



"In anti-cancer therapy, there is (another) pillar: using diet as a drug"

DR SIDDHARTHA MUKHERJEE
ONCOLOGIST
PAGE 9

Violence in TN town over student's death; buses torched, DIG injured



Buses set on fire by protesters in Tamil Nadu's Kallakurichi on Sunday. PTI

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, JULY 17

PROHIBITORY ORDERS were imposed at several places in Tamil Nadu's Kallakurichi district after protesters clashed with police and indulged in arson at a residential school on Sunday to protest against alleged inaction following the death of a 17-year-old student earlier this week.

Several people, including senior police officers, were injured in the violence at the residential school in Kaniyamore, near Chinnasalem. Later in the day, the school principal and two school officials were arrested and the government transferred the suicide case to the CB-CID.

The protesters set on fire at least 15 buses, including three police buses. Following the violence, Kallakurichi Collector P N Sridhar issued prohibitory orders under Section 144 until July 31 in Kallakurichi taluk and several places in Chinnasalem.

Chief Minister M K Stalin expressed regret over the violence and assured punishment for all those involved in the girl's death. Appealing for peace, the CM said he has ordered the Home Secretary and the DGP to visit the site of the violence.

Sources said that on Sunday morning, around 2,000 people gathered at the school — where the Class 12 student was found dead on Wednesday — in response to a protest call on social media by youth groups in the area.

The student is suspected to have jumped to her death from
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

WORLD



RUSSIAN MISSILES HIT KEY CITY IN SOUTHERN UKRAINE IN FIRST POLL AFTER HIS OUSTER, IMRAN KHAN'S PTI WINS BY A LANDSLIDE
PAGE 11

PRESIDENTIAL POLLS TODAY

Monsoon session begins today; Govt, Opposition brace for a stormy start

32 Bills likely to be introduced; all-party meet on Lanka tomorrow

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, JULY 17

THE GOVERNMENT Sunday accused the Opposition of trying to "belittle the image" of Parliament by insisting that "non-issues" such as the updated list of unparliamentary words be taken up for discussion, setting the stage for a stormy Monsoon Session that is set to begin on Monday.

At an all party-meeting ahead of the session, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Opposition leaders demanded that the alleged misuse of investigation agencies, the Agnipath scheme for recruitment in the defence forces, price rise, alleged attacks on the federal structure and the "Chinese incursion", be taken up for discussion.

With the session scheduled

to end on August 12 — during which 32 Bills are likely to be introduced — the Opposition said it anticipates that key Bills would "bulldozed" through. Congress MP and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said that with the session "leaving us effectively with only 14 days", the government did not offer them clear answers on how it plans to discuss the proposed legislation in such a short time.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi later told reporters that while the government was ready to "discuss any issue" under the rules and procedure of the House, the Opposition "is raising non-issues as it does not have anything against the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi which has wide acceptance among the people of India and abroad".
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



At the all-party meeting chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Parliament House on Sunday. Premnath Pandey

Aviation upturn sees new trends: tourism routes popular; curbs in China benefit India

Goa, Srinagar among top destinations

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, JULY 17

THE STEADY recovery in India's commercial aviation sector has lifted traffic to near pre-Covid levels — but with a clear realignment in capacities and routes.

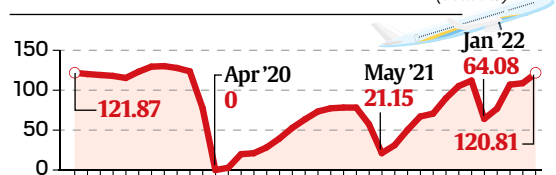
On the domestic front, the numbers show a push for tourism routes and direct connectivity to smaller airports. At the same time, international passenger traffic for Indian carriers has already surpassed pre-Covid levels with airlines that were dependent on China and the far-east now looking at other geographies, including India.

Within the country, destina-

tions such as Srinagar and Goa have seen significant capacity addition by airlines, which underlines the "revenge travel trend" after the Covid curbs. But the relatively slower rebound in business travel means trunk routes like Delhi-Mumbai, Delhi-Chennai, Mumbai-Bengaluru and Delhi-Hyderabad remain subdued (chart, page 2).

According to data sourced from aviation analytics and consultancy firm OAG, domestic airlines deployed 3.27 lakh seats on the Delhi-Srinagar route in June 2022, nearly twice the 1.68 lakh in June 2019. Similarly, the Delhi-Goa route saw 2.07 lakh seats in June 2022, much higher than
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DOMESTIC FLYERS TAKE OFF AGAIN (in lakhs)



NDA Presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu with Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and BJP state chief CR Paatil in Gandhinagar on Sunday. Nirmal Harindran

PAGE 4

Murmu thanks NDA MPs, says tribal community is 'excited'

LIZ MATHEW

NEW DELHI, JULY 17

A DAY before the election for President, which she is expected to win as the ruling NDA's candidate, former Jharkhand Governor Droupadi Murmu described her nomination as a historic moment that has made the

tribal community, especially its women, "utsahit" (excited), *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Sources said that in a meeting with NDA MPs in the Parliament complex, Murmu also thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP for nominating her, adding that around 10 crore tribals, from more than 700 communities, "are all delighted".

The sources quoted Murmu as saying that she hails "from a small village" and has "struggled a lot" to "come up in life". They also quoted her as telling the MPs that it was "an honour to get all your support".

Before Murmu's arrival, a mock voting drill for the poll on Monday was carried out, as BJP
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

V-P polls: Opp picks Alva; TMC, AAP skip meeting

MANOJ CG & HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JULY 17

SENIOR CONGRESS leader and former Union minister Margaret Alva was on Sunday pulled out of virtual retirement and nominated as the Opposition's candidate for the vice-presidential election scheduled to be held



Congress leader Margaret Alva

next month.

Sources said the Opposition had initially considered former chief election commissioner
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RBI'S STATE OF THE ECONOMY REPORT

Commodity prices' fall can help India escape global inflation trap

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JULY 17

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) has said that the Indian economy can escape the global inflation trap if the moderation in commodity prices witnessed in recent weeks endures, alongside an easing of supply-chain pressures.

"The biggest source of relief is from inflation coming off its recent peak, albeit at an elevated

EXPLAINED
E Moderating inflation

WHILE US inflation shot up to a 41-year high of 9.1 per cent in June, India reported a retail inflation of 7.01 per cent, down from 7.04 per cent in May and 7.79 per cent in April.

level still," the central bank has said in its latest 'State of the economy' report. Nonetheless, the signs of its generalisation and the potential unhinging of inflation expectations have elicited a pre-emptive and frontloaded monetary policy response, the RBI said.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had recently said that inflation was likely to "ease gradually in the second half of 2022-23, precluding the chances of a hard
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



AFTER THE RAIN

A road near metro pillar 129 that caved in at Vastrla area of Ahmedabad. The city reported 28 cave-ins this monsoon, while the civic body has filled over 4,350 potholes in the past four days. Express

PAGE 3

MORE FOR VILLAGES, WOMEN

2 billion jabs: India crosses global Covid milestone

PM flags people's faith in science; hails doctors, nurses and scientists

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, JULY 17

INDIA REPORTED 2 billion cumulative Covid-19 vaccinations on Sunday, going past a global milestone in the ongoing battle against the pandemic. The country has now achieved a record 97 per cent first-dose coverage, while 90 per cent of its adult population has received both doses of the vaccine.

Around 4.90 lakh doses were given on Sunday, taking cumulative vaccinations to 2,00,03,73,288. The country is currently running a special 75-day vaccination drive in which the third, precaution dose is being administered for free at all government vaccination centres.

Two important features of India's immunisation coverage — which constitute very significant steps to address vaccine inequity — are, first, 74% of vaccination centres have been set up in rural India and 71% of the vaccination coverage has been reported from rural areas and, second, 51.1% of recipients are women.

"India creates history again! Congrats to all Indians on crossing



At a medical college in Ahmedabad after India crossed 200 crore Covid-19 vaccine jabs. Nirmal Harindran

the special figure of 200 crore vaccine doses. Proud of those who contributed to making India's vaccination drive unparalleled in scale and speed. This has strengthened the global fight against COVID-19," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a tweet.

"Throughout the rollout of the vaccine, the people of India have shown remarkable faith in science. Our doctors, nurses, front-line workers, scientists, innovators and entrepreneurs have played a key role in ensuring a safer planet. I appreciate their spirit and determination," Modi said.
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

VACCINE COVERAGE IN STATES

Top five	Two doses	Cumulative vaccinations
Gujarat	100%	11.25 crore
Karnataka	100%	11.37 crore
Telangana	100%	6.43 crore
Madhya Pradesh	97%	12.13 crore
Uttar Pradesh	96%	34.42 crore
Bottom five	Single dose	Cumulative vaccinations
Nagaland	51%	16.83 lakh
Meghalaya	64%	25.47 lakh
Manipur	74%	30.11 lakh
Jharkhand	81%	4.10 crore
Arunachal Pradesh	87%	17.67 lakh

*% coverage as per population projections submitted to the SC

121 tribals, held for Sukma Maoist ambush, acquitted after 5 yrs in jail

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, JULY 17

A SPECIAL court in Chhattisgarh has acquitted all 121 people who were arrested in connection with the 2017 Burkapal Maoist ambush in Sukma in which 25 CRPF personnel were killed. The accused had spent nearly five years behind bars.

The NIA special court, which pronounced the judgment on Friday, said the prosecution could not prove that the accused — all of them from the tribal community — were either on



A videograb of the accused who were released from prison after a special court acquitted them in the case

the spot of the incident, in possession of any arms or explosives or even members of the CPI (Maoist). "Thus it is clear that the prosecution has failed to prove its case against the accused beyond reasonable doubt," the court of Justice Dipak Kumar Deshlahare said.

The ambush had occurred when a team of 70 soldiers of the CRPF's 74th Battalion had gone to provide security cover for road building in Sukma's Burkapal on April 24, 2017. The CRPF contingent had been surrounded and attacked by a group of 150 Maoists.
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PAGE 1 ANCHOR



EXPRESS IN SRI LANKA

SHUBHAJIT ROY
COLOMBO, JULY 17

■ An official who worked at former prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's office says she's been trying her luck in the fuel queue for the past three days, without success.

■ Another official at former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa's office says he has "just enough" to get to the market. He used to get fuel from government sheds earlier but not after Rajapaksa fled.

■ A senior Sri Lankan diplomat has been working from home for the past week. "I walk to the stores nearby for daily needs," the diplomat said.

■ A former diplomat, down with Covid, has saved up enough fuel to reach the hospital, if needed.

THE FUEL shortage in Sri Lanka has hit the elite as well as common people.

On the streets of Colombo, fewer private cars are plying, serpentine queues outside petrol stations are a common sight and most residents have been walking long distances, keeping the little fuel they have for an "emergency".

Facing the brunt of this shortage are the capital's hospitals. At 7 pm on Friday, when *The Indian Express* reached National Hospital of Sri Lanka, one of the largest government hospitals, doctors and nurses said many of them can't turn up for work due to the shortage.

They said the government has allowed priority access for medical professionals at fuel stations



A patient is brought in a grocery delivery van to the National Hospital of Sri Lanka in Colombo on Friday night. Shubhajit Roy

but it is too little for too many.

A senior doctor, who did not wish to be identified, said she has to change two buses to get to the hospital, and it is "extremely difficult". "Many patients have been calling the free ambulance service to reach the hospital," she said.

Outside, there were hardly any private vehicles, only ambulances arriving every 5-10 minutes and three-wheelers. One man drove up in a pick-up van, with his uncle lying on a mattress on the floor in the back. "I use the vehicle for bread and grocery deliveries, but today there was an emergency," the driver said.

Dr Ananda Wijewickrama, a senior consultant at National Institute of Infectious Diseases in Colombo who was part of Lanka's Covid task force, said, "The fuel crisis has had a significant impact, preventing doctors and nursing staff from coming to hospitals... The number of patients coming for regular check-ups, and elective surgeries and treatments, has also been impacted".

In Colombo, the crisis has hit schools, too. Sanka, a 32-year-old housewife with two children, said, "The schools had been closed off and on for the past three months. Now they are saying that schools will open after

the President's election...because of power cuts, online classes are also difficult."

Due to the shortage, fuel prices have risen nearly four-fold from last year. Despite marginal cuts announced on Sunday, diesel is up from SL Rs 106 last year to 440 per litre while petrol prices have risen from SL Rs 130 to 450 per litre. In the black market, petrol is being sold at about SL Rs 2,000 per litre — an Indian rupee is about SL Rs 4.50.

This has also led to a sharp rise in prices of household goods. At Keells, an upmarket store in Colombo's Union Place,
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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TECH

APPLE HEALTH VP
DR SUMBUL DESAI

'Privacy dictates a lot of our decisions on product availability'

ENTERTAINMENT

REVISITING LIPSTICK UNDER MY BURKHA

'Elderly people believe they don't have any sense of sexuality'

EXPRESS AUDIO

Can Neeraj Chopra win a gold at the World Championships?

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

For over a decade, no world athlete has won a gold medal in Javelin at both the Olympics and the World Championships. But this time, Neeraj Chopra can accomplish just that.

FROM PAGE ONE

Covid milestone

India's vaccination drive — the world's largest — was rolled out on January 16, 2021, and coverage was progressively expanded in seven phases based on the principle of prioritisation of vulnerable population groups.

Among the priority population, 1 crore healthcare workers have received two doses and 60.21 lakh have received their precaution dose; 1.76 crore front-line workers have received two doses and 1.14 crore have received the precaution dose; 12.15 crore elderly recipients above the age of 60 have got their two doses and 2.81 crores have got the precaution shot as well.

Delhi tops the list of cities that have administered the most double doses with 1.53 crore jabs, followed by Mumbai (97.30 lakh), Bengaluru Urban (93.46 lakh), Pune (83.69 lakh), and the Ahmedabad Corporation area (49.73 lakh).

On January 3 this year, India also started administering Covid-19 vaccines to children: 5.01 crore teens in the age group 15-18 years, and 2.62 crore adolescents ages 12-14 are now fully vaccinated. The drugs regulator has approved vaccines for children younger than 12 as well; however, the expert body of the government is yet to take a decision on rolling out jabs for this age group.

The list of states that have administered the most doses (cumulative) to children is headed by Uttar Pradesh (1.94 crore), followed by Bihar (63.42 lakh), West Bengal (48.39 lakh), Madhya Pradesh (46.24 lakh), and Gujarat (43.49 lakh).

The precautionary dose is currently being administered only to adults, and has been given predominantly in the large metros. The cities that have administered the most precaution doses are Delhi (19.34 lakh), Mumbai (10.33 lakh), Bengaluru Urban (9.30 lakh), Kolkata (7.40 lakh), and Pune (7.08 lakh).

The vaccination drive has made use of the strong child immunisation infrastructure that was already in place in the country. Some 2.6 lakh vaccinators and 4.7 lakh vaccination team members were involved in the drive, and a record 213.51 crore syringes were mobilised.

The drive witnessed augmentation of the existing cold chain for storage and transportation of vaccines: an additional 13,626 ice line refrigerators and 12,461 deep freezers were made available.

"Greater Goals, Bigger Victories! Overcoming all the odds, India under PM @NarendraModi ji's leadership has achieved the new milestone of #200CroreVaccinations. A moment to remember forever! The world's largest vaccination drive has been consistently creating new records," Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said in a tweet.

Monsoon session

PM Modi's absence in the meeting also drew criticism from the Opposition camp, with Congress general secretary (communication) Jairam Ramesh tweeting, "Isn't this 'unparliamentary'?"

"Because of some reason, the PM did not come. In fact, before 2014, the PM never used to attend these meetings. A senior Cabinet member like Rajnath Singh presided over the meeting, unlike the Congress, which used to send the chief whip to take the meeting during its rule. How many times did (former prime minister) Manmohan Singh attend all-party meetings?" Joshi said.

At the meeting, attended by 36 parties, the Congress made it clear that it plans to raise issues such as the "DHFL bank fraud, rising unemployment, fiscal and rupee value crisis, hate speech, ris-

ing crimes in Jammu and Kashmir and attacks on Kashmiri Pandits, the collapse of autonomous bodies and constitutional institutions, and illegal demolition of homes of minorities".

Many parties also raised the issue of the new forest conservation rules, pointing out that it "dilutes" the rights of tribals. "Today in the all-party meeting, many political parties, including those supporting NDA, pointed out the contradiction in the Modi Sarkar claiming credit for its Presidential candidate on the one hand and killing off the Forest Rights Act, 2006, on the other hand!" Ramesh tweeted.

Among other parties, the Trinamool Congress said it will firmly oppose the updated list of unparliamentary words, circular banning protests and dharnas on Parliament premises, apart from "the anti-people policies and schemes such as Agnipath", inflation, and matters of foreign policy.

AAP MP Sanjay Singh said he raised the issue of "CBI and ED's misuse". "I said if the government can jail a person like Delhi Health Minister Satyendra Jain, the architect of projects like mohalla clinics, and intimidate the Opposition, then it is not sending out a good message to the country. We are not going to sit quietly. They are not letting Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal travel to Singapore to attend a summit of global leaders. The government did not have any answers," Singh said. The DMK and AIADMK also raised the Sri Lankan crisis. The government will on Tuesday hold another all-party meeting on Sri Lanka.

Apart from Kharge, Ramesh and Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, DMK's T R Baalu and Tiruchi Siva, TMC's Sudip Bandyopadhyay, BJD MP Pinali Misra, YSRCP's Vijaya Sai Reddy, TRS's Keshava Rao, and Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut were among those present in the meeting.

The government, meanwhile, suggested that it was not likely to give in to the Opposition's demands to discuss the issue of "unparliamentary words", reiterating Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's statement that the compilation of the words and phrases is merely an updation of practice being carried out since 1954.

The circular on dharnas and protests is also issued routinely ahead of any session, Joshi said.

"They do not have any major issue against the government because the government is functioning extremely well, people have accepted the leadership of Narendra Modi. Even foreign delegates and the diaspora have recognised his leadership. That's why these kinds of non-issues are being raised and they are trying to portray that in India even in Parliament they are not allowed to speak. They are trying to belittle the image of Parliament. I condemn the attitude of the opposition parties," Joshi said.

V-P polls

SY Quraishi — CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury reached out to Quraishi — and turned to Alva after he declined their offer. West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee, sources said, had earlier suggested PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti's name but the proposal did not make much headway.

At the meeting of Opposition leaders, held at NCP chief Sharad Pawar's residence on Sunday, Yechury suggested and Pawar seconded Alva's name. That capped a week's groundwork by Yechury, Pawar and Congress president Sonia Gandhi, sources said.

In fact, Yechury suggesting Alva's name at the meeting too was planned to ensure that her

Aviation upturn sees new trends: tourism routes popular; curbs in China boost India

1.66 lakh in June 2019.

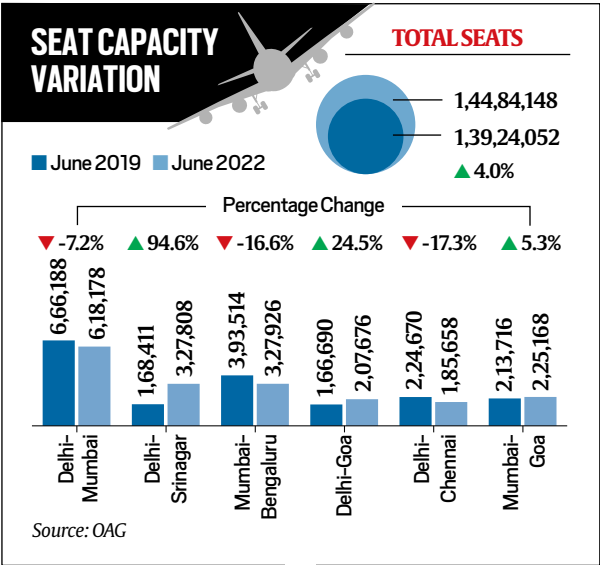
This year's summer schedule also saw the addition of direct connections to Srinagar from non-metro cities such as Ahmedabad and Hyderabad. The seat capacity data includes numbers for both sectors on a given route.

Another emerging trend is the increasing direct connectivity to smaller airports. "...in 2019, just over one-third of capacity growth between 2016 and 2019 in India's domestic market came from new routes that were not previously operating. OAG's capacity data also shows that there are 24 domestic routes operating in March 2022 to and from Delhi that were not operating before 2017," OAG's Regional Sales Director — JAPAC Mayur Patel said.

At the same time, some hub routes are yet to recover to pre-Covid levels. For example, the Delhi-Mumbai route saw 6.18 lakh seats in June this year, lower from 6.66 lakh in June 2019.

The third highest route with the most seats in June 2019 — the Mumbai-Bengaluru route — had airlines deploying 3.28 lakh seats last month, almost as much as Delhi-Srinagar, compared to 3.94 lakh three years ago.

Domestic passenger traffic continues to inch closer to 2019 levels. According to the latest available data provided



by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), 120.81 lakh passengers flew domestically in May this year, compared to 121.87 lakh in May 2019.

In October 2021, the Ministry of Civil Aviation fully lifted the Covid-related capacity restrictions that were imposed on domestic flights in May 2020.

On the international front, India reverted to the pre-Covid scheduled operations and bilateral capacity agreements from March 27 this year. As per ICRA, since then, international passenger traffic for Indian carriers surged to around 21 lakh in June this year, com-

pared to approximately 18 lakh in June 2019.

Foreign airlines that were dependent on China and the far-east for a meaningful portion of their traffic are now looking at other geographies, such as India and the US, to deploy surplus capacities. This strategy has been further intensified with the various airspace closures and restrictions in light of the Ukraine crisis.

Singapore Airlines, for example, is witnessing strong load factors on all of its India flights and is looking to add to its number of India flights over the next two schedules. Similarly, Helsinki-based Finnair is adding capacity to

India, resuming its suspended flight from Helsinki to Mumbai, given the idle capacity because of the China restrictions and Russia airspace closure.

"We used to operate more than 40 weekly flights to China, but at the moment we only have one. Even on that one flight, our capacity is restricted. Also, because of the (Ukraine) war and the airspace closures, a big part of our network in Asia is closed, mainly China and Japan. We have been forced to restructure our network accordingly," Sakari Romu, General Manager, India, for Finnair, told *The Indian Express*.

"That's why we have been looking at Southeast Asia, India and the US where we have added quite a lot of capacity. From August 5, we are reopening the Helsinki-Mumbai connection. We are starting with three weekly flights, and from November onwards we'll have four. We are also looking at opportunities for other destinations ready to be connected in India," he said.

"(The Ukraine crisis) is also affecting our flights to India but if we look at destinations in Southeast Asia, the flying times have increased by 30-40 per cent, but with India the added flight time is little bit more than 10 per cent. So the effect is not that big," Romu said.

nation of sowing activity has raised hopes of another bountiful year for agricultural activity, raising expectations that rural demand will soon catch up with urban spending and consolidate the recovery, it said.

Amidst these developments, India's financial sector remains sound and stable, the RBI said.

Knock-on effects of geopolitical spillovers are visible in several sectors, tapering the pace of recovery. However, there are sparks in the wind that ignite the innate strength of the economy and set it on course to becoming the fastest growing economy in the world, the fears of inflation notwithstanding, it said.

In another report on 'Fed taper and Indian financial markets', the RBI said the mild response of Indian financial markets to the "Taper 2" announcement can be linked to the country's strong external sector position during the announcement period. "However, there is evidence of large volatility spillovers from the US to Indian equity and bond markets," the RBI said.

This emphasizes the need for readiness among EMEs in terms of adequate buffers, pre-emptive and calibrated state contingent and data dependent policy responses to withstand future volatility spillovers, it said.

Food inflation is a major component of headline inflation, and has a tendency to spill over to core components. Food inflation was at an elevated level in 2013 as compared to 2021.

The report said the Taper 2 announcement was somewhat anticipated by the financial markets, given the past experience with Taper 1, and the Fed's communication that hinted at chances of taper before the announcement.

Another potential explanation for the resilience in the Indian markets post Taper 2 could be the backing of stronger economic fundamentals in India as opposed to the period before the Taper 1 announcement, the RBI said.

A lower current account deficit as a percentage of GDP, larger foreign exchange reserves, and stronger economic growth in Taper 2 vis-à-vis the Taper 1 period, imply that the Indian economy is in better shape to withstand the Fed's tightening, and manage any associated change in volatility in the financial markets, it said.

Maoist ambush

Following the incident, which was the biggest ambush on the CRPF since the 2010 Chintalnar massacre in which 76 CRPF soldiers were killed, the Chhattisgarh Police had arrested 121 tribal people from various villages in the region. All of them were arrested in 2017 and remained in jail till Friday. One accused turned out to be a minor, while another died in detention.

The Chhattisgarh Police registered a case in the matter under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and even invoked provisions of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) at the time of the charge sheet. As many as 120 people were arrested in the initial phase with one more arrest being made later. Accused Dodi Mangalu of Patel Para in Sukma died in jail.

According to the judgment, 20 prosecution witnesses turned hostile during the trial, refusing to recognise the accused. They also did not support the prosecution's claims of recovery of explosives from the accused. Fifteen of them said their statements were never recorded by police.

In May-June 2017, the Chhattisgarh Police first arrested some half a dozen people in connection with the case. Based on their statements, it claimed to have made recoveries of some arms and explosives from other accused — including a bow and

an arrow, a metre of codex wire, a non-electric detonator, a crude bomb and so on.

"In the context of the incident, the prosecution witnesses have not made any statement with regard to the identity or presence of the accused at the spot of the incident. No recovery of any arms or explosives from the custody of the accused has been proven. Thus, on the basis of statements of prosecution witnesses recorded before this court no charge can be proven against the accused," said the court.

According to the court, there was no believable fact in the statements of witnesses that could prove that the accused were members of the CPI (Maoist).

Colombo

The Indian Express compared the prices of different items — with the help of customers and the store manager — and found that they have increased almost five-fold over the past year, with some items being rationed.

Posters on shelves limit each customer to one packet of milk powder, 2 kg of rice and 12 bottles of water. Essential products like milk powder, one of the highest selling items, are in short supply.

According to the manager and customers, the price list has changed dramatically over the past year: Potatoes (SL Rs 110/kg last year to SL Rs 520/kg now); onions (SL Rs 65 to 280), sugar (SL Rs 65 to 451), flour (SL Rs 160 to 350), rice (SL Rs 95-110 to 480) and eggs (SL Rs 13 to 55/egg).

There's more: Toilet roll (SL Rs 30-40/roll last year to SL Rs 215/roll now), Surf Excel detergent powder (SL Rs 350 to 980), Coca-Cola (SL Rs 110 to 390/litre), Maggi noodles (SL Rs 110 to 360/pack) and Lux soap (SL Rs 80 to 225/piece).

Rohana Hettiarachchi, an executive director at an election advocacy group, said his family has reduced consumption of fruits and fish. "My 17-year-old son loves apples and bananas, so we buy just enough fruits for him. If we are denying ourselves these basic needs, imagine the situation of the more vulnerable," he said.

In its latest situation report on Sri Lanka, issued on Friday, the World Food Programme said: "Skyrocketing food costs are making it harder... About 6.7 million people are not consuming adequate diets and 5.3 million people are reducing the number of meals eaten. To cope with the lack of food, 5 million people are using crisis or emergency livelihood coping strategies."

Prof Lalithasiri Gunaruwan, professor of public transport planning and economics at Colombo University, blamed the fuel crisis on lack of foreign exchange. "The real cancer is the shortage of foreign exchange, and the fuel crisis is a symptom, which is visible on the surface," he said, blaming successive governments for the current situation.

Bhavani Fonseka, a lawyer and senior researcher at Centre for Policy Alternatives, said, "While the price rise has hit everyone, it has hit the vulnerable the most. Ambulances cannot reach some places due to lack of fuel."

On Saturday, the Sri Lankan government said a fuel pass will soon be introduced to allocate "a guaranteed weekly fuel quota" with QR codes for each vehicle. "We have made requests (for fuel) to different countries. So, any country that comes to help us, we appreciate that. Right now, the Indian government is the only country that has provided us with a credit line," Energy Minister Kanachana Wijesekara said.

So far, India has extended USD 3.8 billion in economic assistance to Sri Lanka — including fuel.

3 GUJARAT

BJP & Ahmed Patel: A story going back years; repeated every poll, says Cong

LEENA MISRA

AHMEDABAD, JULY 17

THERE HAS not been a single election after 2002 "when Modi and the BJP have not dragged Ahmed Patel into a controversy. And now, even when he is dead", says a Gujarat Congress leader. It's a day after the SIT probing activist Teesta Setalvad, retired DGP R B Sreekumar and former IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt, in connection with the 2002 riots, filed an affidavit accusing them of acting at the "behest" of Ahmed Patel.

The allegation, saying Patel and the others were part of a conspiracy for "dismissal" of the state government, has seen a war of words break out between the BJP and Congress. State Congress leaders say it is a familiar script, a bid to not just polarise voters but also target the last of the powerful leaders of the party in the state, and through him, Congress president Sonia Gandhi. Patel remained her political secretary and closest aide till his death in November last year due to Covid-related complications.

In 2014, barely a month to go for the Lok Sabha elections which he contested as the BJP's prime ministerial candidate, Modi called Patel a "friend" during an interview to Doordarshan. The Gujarat Chief Minister at the time, Modi said he had dined at Patel's house and addressed him as "Babubhai", a name Patel was known by in his close circles.

Patel refuted Modi's claims as "ridiculous", "a political stunt" to "create confusion". He said he would step down from public life if proved wrong.

"The statement was meant to damage the image of Ahmedbhai and the prospects of the Congress. It made many within our party believe that it was Ahmedbhai who was not letting the Congress win," says a former Congress MLA.

Apart from Ahsan Jafri, Patel is the only Muslim leader to have won a Lok Sabha seat for the Congress in Gujarat. Both won their first election in 1977, held immediately after the Emergency. Patel was a Lok Sabha MP till 1989 and Rajya Sabha MP from 1993 till his death. (Jafri, who was MP for one term, was killed in the Gulberg Society massacre during the 2002 riots.) A confident says



Ahmed Patel. File

that despite this, Patel "never wanted to project himself as a leader of the minorities, and always kept a low profile".

It was after Sonia Gandhi took charge of the party, which coincided with the period after the Babri demolition and the BJP's rise, that Patel, who belonged to Piraman village in Bharuch, emerged as the Congress's tallest leader in Gujarat. Soon, he had the final word in all major decisions of the party in the state, from appointments to ticket distribution.

While this also led to charges of favouritism and camps, there was no denying Patel's skills as a strategist and crisis manager, particularly once the Congress floundered. In an interview after his demise, Patidar leader Hardik Patel, who was in the Congress at the time, told The Indian Express that Patel was the one leader in the party who would always have the candidates' ears, telling them not to worry, and ensuring financial help for elections.

When he quit the Congress recently and joined the BJP, Hardik's main complaint against the Congress leadership was slow decision-making.

One of the biggest examples of Patel's backroom skills was his August 2017 Rajya Sabha win. Seeking a fifth term as MP from Gujarat, Patel's chances looked wobbly after then Congress Legislature Party leader Shankersinh Vaghela quit with at least a dozen MLAs. One of them, Balwantsinh Rajput, joined the BJP, which immediately fielded him its third candidate. The BJP could win two seats comfortably on the strength of its numbers, and those were to go to Amit Shah and Smriti Irani. Rajput's nomination was seen as a tactic to draw extra votes and defeat Patel. However, Patel out-tricked the

BJP by flying Congress MLAs out to Karnataka, and won.

In an interview to The Indian Express in March this year, Vaghela, despite the 2017 episode, said that the Congress would not have had a G23 had Patel been alive – in reference to the group of 23 senior leaders who wrote to Sonia Gandhi in August 2020 seeking widespread changes in the party.

Soon after Patel's Rajya Sabha win, in October 2017, his name featured in an ISIS terror conspiracy when the Gujarat ATS arrested two suspects, one of whom had worked as a technician in the Sardar Patel Hospital and Heart Institute at Ankleshwar, of which Patel had been a patron. Patel refuted insinuations directed at him, saying he was not a trustee of the hospital.

When the Assembly polls came around in December 2017, Modi during the campaign cited a purported Facebook post by "former Pakistan Army Director General" Sardar Arshad Rafiq saying Patel be made the Gujarat CM. "Why is Pakistan's senior retired army officer exercising his brain in the Gujarat election?" Modi, then in his first term as PM, asked.

Later, before the first phase of the election, posters sprung up in Surat, featuring the Congress symbol, pictures of Ahmed Patel and Rahul Gandhi, and asking Muslims to unite and vote for the Congress to make "Ahmedbhai Patel Gujarat's Wazir-e-Alam (chief minister)". The Congress called it a ploy by the BJP to stoke Hindu-Muslim tensions.

A Congress leader says that this was almost similar to what had transpired in the 2012 Assembly elections, when posters had come up in Ahmedabad that "if the Congress wins, Ahmed Patel will become Gujarat CM". "Nobody knows yet the origin of those posters," the leader says.

Another leader draws another parallel, to 2002, when there was a "fatwa" by a mufti, urging people to vote for the Congress. The leader says this was done to "cause polarisation", and that the latest set of allegations against Patel is also meant to do that.

However, many also blame Patel for the state the Congress is in today in Gujarat. Ahmedabad-based political analyst and columnist Hari Desai says, "Ahmed Patel never let anybody

from the Gujarat Congress have direct access to Sonia Gandhi. Till date not a single Gujarat Congress leader has the guts to talk to her, unlike in Rajasthan or other states. In a way, the Congress was led to doom under him." At the same time, Desai adds, "Now that he is not there, those who consider themselves leaders should take up the responsibility and revive the party."

Despite his protestations, and the party's now, Patel could never brush off the doubt among some Congress leaders that he was soft on Modi. Patel's argument was that attacking Modi would "never be a good strategy, as he turned every attack to his advantage". Patel steered the Congress away from issues that could take on communal tones after 2002, and is believed to have played a crucial role in the party's "soft Hindutva" card in 2017, with Rahul Gandhi visiting several temples as part of the campaign. The fact that it did not substantially improve the Congress's fortunes is another matter.

The same observers also point to the fact that while Modi was built up as "invincible", and hence "untouchable", the BJP's tally actually never hit the high post-2002 riots, including when Modi was CM – getting 127 of 182 seats in 2002; 117 in 2007; and 115 in 2012.

In the 2017 elections, the first without him since Modi had become PM, the BJP tally plunged to 99 (its lowest since 1995). The Congress got 77, despite the defections from its ranks. The record for the biggest win in the state still continues to be held by the Congress, 149 in 1985, under Madhavsinh Solanki.

For the coming elections, the BJP has set itself a target slightly higher than that: 152.

Gaurav Pandya, a Congress leader from Valsad, who was close to Patel, says the BJP's tactics will fail. "The people of Gujarat are emotional and will see through the BJP's game... This is being done against somebody who is not there to defend himself. We only stand to gain."

In a tweet on Saturday, Patel's daughter Mumtaz said: "I guess his (Ahmed Patel's) name still holds weight to be used for political conspiracies to malign opposition". She added that if what the SIT said in its af-

fidavit was true, "Why during UPA years @TeestaSetalvad was not rewarded & made Rajya Sabha member & why the center upto 2020 did not prosecute my father for hatching such a big conspiracy?"

Mumtaz also said that the BJP seemed to be in the habit of "dragging Ahmed Patel's name in conspiracy theories" before elections.

Congress leaders said that the idea behind the SIT affidavit was to "castigate Sonijai". The affidavit by the panel, appointed by the Gujarat government to investigate the allegations of fabrication of evidence and criminal conspiracy against Setalvad, Sreekumar and Bhatt, cites witness accounts to accuse Patel of giving Setalvad nearly Rs 30 lakh.

Gujarat PCC chief Jagdish Thakor asked why the SIT affidavit which was part of a "legal process" had been made public, and wondered at the timing when the state was "facing a disaster (floods) where more than 68 people have died, lakhs of people have become homeless". "This party (the BJP) works with the mindset that you cannot question it, you cannot raise questions on disasters in the country, on the price rise. They want only their ideology imposed," Thakor said.

Gujarat government spokesperson and Education Minister Jitu Vaghani dismissed the Congress's claims, while adding that the SIT "revelations" were "shocking" and had brought out the "political conspiracy" by "Congress president Sonia Gandhi, her late political advisor Ahmed Patel and their gang".

The Congress's aggressive defence of Patel though comes lined with the despondent realisation that it really has little hope, having found no replacement for a figure like Patel, seen high-profile efforts like by election strategist Prashant Kishor fail, suffered high-profile defections, and its moribund organisation, which was not seen beyond social media during the recent floods. Then there is the aggressive AAP, which is raring to take the Congress's space.

In a sign of some activity, the Congress recently appointed Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot as the senior observer for the Gujarat elections. Gehlot was the AICC in-charge of Gujarat during the 2017 Assembly elections.

COVID COUNT

644 NEW CASES IN STATE, NO DEATHS

Gujarat Sunday reported 644 Covid-19 cases, which took the tally to 12,42,731, while the death toll remained unchanged at 10,954, a health department official said. Ahmedabad led with 272 cases, followed by 90 in Surat. The number of vaccine doses administered in the state touched 11.24 crore.

AHMEDABAD CITY

28 cave-ins, 4,000 potholes: Monsoon leaves its marks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

AHMEDABAD, JULY 17

A TOTAL of 28 cave-ins have been recorded in Ahmedabad city this monsoon season with the latest major incident reported opposite Sahajanand School along the Metro elevated corridor in Vastral Saturday.

The incident was recorded on camera by local residents and has been doing the rounds on social media. Last week, a major cave-in was reported in the Shahibaug area where an entire car sank.

Ahmedabad city has recorded a total of 410 mm rainfall in July so far, with nearly 254 mm between July 10 and July 11 alone. As a result, the stormwater and drainage pipelines have been damaged in several places.

"The barricading on the cave-in in Vastral adjoining the metro pillar (pier) was done yesterday (Saturday) itself. The damage to the drainage line is 26 feet deep, which caused the road to cave in. Repair work is in progress," said AMC city engineer Harpalsinh Zala. A Gujarat Metro Rail Corporation (GMRC) spokesperson said, "The road is not under GMRC. Some AMC utility work was done last month on the road where the cave-in below the Metro route along Vastral Ring Road between Viram Crossroad and Vastral was reported."

When asked if the road was re-carpeted last month, Zala said, "Roads along the Metro route were re-carpeted several times due to the ongoing Metro work."

Around five to six of the total 28 cave-ins reported this season from the city – a majority of which happened during the past week – the major ones on the

NO. OF CAVE-INS AND ROAD REPAIR WORKS

Zone	"Cave-ins"	Repaired	Remaining	Number of 'patchwork'*
West	6	1	5	657
North West	3	0	3	892
South West	5	3	2	277
East	2	1	1	723
South	5	0	5	993
Central	4	1	3	267
North	3	1	2	549
Total	28	7	21	4,358

*this monsoon season

**potholes filled between July 13-16, 2022

main trunk line. Seven of the 28 have been repaired by the AMC, while work is in progress on 14 and that on the remaining will start soon, said officials.

All cave-ins have been reported on the drainage pipelines. The highest number was reported from the West Zone where of the total six cave-ins, one has been repaired followed by five each in the South and South West zones, four in the Central zone, three each in the North West and North zones and two in the East zone.

When asked about the reasons for such a high frequency of cave-ins from across the city this monsoon season, Zala said, "The drainage lines across Ahmedabad city, be it Ashram Road, Navrangpura or Paldi, are 30-40 years old and at a depth of 20-25 feet. These are cement pipes and due to Methane gas emission, the crowns of these pipes get corroded."

"After heavy rain, the subsoil weight increases and the pipes

give away. Also, the underground utilities work such as (those for) mobile networks damage the pipelines which are known only during monsoons," he added.

In response to the allegations by residents and opposition on AMC's laxity towards repair work of such cave-ins, Zala said, "People think that AMC is not working. This is not true. With high pressure in the main trunk lines during the supply hours, the window for repair is only during the night—from 11 pm till 5 am—when the pressure is low."

Potholes and road damages are another issue faced by residents in the city after the heavy rainfall. According to AMC data, the civic body filled or did 'patch' works on 4,358 potholes over the four days between July 13 till July 16. The highest number of potholes was filled in the South zone (around 1,000), followed by North West 892, East 723, West 657, North 549, South West 277 and Central 267.

Respite as state sees scattered, light rain

Khergam (10 mm) in Navsari—one of the worst hit districts.

As per the forecast of the India Meteorological Department, while heavy rains are expected in Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, Chhota Udepur and Narmada Monday, light to moderate rainfall is expected at a few places until July 22.

Ahmedabad city also recorded scattered rainfall of 3.42 mm till Sunday evening. The city has a forecast of light to moderate rainfall for Monday.

So far this monsoon season, as per data from the State Emergency Operation Centre, Gujarat has recorded 56.81 per cent of the season's rainfall.

Among regions, Kutch has already crossed 100 per cent with 102.47 per cent average rainfall, South Gujarat 72.67 per cent, Saurashtra 57.19 per cent and East Central 44.27 per cent. The North Gujarat region received the least average rainfall at just 31.63 per cent.

DCB joins police probe on loot of Rs 80 L from Punjab businessman

Ahmedabad: The Ahmedabad Police's Detection of Crime Branch (DCB) has joined the probe with police in a case of loot of Rs 80 lakh from a Punjab-based businessman in Banaskantha.

According to police, Vishal Singh Soni, a resident of Bhatinda in Punjab and a wholesale dealer of electronic items, arrived at Tharad in Banaskantha a few days ago for a gold deal on invitation by a group of men who offered gold at cheap rates.

According to a complaint filed by Soni, he got in touch with three persons — Usman, Ali and Rasool — a few months ago in Kutch. "I keep travelling to Kutch for business purposes and during my last visit, the three accused offered me three gold biscuits weighing 100 grams each for Rs 9.4 lakh. They then told me that they can get gold biscuits weighing two kilograms for Rs 80 lakh which is 10% lower than the market rate," said Soni in his complaint.

According to Soni, he arrived in Palanpur with his brother-in-law a few days ago with Rs 80 lakh cash. "I was asked to reach at Tharad crossroads in my car and was asked to follow Usman's car. We followed him for eight kilometres after which he stopped his car and asked me to step out of my car. Then a Scorpio SUV arrived at the spot and Usman asked me to sit in it with cash. After I sat in the car, he took out a revolver and held me at gunpoint. They looted the cash and threw me from the moving vehicle," added Soni in his complaint.

Police said an FIR under robbery sections, criminal intimidation and Arms Act was lodged at Tharad police station against six unknown accused. **ENS**

PANNALAL'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY IN ENGLISH

How a childhood friend and poet helped factory worker win Jnanpith

GOPAL KATESHIYA

RAJKOT, JULY 17

A CHANCE meeting with Gujarati poet Umashankar Joshi spurred his childhood friend Pannalal, who became a domestic help-cum-factory worker to make ends meet, into writing.

While Joshi became the first from Gujarat to win the Jnanpith Award—the highest literary honour in India—in 1967, Pannalal followed his friend's suit and won the prestigious award in 1985.

"Finding Gattu" the English translation of Gujarati novelist Pannalal Patel's autobiography will be launched next month. The book, translated by Pannalal's granddaughter Natasha Patel Nema, describes his life in detail.

Pannalal (1912-1989) is best known for his novels Malela Jeev (1941) and Manvini Bhavai (1947), both of which were adapted into movies and later, were translated into English. The author's autobiography, *Jindagi Sanjeevani*, a seven-volume account in Gujarati, was published between 1981 and 1986.

"The author's life journey is equally engrossing. To make his legacy accessible to people beyond the Gujarati world, I have attempted to translate Pannalal's autobiography into English," said Nema, daughter of Pannalal's daughter Nanda.

Nema has translated selected chapters from *Jindagi Sanjeevani* into English and is all set to publish the abridged autobiography in collaboration with The Narrators, a Mumbai-based group that helps people in self-publishing.

BRIEFLY

RRU to open centre in Lucknow

Ahmedabad: Gandhinagar-based Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) will open a regional centre in Lucknow to train the UP Police and Police Armed Constabulary (PAC). RRU officials said an MoU was signed between Dr Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University Lucknow and RRU at the former's Lucknow campus. It will be also joining hands with the new forensic sciences university built at Lucknow. **ENS**

AAP lends support to GST protests

Ahmedabad: The AAP extended its support to the nationwide strike called by the business community in India over GST. At a press conference Sunday, AAP Gujarat vice-president Sagar Rabari said, "These protests by business communities across India shows that the policies of the Bharatiya Janata Party is anti-people. The AAP stands shoulder-to-shoulder with the business class over the draconian GST." **ENS**

Over 70,000 candidates take NEET UG in state

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

AHMEDABAD, JULY 17

MORE THAN 70,000 candidates took the National Eligibility Entrance Test (NEET) UG 2022 held by the National Testing Agency (NTA) in Gujarat Sunday. Over 10,000 candidates appeared in Ahmedabad and 5,000 in Gandhinagar.

In cities such as Ahmedabad, Surat, Rajkot and Vadodara, students were asked to report three hours before the commencement of the exams. Last year, more than 75,000 of the over 78,000 candidates who registered in the state took the NEET UG.

For a majority, the exam was slightly tougher than last year's

with Chemistry the toughest. Physics paper was lengthy, candidates said.

"Though Chemistry was not lengthy, it was difficult compared to last year. Physics had maximum NCERT-based questions but was lengthy. Biology had around 60 per cent easy questions and 30 per cent medium," said Rashmi, a student of St Xavier's School in Gandhinagar, who appeared at Pandit Deendayal Energy University.

Experts said the difficulty level of Biology and Physics was moderate to easy while the time aspect of the Biology section was lengthy and time-consuming. The biology paper was slightly tougher than last year's, while the Physics paper was similar, they said.

Lioness attacks leave 6 injured in Amreli

Amreli: A lioness injured six persons in separate attacks in Amreli district Sunday, an official from the forest department said. The incidents occurred in Babarkot village under Jafrabad forest range with three persons getting injured in the morning and another three in an attack in the evening by a roadside. Jayant Patel, Deputy Conservator of Forests (Shetrunji division), said,

"The attacks have been carried out by the same lioness and efforts are on to trap it. The injured were referred to hospitals and some have been discharged post primary treatment," he added.

Former Rajula MLA Hira Solanki, meanwhile, issued a video statement asking people not to venture out in the vicinity. **PTI**

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AICTE Doctoral Fellowship (ADF) for 2022-23
 Online applications are invited from Post Graduate students in Engineering/Technology for admission to a full time Ph.D. program under AICTE Doctoral Fellowship scheme for academic year - 2022-23.

For scheme details, please visit VJTI Website
<http://suril.vjti.ac.in>

Important Dates for Online Applications as follows
 Last Date for Online Registration is upto 05.08.2022. (till 5.00 pm)
 Registration Link : <https://forms.gle/fP9fJpwTb1fJTtM39>

Director

RAJPATH CLUB LIMITED
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INFORMATION REGARDING 48th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- The 48th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Club will be held on 12/08/2022 at 4.00 pm (IST) through Video Conferencing (VC) / Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM) to transact the business set out in the notice calling AGM, in compliance with all the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and rules made under read with No. 14/2020 dated 8 April 2020, No. 17/2020 dated 13 April 2020, No. 22/2020 dated 15th June, 2020, No. 33/2020 dated 28th September, 2020, No. 39/2020 dated 31st December, 2020, No.10/2021 dated 23rd June, 2021, 20/21 dated 8th December, 2021 and 03/2022 dated 5th May 2022 Physical attendance of the members is not required at the AGM venue. Members desirous of attending the AGM through VC/OAVM may attend the AGM by following the procedure prescribed in the AGM Notice. Member's participation through VC/OAVM will be recorded for the purpose of quorum under section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- In terms of aforesaid circulars, the notice of the AGM along with the Annual Report 2021-22 will be sent only by electronic mode to those members whose email addresses are registered with the Club. Hence no physical copy of Annual Report will be dispatched. The aforesaid document will be available on the website of the club at www.rajpathclub.com and of Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL) at www.evotingindia.com, being the agency appointed for providing Remote E-Voting facility. Further updation, if any regarding the AGM will be provided on both the websites mentioned above.
- MANNER OF REGISTERING/UPDATING EMAIL ADDRESS:**
 - Those members whose email addresses are not registered / updated with the club can register / update by providing details on email address of the club rajpath@rajpathclub.com with the details of the name registered with the Club, Membership No., Email Id and Mobile number immediately to avail the AGM regarding communications.
- MANNER OF CASTING VOTE(S) THROUGH E-VOTING**
 - Members will have an opportunity to cast their vote(s) on the business as set out in the notice of the AGM through electronic voting system ("E-Voting")
 - Log in Credentials along with the process of remote e-voting, video conferencing (VC)/OAVM and e-voting during the AGM will be sent to all the members on their registered email id before commencement of Remote E-Voting.
 - The facility for e-voting will also be made available at the AGM (through VC/OAVM) and the members who have not casted their vote through remote e-voting will be allowed to vote in the AGM through e-voting.
 - The same login credential may also be used for attending the AGM through Video Conferencing (VC) / OAVM
- RECORDS AND DATA FOR THE AGM PROCESS**
 - Cut-off date for the purpose of voting (including Remote E-Voting, AGM and E-voting at the AGM) is 05/08/2022 upto 3 PM. A person whose name is recorded in the Register of Members on aforesaid date and time, shall be entitled to attend the AGM through VC/OAVM and to avail the facility of voting through Remote E-Voting.

Members are requested to read carefully all the notes set out in the notice of the AGM and in a particular, instructions for joining the AGM, manner of casting the vote through remote e-voting or through e-voting during the AGM.

Place: Ahmedabad For, Rajpath Club Limited
 Date: 17/07/2022 Mishal I Patel - Hon. Secretary
 (DIN 00488680)

A QUICK GUIDE TO PRESIDENT POLLS

KEY DATES: Election is on July 18 and counting on July 21. President will take oath on July 25.

VOTERS: There are 4,809 electors in the electoral college whose votes have a value of 10,86,431

THE RACE: NDA's Murmu is leading the race with the support of 44 political parties. The Opp's Sinha has the support of 34 parties.

VALUE OF VOTES: The value of a vote of each MLA varies from state to state. In UP, the value of vote of each MLA stands at 208, followed by 176 in Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu. In Maharashtra, it is 175. In Sikkim, the value is seven, while it is nine in Nagaland and eight in Mizoram.



PARTY MEET

Union Ministers Piyush Goyal and Anurag Thakur with BJP MP Anil Baluni during an NDA meeting in Parliament on Sunday. *PTI*

Gehlot to address Gujarat Congress leaders on July 20

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, JULY 17

AHEAD OF the Gujarat Assembly elections scheduled to be held later this year, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot will address party leaders at a meeting in Ahmedabad on July 20, days after he was appointed as Congress senior observer for Gujarat elections.

According to Gujarat Congress leaders, 37 observers from Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra appointed for the 26 parliamentary constituencies of Gujarat, will arrive on July 19 when all 64 MLAs of the Congress will vote for the president's elections. A week ago, the Congress appointed 71-year-old Gehlot as senior observer for Gujarat elections with TS Singhdeo and Milind Deora as observers.

Manish Doshi, spokesperson of the Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) said that a meeting was organised at the



Ashok Gehlot

Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan in Ahmedabad on Saturday by Gujarat Congress incharge Raghu Sharma that was attended by Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee president Jagdish Thakor, ex-president Amit Chavda, leader of opposition Sukhram Rathva, working president Jignesh Mevani, Gujarat Mahila Congress chief Jenny Thummar among others.

"It was decided that the Congress MLAs will hold a meet on Sunday and then cast their vote for the president's election by Monday. By Tuesday evening, all 37 observers from Rajasthan,

Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra will arrive in Ahmedabad after casting their votes in their respective states. On July 20, Gehlot and Sharma will address all observers and Congress MLAs to chalk out the election strategy," said Doshi.

The party has also planned a pan-Gujarat motorcycle rally in August. In 2017 Gujarat assembly polls, it was under Gehlot as general secretary incharge of Gujarat that the party had won 77 seats. As Congress continues to battle constant defections and inner turmoil, the charge has been handed over to Gehlot again.

Meanwhile, the Gujarat Congress leaders will stage a state wide protest on July 21 against the summons to Sonia Gandhi by Enforcement Directorate. "The manner in which the union government has been using ED to target and harass opposition, the Congress will be hitting the streets on July 21 to stage a protest," said Doshi.

houses—50 lakh in rural areas and 50 lakh in urban areas—hoist the tricolour at their houses in Gujarat.

As per the release, the CM also stated that 50 lakh flags will be bought from an agency fixed by the Central government to ensure that every household in the state gets a tricolour.

The tricolour will be made available at ward levels in cities and at Panchayat Ghar in the rural areas, in addition to Khadi Gramodyog Kendra, Gurjari Emporium and public places such as shopping malls and bus

stations, the release stated. As part of the campaign, which is part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav initiative of the Central government, people are expected to hoist the tricolour at their houses. "Har Ghar Tiranga is a programme to take the feeling of patriotism in the mind and heart of every citizen of the country to the highest level. More than 20 crore houses or more than 100 crore people will hoist the tricolour at their houses and dedicate themselves in service of Mother India," an official release stated quoting Shah.

Third flamingo tagged in Mumbai flies 16 hrs, lands in Bhavnagar

GOPAL KATESHIYA
RAJKOT, JULY 17

AFTER TWO lesser flamingos, now a greater flamingo tagged in Mumbai has flown to Bhavnagar, flying primarily non-stop to cover around 300-kilometre distance from Mumbai to Bhavnagar coast, the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) announced on Sunday.

"The third radio-tagged flamingo reaches Gujarat - McCann (named after Charles McCann, an eminent naturalist, a prolific writer and former assistant curator at BNHS), a juvenile Greater Flamingo left Thane Creek on 14th July and landed at Ghogha near Bhavnagar on the 15th morning," BNHS, the Mumbai-based scientific institute, announced on its official Twitter handle on Sunday.

The BNHS had tagged the greater flamingo juvenile near Bhandup Pumping Station in Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary

(TCFS) near Mumbai on January 31 this year as part of its project to study migration of flamingos from their breeding grounds in Gujarat to their feeding grounds and back. The BNHS tagged six flamingos with solar-powered GSP-GPS tags, which record locations of the birds at a set interval of time and transmit the data to a server.

Scientists said that flamingo MacCann took off from Vikhroli mangroves area in TCFS at 4.25 pm on July 14 and landed on Ghogha coast of Bhavnagar at 8.09 am on July 15, covering around 300 kilometres in 15 hours and 43 minutes.

"Data primarily suggests that like Salim, MacCann also flew non-stop to reach Bhavnagar from Mumbai. The top speed was around 16 to 17 kilometres per hour, similar to Salim as well as Humayun, the other flamingo that flew to Bhavnagar via Surat," Khot said. Khot said that the flamingos that reached earlier - Humayun and Salim - are still roosting near Bhavnagar coast.

Margaret Alva, a once-powerful face who retreated into shadows

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, JULY 17

AT THE start of the year, veteran Congress politician Margaret Alva, 80, wrote a letter to PM Narendra Modi, expressing her angst over a move by the BJP government in Karnataka to bring in a law on religious conversions.

"We Christians are disciplined, non-violent, service-oriented community. If we were involved in mass conversions, why is our number under three per cent? 200 years of rule by Christian colonial powers and work by so-called 'missionaries' involved in forced conversions' should have shown in our numbers, which have been declining. Why this false propaganda and violence against us?" she wrote.

The letter to the PM and participation in protests against The Karnataka Protection of Right of Freedom of Religion Bill in the latter half of 2021 saw Alva, once a political force to be reckoned with in Karnataka, returning to the political stage in the state after a long



Congress politician Margaret Alva

hiatus. Now the Opposition's 'consensus' candidate for the vice-president's post, Alva finds herself in the spotlight once again.

Despite hailing from coastal Karnataka and representing the current Uttara Kannada (then known as Kanara) Lok Sabha constituency in Parliament in 1999, Margaret Alva has largely been identified as a national politician.

A lawyer, Alva entered Rajya Sabha at age 32 and was a member of the Upper House for four terms, and 24 years at a stretch, from 1974.

She has been a minister in several Congress governments at the Centre — under Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, and P V Narasimha Rao. She was minister for women and child development during Rajiv Gandhi's tenure.

Around two decades ago, her

Naidu's request for farewell gift: A productive RS session

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 17

RAJYA SABHA Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu, who will chair his last session of the House from Monday, has sought a meaningful and productive session from leaders of political parties as a farewell gift.

Naidu will demit office as Vice President on August 10. He made the remarks at a meeting of floor leaders of Rajya Sabha on Sunday. The meeting saw a record 41 leaders attending.

"I am making one last request for upholding the dignity and decorum of the House of Elders," he said at the meeting. Naidu has presided over 13 sessions.

"It was an emotional evening for all political party leaders with Venkaiah Naidu-garu. They expressed their regret at his departure and praised his many contri-



Venkaiah Naidu greets leaders of political parties at his residence on Sunday. *Prem Nath Pandey*

butions as Rajya Sabha Chairman. He will be a very tough act to follow," said Congress chief whip Jairam Ramesh.

The meeting saw the Opposition seeking discussions on 16 issues. These are among them — federalism, Agnipath, in-

flation, declining labour force participation rate, EPFO interest rates, "declining credibility" of central institutions, external threats, hate speech, undemocratic actions against opposition leaders, increasing crime in Jammu & Kashmir and attacks

on Kashmiri pundits and reservations in promotion and in private sector.

The meeting saw some leaders also recalling the efforts made by Naidu to give more opportunities to members by streamlining the conduct of Question Hour, Zero Hour and Special Mentions and debates and his commitment to promote the use of mother tongue.

As the meeting turned into a farewell for Naidu, Leader of the House Piyush Goyal said it was a bit premature to do so as Naidu is to preside over one full session and a formal farewell would be held in the House with all the leaders and members sharing their experiences in detail in the House.

"All sections of the House would work together to present a befitting farewell to the Chairman in the form of a productive monsoon session", Goyal said.

MP CIVIC POLLS

BJP wins 108 out of 133 local bodies, but loses four mayor posts to Cong, AAP

IRAM SIDDIQUE
BHOPAL, JULY 17

MADHYA PRADESH'S ruling BJP is poised to rule over 100 of 133 local bodies, the poll results for which were announced Sunday. But the victory was dampened by the party losing its hold over four mayor posts after winning seven of the 11 Nagar Nigams and scrapping through in the other two by a slim margin.

The results for the 133 local bodies — comprising 11 municipal corporations, 36 municipal councils and 86 town councils — were announced Sunday during the first phase of counting. The second phase of counting will be held on July 20.

Mayors for 11 municipal councils are being elected directly while the chairperson of the local body will be elected by councillors indirectly in municipal councils. Of the 11 municipal corporations, the BJP won the mayor's seat in seven. Congress got three mayor's posts and Aam Aadmi Party one.

With the counting underway until late Sunday evening, the BJP was comfortably headed towards establishing its rule in 10 of the 11 municipal corporations, 31 of the 36 municipal councils and 67 of the 86 town councils. With BJP having the majority of councillors in most local bodies, it is set appoint a chairperson in them.

Assaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM also debuted with a four of its four councillors winning. Of these, two are in Jabalpur, one each in Burhanpur and Khandwa corpo-

rations. Similarly, 14 of AAP's candidates emerged victorious while Rani Aggarwal bagged the mayoral seat in Singrauli municipal corporation.

Congress candidates were elected as mayors in Gwalior, Chhindwara and Jabalpur. But even with that, the party will only be establishing its rule in Chhindwara municipal corporation, with its elected councillors falling short of the majority mark in the corporation. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan held a press conference and reasoned that even though Congress won three Municipal Corporations and AAP won in Singrauli, the saffron party holds the majority of wards which is the true picture. "Despite AAP victory in Singrauli municipal corporation, out of the 45 wards, 23 went to the BJP, Congress got 12 and AAP won on five," said Chouhan.

He continued, "In the local body polls, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) emerged victorious on 80 percent of the seats unlike the earlier trend where vote share was always between 45-55 percent."

Calling the mandate clear and decisive, Chouhan said that out of the 36 municipal councils, the BJP's councillors secured a clear majority on 27 while Congress had majority in four councils while five other councils had other parties. "We will not only form councils in these 27 but also in the five councils that have other parties," said Chouhan.

By winning three of the 11 mayoral seats, the Congress has improved on its tally from the previous civic polls — zero.

Behind Dhankar choice: Tussle with Mamata, upper-caste tag

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, JULY 17

HIS PERSISTENT wrangles with the Trinamool Congress — seen as a strong pushback to the "confrontational politics" of the ruling party in West Bengal — combined with the RSS's backing for him led to the BJP choosing Jagdeep Dhankhar as its candidate for the August 6 vice-presidential election.

Party sources said Dhankhar — a lawyer by training and the national convener of the BJP's law and legal affairs department in 2016 — has in the past "extended solid support both politically and through legal advice and assistance" to the BJP, RSS and its affiliates.

The nomination of Dhankhar, who is from the socially and politically dominant Jat community of Rajasthan, could placate a section in the



NDA V-P nominee Jagdeep Dhankhar

Sangh Parivar that has been increasingly uncomfortable with the BJP leadership's aggressive outreach to Dalits, OBCs and other backward communities.

"Several leaders from the Parivar have conveyed to the party leaders that it's the time for the party to pitch for an

agada (member of a forward caste)," said a party source.

Sources said the party was aware of an increasing disquiet among Brahmin leaders over the community being allegedly ignored in the power-sharing formula. "The nomination of Dhankhar for the vice-presidential post may take care of such complaints for a while," said

EXPLAINED

E



Ahmedabad

Amul MD
urges J-K LG
to identify land
for dairy plant

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SRINAGAR, JULY 17

GUJARAT COOPERATIVE Milk Marketing Federation Managing Director Rupinder Singh Sodhi on Sunday urged Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to identify a suitable land to set up a new dairy plant in the UT, an official spokesperson said.

Sodhi, accompanied by JKMPCL CEO Gaurav Sharma, informed Sinha that the implementation of Integrated Dairy Development Scheme has resulted in registering a three-time increase in the milk procurement of JKMPCL in three years.

While briefing about the achievements made by Jammu and Kashmir Milk Producers Cooperative Limited, Sodhi informed that JKMPCL is eyeing to achieve Rs 325 crore worth turnover this year, the spokesman said. He apprised the Lt Governor on the efforts being made for increasing the milk production capacity in J-K and also shared the need for identifying a suitable land for developing the new dairy plant. Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation sells products under the Amul brand.

ROUND 16 OF MILITARY TALKS WITH CHINA

India presses for
full disengagement

Talks at Chushul Moldo point on Indian side of LAC last 12 hrs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JULY 17

INDIA ON Sunday strongly pressed for early disengagement of troops from all the remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh at the 16th round of high-level military talks with China, which took place after a gap of over four months.

In the discussions that lasted for around 12-and-a-half hours, the Indian delegation also insisted on the restoration of the status quo ante as of April 2020 — before the start of the military standoff, people familiar with the development said.

The talks began at 9.30 am at the Chushul Moldo meeting point on the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the region, and ended at around 10 pm, they said.

There were some expectations of progress at the talks on completing the disengagement process at Patrolling Point-15 in the Hot Springs area.

The Indian delegation at the talks was led by Lt Gen. Anindya Sengupta, the commander of the Leh-based 14 Corps, while the Chinese team was headed by South Xinjiang Military District Chief Maj Gen. Yang Lin.

There was no official word on the outcome of the talks. The 15th round of the military dialogue took place on March 11 but it failed to yield any significant outcome, with both sides, in a joint statement, reaffirming that resolution of the issues would help restore peace and tranquility in the region and facilitate progress in bilateral relations.

The Indian side pressed for disengagement of troops as soon as possible in all the remaining friction points, the people cited above said. It is learnt that the Indian delegation also sought resolution of pending issues in Depsang Bulge and Demchok.

India has been consistently maintaining that peace and tranquility along the LAC were key for the overall development of bilateral ties. The situation in

eastern Ladakh figured prominently in talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Bali on July 7.

At the one-hour meeting on the sidelines of a conclave of foreign ministers of the G20 nations, Jaishankar conveyed to Wang the need for early resolution of all the outstanding issues in eastern Ladakh.

“Recalling the disengagement achieved in some friction areas, the External Affairs Minister reiterated the need to sustain the momentum to complete disengagement from all the remaining areas to restore peace and tranquility in the border areas,” the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement after the meeting.

The MEA further said Jaishankar “reaffirmed the importance of fully abiding by bilateral agreements and protocols, and the understandings reached between the two ministers during their previous conversations”.

Cloudbursts may
be foreign plot to
destabilise India,
says KCR

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, JULY 17

IFTTELANGANA Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao is to be believed, cloudbursts may well be engineered by “foreign entities” to “destabilise” India. KCR presented his conspiracy theory to people in Bhadrachalam town in the state’s Bhadradi Kothagudem district, who have been forced into relief shelters by the overflowing Godavari.

“There is this new phenomenon called cloudburst. This is what happened in the Godavari region which caused the flood. There are reports that these cloudbursts are a conspiracy by foreign sources,” KCR said on Sunday.

“They (the alleged conspirators) first did a cloudburst in Leh-Ladakh, then in Uttarakhand, and now in the Godavari region. There are theories that these cloudbursts are being done to destabilise the country,” the Chief Minister said.

Heavy rain and inflows over a week up led to Godavari rising to levels not seen in Bhadrachalam in more than 35 years, some residents said. The state government moved several thousand people to camps as the river flooded its banks.

Seizure of heroin near Mundra:
Gujarat ATS arrests Punjab man

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHUJ, JULY 17

A MAN has been arrested from Punjab in connection with the seizure of heroin worth Rs 376 crore by the Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) near the Mundra port in Kutch district, an official said on Sunday.

The accused, Deepak Kingar, was produced before a special court of judge Chirag Shah who remanded him to the ATS custody till July 27, said special public prosecutor Kalpesh Goswami.

The ATS had sought a 14-day remand of Kingar but the court granted them his custody for 10 days, he said.

Day after ‘animal
parts’ found near
Kannauj temple
DM, SP removed;
SHO suspended

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JULY 16

A DAY after “body parts of an animal” were found outside the entrance of a temple in the district’s Rasoolabad village, the Superintendent of Police and District Magistrate of Kannauj were removed from their posts on Sunday, officials said.

The Station House Officer of Talgram police station, under which the village came, was suspended. The police also arrested 13 persons on Sunday in connection with the arson and protests that broke out after the incident.

A senior police officer said, “SP of Kannauj Rajesh Srivastava and DM Rakesh Kumar have been removed from their posts. Shubhant Shukla would be the new DM of Kannauj, while Kunwar Anupam Singh would take over as the new SP.”

“The Station House Officer of Talgram police station has been suspended, and Jitendra Pratap Singh would be the new SHO,” said an officer. Rasoolabad village remained tense on Saturday after some “animal body parts” were allegedly found outside the entrance of a temple under the limits of Talgram police station in Kannauj.

The ATS on July 12 seized over 70 kg of heroin estimated to be worth more than Rs 376 crore from a container near the Mundra port.

The ATS said the seized contraband had been sent from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and was meant to be delivered in Punjab. The seizure was made based on a tip-off given by the Punjab police that a shipping container that had arrived at the port about two-and-a-half months ago might contain drugs and cargo, it said.

After a close inspection of 540 fabric rolls kept in the container, heroin powder was found inside 64 of them, the probe agency said.

According to Goswami, Kingar had allegedly imported the fabric roll in which the contraband was hidden to dodge the authorities.

A cloth was wrapped on long cylindrical pipes made of cardboard, and the drug dealers had created a cavity by putting a plastic pipe of a larger diameter on the cardboard pipe. Heroin was filled in the cavity and then sealed tightly using carbon tapes to ensure that it goes undetected in the X-ray check.

The container was sent by a UAE-based entity and it was received by a West Bengal-based delivery service with an office at Gandhidham in Kutch, it was stated.

SALUTE THE SOLDIER



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Classifieds

PERSONAL

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Bhairavnath Cross Road,
Maninagar, Ahmedabad.

CHANGE OF NAME

I have changed my name from
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Patel Krish Kiran.
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10, Navrang Society,
Bhairavnath Cross Road,
Maninagar, Ahmedabad.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I have changed my name from
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I Chandrika is spouse of 14405162-Y Hav Chauhan Ramsangli Kachari presently residing at Resident of Vill/Post-Jotana, Tehsil-Jotana, Dist-Mahesana-384421, Gujarat have changed my name from Chandrika to Chandrikaben Ramsangli Chauhan. That my date of birth is 25 Jun 1975

0050200598-1

I,Vimalbhai ravindrabhai thaker have changed my name to Vimalkumar ravindrabhai thaker for all purposes Afdvt#1794G dtd 10/7/22 notary sushila rami

Smt Dahiben is spouse of No-14560992-K NK Chudhary Jasarajbhai Lavajibhai Resident of 223, Panchshil Residency, Thaloita Road, Vansagar, Mahesana(Cirj) Pin-384315 have changed my Name from Smt Dahiben to Chaudhari Dahiben Jasarajbhai. That my date of birth is 01 June 1972

0050200513-1

Kamat removed as permanent
invitee to top Congress body

MAYURA JANWALKAR
PANAJI, JULY 17

SENIOR GOA Congress leader Digambar Kamat, accused of conspiring with the BJP to engineer defections of legislators, was Sunday removed as a permanent invitee to the party’s top decision-making body.

The move by Congress president Sonia Gandhi comes a week after the party’s Goa in-charge, Dinesh Gundu Rao, accused Kamat, a former chief minister, and MLA Michael Lobo of being involved in an attempt to split the legislative wing.

In a statement issued Sunday, K C Venugopal, National General Secretary in-charge of organisation, said: “Hon’ble Congress President has removed Shri Digambar Kamat from his current position as Permanent Invitee to Congress Working Committee with immediate effect”.

Kamat and Lobo both face a disqualification petition filed by the Goa Congress before the Speaker of the legislative assembly for “anti-party activities”. On July 10, only five of 11 Congress MLAs turned up at a press conference called by Rao amid speculation of defections to the BJP.

Rao then accused the two senior leaders of working with the BJP to get at least eight of 11 MLAs to defect. At least two-thirds of a party’s MLAs have to be on board for its merger with



GROUNDHOG DAY: Months after Congress MLAs took oaths of loyalty, the party is back seeking divine help. Facing the spectre of defections, party leaders and workers Sunday prayed at the Bambolim Cross, just like they had done months ago, seeking blessings for their legislators. Express

another legislature party to dodge the anti-defection law.

A day later, however, senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Mukul Wasnik was dispatched to Goa from Delhi for firefighting. Ten MLAs, including Lobo, met Wasnik. Kamat stayed away. The party then appeared to have averted the crisis for the time being.

Kamat was made a permanent invitee to the CWC, the party’s top decision-making body, in April. While he served as the Leader of Opposition in the previous legislative assembly and was the undeclared chief ministerial nominee ahead of February’s assembly polls, Kamat was divested of all responsibility

in the state. Smarting over not being made the leader of the Congress’s legislature party again, Kamat had taken a step back from the party’s activities in Goa since March.

Rao had earlier said that Kamat was resorting to “cheap” and “desperate” politics for “personal gain”. Kamat had earlier told The Indian Express: “I was shocked, surprised and stunned to see the way he was talking. People of Goa, people of Margao have known me for so many years. I have seen such things before. If I had to take any such action, I had lots of opportunities in 2017 and 2022...”

Kamat was elected from Margao seven times.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JULY 17, 2022

THE CONTRACTUAL service of a 40-year-old Mathura sanitation worker was terminated for allegedly carrying a trash can that happened have photos of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

While showcase notices have been issued to the sanitary inspector and sanitary supervisor for not briefing the worker about photographs of dignitaries and public representatives, a probe has also been ordered.

In his representation to the municipal corporation, sanitation worker Bobby said he was

innocent as he is illiterate and failed to identify the photographs, said a senior official of the municipal department.

Mathura Municipal Commissioner Anunaya Jha said a fact-finding committee has been instituted. It has been asked to submit its report in 48 hours.

According to the official, Bobby was carrying trash that he took from a collection centre on Saturday. In the trash can, there were photographs of the PM and CM. On the way, he was intercepted by two people from Rajasthan, who made the video. The photographs were removed from the can and Bobby left the spot. In another video, a man is seen washing the photos of the PM and CM from the trash can.

Probe after fire
in UP AG’s office

Lucknow: The office of the Uttar Pradesh Advocate General located in the Allahabad High Court caught fire on Sunday in Prayagraj district.

No one was seriously injured, police said. Efforts were being made till Sunday evening to douse the fire with the help of 15 fire tenders. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ordered the formation of a committee to probe the reasons that might have led to the fire. ENS

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR CELL SCIENCE, (NCCS) PUNE
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ADVT.NO.- NCCS/PMC/P-05/ONLINE/2022.
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IkkJutt activists
detained after
protests seeking
Jammu state

Jammu: Nearly 100 IkkJutt Jammu workers led by their president Ankur Sharma on Sunday courted arrest here after staging protests demanding that Jammu be declared a separate state. They were released after an hour.

“The only rational, national and constitutional solution to the 75-year-old Jammu’s political problem is it’s separation from Kashmir Valley and grant of full state status” to it, Sharma said while addressing the party workers at Jammu Press Club here. ENS

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TPDDL/ENGG/ENQ/200001438/22-23 RC for Supply of FRP Fencing Kit	80 lacs/ 2,00,000	18.07.2022	08.08.2022:1600 Hrs 08.08.2022:1700 Hrs

CORRIGENDUM / TENDER DATE EXTENTION

Tender Enquiry No. Work Description	Previously Published Date	Revised Due Date & Time of Bid Submission/ Date & time of opening of bids
TPDDL/ENGG/ENQ/200001430/22-23 Rate Contract for supply of 1-P Meter Box	04.07.2022	25.07.2022 at 1700 Hrs/ 25.07.2022 at 1730 Hrs

Complete tender and corrigendum document is available on our website www.tatapower-dtl.com → Vendor Zone → Tender / Corrigendum Documents
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Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & in compliance of Rule 8(1) of Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice(s) on the date mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrower/s to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice(s)/date of receipt of the said notice(s).
The borrower/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each account.
The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited., for the amount and interest thereon as per loan agreement. The borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

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1	LXMEH00416-170023278 Lalchandbhai Gangarambhai Prajapati & Jagrutiben Lalchandbhai Prajapati	08-04-2022 for Rs. 725213.5/-	13-07-2022	Milkat No 18/1 At Shobana Prajapati Vas Ta Mehana 384002 Mehana Gujarat

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Website: www.icicibank.com, **Email:** companysecretary@icicibank.com
NOTICE OF TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NOTICE is hereby given that the **Twenty-Eighth Annual General Meeting (AGM)** of the Members of ICICI Bank Limited (the Bank/Company) will be held on **Tuesday, August 30, 2022 at 3.00 p.m. IST** through Video Conferencing/Other Audio Visual Means (VC/OAVM) in compliance with applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rules made thereunder read with General Circular No.14/2020 dated April 8, 2020, General Circular No.17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, General Circular No. 20/2020 dated May 5, 2020 and other relevant circulars, including General Circular No. 2/2022 dated May 5, 2022 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA).
The Notice of the AGM and Annual Report 2021-22 will be sent only through electronic mode to those Members whose email addresses are registered with the Bank/Depository Participants in accordance with the above mentioned MCA Circulars and Circular dated May 12, 2020 and other relevant circulars, including Circular dated May 13, 2022 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India. The Notice of the AGM and Annual Report 2021-22 will also be available on the Bank's website at <https://www.icicibank.com/aboutus/annual.html>, the website of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.nseindia.com and on the website of National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) at www.evoting.nsdl.com.
Members can participate in the AGM through VC/OAVM facility by following the instructions mentioned in the Notice of the AGM. The Bank will be providing remote e-voting facility to all its Members to cast their votes on all resolutions set out in the Notice of the AGM. The facility for e-voting shall also be made available during the AGM. Members participating in the AGM and who have not already cast their votes through remote e-voting shall be able to exercise their voting rights during the AGM. The Bank has appointed NSDL for facilitating voting through electronic means. Members including those who hold shares in physical form or who have not registered their email addresses can cast their votes electronically by following the instructions mentioned in the Notice of the AGM.
Members holding shares in physical form are requested to register/update their KYC details including postal address, email address, permanent account number (PAN), bank details etc. by submitting duly filled and signed Form ISR-1 along with the copy of the share certificate (front and back), self-attested copy of the PAN card and such other documents as prescribed in Form ISR-1 to KFin Technologies Limited, Registrar and Share Transfer Agent of the Bank (R & T Agent), Unit : ICICI Bank Limited, Selenium Building, Tower-B, Plot no. 31 & 32, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Serlingampally, Hyderabad 500 032, Telangana. Members holding shares in demat form are requested to register/update their KYC details with their respective Depository Participants.
Form ISR-1 is available on the website of the Bank at <https://www.icicibank.com/aboutus/invest-relations.page?#toptitle> and on the website of the R & T Agent at https://ris.kfintech.com/client-services/isc/default.aspx#isc_download_hrd.
The Board of Directors at their Meeting held on April 23, 2022 have recommended payment of dividend of ₹ 5 per fully paid-up equity share of face value of ₹ 2 each for the financial year ended March 31, 2022. The **Record Date** for determining the names of Members eligible for dividend on equity shares, if declared at the AGM, is **August 10, 2022**.
As per the Income-tax Act, 1961 (the Act), as amended by the Finance Act, 2020, dividend paid or distributed by Bank after April 1, 2020 shall be taxable in the hands of the Members. The Bank shall therefore be required to deduct tax at source (TDS) at the prescribed rates at the time of making the payment of the dividend to the Members. All communications/queries in this respect should be sent at einward.ris@kfintech.com.
In order to enable the Bank to determine the appropriate tax rate at which tax has to be deducted at source under the respective provisions of the Act, Members are requested to provide/submit documents as applicable to them **on or before August 10, 2022 (6:00 p.m. IST)** at <https://ris.kfintech.com/form15/forms.aspx?q=0>. The dividend will be paid after deduction of tax at source as determined on the basis of the documents provided by the respective members as applicable to them and being found to be complete and satisfactory in accordance with the Act.
For ICICI Bank Limited
Sd/-
Ranganath Athreya
Company Secretary
Place : Mumbai
Date : July 16, 2022

7 THE IDEAS PAGE

A prosperity lesson for India

As it prepares to become most populous by 2023, it must remember: Improvement of human development index hinges on providing quality education to girl child



FROM PLATE TO PLOUGH
BY ASHOK GULATI

THE UNITED NATIONS' latest report, "Population Prospects" forecasts that India will surpass China's population by 2023, reaching 1.5 billion by 2030 and 1.66 billion by 2050. It was only three years ago that the UN Population Prospects (2019) projected that India will surpass China's population by 2027. But it seems that the rate of growth of India's population is faster than that of China, and the global agencies had to change their forecast significantly in three years.

Every country intends for its people to be prosperous and frames policies to attain this goal. China's story since 1978 is unique — the country has achieved the fastest decline in poverty and is today a superpower, perhaps, second only to the US. Its experiences hold some important lessons for India, especially because in 1978, when China embarked on its economic reforms, its per capita income at \$156.4 was way below that of India at \$205.7. Both countries were saddled with humongous poverty. Today, China is more than six times ahead of India in terms of per capita income — China's per capita income in 2021 was \$12,556, while that of India was \$1,933 in 2020. It is this economic prosperity that has enabled China to spend large amounts on building its military might.

How did China do all this? It is well known that China started its economic reforms in 1978 with a primary focus on agriculture. It broke away from the commune system and liberated agri-markets from myriad controls. As a result, during 1978-84, China's agri-GDP grew by 7.1 per cent per annum and farmers' real incomes grew by 14 per cent per annum with the liberalisation of agri-prices. As people gained prosperity and farmers' real incomes doubled, poverty fell by half in just six years. Enhanced incomes of rural people created a huge demand for industrial products, and also gave political legitimacy for pushing further the reform agenda. The aim of China's manufacturing through Town and Village Enterprises (TVEs) was basically to meet the surging demand from the hinterlands. The rest is history.

But one important policy during this period that is not talked about much was the one-child policy. China introduced the one-child per family policy in September 1980, which lasted till early 2016. It is this strict control on population growth, coupled with booming growth in overall GDP over these years, that led to a rapid increase in per capita incomes. Chinese population growth today is just 0.1 per cent per annum compared to India's 1.1 per cent per annum. India's overall growth story — though one of reasonable success — has not been as impressive as that of China, certainly not in agriculture. Over a 40-year period, 1978-2018, China's agriculture has grown at 4.5 per cent per annum while India's agri-GDP growth ever since reforms began in 1991 has hovered at around 3 per cent per annum. Market and price liberalisation in agriculture still remains a major issue, and at the drop of any hint of food price rise, the government clamps down exports, im-



C R Sasikumar

poses stock limits on traders, suspends futures markets, and pushes other measures that strangle markets. The net result of all this is reflected in the "implicit taxation" of farmers to favour the vocal lobby of consumers, especially the urban middle class.

Let's get back to the population story, and try to understand what India can do at this juncture. There is no way India can impose the one-child norm that China did in 1980. After Sanjay Gandhi's forceful attempts to control population through sterilisation methods in the early 1970s, and the people's discontent against it, no government is going to attempt it. The only way is through effective education, especially that of the girl child, open discussion and dialogue about family planning methods and conversations about the benefits of small family size in society. The record on that front is not very good.

As per the National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21), of all the girls and women above the age of 6 years, only 16.6 per cent were educated for 12 years or more. If one talks of the quality of education, several ASER reports point to the poor quality of education. In our earlier research, based on unit-level data of NFHS, we found that women's education is the most critical determinant of the status of malnutrition amongst children below the age of five. The NFHS-5 data shows that more than 35 per cent of our children below the age of five are stunted, which means their earning capac-

Unless a focused and aggressive campaign is launched to educate the girl child and provide her with more than 12 years of good quality education, India's performance in terms of the prosperity of its masses, and the human development index may not improve significantly for many more years to come. From a policy perspective, if there is any subsidy that deserves priority, it should be for the education of the girl child.

ity will remain hampered throughout life. They will remain stuck in a low-level income trap. Moreover, 57 per cent of women in the reproductive age group of 15-49, are anaemic, as per NFHS-5 (2019-21), up from 53 per cent in NFHS-4 (2015-16). With this dismal status of women's health and education, the future of children in India is a serious issue to ponder over.

Biofortification of staples, supplying clean and safe drinking water to every household (nal se jal) and mid-day meals are all steps in the right direction to improve the well-being of people. But unless a focused and aggressive campaign is launched to educate the girl child and provide her with more than 12 years of good quality education, India's performance in terms of the prosperity of its masses, and the human development index may not improve significantly for many more years to come. From a policy perspective, if there is any subsidy that deserves priority, it should be for the education of the girl child. If the Modi government can take up this cause in sync with state governments, this will significantly boost the labour participation rate of women, which is currently at a meagre 25 per cent, and lead to "double engine" growth. This policy focus can surely bring a rich harvest, politically and economically, for many years to come.

Gulati is Infosys Chair Professor for Agriculture at ICRIR

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Like unscrupulous populists and nationalists everywhere, the Rajapaksas exploited divisions stemming from economic insecurity, prejudice and plain ignorance, setting the Sinhalese Buddhist majority against the mostly Hindu Tamil and Muslim minorities."
— THE OBSERVER

The power of goodness

In the late Jagat Mehta's vision lies a lesson for the India of today



ABHIJIT V BANERJEE

I HAD NO reason to get to know Jagat Mehta. He was one of those who came of age during India's transition to Independence. Had he been with us he would be one hundred this month.

I knew of him of course. From the newspapers. He was the foreign secretary when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the External Affairs Minister in the Janata government of the late 1970s — a committed Nehruvian (he worked as Nehru's private secretary in his early years in the IAS) who made such a success of his partnership with Vajpayee that Indira Gandhi felt compelled to fire him when she returned to power. These were years of unusual cordiality between India and Pakistan, and key water-sharing agreements were negotiated. Jagatsaheb, as he was widely known, was justly proud of the achievements of those years. He gave a lot of credit to Vajpayee, who despite being ideologically close to the RSS, was capable of genuine warmth and empathy, which goes a long way in diplomacy. But I imagine Jagatsaheb, with his commitment to finding mutually acceptable solutions and above all, an effortless graciousness that extended to one and all, must have played a central role.

That graciousness touched me even before I met him. This was in the mid-1990s. I was trying to start my first randomised controlled trial (RCT). I had contacted Ajay Mehta, one of Jagatsaheb's four remarkable children through his brother, Uday, who taught political philosophy at MIT. Ajay headed Seva Mandir, a Udaipur-based NGO with a deep commitment to Gandhian ideals and community building. I was going to visit Udaipur to explore working with them. Ajay told me that Jagatsaheb had invited me to stay with them. I demurred, worried about imposing. He insisted. I didn't resist too much, and it was one of the best decisions I ever took.

I remember very clearly the morning I arrived in Udaipur for the first time and was taken to Jeevan Niwas, Jagatsaheb's beautiful house just outside the old city in Udaipur. He was waiting for me to have breakfast, and as soon as we sat down at the enormous table in the dining room — as I was to many, many, times more — he began to quiz me about what I was there to do. I noticed immediately there was an intellectual intensity to his queries, barely masked by the slightly old-fashioned politeness that was his second nature, that took it beyond the usual table talk. This was also Jagatsaheb — some of the leading minds of the time, people like Daniel Moynihan and John Kenneth Galbraith, were his close friends — but he offered his full attention to all comers, including young professors with strange ideas. When he asked me about the subject of

my study, I remember saying that I didn't really have one — if there was an intervention that Seva Mandir felt was important enough to test out, that was good for me. He probably found that odd but was too polite to say so.

Eventually, we started what would be a long sequence of RCTs across health and education, and for the next decade and more, I was in and out of Udaipur every few months and almost always, unless there was a large family gathering, I got to stay in Jeevan Niwas. Often, it was just the two of us. I would come back from a day in the field, shower and settle down in his enormous living room with its walls chock-a-block in Rajasthani miniatures with a glass of whiskey soda. And after some small-talk, Jagatsaheb would lean forward, furrow his brows and ask, "So how is Ind-ia doing?". Ind-ia, with an emphasis on the "d". Never Indiya.

This was the late 1990s and early 2000s, the economy was speeding up, poverty was falling, and I was mostly optimistic. Jagatsaheb didn't disagree, but his stance was always that we can and must do better. Because we are Ind-ia. Because we are the children of Gandhi and Nehru, who for him were the greatest idealists of the 20th century. Because we pledged ourselves to the ideals of equality of all, of universal adult suffrage, of tolerance and brotherhood, already in the 1920s, right from when our national movement became a peoples' movement. This was roughly the time when America only recognised the rights of white (men) and most of Europe was obsessed with race and religion, he would tell me.

It was not because he didn't see our flaws. Having spent his life working in government, he knew all about the rigidity and high-handedness of our bureaucracy, the venality of our politicians, the greed and cynicism among our leaders of industry. He would often quiz me in great detail about the implementation of various programmes and policies — about what might be going wrong, and how to fix it.

He was particularly harsh about the foreign policy establishment, especially during the years when he was active there. He thought we made a huge mistake by not supporting our Afghan friends during the Russian invasion in 1979, which, he believed, pushed them into the hands of Pakistan and contributed to the disastrous dynamic that led to 9/11 and beyond. He blamed himself, among others, for being too unwilling to read the warning signs to an uncomprehending Nehru, which ultimately led to our Chinese catastrophe. Protocol and blind love (for Nehru) make a bad combination, he once told me.

And yet he remained an idealist; unwavering in his belief that we must try to do the right things for the right reason, internally and externally, while accepting that it won't always happen. At a time when we seem to be wavering between trying to be powerful and wanting to be good, I dearly miss his voice telling us that we, Ind-ia, can only be powerful if we are good.

The writer, a Nobel laureate in economics, is professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology



AAKASH JOSHI

The Agniveer's journey

There is need for a deeper conversation about potential social fallout of Agnipath

"Back there I could fly a gunship, I could drive a tank, I was in charge of million-dollar equipment, back here I can't even hold a job parking cars."

— Sylvester Stallone, in 'Rambo: First Blood'

THANKS TO THE pervasive power of Hollywood, even those who have never been to America are likely to have some idea of the country's attitude towards armed forces personnel after they have completed their "tour(s) of duty". A strong sense of nationalism is tied up with their sacrifice and often promoted by the military-industrial complex. "Supporting the troops" and "thanking them for their service" is an integral part of the political identity of many Americans. Conversely, veterans suffer disproportionately from homelessness and mental health issues compared to the rest of the population — almost 20 per cent of them, according to the US National Institute for Drug Abuse. The prevalence of addiction, a disease of despair, is understandable. Violence is, by definition, traumatic and war — even when it is necessary — wounds entire generations.

Things get worse. As Kathleen Belew points out in *Bring the War Home: The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America*, after every major conflict, many veterans who are unable to readjust well to civilian life have been involved in violent, organised crime and even terrorist activities. World War II veterans formed the Hells Angels (an "outlaw" motorcycle club) and there is an increasing

amount of scholarship on how veterans have fed the cadres of the White Power movement. Louis Beam, for example, was a decorated pilot in the Vietnam War. On his return, he joined the Ku Klux Klan and is now one of the leading ideologues for racist organisations. His conception of a "leaderless resistance" continues to be an inspiration for violent, anti-state, anti-minority groups and individuals. Unfortunately, Beam is a notable exception only in his notoriety.

The model for the Indian armed forces — a colonial legacy in some ways, to be sure — is different. Until now, short-term recruits formed a negligible part of the non-commissioned personnel. Soldiers are expected to die and kill for their country and are offered, in return, job security, pensions and health benefits. The military, by and large, has taken care of its own.

The economic and strategic imperative for reform in the armed forces is undeniable. The time for better technology, hardware and a more adaptable, efficient and versatile fighting force has long been here, and we are already late to the party. Continuing with the current structure of employment and benefits at the same scale is also an economically untenable proposition: More than half of India's defence budget is spent on pensions, while just around 5 per cent is earmarked for research and development.

The question, then, is not whether the armed forces need reform and restructuring. It is about the limited conversation

around the potential social upheaval the scheme could well lead to. As the protests around the Agnipath scheme die down, is India ready for the inevitable influx of thousands of young men, Agniveers, who are likely to have seen conflict and must now adjust to civilian life?

The protests — and the government's response — have been centred on the lack of job security (Agniveers will serve for four years, including 6 months of training) and benefits. A significant number will be employed in paramilitary forces, and their service and training will be recognised as a degree. Yet, many — if not most — Agniveers will have to make their own way. And the value of a "degree" for employers, more often than not, is only significant if it is a marker for skills that they can use.

The first lesson from America in this regard, then, is: The cold logic of the free market may pay lip service to patriotic sentiments, but it does not give salaries or jobs based on them.

Another issue, perhaps even more important, with creating thousands of armed forces gig workers is the social and psychological readjustment that Agniveers will need assistance with. And dealing with it in any meaningful manner requires facing the more uncomfortable weaves of India's social fabric.

The fact remains that ours is a society permeated by violence and hierarchy, as much as it is by compassion, decency and frater-

nity. Our political conversation continues to be dominated by wounds — real and imagined — of history. Caste animosity — including violence to protect its boundaries — is stoked at regular intervals. A camera on every phone means acts of brutality are recorded and shared, as boastful messages from diseased minds as well as for disturbing ideological ends. When men who have seen death at close quarters, and are trained in violence, are added to this already volatile mix, serious consideration and resources must be put in place to help them readjust. Mental health, community and vocational therapy — and less obvious initiatives — would be a good first step. India does not need — and cannot afford — its own version of the KKK and White Power.

The final lesson from America is a tangential one. Most of the sub-genres of its mainstream cinema have been replicated by Hollywood's Indian counterparts — the romantic comedy, the action movie and even the slick nationalist war film, a la *Uri: The Surgical Strike*. What we haven't had yet is the "war vet" genre — stories of soldiers who come back to a world that does not, cannot understand them. The first *Rambo*, for example, isn't just an action movie, it is a tragedy about irrelevance and loneliness. Let's hope a home-grown version of that tale never has any resonance.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DIPLOMATIC BRIDGES

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Bridge to the gulf' (IE, July 16). The I2U2 grouping and the summit of its leaders offer a sneak peek into the future. India has reaffirmed its plan to open itself up for international capital and technologies to address its issues, especially in the key markets of food and energy. The four leaders have also called for strengthening of peace, especially between Israel and the UAE. This is bound to result in more economic opportunities for all.

SS Paul, Chakdaha

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Bridge to the gulf' (IE, July 16). After QUAD, the new formation of I2U2, which has taken UAE and Israel on board, has extended the outreach of India in the gulf region even further. Admittedly, this is a step in the right direction. However, India should ensure that the platform not seem hostile to any nation, especially Iran, keeping the historical animosity of the other three partners in mind. Moreover, Biden's recent visit to Israel and their open stance against Iran's purported plan to become a "nuclear power" will surely make Iran doubtful about the intentions of this nascent organisation. We should make our diplomatic intentions clear.

Devendra Awasthi, Lucknow

LAGGING BEHIND

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Maths without Pythagoras' (IE, July 15). Dropping mathematical concepts like linear equations and Pythagoras' theorem from the Class X CBSE curriculum is like removing the middle rungs of the ladder. Mathematical concepts are heavily interrelated. Since other boards are not cutting their syllabus, CBSE students will lose the opportunity of a level playing field. The CBSE board should have consulted concerned subject teachers regarding revisions, if needed. Moving forward, they must abide by the aims and objectives of NEP 2020.

Ravindra Zinjurke, Ahmednagar

DOUBLE STANDARD

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Need to ask some questions', (IE, July 16). Gaurav Bhatia exhorts the duty of the then ruling party to be answerable, but he forgets the same lacuna in the current regime. There is an iron curtain over the current government's work-from Pegasus to PM CARES. Additionally, there is no official data on child labour or employment. There must be a proper investigation of the allegations on the Vice President of India if circumstances demand so. However, the same metric must also be applied to matters concerning the current ruling government.

Abhishek Kumar Anshu, Patna

Firm linked to ex-Mumbai CP ‘snooped on 91 NSE staffers’, finds ED probe

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, JULY 17

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) has found that a firm linked to former Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey snooped on as many as 91 office-bearers of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) on the directions of its then Managing Director Chitra Ramkrishna, sources said.

The agency Thursday booked Pandey and arrested Ramkrishna in a money-laundering case linked to alleged phone tapping. “We are interrogating Ramkrishna as it was on her directions that the tapping was done by Pandey’s company. We want to know the motive behind tapping the phones of so many NSE office-bearers,” an ED official said.

Sources said the agency has found documentary and electronic evidence to show that phones of 91 NSE employees had been tapped by Pandey’s company, iSec Services Pvt Ltd. According to these sources, the agency has found transcripts and voice recordings – most of the conversations are about information on stocks and the functioning of the NSE.

iSec Services was incorporated in March 2001. Pandey was not in service at that time. He quit the directorship in May 2006, with his mother Santosh and son Armaan becoming directors.



Sanjay Pandey

“However, it was Pandey who was running the company all along. Almost all correspondence between iSec and top officials of NSE are through Pandey’s email ID,” another ED official said.

The agency had questioned Pandey on July 5 in connection with the 2018 case of the alleged manipulation of NSE – a separate case in which some brokers were alleged to have made windfall profits by manipulating the co-location facility of the bourse in connivance with top NSE officials.

The current ED case is based on a CBI FIR registered recently against Pandey, his company, and others, including Ramkrishna.

Seeking Ramkrishna’s remand Thursday, the ED told the court of Special Judge Sunena Sharma that a Rs 4.54 crore payment to iSec for the phone tapping was agreed upon by NSE officials including Ramkrishna and iSec representatives.

The ED told court, “The work orders/contracts/agreements were processed by Chitra Ramkrishna during her tenure as Deputy Managing Director and Managing Director of NSE. During the entire period of offence i.e. from 01.01.2009 till

13.02.2017, Ms Chitra Ramkrishna was holding the position of either Deputy Managing Director (till 2010) or Joint managing Director (till 2013) or Managing Director (till December, 2016) of NSE.”

It also alleged there was evidence to show that iSec’s work for the bourse lasted for around the same time as Ramkrishna’s stint.

“It is further averred that after she relinquished the post of Managing Director of NSE in December, 2016, the contract for so called ‘Periodic Study of Cyber Vulnerabilities of NSE’ expired on 13.02.2017 and was never renewed subsequently, thus proving that the said illegal activity was co-terminus with her holding key position as Joint Managing Director/Managing Director of NSE,” ED said.

The ED told court it has collected “Monitoring Reports for Call Logs” and “Approval Notes of NSE” bearing approval granted by Ramkrishna for the so called ‘Periodic Study of Cyber Vulnerabilities’ on pretext of which the phones were tapped. Ramkrishna’s lawyer, Arshdeep Singh, opposed the ED’s application for remand on the ground that the case is based on documents already in possession of the agency and that it had earlier questioned Ramkrishna and had sufficient time to interrogate her on these issues.

The court, however, granted Ramkrishna’s custody to ED for four days.

Engine snag: Indigo flight from Sharjah diverted to Karachi

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, JULY 17

AN INDIGO-OPERATED Airbus A320neo plane on its way from Sharjah to Hyderabad was diverted to Karachi in Pakistan early on Sunday after pilots were notified of a fault in the aircraft’s right engine.

This is the latest in a series of such incidents that were reported to have occurred on aircraft operated by Indian carriers over the past few days – from engine snags and burning smell in cabin to a bird entering the airplane cockpit.

Prior to this incident, an Air India Express plane from Kozhikode to Dubai diverted to Muscat in Oman on Saturday

after burning smell was experienced in one of the vents in the Boeing 737-800 aircraft’s forward galley.

On board another Air India Express plane on its way from Bahrain to Kochi on Friday, a live bird was found in the cockpit of the Boeing 737-800 plane in the glove compartment of the co-pilot, while the plane was cruising at 37,000 feet.

In a statement on Sunday, IndiGo said: “IndiGo flight 6E-1406, operating from Sharjah to Hyderabad was diverted to Karachi. The pilot observed a technical defect. Necessary procedures were followed and as a precaution the aircraft was diverted to Karachi. An additional flight is being sent to Karachi to fly the passengers to

Hyderabad.”

A senior official at India’s aviation safety regulator DGCA said these incidents will be probed.

IndiGo had faced another technical snag on its Thursday flight from Delhi to Vadodara, which was diverted to Jaipur after unusual vibrations were observed in the engines of the plane.

“We got over serious engine issues long time back. These are mostly precautionary and a part of a robust safety management system. Any indication that comes is to be acknowledged and responded. An aircraft has many thousands components and all have to function in harmony,” the DGCA official said.

Jharkhand: Journalist arrested for Maoist links

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, JULY 17

JHARKHAND POLICE on Sunday arrested a freelance journalist, Rupesh Kumar Singh, in connection with a 2021 case lodged in Saraikela district in which senior CPI (Maoist) leader Prashant Bose alias Kishanda is an accused. The police alleged that Singh used to arrange funds for the Maoists.

Jharkhand Police spokesperson Amol V Homkar confirmed that Singh was arrested from his home in Ramgarh district. “He was arrested for his links with CPI (Maoist) leaders in the case that was registered against Maoist veteran Prashant Bose. There is no fresh FIR against him,” he said. Incidentally, Singh’s name

had appeared in the list of journalists who were targeted through the Pegasus spyware.

On November 12 last year, the police had arrested CPI (Maoist) central committee member Kishanda, who carried a reward of Rs 1 crore on his head, along with five others in the Kandrapa Police Station area of Saraikela. The FIR Station was registered under various IPC sections, including 420 (cheating), 467 (forgery) and under Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).

The search cum arrest warrant against Singh issued by a Saraikela-Kharsawan district court mentioned FIR number 67/2021, which is the same one that was lodged at Kandrapa Police Station.

Singh’s wife Satakshi, however, said the family was not told about the specific allegations.

Amid namaz row, Lulu Mall says it’s a place of business

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JULY 17

DAYS AFTER the Lulu Mall administration lodged a police complaint against unidentified people who offered namaz in the mall, the establishment issued a statement on Sunday saying it is “purely a place of business, which doesn’t discriminate against any caste, religion or any section of society”.

On July 14, an FIR was registered on a complaint from the Lulu Mall administration after a video of unidentified people offering namaz inside the mall went viral on social media.

“We are grateful to the people of UP, who have extended support to our mall. We would like to say that the Lulu Mall is purely a place of business, which doesn’t discriminate against any caste, religion or any section of society. The buyer is all important. Our establishment works under the rules and norms of the government. Whoever works for us does so because of the capabilities and merit and not because of religion or caste,” said the statement on Sunday.

The mall administration had informed police that no staff was involved in the incident.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

ASI killed as militants fire at checkpoint

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 17

AN ASSISTANT Sub Inspector (ASI) of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was killed when militants targeted a joint checkpoint of J&K Police and the CRPF in south Kashmir’s Pulwama Sunday.

Sunday’s attack is the second shoot-and-run attack by the militants in the Valley this week. On Tuesday, an ASI of police was

killed and two of his colleagues injured in a similar attack in Srinagar.

The police said that on Sunday afternoon militants fired indiscriminately at the checkpoint at Gangoo village of south Kashmir’s Pulwama. “Today at about 1415hrs, terrorists fired upon a joint naka party at Gangoo crossing area of Pulwama in which one CRPF personnel attained martyrdom. Senior police officers along with reinforcement reached on

the terror crime spot,” the police said. “In this terror incident, one CRPF personnel namely ASI/GD Vinod Kumar was critically injured and was immediately shifted to nearby hospital for the treatment of his injuries. However, he succumbed to his injuries and attained martyrdom.”

The police said the militants appeared from the nearby dense apple orchards and fired at the joint team of police and paramilitary forces.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 17

MORE THAN 100 students were tied for the top three positions in the ICSE results released on Sunday, scoring 99.4% and above.

The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations released results for its Class X board examinations Sunday evening. A total of 2,31,063 candidates from 2,535 schools across the country and abroad had appeared in these examinations, of whom 2,31,004 – or 99.97% of candidates – passed.

Along with a high pass percentage, the board results also show that many students scored in a very high range. Four students – three girls and a boy – were tied for the top position, all having an English plus best 4 subjects score of 99.8%. A total of 34 students were tied for the second spot with 99.6% and 72 tied for third place with 99.4%.

Of these toppers, the highest number are from Maharashtra, from where 37 students scored 99.4% and above.

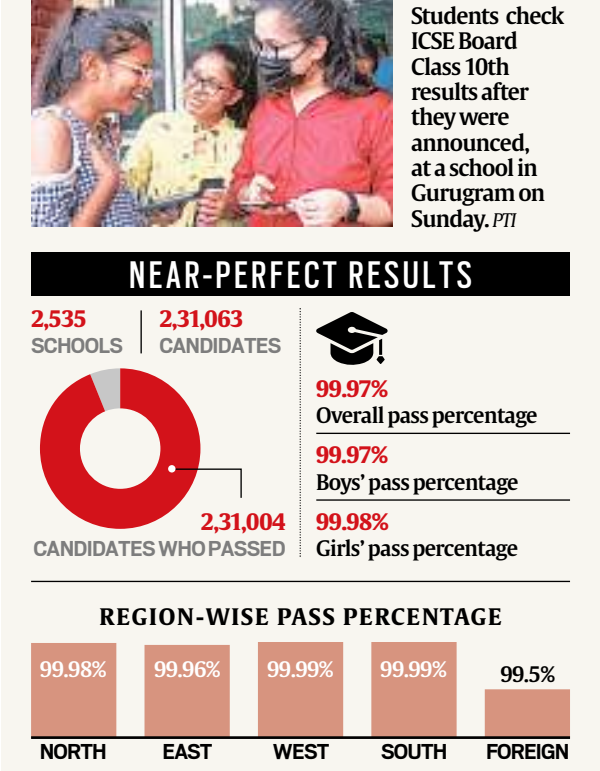
Hargun Kaur Matharu, of St. Mary’s School, Pune, was one of the four students who scored 99.8%. “It seemed to be a possibility. She is very academically

inclined and her school had expectations but we didn’t want to pressure her. She has been very regular in her studies but maintained a balance,” said her father Dev Singh Matharu.

Mohammad Masood Iqbal of The Future Foundation School, Kolkata, was among those who scored 99.60%. “I am preparing for medical entrance exams and I want to be a doctor. I am sure Class 12 will be more challenging. I had a lot of issues with the online mode of classes, so I am happy that offline classes are back now,” he said.

Nihara Mariam Oommen, a student of Bethany High School, who also scored 99.6%, said she balanced her studies with music. “I was never really expecting this score... Credit definitely goes to my mother who tutored me for exams. In fact, she became a tuition teacher during the Covid-19 lockdown. I mostly studied late at night, especially after 1 am. This is because I attend my music school in the evening after finishing my regular school. This meant it was all about balancing music and academics, although it was intense. But then it was actually worth it,” she said.

Like the CBSE, the CISCE also held two board examinations in the 2021-2022 academic year:



semester 1 exam in November-December 2021 and semester 2 exam in April-May 2022. The final results have been computed giving equal weightage to both

semester 1 and semester 2 exams. The final marks were arrived at by adding the marks of semester 1, semester 2 and internal assessment.

NOTICE BOARD CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY APPOINTMENTS, MOVEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, HONOURS



CHARUSAT BAGS 'A+' GRADE IN THE SECOND CYCLE OF NAAC ACCREDITATION

CHARUSAT UNIVERSITY adds yet another feather in its cap by securing an 'A+' Grade by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in the second cycle. Remarkably, CHARUSAT was the first private university to be awarded an 'A' Grade in the very first cycle of NAAC accreditation in 2016. The team also interacted with various stakeholders like Management, Provost, Registrar, Deans, Principals, Heads of Departments, students, teachers, alumni, parents, and employers. The university has scored a 3.26CGPA. Dr. R V Upadhyay, Provost, Charusat has happily expressed the joy of success saying "With the showcase of its excellence in imparting quality education for the holistic development of the students; the world class infrastructure, state of the art laboratories for research and innovations; and commitment of management and all staff members of the university have contributed towards achieving the higher accreditation grade from NAAC." "Achieving higher grading in National Level accreditation by NAAC has strengthened CHARUSAT's aspiration to be a World Class University," said Surendra Patel, President. Dr. Devang Joshi, Registrar, CHARUSAT, congratulated the whole CHARUSAT Family including former Provosts, Dr. M C Patel, Dr. B G Patel, and Dr. Pankaj Joshi for their lineage and visionary guidance to take the university to this status. It is noteworthy that CHARUSAT has been declared Centre of Excellence by Govt. of Gujarat this year.



BARODA HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL AWARDED THE TOP RANKERS ON GURU PURNIMA

BHMCH one of the top Homoeopathic Medical colleges in India celebrated Guru Purnimawith great enthusiasm. All students of BHMS & M.D. (Hom.) were present in full strength. Principal & Medical Superintendent Dr. JaykumarChandarana, Trust Secretary Venila Nair, all reputed doctors staff, and nonmedical staff were present. Tribute was paid to 'ALL GURUS' & its importance in Indian culture was stressed. On the day of Guru Purnima, the university i.e. Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University rankers were awarded. GOLD MEDAL- Kishan Patel. BRONZE MEDAL- Aastha Soni. BRONZE 2 MEDAL - Pruthvi Patel.



PARUL UNIVERSITY BECOME A MULTI-REGIONAL CAMPUS

The Vadodara-based Parul university has become a multi-regional campus by spreading its campuses to other cities to bring education near to students in the comfort of their homes. With these initiatives, the university has been running a campus in the Ahmedabad campus which consists of three state-of-the-art facilities including the Ahmedabad Homoeopathy Medical College and Ahmedabad Physiotherapy College, PIASR. Over 220+bachelor's students have been enrolled in countries such as the USA, the UK, Australia, and New Zealand. PIASR & Physiotherapy Institute at Ahmedabad with over 1000+ Alumni holds one of the city's highest packages offering 5 Lakh per annum.



YOUTH PEACE FOUNDATION

A tree plantation campaign was recently organized by Youth Peace Foundation (YPF) at Lok Vidyalaya, LamdapuraSavli Vadodara. Approx. 250 students and school staff took part at the school campus. YPF coordinator Niraj Upadhyay thanked school principalManhar bhai for cooperation and support to bring awareness among youth through plantation drive in coordination with YPF. Young participants took a mass pledge to conserve and plant at least a tree in their lives. YPF is always committed to bringing humanity and developinga culture of peace through different initiatives among youth.



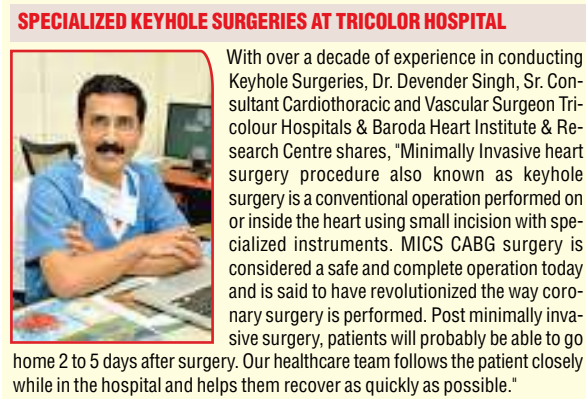
NATIONAL WEBINAR ON "PROMISING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PHARMACY/SCIENCE GRADUATES"

Online National Webinar on "Promising Opportunities for Pharmacy/Science Graduates" was recently organized by Ganpat University - Shree S. K. Patel College of Pharmaceutical Education & Research/Centre for Health and Applied Sciences (CHAS) for B. Pharm. graduates/B.Sc. students from chemistry and life sciences backgrounds. A total of 235 participants were registered and more than 185 participated successfully in this webinar. In starting of the webinar, Dr. S. S. Pancholi, Principal of the college welcomed and introduced the guests. Dr. Satish A. Patel, coordinator of the webinar explained the overview of the webinar and gave some information regarding the course of M. Pharm in Quality Assurance, M. Pharm in Pharmaceutics, M. Pharm in Pharmacology, M. Sc in Pharmaceutical Analysis, M. Sc in Pharmaceutical Chemistry and M. Sc in Analytical Chemistry. Sanjay PatelFounder & Principal IP Attorney,Excelon IP, Ahmedabad was the esteemed speaker. He delivered a talk on "Promising Opportunities for Pharmacy/Science Graduates". A vote of thanks was delivered by Janavi Doshi. The event was coordinated by Dr. Satish A. Patel, Dr. Kalpesh Patel, and Riddhi Jani.



ROTARY CLUB OF BARODA JAWAHARNAGAR

"Rotary Club of Baroda Jawaharnagar (RCBJ) conducted their installation ceremony for the year 2022-2023 recently by Elect. District Governor Rtn. Mihir Dave of Dist



SPECIALIZED KEYHOLE SURGERIES AT TRICOLOR HOSPITAL

With over a decade of experience in conducting Keyhole Surgeries, Dr. Devender Singh, Sr. Consultant Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgeon Tricolor Hospitals & Baroda Heart Institute & Research Centre shares, "Minimally Invasive heart surgery procedure also known as keyhole surgery is a conventional operation performed on or inside the heart using small incision with specialized instruments. MICS CABG surgery is considered a safe and complete operation today and is said to have revolutionized the way coronary surgery is performed. Post minimally invasive surgery, patients will probably be able to go home 2 to 5 days after surgery. Our healthcare team follows the patient closely while in the hospital and helps them recover as quickly as possible."



COSMETIC SKIN INSTITUTE INAUGURATED IN SURAT

India's First Cosmetic Skin Institute was inaugurated by Hon'ble Union State Minister of Railways and Union State Minister of TextilesDarshanabenJardosh, which will provide practical training to Dermatologists, starting in Surat. CSI's purpose is to provide a platform to dermatologists and skin therapists who are interested in getting experience, and knowledge and are looking to explore the world of aesthetic treatment in Skin, Hair & Laser. Here they will be training Dermatologists & Skin therapists to make them capable and a part of this industry. This serves as a platform for women who want to restart their careers and be independent and also enables medical practitioners to upskill themselves. Secondly, as this field is female-dominated, the jobs that would be created shall lead to a rise in women's empowerment. Lastly, Cosmedic Skin Institute lays the foundation for serving patients with the best possible treatment and services.



KAMDHENU UNIVERSITY RECEIVES THE "RASHTRIYA BHARAT PASHUSAVASTHYA-2022 AWARD"

Kamdhenu University was selected for the "India Animal Health Summit-2022", organized in collaboration with the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairy, Government of India, jointly organized by the Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture in New Delhi as well as the Agriculture Today Group. The two-day Indian Animal Health Summit was organized for the first time in Delhi. A wide range of topics such as animal health care policy, business environment and investment opportunities in the animal health sector, innovative approach in the field of animal health care for "one health", livestock care policy, and regulatory environment were discussed in detail in the panel. Kamdhenu University is making efforts to enrich the livestock economically by training them on the research done through various programs for cattle herders under the extension education in the field of animal husbandry. The Kamdhenu University of Gujarat has brought laurels to the state of Gujarat by bagging the Leadership "Animal Health Award-2022" at Delhi for its excellent work in extension education in the field of animal husbandry. Vice-Chancellor, Kamdhenu University, Dr. N. H. Kelawala, Director of Extension Education, Dr. J. S. Patel as well as Dr. R. S. Ghasura were present to receive this award in New Delhi. Minister of State for Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Raghavjibhai Patel applauded the efforts in the field of expansion.

THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



French President Emmanuel Macron

FRANCE

Anti-Semitism still rampant, says Macron

President Emmanuel Macron warned against anti-Semitism and historical revisionism on Sunday as he commemorated victims of the Holocaust on the 80th anniversary of the Vel d'Hiv roundup of Jewish families. On July 16-17, 1942, around 13,000 people were taken to the Winter Velodrome, the Vel d'Hiv, in Paris before being sent on to concentration camps across Europe. It was the largest mass detention of Jewish people by French police. "We have not finished with anti-Semitism, it is still there - stronger and more rampant," said Macron at the inauguration of a memorial in the central town of Pithiviers. **REUTERS**

SUDAN

Death toll from tribal clashes at 65: minister

THE DEATH toll from days of tribal clashes in a southern Sudanese province climbed to at least 65 people, a senior health official said on Sunday. The fighting between the Hausa and Birta ethnic groups in the Blue Nile province also injured around 150 others, said Gamal Nasser al-Sayed, the province's health minister, adding that most of the dead were young men who were either shot or stabbed. The fighting in the Blue Nile grew out of the killing of a farmer earlier last week and continued through Saturday, according to the local government. **AP**

SOUTH AFRICA

Police hunt for suspects after 9 killed in attacks

Police are on the hunt for suspects after nine people were fatally shot in separate shooting incidents in two provinces of South Africa on Saturday night, police said. The latest shootings come on the heels of an uptick in violent deaths in a country with one of the world's highest murder rates. The shootings took place in the Gauteng and also in Thembehlhe. Police said it was not yet clear whether the suspects were involved in an earlier shooting in Alexandria. **REUTERS**

BANGLADESH: FEARFUL RESIDENTS LEAVE VILLAGE

Temple, homes vandalised over Facebook post

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DHAKA, JULY 17

A TEMPLE, shops and several houses of the Hindu community have been vandalised in southwestern Bangladesh by some unidentified persons over a Facebook post allegedly belittling Islam, in the latest spate of violence targeting the religious minority in the country, according to media reports on Sunday. Police fired warning shots to disperse a mob that vandalised several homes and torched one

UAE sentences Khashoggi's ex-lawyer to 3 years in jail

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DUBAI, JULY 17

THE UAE has sentenced the former lawyer of Jamal Khashoggi — the dissident Saudi journalist who



Jamal Khashoggi

was killed at Saudi Arabia's consulate in Istanbul in 2018 — to three years in prison on charges of money laundering and tax evasion.

The lawyer, US citizen Asim Ghafoor, was also ordered to pay a fine of USD 816,748 stemming from his in absentia conviction, the UAE's state-run WAM news agency reported, adding he would be deported after completing his sentence. Ghafoor's lawyer dismissed the charges as "absolutely not accurate at all".

"I'm just hoping for a fair trial. I hope there's no political motivation here," his US-based lawyer Faisal Gill said. "He had never heard anything about these charges and all of a sudden he's put in jail."

Emirati state-run media said American authorities had requested the UAE's help with an investigation into Ghafoor's alleged tax evasion and suspicious money transfers in the Emirates.

Gill cast doubt on that claim, saying, "If the US had anything against him, why wouldn't they just deal with it in the US?"

US-based human rights watchdog DAWN said Ghafoor was in transit to Istanbul on Thursday to attend a wedding when plainclothes Emirati agents scooped him up.

Tory voters feel Sunak will be a good PM

ADITI KHANNA
LONDON, JULY 17

ALMOST HALF of the voters for the UK's governing Conservative Party believe Rishi Sunak will make a good Prime Minister, according to the results of a new opinion poll on Sunday.

The Sunday Telegraph reported that the JL Partners poll of more than 4,400 people found that 48 per cent of those who backed the Tories in the 2019 general election felt the British Indian former Chancellor would be a good Prime Minister.

This is also the first poll that puts Foreign Secretary Liz Truss in second place, with 39 per cent backing her for Prime Minister and 33 per cent in favour of

of them in Sahapara village in Narail district on Friday evening, *bdnews24.com*, an online newspaper quoted Haran Chandra Paul, an inspector at the local police station, as saying.

The attackers also threw bricks at a temple in the village during the attack around 7:30pm, he said. They also broke the furniture inside the temple.

Haran said a young man posted something offensive on Facebook, triggering anger among Muslims. Police took his father to the police station after a search for the young man failed to trace him.

The situation was normal at night, said the police inspector. Narail Superintendent of Police Prabir Kumar Roy said the law enforcers were working to keep the situation under control.

"We're investigating the incident. Those responsible for the violence will face action. The situation is normal for now," Roy said.

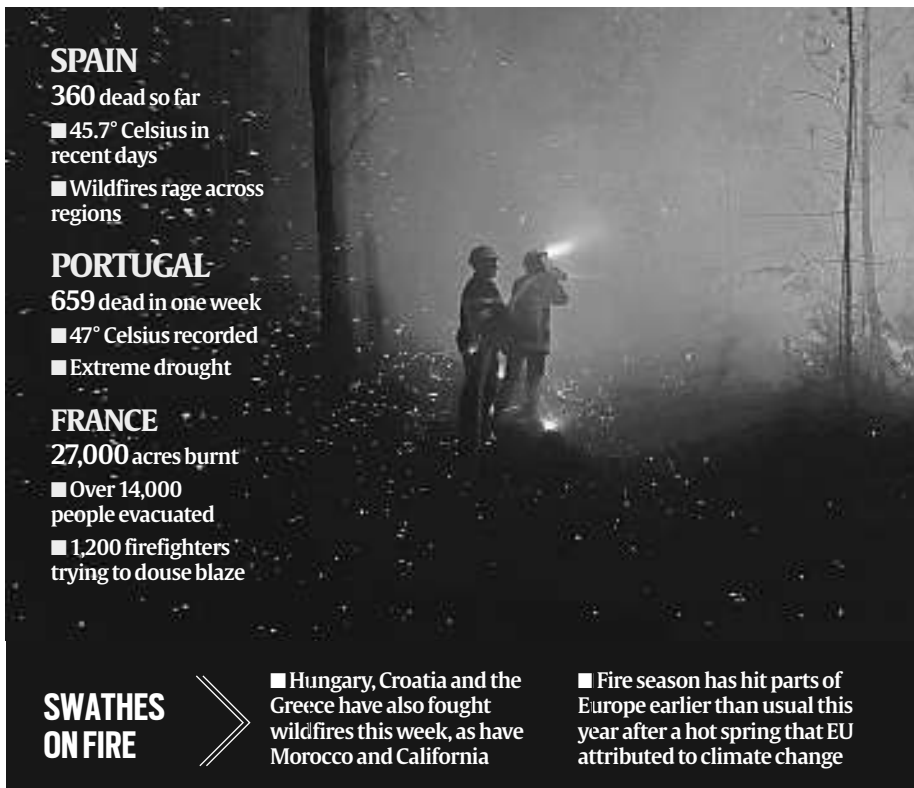
Police were deployed in the area to prevent further violence, *The Daily Star* reported.

"After one group looted all our valuables, another group came and found our door open. As there was nothing left to loot,

they set our home on fire," the paper quoted Deepali Rani Saha, a resident of Sahapara village, as saying.

A former Dighalia Union Parishad said most of the able-bodied people have left the village after the attack. "Almost all houses are locked. Only the elders of some families are home. They too are scared," she said.

"Police are on guard in the village, but we cannot trust them," the newspaper quoted Shibnath Saha, president of the village's Radha-Govinda temple, as saying.



SPAIN

360 dead so far

■ 45.7° Celsius in recent days

■ Wildfires rage across regions

PORTUGAL

659 dead in one week

■ 47° Celsius recorded

■ Extreme drought

FRANCE

27,000 acres burnt

■ Over 14,000 people evacuated

■ 1,200 firefighters trying to douse blaze

SWATHES ON FIRE

■ Hungary, Croatia and the Greece have also fought wildfires this week, as have Morocco and California

■ Fire season has hit parts of Europe earlier than usual this year after a hot spring that EU attributed to climate change



POPE FRANCIS EXPRESSES PAIN

CANADA TRIP 'PILGRIMAGE OF PENANCE'

Pope Francis has he hopes his coming trip to Canada from July 24 to 30 can help heal the wrongs done to indigenous people by Roman Catholic priests and nuns who ran abusive residential schools.

ATTACKS INTENSIFY IN DONBAS

Russian missiles hit key city in southern Ukraine

HANNA ARHIROVA
& CARA ANNA
VINNYTSIA (UKRAINE)

RUSSIAN MISSILES hit industrial facilities at a strategic city in southern Ukraine Sunday as a funeral was held for a 4-year-old girl killed in an earlier deadly strike elsewhere in the country. Liza, who had Down syndrome, was en route to see a speech therapist with her mother when a Russian missile struck the city of Vinnytsia in central Ukraine on Thursday. At least 24 people were killed, including Liza and two boys aged 7 and 8.

On Sunday, more Russian missiles struck industrial facilities in the strategic southern city of Mykolaiv, a key shipbuilding center in the estuary of the Southern Bug river. There was no immediate information about casualties.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Lt. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said Sunday that Russian missiles destroyed a depot for anti-ship Harpoon missiles delivered to Ukraine by NATO allies, a claim that couldn't be independently confirmed.

The British Defense Ministry said Sunday that Russia is moving manpower and equipment between Kherson, Mariupol and Zaporizhzhia. It said the Russians also are increasing their security measures around Melitopol.

It added: "Given the pressures on Russian manpower, the reinforcement of the south



A damaged building in Chuhuiv town in Kharkiv. Reuters

whilst the fight for the Donbas continues indicates the seriousness with which Russian commanders view the threat."

The bombings in south apart. Russia has so far focused its efforts on trying to take control of Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland of Donbas, where the most capable and well-equipped Ukrainian forces are located.

Ukraine says it still controls two small villages in Luhansk region, one of the two provinces that make up Donbas, and are successfully fending off Russian attempts to advance deeper into Donetsk.

The Ukrainian military's General Staff said that Ukrainian troops thwarted Russian attempts to advance toward a key stronghold in Donetsk. **AP**

EXPLAINED

A strategic war goal

THE RUSSIAN military has declared a goal to cut off Ukraine's entire Black Sea coast all the way to the Romanian border. If successful, such an effort would deal a crushing blow to the Ukrainian economy and trade and allow Moscow to secure a land bridge to Moldova's separatist region of Transnistria, which hosts a Russian military base.

CALLS FOR EARLY GENERAL ELECTIONS

In first poll after his ouster, Imran's PTI wins by a landslide

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAHORE, JULY 17

OUSTED PM Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf on Sunday made a 'clean sweep' in the crucial Punjab assembly by-polls, in a major setback to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif whose Chief Minister son Hamza Shehbaz is all set to lose his post.

The election for the CM will be held on July 22 on the Supreme Court's order and PTI-PMLQ joint candidate Chaudhary Parvez Elahi is likely to the new chief minister of politically crucial province Punjab.

The ruling PML-N of the Sharifs has accepted its defeat and even congratulation PTI Chairman Khan for 'landslide victory' in the by-polls.

"We respect the mandate of the people. Now we ask the PTI-PMLQ to form the government in Punjab," the Prime Minister's spokesperson Malik Ahmad Khan said.

To a question whether Prime Minister Shehbaz would dissolve the National Assembly to call early general elections, he said: "The PML-N leadership will decide about it in consultation with its allies."

PML-N vice president Maryam Nawaz also accepted her party's defeat.

Senior PTI leader Asad Umar said Khan would announce the party strategy after a meeting of the core committee on Monday. He said the ruling PML-N is left with only one option and that is "immediately calling for fresh general elections."



Thanking the people, Imran Khan's party called the victory a historic decision 'in this struggle for true freedom' @PTIofficial

GREECE CRASH

8 killed, experts comb site for explosives

REUTERS
ATHENS, JULY 17

A UKRAINIAN cargo plane carrying munitions from Serbia to Bangladesh crashed near the city of Kavala in northern Greece late on Saturday, killing the crew members on board, Serbian authorities and Meridian airline said on Sunday.

Drone images from the scene showed smouldering debris from the Antonov An-12 aircraft strewn in fields. Greek authorities said there were eight crew members on board and a Ukrainian foreign ministry spokesman said they were all Ukrainian citizens.

Ukrainian-based airline Meridian, which operated the aircraft, said all the crew members were killed in the crash.

Serbia's defence minister said the plane was carrying 11.5 tonnes of products, including mortar and training shells, made by its defence industry. The buyer of the cargo was the defence ministry of Bangladesh, he said.

Denys Bogdanovych, Meridian's general director, confirmed Serbia's account of events. "This is not related to Ukraine or Russia," Bogdanovych said.

A senior source at Jordan's civil aviation regulatory commission denied initial reports that the plane was headed to Jordan. The source said that its flight itinerary included a stopover in Jordan's Queen Alia international airport.

It was also due to stop in Riyadh and Ahmedabad in India.

DISPUTE HAS DIVIDED dos SANTOS'S FAMILY, COULD DECIDE FATE OF HIS PARTY

Dead but not buried, ex-President's body sparks cross-continental fight

GILBERTONETO,
JOSÉ BAUTISTA
& LYNSEY CHUTEL
LUANDA, JULY 17

EVEN IN death, Angola's long-time ruler, José Eduardo dos Santos, is at the center of political infighting.

The former president died in Barcelona on July 8 at the age of 79, but when and where he will be buried has set off a cross-continental fight that has pitted the Angolan government and his widow against some of his adult children.

José Eduardo dos Santos's death came just weeks before a

crucial election. Angola's governing party and current president, João Lourenço, along with dos Santos's widow, want to bring his body home for a state funeral and burial in a Soviet-style mausoleum — the kind of spectacle that could rally support for a party struggling to stay in power.

But his daughter Welwitschia dos Santos is pushing for a private funeral and a discreet grave site in Spain, where his children can visit. She says she has the support of some of her siblings who, like her, face accusations of corruption in Angola and could be arrested if they return. They could also be

trying to parlay the return of their father's body to regain their place in Angola's political elite.

With both sides fighting it out in a Spanish court, it is now up to a judge in Barcelona to decide the feud.

The outcome could sway the August election in Angola, a country rich in oil and minerals on the west coast of southern Africa.

"People are just trying to use the body and all these related issues to advance their own personal agendas," said Augusto Santana, a political analyst in Angola. He added that the incumbent president wants to use the death "for electoral purposes."



With his body still in Spain, dos Santos's portrait was the official focus of mourning in Luanda last week. AP

poses," and the children to negotiate "the dropping of accusations related to corruption."

dos Santos, one of Africa's longest-serving leaders, was a towering figure in Angola for nearly four decades.

To his supporters, many of whom entered Angola's money elite, he shepherded the country out of violent turmoil to make it one of the world's largest oil producers, its coastal capital dotted with skyscrapers.

But to his many detractors, he was a ruthless dictator who suppressed democracy and oversaw an economy choked by corruption, with most Angolans living

on less than \$2 a day.

dos Santos had been living in self-imposed exile in Barcelona for three years. According to Welwitschia dos Santos, popularly known as Tchizé, he had said he wanted to be buried there.

His handpicked successor, Lourenço, who came to power in 2017, had turned on him, blaming the dos Santos administration for Angola's economic malaise. Lourenço and dos Santos attempted a rapprochement last year. dos Santos returned to Angola and was set to appear at the party's conference. But then he learned that his son José Filomeno dos Santos would

be sentenced to five years in prison for embezzling the state's sovereign fund.

Angola held a seven-day mourning period for its former leader. In lieu of a casket, a large portrait of dos Santos was erected in a government plaza, with a red carpet leading up to it while uniformed soldiers stood guard.

But the fight over dos Santos's remains is of little concern to ordinary Angolans.

"Do you know how much my husband and I earn?" asked Avenina de Vasco, 37, a street cleaner. "I don't care whether he is buried here or in Europe or America." **NYT**

12 ECONOMY

HUSSAIN HAQQANI, APARNA PANDE IN OPINION PIECE

US 'must be alarmed' by foreign cos exiting India: Hudson Institute dirs

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JULY 17

THE IMPACT of multiple major global corporations pulling out from India on the country's foreign investment climate could be amplified by the broader geopolitical implications of these exits, given that several of these companies are based in the US. From automobile companies such as Ford, General Motors and Harley Davidson to Citibank, Holcim, Carrefour, and Metro AG, a string of global companies have either exited, scaled down or are working on pulling out of India.

Notably, while some of these companies have either cited poor competitive position or global business strategies, others have had long-running tiffs with law enforcement and tax authorities.

In an opinion piece published by *The Hill*, Washington-based Hudson Institute directors Hussain Haqqani and Aparna Pande have posited that the Joe

Biden administration "must be alarmed" by the decisions of several foreign corporations to either pull out of the Indian market or put their long-term plans on hold. This assumes significance, particularly, because for years the US has hoped to enable China's rise "as a way of checking China's growing power," they wrote.

The authors also argued that Western democracies, which see India as a natural ally, believe that India would be able to deliver on its economic and military potential only if it attains higher growth rates — something that would only be possible "with larger inflows of foreign investment and further opening of India's markets". In the year ending March 2022, India saw foreign direct investment inflows of \$58.77 billion, marginally down from \$59.64 billion a year ago.

Last year, the Indian government took steps to address some of the long-standing tax disputes with foreign companies in an effort to repair its damaged repu-

FDI FLOWS

■ In the year ending March 2022, India saw foreign direct investment inflows of \$58.77 billion, marginally down from \$59.64 billion a year ago.

tation as an investment destination. The government had announced rules, which when adhered to, will lead to the Centre withdrawing tax demands raised using the 2012 retrospective tax law and any tax collected in the enforcement of such demand being paid back. The retrospective tax law had an impact on corporations such as UK telecom giant Vodafone Plc, energy company Cairn Energy Plc, pharmaceuticals company Sanofi and brewer SABMiller, now owned by AB InBev.

However, a number of disputes still fester. As per a *Reuters*

report last week, French spirits group Pernod Ricard, in a letter to the Prime Minister's Office, has noted that three-decade old tax disputes with authorities on valuing liquor imports has inhibited fresh investment and its current business.

The sale of Swiss cement-maker Holcim's India assets to the Adani Group was also preceded by fines amounting to over Rs 2,300 crore by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Holcim's India companies — ACC and Ambuja Cements. The fines will be paid by the new owner.

Further, in May, Ford, which had already announced that it will stop selling its cars in India, retracted its plans to manufacture and export electric vehicles from India — a plan it had announced only a few months earlier.

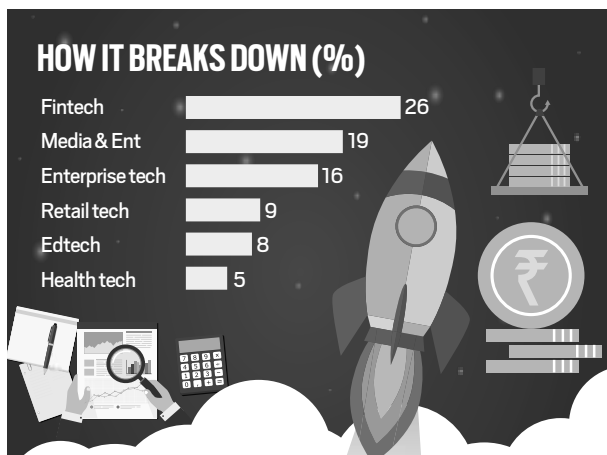
In a 2021 report on India's investment climate, the US State Department noted that India remained a challenging place to do business. "New protectionist

measures, including increased tariffs, procurement rules that limit competitive choices, sanitary and phytosanitary measures not based on science, and Indian-specific standards not aligned with international standards, effectively closed off producers from global supply chains and restricted the expansion in bilateral trade," the report said.

Authors of *The Hill* piece also said despite the challenges, India's large size and location continue to make it an attractive market for foreign businesses. "Access to the large Indian consumer market is a dream, as is the hope for a stake in the upgradation of India's civilian and military infrastructure... India's current rate of economic growth is woefully inadequate for India's domestic goals as well as the objective of becoming a serious rival to global economic juggernaut, China. The latter makes India's economic policies a strategic concern for US policymakers," they wrote.

'Sequoia, Tiger Global lead startup funding in Apr-Jun'

Sequoia Capital and Tiger Global led funding in Indian startups during April-June, Nasscom said in a report



April-June quarter saw only four unicorns — neobanking firm Open, SaaS platform LeadSquared, edtech start-up PhysicsWallah and online beauty products marketplace Purple

January-March period had witnessed creation of 16 new unicorns, which dropped to only four in the reporting quarter due to decline in fund inflows into the Indian startup space

About 17% drop in investment into Indian tech startups, to \$6 billion, in April-June 2022 owing to macroeconomic slowdown

60% of the investments by Tiger Global and Sequoia were made in the growth stage of the startups

Of Tiger Global's investments, 40% were in the fintech sector and 20% in the enterprise technology domain. For Sequoia, enterprise technology accounted for about 25% of the funding

MAJOR INVESTORS

■ Sequoia Capital
■ Tiger Global
■ Alpha wave
■ Accel

Source: Nasscom/PTI

CURRENTLY HOLDS MD-CEO POST AT BSE

Chauhan to be NSE MD & CEO

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JULY 17

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has approved the appointment of Ashishkumar Chauhan as the next Managing Director and CEO of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), the country's largest stock exchange.

Chauhan is currently the MD and CEO of the BSE and his tenure will end in November this year. He will join in place of Vikram Limaye whose five-year tenure ended on July 15.

Chauhan is one of the founders of the NSE where he worked from 1992 to 2000. At the NSE, he was involved in setting up India's first fully automated screen-based trading system and first commercial satellite communications network.

This is Chauhan's second



Ashishkumar Chauhan File

tenure in the BSE and under SEBI guidelines, a candidate cannot be appointed as MD & CEO for more than two tenures. BSE is also searching for a new CEO in place of Chauhan.

As per Sebi norm, the MD and CEO of a stock exchange has to apply and compete with other candidates for the top job after the completion of the five-year term. Limaye was appointed the NSE chief in July 2017 following the

exit of Chitra Ramkrishna amid the probe into co-location scam.

According to market observers, the priority of Chauhan will be to implement fair and ethical corporate and market governing practices at the NSE, which was hit by a series of scandals. He will also have to prepare the exchange for the much-delayed IPO.

Market regulator had earlier penalised Limaye's predecessors Ravi Narain and Chitra Ramkrishna for alleged lapses in corporate governance during the appointment of its group operating officer Anand Subramanian. In 2019, NSE was also penalised for giving preferential access to some stock brokers between 2012-2014 through their co-location facility.

Earlier in March, NSE, the largest derivatives exchange in the world, invited applications for the MD & CEO position.

MARKET WATCH

SIX OF TOP-10 COS LOSE M-CAP

New Delhi: Six of the 10 most valued firms suffered a combined erosion of Rs 1,68,260.37 crore from their market valuation last week, mainly dragged down by IT major TCS amid an overall weak trend in the equity market. **PTI**

INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL MANAGER INDIA AT FINNAIR

'Own operations a priority, there may be opportunity to have partner in India'

HELSINKI-BASED LEGACY airline Finnair is set to expand its services in India by adding a flight to Mumbai next month, as it also continues to look beyond Delhi and Mumbai for other destinations in the country, SAKARI ROMU, general manager India for Finnair, told PRANAV MUKUL in an interview. Romu also spoke about the airline's plans to look for a local partner in India, and on the potential re-emergence of low-cost long-haul travel. Edited excerpts:

You mentioned that your flights to China have reduced from 40 per week to just one. Where is this surplus capacity being deployed?

If you look at the time before Covid, we had around 370 daily departures, and this year, we are flying about 70 per cent of that on our own, 10 per cent we have been able to wet-lease to British Airways and Lufthansa Group. And by winter of 2023, we will be above 80 per cent but not 100 per cent.

Within India, are you looking at destinations other than Delhi and Mumbai?

We are looking but nothing concrete yet. But certainly, we are making the calculations, but that's normal business for an airline.

Are you looking at destinations from where you're getting traffic from into hubs like Delhi and Mumbai?

At the moment, we do not have a local airline partner in India. I think we have been successful, and I would like to see a good airline partner in India that would help in any way. But that's not something we can't live without. Demand just from Delhi and surrounding areas is taking up our capacity, and it's picking up. If you look at the other end, there was a strong trend before Covid, the travel to Scandinavian destinations, Helsinki and Baltic destinations from India was increasing strongly — by about 40 per cent every year. That's something, which will recur. About 15 per cent of our customers are



Sakari Romu

Finnish visiting India, and if we look only Finland as the destination, about 10 per cent of our customers are Indians visiting only Finland, and all the others are transfer, where the most important destination is the US.

So in the medium term, what would be the priority for Finnair to go to other destinations in India — having an airline partner or flying directly?

In my opinion, we should look for help or have a good co-operation with a partner. But first come our own operations. At a certain point, there might be an opportunity to have a partner in India.

Because of the higher oil prices and the longer flying time for Finnair, how are you dealing with the fare part of business?

We are trying to effect our prices but finally it is the Indian customer who decides what is the correct price for Finnair and we really have to ensure our

prices are set according to the market.

Finnair has a business class fare with no baggage allowance. That is quite unusual...

That is something I have had lot of discussions about. Especially in China and also India, probably the market has not experienced that kind of product, where the customer is only looking for a comfortable in-flight experience. In Europe, and the US, it is very common — no luggage, no change fees, but you're travelling on business class. But the market in India is not ready for that. It is not something very new. We've had such products in Europe for years.

But how has the Indian customer responded to this fare offering?

We will do a study and make changes to this product, and we have faced the same cases in other markets and in some markets, we have taken out the product totally. But I think, India will be also ready in the near future, where people are buying the cheapest possible business class fare. Maybe it is too new for India right now"

where people are buying the cheapest possible business class fare. Maybe it is too new for India right now.

The Airbus A321XLR is coming out soon and it is expected to change the dynamics of medium to long-haul low-cost travel. How does a full-service airline respond to this scenario?

I think especially now, if we think about making an airline profitable or making a certain route profitable, you can count on passengers but cargo also has a very big role. All those light version of flying impacts opportunities for cargo revenues. Cargo has always played a big role in our business, from India as well.

MARKETS WATCH
FOREIGN PORTFOLIO INVESTORS

FPIs in selling mode, pull out ₹7.4K cr from equities in July so far

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, JULY 17

FOREIGN INVESTORS continue to be cautious about the Indian equity market and have pulled out over Rs 7,400 crore this month so far amid sustained strengthening of the dollar and increasing concerns over a recession in the US.

This comes following a net withdrawal of Rs 50,203 crore from equities in June.

While foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have slowed down their pace of selling, this does not indicate a change in trend as there has not been any significant improvement in the underlying drivers, said Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar India.

There has been an exodus of foreign funds from the Indian equity market over the last nine months.

"Given the uncertainty in the forex market and the sustained strengthening of the dollar, FPIs are unlikely to turn aggressive buyers in the Indian market and at higher levels they may again turn sellers," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

Going forward, FPI flows will remain volatile in the emerging markets on account of rising geopolitical risks, rising inflation and tightening of monetary policy by central banks, Shrikant Chouhan, Head-Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities, said.

According to data with depositories, FPIs pulled out a net



The BSE, Mumbai File

amount of Rs 7,432 crore from Indian equities during July 1-15. While there have been sporadic net inflows by FPIs last week, the broader trend continues to be cautious, Srivastava added.

FPIs withdrew a net Rs 50,203 crore from equities in June. This was the highest net outflow since March 2020, when they had pulled out Rs 61,973 crore. With the latest pull out, net outflow by FPIs from equities this year so far has reached around Rs 2.25 lakh crore — a record high. Before this, they withdrew Rs 52,987 crore in the entire 2008, data showed.

According to Chouhan, Indian equities witnessed weakness as global inflation prints remained elevated, concerns of US recession increased, dollar index continued its sharp rally and Q1 results of large IT companies were weaker than expected.

Rupee has touched 80 per dollar mark briefly during the week, highlighting the trouble RBI faces on controlling the currency, said Vijay Singhania, chairman of TradeSmart. **WITH PTI**

BRIEFLY

Fuel demand

New Delhi: India's demand for petrol and diesel fell in the first half of July over the previous month as the onset of monsoon chipped away consumption in some sectors and restricted mobility, preliminary data showed.

Gulf remittance

Mumbai: The share of inward remittances from Gulf nations dipped sharply during 2020-21 on account of the economic stress created by the Covid pandemic, said an RBI article. On the other hand, advanced economies like the US, the UK and Singapore emerged as important sources for the country for remittances. **PTI**

FROM TODAY

Prepacked, labelled cereal, pulses, flour weighing up to 25 kg to attract 5% GST

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JULY 17

THE CENTRAL Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on Sunday said single packages of food items like cereals, pulses and flour weighing up to 25 kg will be considered as 'pre-packaged and labelled', and liable to five per cent GST from July 18.

It also clarified that if a retail shopkeeper supplies in loose quantity the item bought from a manufacturer or a distributor in a 25-kg pack, such sale to consumers will not attract GST.

The CBIC on Sunday night issued a set of frequently asked

The CBIC said GST will apply on a package that contains multiple retail packages

questions (FAQs) on GST applicability on 'pre-packaged and labelled' goods, just a day before the five per cent GST on such items becomes applicable.

In the context of food items (such as pulses, cereals like rice, wheat, flour etc), the supply of specified pre-packaged food articles would fall within the purview of the definition of 'pre-packaged commodity' un-

der the Legal Metrology Act, 2009, if such pre-packaged and labelled packages contained a quantity up to 25 kilogram (or 25 litres).

"It is clarified that a single package of these items (cereals, pulses, flour etc.) containing a quantity of more than 25 Kg/25 litre would not fall in the category of pre-packaged and labelled commodity for the purposes of GST and would therefore not attract GST," it said.

The CBIC said the supply of pre-packed atta meant for retail sale to ultimate consumer of 25 Kg shall be liable to GST. However, supply of such a 30-kg pack thereof shall be exempt

from levy of GST.

The board also said that GST would apply on a package that contains multiple retail packages, for example a package containing 10 retail packs of flour of 10 kg each, the CBIC said.

It said for the purpose of GST, "pre-packaged commodity" would mean a commodity which, without the purchaser being present, is placed in a package of whatever nature, whether sealed or not, so that the product contained therein has a pre-determined quantity.

Any such supply which requires declaration under the Legal Metrology act would attract GST, it said. **WITH PTI**

ONLY @ CWG

The Commonwealth of Irony

The Games were pioneered by a Canadian sports journalist due to perceived American arrogance, but now seem a relic from a bygone era

SRIRAM VEERA
JULY 17

THE GREAT irony about the Commonwealth Games is that Britain nearly didn't participate in the first-ever edition, called the British Empire Games, in 1930. Now, its existence itself is an irony in the post-colonial world of 2022, with a stale stench of a relic about it.

But the story of its origin is a fascinating tale of perceived American arrogance; one man's, a Canadian's, hurt that transformed it into a grand vision; persistence during the Great Depression; jugaad; grace; and pride.

It was all kickstarted by a sports journalist but before we get to that remarkable man, the Canadian scribe and athletics coach Melville Marks Robinson (popularly known as Bobby Robinson), let's play potential scenes from the trailer if a movie was ever made on the Games.

Perhaps, three scenes might play out. An overhead drone shot might whizz over a statue in Vancouver that captures the dramatic moment from the 1954 Games, famously known as The Miracle Mile, when the leader John Landy looked over his left shoulder at the same instant when Roger Bannister overtook him on his right, just a few yards out from the finish.

Both finished under 4 minutes, once thought improbable. A photographer, Charlie Warner, who instinctively positioned himself at that exact spot to capture one of sport's great pictures, would become a legend. A statue based on that photo still stands in Vancouver. Landy would mine into biblical myths to say, "When Lot's wife looked back, she was turned into a pillar of salt. When I looked back, I was turned into a pillar of bronze!" Incidentally, it was the first race that had two athletes finish the mile-run under four minutes.

The second scene could well be a gruesome sight. A grim close-up of bare-chested high-jumper Emmanuel Ifeajuna, Nigeria's first international sporting hero at the 1954 Olympics, facing a death squad.

After quitting sport, he co-led a military coup and according to the official version though disputed, killed the country's first

prime minister, then tried to end a civil war, but would die, shot dead at close range.

With his head slumped to his chest, with hundreds of hysterical watchers shouting 'shoot them, shoot them', Ifeajuna reportedly kept muttering that his death would not stop his fear that the federal troops would enter the city of Enugu, and they should still fight for a ceasefire. He was shot, and he was right, in a couple of hours, the federal troops had invaded, and his name, till date, remains controversial in Nigeria.

The third, at least for the Indian release of the movie, could be a visual of a man driving an ambulance during the Second World War in the UK. A close-up would reveal him to be wrestler Rashid Anwar, who won India's first medal in the event, a bronze at the 1934 Games, the first time India participated. A railways worker from Lucknow, and known as his 'swinging Boston Crab move', he shifted to the UK after the 1936 Olympics, wrestling professionally and died at Camden, London in 1983, a few months before India would win the cricket World Cup in that city.

But without Bobby Robinson and his annoyance at 'American arrogance', none of this would have happened.

The Empire Strikes Back

Bobby's annoyance began at the 1928 Olympics in Amsterdam. Robinson was covering the Games as a journalist for Hamilton Spectator from the city in Canada which would subsequently host the first British Empire Games. He had served in the First World War, was the manager of the national athletics team, and was known as an 'aggressive campaigner of agriculture' in Canada where he fought for the rights of individual vegetable and fruits sellers against the price-cuts enforced by wholesale buyers.

Robinson had his reasons to be frustrated with the Americans at the 1928 Olympics where Canada even lodged an official complaint. When Canada's great runner Percy Williams, who would decades later blow his own head with a shotgun, received his 100m medal, they didn't have the Canadian flag.

Then, the Americans were allowed to train on the track but the Canadians weren't. A disputed judges' decision in the women's



Perry, the 2022 CWG mascot, at the gates of the Buckingham Palace

Reuters

100m that went in the favour of an American when the Canadians thought there was no doubt that their lady had won it. And to top it all off, a direct insult by Avery Brundage, the then influential American in the Olympic movement, to a Canadian team official. All hell broke loose.

In his delightful book 'The Commonwealth Games: Extraordinary Stories Behind the Medals', Brian Oliver notes that the newspaper Toronto Star wrote of 'serious trouble brewing between the Canadian and US teams, between the Canadian representatives and the IOC'. At one point, Robinson vented his anger at Sigfrid Edstrom, the IOC official who would bridge the presidency between Henri de Baillet-Latour and Brundage. "We know the Canadians are getting the run-around here and we don't like it!"

Not long after, a more serious fallout occurred between the two countries. With the economy crumbling during the Great Depression, America would announce tariffs on Canadian goods, triggering a trade war and strengthening Canada's ties with the Empire. A loyalist to the Union Flag, Robinson de-

cided enough was enough. Made aware of the Englishman J Astley Cooper's unexecuted plan to stage a 'Pan-Britannic Festival' of culture and sport in the 1890s, Robinson decided the time was ripe to put that into action.

Britain too needed it at that point. As sports historian Katharine Moore put it: 'Political domination in the world by Great Britain was a rapidly fading memory and it was no longer the premier sporting power either. The Empire needed the Games in 1930 to reconfirm and redefine its unity. They could be seen as one step towards re-establishing its sagging prestige ... as the various Empire countries matured and blossomed in their own right.'

Teething problems

With economies in a downward spiral everywhere, funding proved to be an issue. Robinson asked the leaders of host city Hamilton for \$25000 to run the Games and a whopping \$160,000 to construct a stadium. Things turned worse when the American stock market crashed.

Other countries began to drag their feet.

Robinson offered \$5000 to coax Australia to send a team, and similar funds were given to a few other countries like New Zealand who arrived in the steamer 'Aorangi', picking up the Australians on the way. Scotland's travel expenses were paid by Scottish singer and comedian Henry Lauder.

Eight countries were roped in with travel subsidies but strangely, Britain was unmoved. They were worried on two fronts: finance and the potential of the Empire Games overshadowing the Olympics. Robinson shipped himself to England to persuade them and Britain was in, raising 8000 pounds through a public appeal.

In his newspaper The Hamilton Spectator, Robinson ran a plea to the patriotic hearts of the citizens. A public notice ran thus: "... Patronage of the Games should be considered in the light of a duty. To be pitied indeed is the man who is lackadaisical in his attitude towards this splendid venture. The fire of patriotism is not in him."

All the track events were sold out as people heeded the call, shelling out 35 cents for boxing matches to \$5 for a pass to all track events. Nearly 20,000 turned out for the opening ceremony. Over a lakh watched the rowing events. The Games was a box-office hit.

The 1930 Games was officially thrown open by Canada's Governor-General Viscount Willingdon, who said, "The greatness of the Empire is owing to the fact every citizen has inborn in him the love of games and sports."

Perhaps, so. Every citizen has also an in-born desire for freedom. A year later, Willingdon would be sent to India as the Viceroy, and would come to be known as the man who jailed Mahatma Gandhi and other Indian nationalists during the Salt Satyagraha. A pinch of salt that rocked the Empire.

Robinson introduced the concept of medal ceremonies on a tiered podium, an athletes village (over a dozen athletes were put up in a room, at a school), used volunteers to run the Games, and issued travel grants for athletes. None of these existed at the Olympics until then, and all of them would be copied in its later editions.

Perhaps, the best tribute to Robinson's desire came a few years back in 2017 when Donald Trump reportedly showed interest in the British proposal to join the Commonwealth as an 'associate'. The Games that started due to perceived American arrogance by a Canadian and which now feels like a relic of the past could well have an American standing on a Commonwealth podium. The irony is blowing in the wind.



EX COLONY BUT NOT A MEMBER

The US question

They were once a British colony but unlike most others, they aren't a part of the Commonwealth Games.

THE NON-participation of the US, unlike their neighbours Canada who are a Commonwealth Games powerhouse, has often attracted a few curious questions. One of the reasons, according to the Birmingham Mail, is war.

The Commonwealth is a group of 54 nations that were once part of the British Empire. The US became independent from the UK in 1776, after 13 American colonies broke away and declared themselves a republic, refusing to recognise the British monarch as their head of state.

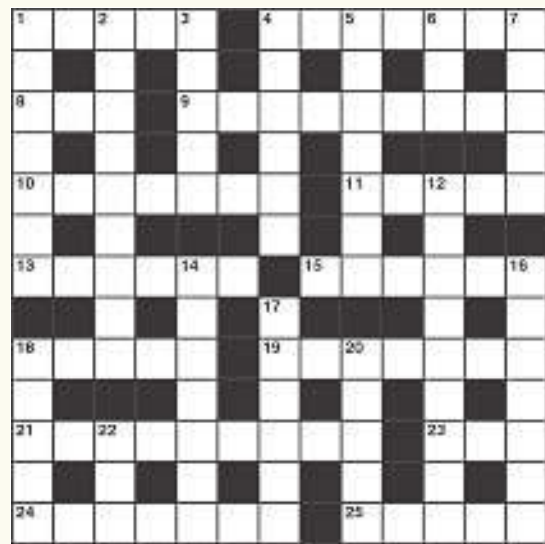
This – the need to recognise the king or queen as the head of state – was a prerequisite to remaining a part of the Commonwealth. However, after India became independent in 1947, it wanted to continue being a part of the Commonwealth while also becoming a republic. This prompted the London Declaration of 1949, which stated that 'republics and other countries could be part of the Commonwealth'.

Standing their ground

So, India continued to be a part of the Commonwealth – and thus, the CWG – even though it does not recognise the Queen as its head of state. In the case of the US, it was seen as a different case. "Since the USA practically battled against a foreign ruling monarch, their re-entry into the Commonwealth was unlikely," the Birmingham Mail reported.

In 2017, the Telegraph reported that the US could become an associate member of the Commonwealth but no step has been taken in that direction since.

CROSSWORD 4796



ACROSS
1 Worm cuffs (5)
4 A cleric angered about being questioned (7)
8 Confess one's love at two points (3)
9 Audible cheering is produced in a flash (9)
10 He is sorry for one who is late (7)
11 She's in a fine state (5)
13 Observe the water has now thawed? (6)
15 Be relevant to grizzly performing (4,2)
18 Vehicle to travel as freight (5)
19 Small article produced by an erratic knitter? (7)
21 Want to try? Only too willing (4,1,4)
23 Dad is right on the level (3)
24 Dead set about being relaxed (7)
25 Return to deposit gold sovereign (5)

DOWN
1 He will run away when the sun comes out (7)
2 Musical livewire (9)
3 Fresh loans required for a hairdressing business (5)
4 Consider changing gear on the road (6)
5 An improvement in relations (7)
6 Rumanian money that is left over (3)
7 Sort of lead mother will follow in principle (5)
12 Uneared income? (6,3)
14 To prevent overheating use this – not coal anyway (7)
16 It's expected to be unaffected (7)
17 Attacked the copper with acid (6)
18 Shouts out names (5)
20 In the meantime I'm after it (5)
22 Deceive a child (3)

Solutions Crossword 4796: Across: 1 Maintained, 8 Sheer, 9 Open-air, 10 Abelard, 11 Issue, 12 Easter, 14 Eraser, 17 Revue, 19 Orchard, 21 Wonders, 22 Ruler, 23 Settle down, Down: 2 Ageless, 3 Norma, 4 Avoids, 5 Needler, 6 Draws, 7 Free trader, 8 Scarecrows, 13 Element, 15 Shallow, 16 Morsel, 18 Vends, 20 Cured.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

is organized ____
-Edgard Varese (5,...5)

RRIOS



DFNSU



DEGLCU



ILLYDM



-Edgard Varese
Answer: Music is organized sound
SOLUTION: ORNIS, FUNDS, CUCUL, MILKDU

SUDOKU 4899

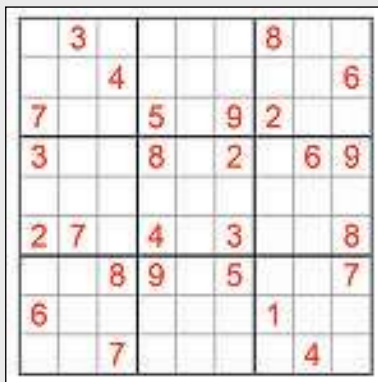
Difficulty Level 4s

Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy;
3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;
5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4898



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Today's Mercury-Uranus pattern is one of those magical planetary alignments that favours dreams and imagination, but lays out banana skins for those who allow confusion to creep in. Poetic aspirations come first and practical goals may have to wait.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Venus, your ruling planet, is teaming up with Saturn in a pattern which gives all sentimental, self-indulgent and creative Taurians a welcome shove in the right direction. But you may have to voluntarily renounce one commitment, if you are to make the space for a much better one.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

We'll start off with the good news: your stars are extremely prosperous. But here's the downside: romantic chaos and inspired confusion may be great fun but could result in costly mistakes. That's precisely why your main priority should be extra self-control.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

The typical Cancerian is a peace-loving creature, but you can still be easily provoked. Looking at the week as a whole, you may move from an idyllic illusion of perpetual harmony towards a realisation that a battle must be joined. And, when it comes, the struggle will be one of ideas rather than emotions.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Sometimes life is just not what it seems. Yet you have a huge amount going for you. This might be more obvious to other people than it is to you. That's why you have to trust in the future, and have faith that you are indeed on the right track.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Everything that takes place this week will be encouraged by the fact that Mercury, your ruling planet, is now in an increasingly lively condition. Your smart ideas will help you pick your way through a rapidly approaching emotional minefield.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

If the past few weeks have been free from disagreements then you're lucky. However, although, the nature of the game is changing, I don't think any of you will be unaware of the turbulent undercurrents building up this week. Keep your eye on the ball, Libra.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

You'll soon have a new and brighter perspective on the immediate future. In fact, if you're a typical mainstream Scorpio, you may rub your hands with glee at what is just around the corner. If you've spoken out against certain practical arrangements and restrictive obligations, you may soon be vindicated.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

You have little understanding of other people's intense feelings. You may even be rather bemused by this week's emotional events and general air of hysteria. Unless, that is, you have been here, done that and got the tee shirt. Experience counts for a lot.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Your emotional and romantic stars could not be better, so, if you're in difficulties, the key lies in your own complicated expectations and too high standards. Take other people at face value and assume that they are being straight with you, at least for now.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

The winds of change will be blowing, gently at first but then with great force. By all means relax, but retain a guarded approach to all developments, not just those which are obviously dodgy. If other people do end up putting pressure on you, then it's probably because you need them to give you a shove in the right direction.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You should be in your element this week, at least until Thursday or Friday. A series of major planetary patterns decrees that this is a week when Piscean qualities, imagination, intuition, romance and compassion, are dominant for everyone. And especially, of course, for you.

