even as all eyes are set on the Rajya Sabha poll to be held on June 10, political parties in Maharashtra have also been discussing another crucial election, to the State Council to be held on June 20. Ten seats in the Upper House of the State legislature will be up for grabs.

The Shiv Sena is likely to continue with Anil Desai and may opt for Sachin Ahir for the second seat. On Tuesday, Mr. Ahir and Mr. Desai held a meeting with Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. The NCP may renominate Naik Nimbalkar and may give a chance to Eknath Khadse who was in the list of 12 MLCs to be appointed by the Governor that has been pending for over a year and a half now. Another NCP leader Amarsinh Pandit's name is also being discussed. The Congress too will get a seat. The Opposition BJP can elect four MLCs as six of its members will be retiring.

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New rules allow retired officers to hold CDS post

JUNE 08

Setting the stage for appointment of the next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), the government has amended Service Rules of the Army, Navy and Air Force, allowing retired Service Chiefs and three-star officers eligible for consideration for the country's top military post.

However, with an age limit that the retired officer should not have attained 62 years on the date of appointment, retired Service chiefs are largely ruled out, especially so for the present consideration.

“The Central Government may, if considered necessary, in public interest, appoint as CDS, an officer who is serving as Lieutenant General or General or an officer who has retired in the rank of Lieutenant General or General but has not attained the age of 62 on the date of appointment,” the amendment in the Service Rules of the Army says in the gazette dated June 6, 2022.

Amendment

Similar amendment was made in the service rules of Navy and Air Force as well.

As the government considers several officers for the post, this amendment makes all three-star rank officers who have retired in the last two years eligible, as Lieutenant Generals in the Army, Vice-Admirals in the Navy and Air Marshals in the Air Force retire at the age of 60.

The gazette notification of December 2019, before the appointment of the first CDS, did not specifically state that serving officers of Lieutenant General rank and equivalent are eligible to be considered.

CDS post approved

In December 2019, the government approved the creation of the post of CDS, who would also function as the Principal Military Adviser to the Defence Minister and Permanent Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC).

In addition, the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) was created as the fifth department in the Ministry of Defence (MoD), with the CDS functioning as its Secretary.

Gen. Bipin Rawat, who had served as the 27th Army Chief from December 31, 2016 till December 31, 2019, took over as the first CDS on January 1, 2020.

Gen. Bipin Rawat, along with his wife Madhulika Rawat and 12 others, was killed in a chopper crash on December 8, 2021. The post of CDS has been lying vacant since then.

The age limit for the CDS's post is 65 years with no fixed tenure defined, unlike for the Service Chief which is three years of tenure or 62 years of age.

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2 States, 1 panchayat: Kotia well placed

JUNE 08

For the first time in 2021, Andhra Pradesh set up polling booths in Kotia villages and held direct panchayat elections in some villages. A year later in 2022, Odisha held elections to three-tier panchayati raj institutions in the same set of villages. On both occasions, hundreds of villagers, who possess two voter identity cards issued by Odisha and A.P., happily exercised their franchise.

The double bonanza is not confined to voting rights only. A significant size of tribal population in the Kotia panchayat avail subsidised food grain under the National Food Security Act from the two States. Eligible elderly population get old age pension separately from Odisha and A.P.; similarly, pension for widows, destitutes and differently-abled persons flow from two sources.

Faced with criticism of losing control over Kotia, the Odisha government has announced a special package of Rs. 150 crore for the forest region. About Rs. 120 crore of the fund has already spent on physical infrastructure in the Kotia panchayat. Not many panchayat headquarters in Odisha can boast of a community health centre, police station, bank, residential English medium school, separate hostels for students and a helipad.

A.P. is also investing heavily in social security schemes for Kotia villagers by deploying officials who have been assigned to personally deliver government benefits at their doorsteps. Recently, Andhra Pradesh carved out a new district called ‘Manyam’ from Parvatipuram, including disputed Kotia as its own.

Decades-old fight

In 1936, Odisha was the first state formed on linguistic basis in the country. According to *Koraput Gazetteer*, after formation of the province of Odisha, it had all along been having revenue, criminal and civil jurisdiction over Kotia.

The boundary dispute actually arose in March 1955 when some officers of AP government tried to collect rent from Kotia, which was a group of un-surveyed villages. Odisha protested the move. No solution emerged and the dispute lingered on. “When both the States prepared to conduct general election in the disputed villages in the year 1967, the then Home Minister Y.V. Chavan mediated between two CMs on September 12, 1968,” says the *Gazetteer*.

As the matter remained unsolved, Odisha moved the Supreme Court in 1968. The SC has since then ordered maintaining the status quo. In Kotia GP, there are 28 villages.

Of these villages, 21 are disputed while seven are undisputedly Odisha villages.

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Trinamool may lose legislators in Meghalaya prior to election

4 of the party's 12 MLAs could shift to UDP, NPP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

Six months after 12 Congress MLAs, led by former Chief Minister Mukul Sangma, defected to the Trinamool Congress in Meghalaya, the party is set to lose some of the legislators. At least four MLAs of the party are believed to be in talks with the leaders of two parties in the ruling alliance in the State. There are speculations that two MLAs each may join the National People's Party (NPP) and the United Democratic Party (UDP).

While the NPP has said “it is not unusual for MLAs or senior leaders to switch parties ahead of Assembly polls”, the UDP chose to be diplomatic about the development.

“Leaders of different political parties have approached us but decisions will be taken after the State election committee meets,” UDP general secretary Jemino Mawthoh said.

State Trinamool president and MLA Charles Pyngrope said he was unaware of two of his colleagues — Himalaya Shangpliang and Shitlang Pale — planning to leave.

The Trinamool is likely to be on election mode after senior party leader, Abhishek Banerjee, visits Shillong on June 16. Many in Meghalaya view Trinamool as a “Bengali party” but Mr. Pyngrope said people also acknowledge that it is a party that can stand up to the BJP.

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Former Punjab Minister held

An act of political vendetta; deflection from main issues of lawlessness, unemployment, says Congress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Vigilance Bureau in the wee hours of Tuesday arrested former Forest Minister and Congress leader Sadhu Singh Dharamsot for his alleged involvement in organised corruption, even as the Congress party termed the arrest an act of “political vendetta”.

Former Forest Minister Sangat Singh Gilzian, who was a Minister for a few months in the previous Congress government, has been named in the FIR. The investigation is said to have revealed Mr. Dharamsot’s alleged involvement in organised corruption pertaining to the issuance of permits for the cutting of *khair* trees, transfer of officials, purchases, and issuance of No Objection Certificates.

The VB also arrested Kamalpreet Singh Kamal, media adviser of the Minister, and Chamkaur Singh, a retired Range Officer and an Officer on Special Duty to the Minister, the statement added.

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8 MLAs may cross-vote, claims Subhash Chandra

[PRESS TRUST OF INDIA](#)

JAIPUR

BJP-backed Independent candidate Subhash Chandra on Tuesday claimed that eight Congress MLAs may vote for him in the Rajya Sabha polls, and asked former Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot also to cross sides.

This would be an opportunity for Mr. Pilot to avenge his “humiliation”, the media baron told reporters.

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The real and non-real

JUNE 08

In the Devi Bhagavata Purana, it is shown that Goddess Devi is the Highest Primordial Force, whose power pervades all existence, endowing each and every aspect of creation with their functional and other abilities. By this, an important truth that there are only two basic ‘vastus’ in creation, which sastras explain as the ‘real,’ the chaitanya vastu and the ‘non-real,’ the jada vastu, constituted of Prakriti and the gunas is reinforced. This chaitanya swaroopa gets its power to engage in action and also experience the world only when it is associated with Prakriti and gunas, pointed out Sri K. Srinivasan in a discourse. On this basis, it is shown that Goddess Devi endows even the Trimurtis, Brahma, Vishnu and Siva, with their respective powers or shakti, Maha Saraswati, Maha Lakshmi and Maha Durga so that each of them is able engage in all their actions, not to mention their special tasks of srishti, stiti and samhara.

Also, all the incarnations are shown to be the result of Divine Sankalpa when Yoga Maya intervenes to restore dharma. In this purana, Vishnu explains that during these incarnations, He had enjoyed and suffered like human beings. This does not mean that He is also like us. His birth is not owing to any karma, past or present, as is the case with human beings. Factors such as Sankalpa and Maya are behind God’s birth. Being a Sarvajna, He understands that these happenings and events are necessary. He is always aware of the differences between chaitanya swaroopa and the nature of Prakriti. He is able to come to terms with the demands of whatever avatar He takes. He subjects Himself to these conditions and remains a mere witness, even though He appears to suffer mental anguish. But it is not easy for us to attain that kind of viveka to transcend joy and sorrow.

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AQIS says it will carry out strikes in India

[KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE](#)

DHAKA

Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) has issued a threat that its members will carry out attacks in India against the backdrop of the controversial statements regarding Prophet Muhammed made by two BJP leaders.

A statement purportedly by the AQIS has called for attacks in Delhi, Mumbai, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat.

“In response to this affront, the hearts of Muslims all over the world are bleeding and are filled with feelings of revenge and retribution,” the AQIS said.

The AQIS has drawn attention to the comments on the Prophet and his family members, and said that it will eliminate those who have insulted the Prophet and other figures that it considers holy.

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EC to reach out to remote area voters

Election Commission asks officials explore possibilities of remote voting, to increase turnout in urban areas

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Tuesday decided to set up a committee to improve the participation of migrant voters and reach out to electors in urban as well as remote areas. The commission, chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, discussed Mr. Kumar's recent trek to a remote polling station in Chamoli. Recognising the efforts of polling officials who travel up to three days in advance to the 440 remote polling stations, the EC decided to double the remuneration for such parties. It said that the Chief Electoral Officers of States and UTs would identify such polling stations.

The EC decided to work on new water and shock-proof backpacks to carry EVMs and VVPATs in difficult terrains.

This article was downloaded by **calibre** from <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/ec-to-reach-out-to-remote-area-voters/article65505565.ece>

Kanpur DM shunted, BJP leader held

Inflammatory post led to his arrest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GHAZIABAD

The Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday transferred Kanpur District Magistrate (DM) Neha Sharma.

Harshit Srivastava, former Yuva Morcha district secretary, has been arrested for posting inflammatory content on social media platforms, Additional Director General of Police-Law and Order, Prashant Kumar, said.

Twelve others have been arrested in connection with the violence in the city, taking the total number of those held to 51, a senior official said.

A 16-year-old teenager walked into the Colonleganj Police Station and surrendered after his picture appeared on posters put up by police, DCP-East, Pramod Kumar, said.

(With inputs from PTI)

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Girl killed for intercaste relationship

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MYSURU

A 17-year-old girl was allegedly strangled to death by her father in Kaggundi village of Periyapatna taluk in Karnataka.

The girl, a student of II PUC in a college in Periyapatna and belonging to the Vokkaliga community, was in a relationship with a boy from the Dalit community residing in the neighbouring Mellahalli village. However, the girl's father Suresh, 45, and mother, Baby, counselled her against having any relationship with the boy, the police said.

When the girl tried to contact the boy again, a confrontation ensued between her and her father on Tuesday leading to her strangulation, the police said.

The parents took the body to Mellahalli village, and dumped it by the roadside.

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Mumbai reports 1,242 COVID cases

[PRESS TRUST OF INDIA](#)

MUMBAI

Mumbai on Tuesday reported 1,242 new coronavirus infections, almost double the previous day's count, but no pandemic-related death, the Brihanmumbai Mumbai Corporation (BMC) said.

The infection count was the highest since January 29, when the city reported 1,411 new cases and 11 fatalities. On Monday, India's financial capital had recorded 676 cases but no deaths. Mumbai's tally of COVID-19 cases increased to 10,71,776, on Tuesday while the death toll remained unchanged at 19,569.

As per the bulletin, a total of 17,145 tests were conducted since Monday evening. The tally of tests conducted in the city so far rose to 1,72,07,993. With a significant increase in daily tests, the positivity rate (cases found per 100 tests) in the city dipped from 0.098% to 0.072% on Monday. The number of active cases rose to 5,974.

The caseload doubling period dipped to 986 days.

The overall growth rate of cases in Mumbai was 0.07% for the period between May 31 to June 6.

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‘UN seeks tolerance of all religions’

The BJP on Sunday suspended Sharma and expelled Jindal as the row over their remarks against the Prophet escalated with protests from many Muslim countries

[PRESS TRUST OF INDIA](#)

UNITED NATIONS

Amid sharp reaction from several Muslim nations over remarks by BJP leaders against Prophet Mohammed, a spokesperson for U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said that “we strongly encourage respect and tolerance for all religions.”

The spokesperson was responding to a question by a Pakistani journalist on the condemnation by Muslim nations over remarks by BJP’s Nupur Sharma and Naveen Kumar Jindal against the Prophet.

“I've seen stories. I haven't seen the remarks themselves, but I mean, regardless, I can tell you that we strongly encourage respect and tolerance for all religions,” Stephane Dujarric, Spokesman for the Secretary-General, said on Monday.

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Freeze on new IAS deputation rules

8 States opposed Centre's proposal to overcome acute shortage of civil servants

[VIJAITA SINGH](#)

NEW DELHI

As the Centre continues to face a shortage of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Indian Police Service (IPS) officers, a proposal mooted in December 2021 to depute them and Indian Forest Service (IFoS) officers to the Centre without necessarily taking the State governments' nod appears to have been put in cold storage.

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) said in a Right to Information (RTI) response that a final view on the proposal is yet to be taken and it cannot disclose the information held in a "fiduciary relationship".

The proposal was moved as the Union government is facing an acute shortage of All India Services — IAS, IPS and IFoS — officers, and despite existing provisions, the States are not sponsoring adequate officers for Central deputation. In many cases, the officers are also not willing to serve the Union government.

According to the DoPT, only 10% of mid-level IAS officers were posted with the Union government in 2021, a sharp fall from 19% in 2014.

On May 13, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of 23 Joint Secretary-rank officers in various Ministries, out of which only six were IAS officers and one belonged to the IPS. The remaining belonged to other Central services such as the Indian Audit and Accounts Services (IA&AS), Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS), Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers (IRSEE), Indian Post and

Telecommunication Accounts and Finance Service (IP&TA&FS), and Indian Ordnance Factories Service (IFOS).

Till November 2021, there were 20 Joint Secretary-level posts vacant in the Government of India (GOI). A Joint Secretary is the third highest-ranking officer in the GoI.

In 2021, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) recommended 31 candidates, mainly from the private sector, for appointment as Joint Secretary, Director and Deputy Secretary in various Union Ministries under the “lateral entry” programme. The last such lateral appointments were made in 2019, when nine candidates were selected. Two resigned later.

The DoPT asked States to respond to its proposal to amend the IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954 first on December 20, 2021.

It sent two reminders — on December 27 and January 6 — and further revised the proposal on January 12, empowering the Union government to relieve AIS officers and depute them to its offices even if the State government disagreed.

So far, eight States — Odisha, Meghalaya, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana — have opposed the move.

In response to queries by *The Hindu* under the RTI Act, 2005 on the response sent by the State governments, the DoPT said that the comments were under examination.

“Comments have been sought from States, Union Territories in terms of the provisions contained in Section 3 of All India Services Act, 1951 on a proposal to amend Rule 6(1) of the Indian Administrative IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954. The comments/inputs received from various State cadres/joint cadres and other stakeholders on the proposal are currently under examination, and a final view of the Government of India on the matter is yet to be taken,” the DoPT said.

The reply added: “Therefore, information sought is held in fiduciary relationship and exempted disclosure in terms of Section 8 (1) e of the RTI

Act, 2005.”

The Section, which exempts a public authority from disclosing information, states: “Information available to a person in his fiduciary relationship, unless the competent authority is satisfied that the larger public interest warrants the disclosure of such information.”

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Stopped by Arunachal students, trucks carrying elephants to Gujarat released

Animal rights activists have been opposing the interstate transfer of elephants for use by temples

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Arunachal students stop trucks with elephants

A fleet of Gujarat-bound trucks carrying 10 elephants was released by the Arunachal Pradesh authorities early on Tuesday morning after they were stopped by scores of students.

Suspecting that they were smuggling elephants, more than 100 members of the Adi Students' Union had around midnight intercepted them at Pasighat, the headquarters of East Siang district. The trucks had come from Namsai town and were destined for Jamnagar in Gujarat. The trucks were let go after transit permits and purchase papers of the animals were checked by the officials.

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Institutions of higher learning have major responsibility in transforming impressionable youth: President Kovind

[SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT](#)

NEW DELHI

‘Institutions have role in transforming youth’

Institutions imparting higher learning have a major responsibility in transforming impressionable youth, President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday. “For this, we need to address their aspirations, as they are future leaders in various spheres of life,” Mr. Kovind said. He said that digital technologies are expanding the boundaries of education and the key to achieving excellence is to harness its benefits.

Mr. Kovind said young citizens are not only the inheritors of the past but are also the ones who will be leading India into its next golden age.

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Centre plans to bring 16 common drugs for cough, cold, pain under over-the-counter category

A gazette notification seeking suggestions from stakeholders within a month over the matter has been issued by the ministry

PTI
NEW DELHI

Centre plans to bring 16 common drugs in OTC

Commonly used drugs for cough, cold, pain and skin irritation such as paracetamol, nasal decongestants and antifungals may soon be available without prescription as the Centre plans to list them under the over-the-counter (OTC) category. The Union Health Ministry has suggested amendments to the Drugs Rules, 1945, to bring 16 such medicines, for providing exemptions from requiring a doctor's prescription so that they can be sold over-the-counter by retail sellers with a valid licence.PTI

This article was downloaded by **calibre** from <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/centre-plans-to-bring-16-common-drugs-for-cough-cold-pain-under-over-the-counter-category/article65505605.ece>

First lot of cheetah to be brought to India this August

The long stalled project, will begin soon with the arrival of the African cheetahs at the Kuno wildlife sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh

JACOB KOSHY

NEW DELHI

First lot of cheetahs to be brought to India soon

The first batch of cheetahs are expected to arrive in India's Kuno Palpur wildlife sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh by this August, according to senior officials in the Union Environment Ministry. The timing chimes with India celebrating 75 years of Independence. Five of these animals, extinct in India since the 1950s, are expected to be imported from South Africa and/or Namibia. Teams of wildlife experts from both countries are expected to be conducting site visits to Madhya Pradesh this month. The first year of the cheetahs' arrival will be a trial period.

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Salman Khan records statement after receiving threat letter

A note was found on Monday which threatened to kill both the actor and his father Salim Khan; Lawrence Bishnoi denied involvement in the case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI



Salman Khan records statement after threat

The Mumbai police on Tuesday recorded the statement of actor Salman Khan and registered an FIR a day after he received a letter threatening him and his father Salim Khan. The anonymous note was found on Monday on a bench in Mumbai's Bandstand promenade. The letter read, "Salim Khan, Salman Khan, *Bahut Jald Aapka Moosewala Hoga* (Salim, Salman, very soon we will kill you like Moosewala)." Lawrence Bishnoi, accused in the Sidhu Moosewala shooting, told the police that he was not involved in the letter case.

This article was downloaded by **calibre** from <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/salman-khan-records-statement-after-receiving-threat-letter/article65505608.ece>

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Johnson presses on despite rebellion

After winning no-trust vote with support of 211 MPs against 148, British PM vows to get on with the job

[AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE](#)

LONDON



Under pressure: Boris Johnson during his weekly Cabinet meeting at 10 Downing Street on Tuesday. AP/Leon Neal

U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson lauded the loyalty of his Cabinet and vowed to “get on with the job” on Tuesday after surviving a confidence vote

of his Conservative MPs that has still left him severely weakened.

The beleaguered leader has insisted that Monday evening's dramatic ballot, which saw 211 Tory party lawmakers support him remaining Prime Minister but 148 vote against, was a "conclusive" result.

"Thank you... everybody for all your good work yesterday, which was a very important day because we're able now to draw a line under the issues that our opponents want to talk about," he told his team of two dozen or so top Ministers and officials. "We're able to get on with talking about what I think the people in this country want us to, which is what we are doing to help them."

But most critics and commentators disagreed, arguing that Mr. Johnson's authority has been hugely undermined and his days in Downing Street are numbered.

The *Times* called him "a wounded victor" while his former employers at the *Daily Telegraph* branded it "a hollow victory that tears Tories apart".

The vote — just over two years after the Brexit architect won a landslide general election victory — was brought after a string of scandals that have left the Conservative party's standing in tatters.

Partygate scandal

Chief among them was the 'Partygate' controversy over lockdown-breaking events at Downing Street, which caused public outrage and saw him become the first serving U.K. Prime Minister to have broken the law.

Mr. Johnson, 57, needed the backing of 180 of the 359 Conservatives MPs to survive the vote. Defeat would have meant the end to his time as party leader and Prime Minister.

Most of Mr. Johnson's cabinet publicly backed him in the secret ballot.

But more than 40% of the parliamentary party — and almost certainly a majority of backbenchers — did not, setting up potentially tougher times ahead for the government in Parliament.

Under current party rules the Prime Minister cannot be challenged again for a year, which leaves little time for any new leader to emerge before the next general election due by 2024.

In previous Tory confidence ballots, Margaret Thatcher and Theresa May scored better than Mr. Johnson yet despite narrowly winning their votes, both ultimately resigned after deciding that their premierships were terminally damaged.

Mr. Johnson has steadfastly refused to resign over ‘Partygate’ and shows no sign of doing so now. “Today, I pledge to continue delivering... we are going to get on with the job,” he said before the cabinet meeting.

His Tories have lost several once-safe seats in by-elections and scored dismally in recent local elections.

They are expected to lose two upcoming by-elections later this month, including one in a previously rock-solid Conservative constituency. The smaller opposition Liberal Democrats urged Tory rebels to resign from their party and sit as independents while Mr. Johnson remained leader. However, Conservative MPs who voted against him were highly unlikely to take up the suggestion and appeared to be biding their time.

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Russia claims partial control of Severodonetsk

Donetsk confirms the death of another Russian General

[AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE](#)
KYIV



Smoke rises following shelling in the city of Severodonetsk. AFP/AFPARIS MESSINIS

Russia on Tuesday reported its forces had taken full control of residential neighbourhoods in Ukraine's flashpoint city of Severodonetsk, after Kyiv

said its troops were fighting on in the eastern hub despite being outnumbered.

“The residential areas of the city of Severodonetsk have been fully liberated,” Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu told a Defence Ministry meeting. The Russian Army was still seeking to establish control over the city’s “industrial zone and the nearest settlements”, he added, amid conflicting reports of who is in control of what.

Moscow has been pushing for control of the strategic industrial hub as part of its bid to conquer a vast swathe of eastern Ukraine but Kyiv’s forces have so far managed to hold out. “Our heroes are holding their positions in Severodonetsk. Fierce street fights continue in the city,” Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in a video address late Monday.

Mr. Zelensky warned Ukrainian forces in the key city were outnumbered and the Russians “are stronger”. He was speaking to journalists after visiting frontline positions in Lysychansk, across the river from Severodonetsk.

Thousands of civilians have been killed and millions forced to flee their homes since President Vladimir Putin ordered Russian troops into Ukraine on February 24. Russia has concentrated its assault on the eastern Donbas region and had been making slow but steady progress.

Meanwhile, the leader of Ukraine’s pro-Russian separatists in Donetsk, Denis Pushilin, on Tuesday confirmed the death of another Russian general in the fighting. Mr. Pushilin expressed on Telegram his “sincere condolences to the family and friends” of Major General Roman Kutuzov, “who showed by example how to serve the fatherland”.

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Hong Kong not becoming ‘police state’, says official

Amnesty International accuses authorities of ‘harassment’

[AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE](#)

HONG KONG

Hong Kong is not becoming a “police state”, the city’s top law enforcement officer said on Tuesday, days after his officers stamped out the city’s once-permitted commemorations marking Beijing’s deadly Tiananmen crackdown.

The Chinese business hub is preparing for an upcoming leadership change as well as the 25th anniversary of the city’s handover from Britain, for which President Xi Jinping is widely expected to visit.

Speaking to local outlet about beefed-up security activity around the event, commissioner Raymond Siu Chak-yee rejected criticism that the police were becoming too powerful.

“A police state is where the government forcibly controls various aspects of people’s life with administrative measures and without going through legal procedures,” he said.

“Hong Kong is a society of rule of law, not a police state.” His comments come after police arrested six people on Saturday as authorities pounced on any attempt to publicly remember China’s 1989 crackdown on peaceful protesters.

Amnesty International has accused authorities of “harassment and indiscriminate targeting” for the arrests. Police closed the site of a once

annual Tiananmen vigil and jam-packed the surrounding area, one of the busiest shopping districts in Hong Kong, with officers.

Since Beijing imposed a national security law on Hong Kong in 2020, authorities have cracked down on dissent.

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Sri Lanka needs \$6 bn to stay afloat: Ranil

PM says Colombo should find \$3.3 bn for fuel, \$900 mn for food for six months

[MEERA SRINIVASAN](#)

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka must find \$6 billion to keep the country afloat for the next six months, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said on Tuesday, as he outlined the government's plans to combat an unprecedented economic crisis.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa appointed Mr. Wickremesinghe as PM on May 12, days after Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned amid mounting protests by citizens demanding that the ruling clan quit office. After assuming charge, Mr. Wickremesinghe asked citizens to brace for the “most difficult months” of their lives.

Breaking down Sri Lanka’s requirements for the coming months, Mr. Wickremesinghe told Parliament on Tuesday that the country must “somehow” find \$3.3 billion for fuel, \$250 million for gas, \$900 million for food items for six months, and \$600 million for fertilizer for a year. “In this context, we need \$5 billion to ensure our daily lives are not disrupted for the next six months. We need to strengthen the [Sri Lankan] rupee in line with the daily requirements of the citizens. Another \$1 billion is needed to strengthen the rupee. That means, we need to find \$6 billion to keep the country afloat for the next six months,” he told the House.

The next three weeks would be a particularly difficult time for sourcing fuel, Mr. Wickremesinghe said, calling for “unity and patience” while facing the acute shortages.

Shining the spotlight on the looming food crisis, he said: “We will have to face serious difficulties and shortages in terms of our diets,” pointing to the impact of poor harvest on rice and other crops.

Sri Lanka’s paddy production has fallen by half this year, consequent to President Gotabaya’s sudden ban on chemical fertilizer last year.

Policy reversal

The policy was reversed in about six months following farmer protests and widespread criticism, but has, meanwhile, severely impacted the crop, leaving the government in a tough spot where it must import more food while scrambling for dollars. Further, Mr. Wickremesinghe pointed to a recent study by the World Food Program that found that 73% of the participating households had reduced their diet and food intake. “We will change that situation and strive to provide food without shortage as per this food security plan. We are working towards ensuring a three meal situation in the country,” he said.

President Gotabaya has said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured swift supply of essential fertilizers to Sri Lanka. The Cabinet on Monday cleared a proposal to obtain a \$55 million loan from the Exim Bank of India for the purpose. The PM has also sought help from China and Japan.

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‘India acted under pressure from the Gulf governments’

Awami League leader says New Delhi kept silence for days

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

DHAKA

The Government of India was prompted to take action on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders who made controversial remarks against the Prophet because of pressure from the Gulf countries, said a leading member of the ruling party of Bangladesh.

Interacting with a delegation of journalists here, Khandakar Golam Maula Nakshbandi of Bangladesh Awami League said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has zero tolerance for religious extremists and has acted quickly in the recent past to ensure communal harmony.

“Indian government waited for several days and did not take any action against those who made the derogatory comments about the holy Prophet. It was only after, the Gulf countries began to condemn the statements that they were prompted to take action and remove those spokespersons who were responsible for the comments,” said Mr. Nakshbandi who is a member of the Advisory Committee of Bangladesh Awami League.

Mr. Nakshbandi, also a commentator, claimed the Government of Bangladesh acts promptly on cases where religious sensitivities are involved. “Last year, when we had communal violence in Comilla, our Government acted immediately and arrested the culprits. The damage was controlled,” said Mr. Nakshbandi who hinted that the communal situations in India and Bangladesh are interlinked and violent elements in Bangladesh

may try to take advantage if quick remedial measures are not taken in urgent cases.

He said, the Government of Bangladesh is studying the stream of global reactions that have been pouring in regarding the comments that were made during a televised programme and subsequently on social media, adding, “We have discussed it among ourselves and the Religion Minister will hold a round of discussion with us before we issue our official statement on this matter.”

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Ending Israel's occupation key to halting violence: UN report

'Findings of the root causes were directed towards Israel'

[AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE](#)

GENEVA

UN investigators on Tuesday blamed Israel's continued occupation and discrimination against Palestinians for the endless cycles of violence in the decades-long conflict, prompting angry Israeli protests.

A high-level team of investigators, appointed by the United Nations Human Rights Council to probe "all underlying root causes" in the drawn-out Israel-Palestinian conflict, pointed the finger squarely at Israel.

"Ending the occupation of lands by Israel... remains essential in ending the persistent cycles of violence," the report said.

The 18-page report mainly focuses on evaluating a long line of past UN investigations, reports and rulings on the situation and how and if those findings were implemented.

"The findings and recommendations relevant to the underlying root causes were overwhelmingly directed towards Israel, which we have taken as an indicator of the asymmetrical nature of the conflict and the reality of one state occupying the other," says lead investigator Navi Pillay, a former UN rights chief from South Africa, said in a statement.

Israel has refused to cooperate with the Commission of Inquiry (COI) created last year following the 11-day Hamas-Israel war in May 2021, which killed 260 Palestinians and 13 people on the Israeli side.

Israel has also slammed the creation of the investigation, and has also loudly criticised Ms. Pillay for “championing an anti-Israel agenda”.

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China, Cambodia to begin port project

Phnom Penh denies reports that it will be used as a Chinese naval outpost

[ASSOCIATED PRESS](#)

PHNOM PENH



A file photo of Cambodian warships docked at the Ream Naval Base in Sihanoukville, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. APHENG SINITH

Cambodia denied again on Tuesday that it will allow any Chinese military presence at a port where it and China are beginning an expansion this week that has prompted concern in the United States and elsewhere that it will be used by Beijing as a naval outpost on the Gulf of Thailand.

Chief government spokesman Phay Siphan described the expansion of the Ream Naval Base as “cooperation between China and Cambodia” and said the Chinese ambassador to Cambodia will preside over the groundbreaking on Wednesday along with Cambodia’s defense minister and other senior military officials.

Strong accusation

He denied, however, a report in the *Washington Post* newspaper citing an anonymous Chinese official that the facility on the northern side of the Cambodian base would be used in part by the Chinese military.

Mr. Siphan said it would be a violation of Cambodia's Constitution to host a foreign military power. He would not comment on the extent of the Chinese involvement and said the project involved constructing a facility for repairing ships.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian on Tuesday said the work would be a "renovation" of the base which "aims to strengthen the Cambodian navy's capability to maintain maritime territorial integrity and combat maritime crime."

Ream faces the Gulf of Thailand, adjacent to the South China Sea, where China has aggressively asserted its claim to virtually the entire strategic waterway. The U.S. has refused to recognize China's sweeping claim and routinely conducts military manoeuvres there to reinforce that they are international waters.

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Spain judge seeks to quiz Israeli CEO

[AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE](#)

MADRID

A Spanish judge wants to visit Israel to quiz the CEO of an Israeli firm behind the Pegasus spyware over a hacking scandal involving the Spanish premier's phone, a court said Tuesday.

The plans were revealed by Spain's top criminal court as it lifted a gag order on its investigation into the tapping of mobile phones belonging to Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and Defence Minister Margarita Robles using Pegasus spyware made by Israel's NSO Group.

The probe began after the government filed a complaint on May 2, with the investigating judge set to quiz a key minister in early July.

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U.S., allies fly jets over Korean waters

[ASSOCIATED PRESS](#)

SEOUL

The United States and its Asian allies flew dozens of fighter jets over waters surrounding the Korean Peninsula on Tuesday in a show of force as their diplomats discussed a coordinated response to a possibly imminent North Korean nuclear test.

The flights came as U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman travelled to Seoul for discussions with South Korea and Japanese officials over the threat, and warned of a “swift and forceful” counter-response if North Korea proceeds with the test.

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The weight of the GST Council ruling

The Supreme Court judgment is a treatise on the democratic and federal imports of the GST legislations

[R. SRINIVASAN](#)

JUNE 08



In *Union of India Anr. vs Mohit Minerals Pvt. Ltd.*, the Supreme Court of India on May 19, 2022 while deciding on a petition relating to the levy of Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) on ocean freight paid by the foreign seller to a foreign shipping company, ruled, “The recommendations of the GST Council are not binding on either the Union or the States...”. While the issue before the Court was with reference to the levy of IGST on a particular transaction, the question is why should the Supreme Court of India have to deliberate at length on the nature of recommendations of the GST Council?

Some States have rejoiced over the ruling and said that this has restored the autonomy of States to legislate on GST.

As a ‘super body’

Immediately after the pronouncement of the judgment, the Revenue Secretary of the Government of India said: “... (this) reiterates the scheme of things in the constitution and the GST laws... the council will continue to work in future the way it has worked in the last 5 years.” This creates the notion that the Union government is in agreement with this ruling and there is no question of law in this regard.

On the contrary, the Union government (represented by the Additional Solicitor General) submitted to the Supreme Court in this case that the recommendations of the GST Council are binding on the executive and the legislature while they frame laws relating to the GST by the power under Article 246A. Thus, the Government of India was of the opinion that the GST Council could function as a super Parliament/Assembly by sending binding recommendations on laws, rules and regulations with reference to the GST to the Union and State governments.

Article 246A gives powers to the Union and State governments simultaneously to legislate on the GST. In other words, the two tiers of the Indian Union can simultaneously legislate on matters of the GST (except the IGST, which is in the legislative domain of the Union government); obviously it can be inferred that neither of the legislations can supersede each other.

Overridden in some cases

Article 279A stipulates the creation of the GST Council and its functions. The Council has to function as a platform to bring the Union and State governments together, and as a mark of cooperative federalism, the Council shall, unanimously or through a majority of 75% of weighted votes, decide on all matters pertaining to GST and recommend such decisions to the Union and State governments. The purpose of GST, as a harmonised commodity tax, is to make India a single market. The Government of India further argues, “Neither can Article 279A override Article 246A nor can Article 246A be made subject to Article 279A.” However, cooperative federalism is to operate through the GST Council to bring in harmony and alignment in matters pertaining to the GST from both governments. Given this background, the Union government had almost delegated the powers to create laws under the GST Act Section 5(1) to the GST Council through repeated use of the phrase “notification on the recommendation of the (GST) council”. Hence, the constitutional validity of the Council’s recommendation should be upheld; generally, the recommendations of the GST Council could be overridden only in exceptional cases, as argued by the Additional Solicitor General.

While the respondents in this case were represented by several senior lawyers, hardly anyone made a substantive response to the issue of the supremacy of the GST Council in this matter. However, the judges of the Supreme Court have spent nearly a third of the 152-page order to deliberate and resolve this issue. Section C of this order gives an elaborate history of the constitutional amendment to bring GST as a tax that could be simultaneously legislated by the Union and State governments. It is a treatise on the democratic and federal imports of the GST legislations.

There is a clear line

In 2013, while replying to a query from the Standing Committee on Finance that was debating the 2011 Constitutional Amendment Bill, the Attorney General emphatically said, “The powers of the legislature over the Finance are sacrosanct and are not affected by the setting up of the GST Council.” Thus, in the beginning of the debate on Constitutional Amendment to bring in GST, the clear line of demarcation of powers between the legislature and

the GST Council was drawn. However, the issue of conflict between the Union and State governments has to be resolved on a platform such as the GST Council.

The judges of the Supreme Court have recorded, “Since the Constitution does not envisage a repugnance provision to resolve inconsistencies between the Central and State laws on GST, the GST Council must ideally function, as provided by Article 279A(6) in a harmonised manner to reach a workable fiscal model through cooperation and collaboration.”

The fact that the Union government holds one-third weight for its votes and all States have two-thirds of the weight for their votes, gives automatic veto power to the Union government because a resolution can be passed with at least three-fourths of the weighted votes. This imbalance in the voting rights between the Union and State governments, makes democratic decision-making difficult. Further, though all the States are not equal in terms of tax capacity, everyone has equal weight for their votes. This creates another political problem as the smaller States with lesser economic stakes can be easily influenced by interest groups.

Debates are more political

Of course in this context, the debates in the GST Council will be on political lines rather than on the economics of taxation; the GST Council has borne witness to several such instances. When the States governed by Opposition parties are vocal on counter-points, the States governed by the same party at the Union government are mute spectators. It is a fact that States have not got full compensation for the shortfall in GST revenue collection during the COVID-19 pandemic period and that States wanted to extend GST compensation beyond June 2022 given the current recession and widely expected slow growth in effective revenue under the GST. The Union government and States ruled by the Bharatiya Janata Party and its alliance partners were not cooperating with States ruled by Opposition parties in reaching an amicable resolution on the issues of compensation during the pandemic period or even for debating the extension of compensation cess after June 2022.

If the contestations are healthy in a federation (and even in such circumstances), it requires extraordinary political acumen and statesmanship from all leaders to strike a balance between the autonomy of legislatures and compromise for obtaining a harmonised commodity tax system. The nuanced understanding of cooperative federalism shows that there is no space for one-upmanship in either of the two tiers of the Indian federal government and particularly for the Union government under a quasi-federal Constitution. Clause 6 of Article 279A reflects this spirit: “While discharging the functions conferred by this article, the Goods and Services Tax Council shall be guided by the need for a harmonised structure of GST and for the development of a harmonised national market for goods and services”. In an atmosphere of a non-cooperative Union and State governments, the fear that the GST Council would break down is not unfounded; the responsibility lies on all governments equally, contrary to what the weighted votes reflect.

Given these arguments, the Supreme Court of India adjudicated that the GST Council’s recommendations are non-qualified and the simultaneous legislating powers of the Union and State governments give only persuasive value to the Council’s recommendations. The power of the recommendations rests on the practice of cooperative federalism and collaborative decision-making in the Council.

Therefore, the submission of the Union government to the Supreme Court of India that the GST Council’s recommendations are binding on Parliament/Assembly can be construed as a precursor for a wilful giveaway of the legislative power on commodity taxation to the GST Council which is not the forum for the direct representatives of the people to legislate on any matter. Given the lopsided power structure favouring the Union government in the GST Council, it is against the spirit of democracy and federalism that the finances of governments can be left to such bodies. Finally, it is pertinent to understand that in a democracy, the power to legislate is given to Parliament/Assembly by its people who have curtailed their private autonomy to accept collective decisions. John Locke, the 17th century English philosopher and liberal thinker persuasively said, “The legislative cannot transfer the power of making laws to any other hands: for it being but a delegated power from the people, they who have it cannot pass it over to others....”

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Crime and copyright infringement

Making copyright infringement a cognisable offence will pave the way for police to impinge on civil liberties

[PRASHANT REDDY T.YOGESH PAI](#)

JUNE 08



Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra was discharged in 2021 by a judicial magistrate in Aurangabad in a case of copyright infringement filed by a scriptwriter who claimed that Rang De Basanti was based on his script. A still from the 2006 film. Special Arrangement

The Supreme Court of India has passed a far-reaching judgment resolving the question of whether copyright infringement, which is punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend up to three years under the Copyright Act of 1957, is a cognisable offence under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973. While the *Knit Pro International v. The State of*

NCT judgment is sparse in its reasoning, its conclusion is clear: copyright infringement is a cognisable offence under the CrPC.

In simple English, this means that the police can begin investigations into allegations of copyright infringement on receiving a complaint. If the court had held copyright infringement to be a non-cognisable offence, the police could have started investigations only after a judicial magistrate had taken cognisance of the offence and directed the police to initiate an investigation. The immediate consequence of this judgment is that many copyright owners, especially in the software and music industries, will use the threat of police involvement to scare potential infringers, to extort licence fees in excess of the amount payable in a scenario where the police cannot get involved without prior judicial authorisation. As a result of the offence being made cognisable and non-bailable, it takes away the right of the accused to post a bail bond with the police and shifts the responsibility on to the courts for judicial determination on a case-by-case basis.

Tricky questions of law

There are several reasons to be sceptical about allowing the police to begin criminal investigations into copyright infringement. To begin with, unlike trademark law, it is not mandatory under the Copyright Act to register copyrights as a necessary precondition in order to enforce the same. Rather, a copyright is created the moment a piece of art or music or literature is fixed on a medium, provided it is original. Now, whether or not the said piece of art or music or literature is in fact ‘original’ is another complicated question of law, especially since a 2008 Supreme Court judgment. Even presuming that the question of originality is undisputed, there is the question of whether the use of the copyrighted work is permissible under all the provisions in Section 52 of the Copyright Act outlining the limitations and exceptions to copyright infringement. One of the provisions in Section 52 deals with ‘fair dealing’, which in itself a vexatious question of law. Then there are special clauses under the Copyright Act which extinguish copyright in copyrighted works in certain circumstances — for example, if a work is qualified for protection under the Designs Act of 2000, it can no longer claim protection under the Copyright Act once it is reproduced beyond a certain threshold. Even the very question of determination of copyright

infringement would require the court to apply the test of substantial similarity (both qualitative and quantitative) on a case-by-case basis.

Any investigation by the police into copyright infringement will have to take into account all of the above issues, many of which have vexed the most experienced of lawyers, judges and academics. As a country, do we have faith in the ability of the average police sub-inspector, given their present levels of training and funding, to conduct an efficient investigation into copyright infringement, particularly on complicated questions of law? We think not.

The deeper question that requires a re-look is the criminalisation of copyright infringement in India. In 1914, when the British extended the Imperial Copyright Act, 1911, to India, copyright infringement was punishable only with a monetary fine. It was independent India that introduced imprisonment for one year as punishment for the offence of copyright infringement in 1957. Since then, the prison term for copyright infringement has been tripled by Parliament to three years.

India's international law obligations under the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) do not require India to criminalise all kinds of copyright infringement. Article 61 of the TRIPS agreement requires criminal measures to be applied for at least "wilful copyright piracy" on a "commercial scale". Although the term copyright piracy itself remains undefined in TRIPS, a World Trade Organization panel in the *China — Enforcement of intellectual property rights* dispute observed that the law does make a distinction between copyright infringement and copyright piracy. In fact, the panel cited negotiating documents to show that the term infringement of copyright on a commercial scale was specifically rejected. Consequently, all piracy of copyrighted works is an act of infringement, but all infringement cannot be termed as piracy. So, for example, a person indulging in the mass reproduction of copyrighted books without the authorisation of the copyright owner would be guilty of copyright piracy. On the other hand, a dispute between two publishing houses on similar content in their textbooks would qualify only as copyright infringement and not copyright piracy. This is an important distinction made in TRIPS because most cases of copyright infringement not amounting to copyright piracy involve tricky questions of law. Establishing guilt beyond reasonable doubt

is almost impossible in such cases, given the ambiguity of the law. Why then do we insist on criminalising conduct, where it is not possible for reasonable persons to know with some degree of certainty whether certain acts qualify as criminal conduct, particularly when civil remedies are available?

Criminalising conduct

At best, the Indian Copyright Act makes a distinction between commercial and non-commercial infringement by allowing the courts to impose a sentence of less than six months or a fine of less than Rs. 50,000. But it does not simply decriminalise acts of infringement that are non-egregious in nature, except where a building/structure is allegedly violating a copyrighted work (for example, in drawings). As a result, almost every Bollywood production house that delivers a box-office success inevitably faces criminal investigations by police forces because of criminal complaints filed by scriptwriters who claim that the ‘hit’ was based on a script written by them. These cases can then drag out for years. For example, Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra was discharged in November 2021 by a judicial magistrate in Aurangabad in a case of copyright infringement filed by a scriptwriter who claimed that *Rang De Basanti*, which released in 2006, was in fact based on his script.

Unless the law is amended to not only differentiate between the different acts of copyright infringement but also require prior judicial cognisance as a precondition of criminal investigation by the police, the Supreme Court’s recent decision will pave the way for the police to impinge on civil liberties, impede the ease of business and have chilling effects on free speech.

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The shadows over global growth recovery are long

The developing economies have to prepare for tighter financial conditions and spillovers from geopolitical volatility

[M. SURESH BABU](#)

JUNE 08



Though it was not a full recovery from the aftershocks of the COVID-19 pandemic, the global economy was on the mend until the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. Economic prospects have worsened since then, exacerbating the divergence between the economic recoveries of advanced economies and those of the developing ones. The prevailing uncertainties in global growth prospects come in the aftermath of frequent disruptions to worldwide supply chains in the last two years with recurrent lockdowns in key manufacturing hubs, creating supply bottlenecks.

As a consequence of the current situation, two key macroeconomic variables have a persistent effect on growth rebound. First, there is a tenacious price pressure, leading to policy trade-offs especially in developing economies; and second, there have been capital outflows and a tightening of financial conditions, affecting investment and growth in the medium and long term.

Inflation concerns

Globally, inflation has become a central concern. In some of the advanced economies, it has reached its highest level in the last 40 years. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), “inflation is expected to remain elevated for longer”. For 2022, it says “inflation is projected at 5.7 percent in advanced economies and 8.7 percent in emerging market and developing economies and in 2023 it is projected at 2.5 percent for the advanced economy group and 6.5 percent for emerging market and developing economies”. So, for the immediate foreseeable future, commodity prices, oil and gas prices, and with a lag, food prices, would remain high. The major contributors to high inflation are energy and food prices. A spike in oil and gas prices due to a tight fossil fuel supply and geopolitical uncertainty have led to substantial increases in energy costs worldwide. In developing economies, rising food prices have had cascading effects, culminating in higher overall inflation. This gets intensified if poor weather hits harvests and rising oil prices drive up the cost of producing and transporting fertilizers.

Impact on households

In developing economies, higher prices for food impacts different sections of the population differently, depending on the types of food consumed and the

share of food expenditure in a household's consumption basket. Households in the low-income strata often consume diets with just one type of grain and are particularly vulnerable to price changes. Higher energy prices affect cereal prices as a result of rising transportation costs and increased input prices such as fertilizers. This is aggravated by shortages due to disruptions in agricultural inputs (especially fertilizers) which impact supply and market availability. Persistent short supply and increases in food and fuel prices could significantly increase the risk of social unrest as the poorer sections are pushed to the edge of heightened deprivation.

Capital outflows

Apart from inflation, the other macroeconomic factor impeding growth recovery is the sudden spurt in capital outflows from emerging markets and developing economies. Capital outflows have increased in recent months. Emerging markets suffered their first portfolio outflows in a year in March 2022. The Institute of International Finance (IIF) says "foreign net portfolio outflows for emerging markets came to \$9.8 billion in March. Developing stocks lost \$6.7 billion, while bonds saw \$3.1 billion depart. Investors have become more selective, as higher risk sensitivity mounts due to tighter monetary conditions and rising inflation. Moving forward we see greater volatility on flows dynamics, as some countries have bottomed up and could potentially benefit from higher commodity prices but may also be greatly exposed to risk factors". Interest rates tightening in the United States is associated with capital flow reversals from emerging markets. For developing economies, the result of sudden large capital outflows is currency depreciation and tighter external sector conditions, leading to growth fluctuations. To complicate matters, domestic fiscal policy space has already been eroded in many developing countries by COVID-19-related spending. The increase in global interest rates will further reduce this contracted fiscal space in many economies.

Policy options

Though the factors contributing to high inflation (energy and food prices which are driven by global supply shocks) are beyond the control of central banks, they need to carefully monitor the pass-through of rising international prices to domestic inflation to calibrate their responses. It is also imperative

that the pace of policy tightening needs to be attuned to prevailing economic situations and activity levels. Central banks could also signal a readiness to shift the monetary stance to maintain the credibility of their inflation-targeting frameworks by clearly communicating the importance of inflation stabilisation in their objectives and backing it with policy actions. As sudden capital flow reversals can threaten financial stability, foreign exchange interventions could address market imbalances.

As the IMF's 'World Economic Outlook' makes it clear, data from developing countries show that debt levels have touched an all-time high following a huge fiscal expansion in many countries during the novel coronavirus pandemic. Massive expenditure programmes directed toward the health sector and income support measures had become necessary as part of such fiscal expansion. There exists an imperative to prune expenditure and get back to the road of fiscal consolidation. However, a push for consolidation should not prevent governments from prioritising spending to protect and help vulnerable populations affected by price increases and the pandemic. Expenditure pruning should encompass targeted income support measures that can be used to alleviate stress on household budgets. Such measures should be designed to deliver maximum relief to the most vulnerable at lower costs.

Safety nets needed

In the post-pandemic global economy, there will be a likely cross-sectoral labour reallocation. Economies are bracing for transitions and the energy transition could be the most significant one. These transitions require labour market and income support policies that are designed to provide safety nets for workers without hindering employment growth. Along with temporary public support for displaced workers, training programmes and hiring subsidies should remain a priority. The message from the current phase of global growth is clear. Policymakers in the developing economies have to prepare for tighter financial conditions and spillovers from geopolitical volatility. Pockets of elevated vulnerabilities within sections of the population have to be identified for early action and a set of selected prudential tools to target them needs to be devised.

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are personal

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Decoding China's occupation

China could argue that its construction of a bridge on Pangong Tso is peaceful, but that does not make it lawful

[ANWAR SADAT](#)

JUNE 08



There are three reasons why India should be particularly concerned about China's construction activities on Pangong Tso. One, India's war with China in 1962 revealed its diplomatic miscalculations and inadequacies in defence preparedness. China surprised India with an announcement in 1957 that it

had built a road through Aksai Chin linking Tibet and Xinjiang. India protested this move formally in 1958. There is still trauma in India surrounding that war. Two, China does not seem to favour the idea of entering into treaties for resolving territorial disputes and maritime disputes with its neighbours. Recently, China began constructing a bridge on a portion of Pangong Tso which India claims is its international boundary and is within its territory. A portion of the area has been under Chinese control since 1958. The Pangong Tso saw military action between the Indian and Chinese forces in 1962. There were confrontations between the forces of the two countries in 2017, and in 2020, violent clashes resulted in casualties. Three, what is most worrying is that China does not adhere to the general rules of international law; rather, it tries to derive its claims on the basis of historic rights to the detriment of the rights of its neighbours, as is the case with its claims in the South China Sea.

Illegality in international law

China's belligerent action and military strategy to acquire territory place Pangong Tso in the category of occupied and disputed territory. In the eyes of international law, occupation is a temporary phenomenon. The Permanent Court of Arbitration's Award in the Island of Palmas case noted that only the continuous and peaceful display of territorial sovereignty (peaceful in relation to other States) is as good as a title; the title based on contiguity has no standing in international law. India has neither accepted China's unjustified claims on that portion nor its construction activities. Therefore, China cannot take the plea that India has acquiesced; that there is an expression of consent by conduct or inaction by India. In contemporary international law, the most realistic approach to settling a border agreement is to create in each other shared expectations of mutual obligation. What is important is an indication to the other party that a final commitment has been made.

Perhaps the best provisions in contemporary international law for understanding territorial questions are Article 2(3) and Article 2(4) of the UN Charter. All the members are required under Article 2(4) to refrain in their relations with one another from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other

manner inconsistent with the purposes of the UN. All the members have to settle their disputes by peaceful means.

ICJ judgments

China could take the plea that it is building a bridge peacefully; that it is not causing damage to human beings or property. There are several judgments by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) relating to a state's non-violent construction of activities in disputed and occupied territory to clarify the situation in Pangong Tso. In 'Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory', the ICJ examined the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by force. The court took the position that the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory case strongly indicated a breach of Article 2(4). The court observed that the construction of the wall created a "fait accompli" on the ground that could well become permanent, and hence tantamount to a *de facto* annexation. Therefore, the ICJ seems to have decided in the case that the construction of the wall amounted to the acquisition of territory by force.

The ICJ judgment in 'Certain Activities Carried out by Nicaragua in the Border Area' is also important in understanding China's moves. The court described the construction of *caños* (pipeline) and deployment of troops in Costa Rica by Nicaragua as a violation of the territorial sovereignty of Costa Rica. It added that Nicaragua's consideration that its activities are within its own territory does not exclude the possibility of characterising the activities as unlawful.

Thus, the fact that China is constructing a bridge on the lake without using armed force or without using fire or causing injury to humans does not make the activity lawful. In the Certain Activities Case, Judge Robinson described Nicaragua's construction activities in Costa Rica as "non-violent use of force". The message from these ICJ judgments is that if a state with the help of its military presence tries to change the status quo peacefully in a disputed and occupied territory, such a move stands to be unlawful.

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Caste engineering in Telangana

Political parties are busy in their efforts to mobilise various communities in their favour

[R. RAVIKANTH REDDY](#)

JUNE 08



Since the formation of Telangana, elections have been fought on the 'Telangana versus Andhra Pradesh' narrative. In 2014, as the hangover of

the agitation was still strong, people voted against the leaders of Andhra Pradesh and in favour of the K. Chandrashekhar Rao-led Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS). The Telangana sentiment was expected to wane in the 2018 Assembly elections, but equations changed when N. Chandrababu Naidu's Telugu Desam Party (TDP) joined hands with its arch rival, the Congress. It once again became a 'Telangana versus Andhra' contest.

But in 2023, the election may be fought along caste issues and several moves indicate that. Mr. Rao has been creating political space for the dominant castes among the Other Backward Classes (OBCs). The BJP too has been carefully wooing the OBCs. The party is openly seeking the support of the Munnuru Kapu community, which is economically and culturally powerful, and the Mudirajus, given the understanding that other dominant OBCs such as the Gouds and Yadavs are tilting towards the TRS. The nomination of former BJP State chief K. Laxman, who hails from the Munnuru Kapu community, to the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh is a clear indication of this. Two firebrand MPs — Bandi Sanjay and Arvind Dharmapuri — are also from the community. Munnuru Kapus have historically been associated with the Congress. Members of the community occupied key posts in the party before the formation of Telangana. Leaders like V. Hanumantha Rao, D. Srinivas, K. Keshava Rao, and Ponnala Lakshmaiah worked as the Congress chiefs in combined A.P.

A political analyst and Professor at the English and Foreign Languages University says the BJP believes that the influential and affluent Reddy community will sail with the party. Telangana Congress chief A. Revanth Reddy has also been making efforts to seek the support of the Reddy community. He sparked a controversy when he said that the Reddy community was better than the Velamas (the community to which Mr. Rao belongs) in providing leadership and steering a State to development. The Reddy community, which was once identified with the Congress, is now split between the TRS and the BJP. Despite being aware of the backlash within the party for his comment, Mr. Reddy played the card purely to mobilise the caste group against the TRS. The Congress continues to expect support from the Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and OBCs.

But within the SCs too there is caste assertion. IPS officer-turned-politician R.S. Praveen Kumar said he quit bureaucracy only to empower the Dalits

through the BSP. His speeches are reminiscent of the Madiga Reservation Porata Samiti movement launched by Krishna Madiga to demand categorisation of SC reservations for the benefit of the numerically strong Madiga sub-sect.

Meanwhile, the rising political aspirations among the Most Backward Classes (MBCs) cannot be ignored. The MBCs, who have a sizeable population in the State, are now looking at inclusive parties to meet their political aspirations. “The MBCs, who are traditionally Congress voters, should not feel ignored. Their role will be key,” says Congress leader Dasoju Sravan.

Muslims too constitute a major section of the population in Telangana. They have supported the TRS in the last two elections but whether they will change their tactics with the perceived rise of the BJP remains to be seen. The Christian community has favoured the Congress so far. Assembly elections may be more than a year away, but political parties are busy in their efforts to mobilise various communities in their favour.

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Chancellor conundrum

The time may have come to reconsider having Governors as university Chancellors

JUNE 08

The West Bengal government's decision to make the Chief Minister the Chancellor of State-run universities, instead of the Governor, appears to be an outcome of the severely strained relations between Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. They have often differed on issues concerning the appointment of Vice-Chancellors and the functioning of universities. Mr. Dhankhar had alleged that VCs were appointed without the approval of the Chancellor, the appointing authority; on some occasions, VCs had not turned up for a meeting with the Governor-Chancellor. Friction has arisen elsewhere too. Tamil Nadu recently passed Bills to empower the State government, instead of the Chancellor, to appoint VCs. It also passed a separate Bill to establish a new university for alternative systems of medicine with the Chief Minister as its Chancellor. The Bills are yet to receive the Governor's assent. In Kerala, there is a different kind of controversy, with Governor Arif Mohammed Khan asking the Chief Minister to take over the Chancellor's role in the light of alleged political interference in the functioning of universities. These developments underscore that the conferment of statutory roles to Governors may be a source of friction between elected regimes and Governors who are seen as agents of the Centre.

The original intent of making Governors hold the office of Chancellor and vesting some statutory powers on them was to insulate universities from political influence. Even in the 1980s, as noted by the Justice R.S. Sarkaria Commission, the use of discretion by some Governors in some university appointments had come in for criticism. It acknowledged the distinction between the Governor's constitutional role and the statutory role performed

as a Chancellor, and also underlined that the Chancellor is not obliged to seek the government's advice. However, it did say there was an obvious advantage in the Governor consulting the Chief Minister or the Minister concerned. The Justice M.M. Punchhi Commission, which examined Centre-State relations decades later, was quite forthcoming in its 2010 report. Noting that the Governor should not be "burdened with positions and powers... which may expose the office to controversies or public criticism", it advised against conferring statutory powers on the Governor. It felt that the practice of making the Governor the Chancellor of universities ceased to have relevance. Quite presciently, it took note of the potential for friction: "... Ministers will naturally be interested in regulating university education, and there is no need to perpetuate a situation where there would be a clash of functions and powers." The time may have come for all States to reconsider having the Governor as the Chancellor. However, they should also find alternative means of protecting university autonomy so that ruling parties do not exercise undue influence on the functioning of universities.

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Weakened in victory

Boris Johnson survived a no-confidence vote in his party, but faces tougher challenges

JUNE 08

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson managed to survive Monday's no-confidence vote against him within the Conservative Party but the fact that 41% of the party lawmakers rebelled against his leadership is a steep fall for a Prime Minister who, just three years ago, led the Conservatives to their greatest victory since Margaret Thatcher's 1987 triumph. When the Johnson-led Tories clinched an 80-seat majority in Parliament, bringing down even the "red wall" of Labour in the Midlands and industrial north, many expected an easy full term for the hardline Brexiteer. But Mr. Johnson's prospects changed after reports that he held social gatherings at Downing Street when the rest of the country was in a lockdown imposed by his government. The result is a relief for Mr. Johnson. Of the 359 Conservative MPs, 211 supported him (59%). As per the party rules, the rebels cannot challenge his leadership for one year. But the bigger-than-expected rebellion has already dealt a blow to his leadership. His immediate predecessor, Theresa May, survived a no-confidence vote within the party in 2018 with 63% support among Tory MPs, but she did not survive in office for more than six months. In 1990, Thatcher won a confidence vote, but quit immediately thereafter. History offers grim lessons for Mr. Johnson's future.

While the catalyst for the rebellion was Mr. Johnson's lockdown parties, his government is facing bigger problems. Inflation has already hit a 40-year high and many economists predict a recession. The U.K.'s celebrated exit from the EU, which Mr. Johnson personally championed, may have aggravated the economic woes of the country. Brexit complicated the U.K.'s trade with the EU, its largest trading partner, and shut down a

primary source of cheap labour. Mr. Johnson tried to deflect some of the domestic pressure by taking a strong position against Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The U.K. was in the forefront of the western bid to punish Russia with crippling economic sanctions, and supplied advanced weapons to Ukrainian forces. However, it did not have the desired outcome. Russia's aggression and the subsequent sanctions made the cost-of-living crisis across the West much worse. According to pollsters, the Labour Party is now much ahead of the Conservatives in nationwide opinion polls. The next major test for Mr. Johnson would be the June 23 by-election for the Wakefield and Tiverton and Honiton constituencies. If the Conservatives lose them, as opinion polls predict, that would add further pressure on the Prime Minister. Growing rebellion within the party, an economic crunch and rising unpopularity among voters all present Mr. Johnson the toughest time of his career.

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Fresh U.S. raids on Hanoi strongholds

JUNE 08

Saigon, June 7: United States warplanes have bombed a bridge and a railway yard in north-eastern North Vietnam within 32 kms. of the Chinese border, a military communique reported to-day. Military sources said it was the closest U.S. fighter planes have come to China during the current series of retaliatory raids against North Vietnam. Using electronically guided bombs, Air Force Phantoms destroyed a highway bridge 16 kms. southwest of Lang Son, the communique said. Lang Son province borders China and its capital, also of the same name is about 40 kms. from the Chinese border crossing town of Píng Hasiang. The military spokesman added that in the same area the Air Force Phantoms bombed a railroad marshalling yard starting "six medium fires". No planes entered Chinese air space, he added. The U.S. Command in Saigon to-day reported a further 270 strikes by jet fighter bombers against North Vietnam in the 24-hour period ended at 17-00 hours yesterday. The jets made a second attack against the Bac Giang thermal power plant, 40 kms. northeast of Hanoi which was a major source of power for "war related industries" in the area, the Command communique said. The bombs made direct hits on the generator buildings and plant but the extent of the damage could not be determined because of cloud cover in the target area, it added.

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Letters to the Editor — June 8, 2022

JUNE 08



Backlash and after

It is disconcerting to see the powers that be in India to wake up belatedly to try and save the interests and image of the country. It is worrying that hard-earned diplomatic gains appear to be in danger of being damaged or even lost (Page 1 and Editorial, June 7).

The statement by the ruling party that the derogatory remarks made against Islam were by ‘fringe elements’ is unconvincing.

How do ‘fringe elements’ become official spokespersons of the party? It goes without saying that targeting and humiliating minorities in the country has become central to the electoral strategy of the ruling party in order to consolidate its main vote bank. An aggressive and dangerous political narrative is not being kept in check. A series of events could have their roots in the hate speeches being aired with audacity and impunity. One hopes that the political leadership ensures that broader national interests are not

eclipsed by narrow political interests and that religious bigotry does not come in the way of the country's unity, integrity and prosperity.

N. Raveendra Babu,

Hyderabad

Nadal's greatness

It appears as if Rafael Nadal has all but taken permanent possession of the French Open. Casper Ruud looked out of sorts in the final set as he was unable to sustain the high-octane tennis needed to ruffle Nadal. There is nothing to suggest that Nadal's domination will end any time soon.

R. Sivakumar,

Chennai

How can one describe what Nadal has been achieving at the French Open ever since his debut there? Only in superlative terms! He has a never-say-die attitude and an uncanny ability to read the game and retrieve seemingly lost points. He is inspiration and determination personified. What he has achieved at the Open is unlikely to be surpassed.

C.G. Kuriakose,

Malippara, Kothamangalam, Kerala

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World Bank cuts India's FY23 GDP growth forecast to 7.5%

'Inflation, supply-chain issues, geopolitical tensions weakening services recovery'

[PRESS TRUST OF INDIA](#)

WASHINGTON



Faltering progress: The latest estimate reflects a cut of 1.2 percentage points from that made in January. Reuters

The World Bank on Tuesday cut India's economic growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7.5%, as rising inflation, supply-chain disruptions and geopolitical tensions dampen recovery.

This is the second time the World Bank has revised its GDP growth forecast for India in the current fiscal FY23. In April, it had trimmed the forecast from 8.7% to 8%. The latest estimate compares with the 8.7% expansion in FY22.

“In India, growth is forecast to edge down to 7.5% in the fiscal year 2022-23, with headwinds from rising inflation, supply-chain disruptions, and geopolitical tensions offsetting buoyancy in the recovery of services consumption from the pandemic,” the World Bank said in the latest issue of the Global Economic Prospects report.

Growth, it said, would also be supported by fixed investment undertaken by the private sector and by the government, which has introduced incentives and reforms to improve the business climate. This forecast reflects a 1.2 percentage point downward revision of growth from the January projection, the bank added.

“Growth is expected to slow further to 7.1% in 2023-24 back towards its longer-run potential,” it noted.

According to the report, growth in India slowed in the first half of 2022 as activity was disrupted both by a surge in COVID-19 cases, accompanied by more-targeted mobility restrictions and by the war in Ukraine. The recovery is facing headwinds from rising inflation, it said.

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Retail investors helping offset impact of FPI outflows, says FM

‘Small investors entering market with greater awareness’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI



Nirmala Sitharaman

Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday that India's growing flock of retail investors in the stock market has emerged as a 'shock absorber' amid an exodus of funds from foreign portfolio investors or FPIs.

The last eight months have seen a persistent decline in FPI exposures to Indian equities, with May 2022 recording an outflow of \$5.7 billion, the highest since March 2020.

"If FPIs are going away and giving us the feeling that funds are going out of India, retail investors have come in a big way that they seem to act like the shock absorbers," Ms. Sitharaman said after inaugurating the iconic week celebrations of the Corporate Affairs Ministry.

"If FPIs went away, our market did not really have to go through ups and downs in a very distinct way, [that is] because the small investors have entered in a big way... they are coming into the market with greater awareness," she said, noting that the significant rise in retail investors' base occurred during the pandemic. Ms. Sitharaman urged regulators to pay adequate attention to the evolving challenges of a digital ecosystem. "You should... strengthen and make robust your firewall mechanism, or else the digitisation which made our life easy, can itself become the biggest handicap."

The Minister also unveiled a Single Nodal Agency Dashboard of the Public Financial Management System at a separate event, which Finance Secretary T.V. Somanathan said had led to 'complete visibility of money reaching the end beneficiary'.

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‘Domestic air passenger traffic nears pre-pandemic level’

Higher fuel prices will weigh on airline profitability: ICRA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI



Domestic air passenger traffic has neared pre-pandemic levels with various airlines having ferried 1.14 crore air travellers last month compared with 1.22 crore in May 2019, according to rating agency ICRA.

The number of passengers who flew domestically was also higher in May by 5% compared with the previous month, and the total number of flights operated were up by 6% in the same period.

“For May 2022, the average daily departures were at 2,784, notably higher than the average daily departures of 894 in May 2021, and higher compared to 2,726 in April 2022,” said Suprio Banerjee, vice president and sector head, ICRA. “The average number of passengers per flight during May 2022 was 132, against an average of 133 passengers per flight in April 2022 and lower than an average of 139 passengers per flight in May 2019,” he added. Yields (or average revenue per passenger per mile) had also risen 18-20% over the past months.

Though there was near-normalcy in domestic airline operations, the overhang of another COVID-19 wave loomed large, and elevated aviation turbine fuel prices would continue to weigh on the profitability of Indian airlines, the agency said.

In FY23, overall passenger traffic is expected to reach 96-97% of pre-pandemic levels, said ICRA.

International passenger traffic had seen ‘healthy’ growth since international flights resumed fully on March 27 after a two-year ban, and reached 72% of the pre-COVID level last month.

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Blow to Apple as EU goes with single charging port

‘Type-C to be in place by autumn 2024’

REUTERS
BRUSSELS



Apple will have to change the connector on iPhones sold in Europe by 2024 after EU countries and lawmakers agreed on Tuesday to a single mobile charging port for mobile phones, tablets and cameras in a world first.

The political intervention came after companies failed to reach a common solution.

Brussels has been pushing for a single mobile charging port for more than a decade, prompted by complaints from iPhone and Android users about having to switch to different chargers for their devices.

iPhones are charged from a Lightning cable, while Android-based devices use USB-C connectors.

“By autumn 2024, USB Type-C will become the common charging port for all mobile phones, tablets and cameras in the EU,” the European Parliament said in a statement.

Apple, which has warned the proposal would hurt innovation and create a mountain of electronic waste, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

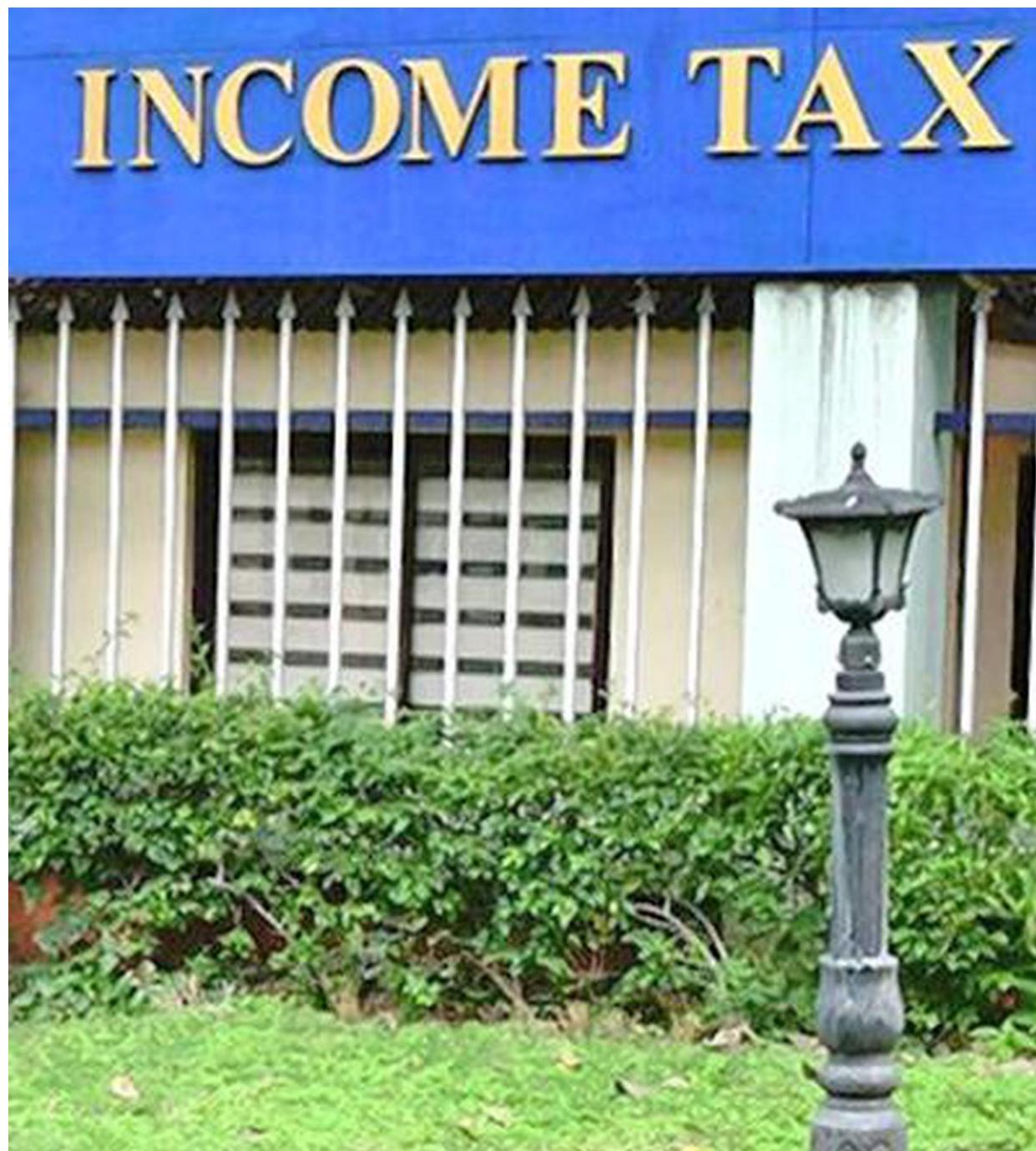
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Tax portal hits snag, govt. asks Infosys to fix glitch

‘Users flag issues in logging in, search’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI



The Income Tax Department's new-look tax return filing portal, developed by Infosys, again developed snags on Tuesday — a day that marked the first anniversary of its unveiling.

The portal, had for several weeks witnessed technical glitches after its introduction on June 7, 2021, and the snags resurfacing again prompted

some to wonder if it had been hacked on the anniversary.

Many users complained that they were unable to log in into the portal, while some flagged malfunctioning of the search tool.

In a tweet, the Department said: “Issue relating to the search functionality of the e-filing website has come to our notice. The Income Tax Department is seized of the matter. @Infosys has been directed to look into it & @Infosys has confirmed that they are resolving the issue on priority”.

Finance Ministry officials also assured users that there had been no data breach on the portal.

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‘Gencos have started coal import-related process’

CIL needs to step up production: Singh

[PRESS TRUST OF INDIA](#)

NEW DELHI

Electricity generation companies (gencos) have started the process of importing coal for blending purposes, Union Power Minister R.K. Singh said on Tuesday.

The Power Ministry had on May 18 warned that if orders for coal imports were not placed by May 31, 2022 and the imported fuel did not start arriving at power plants by June 15, the defaulter gencos would have to raise their imports to the extent of 15%.

If blending with domestic coal did not begin by June 15, the domestic allocation of the defaulter thermal power plants would be further reduced by 5%, the Ministry had said in a letter to State governments and gencos, including independent power producers (IPPs).

Replying to a question on the issue, the Minister said, “most of the States have started [the process], in fact every State has started.”

Without sharing any figures, he said Coal India Limited (CIL) had ramped up production, but needed to increase it as the demand had gone up significantly.

“CIL increased their production but not to the extent that was required. So, our reserves started coming down from 24 MT (million tonne) on April 1, in the power plants, to 19 MT on April 13 to about 18.5 MT on May 31,”

Mr. Singh said in a press briefing. “It has again grown to now 20 MT,” the Minister added.

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Home loans to double in five years: Parekh

This would coincide with the period when India attains its much-aspired goal of becoming a \$5-trillion economy, he says.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Demand for home loans will continue to remain robust and India should be able to double its home loans to about \$600 billion in the next five years, HDFC Ltd. chairman Deepak Parekh said in a letter to shareholders.

“This would coincide with... India attaining its... goal of becoming a \$5-trillion economy.” He said despite the doubling of home loans, mortgage penetration would remain low at 13% of the GDP. For comparable Asian economies, the ratio is 20-30%, he said. “This implies that housing loans in India will have an exponential growth trajectory for decades to come,” he added.

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HDFC Bank raises lending rate by 35 bps

[PRESS TRUST OF INDIA](#)

MUMBAI

HDFC Bank on Tuesday announced a 35-basis point (bps) increase in its lending rate. The hike, which comes a day ahead of the RBI's scheduled policy review, is the second such move from the lender in as many months, taking the cumulative increase to up to 60 bps.

The Reserve Bank of India had surprised all with a 40 bps increase in key interest rates on May 4 to tame the inflation situation and is widely expected to follow up with further tightening of the policy on Wednesday. HDFC Bank increased its marginal cost of funding based lending rate by 35 bps effective June 7, as per the rate structure published on its website.

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Monetising coal assets to net Rs. 75,220 cr.

‘Coal blocks may yield Rs. 52,200 crore’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The Centre plans to monetise assets worth Rs. 75,220 crore in the coal mining sector in the current fiscal.

The monetisation of coal blocks is likely to generate revenue of Rs. 52,200 crore, followed by Rs. 20,320 crore from projects on the Mine Developer and Operator (MDO) model, Rs. 2,000 crore from discontinued mines and Rs. 700 crore from washeries, the Coal Ministry said in its plan for FY23.

The monetisation target of NITI Aayog for the Coal Ministry in FY23 is Rs. 6,060 crore. As per the National Monetisation Pipeline, 160 coal mining assets worth about Rs. 28,747 crore had been identified for monetisation during FY22-25.

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‘NINL bid win key to Tata Steel growth’

‘It will help go beyond 40 mtpa target’

[PRESS TRUST OF INDIA](#)

RANCHI

Describing winning the bid for acquiring a majority stake in Odisha-based Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. (NINL) as ‘crucial’ for the company’s growth trajectory, Tata Steel on Tuesday said it provided enablers to go well beyond the 40 mtpa target.

“The acquisition of NINL provides a significant opportunity for Tata Steel to not only restart the 1 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) steel plant expeditiously, but also begin work immediately to build a 4.5 mtpa state-of-the-art, long products complex in the next few years,” a Tata Steel official told PTI. The company plans to further expand it to 10 mtpa by 2030, the official said.

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AK Choudhary takes charge as SBI MD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

A.K. Choudhary takes charge as SBI's MD

Alok Kumar Choudhary has taken charge as the new MD of State Bank of India (SBI) with effect from June 7, 2022. He was previously Deputy MD (Finance).

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Hardik brings depth to the side, says Dravid

It's about ensuring we get the best out of him as a cricketer, feels the India head coach

[RAKESH RAO](#)

NEW DELHI



Action mode: The Indians at a training session ahead of the T20I series against South Africa which begins on Thursday. R.V. Moorthy

Rahul Dravid is known to speak his mind, interspersed with carefully worded assessments and watchfully weighed expectations.

On Tuesday, during the first press conference of the post-pandemic times at the Ferozeshah Kotla ground, the Indian coach fielded questions on various aspects of the team ahead of the five-match T20 series against South Africa beginning here on Thursday. *Excerpts:*

On Hardik Pandya's return: Hardik, when he's fit, is a fantastic cricketer. We've seen that for India in the past. He's been very successful in white-ball cricket. He's shown really good form in the IPL as well. Very pleased to have someone of his quality to pick from.

At this point of time, a good thing from our perspective is that he has started bowling again. You know what that does for us; what depth that brings to our side. It's about ensuring we get the best out of him as a cricketer.

On Dinesh Kartik: With Dinesh it's pretty obvious and pretty clear. He's made a comeback based on the skills that has shown in a particular phase of the game.

At the back end, Dinesh has really been able to show skills over the last two or three years. We'll pick him for that kind of position and see whether he can replicate those kinds of performances for India as well.

On the expectations from the top-three batters: Our top three is quality. Slightly different top-three in this particular series, but what we're looking for is positive starts, weighing what the situation and the wicket demands of it. If it's a high-scoring game and we expect a lot of runs scored, then we want people to maintain that level of strike-rate all the way through.

Sometimes, the situation might be more challenging, you might lose a few early wickets, you need to adapt and be able to respond to that as well.

On having Umran Malik in the mix: He was exciting [in the IPL]. Certainly bowled quick. The other exciting thing in the IPL for me was — watching from the outside — a number of Indian guys bowling really fast.

As a coach of all three formats of the game, I would love to see that translated into the longer formats of the game, as well. I was watching Umran yesterday in the nets, you can see he's got that pace.

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Parkar and Sarfaraz dominate Mumbai's run feast

Team declares its first essay at a gargantuan 647 for eight against Uttarakhand

[AMOL KARHADKAR](#)

BENGALURU



Running for glory: Suved Parkar (252) and Sarfaraz Khan (153) put on 267 runs as Mumbai took control. R. Ragu

Suved Parkar's record double hundred on debut and Sarfaraz Khan's third daddy hundred of the season took the fizz out of a hapless Uttarakhand attack helped Mumbai put a foot in the Ranji Trophy semifinals after five years.

Riding on Parkar's 252 (447b, 21x4, 4x6) — the fourth highest score by an Indian batter on debut in First Class cricket — and his 267-run partnership with Sarfaraz (153, 205b, 14x4, 4x6), Mumbai declared its first essay in the quarterfinal against Uttarakhand at a gargantuan 647 for eight at Alur Cricket Ground 2.

Tushar Deshpande and Mohit Avasthi then snared a wicket each, including that of Uttarakhand captain Jay Bista, to peg Uttarakhand back at 39 for two at the end of the second day's play.

The day, however, belonged to Parkar and Sarfaraz. The duo was batting on 104 and 69, respectively. While Suved took his time to get into his groove, Sarfaraz continued his busy streak by targeting the pacers early on.

Three consecutive fours

It took Sarfaraz just 45 minutes to race to his seventh First Class hundred with a trademark upper cut off Akash Madhwal over the keeper's head. He followed it up with three consecutive fours off left-arm spinner Swapnil Singh — a cover drive and two sweeps — to overtake Parkar's individual score.

For the next half hour, the duo matched each other stroke for stroke. Parkar was the first to cross 150 with an inside-out four over covers off leggie Dikshanshu Negi, Sarfaraz passed the milestone with a reverse-sweep three overs later.

Rare mistake

Sarfaraz then made a rare mistake of missing a sweep to be bowled by left-arm spinner Mayank Mishra. Despite losing Aditya Tare cheaply just before

lunch, Parkar found an able ally in Shams Mulani.

The right-hand and left-hand combination pulverised a tired bowling lot to 106 runs for the fifth wicket. Minutes before Mulani was bowled by part-timer Kamal Singh after scoring a fluent fifty, Parkar became the 12th Indian batter to score a double ton on debut with a tap to long-off off Swapnil.

At the tea break, with the late order opening its shoulders, Parkar on 224 had Amol Muzumdar's record of 260 runs within his sight. But minutes after crossing 250, Parkar attempted a quick single, stuttered for a while and Kunal Chandela's throw from point crashed into the middle stump to find Parkar short of its ground.

Mumbai declared the innings immediately with Parkar returning to a huge round of applause from both the dressing rooms.

The scoreboard:

Mumbai — 1st innings: Prithvi Shaw d Bhapola 21, Yashasvi Jaiswal c Swapnil b Dhapola 35, Armaan Jaffer c Swapnil b Dhapola 60, Suved Parkar run out 252, Sarfaraz Khan b Mishra 153, Aditya Tare c Khurana b Tiwari 1, Shams Mulani b Kamal 59, Tanush Kotian c Mishra b Swapnil 28, Tushar Deshpande (not out) 20; Extras (b-4, lb-7, nb-6, w-1) 18; Total (for eight wkts. decl., in 166.4 overs) 647.

Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-64, 3-176, 4-443, 5-444, 6-550, 7-603, 8-467.

Uttarakhand bowling: Dhapola 30-6-89-3, Madhwal 20.4-1-108-0, Tiwari 30-8-76-1, Swapnil 27-2-114-1, Mishra 38-1-120-1, Negi 10-0-71-0, Bista 9-0-48-0, Kamal 2-0-10-1.

Uttarakhand — 1st innings: Kamal Singh (batting) 27, Jay Bista c Tare b Deshpande 0, Mayank Mishra c Deshpande b Avasthi 4, Kunal Chandela (batting) 8; Total (for two wkts., in 11 overs): 39.

Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-23.

Mumbai bowling: Kulkarni 2-1-8-0, Deshpande 4-1-13-1, Avasthi 3-1-12-1, Mulani 1-0-1-0, Kotian 1-0-5-0 .

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Shubham's century leads MP's charge

Mantri chips in with 89 as the Punjab bowlers struggle to make an impression

LALITH KALIDAS

BENGALURU



On top of his game: Shubham's unbeaten 102 contained nine fours and a six. Lalith Kalidas

Madhya Pradesh (MP) batters Shubham Sharma and Himanshu Mantri did exactly what Punjab had hoped to do in its first innings. On Tuesday, MP seized the lead with a classical century from Shubham (102 n.o., 210b, 9x4, 1x6) alongside Mantri's 241-ball 89 to finish day two of the Ranji Trophy quarterfinal on a high here at the Alur (3) ground.

Starting from overnight five for no loss, MP imperceptibly silenced the Punjab bowlers over three sessions and walked into stumps with Shubham and Rajat Patidar (20) unbeaten at 238 for two with a 19-run lead.

Openers Yash Dubey and Himanshu Mantri remained committed to their task of seeing off a potent Punjab new-ball attack in Sidharth Kaul and Baltej Singh. The seamers gave nothing away from either end nor did the batters flinch for a moment in the first 13 overs where Kaul (5-2-3-0) and Baltej (7-3-7-0) were at the top of their game.

While the lanky Baltej hit the deck hard to extract bounce on a surface that had regained solidity post the showers on Sunday, Kaul varied his lengths and constantly flipped sides.

The openers almost successfully dead-batted through the entire session before Punjab struck through leg-spinner Mayank Markande. Dubey, who scored a match-winning 289 against Kerala in his last First Class outing, miscued an uncharacteristic slog-sweep straight to Baltej at mid-on.

Mantri and Shubham joined hands at 64 for one and led MP to lunch before injecting slow venom on Abhishek Sharma's men.

Punjab had an early chance in the second session when Mantri chipped Markande to substitute fielder Prerit Dutta, who failed to latch onto a regulation catch at mid-on. Punjab's deplorable body language soon turned to negative tactics, with six fielders being employed on the on-side midway into the session.

One dimensional

The innings turned one-dimensional with Mantri and Shubham pummeling and caressing the ball upon merit. Both batters completed their half-centuries by tea. However, in a momentary lapse of judgement, Mantri squandered a chance for his maiden First Class three-figure knock by stepping out to a flighted delivery from Markande. The left-hander misread the length and was out stumped.

MP did not deviate from its approach as Shubham switched gears with the confidence of an in-form Patidar at the other end. Shubham notched up his

third century of the tournament from five innings, minutes before close of play as MP quietly tugged the momentum its way.

The scores:

Punjab — 1st innings: 219.

MP — 1st innings: Yash Dubey c Baltej b Markande 20, Himanshu Mantri st. Anmol b Markande 89, Shubham Sharma (batting) 102, Rajat Patidar (batting) 20; Extras (lb-6, w-1) 7; Total (for two wkts. in 99 overs): 238.

Fall of wickets: 1-64, 2-184.

Punjab bowling: Baltej 15-7-22-0, Kaul 14-5-25-0, Vinay 23-6-57-0, Sanvir 9-2-19-0, Gurkeerat 6-0-16-0, Markande 23-2-70-2, Abhishek 7-0-18-0, Shubman 2-0-5-0 .

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Bengal continues to pile on the runs

Gharami falls for 186 while Majumdar makes 117 as the Jharkhand bowlers toil

DHRUVA PRASAD

BENGALURU



In full flow: Majumdar's knock contained 15 hits to the fence. File Photo VIJAY SONEJI

Jharkhand's day was bookended by two spells of synchronised clapping, aimed at boosting the morale of the fielders, but in between Bengal continued to pile misery on its opponent to end day two of the first

quarterfinal of the Ranji Trophy on 577 for five at the Just Cricket Academy ground here on Tuesday.

After Shahbaz Ahmed ramped Sushant Mishra (two for 122) for a six over third man following the dismissal of Abishek Porel (68, 111b, 11x4), who was strangled down the leg, the Jharkhand dugout cheered up the fielders with a round of applause in the 175th over of the innings. Earlier, a similar spectacle had transpired an hour into the day's play.

Between these bouts of cheers, Bengal ran the bowlers ragged. Porel and Manoj Tiwary (54 batting, 146b, 3x4, 1x6), pairing for a 109-run stand for the fifth wicket, looked poised for a rousing end to the day. Porel cut and drove the pacers and spinners in equal measure. Overcoming his jitters with the short ball, Tiwary struck his first boundary after facing 95 balls before reaching his fifty with a cover-drive for four.

Big stand

Earlier, Sudip Kumar Gharami (186, 380b, 21x4, 1x6) and Anustup Majumdar (117, 194b, 15x4) built on the overnight score of 310 for one with their stonewalling yielding 99 runs in 35 overs in the first session. Majumdar reached the three-figure mark with a couple of fours after Ashish Kumar troubled him initially by moving the ball both ways. Rahul Shukla, however, was inaccurate from the start, straying on the pads to allow two fours in the second over of the day.

After a back-breaking spell, Shahbaz Nadeem finally drew Majumdar's outside edge by beating him in the air and ending a 243-run stand.

Abhishek Raman (61, 109b 8x4, 1x6), who retired hurt on 41 on day one, showed intent from the get-go by stepping out and depositing off-spinner Utkarsh Singh over long-on for six before he was left stranded outside his crease by a flighted Anukul Roy delivery. The day belonged to young Gharami who shifted gears after an assuring first session.

A bottom-handed whip through mid-wicket and a wild slash to the third man boundary betrayed a sense of hurry to rush to the 200-run mark. He fell 14 runs short of it when he flicked a loose one down leg-side to the wicket-

keeper and walked back with disbelief writ large on his face and a rousing ovation from his teammates.

The scores: Bengal — 1st innings: Abhishek Raman st. Kushagra b Anukul 61, Abhimanyu Easwaran lbw b Sushant 65, Sudip Kumar Gharami c Kushagra b Shukla 186, Anustup Majumdar c sub (Bal Krishna) b Nadeem 117, Manoj Tiwary (batting) 54, Abishek Porel c Kushagra b Sushant 68, Shahbaz Ahmed (batting) 7; Extras (b-1, lb-9, nb-6, w-3): 19; Total (for five wkts. in 178 overs): 577.

Fall of wickets: 1-132, 2-375, 3-421, 4-455, 5-564.

Jharkhand bowling: Shukla 26-3-95-1, Ashish 36-8-105-0, Sushant 27-1-122-2, Nadeem 44-6-118-1, Anukul 33-4-91-1, Utkarsh 12-1-36-0 .

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Day of fluctuating fortunes for Karnataka

Restricts U.P. to a paltry 155 before its batters come undone in second innings

[ASHWIN ACHAL](#)

BENGALURU



Hit-man: More exults after dismissing Juyal, one of his three victims. R. Ragu

Karnataka slipped from a comfortable position to land in a spot of bother at the end of the second day of its Ranji Trophy quarterfinal clash against Uttar Pradesh at Alur ground here on Tuesday.

After dismissing Uttar Pradesh for a paltry 155 to gain a handy first-innings lead of 98, Karnataka looked in control. A batting collapse, however, allowed Uttar Pradesh back into the contest. Karnataka stuttered to 100 for eight in the second essay, and holds on overall lead of 198 runs.

Wickets galore

No less than 21 wickets fell on a frenetic day of thrills and spills, even if the pitch held no demons. The Karnataka bowling attack, comprising Ronit More (3/47), V. Vyshak (2/29), Vidhwath Kaverappa (2/19), and K. Gowtham (2/43), gave the home team the early advantage.

More and Vyshak were outstanding with the new ball, keeping the ball full and shaping it away. Vyshak struck in the first ball he bowled, getting Samarth Singh (0) to edge one to the wicketkeeper. More sent Aryan Juyal (5) back with a beauty that straightened after pitching on off stump.

Uttar Pradesh relied heavily on Priyam Garg (39) and Rinku Singh (33), but both batters failed to make big scores. Garg was unlucky to get an inside edge onto his pads, leading the ball to pop back to More for a caught-and-bowled. Rinku failed to get on top of a short ball from Gowtham, the extra bounce leading to a soft cut shot to point.

Tailenders Shivam Mavi (32, 35b, 3x4, 1x6), Yash Dayal (13) and last man Ankit Rajpoot (18) made contributions.

Vidhwath Kaverappa, who like Vyshak was playing his second First-Class match, impressed with a tidy spell. From wide of the crease, Kaverappa got the ball to hold its line and rattle Prince Yadav's stumps.

Top-order flops

Karnataka was shunted out of the driver's seat, courtesy a horror show from the top-order. Mayank Agarwal rushed down the track and nicked spinner

Saurabh Kumar, while Karun Nair again perished playing away from the body.

Captain Manish Pandey inexplicably attempted a quick single to Karan Sharma at cover, but a direct hit found him well short. K.V. Siddharth was beaten all ends up by an inswinger from Ankit Rajpoot.

Shreyas Gopal, K. Gowtham and V. Vyshak fell in the last five overs before close of play. The visitor left the field on a high, as Vyshak was trapped leg-before by Saurabh in the last ball of the day.

The scores:

Karnataka — 1st innings: R. Samarth c Prince b Saurabh 57, Mayank Agarwal c Jurel b Mavi 10, Karun Nair b Mavi 29, K.V. Siddharth b Mavi 37, Manish Pandey c Jurel b Saurabh 27, Srinivas Sharath c Juyal b Saurabh 0, Shreyas Gopal (not out) 56, K. Gowtham c Rinku b Saurabh 12, V. Vyshak c Jurel b Rajpoot 12, Ronit More b Dayal 6, Vidhwath Kaverappa c Singh b Dayal 4; Extras (lb-1, nb-1, w-1): 3; Total (in 84 overs): 253.

Fall of wickets: 1-57, 2-95, 3-97, 4-160, 5-160, 6-182, 7-199, 8-214, 9-243.

U.P. bowling: Dayal 15-4-43-2, Rajpoot 14-2-42-1, Mavi 14-4-60-3, Saurabh 32-7-73-4, Prince 4-0-15-0, Karan 5-0-19-0.

Uttar Pradesh — 1st innings: Aryan Juyal c Sharath b More 5, Samarth Singh c Sharath b Vyshak 0, Priyam Garg c & b More 39, Karan Sharma c Sharath b Vyshak 2, Rinku Singh c Nair b Gowtham 33, Dhruv Jurel c Sharath b More 9, Prince Yadav b Kaverappa 0, Saurabh Kumar c Sharath b Gowtham 0, Shivam Mavi c Nair b Gopal 32, Yash Dayal c Mayank b Kaverappa 13, Ankit Rajpoot (not out) 18; Extras (lb-3, nb-1): 4; Total (in 37.3 overs): 155.

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-10, 3-34, 4-76, 5-86, 6-92, 7-92, 8-92, 9-111.

Karnataka bowling: More 12-1-47-3, Vyshak 8-1-29-2, Kaverappa 7-3-19-2, Gowtham 8-1-43-2, Shreyas 2.3-0-14-1.

Karnataka — 2nd innings: R. Samarth b Prince 11, Mayank Agarwal c Jurel b Saurabh 22, Karun Nair c Rinku b Rajpoot 10, K.V. Siddharth b Rajpoot 15, Manish Pandey run out 4, Shreyas Gopal c Juyal b Saurabh 3, Srinivas Sharath (batting) 10, K. Gowtham c Jurel b Shivam Mavi 1, V. Vyshak lbw b Saurabh Kumar 5; Extras (b-8, lb-9, nb-2): 19; Total (for eight wkts. in 34 overs): 100.

Fall of wickets: 1-33, 2-35, 3-67, 4-71, 5-77, 6-84, 7-95, 8-100.

U.P. bowling: Dayal 6-0-25-0, Rajpoot 8-2-15-2, Prince 4-2-6-1, Saurabh 14-4-32-3, Mavi 2-0-5-1 .

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India favourite against Cambodia

Stimac wants the team to play aggressively to seal a berth

[AMITABHA DAS SHARMA](#)

KOLKATA



Let's do it! Coach Stimac gives a pep talk to a player on the eve of the Cambodia match. PTI Swapna Mahapatra

The Indian senior men's football team will be looking to accomplish a record of making successive appearances in the final stage of the continental competition, AFC Asian Cup, as it plays host to the decisive leg of the qualifiers (group D) at the Salt Lake Stadium. The first round of the group league action starting on Wednesday will see India starting favourite against South East Asian neighbour Cambodia while the other match of the day will be pitting the remaining two sides in the group – Afghanistan and Hong Kong.

The Indian aspirations hinge on the confidence of it being the highest ranked team (currently at 106) among the four contenders in the group. This will be backed by a huge home support as the organisers indicated a sell-out crowd of more than 50,000 for the first round of action. "We are expecting the fans to come in numbers, to support the national team in the best way possible. Our intent is to press from the start, and play at high intensity. We need to control the game and prove that we are the favourites. I have to say we are ready for that," the Indian head coach Igor Stimac set the tone for the upcoming action. India previously played the final stage of the Asian Cup in 2019 but could not progress beyond the group stage.

Good mix

The Indian squad this time is a mix of youth and experience selected on the basis of performances assessed in the recently concluded Indian Super League. The Indian challenge will be led by its long-standing captain Sunil Chhetri, who will be hoping to make this his third qualification to the final stage in little over a decade. The 37-year-old striker, who has won an incomparable 126 caps for the country, is expected to inspire the side that has names like Sandesh Jhingan, Pritam Kotal, Subhasish Bose, Akash Mishra in defence, Jeakson Singh, Liston Colaco, Udanta Singh, Anirudh Thapain the midfield and Ishan Pandita and Manvir Singh in the attack. Rahul Bheke, a regular choice in the backline, will be missing the first round owing to injury. "In our current state we are the favourites of this group, we are in a good position and I hope we can qualify," Stimac said.

Cambodia (currently ranked 171), which has the Japan and AC Milan star Keisuke Honda as the general manager, is hoping to surprise the host.

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USFC to start residential academy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA

United Sikkim FC (USFC), in association with Mahbert High School, will start a residential football academy in Siliguri.

It will be the first football club from eastern and north-eastern regions of the country to do so.

Former India captain Bhaichung Bhutia, who is the owner of the club, said, “We have been continuously supporting players from this region and now we will also help young players to fulfil their dreams of becoming professional footballers.

“The residential academy will provide high quality football training and academic education. Mahbert High School has more than 50 years of experience in the field of education. USFC is proud to associate with them.”

Current India captain Sunil Chhetri welcomed the initiative. “We all saw what you (Bhutia) did with USFC from where players like Sandesh Jinghan and others came out,” said Chhetri.

“There are many children wanting to make football their career and not lose out on their education. We will fully provide the best of both,” said Arjun Rai, a senior manager and a founder member of USFC.

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Saurabh stars in Aruna's exciting win

[SPORTS REPORTER](#)

CHENNAI



Saurabh(Aruna,100).

Saurabh Dubey slammed a century and chipped in with three wickets to help Aruna CC beat AG's Office by one run in the TNCA second division league recently.

The scores: II div.: Alwarpet 269/7 in 50 overs (M.A. Atheeq Ur Rahman 102, P. Shijit Chandran 46, R. Sathish 32) lost to Parry's 270/2 in 44.3 overs (S. Siddharth 118, V. Dinesh Kumar 62, Prashant Bhandari 49 n.o., Sachin Om Prakash Katariya 30 n.o.).

Sea Hawks 241/6 in 50 overs (R. Rajan 62, Paras Dogra 40, A. Shrikaran 36 n.o., Shivam Singh 32, S. Senthil Nathan 32, Ashish Yadav 3/34) lost to TI Cycles 242/4 in 49.1 overs (Ashish Yadav 94 n.o., S.T. Natarajan 57, K. Aashiq 30).

Aruna 253 in 50 overs (Saurabh Dubey 100, G. Dilip 34, S. Ashwath 5/54) bt AG's Office 252 in 49.5 overs (Avinash Upadhyay 97, S. Ashwin Balaj 45, R. Karthik Adithya 39, Saurabh Dubey 3/45).

Indian Bank 307/6 in 50 overs (K. Rajkumar 113, G. Jayavardhan 51 n.o., Vinukonda Venu 30 n.o.) bt Egmore RC 305/8 in 50 overs (N. Niranjan 100, K. Ashwin 91, G. Sujith 38, J. Vignesh 3/70).

Southern Railway Institute 248/9 in 50 overs (Abhishek Reddy 88, S. Manigandan 3/43, Ashutosh Sharma 3/32) bt Sir M.Ct.M. Old Boys SA 143 in 31.3 overs (S. Sanjay Shrinivas 63, A. Baskar 4/27, A. Veerababu 4/37).

CromBest 172/9 in 50 overs (Ravi Prakash Jangid 44, Ankur Julka 40, Sagar Shivshankar Mishra 3/31) lost to RKS CA 173/5 in 41.1 overs (J. Gowjith Subash 70, S. Shikapdeen 3/35).

IV 'D': Perambur United 227/8 in 50 overs (L. Saravanan 83, N.G. Dinesh 43, D. Sushil Rhaj 4/58) lost to Bharath Petroleum Corporation Club 229/6 in 44.5 overs (S. Sachin 63, D. Sushil Rhaj 57, U. Sreenath 35, V.K. Nivedhan 30 n.o.).

Venkat 120 in 40.1 overs (A. Santhosh Kumar 42, C. Sakthivel 4/38) lost to Royapettah 124/6 in 28.1 overs (R. Arun Kumar 39).

MRC-B 74 in 25 overs (V. Parthiban 4/26) lost to Tiger 77/1 in 8 overs (K. Suriya Prakash 45 n.o.).

Vigneswara 134 in 49.5 overs (S.M. Karthik Anand 30, Gaurav Ravindran 30, P. Gokulkrishnamoorthy 5/29) lost to Mambalam Mosquitos 135/5 in 34.2 overs (V. Naveen Kumar 73 n.o., T. Ramesh Thangaraj 3/40).

V-C: B & C Mills AA 243/9 in 50 overs (S. Rishikesh 47, R. Ram Kumar 45 n.o., S. Mohammed Maaz 32, G. Vikram 31, T.M. Hari Bashyam 4/50, M. Sathish Kumar 3/72) bt Kohinoor XI 135 in 30.3 overs (S.J. Mahathevan 41, M.V. Ajith 30, K. Mahendra Prasath 5/47, K. Murali 4/27).

Egmore Club 285/7 in 50 overs (G.V. Nalin Shreevathsan 91, R. Poosalar 80, G.R. Mohamed Ashif 32, A. Praveen Kumar 5/63) bt Egmore Excelsiors 280 in 48.1 overs (S. Ahmed Batsha 95, D. Mahendiran 56, A. Praveen Kumar 30, G. Mahendran 5/102).

Lusuraj 229 in 49.2 overs (V. Sakthivel 67, K. Prakash 55, V. Vinoth 38, R. Sudharsan 4/48) lost to St. Mary's 233/6 in 44.3 overs (M. Vinith Kumar 51 n.o., S. Yugesh 41, B. Sivaramakrishnan 41, T.S. Santhosh Kumar 31, J. Ebinezar Paul 3/50).

Grand Prix 224/9 in 50 overs (R. Raj Kumar 72, G. Maharaja 52, R. Kishore 34 n.o., L. Ashok Kumar 3/31) bt Triplicane Cosmopolitan 195 in 47 overs (G. Rajesh Kanna 54 n.o., M. Syed Ibrahim 4/48).

V-D: Universal RC 174 in 43 overs (A. Mohammed Asif Iqbal 49, Johnson Peter Exavier 48, R. Prabhuram 4/55, R. Vishal 4/34) lost to BSNL Chennai Telephones 178/5 in 30 overs (K. Ramji 47 n.o., B. Rajan 40, N.K. Pramoth 32 n.o.).

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FIH has ‘full trust’ in Hockey India

CEO Thierry Weil expects member associations to abide by the sports code

[PRESS TRUST OF INDIA](#)

LAUSANNE

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) on Tuesday said it continues to have “full trust” in Hockey India (HI) but expects its member associations to abide by the sports code of their respective countries.

The Delhi High Court last month placed HI under a three-member CoA following its observation that the federation has violated the National Sports Code.

“It’s 100% clear that every National Association (NA) has to make sure that its Statutes are compliant with the sports code of the local authorities. Therefore, if this is not the case for Hockey India at the moment, then this has to happen,” said FIH’s chief executive officer Thierry Weil.

“However, this situation does not affect FIH’s full trust in Hockey India.”

Weil said HI will continue to play a pivotal role in the development of the game. “Indeed, HI has been and continues to be a key actor of the development of our sport, not only in the country, but also for the world, as an outstanding organiser of numerous FIH events.”

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The nightmare that was Indian fielding, and how Pataudi changed it

[SURESH MENON](#)

JUNE 08



On a tour of Pakistan, Lala Amarnath, who was there as a media expert introduced me to Gul Mohammed, who had played eight times for India before migrating to Pakistan and playing there. “Greatest fielder,” said Amarnath in the manner he was famous for, leaving it to the listener to fill in the details.

In the years that Indian fielders dropped catches merrily and often let the ball slip through to the boundary, it was not difficult to earn that sobriquet. Perhaps there was one adequate fielder in every generation, and he automatically qualified as the greatest.

I didn’t tell Amarnath that, of course. I was young, on my first full tour and there was something about Amarnath — India’s first Test centurion and first captain of independent India — that kept such responses in check.

In India's first-ever Test at Lord's, Lall Singh, probably the only Test cricketer to be born in Malaysia, ran out Frank Woolley to reduce England to 19 for three on the first morning. In later years, Vinoo Mankad was a fine fielder off his own bowling, and Hemu Adhikari earned a reputation as a top class cover point. But it wasn't until Tiger Pataudi — among the greatest cover points in the game — that India began to pay attention to this aspect of the game.

"He was doing in the 1960s what modern fielders do as a matter of course now," according to Sunil Gavaskar. In South Africa, Colin Bland, who many consider the greatest cover fielder ever, told me that Pataudi might have been better than Jonty Rhodes "because his anticipation was superior".

"I am fanatical in my demands for keen fielding," Pataudi wrote. He told his team in England, "Although I want to see a smart turnout when we leave the pavilion, once the match starts I want to see a lot of grubby knees...if it takes four or five days to get your flannels cleaned, blame the laundries. I am prepared to put up with a scruffy looking team, but I will never permit scruffy fielding."

The philosophy percolated down. Pataudi's boys Ajit Wadekar, Eknath Solkar, Abid Ali, Venkatraghavan, Sunil Gavaskar all played key roles as fielders in India's maiden series wins in the West Indies and England, although he was no longer captain by then.

Attitude issues

Fielding and fitness began to be taken seriously by a team that had got off on the wrong foot thanks to the attitude of the Maharajahs who played the key roles in the early years and probably believed that running was beneath them. They were perhaps irritated too by the fact they couldn't ask their retinue of servants to do the job instead.

The cricket historian Edward Docker summed up the early Indian approach thus: "The deep field couldn't be relied upon to walk in with the bowler. Fieldsmen failed to anticipate the ball. Or overran it. Or used their feet to stop it. The catching was poor, the throwing abominable..."

Writing in the 1940s, the journalist Berry Sarbadhikary said, “Although homilies on the need for first-class fielding are indulged in freely by men in authority, it is the same persons who take the least notice of fielding ability when it comes to the actual selection...”

Watching Ravindra Jadeja, Rohit Sharma, Ajinkya Rahane, Virat Kohli chase everything and catch everything today, it might be difficult to believe that India began as a team that chased reluctantly and caught by accident.

Emergence of fielding stars

Pataudi’s example and attitude changed all that. Brijesh Patel, who began his first class career in 1969-70 was still cutting off boundaries and cover drives nearly two decades later by which time India’s finest all round fielder had emerged. This was Mohammad Azharuddin, as spectacular in the slips as he was in the outfield, his lithe form adding grace to his movements.

By then Kapil Dev had already exhibited his natural athleticism — he was a superb catcher at gully, but was needed to patrol the outfield where his casual throws to the top of the stumps were a treat.

India’s stock grew in white ball cricket, and a bunch of fielders helped make that happen: Yuvraj Singh, Suresh Raina, Mohammed Kaif.

Today it is no longer necessary to ‘hide’ a fielder, as India were once forced to do when players were important for one or two of three skills, or when they were chosen for reasons other than cricket.

The flat-footed was stationed in the slips with the prayer that no snick would go to him; or at mid-on hoping that an on-drive might fortuitously be stopped by a boot or a knee.

The story of Indian fielding is the evolution from ten passengers (usually) in a team to none at all. The Maharajkumar of Vizianagaram, who led on a tour of England, would not recognise this team.

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Hazlewood and Starc set up big win for Aussies

[AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE](#)
COLOMBO



Hazlewood.AP

Josh Hazlewood ran through the Sri Lanka line-up as the hosts were bundled out for 128 in the first T20I against Australia on Tuesday.

Hazlewood took three wickets in the 14th over and triggered Sri Lanka's middle-order batting collapse. The in-form pacer finished with an impressive four for 16 in four overs, taking the wickets of Danushka Gunathilaka (26), Kusal Mendis (1), Bhanuka Rajapaksa (0) and captain Dasun Shanaka (0).

Hazlewood was well supported by new ball partner Mitchell Starc, who removed opener Pathum Nissanka for 36 off 31 balls before cleaning up the hosts' lower-order to finish with three for 26 in four overs.

Riding on openers David Warner and Aaron Finch's unbeaten half-centuries, Australia eased to 134 for no loss in 14 overs.

Warner hit nine fours in his unbeaten 44-ball 70 while Finch finished with a 40-ball 61 not out with four fours and four sixes.

Earlier, Sri Lanka's top three batters gave the hosts a slow but steady start and took the team to 100 for two in the first 12 overs.

None of the top three — Nissanka, Gunathilaka and Asalanka — was able to stick around to provide the final kick on a slow, rain-hit outfield.

Sri Lanka lost Asalanka and Chamika Karunaratne to run outs.

The scores: Sri Lanka 128 in 19.3 overs (Pathum Nissanka 36, Charith Asalanka 38, Mitchell Starc 3/26, Josh Hazlewood 4/16) lost to Australia 134/0 in 14 overs (Aaron Finch 61 n.o., David Warner 70 n.o.).

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St. Joseph's College clinches overall title

Finishes with 11 points, pips MA College in the race for top spot

[SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT](#)

KOCHI



Having the last laugh: St. Joseph's edged past MA College by single point.[SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT](#)

It was St. Joseph's College, Irinjalakuda, which had won the overall title in the Kerala College Games on Monday.

St. Joseph's, which came first in women's boxing and was the runner-up in badminton and basketball, finished with 11 points and pipped MA College, Kothamangalam, to the top spot.

MA College, which won the overall title in athletics, was second with 10 points while SN Kannur, which bagged the men's wrestling title, was third with nine.

V.S. Bhavika of Maharaja's College hogged the limelight in athletics as she set the lone record on the final day of the meet in women's 200m. Bhavika

clocked 24.9s to erase U.V. Sruthi's old mark (24.99) set in 2018.

Sree Kerala Varma College defeated SB College, Changanassery, 69-45 to clinch the men's basketball title. Assumption College, Changanassery, beat Christ College, Irinjalakuda, 50-30 for the women's title. MES College, Mampad, edged Farook College, Farook, 4-2 on penalties to win the football title after both teams were locked goalless in regulation time.

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Anand gets past Anish, but Carlsen in lead

Brilliant display by the Norwegian

[SPORTS BUREAU](#)

JUNE 08



Carlsen.File Photo

Viswanathan Anand prevailed over Anish Giri by drawing with black pieces in their Armageddon game before Magnus Carlsen produced a brilliant display to beat Shakhriyar Mamedyarov to snatch the lead after six rounds of 2022 Norway Chess at Stavanger on Monday.

With Carlsen's victory coming in the classical game and fetching him three points, to Anand's 1.5, the top-seeded Norwegian raised his tally to 12.5 points from a maximum of 19. Anand slipped to second place with 11.5 points from 20. Anand and Anish drew their classical game in 35 moves following repetition of moves.

In the Armageddon game, Anand stayed in complete control with black pieces and accepted a draw in a winning position in their 45-move clash.

Later, asked to comment on Anand, Anish said, "He was slowing down... and now he's going backwards. He's speeding up! He was getting slower and slower and slower, until at some point he reached the peak of slowness, he was a slow player at some point, and then it went the other way. He became faster, faster and faster, and now he's super-fast again. He's playing like... I never played the young Vishy, but something like Ian Nepomniachtchi plays. He plays just very fast and relies on calculation and preparation, and it's a way to play, just to play very quickly... it's one of the more unpleasant styles to face."

Carlsen, who reached a classical live rating of 2780 and traded places with Anand on the points table in spite of losing to the 52-year-old Indian, said, "He's very impressive, but I hope to be ahead of him in the standings at the end!"

The results: Sixth round: Anish Giri (Ned, 8/20) drew with Viswanathan Anand (11.5/20); Armageddon: Anish drew with Anand; (Anand adjudged winner); Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 12.5/19) bt Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze, 8.5/20); Wesley So (USA, 10/20.5) drew with Aryan Tari (Nor, 7/20); Armageddon: So bt Tari; Wang Hao (Chn, 4/20) drew with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 8.5/20); Armageddon: Wang lost to Vachier; Teimour

Radjabov (Aze, 4/19.5) drew with Veselin Topalov (Bul, (6/20.5);
Armageddon: Radjabov drew with Topalov (Topalov adjudged winner) .

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‘It would have been nice to get to the milestone’

Parkar disappointed at squandering a chance to surpass Muzumdar’s record

[AMOL KARHADKAR](#)

BENGALURU



On a high: Suved Parkar's innings drew lavish praise from Mumbai head coach Amol Muzumdar.R. Ragu

Even after batting for almost 10 hours, spread over two days, en route a record innings of 252 runs on Ranji Trophy debut, Suved Parkar was as fresh after the second day's play of Mumbai's Ranji Trophy quarterfinal versus Uttarakhand as he was while receiving the cap from former India opener W.V. Raman on the first morning.

Obviously an ice bath had helped but the face was glittering. After all, the 21-year-old became only the 12th Indian to mark his First Class debut with a double hundred and he went on to become the fifth to cross the 250-run mark in his maiden outing.

In fact, Parkar, batting 104 overnight, fell agonisingly short of Mumbai head coach Amol Muzumdar's record 260 on debut in 1993-94. "Yesterday evening, Adu bhai (Aditya Tare) had mentioned about Amol sir's 260-run record. I was a bit disappointed since it would have been nice to get to the milestone. That was the goal," Parkar said on Tuesday.

Parkar acknowledged Sarfaraz Khan's help in the middle. "He was constantly talking to me and discussing how to rotate strike and he ensured I wasn't under pressure," he said.

Muzumdar, meanwhile, was gunning for his protege to surpass the landmark.

"It was brilliant, a spectacular innings. Life has come a full circle but it would have been fitting to see him get to 261," Muzumdar told *The Hindu* . "I didn't speak too much with him after he came back, having experienced what a batter is going through after that kind of a knock but I'll have a word with later in the evening."

Muzumdar though heaped lavish praise on Parkar's flawless innings. "He was so close but it doesn't take anything away from the knock. His kadak defence and body language stood out. During my three decades [of] involvement in domestic cricket, rarely have I seen such a knock. Found the gaps to perfection and never got tired."

This article was downloaded by **calibre** from <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-sports/it-would-have-been-nice-to-get-to-the-milestone/article65506098.ece>

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‘I headed straight to the Mumbai nets after IPL’

Sarfaraz wants to score a century every time he walk out to bat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

Being the early riser that he is, Sarfaraz Khan woke up around 4 a.m. on Tuesday and started playing and singing Kishore Kumar songs. So loud was the sound that it not only disturbed his roommate Shashank Attarde’s sleep but almost the entire Mumbai contingent in its plush resort at a walking distance from the Alur Cricket Ground.

Of course, the run machine apologised to them over breakfast before heading to the ground. And, two hours later, his teammates were left in awe of Sarfaraz’s strokemaking as his 153 was instrumental in Mumbai seizing control of the Ranji Trophy quarterfinal against Uttarakhand.

Having plundered 551 runs in four innings in the league stage in February-March, Sarfaraz joined Delhi Capitals for the Indian Premier League. It didn’t take him long to find his mojo with the red-ball with the amount of time he spends in the nets.

“I headed straight to the Mumbai nets after checking out of the hotel from IPL. Since then, for the next 10 days, I did three sessions a day, with Abbu (father Naushad Khan) watching closely whenever I wasn’t training with Mumbai’s squad,” Sarfaraz said.

Sarfaraz keeps an eye on his score, in real-time as well career statistics. But it was a rare miscalculation on Tuesday when he realised he had crossed the hundred only after his teammates applauded his effort.

“Since I had scored two-three boundaries and ran too many singles, I somehow thought I was seven-eight runs short but once I realised, the celebration was bound to be huge. The least I expect from myself is every time I walk out to bat, I should score a hundred.”

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Heat in focus as Pakistan meets Windies in ODI series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MULTAN



Saqlain.AP

Intensive heat will test the fitness of players when Pakistan hosts the West Indies in the three-match limited-overs international series starting here on

Wednesday.

The Pakistan Cricket Board had to relocate the series to Multan from Rawalpindi last week because of the uncertain political situation in the country.

The opposition, led by former Prime Minister Imran Khan, is planning rallies in the federal capital Islamabad which is adjacent to Rawalpindi.

The temperature is expected to top 45 degrees Celsius (113 Fahrenheit) this week in Multan, and organisers have pushed back the starting time for games to 4 p.m. local time to give some respite from the heat.

The Pakistan Cricket Board also planned to provide players with ice collars and vests during stoppages in play and extra water breaks to keep them hydrated.

“We’ll try to make the guys understand what they have to do personally to hydrate themselves properly both before, during and after the games,” West Indies head coach Phil Simmons said on Tuesday. “The heat is going to be extreme, (but) Pakistan are playing in the heat, too, so it’s going to be an even contest when we start the day. How we deal with it before, during and after is going to help us a lot.”

West Indies is coming off a 3-0 series win over the Netherlands last week at Amstelveen.

The Pakistan squad has spent a week in Lahore, where the weather is similar to Multan. Captain Babar Azam hoped the players were well prepared.

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Diya replaces Archana in CWG team

The selectors retain the men's squad

[RAKESH RAO](#)
NEW DELHI



Diya.Ritu Raj Konwar

Better sense, in a small degree, prevailed when the National selectors proceeded to make a course correction and rightly replaced Archana Kamath with a deserving Diya Chitale in the Indian women's team for the Commonwealth Games, starting next month.

However, the selectors retained the men's team where an equally-deserving Manush Shah was kept away. Like Diya, Manush, too, has challenged the team selection and sought judicial intervention.

In response to the CoA's letter (of May 31) where it sought Sports Authority of India's approval for Archana's selection, the SAI quoted from a letter of 18th January, 2018 by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, and reminded the CoA that "selection of sportspersons in major international events shall be the responsibility of NSF concerned and Government and the SAI will not have direct involvement in the selection process, except to ensure that it is fair and transparent."

Suddenly, the CoA discovered, "Archana did not fare well in the 83rd senior Nationals at Shillong in the singles competition. Archana lost in the round of 32, reflecting lack of form and confidence.

"The pair of Manika Batra and Archana Kamath did not deem it fit to even play in the open doubles in the 83rd senior National championship (and that) questions their commitment to Doubles events."

Then came the conclusion. "There would be no justification at all in ignoring the probability that she (Diya) would give a good account for the country. The selectors and the coaches are in agreement with the Committee on this aspect."

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Understand my game a lot better: Miller

Says it helps him handle pressure

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI



Miller.FILE PHOTO

The intensity is still the same as it was more than a decade ago, when he made his debut, but what has changed for David Miller is his ability to “understand the game a lot better” and handle pressure with consummate ease.

“Scoring the amount of runs I did, closing out couple of games is something I looked forward to before the start of the IPL.

“Batting in the middle-order, you do want to finish off games. So it was nice to tick that box,” Miller said on the eve of South Africa’s five-match T20I series against India.

“I wouldn’t say I have done anything different. Being around long time now, one grows and matures in role I play for so many years, I understand my game a lot better,” he said.

“I still get nervous and go through negative thoughts but I can deal with that pressure a lot better.”

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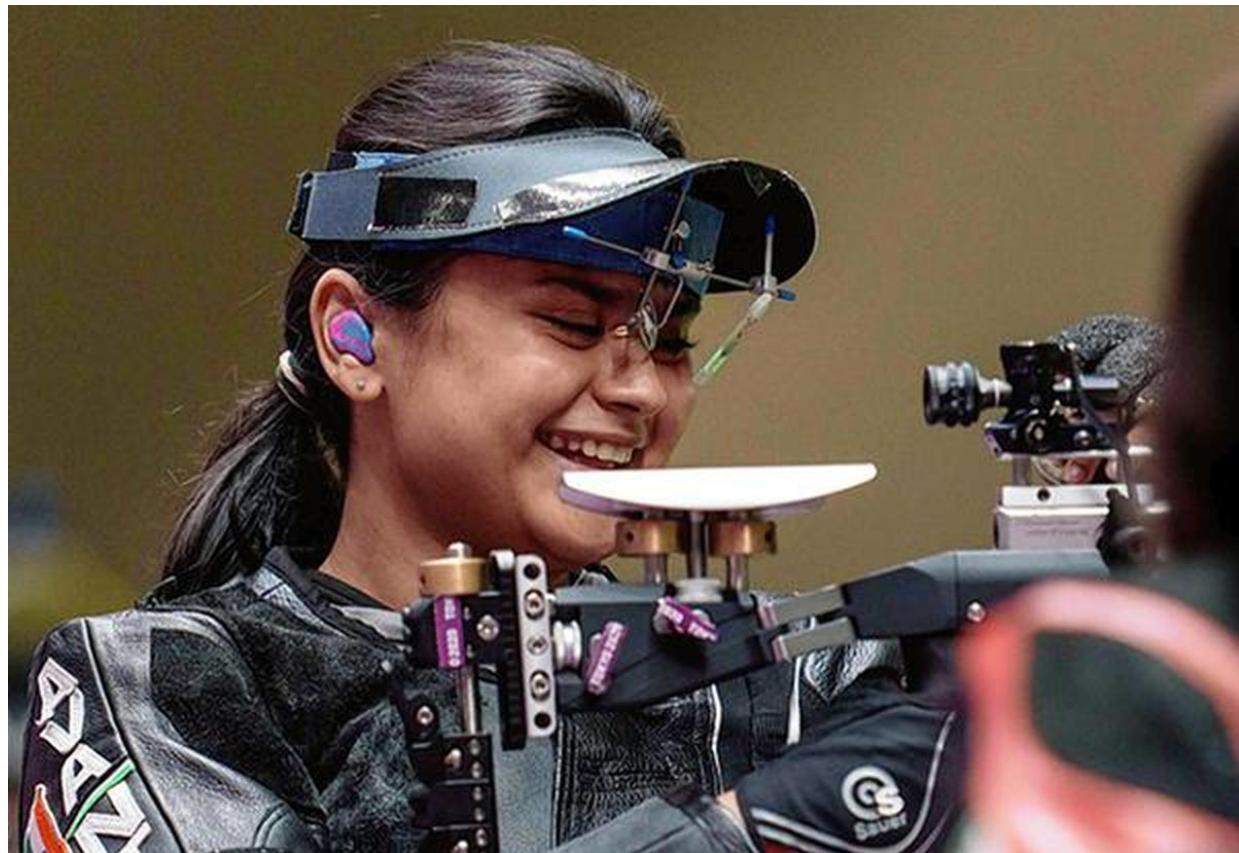
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Avani shoots gold, books Paris ticket

She also breaks her own world record

[PRESS TRUST OF INDIA](#)

NEW DELHI



Back with a bang: Avani had a lot to cheer about on her return to competition. FILE PHOTO

Tokyo Paralympics champion Avani Lekhara won gold at the Para shooting World Cup with a world record score of 250.6 in women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 in Chateauroux, France, on Tuesday.

The SH1 category is for athletes with lower limb impairment for competition in rifle events.

The 20-year-old shooter broke her own world record of 249.6 to secure her a spot at the 2024 Paris Paralympics. Poland's Emilia Babska bagged the silver medal with 247.6, while the bronze went to Anna Normann of Sweden who shot 225.6.

Avani won the top prize three days after being on the verge of missing the tournament as her coach and escort were initially denied visas. However, the issue was resolved after the intervention of the Sports Authority of India and Sports Ministry.

'Big thank you'

"Proud to bring home the gold in the 10m air rifle SH1 event with a world record score and India's first Paris 2024 quota. A big thank you to everyone who has supported me," Avani tweeted.

In August last year, Avani clinched a gold in the 10m air rifle standing event in the SH1 category at the Tokyo Paralympics.

She followed it up with a bronze in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions SH1 event, making her the first Indian woman to win multiple medals at the Paralympics.

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Badoni gets back to the Delhi cricket grind

After instant IPL success, he was back to his alma mater and trying to help his team Players Club win the hot weather tournament title

[UTHRA GANESAN](#)

NEW DELHI



Badoni.SPORTZPICS/IPL

Two months ago, Ayush Badoni was struggling to answer the question, “where were you hiding” after his eye-catching knock on IPL debut. The

answer then, as now, would have been the same — slogging it out in the heat and dust of Delhi domestic circuit through the summer months.

Less than three kilometres as the crow flies from the Arun Jaitley Stadium, the contrast at Modern School, Barakhambha Road couldn't be starker on Tuesday. While the Indian squad was sweating it out ahead of the first T20I against South Africa and the likes of Umran Malik taking the first steps into international cricket, Badoni was back to his alma mater and trying to help his team Players Club win the hot weather tournament title.

There was no audience bar his teammates. It was also perhaps a reminder that while the school had always backed him, Delhi cricket had done little by way of support. "It isn't easy but I have seen Ayush. He completed his studies here in 2019 only and has a long way to go. Coming back to play such games will only make him tougher and keep him grounded. There is a reason Delhi cricket is said to be a grind. As a player, I can vouch for him," Modern School coach Naveen Chopra said.

Bodoni himself was aware of it. He spent quite a while listening intently to international umpire Anil Chaudhary, clearly learning as much as he could. He wasn't successful on the day, however, struggling to find his rhythm.

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Tiyana wins air pistol

Keeps calm in the climax to defeat Palak in the final

[KAMESH SRINIVASAN](#)

NEW DELHI



Shining bright:Palak, champion Tiyana and Shikha with the air pistol medals.Kamesh Srinivasan

Tiyana Phogat handled the climax with remarkable calm as she beat Junior World Cup gold medallist Palak Ghulia 16-6 for the air pistol gold in the Khelo India Youth Games at the Dr. Karni Singh Range on Tuesday.

With another international shooter Shikha Narwal bagging the bronze, it was celebration time for host Haryana, especially for coach Rakesh Thakur who has been training all the three at his academy.

After qualifying in the seventh place with a modest 565, as against Palak's top effort of 576, Tiyana was consistent right through the second stage and the gold medal match.

"I didn't expect the gold. It was my first final. I wanted to perform my best. Was not thinking about the result," said Tiyana, a 10th standard student of DAV School in Gurugram.

PTI adds from New Delhi/Panchkula:

Andaman and Nicobar's Celestina Chelobroy clinched her third cycling gold of the Games while Sanyukta Kale swept all five gold medals on offer in rhythmic gymnastics, her clean sweep helping Maharashtra (24 gold, 22 silver, 17 bronze) climb to the top of the table displacing Haryana (23G, 20S, 29B).

Sadanand Kumar of Jharkhand was crowned the fastest boy, winning the 100m in 10.63s while Maharashtra's Sudeshna Shivankar dominated the girls' 100m event, clocking 11.79s.

Haryana's rising badminton star Unnati Hooda battled back from the brink to win the girls' title, beating Tasnim Mir 9-21, 23-21, 21-12 in a 47-minute contest.

Maharashtra's Darshan Pujari clinched the boys' badminton singles gold, beating S. Rithvik Sanjeevi of Tamil Nadu 21-15, 22-20.

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Akshdeep let's his bat talk

[UTHRA GANESAN](#)

NEW DELHI



Akashdeep.File Photo: Vivek Bendre

Having missed this year's IPL, Akashdeep Nath kept himself busy with domestic tournaments and matches through the last couple of months and was all set to join the Uttar Pradesh team for its Ranji Trophy knockout game against Karnataka currently on in Alur.

Instead, the former UP captain and 2012 Under-19 World Cup winner smashed two match-winning centuries in the semifinal and the final of a prominent hot weather tournament here which by his own admission were more about venting his grudge and proving a point to the association officials who declared he wasn't fit enough.

"I had a small knee injury that the physio told me needed about three days of rest and rehab to be match fit. But the official recommendation was rest for at least 10 days and I found myself out of the side.

"The coach (Vijay Dahiya) supported me, but it wasn't enough and playing in this weather in Delhi and scoring these runs was my way of saying I was ready," Akashdeep said, after leading Delhi Challengers to a five-wicket title win in the 45th Lala Raghbir Singh Hot Weather tournament by scoring a century (107).

It was his second hundred after an unbeaten 128 in the semifinals. He was predicted to be in UP's playing XI at Alur and expected to be a key member of the batting unit.

The 29-year-old is preparing to leave for Sri Lanka. "I will most likely be leaving on June 10 for around 35 days and play First Class games there. "I hope to do good and send another message to the officials that I was always ready to go," Akashdeep laughed.

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Torch relay ahead of Olympiad

It will start from India before every edition of the mega event

[PRESS TRUST OF INDIA](#)

CHENNAI

The 44th Chess Olympiad, to be held in July-August in Mahabalipuram, near here, will mark the introduction of an Olympic-style torch relay that will be held before every edition, FIDE announced on Tuesday.

Such a relay will always begin from India — the ‘birthplace’ of chess — and will travel across all continents before reaching the host city.

However, due to paucity of time, this year’s relay will only be held in India.

“50 days to go for Chennai Olympiad. Do watch, cheer and join me at the Olympiad Torch Relay,” tweeted Viswanathan Anand.

The dates and routes of the torch relay will be announced after consultation with the government, FIDE and other stakeholders, Olympiad event director Bharat Singh Chauhan said in a press release.

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Bopanna and Shapovalov advance

[SPORTS BUREAU](#)

JUNE 08

Rohan Bopanna and Denis Shapovalov outplayed Jonathan Erlich and Aslan Karatsev 6-4, 6-0 in the first round of the €769,645 ATP tournament in Stuttgart on Tuesday.

Other results: First round: \$25,000 ITF men, Chiang Rai, Thailand: Congsup Congcar (Tha) & Shintaro Imai (Jpn) bt Paras Dahiya & Faisal Qamar 6-2, 7-6(4).

Women: Karman Kaur Thandi bt Haruka Kaji (Jpn) 6-4, 4-6, 6-1. Doubles: Momoko Kobori (Jpn) & Luksika Kumkhum (Tha) bt Ankita Raina & Karman Kaur Thandi 7-5, 6-1; Anastasiia Poplavskaya (Ukr) & Riya Bhatia bt Chompoothip Jundakate & Tamachan Momkoonthod (Tha) 4-6, 6-1, [12-10]; Erika Sema (Jpn) & Rutuja Bhosale bt Humera Baharmus & Vaidehi Chaudhari 6-2, 6-3.

\$15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Quentin Folliot (Fra) bt Rishabh Agarwal 6-4, 7-6(4); Doubles: Alexander Crnokrak & Matthew Dellavedova (Aus) bt Maximus Jones (Tha) & Karan Singh 6-3, 6-3.

\$15,000 ITF men, Tay Ninh, Vietnam: Tsung-Hao Huang (Tpe) bt Ishaque Eqbal 6-4, 6-1; S.D. Prajwal Dev bt Wishaya Trongcharoenchaikul (Tha) 7-5, 6-4; Aaron Addison (Aus) bt Nishant Dabas 6-1, 6-3. Doubles: Minh Tuan Pham & Linh Giang Trinh (Vie) bt Ishaque Eqbal & Digvijay Pratap Singh 6-3, 6-3.

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Croatia holds France at home

Denmark leads the group after second straight win

[AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE](#)

SPLIT (CROATIA)

Andrej Kramaric scored a late penalty as Croatia salvaged a 1-1 draw at home to World champion France on Monday that left both teams still chasing a first win in the Nations League.

On a night Luka Modric earned his 150th cap for Croatia, French coach Didier Deschamps handed a number of fringe players the chance to make an impression before the World Cup in November.

Juventus midfielder Adrien Rabiot fired France ahead on 52 minutes but Croatia equalised seven minutes from time when Kramaric won and converted a spot-kick.

In League B, Group 2, Icelandic midfielder Jon Dagur Thorsteinsson salvaged a draw against Albania.

The results:

League A, Group 1: Croatia 1 (Kramaric 83-pen) drew with France 1 (Rabiot 52); Austria 1 (Schlager 67) lost to Denmark 2 (Hojbjerg 28, Stryger 84).

League B, Group 2: Iceland 1 (Thorsteinsson 49) drew with Albania 1 (Seferi 30).

League C, Group 3: Slovakia 0 lost to Kazakhstan 1 (Darabayev 26); Belarus 0 drew with Azerbaijan 0.

League D, Group 1: Andorra 0 drew with Moldova 0; Latvia 1 (Zjuzins 73) bt Liechtenstein 0 .

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Dustin Johnson quits PGA membership to play in Saudi league

[PTI](#)

ST. ALBANS (ENGLAND)



Johnson quits PGA Tour to play in LIV series

Two-time Major winner Dustin Johnson has resigned his PGA Tour membership to participate in the LIV Golf Invitational series. The event, which offers \$25 million in prize money, is taking place outside London from Thursday. Ranked No. 13 in the world, Johnson is the highest-ranked player in the field.AFP

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