*The Indian EXPRESS

CHANDIGARH, MONDAY, MAY 16, 2022 WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM PP EXCLUSIVE by P.P. Jewellers Explore our exclusive collection being showcased at **VOW'S & WOW'S** Luxury Wedding Exhibition Venue: The Lalit, Chandigarh Date: 15-16 May, 2022 GREAT WEEKEND OFFER MAKING CHARGES ON ALL 22KT. HALLMARK **GOLD COINS & GOLD JEWELLERY** NO POLISH / NO WASTAGE **BUYIGETI** CERTIFIED DIAMOND JEWELLERY

• 100% HALLMARK GOLD JEWELLERY • 100% CERTIFIED DIAMOND JEWELLERY

The Indian EXPRESS — JOURNALISM OF COURAGE —

indianexpress.com

PROPERTY

LEASE/RENTAL

Tolet SCO 2923-2924 FF SEC 22C/CHD washroom Pantry semi furnished 9815500129

Branch Name

0050197024-1

"IMPORTANT

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UCO BANK बैक

ZONAL OFFICE: SCO-113-114-115 MASTER TARA SINGH NAGAR, Jalandhar-144001 Ph.; 0181-5064050, 5064061 E-Mail: zo.jlndhar@ucobank.co.in

of Property b) Last Date & Time of submission of EMD &

Reserve Price

Earenest Money

Bid Increase Am

21,47,000/-

2.14,700/-

5,14,250/-

SALE NOTICE OF E-AUCTION SALE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES)

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation & Reconstruction of the Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002. (SARFAESI) read with proviso to Rule\$(8) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules,2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Gurarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officers of UCO Bank (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is "and " Whatever there is" basis on 27.06.2022 and invite bids from the intending purchasers for purchase of immovable properties mentioned hereunder.

a) Date of Demand Notice b) Amount due as per

of Possession

Name of Branch Head& Contact No.	& Guarantor	c) Date Notic d) Type
Dasuya Branch		a)18.06.2
Mr. Gourav Kumar Shrama Mob: 97964-48585	Mrs. Sukhwinder Kaur W/o	 b) Rs. 7, plus intt incurred

of Possession c) Date & Time of E-Auction a) 17.06.2022 between .83,713 as on 31,05,2021 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM plus intt. and incidental expenses b) On or before 24.05.2022 before 4:30 P.M. Sh. Manjit Singh before 4:30 P.M. All that Part and Parcel of Residential Property c) 04.05.2022 c) 27.06.2022 between 10,000/measuring 10 Marias comprised of Khasra No. 42//1/2 d) Physical Possession 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Part 10/89 Khewat No. 1168 Khatoni No. 1527 Hadbast No. 131 as per Jamabandi 2008-2009 situated at village Kainthan Tehsil Dasaya Distriction

Hoshiarpur: Title Deed/Wasika No. 1676 Dated 26:09:2012 in the name of Mrs. Sukhwinder Kaur Wo Sh. Manjit Singh. Bounded; On the Nortl by: Road, On the South by: Plot of Surinder Kaur, On the East by: Plot of Tarsem Singh, On the West by: Plo Gurnam Singh. 03.09.2021 a) 17.06.2022 between 51,42,500/-

Branch M/s S.B. Sales, Chandigarh		a) 03.09.2021 b) Rs. 9,77,430.12 inclusive of intt	a) 17.06.2022 between 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM		
Mr. Varun Sharma Mob : 85120-48280	Calculate Ark of Control Control	upto 28,02,2021 with further intt. plus charges thereon,less	b) On or before 24.06.2022 before 4:30 P.M.		
All that part and pa	roel of Commercial Plot	recovery,if any c) 07.01.2022 d) Symbolic Possession	c) 27.06.2022 between 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.		

ឌ្ឍតាឌតា 🕼 Union Bank

nertioned there against.

Date: 15:05:2022

recovery,if any c) 07.01.2022 d) Symbolic Possession 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M Martas as mentioned in sale deed No.3728 dated 02.11.1979 with Sub registrar Nawanshahar in the name of Ram Darshan, Surinder Kumar and Mr. Raj Kumar, Bounded as per sale deed: North: Godown of Dharmapal, South: Road leading to Dana Mandi, East: Godown of Jivan Singh West: Godown staircase Bal Sarup

Terms & Conditions: 1. The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement). Rules. 2002. The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS".3. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule herein above have been stated to the test of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for anyerror, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. 4. The auction sale will be "online through e-auction" portal https://www.mstcecommerce.com, 5. The intending Bidders / Purchasers are requested to register on portal (https://www.mstcauction.com) using their mobile number and email-id. Further, they are requested to upload requisite KYC documents. Once the KYC documents are verified by e-auction service provider (may take 2 working days), the intending Bidders/Purchasers has to transfer the EMD amount using online mode in his Global EMD Wallet by 24.06.2022 before the e-Auction Date and time in the portal. The registration, verification amount using online mode in his Global EMD Wallet by 24.06.2022 before the e-Auction Date and time in the portal. The registration, verification of KYC documents and transfer of EMD in wallet must be completed well in advance before auction, 6.Platform (https://www.mstcecommerce.com/) for e-Auction will be provided by e-Auction service provider M/S MSTC Limited having its Registered office at 225.C. A.J.C. Bose Road, Kolkata-700020 (contact Phone & Toll free Numbers 079-41072412/ 411/ 413 or 1800-103-5342). The intending Biodecs / Purchasers are required to participate in the e-Auction process at e-auction service provider's website https://www.mstcecommerce.com. This Service Provider will also provide online demonstration / training on e-Auction on the portal, 7. The Sale Notice containing the General Terms and Conditions of sale is available / published in the following websites /web page portal, (1) https://www.ibapi.in, (2) https://www.mstcecommerce.com/ 8. The intending participants of e-auction may download free of cost, copies of the Sale Notice, Terms & Conditions of e-auction. Help Manual on operational part of e-Auction related to this e-Auction from e-barri IBAP1 portal (https://www.ibapi.in) 9. Bidder's Global Wallet should have sufficient balance to "EMD amount) at the time of bidding, 10. During the e-auction bidders will be ellowed to offer higher bid in inter-se bidding over and above the last higher bid of the bidders. Ten(10) minutes time will be allowed to bidders to quote successive higher bid and if no higher bid is offered by any bidder after the expiry of ten minutes to the last highest bid, the e-auction shall be closed 11. It is the responsibility of intending Biodec(s) to properly read the Sale Notice. Terms & conditions of e-auction, Help Manual on operational part of e-Auction and follow them strictly. In case of any difficulty or need of assistance before or during e-auction, Help Manual on operational part of e-Auction by the Authorized Officer, only successful bidder will be infor secured asset will not be sold below the reserve price 14. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids, if not found acceptable or to postpone/cancel/adjourn/discontinue or vary the terms of the auction at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision in this regard shall be final 15. The sale certificate shall be issued in favor of successful bidder on deposit of full bid amount as per the provisions of the act 16. It shall be the responsibility of the bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the asset and specification before submitting the bid. The bidder inspect the property in consultation with the dealing official as per the details provided 17. All statutory dues/attendant charges /other dues including registration charges, stamp duty, takes etc. shall have to be borne by the purchaser 18. The Authorized Officer of the Bank shall not be responsible for any charge, len, encumbrances or any other dues to the Government or anyone else in respect of properties (E-Auctioned) not known to the bank. The intending Bidder is advised to make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances on the property including statutory liabilities, amears of property tax electricity dues etc. 19. The bidder should ensure proper internet connectivity, power back-up etc. The Bank shall not be liable for any disruption due to internet failure, power failure or technical reasons or reasons /contingencies affecting the e-auctions. 20. The successful bidder has to bear the TDS of 1% if the property value exceeds 50 lacs. 21. This notice is also to be treated as 15 days statutory sale notice to borrower and guarantor under Rule 9(1). Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules. 2002.

22. Incase of sole bidder the bid amount quoted in his/her bid form must be improved by at least one bid incremental value, lest the sale shall be cancelled/deferred 23. Sale will not be confirmed in the borrower tenders to the bank contractual dues along with other expenses prior to the Au

Model Town, Ludhiana

PLACE: DASUYA, NAWANSHAHAR DATE: 16.05.2022

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer for Union Bank of India, GTBH Branch, Ludhiana, Under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2012, and in secross of powers conferred under section 13/12) read with rule 3 of the Security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2020 issued a demand notice date as height under calling upon the Borrower(s) (Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the section for the section for the section of the s

The Borrowerts (Guaranton's) Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the Amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) Guaranton's Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Possession** of the property les described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him) her under section 13(4) of said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security interest Enforcement Rules on the data

The Borcower(st) Guaranton(st) Mortgagon(s) in particular & the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property-less and any dealings with the property-less will be subject to the charge of the **Union Bank of India, GTBH Branch, Ludhiana,** for the amount and

The Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset(s).

(RULE 8 (1)) POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

AUTHORISED OFFICER

ਦੀ ਮਾੜੀਵਾੜਾ ਪ੍ਰਾਣਿਮਰੀ ਸਹਿਕਾਰੀ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਬੈਂਕ ਨਿਮ:, ਮਾੜੀਵਾੜਾ ਫੇਨ ਨੰ: 01628-250951 ਦੀ ਮਾਛੀਵਾਰਾ ਪ੍ਰਾਇਮਰੀ ਸਹਿਕਾਰੀ ਖੇਤੀਬਾਰੀ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਸ਼ੈੱਕ ਲਿਮ: ਦੇ ਬੋਰਡ ਆਪ ਭਾਇਰੈਕਟਰਜ ਦੀ ਚੋਣ ਉਪ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਾਰ ਸਹਿਕਾਰੀ ਸਭਾਵਾਂ, ਨੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਵਲੋਂ ਪੱਤਰ ਨੰਬਰ। ਉਰਲ/ਪੋਸੀ ਰਕ-1/2117 ਮਿਤੀ-11/04/2022 ਪ੍ਰਵਾਨਿਤ ਜੋਨਾਂ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਮਿਤੀ 09/06/2022 ਨੂੰ ਹੋਣੀ ਨਿਜ਼ਚਿਤ ਹੋਈ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਚੋਣ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਕੋਆਪ੍ਰੇਟਿਵ ਸੁਸ਼ਾਇਟੀਜ਼ ਰੂਲਜ 1963 ਦੇ ਅਪੈੱਡਿਕਸ ਸੀ ਅਤੇ ਚੇਣ ਬਾਰੇ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਾਰ ਸਹਿਕਾਰੀ ਸਭਾਵਾਂ, ਪੰਜਾਬ, ਚੰਡੀਗੜ੍ਹ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਸਮੇਂ ਸਮੇਂ ਤੇ ਜਾਰੀ ਹਦਾਇਤਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਬੈਂਕ ਦੇ ਬਾਈਲਾਜ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ। ਜਿਸ ਵਿੱਚ 9 ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਮੈਂਬਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਚੋਣ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ। ਬਣਾਏ ਗਏ ਹਲਕੇ, ਬਾਂ ਜਿਥੇ ਵੋਟਾਂ ਪੈਣਗੀਆਂ, ਮਿਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਦਾ ਵੇਰਵਾ ਨਿਮਨਲਿਖਤ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਹੈ।

क्षेत्रं	ਵੰਦਵਾ	Def	HM*	лиги
1	ਮੈਂਬਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਚੋਣ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਜਾਰੀ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਆਖਰੀ ਮਿਤੀ	17,05.2022		
2	ਰਿਟਰਨਿੰਗ ਅਫਸਰ ਪਾਸ ਨਾਮਜਦਗੀ ਕਾਰਜ ਵਾਮਲ ਕਰਨ ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਸਮਾਂ	06.06.2022	9.00 AM 9° 11.00 AM	ਦਵਤਰ ਖੀ.ਏ. ਡੀ.ਬੀ. ਮਾਫ਼ੀਵਾਤਾ
3	ਨਾਮਜਦਗੀ ਪੇਪਰ ਦਾਖਲ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲੇ ਉਮੀਦਵਾਵਾਂ ਦੀ ਲਿਸਟ ਲਗਾਉਣਾ	06.06.2022	11.00 AM ₹ 11.30 AM	ਉਪਰੋਕਤ
4	ਨਾਮਜ਼ਦਗੀ ਬਾਰਜਾਤ ਤੋਂ ਇਤਰਾਜ ਫਾਇਲ ਕਰਨ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਸਮਾਂ	06.06.2022	11.30 AM 3" 01.00 PM	ਉਪਰੋਕਤ
5	ਨਅਜਦਗੀ ਕਾਗਜਾਤ ਤੋਂ ਇਤਕਾਜਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੁਣਵਾਈ	06.06.2022	01.00 PM 홍 03.00 PM	ਉਪਰੋਕਤ
6	ਨਮਜਦਗੀ ਕਾਰਜਾਂ ਦੀ ਪਰਤਾਲ	06.06.2022	03.00 PM ਤੋਂ 04.00 PM	ਉਪਰੋਕਤ
7	ਠੀਕ ਪਾਏ ਗਏ ਨਾਮਜਦਗੀ ਕਾਗਜਾਤ ਦੀ ਸੂਚੀ ਲਾਉਣ ਦਾ ਸਮਾਂ	06.06.2022	04.00 PM 8 04.30 PM	ਉਪਵੇਕਤ
8	ਨਾਮਜ਼ਦਕੀ ਕਾਰਜ ਵਾਪਿਸ ਲੈਣ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਾਂ	06.06.2022	04.30 PM ਤੋਂ 05.00 PM	Queas .
9	ਬਿਨਾਂ ਮੁਕਾਬਲਾ ਜੁਣੇ ਉਮੀਦਵਾਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਨਹੀਜੇ ਦਾ ਐਲਾਨ	06.06.2022	05.00 PM	ਉਪਰੋਕਰ
10	ਚੌਣ ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨ ਅਲਾਟ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ	07.06.2022	09.00 AM ぎ MA 06.90	ਉਪਰੋਕਤ
11	ਚੋਣ ਲੜ ਖਹੇ ਉਮੀਦਵਾਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਲਿਸਟ ਲਗਾਉਣਾ	07/06.2022	09.30 AM	- Gudan
12	ਬੋਲਟ ਪੇਪਰ ਛਪਵਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਰਾਖਵਾਂ ਦਿਨ	08.06.2022		- Grigara
13	ਵੋਟਾਂ ਪਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਮਿਸ਼ੀ	09.06.2022	01.00 PM	ध्यानिक स्टब्स्ट विस् विद्य स्टब्स स्टब्स वे (देव विश्व स्टब्स स्टब्स्ट)
14	ਵੋਟਾਂ ਦੀ ਗਿਣਤੀ	09.06.2022	ਵੋਟਾਂ ਪੈਣ ਤੋਂ ਤੁਰੰਤ ਬਾਅਦ	प्रवर्गितः स्टबार्थः विशे विशे स्टब्स् स्टब्स् ते । देव विभी स्टब्स् अनुसारः।
15	ਚੋਣ ਨਤੀਜੇ ਦਾ ਐਲਾਨ	09.06.2022	ਵੇਟਾਂ ਦੀ ਗਿਣਤੀ ਮੁਲੰਮਲ ਹੋਣ ਚਿਹਰੰਤ	ਰਿਟਰਨਿੰਗ ਅਫਸਰ ਵਜੋਂ ਐਸਲ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਵੇਗਾ।

	ਜੋਨ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਵੇ	ਟਾਂ ਪਾਉਣ ਸਬੰਧੀ	ਵੇਰਵਾ
ਜੋਨ ਦਾ ਨਾਂ	ਜਿਸ ਇਨ ਵੋਟਾਂ ਪੈਣਗੀਆਂ	ਵੋਟਾਂ ਪਾਉਣ ਦਾ ਸਮਾਂ	अधार
ਮਾਈਵਾਸ਼ਾ	09.06.2022	09.00 AM ≸ 01.00 PM	ਦੀ ਮਵੀਵਾੜਾ ਸ਼ਹੁਮੰਤਵੀ ਸਹਿਕਾਈ ਲੁਸਾਇਟੀ ਨਿਮ:, ਮਾਫੀਵਾੜਾ
ਬੰਟੀਆਂ	09.06.2022	09.00 AM 3* 01.00 PM	ਦੀ ਰਾਣਵਾਂ ਸ਼ਹੂਮੰਤਵੀ ਸਹਿਕਾਰੀ ਖੇਤੀਬਾਜ਼ੀ ਸਭਾ ਨਿਮ:, ਰਾਣਵਾਂ
ਮਾਟੇਵਾਲ (ਅਨਸੂਚਿਤ ਜਾਰੀ ਲਈ ਰਾਖਵਾਂ)	09.06.2022	09.00 AM 3' 01.00 PM	ਦੀ ਮਫੀਵਾਡਾ ਸ਼ਹੁਮੰਤਵੀ ਸਹਿਕਾਦੀ ਲੁਸਇਟੀ ਨਿਮ:, ਮਫੀਵਾਡਾ
ਜਸੇਵਾਲ	09.06.2022	09.00 AM 3° 01.00 PM	ਦੀ ਸੁਬਾਣਗਰ ਕਹੁਮੰਤਵੀ ਸਹਿਕਾਰੀ ਸੁਸਾਇਟੀ ਲਿਮ:, ਸੁਬਾਣਗਰ
Auris	09.06.2022	09.00 AM 3° 01.00 PM	ਦੀ ਜੋਹਵਾਲ ਬਹੁਮੰਤਦੀ ਸਹਿਕਾਰੀ ਖੇਗ਼ੀਕਾਰੀ ਸਭਾ ਲਿਮਾ, ਜੋਹਵਾਲ
ਰਾਮਕਤ (ਅੱਰਤਾਂ ਲਈ ਰਾਖਵਾਂ)	09/06/2022	09.00 AM 3° 01.00 PM	मी राभवत बॉमवत व्यूभेतरी मीरवाची वेशीवाजी सह सिम्बाहरभावत
ਹੋਈ ਕੋਟ	09.06.2022	09.00 AM ₹ 01.00 PM	शी रोडों बेट बयुमेननी मधिकची क्षेत्रोकची मना रिभाः, रोडों बेट
ਮਫੀਵਤਾ ਖਾਸ	09.06.2022	ਓ MA 00.00 M9 00.10	ਵੀ ਬੁਤਜ ਮਵਾਤ ਬਹੁਮੰਤਵੀ ਸ਼ਹਿਕਾਰੀ ਵੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਸਵਾ ਲਿਮਾ, ਬੁਰਜ ਪਵਾਤ
ਸ਼ੋਰਪੁਰ (ਅੰਗਰਾਂ ਲਈ ਰਾਖਵਾਂ)	09.06.2022	09.00 AM 중 01.00 PM	ਦੀ ਸ਼ੇਰਪੁਰ ਬਹੁਮੰਤਵੀ ਸ਼ਹਿਤਾਰੀ ਖੇਤੀਬਾਤੀ ਸਵਾ ਲਿਮ:, ਸ਼ੋਰਪੁਰ
	ਮਾਫੀਵਾਗਾ ਭਾਣੀਆਂ ਮਾਣੇਵਾਲ (ਅਨਸੂਚਿਤ ਜਾਰੀ ਨਸ਼ੀ ਗਾਖਵਾਂ) ਜਸੇਵਾਲ ਜੋਧਵਾਲ ਹਾਮਕਤ (ਅੱਰਤਾਂ ਲਈ ਰਾਖਵਾਂ) ਹੋਰਾਂ ਜੋਣ ਮਾਫੀਵਾਤਾ ਖਾਸ ਸੋਵਪੁਰ (ਅੰਗਰਾਂ	ਜੰਨ ਦਾ ਨਾਂ ਜਿਸ ਇਨ ਵੋਟਾਂ ਪੈਣਗੀਆਂ ਮਾਫ਼ੀਵਾਜ਼ਾ 09.06.2022 ਭਾਣੀਆਂ 09.06.2022 ਮਾਟੇਵਾਨ (ਅਨਸੂਚਿਤ 09.06.2022 ਜਸੰਦਾਨ (ਅਨਸੂਚਿਤ 09.06.2022 ਜਸੰਦਾਨ 09.06.2022 ਸੰਧਵਾਨ (ਅਰਤਾਂ 09.06.2022 ਹਾਮਕਤ (ਅੰਦਤਾਂ 09.06.2022 ਹਾਮਕਤ (ਅੰਦਤਾਂ 09.06.2022 ਮਾਫ਼ੀਵਾਤਾ ਖਾਸ 09.06.2022 ਮਾਫ਼ੀਵਾਤਾ ਖਾਸ 09.06.2022	ਮਾਡੀਵਾਬਾ (9.06.2022 09.00 AM ਤੋਂ 01.00 FM (9.06.2022 09.00 AM ਤੋਂ 01.00 PM

ਚੋਣ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਹਵਾਇਰਾਂ

. ਦੇਣ ਗੁਪਤ ਬੈਲਟ ਪੇਪਰ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ।

2. ਬੈੱਕ ਦੇ ਸੋਧੇ ਹੋਏ ਸ਼ਾਇਲਾਜ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਹਿੱਸੇਦਾਰੀ ਦੀ ਰਕਮ 500/- ਰੂਪਏ ਹੈ, 500/- ਰੂਪਏ ਤੋ ਘੱਟ ਹਿੱਸੇਦਾਰੀ ਵਾਲੇ ਮੈੱਬਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਵੋਟ ਪਾਉਣ ਦਾ ਹੱਕ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਏਗਾ।

. ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਡਿਕਾਲਟਰ ਮੈਂਬਰ ਬੈੱਕ ਦੀ ਪੂਬੰਧਕ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਦੀ ਚੋਣ ਵਿੱਚ ਚਿੱਸਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਲੈ ਸਕਦਾ ਅਤੇ ਨਾਂ ਹੀ ਉਹ ਵੱਟ ਪਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਪੁੰਤੂ ਬਿਫਾਲਟਰ ਮੈੱਬਰ ਮਿਤੀ 04.06.2022 ਸਾਮ 5 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ ਬੈੱਕ ਵਿੱਚ ਗਿਫਾਲਟਰ ਰਕਮ ਭਰ ਕੇ ਮੋਕੇ ਤੇ ਰਸੀਦ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਵੱਟ ਪਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। , ਹਰ ਇੱਕ ਜੰਨ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਇਕ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਮੈੱਬਰ ਚਣਿਆ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ ਅਤੇ ਵੋਟਾਂ ਪਵਾਨਿਤ ਜੰਨਾਂ ਅਨਸਾਰ ਹੀ

ਹੋਣਗੀਆਂ। . ਜੋਨ ਨੰ: 6 ਤੇ 9 ਐਰਤਾਂ ਲਈ ਰਾਖਵਾਂ ਰਖਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਜੋਨ ਨੰ: 3 ਅਨੁਸੂਚਿਤ ਜਾਤੀ ਮੈੱਬਰ ਲਈ ਰਾਖਵਾਂ ਰਖਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ।

.ਜੇਕਰ ਕੋਈ ਮੈੱਬਰ ਸੰਬੰਧਤ ਜੋਨ ਦੀ ਵੇਟਰ ਸੂਚੀ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੋਵੇਂ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਪੀ.ਏ.ਡੀ.ਸੀ. ਮਾਡੀਵਾਤਾ ਵਿੱਚ 500/- ਰੁਪਏ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਜੋਨ ਜਮਾਂ ਕਰਵਾ ਕੇ ਲੈ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। . ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਚੋਣ ਕੋਵਿਡ–19 ਦੇ ਤਹਿਤ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਰਕਾਰ/ਭਾਰਤ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਸਮੇਂ ਸਮੇਂ ਤੋ ਜਾਰੀ

ਹਦਾਇਤਾਂ ਜੋ ਕਿ ਚੋਣ ਸਮੇਂ ਲਾਗੂ ਹੋਣਗੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਇਨ ਬਿਨ ਪਾਲਣਾ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ। --ਸਹੀ-

ਚੇਣ ਮੈਨੋਜਰ, ਸਹਾਇਕ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਾਰ, ਸਹਿਕਾਰੀ ਸਭਾਵਾਂ ਸਮਝਾਲਾ

U.P. JAL VIDYUT NIGAM LIMITED

Shakti Bhawan Extn., 12th Floor, Ashok Marg, Lucknow-226001 e-Tender Notice No. 01/EE(Design)/2022-23

Online e-Tenders in two parts are invited from manufacturers or accredite representatives for Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 02 No 132 KV SF6 Circuit Breaker at Obra Hydro-electric Project, Obra, Sonebhadra (U.P.) as detailed below

1. Cost of Tender inclusive of GST @ 18% (Rs.): Rs. 3540/-

2. Earnest Money (Rs.): Rs. 21,000/-

3. Date of Opening (Part-I):13.06.2022 (at 14.30 hrs.)

4. Last date for submission of e-bids online: 10.06.2022 (upto 14.00 hrs.) Part-I of the e-bid shall contain uploaded techno-commercial bid along with documents in support of deposition of tender fee & earnest money (EMD). If EMD is submitted in form of BG then the original copy of same shall be submitted along with hard copy of techno-commercial bid documents. Part-II shall contain price bid. Tender can be downloaded from and uploaded on e-procurement website: www.etender.up.nic.in. Last date for submission of hard copy of techno-commercial bids shall be 13.06.2022 (upto 12.00 hrs.). Date of opening of price bid shall be intimated later. Undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof. Bidders should keep themselves updated in regard to publication of corrigendum (if any) by visiting e-procurement portal regularly. If the date of opening will be a

holiday, the tender shall be opened on next working day at the same time

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (DESIGN)

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Date of Date of Name of Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) Description of the Properties Amount due Mis Cm Knitwears through its Proprietor Sh | Land and Building measuring 100 | 04/08/2021 | 10/05/2022 | Rs. 50,64,689.37 lagdeep Sharma B-1/213/74/D/8, Street No. square yards comprised in Khasta No. 251- 262-265-1620/1315/287,1621/1315/28 10. New Kundan Puri, Lushiana, Punjab. 2, 1316/287,1617/266, 1613/260, Khata No. 297/324,328/337-332, as per the jamabandi Sh. Jagdeep Sharma, B-1/213/74/Di8, Street for the year 2009-10 Shuated in revenue estate of Mahaai Bagat, Lushiana bearing No. 10, New Kundan Puri, Lushiana, Punjab property No. B1/213/74/Di8, street No. 10, New Kundan Puri, Tehsi & District Lushiana. (Borrower & Mortgagor) 3. Sent Marrita Owned by Mr. Jagdeep Sharma, Boundaries: East-Neighbour, West-Neighbour, North-Sharma, B-1/213/74/Di8, Street No. 10, New Kundan Puri, Tehsi & District Lushiana. Borrower & Horigagor) 2. No.10, New Neighbour, South-Road. Kundan Puri Luchiana, Punjab (Guarantor). Place: Luchiana Sdi-Authorised Officer

युनियन बैंक Union Bank 317001

(2) RANJEET SINGH S/O RAGUVEER SINGH VILL-KAURI , KHANNA DISTT-LUDHIANA, PB-141401

REGIONAL OFFICE: 41/1, Walia Complex, Atam Nagar, Dugri Road, Ludhiana-141003

MEGA E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE ON 17.06.2022

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

DATE & TIME OF AUCTION 17.06.2022 BETWEEN 1.00 PM TO 5.00 PM (WITH 10 MINUTES UNLIMITED AUTO EXTENSIONS) LAST DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD ON OR BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT OF E-AUCTION

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Union Bank of India / Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties. The Online E-Auction will be held through web portal/website: www.mstcecommerce.com on the date and time mentioned above with unlimited extension of 10 minutes.

SR No	SR Name of the Branch IContact No. & Borrower's, Guarantoris & Mortgagoris, 1. Kharar Branch, Nh-21 Chandigarh 65. 11,19,615.2		Detail Description of Immovable Properties		
1.1 K			Land and building - residential admeasuring 81.25 sq yards , situated at H No 89 A , New Mata Gujri Avenue	. (i) 21,00,000/-	
	lain Road Desumajra-140301	+ interest & other	Village Bhago Majra, Tehail Kharar , District SAS Nagar , Punjab 140301.	(ii) 2,10,000/-	
1.140	RSHDEEP KAUR W/O RANJIT	expenses as on 30 04 2022	Vilage Bhago Majra, Tehali Kharar , District SAS Nagar , Punjab 140301. CERSAI Asset ID 200021121298. (Type of Possession - Symbol	(ii) 25,000i-	

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the SARFEASI Act & Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions: 1. The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" 2. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule here in above have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. 3. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website https://www.mstoecommerce.com on 17.06.2022 between 01:00 PM to 5:00 PM. For any information regarding above mentioned properties. Please contact to the concerned manager 4. For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer www.ibapi.in, www.mstcecommerce.com, https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in. This may also be treated as 30 days notice uls rule 8 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the borrower(s)/guarantor(s) and mortgagor(s) of the above said loan about the

holding of E-Auction sale on the above mentioned date. Date: 12.05.2022 Place: Mohali Authorised Officer: Union Bank of India

on detailed analysis

conclusion not an assumption

or the Indian Intelligent he Indian Express.

JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

MONDAY, MAY 16, 2022, CHANDIGARH, LATE CITY, 16 PAGES

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BIGGEST TEAM TITLE IN BADMINTON

Team India scales the peak with first ever Thomas Cup

Sen, Satwik-Chirag duo & Srikanth stun Indonesia in final

SHIVANI NAIK MUMBAI, MAY 15

THE VAGUE whiff of a dream turned to reality as the week wore on, and India inched closer to the impossible — Thomas Cup, the ultimate team title in badminton. A dozen players in Bangkok and their coaches, there and in India, believed throughout. It's a little secret that they've known for a month now: they were going to win the Thomas Cup. This was a date with destiny, meticulously envisioned and executed by India's most underrated and talented sportspersons - the men's badminton players.

Kidambi Srikanth, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, Lakshya Sen and HS Prannoy. They have travelled CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Kidambi Srikanth (centre) celebrates with teammates after winning his decisive Thomas Cup match against Indonesia's FULL COVERAGE, PAGE 16 Jonatan Christie on Sunday. AP

'This is the real World Cup... proud of this team win'



PULLELA GOPICHAND **SPECIAL TO THE EXPRESS**

THE MOST heartening aspect of India's Thomas Cup team today was watching Chirag Shetty-Satwiksairaj Rankireddy beat Mohammad Ahsan-Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo. All the previous times that our boys faced CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Gautam Adani with Holcim CEO Jan Jenisch in Ahmedabad, Sunday. PTI

Biggest infra materials deal: Holcim's India biz is Adani's for \$10.5 billion

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, MAY 15

THE ADANI group has acquired Zurich-based Holcim's cement business in India for \$10.5 billion (about Rs 81.000 crore) in action in the infrastructure and materials space.

Through its subsidiaries, Holcim holds 63.19% in Ambuia Cements Ltd and 54.53% in ACC Ltd (of which 50.05% is held through Ambuja Cements). This is the largest ever acquisition by Adani, which beat the JSW and

Aditya Birla groups to the deal. Holcim's exit from India follows several high-profile departures of multinational companies, including Ford, General Motors, Harley Davidson, MAN Truck, CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

WORLD

U.S.: GUNMAN KILLS 10 IN LIVESTREAMED **RACIST ATTACK**

INDIA LOOKS TO BOLSTER CULTURAL TIES TO NEPAL PAGE 12

CONG BRAINSTORMING SESSION ENDS

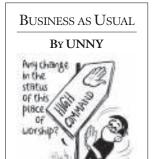
Rahul admits people connect lost, Sonia announces all-India yatra

MANOJCG UDAIPUR, MAY 15

HAVING SUFFERED staggering election defeats since 2014 under his leadership and that of his mother Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi on Sunday admitted that the Congress's "connection"

needs to be repaired urgently. To reestablish that connection, Sonia announced the party will undertake a Bharat yatra from October 2 this year. The party also announced a series of organisational reforms at the end of its three-day chintan

with the people is "broken", and



shivir here to bring new and young faces into leadership roles.

Action to be seen

> ADMISSION OF a "broken connection" and announcement of a Kanyakumari-to-Kashmir Yatra is acknowledgment of the need to go back to the people. But as always, the question of implementation remains.

CHINTAN SHIVIR: MORE REPORTS PAGE 8 **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

SECOND SUCH INCIDENT IN 8 MONTHS

Wo Sikh men shot dead in Pakistan

DIVYA GOYAL GOPAL LUDHIANA, MAY 15

TWO SIKH men were shot dead in Peshawar city in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan Sunday, local sources said. The local Sikh community identified the deceased as shopkeepers Ranjit Singh, 42, and Kuljeet Singh, 38. They were sitting at their shops at Batta Tal Chowk in Sarband area when two unidentified men arrived on a motorbike and opened fire, the sources said.

Satwant Singh, member of Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (PS-GPC), said it appeared to be a case of "targeted killings". "Both were turbaned Sikhs who were sitting at their shops. The killers came on a bike and opened fire.



community in Peshawar take out a protest march on Sunday. Express

It seems like a case of targeted killing," he said.

This is the second incident against the minority community in Peshawar in the last eight months. In September last year, a Sikh shopkeeper, Satwant Singh, was shot dead at his dawakhana (traditional medicine shop) in Peshawar.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



1946 RESOLUTION OF SGPC ON 'SIKH STATE': WHAT SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN MISSED

> :0: DEA CXCHANGE

'The only way out is to fight for the cause of the people; a leader then emerges automatically' **BHUPINDER SINGH** HOODA

CONGRESS LEADER PAGE 9

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Entertainer & enigma, life was so much more than cricket for this reluctant star

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SANDIPG NEW DELHI, MAY 15

TWO DAYS before the 2009 World Cup, Andrew Symonds, after months of abstinence from the bottle, snuck out of the hotel room and drank deep into the night. The next morning, Australia's then captain Ricky Ponting confronted him and

was flying back home. Symonds was far from being hurt. "Once I had got home from England, and everything had settled down, it was a relief," he

conveyed the message that he



Andrew Symonds 1975-2022

would later say. By that time, playing for his country had become a burden, "I felt like I was

in a cage. Always under the microscope. I wasn't having fun anymore. I wasn't enjoying it,'

he had admitted.

However, world cricket could never get enough of the entertaining all-rounder who was the spine of the Aussie team that intimidated every side they played in the late 90s and early 2000.

Late on Saturday night, Symonds, 46, died in a car crash outside of Townsville in his home state of Queensland. He played 26 Tests and featured in 198 ODIs, scoring six centuries, while also contributing 133 wickets. The ultimate all-purpose player, the IPL champion was on the wish list of all T20 teams. For Symonds, an unabashed

hitter of the cricket ball, playing the game was all about finding joy. But somewhere in his time, CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully. Chandigarh

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'I ASKED SHAHID KAPOOR, TUM NAACHTE HO KI UDTE HO?:' SUKHWINDER SINGH ON THE GOOSEBUMP-INDUCING HAIDER SONG | SCENE STEALER

In this edition of Scene Stealer, we speak to acclaimed singer Sukhwinder Singh, who won a national Award for his work in Haider song Bismil.

ENTERTAINMENT



MARVEL AND THE MADNESS OF CAMEOS

Doctor Strange is like a badly done SNL sketch multiverse

TECH



REVIEW OF ONEPLUS

OnePlus goes out of its skin with a budget flagship

EXPRESS AUDIO

Estimating India's real Covid death toll, with Dr Bhramar Mukherjee

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

"In the last twelve months, we

have invested CHF 5 billion in

Holcim bought Ambuja

Cement for \$800 million in 2005.

ACC was bought by Ambuja in

three tranches from the Tata

group for Rs 370 per share be-

With India's cement con-

sumption at just 242 kg per

capita, compared to the global

average of 525 kg per capita,

there is significant potential for

the growth of the cement sector

the world's second largest ce-

ment market, it has less than half

the global average per capita ce-

ment consumption, Adani said.

"In statistical comparison,

While India continues to be

tween 1999 and 2001.

ing solutions."

in the country.

In this episode, host Sandip Roy talks to data scientist Bhramar Mukherjee, a professor of epidemiology, biostatistics, and global public health at the University of Michigan

FROM PAGE ONE

World Cup...

Kevin Sanjaya, they lost 11-0. It was as individuals. Today, they had Team India backing their efforts, planning and rooting for them. It made a difference, and this was a first where India played as a unit, Earlier, if Saina was playing, Sindhu wouldn't be there. And if Sindhu played, Saina wasn't around. If the doubles team played, the singles players weren't really invested. This was truly Team India's victory and I was so happy that Satwik-Chirag gave it back to the Indonesians.

In my mind, I knew this was possible, when you do the calculations. But whether it would actually be possible depended on the individual players, and today they pulled it off perfectly, which was wonderful to watch. When we speak of Indian team sport at the highest level, this is the real World Cup that India has won in a game spread globally and with fancied powerhouses. I am proud of being a badminton player today. This was coming for years, but things fell into place now. I might even believe in the magic of our players.

Indonesia, Malaysia, China and Denmark will be in shock tonight, wondering how India won. This will be reported for years. In Malaysia, they still recall stories of how they won a title in 1991 with the Sidek brothers, and they earned Datukhoods (similar to knighthoods) and acres of land. Legends were born. Mind you, the Indonesian and Malaysian teams, the moment they lost, are going to be wondering 'Can I go back home?'. You'll hear 'change the coach, change the association' calls in the aftermath. That's how much the Thomas Cup means to those badminton-crazy nations. Coaches fear for their jobs, and players get shredded. If you had told half the guys in my association the day before that India is winning the Thomas Cup, even they wouldn't believe it. But the players did.

In my time, we've lost 1-5 to Sri Lanka and 2-5 to Pakistan even. For us to qualify for the 16team elite event used to be mighty, and when we beat Korea and Japan to qualify for that Thomas Cup and Uber Cup (for women) in 1999 Delhi, we thought that's great. Both Prakash (Padukone) sir and used to play both singles and doubles, we didn't even have doubles specialists then. We would be given two Yonex Tshirts and we would be on our way to these events. So you can understand where we started

and the enormity of this. India's depth has been outstanding. And if there were five more singles, India would have still won. You shouldn't keep fretting about the big gold medal not coming in the Olympics, instead keep pushing in team events. Badminton Association of India Sports Authority of India and the Government helped us in plans to push 10 players in Top 25 to build more depth. We didn't build this depth in the women's team. The women players would play their own matches and not care for the rest of the team. Saina and Sindhu didn't take the team along, we should have built that culture in the Uber Cup. That's the difference between bronze

This win comes from H S Prannoy and Kidambi Srikanth not taking their places for granted, also Srikanth and Lakshya Sen fighting for that one spot. But credit to the boys, they competed while helping each other. That's a huge generous quality. They've each had debacles -- lost at Olympics, not qualified for Olympics, not been centrestage, lost big matches. That fire to prove a point has baked them a little more, which

showed in their grit. Opponents have begun to read Lakshya, and make life dif-

ficult for him. He was struggling at the corners, but he stood there and fought like a gladiator. That's character. Srikanth put incredible pressure on Jonatan Christie. It was the same in doubles. Our guys were fighting to be heroes; they were avoiding being labelled as "villains" in their coun-

It's been tough for India's male players with unfair comparisons with Saina and Sindhu. The Indian women raised the bar so much that a Super 500 win for the men barely registers now -getting into the Top 10, semis, quarters will never be big headlines. If they had lost the final today, all the excitement would have subsided. Lakshya made the All-England finals, but only winning it will put him on the same pedestal as Sindhu or Saina. So it's been tough.

There are players who get the chance and pounce on it, like Saina, Sindhu, Jwala (Gutta), and there are those that are not brave enough to make the most of the opportunity. Prannoy, Satwik Chirag, Srikanth, Lajshya proved they are brave enough to take that chance. Winning a final is being brave.

I will celebrate this win with my family tonight, but the real party will be at the academy tomorrow. But I'm going to wake up, and wonder 'What next?' These boys showing they can win the biggest title means I have to start thinking about the next difficult target.

I remember, Satwik's mother had come to me when he was young, she spoke of how she always dreamt of playing singles. Convincing the likes of Satwik, Dhruv, Krishna or even Gayatri that you can be a decent player in singles but a great one in doubles took effort. This title is validation that big things can happen in doubles. If these men don't clutter their minds with thoughts of money or count medals or becoming celebrities on social media, stay in the moment, play smart and aggressive, then great things will happen. It's not a dream India dreamt actively, but now the country will live the dream with these amazing play-

(The writer is a Sydney Games Olympian, All England champion and national badminton head coach. He spoke to Shivani Naik)

Reluctant star

as cricket stepped into a more cut-throat, professional realm, he

ture around Australian cricket was rapidly changing. Gone was the matey-ship of the Mark Taylor-Steve Waugh era, replaced by a regimented and structured environment of gnarled pros, wherein he felt as imprisoned as suffocated.

He belonged to that in-between generation of cricket, wherein the game had not shed its rustic charm yet not fully embraced modernism. He felt vul-

Former captain Mark Taylor summed up Symonds perfectly. "In a way he was a bit of an oldfashioned cricketer, who would not have been out of place playing in the '70s or '80s. He just wanted to entertain."

He was a cavalier in an era of confused roundheads. "I'm passionate about cricket, but it is not the be all and end all of my life. I like the outdoors, and I like having a good time," he once told the

As the calendar got busier and restrictions tighter, he craved that me-time. He hated all that newage jazz -- advertisements, sponsors, interview requests, endless team meetings -- and in the rare time he got, he ravenously took to the bottle. "I would let nothing get in the way of it, and drank as though alcohol were to disappear from the face of the earth,'

world, collecting experiences like globetrotters collect magnets for the fridge door. Thomas Cup 2022 was within reach. They knew, they said as much, they hoped the country would believe, they didn't mind if it didn't. They were due this date -- no matter what others reckoned.

On Sunday, India invited history for an elegant cup of tea, demolishing Thomas Cup royalty, Indonesia 3-0 in the finals. Denying them their 15th crown, while winning their first ever. Against all expectations. The reason why India's badminton fraternity read the tea leaves right was because it has closely watched and shepherded India's bunch of excellently proficient singles players, and built from scratch the doubles pairing of Chirag and Satwik.

There are parallels in India's sporting history. India's myriad gold-winning hockey teams. The 1983 World Cup cricket team. The 1971 men from West Indies who copped bouncers on helmet grilles. The 2001

back a follow-on. It would be wrong to say the country, busy in getting by, was waiting for these. If anything, a minority of two dozen at best nurtured and believed in these dreams.

Lakshya Sen shrugged off a week of being pummelled by a host of top names, to rally from a set down to beat Anthony Ginting 8-21, 21-17, 21-16 on the back of resolute confidence in his defence that ballooned into attacking swagger in the kills. Then, the Satwik-Chirag

doubles duo pulled out the

most audacious win of the tie, beating the hallowed Md Sanjaya Ahsan-Kevin Sukamuljo combo 18-21, 23-21, 21-19. Guilty through this season of flubbing 20-18 leads, Satwik-Chirag reversed the trend, winning from four match points away from defeat. This was patiently fought back, as big man Satwiksairaj brought on his big powergame, to support the hopping energiser bunny Chirag Shetty, who has believed more than anyone else. Keeping their nerve, playing fearless badminton,

ent, the young Indians gave India the 2-0 lead.

Nothing oozes more class than Kidambi Srikanth playing the match of his lifetime though he would later wisely refuse to compare his various wins ever since he beat Lin Dan in China. This time, he stamped his sheer class against Jonatan Christie, winning 21-15, 23-21. There were audacious reflex returns at the net. There was resistance from Christie in the second. And then there was the signature Srikanth shot, an NFT that will stay priceless in traditional currency or bitcoin: the set-up smash and then the charging follow-up as he ran to the net for the matchpoint.

There have been fewer things more inevitable in Indian sport than the Srikanth crosscourt smash that sealed the deal, though this one will get tattooed in millions of memories. It wasn't just a smash, it was a crosscourt smash, a dipping, history demanding, dominating, crosscourt, jump smash as he leapt in the air, and time stopped, to bring India its unforgettable Thomas Cup triumph. No one could stop jumping thereafter. No one could stop

tears from flowing down. Srikanth was asked why it mattered in a day and age when the Thomas Cup didn't carry any prize money. 'Today after people watched us, they said 'India won the Thomas Cup'. Not that Srikanth won or Prannoy won. But India won. Not everyone has the privilege to experience this feeling," said the man with solid old-world ethics, unblemished by the pulls-and-pushes of commerce all around him. Both Lakshya Sen in this

tournament, and Satwik-Chirag over the last few months have copped some narrow losses that can break spirits. But on this day, all three fought from the brink, trailing a set each, clawing back from the valley of doom, to scale an ascent unprecedented in India's history. "Our against record Indonesians was poor. But when it mattered, Satwik-Chirag delivered," coach Vimal Kumar said.

China's cement consumption is over seven times that of India's. When these factors are com-

bined with the several adjacencies of our existing businesses that include the Adani Group's ports and logistics business, energy business, and real estate business, we believe that we will be able to build a uniquely integrated and differentiated business model and set ourselves up

sion," Adani said. Two Sikh men

The Islamic State's Afghanistan affiliate, dubbed Islamic State Khorasan or ISIS-K, had claimed responsibility for the killing.

for significant capacity expan-

After the killings on Sunday, the local Sikh community in Peshawar blocked Grand Trunk Road and took out a march demanding justice and protection from the government. They also demanded adequate compensation for the families of both deceased. The slogans of "Jo bole so nihaal.. Sat Sri Akal", "Stop targeted killings" and "We want justice" reverberated during the protest

Speaking to The Indian Express, Balbir Singh, a local gurdwara sewadar-cum-school teacher, said that "enough was enough and now local Sikh community settled in Peshawar had no patience left to tolerate more of such targeted killings".

"No Sikh family here in Peshawar has any personal enmity or grudge against anyone. We all are poor people who just go for work every morning but we and our families live in this constant fear if we will return home alive in the evening or not. Killers come, barge into our shops, put guns to our heads and simply shoot. There is no fear of any law and order. Sikhs are shot dead simply because they are religious minorities. This persecution of Sikhs has to stop. Each Sikh living in Pakistan loves their country very much, we are proud of being Pakistanis but then our people are being shot dead every other day without any fear. Humein Pakistan se mohabbat hai par hum yahaan aman se rehna chahte hain (We love Pakistan but we want to live here in peace)," said Balbir, adding that there were around 500 Sikh families settled in Peshawar who

Local Sikh community members while requesting anonymity said that since 2014 there have been at least 10 such incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province when unidentified accused came and targeted Sikhs, while some of them were injured, others lost lives. "Dr Soran Singh in 2016, Charanjit Singh in 2018, Ravinder Singh in 2020 and Satwant Singh in 2021... the list is endless. Sikh minority group members are being

persecuted in Pakistan but there's

Solutions & Products as a new Speaking to The Indian Express, Ameer Singh, president, growth engine for the company, Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara while continuously pursuing Prabandhak Committee (PSGPC), bolt-ons in aggregates and readymix concrete. Holcim is ready to said that there are just 15,000-20,000 Sikhs left in Pakistan of seize further opportunities, in line with our 'Strategy 2025 whom around 500 families were Accelerating Green Growth', to become the global leader in insettled in Peshawar alone novative and sustainable build-

"Both our brothers who have been murdered today were from financially weaker families and used to earn their livelihoods by running small grocery shops. They were sitting at their shops when two men on a motorbike barged inside and shot them in the head. Pakistan is our motherland, like everyone else we love our coun-Condemning the murders,

no action and no fear," said a local

Ameer added: "On behalf of each Sikh living in Pakistan, we condemn the incident and appeal to the government of Pakistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that the accused should be arrested immediately. They should be given the harshest possible punishment. Each Sikh living in Pakistan loves our country and wants to live here peacefully. Those forces which are trying to harm Sikh-Muslim unity in Pakistan should be exposed immediately. Earlier too, many Sikhs have been killed this way. We would like to tell the government of Pakistan that each Sikh living in this country is a true patriot and loves our country but when such incidents happen, it doesn't send a good message to the world... please protect the minorities and their right to live peacefully in Pakistan.

The killing of the two Sikhs drew strong condemnation in India, with Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann urging the External Affairs Ministry to raise with the neighbouring country the issue of the safety of minority community members living there

mer chief minister Amarinder Singh alleged that the Pakistan service to Sikhs while Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal and the apex gurdwara body, SGPC, said justice should be ensured to the bereaved families.

Making a similar demand, for-

The two Sikhs were shot dead on Sunday by unidentified gunmen in Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the latest targeted killing of the minority community members in the restive province bordering

The two Sikhs died on the spot after being attacked by two bikeborne assailants in the morning.

Taking to Twitter, Chief Minister Mann said, "I strongly condemn the gruesome killing of two Sikh youths in Peshawar Pakistan, I also request our Foreign Minister @DrSJaishankar ji to speak to Pakistan to raise the concern and ensure the safety of Hindu and Sikh minorities resid-

ing in Pakistan.' Condemning the killings, Amarinder Singh said, "I've always said, @GovtofPakistan only does lip services for Sikhs without ensuring their security. Request @PMOIndia to take serious note."

"Shocked & pained to learn about the dastardly killing of two Sikh shopkeepers -Ranjit Singh & Kuljeet Singh in Peshawar (Pakistan). Condemning the incident, I urge EAM @DrSJaishankar ji to ensure justice to the bereaved families & also to take up Sikhs' safety issue with @PakPMO," said Badal in his tweet.

Shiromani Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) chief Harjinder Singh Dham said Pakistan must ensure the security and safety of Sikhs living there.

"We strongly condemn the cowardly murders of two Sikhs. Pakistan government should fulfill its responsibility diligently as such murders of minorities is a matter of great concern for the entire world, especially the Sikhs," said Dhami and demanded imme-

diate arrest of the killers.

Team India scales the peak backing their incredible tal-Kolkata Test side that beat to different outposts of the

was colourful. Inevitably, Symonds got branded a rebel, worse a trouble-

said the cricketer whose only

dream in cricket was to share a

drink with his hero Keith Miller,

who was as charismatic as he

Another era, another time, his rogue fishing trip to Darwin would have embellished his cult; the Brendon McCullum rant would have been applauded as a show of Aussie vigour; and him punching someone at the bar or shoulder-charging a streaker would have the world affectionately calling him "one of those characters".

Even the monkeygate incident, which would follow him everywhere, would have been perceived differently, or at least would not have spiralled into the melodrama it turned out to be. "I didn't realise the politics, the power, the money until this moment in my career. I didn't realise how powerful one player, one incident could be, how much money was at stake and the ramifications," he said, referring to the incident during India's tour

of Australia in 2008. Between January 2008 and 2009, he was at the heart of almost every cricketing scandal that brewed in Australia. He was projected as the metaphor of the decadence that had crept into Australia's cricket culture. He was fined and sacked several times, made to apologise and made to sign an agreement that if found drunk, he would immediately be axed from the team, before the 2009 T20 World Cup. As it turned

out, he did, and was axed forever. But Symonds, typically, had no regrets. "The only real regret I have in cricket was signing that contract. If I had my time again I would have said, 'You know what? There is no way I'm signing that'," he later said

Here, as well in the past, Symonds was just being Symonds. True to himself, his instincts and values, those that would have endeared him to the masses in a different era, he found himself judged by an era that was at odds with his spirit, like a bird imprisoned in a golden cage. He loved cricket, but perhaps he loved himself even more.

The crux of Symonds the cricketer was his own tussle with the changing times, a battle he was doomed to lose.

All-India Yatra

As curtains came down on the brainstorming session, there were indications that Rahul is likely to return as Congress president later this year. While Sonia delivered a short speech, Rahul spoke at length.

The former Congress president attacked the BIP government at the Centre, accusing it of spreading hatred, pressuring the judiciary, arm-twisting the Election Commission, destroying institutions, and muzzling the

But his focus was more on preparing the party to "go back to the people"; he told the chintan shivir there were no "short-

The party will have to accept that its "connection" with the people has been snapped, and it should work towards reestablishing that connection, Rahul said. The entire focus of the Congress currently is on "internal matters" such as who is getting what post, he said, and asked the leaders to turn their attention towards the people

"It is a complaint. Our entire discussion, our conversation...is about our internal matters...who is getting which post. Internally that is our focus. In today's time this internal focus will not work. Our focus should be external. We will have to turn our gaze to the people and we will have to go to the people. Not just for us...for the country... Be it our senior leaders junior leaders, or workers, we should go to the people and sit with them without thinking about anything...," Rahul said.

"Their (the people's) issues...we should understand. And the connection that we used to have with the people...jo Congress party ka connection janta se toota hai usko hame accept karna padega... We will have reestablish connection...the people want that... They understand that only

try forward....' The party will take out a yatra in October to strengthen the connection with the people, Rahul said.

the Congress can take the coun-

"That is the only way... Shortcuts will not help. It cannot be done through any shortcuts. It can only happen by shedding sweat. We can do it. You can do it. We have the ability and that is our DNA. This organisation has come out of the people and we will have to go to the people again," he said.

Sonia announced a "national Kanyakumari to Kashmir Bharat Jodo Yatra beginning on Gandhi Jayanti this year". "All of us will participate in it," she said. "The Yatra is to strengthen the bonds of social harmony that are under stress, to preserve the foundational values of our Constitution that are under assault and to highlight the day-to-day concerns of crores of our people."

Concluding her short address, Sonia said the party would surely overcome the challenges it faces. "We will overcome. We will overcome. We will overcome. That is our determination. That is our nav sankalp (new resolve). The Congress will have a new uday (rise). That is our nav sankalp, she said.

Rahul said his fight was against the ideology of the RSS-BJP and the "hatred and violence that they spread".

"For me it is the fight for my life... I cannot accept that hatred, violence and anger can be spread in our dear nation. We are up against some big forces. RSS and the BIP organisation, all the institutions... Don't think we are fighting against a political party. We are not fighting against a political party...the political party is just a part. We are fighting against every institution of India. We are fighting against the biggest crony capitalists... That is the fact," he

He was not afraid, Rahul said "I am not scared of these forces. I don't care. I have not done corruption in my entire life. I haven't taken a single penny from Bharat mata. I am not scared of speaking the truth... Together we will defeat the BJP and the RSS organisation and their ideology," he said.

Some senior leaders and workers of the party sometimes feel depressed, Rahul said. "It is normal. The fight is not easy. Don't think the fight is easy."

Regional parties cannot take on the RSS-BJP, he said, "because this is a battle of ideologies". "You have seen the ideology of the RSS is fighting against the ideology of the Congress. BJP will talk about the Congress, its leaders and workers but will not talk about regional parties. Because they know that regional parties have a space but they cannot defeat the BJP. Because they don't have an ideology. They have different approaches. We have a centralized

approach. And our fight is about ideology.'

"This is not a political fight, This is a fight for the future of the country and to save the country... It is our responsibility to go to the people and say you are being divided...and the country will be weakened because of that. No one will benefit. The country will suffer because of that," he said.

Adani picks

Hutchison, Etisalat, Fidelity, and Citibank, which sold its retail business recently, and some investment banks.

Holcim said the corresponding offer share prices of Rs 385 for Ambuja Cement and Rs 2,300 for ACC translate into cash proceeds of CHF 6.4 billion. Ambuja Cements and ACC

currently have a combined installed production capacity of 70 MTPA. "The two companies are among the strongest brands in India with immense depth of manufacturing and supply chain infrastructure, represented by their 23 cement plants, 14 grinding stations, 80 ready-mix concrete plants and over 50,000 channel partners across India," Adani said.

With this acquisition, Adani is now India's second largest cement manufacturer after Ultratech Cement of the Aditya Birla group

Gautam Adani, chairman,

Adani group, said: "With Holcim's

global leadership in sustainability, we are acquiring some of the most efficient building materials operations in India, powered with clean technologies like heat recovery The Adani group last year set up two cement subsidiaries -Adani Cementation Ltd, which

was planning to set up two ce-

ment units at Dahej in Gujarat

and Raigarh in Maharashtra; and "We recognize that Ambuja and ACC operations are energy intensive and therefore when combined with our renewable gain a big head start in the decar-

for Indian industry," Adani said. Shares of Ambuja Cements which has a market capitalisation of Rs 71,244 crore, closed 3.79% down at Rs 358.80 on Friday. ACC closed with a loss of 3.02% at Rs 2.113.70 and a market capitalisa-

tion of Rs 39,692 crore. Holcim CEO Jan Jenisch said:

bonisation journey that is a must

mostly run spices, grocery and medicines shops.

 ${\tt Chandigarh}$

Chandigarh is a member of

5 THE CITY

Tricity grapples with a new epidemic: Cyber crime

The data provided by the Chandigarh Police's Cyber Crime Cell shows the city is set to cross 2021's crime figures in first few months of this year itself

SAURABH PARASHAR

Joint Cybercrime Coordination CHANDIGARH, MAY 15 Team (JCCT) Group-5. Other states/UTs in the JCCT Group-5 NOT A day goes by when the UT include Punjab, Haryana, police does not register a case of Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, cyber crime. Police officers say if Jammu and Kashmir. A high this carries on, cyber crimes will level meeting of the JCCT Groupbe on top of the crime chart in 5 which was attended by DGPs of many states along with the of-Chandigarh. In the first four ficers from the Ministry of home months of this year itself, the city police has registered 70 per cent Affairs (MHA) took place last FIRs related to cyber crimes, month in Chandigarh.

compared to 2021. The aim behind holding A look at the statistics of the such high level meetings is to in-Chandigarh Police's Cyber Crime crease the efficiency and im-Investigation Cell (CCIC) shows prove the coordination among a total of 5.922 complaints and the different investigation agen-67 FIRs related to cyber crimes cies. As we all know, financial in 2021. A total of 2,130 comfrauds through online modes are plaints (which amounts to 35 the biggest threat in the present time before us. It involves many per cent of the total complaints received) and 47 FIRs (70 per sectors including banks. Reserve cent of the total FIRs lodged) Bank of India (RBI), social nethave already been registered beworking sites, etc., which require tween January 1 and April 30 a lot of correspondence online this year. At least 1,550 of the toand offline. In the meeting, we stress to follow such a mechatal 2.130 complaints received nism through which the coordithis year relate to fraudulent nation among all the institutes transactions, online transactions asking for PIN, debit/credit card becomes smooth and flexible," a details, etc. Besides these, they senior police officer said. There also received 519 complaints reare seven JCCTs, which include lated to harassment, abusive all the states and UTs. "We launched a full-fledged messages through

WhatsApp, IMO, VOIP calls, etc. titled Cyber Mission The maximum number of FIRs that we register these days Chandigarh involving hundreds of students of computer science relate to cyber crimes. It is one of and related subjects as cyber inthe reasons among others behind the increasing number of terns with the CCIC. Many surcybercrime related cases. veys were conducted. Modus Simultaneously, there is an imoperandi were shortlisted, reaprovement in the detection ratio sons behind why people increasalso. We are able to arrest the ingly falling in the traps of fraudsters, solutions for cyber crimes people involved in these cases from far reaching places. For and techniques through which speedy court trials of cybercrime shortcomings of the investigarelated cases, securing the contion agencies can be sorted out viction of accused, meetings are shortlisted," going on with judicial officers at Chandigarh police's CCIC inmany levels. There is awareness charge, Inspector Hari Om, said. about cyber crimes among peo-Nobody is immune ple. But a lot to achieve yet. We

need to do a lot of work at many

levels if we want to make a cy-

ber crime free city," SP (Cyber)

Two directors

Rs 3.66-cr fraud

Chandigarh: The UT Police

booked the directors of two

cheating a Mani Majra-based

businessman of Rs 3.66 crore by

by stealing his shares and selling

them further. The suspects,

Ramesh Arora and Suman Arora,

directors of Altruistic Trading

and KSBL Securities Limited

Ghaziabad (UP), and other

unidentified persons. Satya Dev

Saimwal, director, Panchkula

Finvest Private Limited, NAC, al-

leged that Ramesh and Suman

represented themselves as SEBI

share brokers and financial consultants to enhance the valua-

tion by deploying high level pro-

fessional strategies to the

complainant. He reported that

they transferred shares in their

favour and secretly sold the se-

curity property and misappro-

3 arrested with

150 gm heroin

Mohali: Zirakpur police arrested

three persons, Gurmukh Singh,

Ranjit Singh and Yadvinder

Singh, and recovered 150 grams

heroin from them. All the accused belong to Ropar and were

carrying the drugs in their car, when they were stopped at a

naka by the police. Nakas have been set up across the district to check suspicious vehicles. Police

also beefed up vigil after the at-

tack at Punjab Police's intelli-

gence wing in Sector 77, last

week. and taking to Punjab to

Dummy weapons

Mohali: The Matour police was

faced with a tricky situation af-

ter a car was stopped in Phase VII

and two bags with dummy

weapons were found. An officer

said that the two were going to

UP to provide the weapons to a

film production company for the

shooting of a Punjabi film. The

weapons were released after

ENS

necessary verification.

supply to their clients.

confuse cops

priated the amount.

Ketan Bansal, said.

booked for

In the two-month survey, many aspects were covered by cyber interns. The survey suggests that people of all age

sters obtain confidential details from people is by asking for their Know Your Customer (KYC) details, for them to be able to continue their bank accounts, credit cards, etc. As one shares their particulars, fraudsters begin online shopping. They also demand a One Time Password (OTP) which comes on the phone of the victim, RBI has cleared it multiple times that no bank is authorised to collect KYC details of customers over phone.

Dish TV recharge/ payment

Text messages with a web link sent on the cell phones of people urging them to recharge their dish TV subscriptions, coupons, or to make payments of pending mobile bills. The link, once opened, will follow with instructions that require confidential details to be shared. It is not advisable to click these unknown weblinks.

befriending people on social media

Many organised gangs in-

Common modi operandi

KYC details

A common way to fraud-

coupons/ phone bill

Extortion after

volving women are active that target people. Many senior citizens have become victims of these gangs. A member usually befriends one, often urging them to perform obscene acts on the video calls using women's faces. These videos are recorded and later used to blackmail and extort money.



5,922

2022 (upto April 30)

AnyDesk link

2021

AnyDesk, a mobile application that allows another user to see and interact with another computer system over the Internet, has been used since the onset of the pandemic, due to many organisations working from home. The link is sent on the phone of the victim urging them to click to update KYC details, pay online mobile bills, etc. ÚT has reported a dozen cases, where people lost lakhs, by clicking on an AnyDesk link.

Paytm, GPay QR codes Cheating people by making

payments through Paytm or GPay QR codes mostly happen in online shopping, or while making payments to strangers. People are asked to initiate a payment of Rs 10, or less, and share the QR code along with it. This establishes a link with the fraudster, who is able to hack into the the bank account linked with the code, and access the money. However, this is not the same as paying a merchant through a QR code at a

shop. People are advised not to share QR codes with strangers. Insurance schemes,

investments Many retired people are being targeted with insurance schemes. To gain the trust of victims, fraudsters transfer interest rates over the invested money into the accounts of the victims in the initial months but stop making payments when the victims invest a larger sum in the scheme. In some cases, fraudsters charge a fee if the victim wants to obtain their full amount, which will never be given.

Bitcoin scams, instant loan providing apps

Investment in low price Bitcoins is popular among youngsters. There is no immediate remedy in the Bitcoin cheating cases. Shibonk, Dogecoin and Titcoin along with two other crypto currencies are the most famous among the investors. It is easy

for people to purchase these crypto currencies. A number of instant loan providing mobile applications at high interest rate are there. As one downloads the app, the contact list automatically goes to the handlers. In case when one fails to pay the money, false messages are sent to the contacts.

Theft of SIM cards, swapping of cards

SIM card of the victim is stolen and is placed in their handsets, accessing all control over online banking, etc. They change the online banking password after visiting the option 'forget password'. The OTP also lands in their handsets. ATM/debit card swapping, mostly happen when someone does not know how to operate the machine properly. Criminals swap these on the pretext of assisting the victims.

Stealing profiles, hacking emails

Suspects create fake profiles on Facebook using particulars of genuine people and sending messages/emails to their contacts about emergency financial help. They mention bank accounts in the messages/emails. In the recent past, many such cases were reported including profiles of serving and retired UT officers.

Job promises, air tickets, visas

Fraudsters invite applications for jobs on the fake portals which match reputed job providing portals by changing alphabets. They obtain bio-datas, send them confirmation letters of jobs in foreign countries. MNCs and charge a heavy fee.

groups ranging from 15 to 80years were among the victims targeted successfully and unsuccessfully by fraudsters. Interestingly, in many cases, timely information to the cyber cell about hacking, sharing of confidential details, etc., resulted in the saving money.

Sources in UT cyber cell said, "There are a number of cases when we received information within moments after the crime. We immediately urged the concerned bank management to block the account number or freeze it. so the money could not be withdrawn/transferred. In many incidents, we were successful. The victims themselves can approach the banks."

1930 is the centralised National Cyber Crime reporting helpline number. The number is linked with the control room of many states including Chandigarh, Punjab and Haryana.

When The Indian Express phoned the helpline number, the response was only received from the Chandigarh desk, which can be reached by dialing the extension 3. There was no response for 1 and 2, to reach the Punjab and Haryana police desks, respectively.

"The cyber criminals are outsmarts. They are ahead in technology also. Though the figures of cyber crimes have been increasing, most crimes remain un-reported due to social stigma and a reason why cyber criminals remain scot-free. Further. there is no lamination of any geographical boundaries. They operate across the world and they need not be physically present at spot. This complexity makes it harder for the LEA to completely curb this menace," Gurcharan Singh, cyber faculty head in Central Detective Training School (CDTS), Sector 26, had told The Indian Express, in an interview last month.

tion was evident from the fact when Vikas alias Vicky (23) from Fatehabad in Haryana arrested by the Chandigarh cyber cell was found linked to at least 1,352 cyber crime cases reported across the country on

Eight cell phones and four International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) numbers seized from Vikas were uploaded on the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (ICCC) portal. The portal found the numbers linked with 1,352 cyber crime cases. The ICCC is a centralised portal where the police of every state/UT upload the numbers of seized mobile sets along with their IMEI numbers. Vicky was arrested in connection with the fraud of Rs 83,979 from a woman on the pretext of refunding her money related to her SBI credit card on April 18.

Panchkula, Mohali privy too

Neighboring cities including Panchkula and Mohali are also privy to cyber crimes. According to ACP (Panchkula) Raj Kumar Kaushik, at least 100 cases in which fraudsters duped people merely on the pretext of updating their Know Your Customer (KYC) details pertaining to their bank accounts have been reported only in Panchkula

How to avoid getting cheated

- Avoid sharing any particulars like bank account details with strangers directly or over the
- If you have been cheated, immediately call the toll-free helpline 1930.
- If you do not receive a response from your bank after reporting a fraud, contact the Banking Ombudsman at RBI, Sector 17.
- ■Get sensitised about online banking and transactions before using online banking services.

MOHALI SANITATION WOES

Facing residents' ire, MC allots contracts to maintain parks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MOHALI, MAY 15

MUNICIPAL Corporation (MC) allotted the work of maintaining parks in the city to contractors, on Saturday. The work will start within the next two days. Residents in many areas have been criticising the civic body for not allotting the work, and that the parks have been in a poor condition for

The MC has around 600 parks under its jurisdiction in the city. Out of these, around 100 are being maintained by the Resident Welfare Associations (RWA) in different areas. The parks are in shambles for the past four months due to delay in allotting the work to the contractors to maintain them. If the MC officials are to be believed, the delay happened due to the imposition of the model code of conduct in the state ahead of the Assembly elections held earlier this year. An officer said that due to the delay in the allotment of work, there were many com-



A park in bad shape in Phase I, Mohali. Express

plaints from residents about the poor condition of parks.

An officer added that in many parks, there was no cleanliness at all which had added to the woes of residents. Deputy mayor Kuljeet Singh Bedi told The Indian Express that the work orders worth around Rs 3 crore had been allotted to the contractor and the sanitation work will start within the next two days.

Bedi said there has been a backlog of work as contracts were not given out, adding that

action will now be taken in case of irregularities. The opposition had been targeting the ruling dispensation in the MC for the lack of sanitation in the city. The opposition had also alleged that such a situation had never arisen in the past, where the parks were in such a bad state. Opposition councillor Sukhdev Singh Patwari said that the present dispensation has made a mockery of sanitation in the city, adding that parks are in bad shape and the cleanliness of roads is also poor.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE Police stated that both parties suffered

ROW OVER parking turned ugly same colony, fought over a wrongly parked car, on Saturday night. Cross FIRs were registered by the Panchkula police. The cases were registered against a 57-yearold Aashu Varun and two others, and Chetna Munshi and her husband Anubhav Mishra.

PANCHKULA, MAY 15

An altercation took place when two residents of Kendriya Vihar, Sector 14, allegedly had a brawl

injuries in the brawl

Parking row turns ugly, cross-FIRs filed

over wrong parking. While giving details of the case, the police official stated, "Chetna Munshi and her husband parked their car which the other party (Aashu Varun) said was in the wrong parking. While she alleged that she was assaulted by Varun and two others, Varun man also alleged that he was manhandled by Munshi and her hus-

tercation took place between both the parties following which a case had to be lodged and cross FIRs were registered." The situation turn

band over the issue. A serious al-

Gurcharan Singh's observa-

that Munshi suffered injuries under her eye and below the neck while Varun was also injured. A medical examination of both the parties was conducted late Saturday night at the civil hospital, Sector 6, Panchkula. A police official said that a case

under sections 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt), 354 A (assault or use criminal force in-

tending to outrage the modesty of a woman) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been lodged against Varun and two others, her husband has been lodged under sections 323 (punishment for voluntary causing hurt) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code.

While Munshi alleged that there was delay in the registration of a case, police officials denied the allegations stating that facts were being cross checked to lodge an FIR in the matter.

Farmer booked for burning stubble

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MOHALI, MAY 15

A DAY after a toddler died in the fire caused by stubble burning at Sundaran village, Dera Bassi, on Saturday, the police booked the farmer who had burnt the stubble in his fields, on Sunday.

Jeet Singh, ignited the fire to burn the stubble without checking the direction of the wind and his negligence led to 45 shanties being gutted, resulting in the

According to the FIR, farmer

Dera Bassi police booked Jeet Singh under sections 427 (mischief causing damage to the amount of fifty rupees), 188 (disobedience to orders duly promulgated by a public servant) and 304-A (death due to negligence) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). A case has been registered on the complaint of Ranveer Singh.

death of a toddler as well. The

A major fire erupted on the outskirts of Sundran village on Saturday afternoon, which entered shanties located near the fields. The fire spread after Singh set his fields on fire to burn the paddy stubble. This practice is banned in Punjab.

Due to the fire, a toddler identified as a Rupali was killed due to severe burn injuries and another child sustained serious injuries. The shanties belonged to the labourers who work in factories or as farm labourers in the area. "It was a sheer negligence on the part of the accused. Stubble burning is banned in the state we have registered a case and initiated the probe," a police

Man booked for sexually harassing

nursing student Mohali: Kharar police booked a man after he allegedly sexually

harassed a nursing student and assaulted her friend on Sunday. The accused was arrested and later got bail. The complainant told police that she was at her training shift at a hospital when the accused, Love Jeet Singh, came to the hospital and started bothering her. When her friend tried to speak to Lovejeet, he assaulted and abused her. ENS

PRAYER MEET ON FIRST BARSI OF MILKHA SINGH, NIRMAL MILKHA SINGH

leev remembers parents: 'Mawan thandian chhawan, Peo tatte gheo'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, MAY 15

A PRAYER meet and remembrance meeting was conducted by the Milkha family on the occasion of the first barsi of Flying Sikh Milkha Singh and former Indian volleyball captain Nirmal Milkha Singh in Chandigarh on Sunday. The Milkha couple, who breathed their last within one week of each other on June 13 and June 18 respectively last year due to Covid-19, were remembered by family - son Ieev Milkha Singh, daughters Dr Mona Singh, Sonia Sanwalka and daughter-in-law Kudrat Milkha Singh apart from grandson

Harjai Milkha Singh -- and

friends during a ceremony on Sunday afternoon.

The family had organised Sukhmani Sahib path at their Sector 8 residence on Saturday. "It is very difficult and emo-

tional to talk about my parents. We still feel the void and cannot believe that they are not there with us. But I would like to share an experience with you which I realise now. With age and experience, we were blessed that we were born in the house where we were given the right guidance and my parents taught us to always be humble. One day, I asked dad while my mother was present, 'Dad, why you are so firm and mom is so gentle?' He said, 'Mawan thandian chhawan, Peo tatte gheo (mothers are like



Jeev Milka Singh along with his family members pays tribute to his parents on the first anniversary of their death, at a hotel in Chandigarh on Sunday. Jasbir Malhi

cold breeze while fathers are like hot ghee)'. We cherished each moment with our parents and their memories will always motivate us," said 19-time international golfer Jeev Milkha Singh.

While Flying Sikh Milkha Singh, who became India's first individual champion in Commonwealth Games and finished fourth in 1960 Rome Olympics, had contracted Covid-19 in May last year, his wife and former Indian volleyball captain Nirmal Milkha Singh too contracted the virus days after Milkha tested positive for Covid-19. Nirmal breathed her last on June 13 in a Mohali hospital, followed by Mikha's demise at PGIMER on June 18. The couple's eldest daughter Dr Mona Singh,

USA last year to take care of her parents, was present in the ceremony along with her younger sister Sonia Sanwalka. The couple's third daughter Aleeza Grover could not attend the ceremony due to some other family commitments.

who had flown down from the

"One thing which both my parents taught us was the importance of stability and balance in their lives. We as kids would often spend time with them observing them portraying different roles as a player, administrator and father and mother to us. And they would always tell us to be balanced and stable in our approach to life. This remains the biggest gift to each one of us from our parents and will always

remain with us in our lifetime. Their loss remains the biggest loss to the whole Milkha family. It was unfortunate that we lost both of them to Covid-19 but they led a content life and guided us throughout," Dr Mona Singh told The Indian Express.

Among those who paid their tributes were BJP leader Sanjay Tandon, PGTI president Uttam Singh Mundy, golfer Harmeet Kahlon apart from some young golfers and athletes. "Milkha sir was special to the golfing community too and he would always encourage young golfers. Whenever PGTI hosted an event at Chandigarh, Milkha sir made sure that he was there to compete in the Pro-Am and to cheer the professional golfers," said Mundy.

6 REGION

After Sunil Jakhar's resignation, focus back on faultlines in Punjab Congress Committee

Former PCC chief Navjot Sidhu and his successor Raja Warring differ on the veteran leader's value to the party

NAVJEEVAN GOPAL

WITH VETERAN Congress leader Sunil Jakhar quitting the party on Saturday, the existing faultlines in the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC) were once again on display. Former state Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu came out in Jakhar's support soon after the former PCC president announced his decision in a Facebook Live stream while the party's current state chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring lashed out at him.

Calling Jakhar "an asset worth his weight in gold", Sidhu on Saturday tweeted, "The Congress should not lose #suniljakhar ... Is an asset worth his weight in gold ... Any difference can be resolved on the table."

Dalit leader of Congress and former legislator Raj Kumar Verka — who had initially publicly criticised Jakhar and demanded his expulsion, before re-

versing his stand and calling for unity - said the former PCC chief's resignation was a "sad day" for the party. "As a true soldier of the Congress and Rahul Gandhi, I will say only one thing that on one side the Chintan Shivir is underway in Udaipur, all senior leaders of the Congress need to do 'chinta' on the assets of the Congress getting finished."

But Warring, Sidhu's successor, said Jakhar was out of the party because of "wild and unsubstantiated allegations against the party that gave so much to him and his family".

Punjab Congress working president and former minister . Bharat Bhushan Ashu said, "There is no doubt that all (Congressmen) consider him (Jakhar) a good person. But, today the Congress party needs discipline. If a party leader has any grudge against any other party leader, it should be conveyed on the party platform. Even if you want to quit the party, it should be done in a respectful manner."

Criticising the veteran leader, a senior Congress leader said, "He (Jakhar) was never good to anybody. While serving as PCC chief, he did not go to the grassroots level and did not organise any mass contact program. Someone told him from Delhi that many Punjab leaders were in favour of him (as the CM face) and he made an issue out of that. I don't know what plans he has, but I am very much sure that not even a single person will support or accompany him wherever he goes."

Jakhar's rise and fall

Jakhar was 48 years old when he entered the poll fray in the 2002 Assembly elections. His father Balram Jakhar is the longest-serving Lok Sabha Speaker, served as the governor of Madhya Pradesh, and was close to the Gandhi family.

Sunil Jakhar was branded a reluctant politician but managed to make people sit up and take notice for he neither dressed like a career politician nor spoke like one. He fought and won the election from his family's pocket borough of Abohar and went on to repeat the feat in 2007 and 2012.

Between 2012 and 2017, he

was the Leader of the Opposition in the state Assembly. He suffered a surprise defeat in the 2017 Assembly polls at the hands of a local councillor from the BJP but managed to bounce back by getting elected to the Lok Sabha that year from Gurdaspur in a by-poll necessitated by the death of actor-turned-politician Vinod Khanna. He lost from Gurdaspur in the 2019 parliamentary elections to the BJP's Sunny Deol.

Following the downturn in his electoral fortunes, Jakhar's position in the Congress became precarious. In the run-up to the Punjab elections, Jakhar that the Congress leadership did not choose him as its chief ministerial face as he is Hindu and following the poll debacle labelled former Chief Minister Charanjit

Singh Channi a liability. Last month, the party's disciplinary committee issued him a showcause notice saving he was accused of making "derogatory statements against Congress leaders and also attributed motives to the leadership of thinking on communal lines while deciding the leadership of CLP

Jakhar also got in trouble with the National Commission for the Scheduled Castes, which directed the Jalandhar police to register an FIR against him for allegedly making objectionable comments about Dalits in a television interview. Though Jahkhar did not name anyone, his remarks were construed to be aimed at Channi.

Jakhar did not reply to the party's show-cause notice, sayng that instead of making a "public spectacle" out of it, senior Congress leaders should have spoken to him.

Though he did not hold any organisational posts, the party

last month stripped him of all positions for not budging from his position. "This is what ails the Congress," Jakhar said on Saturday. I do not know about AAP, but the Punjab Congress has been demolished by party leaders sitting in Delhi who know nothing about Punjab, Punjabiat, and Sikhism.'

Wishing the party "goodbye and good luck", Jakhar questioned the functioning style of party president Sonia Gandhi and advised her to be wary of "svcophants". To revive the party, he asked the Gandhis to "lead by command" instead of being "misled" by those who "don't know about the ground realities of Punjab".

Lashing out at senior Congress leader and Sonia's advisor Ambika Soni, Jakhar said she was a "blot on Punjab, Sikhs and Sikhi" and "defamed and insulted Hindu community" by creating a narrative that "Punjab will be on fire if a Hindu becomes the chief minister".

Uphill battle of veterans & kin to get dues continues

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA CHANDIGARH, MAY 15

THE OFFICIAL apathy towards veterans and their dependents is nothing new but every now and then there comes welcome news where some veteran or dependent wins the legal battle finally in face of stiff opposition from the civil bureaucracy of MoD or the Army bureaucracy. One such case is that of the wife of an Asian Games Gold Medallist and ex-Havildar of Sikh Regiment who was forced to defend her case in the Supreme Court to get a family pension of Rs 14,000 (plus DA) per month with arrears of ten

Beant Kaur, wife of late Havildar Hakam Singh was made to run from court to court for getting her dues with appeals being filed against her in the Supreme Court. Recently, the stoppage of pension of a retired Army Commander hit the headlines and caused great consternation in military circles, but there are thousands of such cases where ICOs, Jawans and their dependents are made to fight legal battles till Supreme Court to get what is their right-

The pension imbroglio has shown that if even senior officers are not spared the ignominy of running around for their dues then what may be the case with junior officers and other ranks and their widows/next of kin settled in remote ar-

Hakam Singh's case has been a sad one where his family suffered due to many

reasons, for which the athlete was himself partly to blame too initially. A Gold Medal winner at the Asian Games in Bangkok in 1978 in the 20 km race walk category. He was also a Dhyan Chand Trophy awardee. A soldier in the 6th Battalion of The Sikh Regiment, he faced a court martial and was dismissed from service without any pension in 1987 after serving for 14 and a half years in the Army.

Ex-Servicemen Grievances Cell run by a group of veterans and led by Lt Col SS the plight of Hakam Singh and his family and took up a case in Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) for award of disability pension and won the case in Ian 2018. Unfortunately, the former athlete could now enjoy the benefits because an appeal was filed by the MoD against the orders of the AFT and he passed away in August 2018.

After the appeal in the apex court failed, the wife of Havildar Hakam Singh finally got her family pension released this month after an uphill struggle. The veterans of the Ex-Servicemen Grievances Cell celebrated the event by distributing sweets at their weekly meeting in Mohali last Friday. Incidentally, the cell, which was allowed to function from the open courtvard of the District Sainik Welfare Office in Mohali in the past, now functions under a tree in the small park op-

Gen AS Aujla posite the office after being turned out some months back. The veterans of the cell have been doing yeoman's service to the veterans community and their dependants for getting

their dues from the Records

Offices and other organisations

and function without any gov-

ARTRAC compiles ancient Indian strategic sayings

ernment help.

MILITARY

With a recent impetus from the highest quarters on indigenous strategic thought process and not depend upon western strategic ideas or Chinese ones, the Army has been quick to look at ways and means to implement that agenda. Accordingly, the Army Training Command

(ARTRAC), Shimla, has published a compendium of 75 Indian stratagems after researching ancient Indian historical scriptures.

As per ARTRAC, "the stratagems edify on the wisdom and rich strategic culture of ancient

It would be pertinent to mention here that ARTRAC came up in 1991 in Mhow and was shifted to Shimla in 1993. It's role is supposed to be formulation and dissemination of concepts and doctrines of warfare in the field of strategy, operational art, tactics, logistics, training and human resource development.

New Corps Commander in Srinagar raises hopes

There is considerable excitement over the appointment of Lt Gen AS Auila as the new GOC of 15 Corps in Srinagar. The General officer has commanded an infantry division in the valley and has also commanded a brigade in the same theatre of operations. He has served as a Brigadier in the Infantry Directorate of Army HQs when the present Northern Army Commander, Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi. was the DG Infantry. He has also served as a Major General General Staff (MGGS) Northern Command

There are high hopes being expressed by many in the Kashmir valley that he would bring about a welcome change in the circumstances

Arjun. Arjun is the Bench." This

Headquarters in Udhampur.

CHINTELS PARADISO ROOF COLLAPSE

Groundwork done, Haryana to hand over case to CBI

VARINDER BHATIA CHANDIGARH, MAY 15

IT WAS in February when the ceilings of multiple flats collapsed at a posh housing society – Chintels Paradiso – in Gurgaon's Sector 109, resulting in the death of two people. Now three months later, the Haryana government has decided to hand over the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation for a thorough investigation.

Sources told *The Indian Express* that all the legal modalities have been worked out by the state government and procedures completed to hand over the case to the independent investigating agency. A senior officer privy to the developments told The Indian Express, "Âll the requisite reports that were required from the district admin istration and police department have been received by the state government. The case shall be sent to CBI for a thorough and deep investigation. Certain officials of the Town and Country Planning Department, district administration and other departments are in the dock for allegedly colluding with the builders in giving sanctions to the project despite structural flaws and violations of the requisite norms and procedures." 'The state government also

wants CBI to probe the manner in which the colony license was issued to the developers. The license was issued to the developers during the Bhupinder Singh Hooda led-Congress government in Haryana," a source told us. On February 10, after two people died in the roof collapse of several flats in the building during a repairing work on the sixth floor of Tower-4 of the building's Dblock, Harvana Police had registered an FIR against Ashok Saloman, developer of Chintels Paradiso, and various others on the complaint lodged by Rajesh Bhardwaj, one of the residents of the housing society. Rajesh's wife Ekta Bhardwai was the first casualty in the incident. The roof

collapse had begun on the sixth

floor and stopped on the first

floor of the tower. Two weeks after the incident, the then Gurgaon DC, Nishant Kumar Yadav, reconstituted the committee probing the factors and circumstances that led to the collapse. The team was given the mandate of coordinating with the expert teams appointed by IIT, Delhi for the structural audit of the housing society and submitting a report in three months. The committee was also asked to supervise the resettlement of families residing in Tower-D and evaluate the prevailing market rates and cost of interior works of the damaged flats.

The district administration had also ordered that in wake of the structural defects in about 100 flats of towers E, F, G and H of the housing society, the cost of possible shifting of the families residing in those towers would also be borne by the developer. Besides that, the committee was also asked to determine if the structure of the affected block (Tower-D) could be made habitable after making necessary improvements.

While the preliminary investigation reports of the district administration and committee probing the circumstances that led to the report hint at the possibility of substandard construction material and structural flaws; the developers refuted claiming that they had used the "highest quality of material and workmanship for

Maruti Kharkhoda plant to produce its first electric car in 2025: Chautala

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, MAY 15

THE MARUTI Suzuki's plant at Sonipat's Kharkhoda will manufacture its first electric car in 2025, deputy CM Dushyant Chautala said on Sunday. At this plant, Suzuki will make motorcycles in 100 acres while Maruti will make electric vehicles in 800 acres. About 11,000 youth will get employment in Maruti industry and about 3,000 youth in Suzuki's motorcycle manufacturing industry, Chautala added.

"Progress cannot stop if the thinking and intentions are right. Haryana government has done this even in adverse circumstances. During the past one year, about Rs 28,000 crore has been invested at various places in the state, due to which new employment opportunities have been created. In Kharkhoda too, towards setting up its plant on 900 acres, which will be of special benefit to the youth of the region", Dushyant said while addressing a public meeting at Kharkhoda's Anai mandi, todav.

"Maruti-Suzuki will start manufacturing the first vehicle in Kharkhoda in the year 2025. Due to the law made to give reservation to the youth of Harvana in the private sector, 75 percent employment will be given to the youth of the state. The mother plant of Maruti-Suzuki will be established here, with the help of which many small industrial units will also be established. In this way employment opportunities will increase further. In the coming five years, Kharkhoda will get a different identity on the international map. The development of Kharkhoda is being accelerated on the lines of Gurugram", Dushyant added.



Smoke clouds appear in the hills during a forest fire caused due to dry weather near Tutikandi in Shimla on Sunday. Pradeep Kumar

Blistering weather conditions prevail across Haryana, Punjab; Gurugram sizzles at 48.1°C

Chandigarh: There was no respite from the sweltering heatwave in Punjab and Haryana as mercury hovered well above normal levels on Sunday, officials said.

Gurugram in Haryana sizzled at 48.1 degrees Celsius, making it the hottest place in the two states even as maximum temperatures hovered well above 43 deg Celsius at most places, according to the meteorological department.

Muktsar in Punjab also reeled under extremely hot weather, recording a day-temperature of 47.4 degrees Celsius. Among other places in Haryana, Hisar

saw a high of 47.3 degrees Celsius. Severe heat prevailed in Sirsa, which recorded a high of 47.2 deg C while Rohtak recorded a maximum of 46.7 deg C. Bhiwani experienced a high of 46 degrees Celsius. Ambala's highest temperature during the day was 42.1 deg C while Karnal's maximum settled at 42.4 deg C.

Chandigarh, the common capital of the two states, braved yet another hot day, with the maximum settling at 43 deg C.

Meanwhile intense heatwave prevailed in Bathinda, which recorded a high of 46.8 deg C while Amritsar sweltered under severe heat at 46.1 deg C.

Bar & Bench must together find a cure to malady of adjournments



DR BALRAM K GUPTA

THE CASE Arjun Gopal vs Union of India was being argued before the Bench of Justice M R Shah in the Supreme Court on April 19, 2022. This matter pertained to ban of firecrackers. The Bench felt that one of the reasons for pendency of cases was the frequent adjournment requests made by lawyers. Justice Shah reportedly said: "If we don't we are least concerned whether we are liked, we don't want to work according to certificate of others, as per our conscience we should work."

grant time we aren't liked, but

He added that every day five-six adjournment letters are filed on the grounds of personal difficulty. "We cannot ask as to what is the personal difficulty." It is apparent that these observations of the Hon'ble Judge were prompted by his serious concern about frequent adjournments and heavy pendency.

This is indeed a matter of concern both for the Bar and the Bench. The Bar and the Bench are two wheels that must move in coordination and cooperation. Without this, the smooth operation of the justice delivery system is interrupted. Therefore, this matter demands thoughtful consider-

ADJOURNMENTS IMPAIR JUSTICE

Lawyers normally do not make requests for adjournments in those courts in which they know the adjournment will not be granted. Consequently, the lawyers come prepared to argue the cases. They take the liberty of making requests for adjournments rather frequently in those courts where they feel they would be accommodated. A request for an adjournment halts the adjudication process. The Bench should consider it most sparingly. What is genuinely bothering

me is the observation of the Hon'ble Judge, "We are least concerned, whether we are liked or not." This kind of feeling should never be generated in the Bar and the Bench. If the judge feels he is not liked, will it not shake the objectivity of his mind? Should such a feeling be allowed to creep in? Will this not disturb the balance between the Bar and the Bench? It is the right of the judge to say a firm 'No' to an adjournment. That is the end of the matter. Why should the judge feel that he is not liked? More so, when the judge is uniform in declining the request. Believe me, many lawyers themselves do not like seeking adjournment. Equally, they hate it when such requests are made by other lawyers. This is a disease that spreads. Sometimes opposing lawyers join hands to seek adjournments. This unhealthy practice must be curbed. **OPPORTUNITY FOR**

JUNIOR COUNSEL

There is another aspect to it. The senior counsel is busy in another court. Accordingly, a request is made to pass over or to adjourn the matter. The junior counsel making the request is asked to start with the case and

the senior would join after finishing the arguments in another court. Invariably, the junior lawyer is not prepared with the case and says he has no instructions to argue the matter. This

SPECIAL TO THE **Express**

is an unfortunate situation. The junior counsel seldom gets the opportunity to argue the matter. In this process, even when he gets an opportunity, he is not prepared to avail it. I feel each senior counsel owes a responsibility to nurture a team of young lawyers. Once the senior allots a case to a particular lawyer of his team, it becomes his responsibility. The senior needs to ensure that the instructing counsel must be so well-prepared that if required to argue the matter, he is in a position to argue it.

First, if the counsel is thorough with the case, he would be able to assist the senior counsel effectively as it ought to be. Secondly, the office of the senior is a laboratory for the junior counsel and he must prepare the cases given to him thoroughly. Judges always encourage young lawyers. They give them the opportunity to argue. No one is a born lawyer. The life journeys of Nani Palkhivala, Kanhaiya Lal Misra, Ram Jethmalani and Fali S Nariman are demonstrative of this. The young lawvers need to change their mindset. There is no substitute for diligence

THE VAGUE 'PERSONAL **DIFFICULTY**

Judges are humans. In case of sudden illness or death or emergency, the lawyers are always accommodated. But many times, a request is made for adjournment on the grounds of 'personal difficulty', a term both vague and wide. Therefore, adjournment on this ground should be avoided.

The basic malady is that once a lawyer gets a stay order in his favour, he does not wish to argue the matter, and continues to seek adjournments. The opposing counsel too does not oppose it. The judge also gives adjournments willingly, given that the daily roster is so heavy. This mutuality will have to be broken as it hampers the administration of iustice. Members of the Bar must stop seeking adjournments. The judges in turn will grant adjournment only in exceptional

Justice Vineet Saran while speaking at the farewell function on May 10, 2022, described the relationship between the Bar and the Bench, saying "Bar is the Lord Krishna. It guides

in short is the essence of the relationship. The Bar guides and assists the Bench. The quality of judgment depends upon the quality of assistance. The lawyers learn the court craft. The judges also need to develop court craft. The court craft of Justice Saran was, he would show he was angry during the hearings. In reality, he was not. The showing of anger was only to caution the lawyer. This recipe could also be applied to frequent adjournments. The judge ought to show his annoyance at requests for adjournments. The Bar must realise it's wastage of court time. Not to delay justice should be part of rule of law. Both the Bench and the Bar must work together for this common goal. (The writer is Professor

Emeritus, Senior Advocate and Director (Academics), Chandigarh Judicial Academy)

AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT OF MSP FOR MOONG

Summer moong cultivation touches 8-year high, a 42,000-acre jump from last fiscal

ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA JALANDHAR MAY 15

SUMMER MOONG cultivation in Punjab has touched an eight-year high of 96,000 acres (38,900 hectares) this year, an increase of

around 42,000 acres (16,196

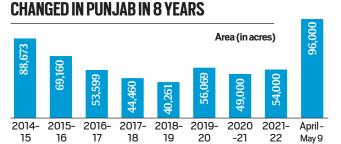
hectares) from the previous

This is quite beneficial for Puniab does not grow enough pulses to meet its consumption and thus relies on other states to make up the deficit. The state grows only 15 per cent of its total consumption, Agricultural experts said that the area being used to grow moong would have increased manifold if Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had announced providing a Minimum

before the sowing phase in April. As per data from State Agriculture Department, Mansa district led the state in sowing moong over 25,000 acres (10,000 hectares) i.e. 25 percent of the total area sown under this crop in the state. Followed by Moga 12,750 acres (5100 hectares) and Ludhiana 10,750 acres (4,300 hectares). The area under moong in Bathinda and Sri Muktsar Sahib

Support Price (MSP) on moong

HOW LAND UNDER MOONG CULTIVATION



*Data sourced from the Punjab Agriculture University (PAU), Ludhiana

hectares) and 8,750 acres (3,500

The Chief Minister has already reiterated its government's firm commitment to purchase every grain of the moong crop with a pre-condition that they will have to sow paddy of either PR-126 variety or Basmati in the field used for moong after its harvest as both these crops take far less time for maturity and require much less water as compared to other varieties of paddv.

Bhagwant Mann also appealed to farmers to save only available natural-resource water by adopting patterns of alternative crops. To encourage the farm(DSR), the state government has already announced financial assistance of Rs 1,500 per acre to them. Summer moong is a high cash value crop and its cultivation timing fits well between wheat harvesting and rice sowing in the state. This short duration crop, which takes around 60 days to

grow, not only plays a vital role in

improving soil health and con-

serving natural resources but also

boosts the income of the farmers

of the state. If farmers are able to sell moong for the fixed MSP of Rs 7,275 per quintal, a 5 quintal per acre harvest can earn them nearly Rs 27,000 per acre (2.4 hectares) at a time when the fields mostly

A moong field before harvest in the state. File lie vacant (after the wheat harvest

This value estimate is after taking into account expenses related to field preparation, sowing charges, seed cost, labour, insecticides and harvesting. This comes somewhere close to Rs 10.000 per acre. Not only does moong provide an additional income, but it also bears nodules on its roots that improve the nitrogen levels in the soil. Experts say that the fields where moong is sown require lesser amounts of urea fertilisers, about 25-30 kgs, per acre.

and before paddy sowing)

According to experts, summer moong should ideally be sown by the second week of April and completed by the third week to fetch a higher yield and protect the crop from an early monsoon in Iune. Agriculture experts said that in some parts of the state, summer moong has become quite popular ever since the Punjab Preservation of Sub Soil Water Act, 2009, came into force three years ago. The Act prohibits the sowing of paddy before June

Dr Gurvinder Singh, Director Punjab Agriculture Department, said that there is a need to bring large areas under summer moong as it enhances soil fertility as well as farmers' income. He said that this could be possible if farmers get full MSP on

10 to conserve groundwater.

MOONG MSP: GREAT STEP TOWARDS CROP ROTATION

Chandigarh: International president of World Punjabi Organisation and chairman of BRICS Agri Council Vikramjit Sahney has appreciated the announcement of MSP on moong cultivation in Punjab by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

Sahney added that Punjab is expected to produce 4 lakh quintals of pulses. It is a great step towards crop rotation and addresses the problem of reducing water level.

Sahney hoped that the government will promote cultivation of oil seeds such as soya, sunflower, canola etc as prices of edible oil are increasing.

He also thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for accepting procurement of shrivelled grains which will help Punjabi farmers and will contribute to the food security of the nation.

This was the first time Punjab

nique to avert or control the at-

tack of pink bollworm, farmers

were not aware and kept spray-

ing insecticides which did noth-

ing to stop the attack," an

Agriculture officer said. The lack

of staff in the agriculture depart-

ment and will among the major-

ity of the available field staff led

to the damage to the farmers'

"Before sowing any crop, the

farmers must be made aware of

may have occurred in any part of the world and other information

related to that crop along with

methods of precautions. This

will boost the confidence of

farmers. When they are not

aware of such things, they incur

losses by spraying unwanted

staff, then the role of social me-

dia becomes very important and

the department can make small

documentaries/clips on pest at-

tacks on different crops sown in

the state along with ways to con-

trol or avoid their spread. These

clips can then be circulated on

farmers' WhatsApp numbers,'

suggested a senior officer in the

department on the condition of

anonymity.

"When there is a shortage of

costly sprays," he said.

crop last year, he added.

"Despite having the tech-

had an attack from the insects



SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal during a recent meeting of SGPC at Teja Singh Samundri Hall in Amritsar. Express

1946 resolution of SGPC on 'Sikh state': What Simranjit Singh Mann missed

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR AMRITSAR, MAY 15

ON MARCH 9, 1946, about 80 members of the Shiromani Parbhandak Gurudwara Committee (SGPC) general house convened at the Teja Singh Samundri Hall in Amritsar to pass a resolution calling on Sikhs to strive for a separate Sikh state.

"The present political state of affairs in the country holds out ominous portents for all nations, including the Sikhs," read the SGPC resolution. "In view of the revolutionary changes which are occurring in the country and realising the need to protect Sikh identity, the SGPC declares that the Sikhs are a nation. This general house of the SGPC considers it imperative to have a Sikh state to preserve the main Sikh shrines, Sikh social practices, Sikh self-respect and pride, Sikh sovereignty, and the future prosperity of the Sikh people. Therefore, this house appeals to the Sikh people to endeavour to

achieve the goal of a Sikh state." At a meeting in the same hall on May 11, Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) president Simraniit Singh Mann, a retired IPS officer

whose party is the only one to still contest elections in Punjab on the demand for Khalistan (a separate Sikh state), joined the other two

Akali Dal (SAD) and the Shiromani Akali Dal (Delhi) to demand the release of Sikh prisoners. Mann did not miss the opportunity to subtly remind the SGPC about the 1946 resolution for a Sikh state and urged the organisation to back the idea of Khalistan. He even asked the gathering to wink to show their support for a separate Sikh state.

But what Mann glossed over was that the context of the 1946 resolution and his party's Khalistan demand are not the

Opposing demand for Pakistan

Before Partition, Sikhs constituted about 13 per cent of the population of Punjab province where Muslims were a majority. The SAD was born in 1920 with the objective of looking after the political interests of Sikhs. The SAD worked primarily as a "Sikh extension" of the Congress before the demand for Pakistan became a part of the national discourse.

At a meeting between the SAD and the Khalsa Darbar — an organisation representing different Sikh parties established in 1932 in Lahore — on June 14, 1936, a 19-point manifesto was tabled for elections. The first point was on the fight for "Puran Sawraj (complete independence)" as there was apprehension that the colonial government could declare Punjab a Muslim-majority province.

Four years later, at a party conference in February 1940, the SAD opposed the idea of Pakistan and repeated its demand for "Sawraj". At the time, with relations between the SAD and the Congress breaking down over the Pakistan issue, Mahatma Gandhi wrote to Master Tara Singh, "You have nothing in common with the Congress. You believe in the rule

of the sword, Congress doesn't." Of the three resolutions passed at the SAD conference in Attari on February 10-11, 1941. one was on the opposition to the idea of Pakistan and the second reiterated the demand of "Puran Sawraj". The all-parties Sikh conference on April 8, 1942, in Amritsar passed a resolution saying, "We will not allow Punjab to become Pakistan."

At an "Akhand Hindustan" conference in Delhi on October 8, 1944, Master Tara Singh said, 'Sikhs are protectors of India. Puniab is ours. It is a Sikh state. Mahatma Gandhi cannot excommunicate Sikhs from India. Even if the majority of Hindus agree with Pakistan, there is no justification that it should be forced on Sikhs.'

The Sikh leader participated in another "Akhand Hindustan" conference in Ludhiana the following month to oppose the formation of Pakistan.

Towards the 1946 resolution

With the possibility of Pakistan's formation growing stronger, many Sikh leaders started calling for a separate Sikh state to counter the demand for Pakistan. Though the word 'Khalistan" was mostly used from the 1970s, its emergence

AND REPLAY

can be traced back to pamphlets distributed in Veer Singh who called for a Sikh home-

land. On May 19,

than 100 Sikh leaders gath-Amritsar and

formed 21member committees of the Khalsa Raj on the lines of Maharaja Ranjit Singh's Sikh empire. On June 6, 1943, the Sikh National College in Lahore released a manifesto on "Azad Punjab" or independent Punjab. The same month, the SAD passed a resolution calling for 'Azad Puniab". Master Tara

to Mahatma Gandhi on March 20, 1931. On July 28, 1944, Sikh MLA Mangal Singh said, "Demand of Azad Punjab will come to existence after formation of Pakistan. If there is no Pakistan then there is no demand. Then Azad Puniab will be part of India. Azad Punjab

Singh said the idea of "Azad

Punjab" was no different than

the 17-point charter presented

At a meeting of more than 500 Sikh leaders at the Teja Singh Samundari Hall in 1943, a resolution supporting the demand for a Sikh state was passed. The SGPC resolution three vears later came when it became apparent that the formation of Pakistan was almost

is different from Pakistan and not

Khalistan and sedition law

inevitable.

Unlike the 1946 SGPC resolution, the Khalistan demand emerged in the 1970s in reaction to the alleged discrimination against Sikhs in independent

In the 1986 Balwant Singh vs State of Punjab case, the Supreme Court acquitted two Sikhs who had been charged with sedition, saying their slogans of "Khalistan Zindabad" and "Raj Karega Khalsa" did not incite violence. This judgment allows Mann's party to contest the elections on the Khalistan demand and not attract charges under the sedition law. But the party is now on the margins of Sikh politics and received only 3.85 lakh votes in the Assembly

elections in February.

Chandigarh

districts is 9,500 acres (3,800 ers to go for Direct Sowing of Rice Punjab, Haryana to restart wheat

procurement

CHANDIGARH, MAY 15

PUNJAB AND HARYANA governments have decided that the states will continue and the markets will remain open till May 31. The decision was announced by CM Manohar Lal Khattar while speaking at "Haryana Pragati Rally" at Yamunanagar on

Punjab's Minister for Food Kataruchak on Sunday ordered continuation of wheat procurement operations in 232 mandis in the state until May 31. According to an official statement, this announcement was made after carefully examining the "ramifications" of the recent decision of the Centre to ban wheat exports. Notably, India has banned wheat exports in a bid to check high prices amid concerns of wheat output being hit by scorching heatwave.

"This time, the production of wheat has decreased. So PM Narendra Modi has banned the export of wheat. In order to ensure that every poor person of the country gets food grains, wheat will be procured again in Haryana for 15 days as per the

Two drown while

taking bath in HP

Shimla: Two people drowned

while taking bath in the

Markanda river in the Sirmour

district of Himachal Pradesh on

Sunday, a state disaster manage-

ment official said. Four persons

were swept away by the strong

water current while taking bath

in Markanda River Vikram Bag

in Nahan tehsil, he added. While

two were rescued, two others drowned in the rivewr, he said.

3 firemen hurt in

blaze near Kasauli

Shimla: Three firemen were in-

said. Efforts are on to douse the

flames, he added.

BRIEFLY —

ment and it will start from May 16, which will continue till May 31. Farmers who want to sell their wheat can come to the mandis," Khattar said.

Jagadhari and Yamunanagar.

nounced that the first Forest Research Institute will be set up in the state at Rs 50 crore.

Audio-track of Khelo India games launched

decision of the central govern-

Earlier in the day, he also inaugurated and laid foundation stones for seven development works worth Rs 334 crores, inaugurated several other projects and announced various projects worth crores of rupees in both

To promote plywood indus-

CM Khattar and sports minister Sandeep Singh launched the audio-track of Khelo India on Sunday, This year, Khelo India Youth Games-2021 will be organised in the state from June 4 to 13, 2022. "The Khelo India Promotional Song will work to instill enthusiasm among the voung sportspersons coming from different states of the country. This year, once again the whole world will get to see the power of the players of Haryana through the platform of Khelo India Youth Games Year-2021.

Say state has more potential, almost double area was used three decades ago **ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA** JALANDHAR MAY 15

DESPITE FARMERS selling cotton at double the MSP set by the Centre and talks to bring more area under the crop as an alternative to paddy, the state only is targeting over 4-lakh hectares of land this year, 1.18 lakh (30 per cent) of which has already been sown on till Monday (May 9th). Experts believe that this target is far from Punjab's potential, claiming that almost double the the state three decades ago.

Experts said that the rate of cotton, which is sown between mid-April and May end, was quite high in the last season and farmers sold it for Rs 13.000 per quintal. However, they added that the attack of pink bollworm on the crop last year is making the farmers think twice before sowing it on more land.

Chief Agriculture Officer Mansa Dr Manjit Singh, while talking to The Indian Express, said that area under cotton in their district was 52.000 hectares last year and a target of 64,000 hectares has been set for this year. They have already sown cotton on 30,000 hectares. Mansa is one of the 8 major cotton sowing districts of the state.

STATE-LEVEL FUNCTION ON BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF SHAHEED SUKHDEV

Real tribute to martyrs if we can

eradicate social evils, says Bains

During a havan on the birth anniversary of Shaheed Sukhdev

at his ancestral place at Naughara on Sunday. Gurmeet Singh



Despite doubled MSP, target to sow

cotton on 4L ha, experts unhappy

Experts said that the rate of cotton was quite high in the last season and farmers sold it for Rs 13,000 per quintal. Express

"Farmers got a very high price for cotton crop in 2021-22 but because of the attack of the pink bollworm, they could not get the desired bumper crop and faced huge yield loss in some districts of the state. That factor is making several farmers hesitant about increasing the area under cotton. But still, there are farmers who are increasing the area under the crop this year," said Dr

"Though this increase seems to be good if one looks at the figures of the previous years, a total of 4-lakh hectares under cotton crop is not impressive in a state like Punjab where this crop needs to have around 8-lakh hectares under it. The state used to have 7.58 lakh hectares under cotton, said a senior scientist from Punjab Agriculture University (PAU), Ludhiana, adding that it is crucial to divert area under this alternative to paddy.

Experts also said that the pink bollworm attack could have been averted easily if farmers were made aware of it and pre-

cautions had been taken in time.

Haryana Police warns people

issued an advisory requesting them for paying obeisance. He said that the Punjab government citizens not to share any information on fraud messages being would soon bring ancestral sent to them regarding unpaid electricity bills along with a conhouses of all freedom fighters and prominent personalities on the

Cautioning people to be aware, a Haryana Police spokesperson said, "a latest trend of cyber crime has come to the fore in which fraudsters have started duping people in the name of unpaid electricity bill. They send text messages pretending to be from trusted sources to get targets to click on links that install malware to steal personal and banking details. We are constantly trying to help the people by advising them to refrain from falling into the trap of such scammers"

ganisation well."

about fake power bill messages Chandigarh: The Haryana Police

tact number.

of such criminals, the spokesperson said, "People are advised never to share their personal information or phone number unless they know the person or or-

Asking people to be cautious

jured fighting a blaze near the Air Dev Bhawan in Ludhiana. then led him to join the revolutionaries, vowing to set India free Bains said that Shaheed Force Station in Himachal Pradesh's Kasauli on Sunday, an Sukhdev played a major role in official said. Fire brigades from India's struggle for Independence. Born in Ludhiana in 1907, Kuther and Parwanoo are on the spot of the blaze in Solan district Sukhdev was hanged to death by the British along with Raiguru and and the injured firemen have Bhagat Singh in 1931 at Lahore. been taken to PGIMER. Chandand other areas of India. igarh, State Disaster Management Since his childhood days, Shaheed Director Sudesh Kumar Mokhta Sukhdev had witnessed the brutal

atrocities that the Imperial British

Raj had inflicted on India, which

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

PUNJAB JAILS and Tourism

Minister Harjot Singh Bains

Sunday said that the Aam Aadmi

Party government is committed

to preserving the legacy of free-

dom fighters and our martyrs,

due to whose sacrifices we are liv-

the state-level function organised

on the birth anniversary of

Shaheed Sukhdev at Guru Nanak

He said this while attending

LUDHIANA, MAY 15

ing in a free society.

from the shackles of British dominion. He was a member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA), and organised revolutionary cells in Punjab

Paying tribute to Shaheed Sukhdev, Bains said that the Bhagwant Mann-led Punjab government has chalked out programmes so that our young generation can seek inspiration from our great freedom fighters. These functions are being organised to promote national integration and instil patriotism among the people. The families of the martyrs are a treasure to the country and we must pay proper respect to them. Even the ancestral houses of all martyrs are like religious places and people should visit

for India's independence. Earlier, the Cabinet Minister paid tribute to the martyr by visiting his ancestral house in Mohalla Naughara. He also took part in the havan ceremony being organised by the managing committee.

tourist map.

Dr Manju Malhotra, who pre-

sented a brief note on Shaheed

Sukhdev, said that he was the asso-

ciate of Shaheed Bhagat Singh and

Shaheed Rajguru. She said that it

was on March 23, 1931, that the

three brave revolutionaries, Bhagat

Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru, were

hanged. She said that Shaheed

Sukhdev was just 24 years old

when he became a martyr for his

country. However, he will always

be remembered for his courage,

patriotism and sacrifice of his life

8 EXPRESS NETWORK

Civilian killed in 'chance encounter', probe on

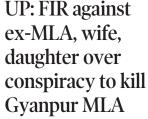
BASHAARAT MASOOD SRINAGAR, MAY 15

POLICE ON Sunday said a civilian was killed in crossfire between militants and a joint team of police and Central Reserve Police Force in south Kashmir. The relatives of the civilian, however, contest police's claim. The Shopian administration has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the killing.

Shoib Ahmad Ganie (22), a resident of Turkwangam village, Shopian, was killed in crossfire during the "chance encounter",

"Terrorists fired upon joint patrol party of RPF 182 Bn (and) SOG of Pulwama near the bridge connecting Litter (village of) Pulwama with Turkwangam, Shopian. During the exchange of fire, 01 civilian namely Shoib Ah Ganie S/O Gh Mohd R/O Turkwangam Shopian got injured...He (the civilian) was referred to District Hospital Pulwama for treatment where he succumbed to injuries. Terrorists after brief chance encounter managed to slip into nearby orchards... A case has been registered and investigations taken

up," Kashmir Zone Police tweeted. However, the relatives of Shoib contested police's claims. "He (Shoib) was in his shop wearing an olive shirt. When the forces reached there, he came down from his shop. The forces asked him to put his hands up and then, fired at him. They are now making up the stories to save the personnel behind the cold-blooded



Mishra, a four-time MLA from contested as NISHAD Party nominee. Police said that they registered the FIR after an inquiry into a viral The role of other accused, includ-Superintendent of Police

handed over to Tiwari.



Kashmiri Pandits protest in Srinagar, Sunday. Shuaib Masoodi

PAGD seeks safe working environment for Pandits

BASHAARAT MASOOD SRINAGAR, MAY 15

THE LEADERS of People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration and a BJP delegation on Sunday met Lt Governor Manoj Sinha to seek safe working environment for the Kashmiri Pandit employees posted in the Valley.

On Sunday morning, PAGD leaders led by its president Farooq Abdullah called on Lt Governor Sinha at Raj Bhawan in Srinagar. Abdullah was accompanied by ex-CM and Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti, Communist Party leader M Y Tarigami, Awami National Conference senior vice-president Muzaffar Shah

and National Conference parliamentarian Hasnain Masoodi.

The meeting was positive. We met him (Sinha). We had only one issue to discuss and that was of Kashmiri Pandits. We sought safe and secure working environment for the [Kashmiri] Pandit employees," Tarigami told The Indian Express.

On Saturday, a delegation of the Kashmiri Pandit employees posted in Valley met the PAGD leaders after which the alliance partners decided to meet the Lt Governor. After the killing of Rahul Bhat, a clerk in the revenue department, by militants in Budgam district's Chadoora on Thursday, the Kashmiri Pandit employees have been demandCONGRESS CHITAN SHIVIR

Task force to drive party reforms, advisory body of seniors soon: Sonia

MANOJCG UDAIPUR. MAY 15

AT THE end of the three-day chintan shivir here, the Congress on Sunday announced a raft of organisational reform measures to bring in new and young faces to leadership levels at all levels. Buried in the Udaipur declaration adopted by the shivir was a suggestion by the youth panel that a "retirement age" should be fixed for all "elected posts" and in Parliament, assemblies and

legislative councils. All the other proposals which the party had been talking about over the past three days - one family, one ticket rule with a caveat; one person, one post; 50 per cent representation for those below 50 years of age at all levels, including the CWC and five-year term limit for those holding positions at all levels - were also announced by the party.

Party president Sonia Gandhi announced that a "Compact Task Force" will be set up to drive the process of internal reforms "that are essential and that have been discussed in different groups over the last three days".

"These reforms with a focus on the 2024 Lok Sabha polls will cover all aspects of the organisation, including structure, rules for appointments to party posts,



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at the 'Nav Sankalp Shivir' in **Udaipur on Sunday.** PTI

communications and publicity, outreach, finances and election management. The composition of the task force will be notified in the next two-three days," she

Besides, Sonia said she has decided to set up an "advisory group" drawn from the CWC that would meet regularly to discuss and deliberate upon political issues and challenges before the party.

The BJP has a Margdarshak Mandal mechanism where it has parked some of its seniors.

Sonia said the new group will not be a collective decision-making body "but will help me get the benefit of the vast experience of senior colleagues". Her stress was interesting as the G23 leaders of the party had been seeking a revival of the parliamentary board mechanism for collective thinking and decision making. The proposal was not accepted by the CWC.

Asked about enforcing an age-ceiling, a veteran leader told The Indian Express "that will also come". Age ceiling, he said, was suggested in the meeting of the CWC, which approved the declaration "but not announced in deference to the elders sitting

The declaration also includes a suggestion by the youth panel that in the future, 50 per cent of all posts in Congress governments will be reserved for those aged under 50 and the same criteria will be applied while selecting candidates beginning the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Regional parties भारत स्किल have no ideology, can't fight BJP: Rahul

MANOJCG

FORMER CONGRESS president

Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said his party alone can fight the BJP as regional parties neither have an ideology nor a centralised approach. The declaration adopted at the end of the three-day chintan shivir of the party, on the other hand, said the party will keep the doors open for alliances depending on the political situation.

Arguing that the political battle in India is between the ideologies of the Congress and BJP/RSS, he said this battle can-

not be fought by a regional party. Rahul said it was the Congress's responsibility to protect the institutions and restart the conversation between different religions and castes and between the states which the BJP government is trying to subvert and break. "No regional party will do this. The BJP or the RSS will not do it," he said.

some caste. They don't represent everyone," he said.

This battle cannot be fought by a regional party. Because this is a battle of ideology. The ideology of the RSS is fighting against the ideology of the Congress. The BJP will talk about the Congress, its leaders and workers but will not talk about regional parties. Because they know that regional parties have a space but they cannot defeat the BJP because they don't have an ideology. They have different approaches. We have a centralised approach. And our

fight is about ideology," he said. The Udaipur declaration adopted by the party, at the same time, said that while the party on its own and through its organisational strength can make inroads and create ground, it was "committed to establish contact and have dialogue with all likeminded parties in the national interest and to save democracy...and keep the options open for alliances wherever necessary according to the political

MANISH SAHU LUCKNOW MAY 15

BHADOHI POLICE on Sunday registered an FIR against former MLA Vijay Mishra, his wife and daughter and three others for allegedly hatching a conspiracy to kill Gyanpur MLA Vipul Dubey.

Gyanpur, lost to Dubey in the recently concluded Assembly eleccontested from jail on Pragatisheel Manav Samaj Party ticket, Dubey video in which some people were purportedly heard planning to kill Dubey. "Two accused, identified as Saddam Hussain and Shiv Kumar Tiwari alias Sonu —both residents of Bhadohi – have been arrested ing Vijay Mishra's wife Ramlali Mishra, is being probed," (Bhadohi) Anil Kumar said.

 $He \, added \, that \, the \, video \, would \,$ be sent for examination. Vijay Mishra is currently lodged in jail following his arrest in a land grabbing case in 2020. The land grabbing case was filed by his relative Krishna Mohan Tiwari who alleged that Vijay Mishra had occupied his Bhadohi home since 2001 and was putting pressure on him to register the property in his son's name. After Mishra's arrest, the house was

Centre relaxes procurement norms for shrivelled, broken wheat grains

HARIKISHAN SHARMA

THE CENTRE on Sunday announced a major relaxation in the Fair and Average Quality (FAQ) norms of wheat by raising the maximum permissible limit of "shrivelled and broken grains" to 18 per cent from the existing 6 per cent. The move is aimed at providing relief to Punjab and Haryana farmers during the ongoing rabi marketing season.

A statement issued by the Affairs, Food and Public Distribution said: "The Centre has decided to allow FCI to procure wheat in Punjab and Haryana, including UT of Chandigarh, for central pool by relaxing the FAQ of shrivelled and broken grains up to 18 per cent without any value cut. This decision will reduce the hardships of farmers and avoid distress sale of wheat.'

The move comes after the two states wrote to the Centre, seeking relaxation in the Uniform Specifications of Wheat for RMS 2022-23. They had urged the Centre to raise the maximum permissible limit of shrivelled and broken grains to 20 per cent.

According to the Food Ministry, Central teams were deputed in Punjab and Haryana in April-May to collect samples from mandis, which were later analysed in FCI labs. "The results indicated presence of shrivelled and broken grains beyond FAQ norms," the statement said.

The emergence of shrivelled

WHEAT PROCURED (2022-23)



*Figures till May 10, 2022



A grain market in Patiala, Sunday. Harmeet Sodhi

REFRACTIONS IN FA	AQ NORMS
Category	Max permissible lim
Foreign matter	0.75%
Other food grains	2%
Damaged grains	2%
Slightly damaged grains	49

Moisture Source: Food Corporation of India

May 31: Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, J&K June 10: Rajasthan June 15: UP, MP, Gujarat, HP June 30: Uttarakhand 14% July 15: Bihar

CENTRE REVISES CLOSING

DATE FOR PROCUREMENT

grains is a natural phenomenon appearing as a result of extreme heat wave in March. These adverse weather conditions are beyond the control of farmers and hence, they should not be penalised for such natural occurit said, adding: "Accordingly, the change in texture of the grain deserves to be sympathetically considered. Thus, relaxation in FAQ norms would protect farmers' interests." **FULL REPORT ON**

www.indianexpress.com

In \$60-million UN scandal, a \$2.5-million housing

investment in Goa — and no house to show for it

Why govt relaxed quality norms?

THE MOVE to relax the FAQ norms is significant in view of the expected fall in the procurement of wheat during the current year. According to the Food Ministry, 195 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of wheat is expected to be procured during the current rabi season, which is less than half as compared to 433 LMT procured last year. According to the ministry, 180 LMT wheat has been procured till May 14, much lower than 367 LMT procured during the corresponding period in 2021-22.

Saha takes oath as CM, says law & order, development top priority

DEBRAJ DEB AGARTALA, MAY 15

MANIK SAHA on Sunday said his main focus as Tripura's new Chief Minister would be to further developmental activities started by the BJP-led state government and strengthen the law and order situation in the state.

Saha made the comments after being administered the oath of office by Governor Satyadeo Narain Arya at Raj Bhavan. The 69year-old was named as the chief minister by the BJP in a surprise Biplab Kumar Deb was made to step down from the top post in the state just a year ahead of the Tripura Assembly elections.

While not explaining why he felt the law and order situation in Tripura needed strengthening, especially when his predecessor Deb boasted of reducing severe and political crimes, the new Chief Minister said he would work under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to develop the state. "Our government under Biplab Deb ji has taken the state ahead. We shall work to con-



Newly sworn-in Tripura CM Manik Saha with former CM Biplab Kumar Deb in Agartala on Sunday. Abhishek Saha

tinue this work and bring in development under the leadership of Modi... Development, development, development, I shall take these works ahead. I shall work to ensure a strong law and order situation," said Saha. The dental surgeon-turned-politician also said his experience of running the BJP's party organisation would help him in his role as the CM.

The appointment of Saha, the state party president and a Rajya Sabha member, as the CM came as a surprise to everyone, including state ministers and leaders in the BJP. There were a series of protests against Deb during his four-year stint as the CM, including the 'Biplab Hatao, Tripura Bachao' slogan and rebellions from his cabinet colleague Sudip Roy Barman, who after being dropped from the cabinet exited the party. Union Minister of State for

Social Empowerment and Justice Pratima Bhoumik on Sunday said the decision to replace Deb was taken by the BJP's central leadership "to strengthen the party and win in 2023".

Art 370 basis for accession of J&K to India, could not be removed: Omar

ARUN SHARMA

NATIONAL CONFERENCE (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah on Sunday said Article 370 had been a "temporary" provision in the Constitution, but it could not have been removed as it formed the basis for accession of I&K to India.

"At that time, the resolution was taken to the United Nations Security Council. On the basis of that resolution. Article 370 was not given a permanent status," he said, while addressing reporters at Surankote on the second day of his tour to Poonch district.

"But thereafter when you say that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and it cannot be disintegrated from it, then you cannot remove that basis on which it had become an integral part of the country." he added.

However, he refused to enter a debate over the issue, saying the matter was pending before the court. Pointing out that the CJI had agreed to hear the matter

after summer vacation, he said: "Let them start hearing and we will place our case before them."

The statement assumes significance as it has come when the Supreme Court has agreed to consider listing after summer vacation the petitions challenging Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370, which gave special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. Of the nearly two dozen petitions pending before the Supreme Court, one has been filed by NC Lok Sabha members Mohammad Akbar Lone and Hasnain Masoodi, a retired High Court judge.

Describing bifurcation of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state into two Union Territories of I&K and Ladakh, the NC leader said there had never been such an example of a state being downgraded to a UT. Though UP, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh were bifurcated in the past, those were not made UTs, he added. "This is for the first time that a state was divided into two and both were made UTs," Omar said.

Forensic probe on to identify cause of bus fire in Reasi: NIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA JAMMU, MAY 15

NATIONAL INVESTIGATION Agency (NIA) on Sunday said a detailed forensic probe is continuing to identify the reason for the recent cause of a fire in a passenger bus near Katra town, the base camp for the pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Four persons were killed and 24 others injured on Friday when a fire ripped apart the moving bus, mostly carrying devotees, near Nomai, about 3 kilometers from Katra, shortly after it left for Jammu from the

A team of NIA inspected the wreckage of the bus on Saturday and collected samples during their one-and-a-half hour stay at

"NIA has extended all requi-

site assistance to J-K Police in the investigation of the case of passenger bus catching fire near Katra on Friday. Detailed forensic probe is continuing to identify the reasons for the cause of fire," the agency said in a tweet. Chandigarh

NEW DELHI, PANAJI, MAY 15 A \$60-MILLION scandal involv-

KRISHN KAUSHIK&

MAYURA JANWALKAR

ing loans and grants by a littleknown UN agency also included a \$2.5 million investment to build affordable houses in India in 2019 none of which have materialised yet. The United Nations Office for

Project Services (UNOPS), which deals with operational projects, had entrusted the entire sum to a single British businessman and now faces \$22 million in bad debts, as per a New York Times Report earlier this month.

A Singapore-based firm, owned by the businessman, David Kendrick, was in charge of getting at least 50,000 houses built in Goa for \$2.5 million, UN documents show.

A couple in Delhi, Amit Gupta and Arti Jain, are the directors of this firm — Sustainable Housing Solutions (SHS) Holdings Pvt Ltd – that has little to show in its books, registering zero revenue and Rs 27,289 in losses in 2020-

The project was under the Sustainable Infrastructure Impact Investments (S3I) initiative, launched in 2018, which is now being probed by the UN for allocating all its funding to companies linked to Kendrick. The head of UNOPS, Grete Faremo, also stepped down earlier this month over the issue that has embarrassed the world body.

Gupta, who is the CEO of SHS, told The Indian Express that the project had been shelved.

A senior Goa government official confirmed to The Indian Express that a presentation was made to officials by SHS Holdings for the construction of the proposed housing units in Goa.

However, officials had questioned how supporting infrastructure like power and roads would be made available for the housing units also. They also had reservations about how the government could award such a large housing project to a private firm without a tendering project, said this official, requesting anonymity. 'No land was identified for

the project. In fact, the discussions did not even reach the stage where the fund-sharing pattern for the project was discussed,"

Gupta claimed that it was the

Goa government that had approached UNOPS "There was an agreement

with the Goa government in February 2019 and then there was a supplementary agreement signed in March 2019. We sent some follow-up mails after that because the state was supposed to allot land to us. We followed up till August-September 2019. When we did not get a response, we were told by UNOPS that it was Goa that wanted these houses to be built and that if they don't want to follow up, we don't have to either. Whenever they want to come in, they can. We left it there at that point in time."

State government officials, however, said no such proposal had been made to UNOPS and had that been the case, the project would not have been shelved.

Sources said that discussions last took place with SHS Holdings in February 2019, and that the file was shelved after the death of then Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar the same year. At least a couple of meetings were held with SHS India officials but nobody from UNOPS had met government officials, they said.

While the former chief of UN-OPS, Faremo, had said in 2019 that 50,000 affordable houses would be built in India, a 2020-2021 internal UN audit document put that number at 100,000. Asked if houses are being

built by SHS in other states, Gupta admitted that none had been made, but said it was due to the pandemic and added that discussions are still ongoing with some

IDEA EXCHANGE NEWSMAKERS IN THE NEWSROOM

We should make a law that makes purchasing less than MSP punishable. If you don't give the farmer remunerative price, and allow private players to have their own way, he will go for distress sale

Manraj Grewal Sharma: How is Congress preparing for the 2024 elections? As a veteran leader, what do you think the Congress needs to do to give BJP a good fight?

As far as policies are concerned, the Congress is for the poor, farmers and labourers. But the present NDA government has made a shift in its policies, and the result you can see — the rich are getting

richer and the poor are becoming poorer. As for me, I'll talk about farmers and farm workers. What is the need of the hour? The farmer gets minimum support price (MSP), not maximum retail price, but sometimes he doesn't get even that. Before these three farm laws were passed, there were three ordinances. At that time, I had said that the government should come forth with a fourth ordinance. In these ordinances, they were going for private mandis. I have no problem with private mandis but in private mandis, MSP was not mandatory. In APMCs, MSP is mandatory. So I said there should be a fourth ordinance so that if anybody, private or government, purchases less than MSP, it is punishable by law. So the farmer will get his due. Till now, farmers are not getting their due.

Manraj Grewal Sharma: Experts feel that market forces will help not only in diversification but also in giving the farmer better remuneration. For instance, this year, some farmers managed to sell their wheat for more than the MSP in Haryana as well.

Sometimes it happens. This time, due to the Russia-Ukraine war, even farmers in Punjab got Rs 5-10 more (than the MSP) for wheat, but that is not a remunerative price. The NDA government promised to double the income of farmers. It is 2022 and their income has actually fallen due to the rising cost of inputs such as diesel and fertilisers. During the 10 years of the UPA government, the average increase in MSP was 12-22 per cent. In the last seven years, MSP has increased by only 5.5-7.5 per cent. There is no problem in privati-sation, but anybody purchasing less than MSP, whether private or APMC, should be punishable by law.

Harish Damodaran: Won't this drive

Fifty per cent of the total employment is given by the agriculture sector. People from rural areas are migrating to cities because of unemployment. If you don't give them remunerative price, and allow private players to have their own way, the farmer will go for distress sale. You can't strangle farmers like that. You have to balance things so both farmers and private players earn.

Manraj Grewal Sharma: You mentioned that the shrinking land holdings are making farming unsustainable. Shouldn't we think out of the box instead of just focussing on MSP?

Unless MSP is there, farming won't be sustainable. There are other things also that need an increase in income, for example, dairy, fisheries and poultry. There are not only farmers but landless farm workers too who don't get finance from the banking sector. They should be given finance for piggery and poultry etc. The farm agitation took place because farmers thought the government was abolish-

Manoj CG: You were one of the signatories of the letter that 23 partymen wrote to Sonia Gandhi in 2020. Recently, you said the party should introduce collective and inclusive decision-making at all levels. After that, Uday Bhan, considered close to you, was made Haryana Congress president. Are you

still miffed with the party? I was never miffed with the party. Every Congressman is close to me. But, we had some suggestions. And in future also, if I think it is in the interest of the party, I'll keep on suggesting. That was the basis of the letter. It was not against or in favour of anybody. Those were some suggestions on how to turn the party around, because Sonia Gandhi said that the base of the party was weakening.

Manoj CG: What was Kumari Selja not doing that Uday Bhan will be doing?

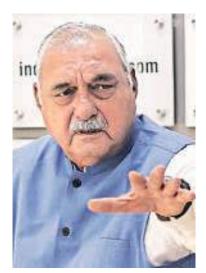
She did good work too. But this is a process. I was also PCC president. What I did or didn't do isn't the question, but I was changed.

Manraj Grewal Sharma: Uday Bhan reportedly said Congress will do away with the quota system in ticket distribution.

WHY BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA

One of the tallest Congress leaders, and leader of Opposition in the Haryana Assembly, Bhupinder Singh Hooda was chief minister of Haryana from 2005 to 2014. With the recent revamp of the party unit in the state, and the appointment of his loyalist as the Haryana Congress chief, the former CM has cut through the party

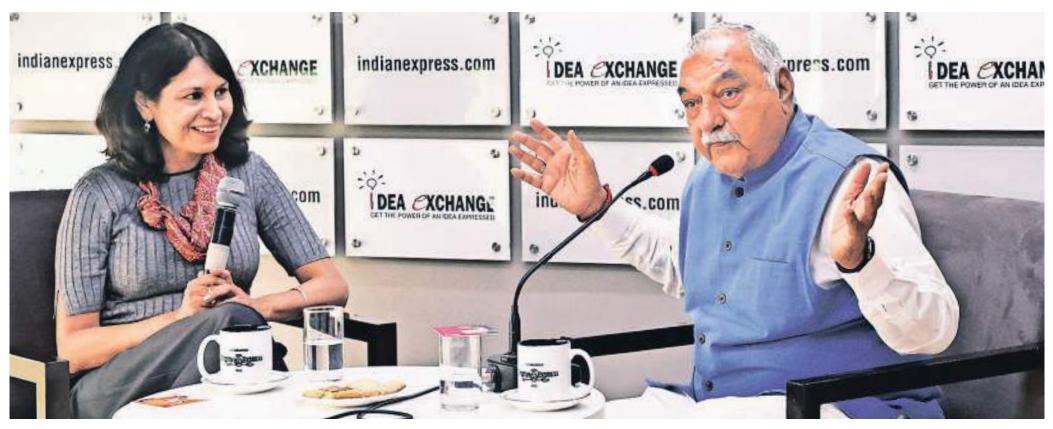
factions to emerge the undisputed leader in the run-up to the assembly elections in 2024 when the state will face a new contestant in the Aam Aadmi Party. Hooda, who has considerable support among farmers, was also recently entrusted with preparing an agenda paper on farmers and agriculture for the Congress' Chintan Shivir



Everybody has said that there cannot be any alliance without Congress. Which party leads depends on the nature of the alliance — if it is a state or Central alliance. For 2024, we will decide accordingly

'The only way out is to fight for the cause of the people; a leader then emerges automatically'

Bhupinder Singh Hooda talks about what the Congress needs to do to give a good fight to the BJP, preparing for the 2024 elections and giving farmers their due. This session was moderated by Manraj Grewal Sharma, Resident Editor (Chandigarh), The Indian Express



Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda in conversation with Manraj Grewal Sharma at the Idea Exchange. Renuka Puri

Tickets should be decided on winnability. In a democracy, the number of seats you can win depends on the candidate, as now, along with the party, the given to the person's winnability regardless of his affiliation.

Liz Mathew: Everyone feels that this is one of the worst times the Congress is facing. What do you think the Congress should do immediately to make itself a formidable alternative to BJP, at least in some states?

Any party in a democracy should fight for the aspiration of the people; they should go with what the people aspire for, and what people expect from them. So, we should fight for their causes. Today, in Haryana, whether it is farmer, labourer, trader or government servant, nobody is satisfied with the present government. We have to take up their cause.

Liz Mathew: BJP has emerged as the ultimate ruling party without any major opposing forces. We are also seeing the emergence of AAP. What should Congress have done from 2004 to 2014 to prevent this oblivion?

Democracy comprises a ruling party and an Opposition. The Opposition comes to power only when it is able to give the promise or power to people. We failed in that. In 2009, LK Advani was a stalwart but he was not able to promise the people that he'll form the government. But in 2014, Narendra Modi gave this promise and he won. In politics, even one event can change the whole story. Let's see what happens.

Liz Mathew: We have seen AAP recently taking up the nationalism cause, in line with BJP. They took some steps to please the majority, while keeping a distance from certain issues hurting a minority community. We have read in history that Congress leaders, be it Indira Gandhi or Rajiv Gandhi, had taken certain steps that were seen as pleasing a particular community. What is your view on this

In a democracy, every party has the right to do that. So AAP is also doing it. The reason it succeeded in Punjab is obvious; it was the main Opposition party. If the Congress would have made some changes some two years ago, it would have been better. But leave that aside. AAP has no presence in Haryana. In Haryana, people look at only Congress as an alternative.

Manraj Grewal Sharma: Do you think the AAP sweep in Punjab will have an impact on Haryana?

Haryana has Delhi on three sides and despite being in power for so many years in Delhi, AAP couldn't make their presence felt in Haryana. Punjab is different. Every

Harikishan Sharma: You said Haryana is looking towards Congress for an alternative but trends show that your vote share has been steadily falling since 2005 when you were the CM even though Congress' slide nationally began in 2014. Your vote share in Haryana fell from 43 per cent in 2005 to 35 per cent in 2009 to 24-25 per cent in the 2019 assembly polls. How can you convince people to view your party as an alternative when your base is steadily eroding?

What was the result in 1996? The Congress had only six -seven seats out of 90. In Lok Sabha, we got only two seats – one was mine, the other was of Kumari Selja. But slowly, in 2000, we got 24 seats. These things happen and will continue to happen. The present government in Haryana has failed completely. It has proved to be a non-performing government, just an event-management government. People have realised this and that's why, they are looking towards Congress.

Shyamlal Yaday: We have seen how BJP made parivarvaad (nepotism) a big issue in UP and succeeded. In Haryana, your third generation is in politics. You became the CM with 81 seats and now you're at 31 seats. To safeguard yourself from this BJP attack, don't you think Congress should give

an opportunity to new people? It's not the third but fourth generation; my grandfather contested in 1923, he was a towering leader. My father was a member of seven different Houses. Nobody in the world is a member of seven different Houses, except my father. I have been to the Lok Sabha four times and five times to Vidhan Sabha. Deepender has also been

in the Lok Sabha thrice, and is now in the Rajya Sabha. The question is how you behave with people — whether they accept you or not. There is no such thing that is ou are a politician vour son can politics. Or if you are a journalist, your son can't become a journalist. If he's a good journalist, he will carve his own position.

Manoj CG: You're a grassroots leader. What is the political counter to this aggressive Hindutva run by the BJP

Follow Mahatma Gandhi's policy and his thoughts. He was a staunch Hindu but had respect for every religion. The Congress has always followed Gandhi's policies.

Liz Mathew: During his trial on Babri Masjid, LK Advani said he had learnt to use religion in politics from Mahatma Gandhi.

This is what I'm saying. We will always follow Mahatma Gandhi. What is bad about it, when he was able to take everyone along with him. Be it Hindu, Muslim, Sikh or Christian, everybody took part in the freedom struggle under his leadership. The idea should be how to use it to build our nation. If you make a road, can you make a road for a particular religion or a caste? It has to be for all.

Shyamlal Yadav: Your government was in power for 10 years from 2004 to 2014. Since then, it seems Congress has done little for the party even though Rahul and Sonia Gandhi were free. You too must be wondering why

Congress is shrinking. This is why we have organised the Chintan Shivir. We are holding party elections. We will start from the block level. In Harvana, there were no ground-level block Congress committees or district Congress committees for the last seven years. For any organisation to be strong, the subordinate organisations are a must. So, this time we are having elections for

Follow Mahatma Gandhi's policy and his thoughts. He was a staunch Hindu but religion. The Congress has always followed Gandhi's policies

block, district and state Congress committees. We will build a strong organisation.

Shubhajit Roy: Gandhi was in favour has one of the most liberal policies.

Gandhi's disciple Nitish Kumar is enforcing prohibition, right? What's the result? You have to realise what social $changes\,are\,happening.\,Bansi\,Lal\,had\,tried$ prohibition, but what is its result today? There were several shortcomings in that. In Nitish Kumar's Bihar, so many people are locked up in jails.

Shubhajit Roy: There's a debate at the national level that UPA allies should take the lead and Congress should take the backseat. What is your take?

Everybody has issued statements that there cannot be any alliance without Congress. Which party leads depends on the nature of the alliance — if it is a state or Central alliance. For 2024, we will decide accordingly. In the state elections, the major party that should take the lead has to

be accommodated by everyone. Congress has to be in the mainstream in the national alliance. In 1977, when the Janata Party was formed, who was leading? Even Morarji Desai's name was not declared for the Prime Minister's post. So, that depends upon the political situation. If everybody in the alliance thinks about the interest of the country, they will decide accordingly.

Manoj CG: What has changed since 2014 in the relationship between Hindus and Muslims? What should be the political response to communal

In Haryana, the government, to hide its failures, distracts the people. These are not real issues. We have been living together for so many years. Everybody knows that everybody has to live together. We have respect for every religion. We carry everyone along with us. We don't get involved in hate politics. The Congress is highlighting the real issues. People will realise slowly. It takes time in a democracy.

Manraj Grewal Sharma: Recently, both the Akali Dal and the Congress celebrated their centenaries. Both parties are on the decline. And one grouse against both is nepotism; there, they ask to change Badal, here, they talk of replacing Rahul.

If someone says in a democracy that their party will never decline, that is not true. I have seen when there were only two members of Parliament from BJP. I've seen more than two-thirds majority of Congress. It happens. And it is good for

democracy. Nobody should monopolise power. Nobody should think they are immune. People see everything, they are very intelligent. They decide at the right time.

Manoj CG: Congress president elections will happen in August-September and Lok Sabha elections in two years. Do you think Sonia Gandhi should continue till the LS elections

The party is holding elections, and whoever is elected should be the president. The party holds democratic elections. If Sonia Gandhi is accepted by all, she'll be there.

Varinder Bhatia: In the current scenario when your party is sliding, do you think a change of face can

Nowadays, along with the party, the face also matters — whether it is the Congress or the BJP. Can you ask any BJP person, what will be your position minus Narendra Modi? In 2004, we assisted Sonia Gandhi (to become the Prime Minister), I was in Parliament, but she refused. In our party, we think about the people. The only way out is to fight for the cause of the people, for their problems. A leader then emerges automatically.

Sourav Roy Barman: Over the next few months, Arvind Kejriwal is going to travel to Haryana and hammer home the point that all parties are tried and tested, give us a chance. With Haryana sandwiched between two AAP-ruled states, can you afford to dismiss AAP? Also, why do you think the talks fell through with Prashant Kishor?

I can't say anything about him (Kishor), but as far as AAP is concerned, every party has got to come and convince the people. But in Haryana people see an alternative only in the Congress. And I am saying this because I know the ground realities.

Varinder Bhatia: You've been holding Vipaksh Aapke Samaksh programmes but we never saw the state Congress President participate. But the newly appointed president was there with you at the recent programme. Is

it an attempt to present a united face? There's no question of factionalism. Our next programme is in Fatehabad and the Congress state president will be there too. These programmes are organised by the legislature party. Because the MLAs have to know (the problems), they have to be on the ground so that they can raise these issues in the Assembly. That was the idea of that programme.

 ${\tt Chandigarh}$

had respect for every

WORDLY WISE

WE DID NOT DOMESTICATE WHEAT. IT DOMESTICATED US.

— YUVAL NOAH HARARI

The Indian EXPRESS

Sounded By
 RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

Endemic Covid

India needs to shift from a heightened pandemic reaction to a steady-state response

CAUGHT WITH CHAFF

Government ban on wheat exports hurts farmers and traders, dents India's image as a reliable global supplier

AST JULY, THE Narendra Modi government imposed stockholding limits on pulses, going against the farm reform laws it had enacted only in September 2020 and before their formal repeal in November 2021. That move, and the latest decision banning wheat exports, constitutes not just knee-jerk reaction to inflationary pressures. Of more concern is their long-term impact on the farm trade and policy credibility. Building export markets, establishing warehousing infrastructure and creating supply chains takes both time and money. Investments in these — whose necessity for Indian farmers and consumers alike is not in doubt — are predicated on a stable policy framework. Which agri-business will have the confidence to put up large processing and storage facilities or search for new buyers for Indian produce if the government does abrupt policy about-turns — by telling them they cannot stock more than 200 tonnes of pulses or contract fresh exports?

The flip-flops in government actions is evident from the department of commerce, on May 12, issuing a statement about the Centre sending trade delegations to nine countries "for exploring possibilities of boosting wheat exports from India" and, a day later, prohibiting shipments "with immediate effect". True, the country's wheat production has fallen due to the sudden spike in temperatures from mid-March, resulting in premature ripening and shrivelling of the grains. But this was known by early-April, when most ground reports pointed to farmers harvesting 15-20 per cent less yields compared to last year. How was the Minister of Commerce Piyush Goyal, then, talking about Indian farmers "feeding the world" and projecting exports of 10-15 million tonnes (mt) in 2022-23, breaking last year's record 7 mt, even in mid-April? This was indicative of either poor crop intelligence — inability to gauge yield losses from the heat wave — or refusal to admit that production has been significantly lower than the "record" 111.32 mt estimate made in mid-February.

The ban on exports has apparently been prompted by wheat procurement plunging to around 18 mt, from last year's all-time-high 43.3 mt, and the resultant depletion in public stocks seen as threatening "food security". But if that was so, what stopped the government to pay a bonus above the minimum support price, incentivising farmers to sell to it rather than private traders and exporters? Nor was there any need to continue with supplying free wheat, apart from the regular quota of ration cardholders. If at all exports were to be discouraged in order to contain inflation, a better way would have been to impose a tariff or a minimum price below which shipments aren't permitted. A blanket ban is like breaking the knees of farmers and traders, from which they will find it difficult to recover — leave alone helping India's emergence as a reliable global supplier.

BLAME IT ON PUTIN

Russia's Ukraine invasion is driving NATO expansion. Moves by Sweden and Finland to abandon neutrality are evidence

RESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN'S invasion of Ukraine is not only turning out to be a military blunder, but also a political disaster for Russia. It is producing strategic outcomes that Putin's war apparently aimed to prevent — the further expansion of Western military alliance, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). The decision by Finland and Sweden — two countries that steadfastly remained neutral in the Cold War between the Soviet Union and the West during the second half of the 20th century — to join NATO marks an important moment in the strategic evolution of Europe since the Ukraine crisis began.

The smaller countries on Moscow's western periphery are afraid —very afraid — of Russian military power. For them, membership of NATO is about protection from the Russian threat. NATO membership is a defensive measure for these countries and not aimed as a challenge to Russia. Russia, with its massive army and thousands of nuclear weapons, is well positioned to deter and defend against attack on its territory. Its neighbours don't have that luxury. Putin's unprovoked aggression against Ukraine has reinforced the fears of the smaller countries and raised their incentives for seeking NATO membership. Equally important, Moscow might not have attacked Ukraine if it was already a member of NATO. Gaining membership of NATO has become a matter of greater urgency for Russia's western neighbours. NATO's principle of collective defence — that attack on any member will rally the rest — has now become even more valuable for Russia's eastern neighbours.

Finland and Sweden remained neutral after the Second World War despite the fact that two of their two immediate neighbours —Denmark and Norway — were founding members of NATO that was set up in 1949. They also chose to stay away from NATO, when three neighbours and former members of the Soviet Union — Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania — joined NATO in 2004. But Putin's muscular policies of recent years and Russia's aggression against Ukraine have tilted the scales. Moscow's ill-considered threats against joining NATO have only helped steel the resolve of Finland and Sweden to end their traditional neutrality. Finland and Sweden are important partners for India. Their neutrality during the Cold War had much in common with India's tradition of non-alignment. India had worked with Sweden closely on many global peace and security issues in the past. Delhi and Stockholm were active members of a coalition between neutral and non-aligned nations in the multilateral fora. They joined hands to promote nuclear arms control between Washington and Moscow. The strategic parallel seems to endure. Much in the manner that India has tilted to the US to secure itself against a growing Chinese military threat, the much smaller Finland and Sweden are embracing NATO to save themselves from their aggressive Russian neighbour.

Freeze Frame

EP Unny



K Srinath Reddy

THE INDIAN COUNT of Covid infected persons, as identified by tests, has risen since April. The actual numbers infected or reinfected would be much higher, as many who were asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic would not have gotten tested. However, it was reassuring that most of those who were infected by a member of Omicron's extended family experienced mild illness. This variant clan's inability to penetrate deeper into the lungs and blood vessels may be partly responsible for this feature. Prior immunity, acquired from earlier infection or recent vaccination, may also have been protective against adverse outcomes.

Despite its mild reputation, Omicron infected a very large number globally and claimed many lives. Most of those who became severely ill were either unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated. Even the definition of who is adequately vaccinated is shifting with one or more boosters being added to the earlier two doses and the interval between vaccine doses being reduced as new variants exhibit their enhanced prowess at infection and immune evasion. Mask mandates, withdrawn when Covid appeared to recede, were reintroduced as case counts started a fresh ascent.

In this ongoing match of wits with the virus, will we reach a state of equilibrium where the virus becomes endemic, with manageable seasonal outbreaks that do not steal lives and seal society? Though some commentators have declared that the virus has already become endemic, it is not yet fully predictable in its evolution, behaviour and impact as new variants keep arising. There is presently no global steady state that can be confidently called "endemic". All we can say is that the virus is here to stay and appears to be moving in the direction of endemicity. However, the possibility of new recombinant viruses birthing from the womb of global vaccine inequity and a worrisome potential for recycled animal to human transmission creates uncertainty about whether and when a steady-state will be reached.

Even as we keep vigil, restrictions have to be withdrawn in stages. The lifting of mask mandates cannot be whimsically hasty, while the imposition of travel bans and school closures should not be knee-jerk responses. A calWhile flood prevention and control require planning and action at multiple levels of government and society, much of the responsibility lies at the municipal level and involves the active engagement of the community. In endemic Covid too, urban local bodies, panchayats, communitybased organisations and citizen volunteers must form a coalition that conducts situational analyses and responds with contextrelevant prevention, control and relief measures. Health communication must be effective through community networks to prevent panic and protect against misinformation. Community based mental health services will help to allay anxiety and prevent illness.

ibrated response is needed, which provides the right balance of confidence and caution, both in policy measures and personal protection at each stage of an undulating pandemic. Situationally adaptive responses must be dynamically enacted against the constant backdrop of health system capacity buildup for prevention, surveillance and patient care.

Perhans flood protection measures can

Perhaps flood protection measures can provide a model of endemic preparedness. We get rains seasonally every year but don't experience floods annually. When there is a threat of recurrent floods, we raise the level of our embankments to prevent the surge of floodwaters into our cities. We build dams upstream to control downstream water levels in rivers. We create efficient drainage systems to prevent waterlogging in the streets.

We monitor weather patterns to anticipate the threat of floods during extreme weather events. If such events are forecast, vulnerable groups of people are evacuated to safety and people's mobility is restricted to essential services. If not, life proceeds without disruption even when rains arrive. We leave it to routine municipal services to deal with rainwater clearance and sanitation. Even then, we use umbrellas to protect ourselves from getting wet when we are exposed to rain.

Such adaptability is needed when we move from a heightened pandemic response to a steady-state endemic response, while being ready to shift gears when needed. We need to get early alerts of new virus variants, much like warnings of changing weather patterns. When there is a threat of a surge in serious cases, we restrict mobility, continue essential services and pay special attention to the safety of the elderly and those with comorbidities. A multisectoral response to a public health emergency, prioritising public safety, would be in order.

In an endemic state, routine health services will suffice for testing and treating cases while maintaining a watch on case counts, clusters and clinical profile of cases. People's mobility will not be restricted but masking in public and crowded indoor locations may be advised when seasonal outbreaks occur. Vulnerable groups of people will be specially protected with vaccine boosters. The general public will be ad-

vised of personal protection measures but life will be near normal during times of seasonal spikes which do not become dangerous waves.

Cities will get flooded even without storms if rainwater drainage and sanitation services are poor. Even a seasonal spike in endemic Covid can pose a serious threat if our health services are inadequately resourced and poorly managed. We need greater investments for strengthening our health services through better infrastructure, workforce, public health expertise, information systems and management. This requires constant attention, not just a crisis response.

While flood prevention and control require planning and action at multiple levels of government and society, much of the responsibility lies at the municipal level and involves the active engagement of the community. In endemic Covid too, urban local bodies, panchayats, community-based organisations and citizen volunteers must form a coalition that conducts situational analyses and responds with context-relevant prevention, control and relief measures. Health communication must be effective through community networks to prevent panic and protect against misinformation. Community based mental health serv-

ices will help to allay anxiety, prevent illness.

Timely vaccine protection must be provided to all who need it without coercion but by building confidence. Still, there will be some who will be highly vulnerable to serious illness during a seasonal outbreak. Civic sensibility must be fostered so that all persons who have any symptoms suggestive of a respiratory illness voluntarily mask up during a seasonal outbreak to protect others. Infected persons must isolate, with the assurance of medical

and social support during the period of illness.
If cases build-up, masking outside home must be mandated, so that asymptomatically infected persons do not pose a threat. As we walk in the rain, we take care not to splash water on others. Likewise, in endemic Covid, it will be our civic duty not to infect others.

The writer, a cardiologist and epidemiologist, is president, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI). Views are personal

(E)

THE PARTY IS OVER

To stall price spiral, RBI is likely to respond with aggressive hikes

RADHIKA PANDEY

DATA RELEASED BY the National Statistical Office showed that retail inflation had surged to an eight-year high of 7.79 per cent in April, driven by higher food and fuel prices. The former rose to 8.38 per cent driven by double-digit inflation in edible oils and vegetables, while inflation in cereals surged in April because of higher wheat prices. Inflation has now remained above the RBI's upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent for four months in a row.

The second-order impact of higher fuel prices is also visible as inflation in transport and communication surged to nearly 11 per cent, from 8 per cent in the previous month. The April data again showed that rural inflation outpaced urban inflation as the rural consumption basket gives more weightage to food. This is not good news for rural demand, which is yet to show a sustained pick-up.

The latest data also indicates that inflation is becoming broad-based. With the lifting of Covid restrictions and a pick-up in demand, services sector inflation captured by the "miscellaneous" category has surged to 8.03 per cent. And with demand rebounding, the passthrough of higher input costs is also gaining momentum. Considering that demand for goods recovered faster than services, goods producers passed on input costs to consumers But as services recover, there will be greater pass-through of prices to consumers in the coming months. Concerns about rising services inflation were also reflected in the April S&P Global Purchasing Managers' Index survey for India's services sector. The surveyed service providers highlighted a sharp surge in

The expectation of a sharp spike in inflation led it to announce an off-cycle 40 basis points hike in the policy repo rate. The RBI is now likely to respond with aggressive rate hikes to prevent the price spiral from getting entrenched. By committing to bring down inflation through rate hikes, the central bank can anchor inflationary expectations. Unanchored expectations will further fuel inflationary pressures.

their operating expenses from March to April prompting them to pass the impact of rising input costs to consumers.

While there may be a slight moderation, inflation is expected to remain above the RBI's threshold of 6 per cent in the coming months. While global food prices measured by the FAO's Food Price Index eased marginally in April, they are still 30 per cent above that in April 2021. The Ukraine conflict continues to impact markets for foodgrains and vegetable oils. Rising fertiliser prices are likely to push up farmers' production costs, leading to high food prices. While the government has extended price support through higher subsidies, if this will be enough to cool prices needs to be seen.

With sticky crude oil prices and continuing supply-side disruptions amplified by the Covid-induced lockdowns in China, the RBI has rightly reverted its focus on inflation targeting. This is needed as central banks around the world are pursuing tight monetary policies to counter inflation. The US Fed followed its 25 basis points hike by another 50 basis points rise in May. These will be followed by hikes of similar magnitude in the coming months. The Bank of England has raised the policy rate by 25 basis points, its highest in 13 years to tackle inflation. Other countries' central banks are also contemplating rate hikes.

In its April policy, the RBI announced the withdrawal of excess liquidity but did not raise the policy rate. The expectation of a sharp spike in inflation led it to announce an off-cycle 40 basis points hike in the policy repo rate. The

RBI is now likely to respond with aggressive rate hikes to prevent the price spiral from getting entrenched. By committing to bring down inflation through rate hikes, it bank can anchor inflationary expectations. Unanchored expectations will further fuel inflationary pressures. The continued strength of the dollar index and sharp rupee depreciation in the last few days could impose further pressure on prices through higher imported inflation. This reinforces the need for interest rate hikes.

In addition to calibrated rate hikes, the RBI needs to fast-track the withdrawal of the ultra-accommodative liquidity support provided during the pandemic. It needs to present a revised projection of inflation for the current year and its views on the possible trajectory of interest rates. Rising inflation will cut back discretionary spending and adversely impact consumption that had only just started picking up. There are concerns about a recession in advanced economies as rising prices have started manifesting in a decline in purchasing power and a fall in consumer sentiments. The demand destruction could trigger a moderation in prices. Base metals prices have eased from the peak seen in the last few months.

Monetary policy support needs to be accompanied by fiscal support measures. The policy response will have to be tailored to the evolving geopolitical situation and the paths of commodity and food prices while balancing the imperatives of fiscal consolidation.

The writer is senior fellow, NIPFP. Views are



May 16, 1982, Forty Years Ago

FALKLANDS ATTACK

BRITISH JETS BOMBED Port Stanley airfield and naval commandos carried a night raid into a West Falkland airstrip destroying a number of aircraft and blowing up an ammunition dump. The attacks were reported by the Defence Ministry on Saturday as British diplomats in the US met Margaret Thatcher to report the progress of talks at the UN. British Sea Harrier jets renewed bombing on the airfield outside Port Stanley, capital of the Falklands, in the first military action in the area in two days. In Buenos Aires, the Argentine military junta said its forces repelled the attack.

PM On Pakistan

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi said that Pakistan had not been adhering to the Simla accord since its present military rulers came to power. Pakistan, she said, had been adopting "dubious standards". On the one hand, that country was talking of friendship with India, on the other, it had been acquiring sophisticated weapons.

CHINESE DELEGATION

AN 11-MEMBER OFFICIAL-LEVEL Chinese team led by Fu Hao has arrived to hold the second round of talks on the border question

and other bilateral matters. Fu, a former Vice-Foreign Minister who has come here as a special envoy of the Chinese government, was received at Delhi airport by Eric Gonsalves, Secretary to the External Affairs Ministry.

EVMs In Kerala

THE CHIEF ELECTION Commissioner is competent under the law to issue such orders as are necessary to rectify any inadequacy in the existent laws to ensure the holding of elections. This also covers the use of electronic voting machine. The machines will be used in the May 19 Assembly elections in the Parur constituency in Kerala.

-THE GUARDIAN

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, MAY 16, 2022

THE IDEAS PAGE

Steering the ship

To ensure quick induction of submarines, India should seek a foreign collaborator to make necessary adjustments, conduct collaborative trials



Arun Prakash

A DAY BEFORE Prime Minister Narendra Modi was due to visit Paris to meet President Macron, the French defence major, Naval Group, announced its inability to participate in India's Project 75-I, under which conventional (non-nuclear or diesel-electric) submarines are to be built domestically. Coming on the heels of similar withdrawals from this competition by Russian and German submarine builders, this is bad news for the crucial project. Some also see it as a coercive tactic by the group to persuade India to buy more of its Scorpene class subs, of which six have been built under licence by Mazagon Docks Ltd

A major issue of contention in Project 75-I appears to be the installation of an air independent propulsion system (AIP) on these vessels. Since conventional submarines are propelled underwater by electric-power, battery endurance remains a major limitation. The submarine has to periodically expose itself to draw air for running generators that charge their battery-banks. It was to overcome this major vulnerability that several types of propulsion systems were evolved in Europe using "air independent," closed-cycle diesel or steam engines which would endow conventional submarines with much longer underwater endurance.

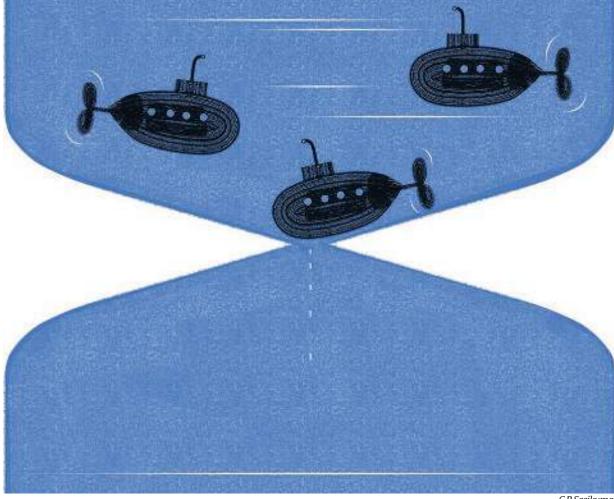
While protracted negotiations between the MoD and the French Naval Group were underway, none of the AIP systems had been fully proven. The contract for license-production of six Scorpenes was thus signed in 2005 without including this system. The Pakistan Navy (PN), obviously less riskaverse, acquired an untried French AIP system and installed it on three Agosta 90B submarines in 2008. What invests the P-75I programme with urgency is the fact that with the addition of eight Yuan Class Chinese submarines, the PN may field up to 11 AIPequipped boats by 2028.

Project 75-I is also the first programme to be progressed under the MoD's new Strategic Partnership concept which ostensibly offers a "level-playing field" to the private sector. In this model, MDL and Larsen & Toubro will choose a foreign submarine-builder for collaboration and offer competing bids to build six modern conventional submarines.

Here a quick look at the genesis and growth of our young submarine arm is useful. While Pakistan had acquired its first submarine from the US in 1963, it was only two years later that the Naval HQ revived an old proposal for creating a submarine arm. Since the USA and UK were offering only surplus WWII vintage submarines, we turned to the Soviets and between 1967 and 1974 acquired eight Foxtrot class boats of contemporary design along with a submarine depot ship.

The Foxtrots, having trained a whole generation of Indian submariners, a timely step for upgradation of capabilities was initiated by contracting for the modern Type-209 hunter-killer submarines built by HDW of Germany. Between 1986 and 1994, four of the Type 209 boats entered service; two built

in Germany and two in MDL. Unfortunately, allegations of corruption



C R Sasikumar

in this deal scuttled plans for further indigenous construction. MDL closed its production line, representing a huge loss in terms of wasted skills/expertise and delays in capability accretion for the Indian Navy. However, concurrent negotiations with the USSR had resulted in the induction of 10 improved boats of the Kilo Class between 1986

By now, the Naval HQ had projected the need for a standing force of 24 subs in order to meet the growing threats to India's maritime interests. In 1999, the government accorded approval to a "30-Year Submarine Building Plan," which envisaged the simultaneous serial production of two types of submarines in separate shipyards. One of the two types was to be an advanced submarine of imported design, and it was hoped that the second line would, in due course, deliver a home-grown product, designed by our own naval architects with foreign assistance.

Delays in decision-making stalled the 30year plan, and since 1999, the navy's submarine fleet has been seeing rapid obsolescence and steady depletion of force-levels. The 2005 contract for building six French Scorpene Class submarines under license from MDL served merely as a palliative measure, but even this programme saw huge delays over contractual issues. The sixth and last submarine was launched in April 2022, a full 17 years after signing of the contract.

With force-levels down to 17 ageing conventional submarines, the Indian Navy looked with hope at the Rs 43,000 crore Project 75-I. Commenced on time, this would have been the seamless follow-on to the Scorpene project; ensuring serial-production, and eventual indigenisation of this vital weapon-platform.

However, policy flip-flops and sluggish

decision-making have kept this project in limbo for over a decade. MDL, having launched the last of the Scorpenes, will start running down its state-of-the-art submarine-building facility, losing expertise and highly-skilled workers.

An added complication has arisen from the otherwise welcome development by DRDO of an indigenous AIP system. Based on electrolytic fuel cells, this system produces energy by combining hydrogen and oxygen with only water as the waste product. It has no moving parts and is safer and more efficient than others.

The drawback, however, is that the 8-10 metre-long AIP module has to be installed on a submarine and subjected to stringent underwater trials before the Indian Navy can accept it as "operationally proven" for induction into service. Since installation and trials of this module will be a complex and timeconsuming process, three major issues are likely to arise: (a) Who will provide a submarine for trials? (b) who will undertake installation and conduct trials? (c) and most crucially, (d) who in our system will take such crucial decisions in a timely manner?

This long-neglected project brooks no further delay and is important enough to attract the time and attention of our highest decision-makers. A practical way forward is for one of the strategic partners and DRDO to jointly seek a foreign collaborator for P-75I who will install the indigenous AIP on the selected submarine and conduct collaborative trials. Once proven at sea, the indigenous AIP could be installed in all new subs and retrofitted in the old ones.

There will certainly be a price to pay, but the alternative is too bleak to contemplate.

Gods aren't crazy, mobs are

"Support for membership in Finland and Sweden shows the Russian president's assault on Ukraine has only strengthened the alliance (NATO)Support for NATO membership in Sweden and Finland shows Putin's assault on Ukraine

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

has only strengthened the alliance."

Listening to self-appointed interpreters of divine moods will lead us back to the Dark Ages



GN DEVY

IN THE 5TH century BC, the Greek dramatist Euripides understood that there was much at the heart of Tragedy that was comic in essence and much in Comedy that was close to Tragedy. He demonstrated this in Cyclops, a satyr-play, "satyrs" being a kind of second-class gods with the ears and tails of horses. One of the characters Euripides created was Polyphemus, a Cyclops, known for his shrill songs, weird stories and fondness for younger men. However, in Greek mythology, Polyphemus was the son of Poseidon, the god of the seas. Three centuries before Euripides, the poet Homer had shown Poseidon getting violently angry when the epic hero Odysseus makes the one-eyed Polyphemus blind.

Poseidon's rage, which makes Odysseus' voyage home dangerous, raises some intriguing questions: One, do the gods ever get angry? And two, how do mortals know when the gods are angry? The answer, as provided in the Greek myths, was that Hermes, the interpreter, alone knows when the gods are angry. Hermes is the herald of the gods as well as a trickster — somewhat like the Narada figure in Indian myths. He is also considered the god of travellers, thieves, orators and merchants. The institution of interpreters of gods' moods was not an original Greek fancy. In the 33rd century BCE, the Egyptian dynasts known as pharaohs had founded their authority on the claim of

their ability to interpret the gods' moods. A similar echo of "theological hermeneutics" can be seen in India's history in the institution of the Vedic purohit, phonetically close to the Egyptian pharaoh (pronounced "phe-ro-aa"). Not much is known about how the Indus Valley people thought about the gods' wrath. Though their civilisation disintegrated around the 19th century BCE, the Harappans have not left behind archaeological signs about this. Perhaps, the Indus Valley civilisation had no interpreters, no orators and no figure that anticipated Hermes or the Vedic purohit. In sharp contrast to the Vedic purohit, Buddhism had no concept of an interpreter of the gods. Homer was a near-contemporary of Gautama Buddha. The Buddha located misery and grief in the minds of human beings, in their inadequate understanding of reality, and not in the whims of the gods.

Sadly, the purohits managed to oust Buddhism, and soon after, metaphysics rife with superstition came to be seen as "knowledge". The nobler parts of the Vedic and Upanishadic traditions describe anger as a self-destructive emotion. The Bhagavad Gita speaks of anger as a cause of delusion, memory loss and destruction. Yet, when the interpreters of God's mind assume the form of a coercive social institution, God himself becomes the loser. During the second millennium, the Bhakti movement rebelled against the self-assumed role of the purohits as God's interpreters. During the 19th century, the resurgence of Hinduism rested on widening access to the divine for all sections of society. The greatest among our national leaders, Tagore, Aurobindo and Gandhi, accepted the idea of God but made humans the centre of spirituality. B R Ambedkar bravely rebelled against the social domination of the purohits and, in works like Annihilation of Caste and Revolution and Counter Revolution in Ancient India, tried to establish how repressive the idea of the superiority of purohits has been in India's social history. In Europe, Friedrich Nietzsche could speak of the death of God, and after Stalin's coercive policies started hurting people, Louis Fischer, Andre Gide, Arthur Koestler and Stephen Spender used the bold phrase "the God that failed" as the title of a book. In the light of this history of gods and their interpreters, it is absurd in the 21st century to invoke the gods to justify anger among humans.

The ethnography of the interpreters of God's anger should be of interest to those of us who believe in the ideas of justice and the rule of law as upheld by the Constitution. There is a small town called Madhi in the Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra. Every year, thousands of people from nomadic communities get together there and express their devotion to the deity at the shrine. In recent years, the advocates of purohit raj have been gradually blocking the devotees' access to the shrine. When asked if this would make their God angry, many of those nomads replied, "No, our God is not angry, we are angry". They were honest and had not surrendered their ability to think.

Some four decades ago, I used to teach at the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda. There was a small temple inside the campus. When communal riots broke out in the 1990s, one of my colleagues remarked that if the faculty does not side with the majority community, the God on the campus would feel betrayed and angry. This reminded me of a poem by Aurobindo. Eight decades before my time, he had taught on the same campus. Explaining a sudden and unjustified burst of anger, he wrote, apologetically, "It was not me, but my belly's hungry god that

One knows that it is humans who get angry when there are no jobs and prices continue to go up, or bulldozers raze their houses. In an attempt to divert the people's attention from the hunger in their bellies, clever interpreters point to some trivial gesture or expression as an insult to the gods. Credulous mobs take the cue and attack the misconstrued expression in the work of painters, artists, singers, writers, cartoonists, protesters, critics, opponents, minorities, meek and mild people — all in the name of the gods. Hermes wins: the journey home for Odysseus gets longer; Buddha has to remain in exile. If we continue to be led by the interpreters of the gods' moods, we may as well find ourselves sliding back to the eras before science replaced myth. Historians describe those eras as the Dark Ages.

The writer is a cultural activist

This long-neglected project brooks no further delay, and is important enough to attract the time and attention of our highest decisionmakers. A practical way forward is for one of the strategic partners and DRDO to jointly seek a foreign collaborator for P-75I who will install the indigenous AIP on the selected submarine and conduct collaborative trials. Once proven at sea, the indigenous AIP could be installed in all new subs and

retro-fitted in the old ones.

There will certainly be a price

to pay, but the alternative is

too bleak to contemplate.

The writer is a retired Chief of Naval Staff

A rasa yatra

Rajshekhar Mansur saw himself as a 'saadhak', in music and literature

N S Gundur

PANDIT RAJSHEKHAR MANSUR (1942-2022), son and disciple of legendary vocalist Pt. Mallikarjun Mansur, passed away in Bengaluru on May 1. He embodied in himself the spirit of the 20th-century Dharwad, which was home to Hindustani classical music and modern Kannada literary culture.

Born in a musical family, Rajshekhar grew up in North Karnataka, the region which boasts a great tradition of Hindustani classical music – Sawai Gandharva, Mallikarjun Mansur, Kumar Gandharva, Gangubai Hangal, Bhimsen Joshi, Basavaraj Rajguru and others. Rajshekhar, the only son of the Mansur family, was brought up with seven sisters. Because of the hardships he himself had experienced as a professional musician, Mallikarjun Mansur did not want his son to pursue a career in music. But the musical milieu was so strong at home and in Dharwad that Rajshekhar was destined to be a maestro. It came as a surprise to senior Mansur when he heard of 16-year-old Rajshekhar singing Malkauns at an annual class day in college. His father started teaching him formally when he turned 19, and before that, a lot of informal training had gone into the making of a musician in Rajshekhar by way of his familiarity with ragas as tunes and listening to his father's riyaaz at home. Thus, Mallikarjun Mansur became a father-Guru.

As Rajshekhar mentions in a write up that is posted on his website, "There was no father in this Guru when he began teaching a particular raga. There was neither a son when I was learning from him. It would be a purely guru-shishya relationship." The musical journey of the father and the son contributed immensely to the Jaipur-Atrauli Gharana, pioneered by the late Ustad Alladiya Khan (1855-1946) also known as Bade Khan Saheb, and his two illustrious sons - Ustad Manji Khan (1888-1937) and Ustad Burji Khan (1890-1950). The Mansurs, following the tradition of the Khans, kept the Gharana alive by refashioning its core values.

For 30 years, Rajshekhar accompanied his father in several concerts and committed himself to the Jaipur-Atrauli tradition of aprachalith(not familiar) and durlabh (rare) ragas. Later, he trained several disciples in India and abroad, His student, both in English literature and music, Mithun once said, "Sir was a true classicist in the pedagogy of music, and he was averse to superficially mixing certain ragas." In his interview with eminent cultural critic Manu Chakravarthy, Rajshekhar said that the jod raga was not simply putting any two ragas together, and the notion of a jod raga had a deep philosophical conception and a profound sense of harmony. For him, music was vidya, something to be learnt by hard work and discipline under the direct tutelage of a Guru.

Like any other children born to celebrities, junior Mansur had to struggle with the

larger than life personality of his father. It enabled him to grow as a musician as much as it constrained him by putting him under pressure, both socially and professionally. In his memoir, Nanna Rasayatre (1983), Mallikarjun Mansur candidly mentions the conflict between the son and the father. As the memoir describes, Rajshekhar, who preferred to be all alone at home, was an introvert, moody and emotional. As a student, he was bright, and his father wanted him to be a doctor, but he chose to teach English literature. The late bilingual critic GS Amur, who was his teacher at Karnatak University, used to recall that Rajshekhar was a brilliant student. He did especially well in European Classics, the course Amur taught. Later, he studied Linguistics at the University of Wales.

As his literature student at Karnatak University, I saw Rajshekhar struggling to strike a balance between being a professor of English and a musician. When he joined the department, he was cautioned by his scholar-teacher and the then head of the department about riding the two horses, music and literature. But for Rajshekhar music was not a horse to ride but a unicorn to be understood and explored, and thus he always saw himself as saadhak, a seeker.

Though Raishekhar could not carve a niche for himself as a litterateur in Dharwad. he composed some poems and short stories in Kannada. Moreover, he was a great teacher

of literature and influenced generations of students like me to pursue literary studies seriously. While he looked thoroughly Indian in his music concerts, in our class his British RP marvelled us. The way he taught us Aristotle's Poetics made us inquisitive scholars; he was so erudite that he presented different translations of Aristotle and a variety of commentaries. And the way he read literary texts, for example, G B Shaw's Saint Joan (1924) enthralled us; he brought music into the dialogues he read aloud. When he taught American Literature, especially Emily Dickinson and Eugene O'Neill, he moved us to tears. He was a charming teacher and we boys were jealous of him as girls admired his personality. He also had the possibility of being a great critic, and his article on Raja Rao's Kanthapura (1938), published in a research journal, is one of the best critical pieces I have

Rajshekhar could also have been a musicologist. Apart from demonstrating ragas as a pedagogue, he deeply reflected on the practice of music. He used to advocate that when we learn any art form, we should keep in mind three components — manan, chintan and manthan. A great takeaway from the teacher who taught us music and literature.

> The writer is professor, Department of Studies and Research in English, Tumkur

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE RIGHT CODE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'How to frame the Uniform Civil Code' (IE, May 14). India is a country with people practising many different religions. The framing of the UCC falls within the purview of Article 44, which is a directive principle. As the writer aptly said, before framing UCC, there is a need to make a preliminary review of all the existing acts. The loopholes in the existing acts should be removed first.

Aditi Pangarkar, Pune

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'How to frame the Uniform Civil Code' (IE, May 14). Modern democracy is established through a social contract between the state and citizens. The UCC would make civil rights equal for every citizen irrespective of religion, caste, gender, or region. The author has rightly pointed out the need to shun all regressive laws in the formation of UCC. According to the Constitution, UCC should be countrywide. State-level UCCs, as recently debated in the country, would create more discrepancies among citizens. The government law department needs to study various norms followed by different religious communities in India and outside and bring out the best suited for its citizens in matters of civil rights just like the Constitution was tailor-made for Indians

H Upadhyay, via email

CHANGE THE LAW

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'A question of consent'(IE, 14th May). The debate around marital rape has indeed led to questioning the "foundation" of marriages. There are often two issues around the subject of marital rape – first, it will challenge the institution of marriage. To this, the pillars of marriage should be mutual respect and not the submission of the wife's authority over her body to her husband. Second is the concern of proving "fake" marital rape cases. While the matter might be a little complex, we have a robust system

Saumya Shukla, Munger

SECURITY CONCERNS

to make and implement laws.

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Soft target' (IE, May 13). It is painful that the Kashmiri pandits continue to be an easy target for terrorists. That our security forces are failing to gain the upper hand in their fight against them shows that there are flaws and gaps in our strategy put in place for this purpose. It is not out of place to mention that targeted killings are not possible without local support. While we must hit our targets the hardest, we must also be accommodative and flexible to those caught in the crossfire. We must not be seen to be caught in a cleft stick.

Tarsem Singh, Mahilpur



Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. AP

THE GULF World leaders descend on UAE to pay respects

to late ruler AN ARRAY of presidents and prime ministers continued to descend on the UAE on Sunday to pay their respects to the federation's late ruler. They also came to praise his successor, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan — a vivid sign of Abu Dhabi's influence in Western and Arab capitals. The first Western leader to jet to the oil-rich emirate was French President Emmanuel Macron. He met Sunday with Sheikh Mohammed to pay tribute to Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the long-ailing ruler who died Friday at the age of 73. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was expected to arrive later, along with other leaders including Israel's president after the two countries opened formal relations in 2020. A US delegation led by Vice President Kamala Harris is due to visit the UAE on Monday.

US to remove 5 from foreign terror blacklist

THE US is poised to remove five extremist groups, all believed to be defunct, from its list of foreign terrorist organisations, including several that once posed significant threats. Although the groups are inactive, the decision is politically sensitive for the Biden administration and the countries in which the organisations operated. The organisations include the Basque separatist group ETA, the lapanese cult Shinrikyo, the radical Jewish group Kahane Kach and two Islamic groups that were active in Israel, the Palestinian territories and

LEBANON

Mired in collapse, country to choose new parliament

THE PEOPLE of Lebanon voted for a new parliament Sunday against the backdrop of an economic meltdown that is transforming the country and low expectations that the election would significantly alter the political landscape. A new crop of candidates from the 2019 protest movement are running against the country's entrenched ruling class that is blamed for the collapse, hoping to unseat them. But they are divided and lack the money, experience and other advantages held by traditional political rulers with a decades-long grip on power.

Filmmaker: Many movie industry workers arrested

AN AWARD-WINNING Iranian filmmaker said authorities raided the offices and homes of several filmmakers and other industry professionals and arrested some them. Mohammad Rasoulof said in a statement signed by dozens of movie industry professionals on Instagram late Saturday that security forces made some arrests and confiscated film production equipment during some recent raids.

18-YR-OLD GUNMAN DROVE HOURS TO BLACK-MAJORITY AREA: POLICE

10 shot dead in live-streamed 'racially motivated' attack at US supermarket

Suspect surrenders to cops; 'manifesto' reportedly written by him says attack inspired by 2019 Christchurch shooting

BUFFALO (NEW YORK), MAY 15

AN 18-YEAR-OLD white gunman shot 10 people to death and wounded three on Saturday at a grocery store in a Black neighbourhood of upstate New York, before surrendering after what authorities called an act of "racially motivated violent extremism".

Authorities said the suspect, who was armed with an assaultstyle rifle and appeared to have acted alone, drove to Buffalo from his home several hours away to launch the afternoon attack that he broadcast in real time on social media platform Twitch, a live video service owned by Amazon.com.

Eleven of the 13 people struck by gunfire were Black, officials said. The two others were white. The racial breakdown of the dead was not made clear.

Court papers named the susoect as Payton Gendron of Conklin in New York state.

He was arraigned hours after the shooting in state court on first-degree murder charges, which carry a maximum penalty of life in prison without parole, said Erie County District Attorney John Flynn. New York has no capital punishment.

According to local media reports, the teenager was a student at State University of New York's **Broome Community College** near Binghamton.

When confronted by officers at the store, the suspect held a gun to his own neck, but they talked him into dropping the weapon and surrendering, Buffalo police commissioner Joseph Gramaglia told a

Gramaglia said the gunman shot and killed three people in the parking lot of the Tops Friendly Markets outlet before exchanging fire with a retired police officer working as a security guard for the store, but the suspect was protected by his body armour.

Stephen Belongia, the FBI special agent in charge of the bureau's Buffalo field office, said the attack would be investigated both as a hate crime and as an act of "racially motivated violent extremism" under federal law.

Erie County Sheriff John Garcia said: "It was a straight-up racially motivated hate crime from somebody outside of our community."

US President Biden decried

the shooting as "abhorrent to the very fabric of this nation" in a statement issued late Saturday. "Hate must have no safe harbour. We must do everything in our power to end hate-fuelled domestic terrorism." New York Governor Kathy

Hochul told a late-evening news conference she was dismayed that the killer managed to livestream his attack on social media, which she blamed for hosting a "feeding frenzy" of violent extremist ideology. Twitch said in a statement that

it removed the livestream less than two minutes after it started.

In addition, a 180-page manifesto outlining 'The Great Replacement Theory' - the idea that white people are being replaced by minorities — also circulated online, reportedly authored by Gendron. It said he drew inspiration from the man who killed 51 people at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 2019. Police declined to comment on the document.



Near the site of the shooting in Buffalo, New York, on Saturday. AP

A grisly inspiration for racist attacks

A gunman who had professed racist views attacked two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, on March 15, 2019, killing 51. This seems to have inspired several others to commit similar acts, including the Buffalo gunman. A look at some of them:

APRIL 2019: Prosecutors said a man who killed one person and injured three in an attack on a synagogue near San Diego during the Jewish holiday of Passover was inspired by the shootings in New Zealand.

AUGUST 2019: A gunman who killed 23 people in a crowded shopping centre in El Paso, Texas, posted a long note minutes before the



The suspect is detained after Saturday's shooting in Buffalo, New York. Reuters

N Korea taking

'swift measures',

attack. In it, he wrote, 'In general, I support the Christchurch shooter and his manifesto.'

AUGUST 2019: A 22-yearold Norwegian man who was sentenced to 21 years in prison for killing his stepsister and opening fire on a mosque said during his trial that he was inspired by the New Zealand massacre. The New York Times

PM VISITS LUMBINI TODAY

With Buddhist centre, India looks to bolster cultural ties to Nepal

YUBRAJGHIMIRE & DIVYA A

KATHMANDU, NEW DELHI,

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will on Monday travel to Lumbini in Nepal to participate in a ceremony to lay the foundation stone for a Buddhist cultural centre to coincide with Buddha Purnima. Sources said PM Modi's brief

visit to Lumbini – he is expected to be here between 10.30 am and 3.30 pm — is focused on bringing soft power to the centrestage of India-Nepal relations while also marking India's formal presence at the holy site that's barely 10 km away from the border.

The construction of the 'India International Centre for Buddhist Culture & Heritage' - to be undertaken by the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC). India, with financial support from the Ministry of Culture -comes decades after most foreign nations, including US, China, Canada, France, Germany and Thailand, among others, built their centres in Lumbini as an instrument of promoting Buddhist philosophy

Officials in India's Ministry of Culture said that the PM, besides offering prayers at the Mayadevi temple in Lumbini, will also deliver an address at a Buddha Jayanti event organised by the Lumbini Development Trust.

A statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office on Sunday said the PM will be visiting Lumbini at the invitation of Nepal Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba. "I am honoured to follow in the footsteps of millions of Indians to pay reverence at the sacred site of Lord Buddha's birth. I also look forward to meeting Prime Minister Deuba again after our productive discussions during his visit to India last month. We will con-



The site for India's Buddhist cultural centre. Yubaraj Ghimire

tinue to build on our shared understanding to expand cooperation in multiple areas, including in hydropower, development and connectivity.

The PM's visit to Lumbini comes amidst China's evident interest in Lumbini. Almost a decade ago, China had offered to build Lumbini as a world peace centre at a cost of three billion dollars, besides holding talks on bringing China's railway right up to Lumbini. Modi's visit and his laying the

foundation stone for the Buddhist Culture Centre -- estimated to cost INR 1 billion and take three years to complete -will mark India's first attempt to develop strong linkages with Nepal's Buddhist heritage sites.

Modi's helicopter ride from Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh, where Buddha is said to have attained Nirvana, will terminate at a newly built helipad in Lumbini, from where he is expected to go to the Maya Devi temple, before laying the foundation stone for the Buddhist centre.

Though there has been no official word yet, indications are that "developmental issues" are likely to be discussed when the two prime ministers hold a meeting before Deuba hosts a

Sri Lanka PM extends support to protesters telling President to quit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA COLOMBO, MAY 15

SRI LANKA'S new Prime Minister. Ranil Wickremesinghe, has extended

public support to the protesters who have been camping at a popular beachfront here for over a month calling for President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's resignation with the country facing its worst-ever economic crisis.

Wickremesinghe said on Saturday that he appointed a committee to look after the interests of the 'Gota Go Home' village protesters who have been camping at Colombo's Galle Face Green since April 9.

It was President Gotabaya Rajapaksa who appointed Wickremesinghe as PM after asking his elder brother Mahinda Rajapaksa to quit.

Wickremesinghe said the young protesters in the village would be safeguarded and their views would be sought for the shaping of future policy.

In an interview with the BBC Sinhala Service, the Prime Minister said the 'Gota Go Gama' protest should be continued to



A protester hangs decorative lanterns to mark Buddha Poornima or Vesak at an ongoing protest site outside the President's office in Colombo on Sunday. AP

bring a change in the political system in the country and let the country's youth take the responsibility to lead.

Wickremesinghe, the 73year-old United National Party (UNP) leader, was appointed as Sri Lanka's 26th prime minister on Thursday as the country was without a government since Monday when Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned after violence erupted following an attack on the anti-government protesters by his supporters. Talks with World Bank, ADB

Meanwhile, on Sunday, Wickremesinghe held discussions with representatives of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank on the current economic crisis in the country, as India delivered the 12th shipment of diesel containing over 400,000 metric tonnes of

fuel to the island nation.

Covid deaths SEOUL, MAY15

reports more

NORTH KOREA said on Sunday a total of 42 people had died as the country began its fourth day under a nationwide lockdown aimed at stopping the impoverished country's first confirmed Covid-19 outbreak.

North Korea's admission on Thursday that it is battling an "explosive" Covid-19 outbreak has raised concerns that the virus could devastate a country with an under-resourced health system, limited testing capabilities and no vaccine programme.

State news agency KCNA said the country was taking "swift state emergency measures" to control the epidemic.

"All provinces, cities and counties of the country have been totally locked down and working units, production units and residential units closed from each other since the morning of May 12 and strict and intensive examination of all the people is being conducted," KCNA reported on Sunday.

says Russians losing momentum

Finland, Sweden take a step closer to joining NATO

Small wins buoy Ukraine; West

STASHEVSKYI& **CIARAN MCQUILLAN** KYIV. MAY 15

ALMOST THREE months after Russia shocked the world by invading Ukraine, its military faced a bogged-down war, the prospect of a bigger NATO and an opponent buoyed Sunday by its wins on and off the battlefield.

Finland decided to seek NATO membership as top diplomats from the Western alliance met in Berlin. The leaders of the militarily neutral country said the invasion had changed Europe's security landscape — though NATO's chief declared that "Russia's war in Ukraine is not going as Moscow had planned.

"Ukraine can win this war," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said, adding that the alliance must continue to give the country military support.

Several hours later, Sweden's governing party also endorsed ioining NATO, a move that could lead to the country's application within days.



Ukrainian servicemen walk amidst rubble at a damaged area in Kharkiv. Reuters

The two nonaligned Nordic nations becoming part of the alliance would represent an affront to Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has cited NATO's post-Cold War expansion in Eastern Europe as a threat to Russia, NATO says it is a purely defensive alliance.

While Moscow lost ground on the diplomatic front, Russian forces failed to make territorial gains in eastern Ukraine.

Ukraine said it held off Russian offensives Sunday in the

country's east, and Western military officials said the campaign Moscow launched there after its forces failed to seize Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, had slowed to a snail's pace.

Ukraine, meanwhile, celebrated a morale-boosting victory in the Eurovision Song Contest. The folk-rap ensemble Kalush Orchestra won the glitzy pan-European competition with its song "Stefania," which has become a popular anthem among Ukrainians during the war. AP

THE KALUSH ORCHESTRA WON EUROVISION WITH THEIR ENTRY 'STEFANIA'

For Ukrainian fighters, Eurovision heralds coming victory over Russia

SERGIY KARAZY MAY15

GATHERED IN a basement used as safe quarters north of Kviv a small group of Ukrainian soldiers joyfully watched their country win the Eurovision Song Contest, saying it heralded their coming victory in the war to evict Russian forces from Ukraine.

The Kalush Orchestra won the Eurovision with their entry Stefania, surfing a wave of popular support from all around Europe to claim an emotional victory that was welcomed by the country's president.

"We had a victory: today in have a victory in Ukraine-





Ukrainian service members celebrate (left) the victory of the Kalush Orchestra (right), a band from Ukraine, during the final

Eurovision, but soon we will Russian war," said Tetyana, a military medic, standing in the

of the 2022 Eurovision Song Contest. Reuters

basement decorated with children's paintings of Ukraine flag

and "Glory to Ukraine" signs

The tired-looking but happy servicemen had sat around a screen, some tapping rhythmically on their knees when Kalush performed, and when the winner was announced they clapped and cheered with delight.

"We will also win," said Vitaliy, a soldier. "We have shown that we can not only fight, but we can also sing very nice.'

The Russian invasion, now in its third month, has claimed thousands of civilian lives, sent millions of Ukrainians fleeing and reduced cities to rubble.

Moscow calls its actions a 'special military operation" to disarm Ukraine and protect it from fascists. Ukraine and the

unprovoked act of aggression. The southern port city of Mariupol has suffered the heaviest fighting, and while it is now

West say the fascist allegation is

baseless and that the war is an

in Russian hands there hundreds of Ukrainian fighters still holding out at the Azovstal steel works despite weeks of heavy bombardment. Stationed far to the north, closer to the border with Belarus,

soldiers in the basement paid homage to the bravery of their comrades in the south. "The next Eurovision we will

host in liberated Mariupol," Vitaliy, the serviceman, said.

New Delhi: The relentless selling of Indian stocks by foreign investors continued, as they pulled out a little over Rs 25,200 crore from the Indian equity market in the first fortnight of this month, on hike in interest rate globally and concerns over rising Covid cases. PTI

SECTOR WATCH **Insurance**

Irdai douses 'Burning Cost', premiums may fall for India Inc

GEORGE MATHEW MUMBAI, MAY 15

PAVING THE way for lower insurance premiums for India Inc, insurance regulator Irdai has said that 'Burning Cost' can't be quoted by general insurers as a 'mandated minimum rate' to charge premiums to customers.

The new notification by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) on the role of 'Burning Cost' — which is a reversal of its earlier stand - will now help insurers to lower the premiums for customers, insurance sources said. However, whether it will lead to undercutting of prices leading to cutthroat competition and underwriting losses remains to be seen. The new situation will be detrimental for the reinsurers who had seen their fire premium going up in the last two years, industry analysts said.

Burning Cost is defined as a

kind of break-even cost where the higher claims in the portfolio will automatically lead to higher premiums to be collected in the subsequent year. In a bid to bring in underwriting discipline and checking rampant under-pricing, leading to large underwriting losses in the Indian general insurance industry, Irdai had earlier asked the general insurers to stick to the 'Burning Cost' as prepared by the Insurance Information Bureau of India (IIBI), a data mining body for the Indian insurance industry set up by Irdai, to price any product. The regulator said it has been receiving several complaints from policyholders, both directly and through various platforms such as industry associations, that insurers are referring to the 'Burning Cost' as a 'mandated minimum rate'.

As a result, in FY2019-20, ate-owned GIC Re and other

WHAT IS THIS COST

■ Burning Cost is defined as a kind of break-even cost where the higher claims in the portfolio will automatically lead to higher premiums to be collected in the subsequent year

branches (FRBs), had increased its fire premium by almost 30 per cent on the basis of higher 'Burning Cost', which, in turn, was passed on to India Inc by the general insurers.

However, the latest Irdai move will allow general insurers to extend appropriate discounts once again. "The objective of the IIBI publishing details of Burning Costs occupancy-wise is only to give information to insurers with regard to industry-level experience for appropriate use while rating risks. By no means does this even remotely imply that this is a 'mandated mini-

mum rate," Irdai said. The regulator said it expects insurers to consider all applicable risk factors for rating a risk and give appropriate discounts or charge loading as warranted. The rating approach shall be part of the technical note filed under the Use and File/File and Use procedure as the case may be, Irdai said. Insurance sources said burning cost itself was a fallacy as it ignores all kinds of exposures for the insurers and always the price needs to be greater than burning cost for long-term viability. If this can't be followed either driven by reinsurers or underwriting discipline of insurers, we will be returning to the anarchic days of pricing and be back soon to the difficult days of pre-2019,"

EXPLORATORY TALKS WITH SINGAPORE AIRLINES

Vistara could merge with AI, decision likely by end of 2023

PRANAV MUKUL NEW DELHI, MAY 15

TATA SONS has held exploratory talks with Singapore Airlines (SIA), its joint-venture partner in Vistara, for a potential merger of the airline with Air India, multiple sources told The Indian Express.

SIA is learnt to have asked for time until the end of next year to decide whether it wants to go ahead. Tata Sons is the holding company of the Tata Group, which took over Air India from the government earlier this year. Vistara is the only other full-service carrier in India.

"The Tatas and Singapore Airlines have discussed the merger possibility earlier this year. SIA had even agreed to join the Tata bid for Air India but because of the pandemic, it decided to back out given its poor financial condition," one of the persons aware of the development said on condition of anonymity

SIA had waived the non-compete clause in Vistara's contract to allow the Tata Group to bid for the national carrier. Air India is now fully owned by the Tata Group, while Vistara is a 51:49 joint venture between the Tatas and SIA.

"SIA has asked for time till the end of 2023 to decide whether it wants to go ahead with the merger or not. What they're looking for is some stability in their financial condition, and that of Air India's operations post the disinvestment," the source said.

"Discussions on how much equity Singapore Airlines will hold in Air India will be held once it has fi-

'84% of staff feel organisation

culture improved since Covid'

Around 84 per cent of employees globally say the

organisation's culture has improved since the

start of the pandemic, an EY Survey said



An Air India aircraft at Chandigarh airport. File

nalised its intention to merge," the source added.

According to this person, the appointment of Air India's new chief executive is a step in the direction of the possible merger. The Tata Group on Thursday announced the onboarding of Campbell Wilson, a Singapore Airlines veteran and CEO of its lowcost unit Scoot. Wilson's appointment as Air

India's CEO & MD was made with the "full blessings" of Singapore Airlines. "The two groups sat together and took the call to appoint Wilson at Air India. The decision has been taken with a long-term perspective. Wilson has global aviation experience and comes with long-term commitment to lead Air India's turnaround," another source said. Singapore Airlines CEO Goh Choong Phong had said on Thursday: "Campbell is one of our most experienced senior executives who has made many important contributions in key management roles within the SIA Group. While we are sad to lose him, he goes to Air India with our

On Friday, in his farewell note to Scoot employees, Wilson wrote:

"...There are other mountains to climb, and Lam humbled to have been selected by Air India's board as the airline's new CEO. It is a fantastic opportunity to lead a historic airline, now owned by the Tata Group, to new heights, and I am grateful to embark on that exciting challenge with the full blessings of the SIA management team,"The Tata Group won the bid to acquire Air India in October 2021, and the airline was trans-

Vistara was launched in 2015. Responding to a question from The Indian Express on the possible merger of Air India and Vistara, a Singapore Airlines spokesperson said: "We do not comment on any confidential discussions that we may or may not be having with our partners".

ferred to its new owner in January.

Tata Sons had not responded to an email seeking comments by the time of publication of this report on Sunday.

The Singapore Airlines Group reported a loss of SGD 4.3 billion (approximately Rs 23,851 crore) for the financial year ended March 2021 as passenger volumes fell 97.9% during the period. The group posted its first quarterly profit

As employers shifted gears

providing more flexible work

options, there is more that

they will need to invest in -

that includes higher pay and

overall brand building of the

The survey canvassed the

countries and 26 industry

business leaders and more

Adani to buy

49% stake in

Business Media

Quintillion

employees across 22

than 500 employees

views of over 1,500 business

leaders and more than 17,000

sectors. In India, the responses

are captured by more than 100

organisation

Methodology

since the onset of the pandemic during October-December 2021.

Air India posted a net loss of Rs 5,422.60 crore for the first half of 2021-22. The Tata Group has laid out a roadmap for the recovery of Air India, and to turn it around financially and operationally.

In Vistara, the JV partners have built a premium airline brand. During the January-March period, the two airlines together had a domestic passenger traffic market share of 18.7%

The Tata Group also owns a majority stake in the low-cost airline Air Asia India, which could be merged with Air India's budget subsidiary Air India Express. Last month, Air India sought approval from the antitrust regulator Competition Commission of India to acquire AirAsia India.

A merger of Air India and Vistara would articulate Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran's philosophy of "synergise", given that the two airlines complement each other in some ways.

They have identical fleets with Airbus A320 family aircraft in the narrow-bodied fleet meant for domestic and short-haul international routes, and Boeing 787 aircraft for medium to long-haul international routes. Air India also has Boeing 777 aircraft for its flights to the United States.

While Vistara has been established as a premium airline brand in the domestic segment, Air India's strength lies in the international markets, especially the US and Europe. Currently, Air India is the only Indian carrier that flies to the US; Air India and Vistara are the only ones that fly to Europe.

36% OF EMPLOYER RESPONDENTS

EMPLOYEES TO COME

As many countries emerge

BACK TO THE OFFICE

FIVE DAYS A WEEK

from the pandemic,

employees have gained

significant influence over

'wish list' from potential

employers is changing

their employers and that their

SAY THEY WANT

Logistics overhang: Rupee fall unlikely to boost exports

Fall in value of other currencies to not give India competitive edge

KARUNJITSINGH& **AANCHAL MAGAZINE** NEW DELHI, MAY 15

THE RUPEE'S depreciation against the US dollar may hold little upside for India as exports seem unlikely to benefit, amid global supply chain constraints and fall in currency values of competitors, even as imports are set to become more costlier.

The rupee has depreciated by 4.18 per cent since the beginning of the year and closed Friday's trading session at 77.44 against the greenback.

Experts said the depreciation in the value of the rupee was likely to add to India's burgeoning import bill but may not have the traditionally expected impact of making exports more competitive as high commodity prices and global supply chain issues are impacting global trade.

"Global supply chains are facing headwinds due to problems in China. All this is adding to pressures on the cost side, so I don't think we can expect an impact on exports because of the currency depreciation that is going on," said Biswajit Dhar, trade expert and professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University. Lockdowns in China aimed at containing the Covid spread have slowed operations at key ports and affected global supply chains.

"There is an acute shortage of containers and the supply chain is completely stretched," said Sumit Goyal, president of Kolkata-based Patton International, which exports engineering goods. Goyal added international buyers often included expected price reductions in line with currency depreciation in contracts. Inflation was also putting upward pressure on the cost of inputs, he noted.

Experts said since there was a secular strengthening of the dollar against most currencies, the depreciation would not offer an advantage to most exporters relative to competitor countries.

"It is not only the rupee that has depreciated, almost every currency including the pound and the euro have depreciated against the dollar. Most of our competing export nations are in South Asia or Southeast Asia and their curren-



Imports are likely to be impacted significantly by the rupee's depreciation, with India's import requirements growing rapidly.

cies have also depreciated," said Sunil Kumar Sinha, principal economist at India Ratings, adding this may mean that exports do not become more competitive as a result of currency depreciation.

Imports, on the other hand, are likely to be impacted significantly by the rupee's depreciation, with India's import requirements growing rapidly — including increased demand for imported coal despite high international prices as thermal power plants are facing low coal inventories.

India's merchandise trade deficit hit an all-time high of \$192.4 billion in FY22 on the back of record high imports worth \$610.2 billion and exports worth \$417.8 billion. High growth in exports and imports has continued in this fiscal, with inbound shipments growing about 31 per cent year-on-year in April, boosted by high prices of commodities such as crude oil and coal.

The depreciation of the rupee is also set to make outward remittances, including those to students in the US, more expensive. Experts said the depreciation might impact the decision of students planning to study in the US going forward.

Experts noted that the rupee was unlikely to see further depreciation against the dollar for a sustained period in the first half of this fiscal. "As far as the rupee is concerned, we believe that with foreign exchange reserves still being large, it's unlikely to be a situation of disorderly depreciation. So, we now feel that for the rest of this half would be Rs 75-79 (against the dollar),' said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at Icra, adding that she expected that the rupee might fall below its recent low but was unlikely to remain there for a long period.

said a reinsurance official. reinsurers, foreign reinsurance www.indianexpress.com

SBI hikes MCLR again, second in 1 month

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI MAY15

STATE BANK of India (SBI), India's largest bank, has hiked its marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) by 10 basis points across tenures with effect from May 15.

BANIKINKAR PATTANAYAK

DAYS AFTER the Reserve Bank of

India (RBI) hiked the repo rate for

the first time in almost four years,

governor Shaktikanta Das will

meet chiefs of public sector banks

(PSBs) on May 17 to review credit

flow and assess the outlook on as-

Das may also take stock of

state-run banks' strategy to deal

with the rising interest rate sce-

set quality, sources told FE.

NEW DELHI, MAY 15



SBI branch, New Delhi. File

Ashima Goyal

New Delhi: The RBI is not "be-

hind the curve" in hiking in-

terest rate to tackle rising in-

flation, Monetary Policy

Committee (MPC) member

Ashima Goyal has said.

dynamics, they added.

nario without upsetting growth

The Governor will also review

on rate hikes

This is SBI's second hike in MCLR in the last one month.

SBI's overnight, one-month, three-month MCLR now stands at 6.85 per cent as against 6.75 per cent earlier. Similarly, the sixmonth MCLR stands at 7.15 per cent, one-year MCLR stands at 7.2 per cent, two-year MCLR stands at

Frauds in PSBs dip

New Delhi: Public sector banks

reported over 51 per cent dip

in the amount involved in

frauds to Rs 40,295.25 crore

during the fiscal ended March

PSBs' collection efficiencies, con-

sumer grievance redress mecha-

nism, digital banking units, lend-

2022, the RBI has said. PTI

51% to ₹40,295 cr

7.4 per cent, and three-year MCLR stands at 7.5 per cent.

SBI's hike follows the Monetary Policy Committee decision to jack up reporate by 40 basis points to 4.4 per cent. In April. SBI had increased its MCLR by 10 bps before the MPC hiked its benchmark rate by 40 basis points.

ing to government entities, IT infra-

structure and cyber security frame-

work and any issue that the lenders

may like to present, said sources.

tions on various aspects of their op-

erations. The governor would

probably like to have bankers' feed-

back as to how they are planning

to cope with the new reality of el-

evated rates and tight liquidity con-

ditions, and what could be the im-

pact on banks' lending, asset

quality and the broader operating

environment." a source said. FE

"PSBs are preparing presenta-

New Delhi: AMG Media Networks, a unit of Gautam Adani's conglomerate Adani Enterprises, will pick a 49 per cent stake in Raghav Bahlcurated digital business news platform Quintillion Business Media RBI to review asset quality of PSBs tomorrow Pvt Ltd for an undisclosed sum, according to a regulatory filing.

Earlier in March, Adani Enterprises announced its foray into the media business by acquiring an unspecified minority stake in Quintillion Business Media Ltd

It has signed a Shareholders" Agreement with Quintillion Media Ltd (QML) and QBML and a share purchase agreement with QML, QBML and Quint Digital Media Ltd (QDML) in connection with its proposed acquisition of a 49 per cent stake in QBML, said Adani Enterprises in a late-night regulatory filing on May 13. PTI

Govt: Constraints in availability of domestic coal

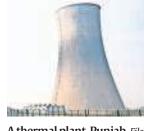
Source: EY/PTI

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, MAY 15

THE COUNTRY is facing constraints in the domestic coal availability and the rest of the dry fuel demand needs to be met with imports, according to the Coal Ministry.

The ministry has also emphasised that coal block holders both captive and commercial have a major role to play in mitigating the coal shortfall situation. Domestic coal production is about 800 million tonnes, according to the coal additional secretary, who is also the chairperson of an interministerial panel on coal linkages for the power sector.

The inter-ministerial panel



A thermal plant, Punjab. File

met recently to consider the requests for coal linkages to central/state sector power plants and to review the status of existing coal linkages. "... rest of the coal demand has to be met through imports from other countries", according to the minutes of the meeting on fuel linkages. WITHPTI

Kolkata: As many as 8.8 million people joined the workforce in April, as per data provided by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). However, the jobs that became available were inadequate com-

India adds

8.8 mn jobs

in Apr: CMIE

pared to the demand, it said. India's labour force increased

by 8.8 million to 437.2 million in April, one of the largest monthly increases since the beginning of the pandemic, CMIE managing director and CEO Mahesh Vyas said.

The country's labour market was at 428.4 million in March, he added. In 2021-22, the average monthly increase in the country's labour force was 0,2 million, as per the data. The report said that an 8.8 million increase in labour force participation was only possible if some working-age people who were out of jobs joined the working population in April. PTI

BRIEFLY —

Paytm, insurance

New Delhi: Paytm said it will seek a nod for a new general insurance licence with a fresh application.

Maruti capex

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India has lined up Rs 5,000 crore capex for various initiatives, said a senior official

HCL Tech, jobs

New Delhi: HCLTech plans to double headcount in nearshore locations in 3-5 years, CEO C Vijayakumar said. PTI

'RIL to buy dozens of brands in \$6.5-bn play'

Mumbai: Reliance will acquire dozens of small grocery and nonfood brands as it targets building its own \$6.5 billion consumer goods business, sources said.

Reliance plans to build a portfolio of 50 to 60 grocery, household and personal care brands within six months and is hiring distributors to take them to mom-and-pop stores and bigger

retail outlets across the nation. The consumer goods push under a vertical named Reliance Retail Consumer Brands will come on top of the brick-and-mortar store network of more than 2,000



A superstore of RIL.

grocery outlets and ongoing expansion of "JioMart" e-commerce operations in India's nearly \$900 billion retail market, one of world's biggest, Reliance did not respond to request for comment, **REUTERS**

IMF lifts weighting of dollar, Chinese yuan in SDR basket

REUTERS BEIJING, MAY 15

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund said on Saturday it has increased the weighting of the dollar and Chinese yuan in its review of the currencies that make up the valuation of its Special Drawing Rights (SDR), an international reserve asset.

The review is the first since the yuan, also known as the renminbi, joined the basket of currencies in 2016 in what was a milestone in

FIRST SINCE 2016

■The review is the first since the yuan, also known as the renminbi, joined the basket of currencies in 2016

Beijing's efforts to internationalise its currency. The IMF raised the US currency's weighting to 43,38 per cent from 41.73 per cent and the yuan to 12.28 per cent from 10.92 per cent. The euro's weighting de-

clined to 29.31 per cent from 30.93 per cent, the yen's fell to 7.59 per cent from 8.33 per cent and the British pound fell to 7.44 per cent from 8.09 per cent.

The IMF said in a statement its executive board had determined the weighting based on trade and financial market developments from 2017 to 2021.

"Directors concurred that neither the COVID-19 pandemic nor advances in Fintech have had any major impact on the relative role of currencies in the SDR basket so far," the IMF said.

RBI OFFICIALS TO PARLIAMENTARY PANEL

'Cryptos can lead to dollarisation of economy'

JATINTAKKAR NEW DELHI, MAY 15

CRYPTOCURRENCIES CAN lead to

"dollarisation" of a part of the economy which would be against India's sovereign interest, top officials of the RBI have told a parliamentary panel, according to

Briefing the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance chaired by former minister of state for finance Jayant Sinha, top officials of the RBI, including Governor

their apprehensions about cryptocurrencies and said these pose challenges to the stability of the financial system, sources told PTI. "It will seriously undermine

Shaktikanta Das, clearly expressed

the RBI's capacity to determine monetary policy and regulate the monetary system of the country," a member of the panel quoted RBI officials as saying, Central bank officials said these currencies "can replace a part of monetary system it will also undermine the RBI's capacity to regulate the flow of money in the system". PTI

If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

THE EXPERT

EXPLAINED HEALTH

How to protect yourself from heat-related illness





Dr Suranjit Chatterjee

From The Indian Express panel of specialists, exclusive insight

WITH TEMPERATURES crossing 40°C in several parts of the country, and states such as Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra experiencing a heat wave, doctors have been treating a number of patients with complaints of heat exhaustion and other heat-related illnesses.

What is heat-related illness and how can one protect oneself from it?

We mostly see cases of heat exhaustion,

in which people feel extremely lethargic after stepping out during the day. But the high temperatures may also lead to a heat stroke, where the body overheats to more than 104°F, resulting in damage to the organs and neurological dysfunctions. It can result in fainting, rashes etc.

The most important thing is to stay well hydrated, especially when out in the heat. Hydration can be in the form of water or something with electrolytes, such as shikanji. Also, thirst is not the only good indicator of whether you need to have more fluids. So, people must keep track of how much water they are consuming. The thing that one should keep an eye on is the urine output, which goes down when a person is dehydrated.

Other than that, people must not wear dark-coloured, tight fitting, synthetic clothes when it is as hot as this. Light-coloured, cotton clothes are the best. Covering the head also

As much as possible, people should stay indoors during extremely hot hours.



Protection from the heat in Delhi on

How much water or fluids should one consume? Can people overdo it?

Yes, people can certainly overdo it. I have heard people talking about drinking water every 20 minutes. That's not how it works. The amount of water intake depends on a

An apparently healthy, young person should drink between 2.5 to 3 litres of water a day. Perhaps, an additional 0.5 to 1 litre of water can be had if they are out in the sun. Anything more may overload the kidneys, which have to work harder to flush out the extra water. Excess water may also lead to electrolyte imbalance, which can cause its own set

Then, there are persons living with a kidney or a heart disease, and they should not overload themselves with water as it may result in accumulation of fluid in the legs, abdomen, and chest, which can in turn lead to breathing difficulties. People with such chronic conditions have to drink between 1 to 1.5 litres of water throughout the day. However, this would depend on the condition of their organs. Anyone who is on fluid restriction should definitely get in touch with their physician to check how much water they should have.

Having electrolyte-rich fluids is a better option when people are out in the sun. Around

two to three glasses of shikanji wouldn't be a problem for a healthy person. Again, those with any comorbidities should keep an eye on what they are having; for example, diabetics should avoid ORS solutions because they are high in sugar content.

Which section is most vulnerable in this season?

Children below the age of 5 and people above

65 are more vulnerable to the impact of heat. They must avoid stepping out during the hot hours, and if they have to, they must be extremely careful and stay well hydrated. However, young healthy people are not completely safe either. They mostly constitute the working population and are more likely to step out in the sun.

with comorbidities such as cardiac diseases, dia-

betes, or thyroid is likely **Dr SURANJIT** to feel the effect of sun **CHATTERJEE** is Senior exposure more.

Consultant, Internal Medicine, at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, Delhi. He has worked in the field of general medicine for over 25 years, treating both communicable and non-

communicable diseases.

Exercising is not a problem; exercising when it is hot is. If people want to go out for a walk or a jog, they should ei-

ther do it early in the

Should people exercise

in this season?

Also, anyone living

morning between 5-6 am or in the evening after 7 pm. People should not do any physical activity between 10 am and 6pm when it is this hot.

And, if people can exercise indoors – at home if they have enough space, or at the gym - then that is better than outdoor exercise.

Dr Chatterjee spoke to Anonna Dutt

VAJIRAM & RAVI Online & Classroom Programmes General Studies Optional Subjects CSAT

Who is Devasahayam Pillai, first Indian layman to be declared a saint by Vatican?

DEVASAHAYAM PILLAI, who was born a Hindu in Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu and converted to Christianity in the 18th century, became the first Indian layman to be declared a saint by the Vatican on Sunday.

Pope Francis canonised Blessed Devasahayam during the Canonisation Mass in St Peter's Basilica, which was attended by over 50,000 faithful from all over the world, as well as government delegations honouring him and nine other new saints, PTI reported.

Besides Devasahayam, the Pope proclaimed five other men – Titus Brandsma, Cesar de Bus, Luigi Maria Palazzolo. Giustino Maria Russolillo, and Charles de Foucauld — and four women — Maria Rivier, Maria Francesca of Jesus Rubatto, Maria of Jesus Santocanale, and Maria Domenica Mantovani — as saints.

Life and death

Devasahayam was born on April 23, 1712 in Nattalam village in Kanyakumari district, and went on to serve in the court of Marthanda Varma of Travancore, After meeting a Dutch naval commander at the court, Devasahayam was baptised in 1745, and assumed the name 'Lazarus', meaning 'God is my help'.

"His conversion did not go well with the heads of his native religion. False charges of treason and espionage were brought against him and he was divested of his post in the royal administration," the Vatican said in a note in February 2020. According to the Vatican, "while preaching, he particularly insisted on the equality of all people, despite caste differences" which "aroused the hatred of the higher classes, and he was arrested in 1749".

On January 14, 1752, Devasahayam was shot dead in the Aralvaimozhy forest. He is widely considered a martyr, and his mortal remains were interred inside what is now Saint Francis Xavier's Cathedral in Kottar, Nagercoil.

Sainthood road

In 2004, the diocese of Kottar along with Tamil Nadu Bishops' Council and Conference of Catholic Bishops of India recommended Devasahayam for beatifi-

A VACCINE for eastern equine

encephalitis virus (EEEV),

western equine encephalitis

virus (WEEV), and Venezuelan

equine encephalitis virus

(VEEV) was found to be safe,

well-tolerated and induced a

neutralising antibody re-

sponse in adult volunteers, ac-

cording to results from a phase

1 clinical trial, published in *The*

Lancet Infectious Diseases.



The tapestry depicting Titus Brandsma (1881-1942; top), and Lazarus a.k.a. Devasahayam (1712-1752) at the Vatican on Sunday, during their canonisation mass, AP

cation. He was declared blessed by the Kottar diocese in 2012, 300 years after his

During the midday 'Angelus' prayer in the Vatican that day, Pope Benedict XVI described Devasahayam as a "faithful layman", and urged Christians to "join in the joy of the Church in India and pray that the new Blessed may sustain the faith of the Christians of that large and noble country", the note from the Vatican said.

In 2014, Pope Francis recognised a miracle attributed to Devasahayam, clearing the path to his canonisation. He was approved for sainthood in February 2020 for "enduring increasing hardships" after he decided to embrace Christianity, according to the Vatican, which last November announced May 15, 2022 as the date for the ceremony.

While clearing Devasahayam for sainthood in 2020, the Vatican dropped 'Pillai' from his name, and referred to him as "Blessed Devasahayam".

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

edible oils in the last few years. This is not good either for consumers or for producers. HARISH DAMODARAN

BETWEEN MAY 13, 2014 and May 13, 2022, the average "modal" (most-quoted) retail price of palm oil in India rose over 2.3 times, from Rs 68.5 to Rs 160 per kg. So did the consumer prices of packed sunflower (2.1 times; from Rs 90 to Rs 190.75/kg) and soyabean (2.2 times; from Rs 77 to Rs 170/kg) oil.

Assessing the hikes

NEW DELHI, MAY 15

These are massive hikes, aren't they? Well, not quite. It can be seen from Table 1 that more than 90% of the price increases in palm, sunflower, soyabean and even mustard oil over the eight-year period — roughly coinciding with the Narendra Modi government assuming office - has happened just during the last three years. In vanaspati (hydrogenated vegetable oil), the entire increase has taken place within the last three years, while well over two-thirds for groundnut oil

Simply put, edible oil is a commodity that actually saw very little inflation during the first five years of the Modi government — in fact, going back further to 2011, Plentiful supplies of cheap imported oil — palm from Indonesia and Malaysia, soyabean from Argentina and Brazil, and sunflower from Ukraine and Russia — ensured access to a product that virtually defied food inflation.

It is only the period after mid- to late-2019 — the Modi government's second term - that has witnessed a doubling of consumer prices of imported vegetable oils. That includes vanaspati, which is largely made from imported palm oil (the process involves hydrogenation or adding hydrogen to harden and raise the melting point of the oil, yielding a product mimicking desi ghee). Prices of indigenous oils, especially mustard and groundnut, have also gone up disproportionately only in the last three years.

When inflation is low, people think of other things. That was precisely the case with edible oils for an extended period from 2011 till mid-/late-2019. It's when prices suddenly shoot up that they take notice and the government, too, starts talking about the need for achieving "atmanirbharta (self-reliance)". India consumes 22.5-23 million tonnes (mt) of vegetable oils annually, out of which 13.5-

ALL-INDIA MODAL RETAIL PRICE OF EDIBLE OILS (Rs/kg)

SIMPLY PUT

The impact of price volatility

Normal food inflation does not hurt as much as sudden price increases, as has been the case with

	Palm	Vanaspati	Mustard	Groundnut	Soyabean	Sunflower	
2014	68.5	70	91.5	116.5	77	90	
2015	60	75	87	121.25	81	100	
2016	67	71.33	90	135	80	92	
2017	67	75	100	130	80	92.5	
2018	75	70	100	115	85	91	
2019	76	70	100	140	85	100	
2020	90	100	120	142.5	90	110	
2021	140	140	160	180	155	145	
2022	160	170	187.5	188.5	170	190.75	

14.5 mt is imported and the balance 8.5-9.0

All prices as on May 13 in that year.

mt produced from domestic sources.

A sudden spurt in prices (volatility) is different from normal inflation. Steep price increases within short periods hurts consumers more than when the same is spread over time. Take vanaspati. Had retail prices risen by Rs 12.5/kg every year after 2014, consumers would have felt it less than the average annual increase of Rs 33.33 over the last three years and almost nil during the previous five years. Volatility - both prices crashing and excessively soaring — isn't good for producers either. These create distortions, leading to their sharply slashing or expanding acreages, further augmenting volatility.

Milk vs oil

The contrast between volatility and normal inflation is clearer when one looks at another essential item of consumption: branded liquid milk. The Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation has been raising the maximum retail price of its Amul milk by Rs 2 per litre every two years or so, with other brands mostly following the market leader. The cumulative price increase over the last eight years has been Rs 12 per litre (Table 2). It translates into a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 2.83% for fullcream milk with 6% fat and 9% SNF or solidsnot-fat content. Paying Rs 1.5/litre more every year for milk wouldn't have pinched the way the sudden Rs 40-60/kg rise in mustard, palm or soyabean oil price in a single

Source: Department of Consumer Affairs

It isn't milk alone. Inflation has been low for sugar and rice, too. According to data from the department of consumer affairs, between May 13, 2014 and May 13, 2022, the modal retail price of sugar has gone up from Rs 36 to Rs 42 per kg (CAGR of 1.95%) and from Rs 24 to Rs 31.5 per kg (3.46%) for rice. Even wheat and atta (whole flour) have recorded relatively low inflation during this period – from Rs 18.5 to Rs 22/kg and Rs 20 to Rs 28/kg, respectively, corresponding to CAGRs of 2.19% and 4.3%.

The wheat effect

The situation could, of course, change for wheat in the coming months. A poor crop (courtesy of the post mid-March heat wave), depleted public stocks (due to 15-year-low government procurement) and skyrocketing global prices (following the Russian invasion of Ukraine) can well do to wheat what the last three years have done for edi-

The impact of price volatility is already being felt, especially in products where both wheat and vegetable fats are key ingredients: bread, biscuit, cookies, cakes and noodles. Biscuit typically contains up to 58% maida (refined wheat flour), 12% fat and 15% sugar. Ordinary white bread will have 8590% maida and 4-5% fats, which act as a lubricant and impart necessary softness, texture and mouth-feel. Vegetable oil and wheat getting simultaneously expensive sugar hasn't so far – would make it difficult

for a whole host of food and bakery product

MRP OF AMUL POUCH MILK

Full cream

48

50

52

56

60

Full cream: 6% fat, 9% SNF; **Toned:** 3% Fat, 8.5% SNF;

Source: Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation

Toned

38

42

46

50

Cow

48

IN DELHI-NCR (Rs/litre)

May 9, 2014

June 3, 2016

March 11, 2017

May 21, 2019

Dec 15, 2019

March 1, 2022

Cow milk: 3.5% Fat, 8.5% SNF

July 1, 2021

industries. To sum up, food inflation is a problem when concentrated within a relatively short period (such as in edible oils) and spread across commodities (wheat is the latest addition). Also, the probability of price volatility is more in commodities with high import dependence. Indian consumers benefited when global edible oil prices were low through much of the last decade. The tide turned first with drought in Ukraine in 2020 and Covid-19-induced shortages of migrant labourers in Malaysia's oil palm plantations. The Russia-Ukraine war, Indonesia's palm oil export ban and dry weather in South America's soyabean-growing belts have

In wheat, where prices at the Chicago Board of Trade futures exchange are ruling around 62% higher than a year ago, the likelihood of volatility would still be lower in India. The only reason is the country's atmanirbharta in the cereal, making it less vulnerable to international price fluctuations. The ban on exports — similar to what Indonesia did in palm oil — will provide fur-

worsened matters.

- THIS WORD MEANS: MONK SKIN TONE SCALE

Google's innovation aimed at inclusiveness

NEW DELHI, MAY 15

AMONG THE various artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) initiatives announced by Google last week at its annual I/O developer conference, one was a 10-shade Monk Skin Tone (MST) Scale something that could have a broader sociological significance. In Google's words, the MST Scale will "support inclusive product and research across the industry".

What is the MST Scale?

Developed in partnership with Dr Ellis Monk, associate professor of sociology at Harvard University, the MST Scale is a tool that will be primarily incorporated by Google into computer vision, which is a type of AI that allows computers to see and understand images. It has been found that computer vision systems often do not function as efficiently for people with darker skin as they do for those with fairer skin. Using the MST Scale, Google and the tech industry

are aiming to build more representative datasets so that such AI models can be trained to identify a wider range of skin tones in images.

How will it work?

According to Google, the scale will "make it easier for people of all backgrounds to find more relevant and helpful" search results. For instance, users who search for makeup or beauty tutorials in Google Images will see an option to refine search results further by their skin tone. Going ahead, Google will utilise the MST Scale to better detect and categorise images to give a larger range of results.

The tech giant plans to expand the use of this database created based on different skin tones, so that creators and online businesses may label their content or products based on other attributes, such as hair colour and hair texture. Google has openly released the scale so that anyone can use it for research and product development.

Why such a scale?

According to Dr Courtney Heldreth, a so-

cial psychologist and user experience (UX) researcher at Google's Responsible AI Human-Centered Technology UX department, "persistent inequities exist globally due to prejudice or discrimination against individuals with darker skin tones, also known as colourism".

And AI not accurately seeing skin tone. which could further lead to existing inequities, is a type of colourism.

To bridge this gap, a Google research team including Heldreth and Xango Eyeé, a product manager working on Responsible AI, focused on bringing more skin tone equity to AI development. The team last year partnered with Monk, whose research has centred on how factors like skin tone, race and ethnicity affect inequality.

The MST scale builds on the foundation of on the existing Fitzpatrick scale, developed by American dermatologist Thomas B Fitzpatrick in 1975, which classified human skin type into seven broad colours. The Google team and Monk arrived at a scale composed of 10 shades – a range pegged to be not too limiting but also not too complex

- and surveyed thousands of adults in the US who felt more represented with the new methodology

Are there similar projects elsewhere?

Several large corporations stepped up their efforts towards colour-based inclusiveness in light of the 2020 Black Lives Matter protests, which had happened in aftermath of police brutality and the killing of African American George Floyd. In 2020, Johnson & Johnson-owned Band-Aid launched a new range of adhesive bandages in different shades of black and brown to make its products more inclusive for people of colour.

In India, amid a backlash and strong public feedback over discrimination against people with darker skin tones, the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) in 2014 released guidelines for the advertising of skin lightening and fairness products. More recently, in 2020, Hindustan Unilever-owned cosmetic brand Fair & Lovely was renamed Glow & Lovely, after criticism for promoting colourism in its advertisements and marketing campaigns.

Chandigarh

mans through the bites of infected mosquitoes. Horses are also susceptible to infection, but horses cannot transmit the viruses directly to humans. Infections in humans are rare but can lead to flu-like symp-

EEEV, WEEV and VEEV are spread to hu-



Vaccine against 3 encephalitis

viruses found safe, effective

toms and, in some cases, severe neurological damage or death. Researchers designed a

virus-like particle (VLP) vaccine candidate that uses proteins from the outer shells of the viruses, the US National Institutes of Health said in a media release. VLPs do not contain the genetic material that the viruses need to replicate in-

side cells, so VLPs cannot cause infection. In trials on 30 candidates, the vaccine was safe, well-tolerated and induced durable immune responses against all three viruses, the release said.

SOURCE: NIH, US

ANDREW SYMONDS 1975-2022

Royals' big stride forward

Rajasthan beat Lucknow by 24 runs to move to second, inch closer to play-offs

IPL TABLE

RR

LSG

RCB

KKR

PK

SRH

CSK

MI

TEAM | M | W | L | PT | NRR

20 0.391

16 0.304

16 0.262

14 -0.323

12 0.210

12 0.160

12 0.023

6 -0.613

8

-0.270

-0.206

13 10 3

13 8 5

6

7

6

7 10

the second and third deliveries he faced, the

latter of which zoomed into the sightscreen.

When Stoinis pulled the length back,

Padikkal stood tall and creamed it through

the covers. Later, even if he was a bit late on

the ball, he made sure he hacked it safely

over midwicket. However, he would become

one of three RR batters who failed to clear

BRIEF SCORES: Rajasthan Royals: 178 for 6

in 20 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 41, Devdutt

Padikkal 39: Ravi Bishnoi 2/31) bt Lucknow

Super Giants: 154 for 8 in 20 overs (Deepak

Hooda 59; Trent Boult 2/18, Obed McCoy

the long CCI square boundaries.

2/35, Prasidh Krishna 2/32)

13 8

13 7

13 6

12 6

12 5

13 4 9

12 3 9

SYNOPSIS: Rajasthan Royals move to 16 points, second only to Lucknow Super Giants, after their strong attack comfortably defends what appeared to be a par

ABHISHEK PUROHIT MUMBAI MAY 15

IT WAS a strange sort of Powerplay from Lucknow Super Giants. Even if the ball was coming on to the bat, the Brabourne Stadium pitch wasn't an outright belter. Still, Quinton de Kock tried to force Trent Boult on the up through a cordon of backward point, point and cover, and found the middle fielder. Ayush Badoni was sent at No.3 for some quick runs but Boult trapped him plumb in front first ball with an inswinger.

After seeing two wickets falling in two deliveries, KL Rahul went into a shell for a couple of overs, even leaving regulation length balls outside off.

Was it because Yashasvi Jaiswal had taken 20 off the last over of RR's Powerplay, or was it because LSG were 23 for 2 after five overs? Suddenly, Rahul, on 4 off 16, switched to hyper-attack mode; he lofted Prasidh Krishna for a gorgeous six over extra cover, but then sliced a short ball into point's hands two balls later.

From 29 for 3, it was going to take some chasing against the likes of Yuzvendra Chahal and Ravichandran Ashwin. Chahal went for a few, unlike the unhittable Ashwin, but also had Deepak Hooda stumped for 59 off 39 in the 16th.

If the spin duo wasn't enough, left-arm seamer Obed McCoy, in just his third IPL game, was hard to get away with his slowerball variations, from dipping full deliveries to sticky bouncers.

Padikkal presses on

Since he almost messed up RR's chase against Punjab Kings with a 32-ball 31 last week at Wankhede Stadium - where he was mishitting even wide balls to fielders -Devdutt Padikkal has been a transformed batsman. On a difficult DY Patil Stadium surface where the ball was holding up, he began to play attacking strokes as soon as he came in against Delhi Capitals. It was not a pitch where he would get everything off the middle of the blade, but the intent was unmistakable. To that 48 off 30, he added 39 off 18 at the Cricket Club of India on Sunday.

These were much better batting conditions, of course, but Padikkal is usually someone who likes to get at least some feel of the wicket before opening up. Here he timed two lovely straight hits off Marcus Stoinis off



Trent Boult struck early to remove Quinton de Kock and Ayush Badoni. sportszpics

Gujarat Titans secure top-2 finish

Mumbai: Wriddhiman Saha's solid 67 not out after a top-class bowling performance set up Gujarat Titans' sevenwicket win over Chennai Super Kings in the IPL securing a top-two finish in the team standings. Gujarat bowlers put up a clinical show to restrict CSK to a below-par 133/5 despite a fine half-century by Ruturaj Gaikwad. Saha, who struck eight boundaries and a six in his 57-ball knock, anchored the chase nicely to get Gujarat home. While CSK were already out of the play-off race, the win for Gujarat guarantees them a top-two finish on the points table in their debut season, providing them with two opportunities to reach the final. Saha first added 59 runs in just 7.1 overs with Shubman Gill (18; 3x4) to lay the foundation of the win. CSK tried to make a mini comeback by grabbing two quick wickets in the middle overs.

BRIEFSCORES: CSK 133 for 5 in 20 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 53, N Jagadeesan 39 not out; Mohammad Shami 2/19, Rashid Khan 1/31) lost to **GT** 137/3 in 19.1 overs (Wriddhiman Saha 67 not out; Matheesha Pathirana 2/24).

Villain or Victim?: The world couldn't make up its mind about Symonds

ABHISHEK PUROHIT MUMBAI, MAY 15

THE INITIAL reaction was a wrenchingly hollow sense of an emptiness that felt like it had been coming for a while - the gnawing feeling that some lives are almost destined to remain unfulfilled.

Former Australia allrounder Andrew Symonds, who died following a single vehicle car crash in Townsville, was both brutal and beautiful in a manner that was almost primal, and even if you were rooting for the opposition and willing him to get out every next ball, you just couldn't take your eyes off him. The bat always appeared too small in his massive gloves. It was as if the casual, rapid tapping of the bat in the crease was telling the bowler to just get on with it, as he did not have too much time for the frivolity of a long run-up.

For he just wanted to uncoil in deceptively quick fashion from that ungainly stance and bash the ball as hard as he coulc before he could wind down in the evening.

He was ahead of the curve in the limitedovers game, and way ahead of his time in T20, where even today, more than a decade after he played his last game, his international strike-rate of almost 170 remains eyepopping. It won't be unfair to say that for most Indian cricket fans in 2008, Symonds was one of the starring villains of the Monkeygate controversy, if not the most central figure at the heart of one of the game's biggest scandals. And yet, as it turned out, he became, more and more, the central victim of its fallout.

A few years later, Ricky Ponting would say that the incident and its aftermath had finished Symonds' career.

He lost trust in those who were supposed to stand by him, and no matter how strong you may appear to the world from the outside, being let down when you are at your most vulnerable can break the very best.

Villain or victim? That could well be the question that defined Symonds, and how the world perceived him.

It was hard to remain perched on the fence when it came to him. Out fishing when he was supposed to be at a team meeting. Drinking in public during a T20 World Cup, that too in England, when he had promised he wouldn't. Calling Brendon McCullum a lump of shit in a radio interview.

And then he would walk in at 84 for 5 in a Boxing Day Ashes Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground and bash an immortal 156



After the Monkeygate scandal, Andrew Symonds felt let down and his career went into decline.

He was ahead of the curve in the limited-overs game, and way ahead of his time in T20, where even today, more than a decade after he played his last game, his international strike-rate of almost 170 remains eyepopping.

against the country of his birth. Or come in at 86 for 4 in a World Cup and crack 143 not out in 125 balls against Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and Shoaib Akhtar. It gives you a sense of what he was capa-

ble of if he could play almost 200 ODIs and still the consensus would remain that justice hadn't been fully done to the rare talent he possessed. On the other hand, the bar brawls and the

binge drinking would never quite go away. "I go out and drink hard all in one hit. Too fast, too much," he'd said once.

He was right. The rollercoaster he was on was going too fast, too much. All along, it had felt like something had to give. That it did at the age of just 46 adds the final full stop to a lifetime of sudden starts-and-stops. And it is probably fitting that he played his last match in India for an Indian team, Mumbai Indians, against an Australian team, New South Wales, in the 2011 Champions League. The villain and victim were both somehow conjoined to this land.

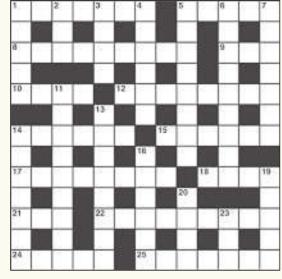
Zareen, Anamika, Parveen enter quarterfinals

New Delhi: Asian Championships bronze medallist Nikhat Zareen (52kg) continued her splendid run as she stormed into the quarterfinals alongside Anamika (50kg) and Parveen (63kg) in the World Boxing Championships in Istanbul on Sunday. Nikhat made light work of Mongolia's Lutsaikhan Altantsetseg to win by a 5-0 unanimous verdict. Parveen then displayed her attacking prowess to out-punch former Youth Olympic champion Jajaira Gonzalez of USA 5-0, while Anamika dispatched world championships bronze medallist Kristy Lee Harris of Australia with a similar margin. But, it was curtains for Shiksha (54kg), who went down by a 2-3 split decision to Youth Asian bronze medallist Yesugen Oyuntsetseg of Mongolia. Nikhat was the first Indian in action on Sunday and she completely dominated from start to finish in her round of 16 bout. The Telangana boxer used her quick hands to great effect and landed a flurry of straight punches on her rival's face in all the three rounds. The highlight of Nikhat's display was her immaculate footwork and speed, which the Mongolian found difficult to handle. PTI

Djokovic beats Tsitsipas for first title of the year

Rome: Novak Djokovic raised his first trophy of the year at the Italian Open on Sunday and showed that he's back in top form exactly a week before the French Open starts. After missing a large portion of the season because he wasn't vaccinated against the coronavirus, the top-ranked Djokovic beat Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-0, 7-6(5) for his sixth Rome title. "I've been building my form the last few weeks," Djokovic said. "It couldn't be better timing coming into Roland Garros." "Perfect scenario for me," Djokovic added later. Earlier on the red clay, Iga Swiatek defended the women's title by overwhelming Ons Jabeur 6-2, 6-2 to extend her winning streak to 28 matches. Djokovic didn't drop a set all week, having won his 1,000th career match over Casper Ruud in the semifinals. Djokovic, who was deported because of his un-vaccinated status ahead of the Australian Open. hadn't won a tournament since raising the Paris Masters trophy in

CROSSWORD 4741



ACROSS

- Punishment for lying in the
- sun?(7) A question of choice
- New net cord starts tight In traffic a repeatedly seen
- 10 Every one in teaching (4)
- 12 Such a net may become loose 14 Many admit to being
- inexperienced (6)
- 15 Sarah's crazy to worry
- 17 Mention a new name (8) Cause a storm in a teacup (4) 21 Not conscious one is in error?
- 22 Gave effortless recital and
- thought (5)
- 25 Gleeman's new medley (7)

- Give an oral test (5) This man invaded England (3)
- In extremities they can be accommodating(4)
- They're for putting on vegetables (6) He's paid to mind someone
- else's business (8)
- An insect's uninterrupted development (9)
- Gear to make use of horsepower (7)
- 11 They will spend their time
- 13 Rounded up but not rounded off(8)14 Many on past record seem to
- agree (7) 16 Master switch for the current
- 23 Have something to confess (3)
- Solutions Crossword 4740: Across: 1 Tropical, 5 Stop, 9 Unfit, 10 Crouton, 11 Cool customer, 13 Remain, 14 Bedlam, 17 Maiden speech, 20 Officer, 21 Trice, 22 Earl, 23 Hydrogen. **Down:** 1 Taut, 2 Offform, 3 Intelligence, 4 Accrue, 6 Totem, 7 Panorama, 8

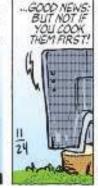
For the better, 12 Primrose, 15 Licking, 16 Osprey, 18 Infer, 19 Seen.

staggered away (6,3)19 Strip a firearm (5) 24 Entertained without a 20 Close up of a swimmer

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis









CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



AM I GETTING THE SKILLS I'LL NEED TO EFFECTIVELY COMPETE IN A TOUGH GLOBAL FOONOMY P T WANT A HIGH PAYING JOB WHEN I GET OUT OF HERE! I WANT OPPORTUNITY!





IN THAT CASE, YOUNG MAN.

I SUGGEST YOU START



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong





8

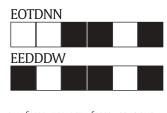
1

8

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 John Burroughs (6,2,3,3)





Answer: A somebody was once a nobody who wanted to and did - John Burroughs SOLUTION: ARENA, DITTO, TENDON, WEDDED

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 horizont rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level 1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy 3s = Medium: 4s = Hard: 5s = Very Hard; 6s =

tal	7 2						m
		4	П	7			
					9	3	
	8		7	П		6	4
y; :	4	1		5			
,	5		8		1		
L							

3

SOLUTION SUDOKU 483 2 6 5 9 3 1 8 7 4 9 6 5 2 4 8 5 6 4 3 4 6 3 7 2 8 4 3 6 8 7 2 5 9 1 2 9 6 8 5 4 3 7 6 5 4 3 2 7 1 8 9 7 8 3 1 9 4 2 5 6

9 4 8 7 5 6 3 1 2

DAY TODAY

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) No matter how relaxed the pace of life today, the end of the week could be rather hectic. There will also be a certain amount of emotional come to be grateful for your foresight and refusal to put off tasks that should be done as

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) You may have a conservative reputation but, if allowed to express

soon as possible.

vourself, vou have a wonderfully understated eccentric way of working. Now that Venus is aligned with a publicity-minded region of your chart, partners and associates will begin to notice your qualities

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) The Moon makes a number of very sharp moves today, which means that domestic affairs should now be sorted out and family relationships resolved, at least until the end of the week. Older relations could be the most helpful, you know who

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) Everything that has happened recently has conspired to

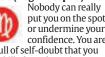
change the rules of the game. Don't blame other people though, after all it's you who has moved the goal posts, possibly for the very good reason that it seemed the right thing to do at the time.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

way through a private sector of your chart, inspiring dreams, strange imaginings

and mysteries of the most colourful kind. You will relish any intrigues or uncertainty that cloud your vision today. After all, a mystery could be the cause of much more pleasure.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23) Nobody can really



confidence. You are so full of self-doubt that you are skilled at sabotaging your own interests. Make it your goal to boost your self-esteem and inspire respect. But don't feel that you need to rush into anything hasty.

BY PETER VIDAL

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Your personal affairs will be highlighted

and even spectacular way this week. Yet another full seven days may get to grips with outstanding domestic differences and family hopes. That gives you every reason to wait until your

mind is made up. SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23) Pluto is a volatile



wonderful planet's healing and restorative powers will be used utterly in your favour, even if at first it looks as if the opposite is true. Things are not always what they seem.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22) Because Jupiter,

your planetary ruler, is still so powerful, you have all the protection you need. However, I would not say that this is a time for taking risks. On the

contrary, great prudence is required. You see, if you're to be a proper gambler you have to know the outcome before CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Even though you may be convinced



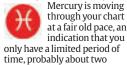
wish. However, it is certain that you can trust partners' generosity. Think now about what you might offer in return.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21- Feb 19) Even the most



you need a rest and a chance to get on with your own intensely personal interests. A word of advice, treat all amazing financial offers with a huge pinch of salt.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)



weeks, to arrange interviews, attend meetings and make proposals. What is most mportant today, though, is the Moon, which is reinforcing and stiffening your emotions.

Calling India's Thomas Cup triumph as one of the country's finest sporting wins, Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited the shuttlers to his residence on returning from Bangkok.

\$1 million: Prize money for winning the tournament.

Rs 1 cr: Amount the Indian players to get from BAI Rs 1 cr: Cash award announced by Sports Minister Anurag Thakur.

Indian badminton takes giant leap: From the semi-final spot in 1979 to top of the world in 2022

Feather floats in the sky



Indian players and coaching staff with their medals and trophy after winning the Thomas Cup in Bangkok on Sunday. AP

Dreamy day of drama for Indian badminton, great depth takes team to new high at Thomas Cup

SHIVANI NAIK MAY15

WHEN WAS India last able to boast about 'killer instinct' in its sportspersons while simultaneously triggering meltdowns and chokes in three massive powerhouses? India's Thomas Cup final triumph was all about comebacks - Lakshya Sen and Satwik-Chirag's in their matches, and Kidambi Srikanth's from three years in the oblivion. Also, HS Prannoy's from wondering whether all his big scalps without titles amounted to much.

Like the World Championships in December, young Lakshya Sen led the way.

India's not too familiar with the American collegiate idea of sophomore blues, but various versions of impending doom have been buzzing about Lakshya Sen, and his imminent struggles after being figured out on the international circuit. An unprecedented Thomas Cup final, where he had been battered in quarters and semis, was to test his mettle when he took to the court. Losing the opener 21-8 against Anthony Ginting, the damning prophecy began buffering. Then, Sen snapped.

Taking a 7-3 and 11-7 lead playing at a faster clip, Sen would parry Ginting's attempts by retrieving relentlessly. Sen's defense is an addictive watch, an assured pulse-metre spike as he scurries around the court chasing down the bird from all manners of balanced and imbalanced positions. It's vertiginous from an eye level because the quality big his strokes rises as the rally goes on. Ginting had him trapped in the corners in the opener, but lost confidence in his masterstroke the moment Sen sent back the shuttle.

He then played into Sen's hands. Rather into his body, frustrated at being retrieved at the far lines. Anyone who knows Sen knows that is an invitation in bold and underlined to trouble. Any shuttle close to his body with his torquing torso is Sen's strength and he happily started winning the longer rallies - including a 46-shot

one, which annoyed Ginting even more. The Indonesian is a speed fiend, and does-

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

FIRST RUBBER: LAKSHYA'S SENSATIONAL COMEBACK

Sen beats Ginting 8-21, 21-17, 21-16 Game 1: Sen struggles with the drift as the Indonesian dictates play to open up a four-point lead at the interval. After restart, Ginting wins 12 straight points. Game 2: A stunning 46-shot rally is the highlight of the game, with the Indian retrieving everything that Ginting throws at him to win the point. Sen grows in confidence and levels the tie with a brilliant cross-court winner. Game 3: A subdued Sen trails by four points behind at the interval. After the change of sides, Sen drags Ginting into longer rallies, tests his patience and begins to claw his way back to win the match rather comfortably in the end. SECOND RUBBER: DOUBLES DELIGHT TO GO 2-0 UP

Satwik-Chirag beat Ahsan-**Sukamuljo 18-21, 23-21, 21-19**

Game 1: The Indonesians race to a 17-11 lead with consistent attacking play. Chirag-Satwik try to stage a fightback with some attacking play but service errors cost them dear.

n't like those speed breakers. At 18-15, while had dialled back his days of romping across fense, which earned him the right to kill at unexpected junctures within a frenetic rally. There was a gorgeous looking round the head smash from his little hop-step after all that blur of sweaty retrieving. He even treated himself to a cute long serve, and finally watched Ginting deflated while dumping a return into the net for a 21-17 set score.

Into the decider, Ginting looked like he'd seen a ghost. Sen was now sending the crosscourt smashes with aplomb, but looking unfussed if a long rally was needed to bide his time. Ginting's smashes landed in the net now. At 16-14 Sen was galloping the breadth of the net now - a clear sign that scores were irrelevant, his attack was a juicy steak on a green, leafy, crunchy bed of defense now.

Sophomore blues might well be on the horizon, but on Thomas Cup finals day, Sen

Chirag-Satwik make uncharacteristic errors and are unable to deal with their opponent's tempo. Ahsan-Sukamuljo get four match points but the Indian duo saves all four to force a decider. Game 3: Nothing separates the two pairs throughout the decider but Chirag-

Game 2: After taking a five-point lead,

Satwik play fearlessly throughout to earn two match points. The Indonesian save the first. Then, Chirag produces a cross-court smash to convert the other and give India a 2-0 lead.

THIRD RUBBER: SEALING IT WITH A STRAIGHT-GAMES WIN

Srikanth beats Christie 21-15 23-22 Game 1: Srikanth wastes little time in getting into the groove. He constructs his points beautifully to stay ahead despite Christie constantly finding ways to fight back. But Srikanth controls the pace of the game and pockets the game. Game 2: The Indian begins sharply but makes three back-to-back errors, which gives his opponent some confidence. Tense exchanges followed the change of ends, with momentum swinging both ways right till the end. But Srikanth shows no nerves to win the match.

courts. India took a 1-0 lead laced with hope.

Doubles magnifique

Satwik-Chiragwere alert and moving well, but had still gone down 0-1 on set score to Indonesia's legendary Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo and Mohd Ahsan. They took a 12-8 lead in the second, but then allowed the Indonesians to pick 12 of 14 points to hike up to 14-19. At 17-20, the Indians were staring at 3 match points.

But through the course of the second set, Satwiksairai Rankireddy had roused from his strictly steady zone to begin to put a lot of shoulder on his downward strokes. Chirag Shetty has been pulling this team like a yellow headband-rimmed steam engine all week. But the gentle giant Satwiksairaj had woken up. He would muscle up the smashes with such a rip, that Ahsan and Kevin were beginning to get rattled. At 20-18, Ahsan dumped a nervous smash into the net.

The Indians had taken more than giantkilling reputation into this tie after disposing of Malaysia and Denmark. In winning all doubles against the top nations, Satwik Chirag had announced their whistling return to winning ways. The two can bully on the court, and the fact that they don't often make it even more menacing when they do. Kevin-Ahsan flubbed four match points. It was surreal, as the Indians went 20-all, 20-21, 21-all, 22-21 to finally have Satwik bisect the Indonesians with his steep smash to level 23-21.

The Indians have lost so many from 20-18, it was a delicious sight to watch them turn the tables on opponents. In the decider, leafs were traded, but 13-16 didn't look dire. Piling on the pressure with Satwik belting away his smashes, the Indians easily turned 17-19 to 20-19. Their audacity in not giving too much respect to Indonesia's big names, brought India 2-0 up.

Comeback 2. Check.

Srikanth's case has been a protracted period of three long years in the wilderness, hearing broken tape of how he had wasted his talent from random strangers on Twitter to coming into contention again. The World Championship silver medallist had waited for

his body to patch up all the niggles so he could freely express his game. Yet the December event had ended in a lost final against Loh Kean Yew. In Bangkok, Srikanth's comeback was 6 out of 6 matches played and won. He had been parrying off second singles till quarters, but in Anders Antonsen and Jonatan Christie, he had two bonafide Top Tens. He made mincemeat resistance on the day, with mere great shot se

All he touched was marked gold, though Christie attempted comebacks and stayed calm. But Srikanth's class was far too much for the Asian Games gold medallist to find any rhythm when he was left scrambling to return the Indian's delectable bouquet of racquet work.

lection and an error-free game.

Reflexive backhand returns in response to tight spinning net dribbles, saw him sticking his hand out for the most defensive of winners at 8-7 in the second. The iconic net charging follow-up to a smash brought him match point, and the crosscourt smash set fire to the curtains of the dramatic day.

3-0 ain't dramatic as a whole. But every moment was for a pulsating nation back home, giddy with anticipation of a historic

Three shot stories

Lakshya Sen's relentless retrieving abilities, Srikanth's silken strokes and Chirag-Satwik flexing their muscles: the points that defined the matches



Lakshya Sen (R) in action against Indonesia's Anthony Ginting. AP

AT 14-13, LAKSHYA SMASH THAT HELPED HIM NOSE AHEAD

The shuttle clipped the tape and fell on Anthony Ginting's side to give Lakshya Sen a slight edge at 14-13 in the decider. Luck ought to favour the brave, goes the saying. Sen had earned his luck with a relentless defense that prolonged rallies and punctured Ginting's hopes in a way the defending champion wasn't prepared for. Sen had done the hard work of defending from four corners, and for a player like Ginting, this cancelling of

his attack with such bullheadedness was beginning to grate.

Sen started again the next point, maintaining a medium rhythm in his retrieves before he let rip the kill against the run of play. It was an accelerated down smash that hurried the pace mid-rally and gave him the 15-13 to nose ahead. The explosive attack on the back of a harp of defense was too much for the speed at top gear Ginting.

SRIKANTH'S DUBSTEP AT 22-21

Asked his favourite shot, aside of the winning point that is, Srikanth picked the penultimate one. "Because that brought me match point," he would say. But 22-21 in the second had indeed

been the signature Srikanth Dubstep. In a sparse rally, Srikanth amped up the pace for a near-kill which could've sufficed on its own. But the likes of Jojo Christie get under the smash invariably. It's in the follow up charge to the net that the opponent is far too spent to raise arms for yet another incoming bamboozler. It is Srikanth's confidence shot, it's regal in its execution, and stomping in its aftereffect.

On the day, it brought Srikanth the match point after being 19-20 down and a decider looming. A third set is always fraught with energy reserves



dipping and in a team event. Srikanth has never been a dawdler, and finishing in 2, asserting his class is his nature. Jonatan Christie doesn't get frazzled much. But the setup that fetched him the championship point left him deflated. A crosscourt smash that followed didn't need even the driving in of the knife. A poke drew blood, and India had a maiden Thomas Cup travelling on a flight

DOWN 4 MATCH POINTS, CHIRAG-SATWIK LINI FASH POWER GAME

Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo, half of the legendary Minions, losing a Thomas Cup final rubber from four match points is unheard of.

That the Indians, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty chipped away at Indonesian confidence, at their self-image even at what is at the core of their strength, and superbly executed with the building of pressure by the Indians, was the turning point of the final which ended in a disbelieving 3-0 result. The clutch of points were all about finding the right nuanced placement and not bullying speed as such.



At 17-18 Kevin Sanjaya had the most confident smash grazing the line pointing to accuracy and control. In the next few minutes. Indians incited anarchy. Satwik left shyness behind, and uncoiled his powergame.

Coach Boe basks in reflected glory after guiding Indian doubles pair

SHIVANI NAIK

MAY 15

MATHIAS BOE had been going through withdrawal symptoms. His chosen poison turned ailment: top-grade bad-



minton. The former Thomas Cup winner and Olympic silver medallist, who retired two seasons ago, had not really come to grips with being away from the circuit. He immersed himself in his business, and his per-

sonal life. "But I missed winning like this at the top events. I'm happy India gave me the chance to experience this once again," said India's doubles coach (in pic), who helped the newly-minted Thomas Cup champions pull off a sensational 3-0 win against all-time lead ers Indonesia in the final.

Boe has always shared a great equation with Chirag Shetty. And was guiding him along with video analysis online at the All England even when he wasn't formally the India coach. India's efforts to bring Malaysian Tan Kim Her as specialist doubles coach had fallen through, and India's top pairing was looking and feeling rudderless. Playing at the

topmost level, but without an experienced brain ticking behind on the coach's chair.

'The Malaysian appointment almost came through and then it didn't. And Chirag contacted me and asked if I was available for a short term. I've always had a good equation with Gopi, so we spoke. But these things need higher-ups involved. It was also a good offer for them to sign me. And now here I am in Bangkok, having won the Thomas Cup again," Boe said, happy and amazed.

He would guide the Indians through wins against Malaysia and his home nation Denmark - two highly-tactical battles against mercurial opponents that needed clarity of strategy. And his typically belief-inducing pep talks. At the Tokyo Olympics, the Indians beat the eventual champions, but went out in the group stage - leaving a whiff of unfinished business.

"Since the Olympics, it's really something I've missed doing. It's what I like. But my body grew old, and I couldn't play on the circuit any longer. I missed competing deeply. So, I was happy to be back and help in this capacity. It comes naturally to me to inspire others to win," Boe said.

Second coming

He would return to Mumbai and imme-



Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (L) and Chirag Shetty celebrate after their win. AP

diately change a few things in the training regimen. "As players, they need sparring partners. But I also changed a bit of their style of play and how they communicate." The Indians had gotten into a rut, losing narrow

matches, and flubbing 20-18 advantages on match points. "As a recent player, I had an idea of what's running through their minds. They also needed someone to scream at them," he added.

It was an unreal team effort. And India will now realise how big this result is given only 6-7 countries have won Thomas Cup before. This will count as one of the biggest moments of Indian sport... I hope India really move away from the underdog tag and push forward and defend this crown like favourites."

MATHIAS BOE DOUBLES COACH, INDIA

While the group games ended with India going down to the Chinese Taipei pair a day before the quarters, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag had the last laugh. Their belief in the process never dipped. "Quarters was tremendous pressure because losing would mean no medal," he says. India pipped Malaysia 3-2.

Denmark was a challenge not because Boe had to plot against his former teammates. But because Indians needed the confidence bolstered in their gameplan. "Finals was also that one sole shot at glory. And I didn't want us to miss it. I'm happy for myself and I'm happy I got the chance to feel this," he reiterated.

He would watch in awe as the team spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for 10 minutes, "It was an unreal team effort, And India will now realise how big this result is given only 6-7 countries have won the Thomas Cup before. This will count as one of the biggest moments of Indian sport," Boe said, adding his favourite moment will always be 'the Srikanth projectile coming down.' "Lakshya and my boys also fought, of course."

His day-after wish? "I hope India really move away from the underdog tag and push forward and defend this crown like favourites.'

Vimal refers to 1983 moment

PTI adds: Coach Vimal Kumar on Sunday hoped the triumph would do the same to the country's shuttle sport what the 1983 World Cup win did to cricket. "We always had hopes but the way the players played, they just put up a performance out of the blue," Kumar said. 'In 1983, when India won the cricket World Cup, the euphoria was something else but cricket was always a very popular sport and I hope with this performance, now badminton can also become so popular. It has always been about individual achievements but this was a team performance and I hope the popularity of the sports goes up from here on."

Chandigarh

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