

EXPRESS NETWORK



NIA GETS 10-DAY CUSTODY OF UDAIPUR ACCUSED  
PAGE 5

14 days judicial custody for Zubair, FCRA violation among 3 new charges

ANAND MOHAN J  
NEW DELHI, JULY 2

ALT NEWS co-founder Mohammad Zubair, arrested on the charge of hurting religious sentiments following a complaint over a 2018 tweet, was sent to judicial custody Saturday for 14 days. The prosecutor opposed his bail application, saying an investigation was underway into donations he allegedly received from abroad including Pakistan.

The Delhi Police, which produced Zubair before Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Snigdha Savaria at the end of his four-day police custody, said three new sections had been added to the FIR against him: IPC 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving false information to screen offender), IPC 120 (B) (punishment of criminal conspiracy) and section 35 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA).

Police did not seek extension of his custody and instead asked that he be sent to 14-day judicial custody. The prosecution said it may seek Zubair's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Nadda sets tone for meet: BJP for people, Opp for their own families

LIZ MATHEW  
HYDERABAD, JULY 2

SETTING THE tone for the BJP National Executive, which is meant to finalise strategies for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, party president J P Nadda said Saturday that while the party works to empower the poor and believes in constructive politics, Opposition leaders empower only own families and are into "destructive politics".

Sources said the party's anti-dynasty push was laid out by Nadda in his address at the inau-

VETERINARY DOCTOR HELD FOR 'INSTIGATING' ATTACK; SEVEN ARRESTED SO FAR

NIA to probe Amravati killing, police say 'mastermind' among 2 new arrests

Police identify convenor of an NGO as common link, say he planned killing

JAYPRAKASH SNAIDU & DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
AMRAVATI, NEW DELHI, JULY 2

WITH INVESTIGATIONS pointing to similarities between the two killings in Udaipur and Amravati — like the tailor in Rajasthan, the chemist in Maharashtra is also suspected to have been targeted for his social media post supporting BJP's Nupur Sharma — the Union



Irfan Khan, the alleged mastermind, was arrested on Saturday

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Saturday handed over the Amravati case to the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

As reported by The Indian

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

4 of those held worked with NGO run by prime accused

JAYPRAKASH SNAIDU  
AMRAVATI, JULY 2

POLICE HAVE identified Irfan Khan, 35, who was arrested from Nagpur on Saturday, as the "mastermind" behind the killing of the chemist in Amravati last month.

According to police, Irfan is the common link between at least four of the five arrested earlier. While Irfan is the convenor of a

registered NGO that runs a helpline called "Rahebar" — its Facebook page says it works to rehabilitate the differently-abled — four others who have been arrested, including the alleged killer, also volunteered with the NGO.

The four have been identified as Muddassir Shaikh, 22; Abdul Taufiq Taslim, 24; Shahrukh Khan, 25; and Shoaib Khan, 22. Shoaib is alleged to have stabbed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPRESS NETWORK

TOLL RISES TO 29 IN MANIPUR LANDSLIDE, 34 MISSING  
PAGE 5

SAYS RULING PARTY WANTS EVERY GOVT ACTION ENDORSED, OPP ITS CAUSES

Forces trying to run down judiciary, we are answerable only to Constitution: CJI

Speaking in US, praises its inclusivity, says need it everywhere 'including in India'

ANANTHAKRISHNAN  
NEW DELHI, JULY 2

HITTING OUT at "forces whose only aim is to run down the only independent organ" in the country, Chief Justice of India N V Ramana said Saturday that the



Chief Justice of India N V Ramana in San Francisco

judiciary is answerable only to the Constitution.

He said the party in power expects every action of the government to be endorsed by the judiciary while the Opposition wants the judiciary to advance its positions and causes.

Speaking at a felicitation cer-

emony organised by the Association of Indian Americans in San Francisco, CJI Ramana said, "As we celebrate the 75th year of Independence this year and as our Republic turned 72, I must add here, with some sense of regret, that we still haven't

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



HOUSE SESSION TODAY

Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde and other rebel Shiv Sena MLAs at the Mumbai airport on Saturday, after they returned from Goa. Amit Chakravarty

REPORT, PAGE 5



SUNDAY STORY

AT T-JUNCTION

Uddhav Thackeray tried one way of running the Shiv Sena. What went wrong for the party's 'moderate' face

PAGE 7

Pulitzer winner Kashmiri photojournalist stopped from flying abroad



Sana Irshad Mattoo was going to Paris for a book launch

BASHAARAT MASOOD  
SRINAGAR, JULY 2

KASHMIRI PHOTOJOURNALIST and Pulitzer Prize winner Sana Irshad Mattoo was stopped by immigration officials at Delhi airport and prevented from travelling to France on Saturday.

Mattoo, who was on her way to Paris to attend a book launch and photography exhibition, said she was stopped by the officials without giving any reason, and told that she could not travel abroad.

"I was scheduled to travel from Delhi to Paris today for a book launch and photography exhibition as one of the 10 award winners of the Serendipity Arles grant 2020. Despite procuring a French visa, I was stopped at the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



PM Narendra Modi in Hyderabad on Saturday. PTI

gural session of the National Executive. Briefing the media about Nadda's opening remarks, Union

IT audit firm linked to ex-Mumbai CP didn't red-flag NSE server breach: CBI

MOHAMED THAYER  
MUMBAI, JULY 2

THE CBI, which registered a case in 2018 in the NSE co-location scam, is probing how an audit company incorporated in 2001 by Sanjay Pandey, who last week retired as Commissioner of Police, Mumbai, did not red flag that the NSE servers were compromised.



Sanjay Pandey during a farewell event in Mumbai on Thursday. Ganesh Shirsekar

The compromise had allowed one of the trading companies to get unfair access to the system, resulting in windfall profits.

When the firm iSec Services Pvt Ltd was incorporated in March 2001, Pandey was not in service. He quit the directorship in May 2006, with his mother Santosh and son Armaan becoming directors in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Inflated travel rates, few rooms: Ahead of Qatar kickoff, football fans' options limited

PAGE 1  
ANCHOR

MIHIR VASAVDA  
MUMBAI, JULY 2

FOOTBALL FANS have a reputation of going to extreme lengths to support their teams. But, even by their standards, planning travel for this year's World Cup in Qatar has turned out to be an unprecedented adventure.

Flight rates that are two or three times more than usual, hotel rooms that can run into hun-



A stadium set to host World Cup matches in Doha. Travelling to the event is turning into a logistical nightmare for fans. Reuters

dreds of dollars per night, and the prospect of making the UAE their base to make trips to-and-fro between the two countries for matches — what has been projected as the "most accessible" World Cup is turning into a logistical nightmare for fans.

Qatar's unique appeal as a host nation — all eight stadiums are situated in and around Doha, the capital, within an hour of travel — has contributed to the sale of 1.8 million tickets as of June 29, with the final sales period commencing on July 5. And although India did not come remotely close to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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Lucknow















**DELHI JAL BOARD :GOVT. OF DELHI**  
**OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER (SDW) NW**  
**KESHOPUR STP, NEW DELHI 110018**



**PRESS N.T. 13 EE(SDW)/VIII(2022-23)**

S. No	Name of Work	Estimate cost in Rs.	E/Money in Rs.	Tender fee in Rs.	Date of release of tender procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	SITC of Online Monitoring System at various locations(11nos) of Najafgarh drain and supplementary drain with comprehensive maintenance for a period of 5 years	36619876/-	7,34,000/-	1500/-	Tender ID:- 2022_DJB_25246_1 Date:01.07.2022	22.07.2022 at 03.00 P.M.

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.  
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 221 (2022-23)  
Sd/-  
(K.P SHARMA)  
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW) VIII  
"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"



**बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda**

**Regional Stressed Asset Recovery Branch (Sultanpur Region)**  
**591/01, Civil Lines No.1, Infront of PWD Office, Sultanpur 228001 (U.P.)**

**E-Auction Notice**

**Sale Notice for SALE OF MOVABLE & Immovable Properties**  
**"APPENDIX-IV-A [See Proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6)]**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Movable & Immovable Assets Under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to rule 6(2) & 8 (6) & 9 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 Movable & Immovable properties mortgaged/ Charged to the secured creditor, Possession of which has been taken by the authorised officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of below mentioned accounts. The details of Borrower/s/ Guarantor/s/Secured Asset/s/ Dues/ Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below.

**Date of E-Auction : 28.07.2022**

**Last Date of EMD/ DOCUMENT IS: 28.07.2022, UP TO 02:00 PM**

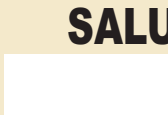
S/L No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors	Description of Movable & Immovable Property with Known encumbrances, If any	Total Dues	Date & Time of E-Auction	Reserve Price /EMD/ Bid Increase Amount	Date & Time of Property Inspection
<b>BARANCH: ROSARB. DISTRICT: SULTANPUR</b>						
1.	M/S Jai Gurudev Food Products Address: C-26 Vill- Uetelwa Industrial Area Jagdishpur, Tehsil-Musafirkhana Distt. Amethi, Prop. Mr. Dharendra Nath Bajpayee S/o Jitendra Nath Bajpayee, Add:- Infront of Sarvajamik Inter College Bhakhara ward Haidergarh, Distt.-Barabanki	EM of Property Plot No C-26 Area: 250.00 Sq. Mtr. Situated at Vill- Uetelwa Industrial Area Jagdishpur, Tehsil-Musafirkhana Distt. Amethi, Ower: Mr. Dharendra Nath Bajpayee S/o Jitendra Nath Bajpayee, Boundaries: North:Plot No. C-25, South:Plot No. C-27, East:12 Mtr wide Road No.9, West: Plot No. C-5	Rs. 5255618.06 + Interest and other charges	28.07.2022 02:00PM 06:00 PM	Rs. 1068500.00 (RP) Rs. 106850.00 (EMD) Bid Increase Amount Rs. 10000/-	26.07.2022 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM
			Status of Possession -Physical			
2.	Borrower : M/s The Best Quality Packaging, Address: Plot No. C-229 Vill- Uetelwa Industrial Area Jagdishpur Tehsil-Musafirkhana, Distt.- Amethi Prop. Mr. Anoop Kumar Srivastav S/o Mr. Ashok Srivastav, Add:- Vill-Kamrauli, Tehsil-Musafirkhana, Distt.-Amethi	EM of Property Plot No. C-229, Area: 250 Sq. Mtr., Situated at Vill- Uetelwa Industrial Area Jagdishpur, Tehsil-Musafirkhana, Distt.- Amethi Owner: Anoop Kumar Srivastav S/o Ashok Srivastav, Boundaries: North: Plot No. C-170, South: 18.00 Mtr Wide Road no. 2, East: Plot no. C-230, West: Plot No C-228	Rs. 4703819.36 + Interest and other charges	28.07.2022 02:00PM 06:00 PM	Rs. 988500.00 (RP) Rs. 98850.00 (EMD) Bid Increase Amount Rs. 10000/-	26.07.2022 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM
			Status of Possession -Physical			
3.	Borrower : M/S M. M. Enterprises Address: C-47, Vill-Uetelwa Industrial Area Jagdishpur Tehsil-Musafirkhana Distt. Amethi, Mohd. Siraj Ahmad S/o Mohd. Shami Prop. M/S M. M. Enterprises, Address: Vill-Kasimpur Post-Domadeeh, Tehsil-Musafirkhana Distt. Amethi	EM of Property Plot No. C-47, Area: 250 Sq. Mtr., Situated at Industrial Area Vill- Uetelwa Jagdishpur Distt. Amethi, Owner: Mohd. Siraj S/o Late Mohammad Shami, Boundaries: North: 18 Meter Wide Road, South: Plot No. C-44, East: Plot No. C-46, West: Plot No. C-48.	Rs. 3840646.00 + Interest and other charges	28.07.2022 02:00PM 06:00 PM	Rs. 1098000.00 (RP) Rs. 109800.00 (EMD) Bid Increase Amount Rs. 10000/-	26.07.2022 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM
			Status of Possession -Physical			
4.	Borrower : M/s S.S. Enterprises Prop. Sana Bano R/o C-48 Vill- Uetelwa, Industrial Area Jagdishpur Tehsil Musafirkhana Distt. Amethi. Mrs. Sana Bano W/o Mohd Siraj Ahmad Prop. M/s S.S. Enterprises Address: Vill-Kasimpur, Post-Domadeeh Tehsil-Musafirkhana Distt. Amethi Guarantor: Mohd Siraj Ahmad S/o Mohd Shami Address: Vill-Kasimpur, Post-Domadeeh Tehsil-Musafirkhana Distt. Amethi	EM of Property Plot No. C-48, Area-250 Sq.Mtr. Situated at Vill- Uetelwa Industrial Area Jagdishpur Tehsil Musafirkhana Distt. Amethi. Owner: Sana Bano W/o Mohd Siraj Ahmad, Boundaries: East: Plot No. C-49 of Mohd Siraj West: Plot No. C-47, North: 12 Mtr Wide Road no.8, South: Plot No. C-43.	Rs. 1661644.00 + Interest and other charges	28.07.2022 02:00PM 06:00 PM	Rs. 1363500.00 (RP) Rs. 136350.00 (EMD) Bid Increase Amount Rs. 10000/-	26.07.2022 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM
			Status of Possession -Physical			
5.	Borrower : M/s Shiv Shakti Industries Address: Plot No. B-65 Vill-Uetelwa Industrial Area Jagdishpur, Tehsil-Musafirkhana, Distt. Amethi Prop. Mrs. Reena Singh W/o Mr. Anil Kumar Singh, Address: Vill-Tilha (Ratauli) Post: Ratauli Haidergarh, Distt.-Barabanki.	EM of Property Plot no. B-65 Area: 450 Sq. Mtr., Situated at Vill- Uetelwa Industrial Area Jagdishpur, Tehsil Musafirkhana, Distt.-Amethi Owner: Mrs. Reena Singh W/o Mr. Anil Kumar Singh, Boundaries: North: Land of UPSIDC, South: 18.00 Mtr Wide Road, East: Plot no. B-64, West: Plot No. B-66	Rs. 5673990.50 + Interest and other charges	28.07.2022 02:00PM 06:00 PM	Rs. 1946000.00 (RP) Rs. 194600.00 (EMD) Bid Increase Amount Rs. 10000/-	26.07.2022 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM
			Status of Possession -Physical			
6.	M/s Raj Enterprises Address: plot No. C-102 Vill-Uetelwa Industrial Area Jagdishpur Tehsil: Musafirkhana, Distt. Amethi Prop. Mrs. Usha Singh W/o Mr. Vinay Kumar Singh, Address: H. No. 116 Kamrauli Tehsil Musafirkhana, Distt. Amethi	EM of Property Plot no. C-102 Area: 250 Sq. Mtr., Situated at Vill- Uetelwa Industrial Area Jagdishpur, Tehsil Musafirkhana, Distt. Amethi Owner: Mrs. Usha Singh W/o Mr. Vinay Kumar Singh, Boundaries: North: plot no. A-6, South: 12.00 Mtr Wide Road no. 04, East: Plot no. C-103, West: Plot No. C-101	Rs. 3535334.00 + Interest and other charges	28.07.2022 02:00PM 06:00 PM	Rs. 1684000.00 (RP) Rs. 168400.00 (EMD) Bid Increase Amount Rs. 10000/-	26.07.2022 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM
			Status of Possession -Physical			
7.	Borrower : M/s Tewari Traders prop. Mr. Virendra Kumar Tiwari. Address: Vill-Surya Nagar Majra-Ekka Tajpur Pargana-Jagdishpur Tehsil-Musafirkhana Distt-Amethi, Guarantor: Mrs. Sushma Devi W/o Mr. Virendra Kumar Tiwari Address: Vill-Surya Nagar Majra-Ekka Tajpur Pargana-Jagdishpur Tehsil-Musafirkhana Distt-Amethi	EM of Residential Property one kta Plot Area: 1500 Sq. Ft Situated at Vill - Ekka Tajpur Pargana-Jagdishpur Tehsil-Musafirkhana Distt Amethi Owner: Sushma Devi W/o Virendra Kumar Tiwari Boundaries: North: Land of Seller South: Rudauli to Inama Road West: House of Shiv Saran	Rs. 1962855.60 + Interest and other charges	28.07.2022 02:00PM 06:00 PM	Rs. 1726500.00 (RP) Rs. 172650.00 (EMD) Bid Increase Amount Rs. 10000/-	26.07.2022 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM
			Status of Possession -Physical			
8.	Borrower : M/s Prabhat Enterprises Add: C-159, Vill-Uetelwa, Industrial Area Jagdishpur, Tehsil-Musafirkhana, Distt.-Amethi, Prop. Mr. Laik Ahmad S/o Mr. Suhail Ahmad, Add: Vill-Ankara, Post-Mangrauli, Tehsil-Musafirkhana, Distt.-Amethi	EM of property Plot No. C-159, Area 250 Sq.mtr. Situated at Vill-Uetelwa Industrial Area Jagdishpur, Tehsil-Musafirkhana, Distt.-Amethi, Owner: Mr. Laik Ahmad S/o Suhail Ahmad. Boundaries: East: Plot No. C-147, West: 18 Meter Wide Road, North: Plot No. C-160, South: Plot No. C-158	Rs. 1385727.00 + Interest and other charges As on 26.04.2022	28.07.2022 02:00PM 06:00 PM	Rs. 677500.00 (RP) Rs. 67750.00 (EMD) Bid Increase Amount Rs. 10000/-	26.07.2022 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM
			Status of Possession -Physical			
9.	Borrower : M/s Babu Khan Coal Depo Pop. Mr. Ishiyak Ahmad S/o Mr. Dost Ahmad Address: Vill-Palpur Jagdishpur Tehsil Musafirkhana Distt Amethi	EM of Gata No. 23 Mi Area : 0.025 Hectare Situated at Vill-Sidhiyawan Pargana-Jagdishpur Tehsil -Musafirkhana Distt.- Amethi Owner: Mr. Ishiyak Ahmad S/o Mr. Dost AhmadBoundaries: North: Rest land of Gata No. 23 South: Chak Marg Badhoi House of Banne Khan, East: Rest land of Purchaser then khet of Mumtaj & Siraj West: Kharanji Marg	Rs. 1413471.06 + Interest and other charges As on 30.04.2022	28.07.2022 02:00PM 06:00 PM	Rs. 1276000.00 (RP) Rs. 127600.00 (EMD) Bid Increase Amount Rs. 10000/-	26.07.2022 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM
			Status of Possession -Physical			
10.	Borrower : M/s Harsh Yet Udyog Proprietor: Mrs. Kumudlata Singh W/o Late Virendra Pratap Singh, Add:-Vill-Tewasi, Post-Shukul Bazar, Distt.- Amethi, Guarantor: 1- Mr. Jagjeevan Bux Singh, Add: Vill-1 Post-Shukul Bazar, Distt.-Amethi, 2- Legal Hirer of Late Mr. Virendra Pratap Singh: 1-Mrs. Kumudlata Singh W/o Late Virendra Pratap Singh, 2- Mr. Om Singh S/o Late Virendra Pratap Singh, Add: Vill-Pure Newaji Shukul Bazar, Distt.-Amethi	EM of property Plot No. 2408 Area 0.443 Hectare & Plot No. 2415 KA Area 0.506 Hectare Total 02 Kita Area 0.949 Hectare. Situated at Babupur, Pargana-Jagdishpur, Tehsil Musafirkhana, Distt.-Amethi Owner: Mrs. Kumudlata Singh W/o Shri Virendra Pratap Singh Boundaries: East: Agriculture Land of Mr. Suresh Kumar etc., West: Agriculture Land of Mr. Mahaveer, North: Agriculture Land of Mr. Shiv Kumar etc., South: Land of Mr. Dinesh Kumar etc.	Rs. 7877264.86 + Interest and other charges As on 30.04.2022	28.07.2022 02:00PM 06:00 PM	Rs. 3876000.00 (RP) Rs. 387600.00 (EMD) Bid Increase Amount Rs. 10000/-	26.07.2022 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM
			Status of Possession -Physical			
11.	Borrower : M/S Wood World Prop. Mrs. Rashmi Mishra W/o Mr. Rajesh Chandra Mishra R/o Plot No. B-18 Sec-21 I.A. Jagdishpur Tehsil: Musafirkhana Distt. Amethi	EM of Property Plot No. B-18 Sec-21 I A Jagdishpur Vill-Kamrauli Tehsil Musafirkhana Distt. Amethi. Area: 1860 Sq.Mt Owner : Mrs. Rashmi Mishra W/o Mr. Rajesh Chandra Mishra Boundaries: North: Plot No. A-2 South: 18 Meter Wide Road No B East: Plot No. B 19 West: Plot No. D-9	Rs. 5726255.11 + Interest and other charges	28.07.2022 02:00PM 06:00 PM	Rs. 3437000.00 (RP) Rs. 343700.00 (EMD) Bid Increase Amount Rs. 10000/-	26.07.2022 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM
			Status of Possession -Physical			
12.	Borrower : M/S Bajrang Bali Enterprises Prop. Mr. Rajesh Chandra Mishra S/o Mr. R. K. Mishra R/o D-10 Sector -21 Industrial Area Jagdishpur Tehsil-Musafirkhana Distt. Amethi	EM of Property Plot No. D-10 Sec-21 I A Jagdishpur Vill- Kamrauli Tehsil Musafirkhana Distt. Amethi Owner: Rajesh Chandra Mishra S/o Mr. R. K. Mishra. Area: 603Sq. Mtr., Boundaries:North: Plot No. D-31South: 24 Meter Wide Road No. 5, East: Plot No. D-11, West: Plot No. D-9	Rs. 9895529.34 + Interest and other charges	28.07.2022 02:00PM 06:00 PM	Rs. 1442000.00 (RP) Rs. 144200.00 (EMD) Bid Increase Amount Rs. 10000/-	26.07.2022 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM
			Status of Possession -Physical			

Note: Notice for statutory 15 Days Sale Notice Under Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) of the SARFAESI Act. for detailed terms and conditions of sale. please refer to the link provided in- <https://www.bankofbaroda.co.in/e-auction.htm>, and <https://ibapi.in>. Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer on mobile-7752883804, 7752801643.

**Date : 03.07.2022**


**Place : AMETHI**

Authorized officer, Bank of Baroda



**SALUTE THE SOLDIER**


**01 OCT 1964 TO 03 JUL 2001**  
**MAJ SAMIR-UL-ISLAM, SC**



Maj Samir-Ul-Islam, SC made the supreme sacrifice in the highest traditions of the Indian Army for the honour of the Regiment and the Country while combating insurgents in Assam twenty one years ago. Your heroic deed is a source of inspiration for all of us and we will forever remain indebted to you.





**CO and All Ranks 17 Para Fd Regt (8 RAJPUT)**

**03 JULY**  
**CAPT MANOJ KUMAR PANDEY, PARAM VIR CHAKRA (POSTHUMOUS)**



On this momentous occasion of "BATALIK DAY" we salute and rememberCAPT MANOJ KUMAR PANDEY, ParamVir Chakra (POSTHUMOUS) who laid down his life while evicting Pakistani intruders during the Kargil War in 1999. The Nation would also remain indebted to the supreme sacrifice of the following brave soldiers who along with Capt Manoj Kumar Pandey, ParamVir Chakra (POSTHUMOUS) made the supreme sacrifice during "OP VIJAY" on this day in 1999.

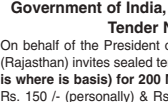
**CO AND ALL RANKS, 1/11 GORKHA RIFLES (BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE) (BATALIK)**



**Rfn Karna Bahadur Limbu****Hav Ganga Ram Rai****Rfn Kalu Ram Rai****Hav Bhim Bahadur Rai, vRC**

On 03 Jul 1999 No 9422557 Late Rfn Karna Bahadur Limbu, No 9422557 Late Rfn Karna Bahadur Limbu, No 9416967 Late Hav Ganga Ram Rai, No 9422837 Late Rfn Kalu Ram Rai, No 9415981 Late Hav Bhim Bahadur Rai, vRC of 1/11 GR had made supreme sacrifice during OP VIJAY ( Kargil ) in Jul 1999


**Colonel 11 GR & Sikkim Scouts and All Ranks**




**Government of India, Department of Atomic Energy, Heavy Water Plant (Kota)**  
**Tender Notice No.: HWP/PROD/DISPOSAL/2022/02**

On behalf of the President of India, General Manager, HWP (Kota), Anushakti - 323 303, Via Kota (Rajasthan) invites sealed tenders for "Sale of Sodium Sulphate Powder of 92% to 98% Purity (as is where is basis) for 200 MT Quantity". Earnest Money -Rs. 10,000/-, Cost of tender document - Rs. 150/- (personally) & Rs. 200/- (through post). Period of sale of tender document- 01-07-2022 (11:00 hrs.) to 15-07-2022 (16:00 hrs.) [Except Sundays & Public Holidays]. Last date and time for submitting tender- 20-07-2022 (14:30 hrs.). Bidder shall be allowed to quote against tender enquiry for minimum 40 MT or a multiple of 10 MT but maximum up to 200 MT Sodium Sulphate Powder. Tender document can be obtained in person or by post from "Deputy Controller of Accounts, Heavy Water Plant (Kota), PO: Anushakti-323303, Via: Kota (Rajasthan)" in cash or through demand draft drawn in favour of "Deputy Controller of Accounts, Heavy Water Plant (Kota)" payable at State Bank of India, Rawabatha branch only. Other details can be seen on the website [www.hwb.gov.in](http://www.hwb.gov.in) or can be obtained by email from [dypm@kot.hwb.gov.in](mailto:dypm@kot.hwb.gov.in) or [rajeevsharma@kot.hwb.gov.in](mailto:rajeevsharma@kot.hwb.gov.in)

General Manager  
Heavy water Plant (Kota)






**कायस्थ अधिशासी अभियन्ता**  
**निर्माण खण्ड गोरखपुर- 02**  
**उपग्रो आवास एवं विकास पट्टिय**  
द्वितीय खण्ड, शकौल एण्ड कम्पनी, निजट जिला अस्पताल,  
गोरखपुर रोड, बकरी। Email:-[eeecdgkp02basti@gmail.com](mailto:eeecdgkp02basti@gmail.com)

**पत्रांक – 274/F-05/08**

**दिनांक–30.06.2022**

**अल्प कालीन ई-निविदा सूचना**  
अधिशासी अभियन्ता द्वारा उपग्रो आवास एवं विकास पट्टिय की ओर से खण्ड कार्यालय के अधीन जनपद-सततकबीर नगर में जनपदीय इन्फ्रैस्ट्रक्चर हाउस के निर्माण कार्य हेतु अल्पकालीन निविदा खण्ड कार्यालय के पत्रांक-273/F/05/07 दिनांक 30.06.2022 द्वारा आमंत्रित की गई है। जिसका विवरण उपग्रो आवास एवं विकास पट्टिय की वेबसाइट- [upavp.in](http://upavp.in) तथा उपग्रो सरकार के ई-टेंडर पोर्टल [etender.up.nic.in](http://etender.up.nic.in) पर देखा जा सकता है।  
**(प्रदीप कुमार)**  
**अधिशासी अभियन्ता**




**BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004**


**Bid No. E-42/2022-23 E-TENDERS Dated: 28.06.2022**  
[E-Tender are invited for & on behalf of the president of India for the supply of following items. Only offer will be accepted for which vendors must have class II Digital Signature and registration on REPS. The details of tenders are in the following (Signature S.No., Tender No (Due Date), Description and Quantity, (1) 65201703C (18.07.2022), The Rubberised Hose for Welding, Part No. 75035757, 895 Mtr. (2) 052017136A (18.07.2022), Spindle Mounted Grinding Wheel, Part No. 70012519, 322 Nos. (3) 05221051A (19.07.2022), Resin Bond Flaring Cup Grinding Wheel, Part No. 70050516, 23 Nos. (4) 05221051A (19.07.2022), Spine Part for Grinding Fork Lifter, 01 Set, (5) 05221051A (19.07.2022), Bottom Stock Pulley for 20.5 Ton EOT Crane, 03 Set, (6) 05221051A (19.07.2022), LT Wheel, 05 Nos. (8) 05221051A (19.07.2022), Head Stock Bearing, 01 Nos. (9) 05221051A (19.07.2022), Thread Rod for M/N No. 2992, 01 Set, (10) 10221105A (22.07.2022), THRUST WASHER PL. No. 16130364, 934 Nos. (11) 10221105A (22.07.2022), MAIN FOLD ASM FUEL LINE PL. No. 16202216, 68 Nos. (12) 16221105A (22.07.2022), Main Bearing Upper Center PL. No. 16150077, 220 Nos. (13) 16221105A (22.07.2022), Main Bearing Lower Center PL. No. 16150089, 169 Nos. (14) 10221105A (22.07.2022), Main Bearing Upper End PL. No. 16150053, 224 Nos. (15) 10221105A (22.07.2022), Main Bearing Lower End PL. No. 16150065, 171 Nos. (16) 10221105A (22.07.2022), FUEL OIL LINE ASSEMBLY PL. No. 16550330, 932 Nos. (17) 10221105A (22.07.2022), INVERTER PL. No. 16241241, 2025 Nos. (18) 03221051A (01.08.2022), Part No. 90356677, Bright Steel round bar 40 mm, 221 kg. Part No. 90726340, Bright Steel round bar 28 mm, 18 kg. Part No. 90726388, Bright Steel round bar 45 mm, 3633.38 kg. (19) 03221051A (22.07.2022), Part No. 29162051, Twin Tower Air Dryer, 678 Nos. (21) 94221972B (20.07.2022), Fire Extinguishing System 22.5 Kg. PL. No. 29170977, 684 Sets. Note: For complete details of EMD and downloading of tender documents and Bids Vendor also available at website [www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in) and [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). Corrigendum Notice- Date: 29.06.2022, S.No.- 1, Bid No.- E-33, Tender No.- 10221170 Valve- 104 Relief Part No. 16240418, Revision:- 1, Details of Corrigendum: The tender operating date and quantity has been revised and now the same will be opened on 15.07.22 instead of 27.06.22, for quantity 389 nos instead of 329 Nos. S.No.- 2, Bid No.- E-35, Tender No.- 10221098 KSI Hardware- Fork Rod, Part No. 16210542, Revision:- 1, Details of Corrigendum: The tender operating date and quantity has been revised and now the same will be opened on 15.07.22 instead of 06.07.22, for quantity 1792 nos instead of 1368 Nos. S.No.- 3, Bid No.- E-34, Tender No.- 10221535 Modified After Cooler Asm, Part No. 16508919, Revision:- 1, Details of Corrigendum: The tender operating date and quantity has been revised and now the same will be opened on 15.07.22 instead of 30.06.2022, for quantity 145 nos instead of 74 Nos. Note- All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged for above tenders.

PRO/BLWS-44

PCMM



**fb | tw | in | blwvaranasi | Website:- [www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in)**



**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER**  
**RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERAHMPUR**  
O-569 (E-Mail:- [serwbpr2004@yahoo.com](mailto:serwbpr2004@yahoo.com) Tel/Fax:-0680-2404287)

**No. e-tender// 2639 // RW/C/BAM// Dated. 30.6.2022**  
**2nd Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. Online Tender-19-2022-23/BPR**

The partial modification of bridge work (Balance work) vide above identification has been made as follows.


1	Date of availability of tender	: 05.07.2022 to 19.07.2022 upto 3.00 PM instead of 30.06.2022 to 14.07.2022 upto 3.00 PM.
2	Last Date & Time of seeking tender	: 16.07.2022 at 2.00 PM instead of 12.07.2022 at 2.00 PM
3	Date of opening of Technical Bid.	: 20.07.2022 at 11.00 AM instead of 11.07.2022 at 11.00 AM
4	Date of opening of Financial Bid.	: Will be intimated later on.

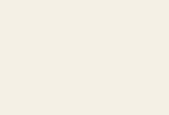
2)

Sl No	Name of the work	Approx. Estimated cost (Exclusive of GST) (in Rs) (As per Earlier)	Approx. Estimated cost (Exclusive of GST) (in Rs) (Now Replaced)	Class of Contractor (As per Earlier)	Class of Contractor (Now Replaced)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Construction of H.L. Bridge over river Dham on Sunarjinhola to Bolasara road in the District of Ganjam under BSY. (Span 20x25-35m) Balance work	Rs. 3,80,73,000/-	Rs. 3,35,17,000/-	"A" Class or "Special" Class	"A" Class or "Special" Class
2	Construction of Bridge over Ghodahada on Boripada to Penha road in the District of Ganjam under BSY. (Span 4x30.63m) Balance work	Rs. 3,12,30,000/-	Rs. 2,05,93,000/-	"A" Class or "Special" Class	"B" Class or "A" Class
3	Construction of H.L. Bridge over Ghodahada on Jalamaru to Palasapur road in the District of Ganjam under BSY. (Span 5x30.63m) Balance work	Rs. 2,83,04,000/-	Rs. 1,97,14,000/-	"B" Class or "A" Class	"B" Class or "A" Class

All other contents will remain unchanged.

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer  
R.W.Circle, Berahampur  
OIPR:- 2507/11/01036/2223





**U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD. e-Tender Notice** 1. S.T. e-Tender No. 22/ETCS/ 2022-23:- Online e-Bids are invited for "erection, testing & commissioning of 160MVA 220/132KV Transformer (BBL make) including dismantling & shifting of 100 MVA 220/132 KV (BHEL make) Transformer and other associated works at 220KV S/s New Tanda under ETD, Ayodhya". e-Tender has been uploaded on e-Tender website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of work is Rs. 8.12 Lakh. Time Period: 30 days. Earnest Money Rs. 9,00,00,00 and Tender Cost Rs. 1,062. Last date of bid submission: 16/07/2022 at 16:00 Hrs. Bid Opening date: 18/07/2022 at 12:00PM. Total Quality of work, tender specification and other term & conditions is as per tender documents available on the e-Tender portal <http://etender.up.nic.in/> and official website [www.upptcl.org](http://www.upptcl.org). Undersigned reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids without assigning any reason. Corrigendum, Addendum, Extension if any shall be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time. **Superintending Engineer, Electricity Transmission Circle Sultanpur "Save Energy in National Interest."** पत्रांक- 426/वि.पा.सं.सु./ दिनांक 02.07.2022



**Dakshin Gujarat Vij Company Ltd.**  
CIN U40102GJ2003SG0042909  
Regd. & Corp. Office: 'Urja Sadan', Nana Varachha Road, Kapodara Char Rasta, Surat 395 006 GUJARAT

**DGVCL Toll Free No. 19123 (or 1800 233 3003)**

**Tender Notice**

Details for the tenders mentioned hereunder are available on [www.dgvcl.com](http://www.dgvcl.com) (for view and download tender documents) and



# Toll in Manipur landslide rises to 29, search underway for 34 missing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
GUWAHATI, IMPHAL, JULY 2

THE TOLL in the landslide at a railway construction site in Manipur's Noney district climbed to 29 on Saturday after eight more bodies were recovered from under the debris, officials said. Out of the 29, at least eight people are from Assam, including an Armyman.

Thirty-four people are still missing after a massive landslide hit the Tupul yard railway construction camp on the night of June 29.

Inclement weather is affecting the search operations, officials said.

Out of the eight bodies recovered during the day, five are of Territorial Army personnel and one of an employee of a construction company. The two others are yet to be identified.

The defence personnel were there to provide security to the construction site.

"Eight bodies were found on Thursday and 13 yesterday," an official said.



Rescue operations underway at the Tupul railway construction camp in Manipur's Noney district on Saturday. PTI

He said that altogether 34 people, including 14 employees of two construction companies, five villagers and three of the railways, are still missing. Eighteen people were rescued from the site on Thursday. The search started at 4 am and rescue teams have been advised to proceed with caution.

Rainfall since early Saturday morning has hampered the operations, the officials said. Over 470 personnel, including those of the NDRF, SDRF, state police, the Assam Rifles and local volunteers, have been deployed in the search operation.

## LAST RITES OF 14 TA SOLDIERS FROM NORTH BENGAL HELD

Kolkata: The last rites of 14 Territorial Army soldiers from North Bengal, who were killed in the landslide were conducted on Saturday full full state honours after their bodies were brought to the Darjeeling Hills and surrounding areas. ENS

Over 30 excavators are being used to clear the debris which blocked the Jjai river, forming dam-like storage and threatening the people living nearby.

Earth-movers have been brought in to remove the debris, and create a channel to allow the flow of water from there, officials said.

A defence spokesperson at Guwahati said, "Through Wall Radar is being successfully used. A search and rescue dog is also being employed to assist." Such radars are used for the detection

and location of static and moving targets, especially human beings behind walls.

The spokesperson said that bodies of 14 defence personnel, including a junior commissioned officer, were sent to their hometowns.

Full military honours were given to the deceased personnel at Imphal before sending the bodies to their destinations.

Meanwhile, Assam cabinet Minister Pijush Hazarika, who reached Tupul on Saturday morning said, "It is an extremely tragic and unfortunate incident. Search and rescue operations are going on in full swing."

"One railway engineer and 11 other construction company workers from Assam are still missing. Five persons had been rescued, out of which two are currently hospitalised," he said.

Hazarika said the bodies of the deceased civilians will be airlifted to Assam and the state government will make all necessary arrangements. "We will also arrange for transportation of the injured workers back home."



A crowd assaults one of the accused persons in the Udaipur killing, outside the NIA court in Jaipur on Saturday. Rohit Jain

## UDAIPUR KILLING

# NIA gets 10-day custody of 4 accused

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
JAIPUR, JULY 2

A JAIPUR court on Saturday sent the four people accused in the murder of Udaipur tailor Kanhaiyalal Teli to 10-day custody of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Teli was hacked to death, allegedly by Mohammad Riyaz and Ghouse Mohammad, on June 28 for purportedly sharing on social media former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma's remarks on the Prophet.

Riyaz and Ghouse were arrested the same day. Two others accused in the case — Asif Hussain and Mohsin Khan — were arrested subsequently.

The four were produced before a Jaipur court on Saturday afternoon — of them, Riyaz and Ghouse were brought with their faces covered. The CBI court number 1, which deals with NIA cases, sent them to 10-day NIA custody.

With the NIA taking over the probe, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Rajasthan Police has

handed over all documents related to the case to the central agency.

Outside the court complex, police had a tough time dealing with lawyers and local residents, who shouted slogans against the accused, including seeking their death sentence. As police personnel tried to put the accused back into the police van, they had to jostle with the large crowd, some of whom also allegedly managed to attack the accused.

## SHO, two circle officers suspended

Two circle officers and an SHO have been suspended in addition to the Udaipur additional superintendent of police for negligence on their part in handling the circumstances leading to the murder of tailor Kanhaiyalal.

"Circle Officer, East, Jarnail Singh, Circle Officer, West, Jitendra Anchaliya and SHO Suraj Pole Leeladhar Malviya were suspended on Friday night for negligence," sources in the police department said. Additional SP, Udaipur, Ashok Meena had also been suspended earlier. PTI

## US panel's comments on religious freedom biased: MEA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 2

INDIA ON Saturday hit out at the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) for its "biased" and "inaccurate" comments, stating that such reactions

reflect a "severe lack of understanding" of India and its constitutional framework, the country's plurality and its democratic ethos.

The response from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) came a day after USCIRF alleged "repression" of critical voices, especially religious minorities and

## Cong cites photos to 'link' BJP with accused

HAMZA KHAN  
JAIPUR, JULY 2:

WITH THE Congress on Saturday alleging that one of the main accused in the killing of a tailor in Udaipur is a "BJP member", and asking whether the Centre had moved quickly to transfer the case to NIA due to this reason, senior BJP leader and former Rajasthan minister Gulab Chand Kataria said it is not in the hands of political leaders to select who clicks a picture with them at a public event.

Pictures of accused Mohammad Riyaz have surfaced on social media with some state BJP workers, including Kataria, the Leader of Opposition in Assembly.

In New Delhi, Congress media and publicity department chairman Pawan Khera cited the social media posts to allege that Riyaz is a BJP worker. Among others, Khera cited a November 2019 post by BJP member Mohammad Tahir, who referred to Riyaz as a "BJP worker". "It is being said that there is a photo of one of the Udaipur criminals with me. I have been working with BJP since 1974 and have been an MLA and a minister, too," Kataria said, indicating the need for his presence at different public events.

Kataria said BJP has an "authorised" minority cell, and the image that has surfaced shows Riyaz with Irshad Chainwala, who has been a party minority cell worker. "I have been in (their) programmes as well, and my presence at minority cell programme is not a crime," Kataria said. "I would have certainly gone to the programme and who stands with me in a photo is not in my hands."

## MAHARASHTRA POLITICAL CRISIS

# Speaker election today, new CM faces first test

YOGESH NAIK & VALLABH OZARKAR  
MUMBAI, JULY 2

WITH THE Speaker's election slated for Sunday after Shiv Sena announced the candidature of its MLA Rajan Salvi for the post against BJP's Rahul Narwekar, the stage is set for the first test for the newly sworn-in Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his group of Sena rebels, and for BJP and the Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis.

Shinde and Fadnavis were sworn in on Thursday and the Governor has called for a special session of the assembly on Sunday and Monday for the Speaker's election followed by a

floor test. The election will mark the first battle in the House between Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena which has 16 MLAs, and Shinde-led rebel group with 39 MLAs.

On Saturday, Shiv Sena chief whip Sunil Prabhu issued a whip, asking all the MLAs to be present in the assembly and cast their votes in favour of Salvi.

Replying to the whip issued by Prabhu, Chief Minister Shinde asserted that it does not apply to his group as they have more than two-thirds of the total 55 Sena MLAs. He said, "We will face the floor test and we will win".

Sources said a separate whip is likely to be issued by the Shinde faction for the election

and the floor test.

Ajay Chaudhari, Shiv Sena legislative party leader said, "We have a strategy in place but I can't disclose it now." Shiv Sena MP Arvind Sawant said, "We will fight the Speaker's election and we believe in the Constitution. I have heard that the Shinde faction spokesperson Deepak Kesarkar said that Uddhav Thackeray is their leader. These MLAs now must obey the whip and vote for Rajan Salvi."

Shiv Sena parliamentary party leader Vinayak Raut said, "We have issued a whip that the rebel MLAs should vote for Rajan Salvi. If they don't, it will be an added material in our case in Supreme Court for disqualifying

them."

A three-time MLA, Salvi was accompanied by Shiv Sena MP Arvind Sawant, Sena legislature party leader Ajay Chaudhari, state NCP chief Jayant Patil, and Congress legislative party leader Balasaheb Thorat while filing his nomination for the election.

Meanwhile, late Friday night, Thackeray sacked Shinde from the post of Shiv Sena leader in party organisation for indulging in "anti party activities".

"Dear Shri Shinde, You have been indulging in anti-party activities and have also voluntarily given up your membership of Shiv Sena. Therefore, in exercise of the powers vested in me as the Shiv Sena Paksha Pramukha, I re-

move you from the post of Shiv Sena leader in the party organisation," the letter issued by Thackeray read.

The move came after Shinde and Devendra Fadnavis took oath as CM and deputy CM respectively on Thursday. Sources in Shinde camp said that they will challenge the letter legally.

Ahead of the Speaker's election, the rebel Sena MLAs and Independent MLAs returned to Mumbai on Saturday evening after spending almost 11 days out of the state — first in Gujarat, then in Assam, and then in Goa. They arrived in Mumbai on a special flight and will be camped at a south Mumbai five-star hotel along with BJP MLAs.

# ‘The biggest problem is our dependence on imported energy, which is 4% of our GDP’

Neelkanth Mishra, Co-head of Asia Pacific Strategy, India Equity Strategist with Credit Suisse and part-time member of the PM's Economic Advisory Council, unpacks the inflation basket. This explained. Live session was moderated by Anil Sasi, National Business Editor



## On ongoing inflation

As economies have opened up, supply is responding but demand had gone up well in advance. That created inflation exacerbated by what we call supply chain bullwhips. When there is a slight amount of shortage, everyone moves from "just in time" to "just in case." Instead of having enough inventory, you start saying, "I don't want to lose production, so let me order some more." The apparent demand starts to move up much faster than real demand. Everyone is building an inventory. In the US in particular, this became really bad because it didn't have the manufacturing capacity to meet the additional demand, but it had triggered that demand by handing over cash to people through a stimulus. The demand went over to China, Japan, India, Bangladesh and when the goods started hitting the US ports, they realised these didn't have the capacity. This triggered a wage-price spiral in the US, which is the most dangerous form of inflation where people start demanding wage hikes and prices go up.

In February 2022, when the Russia-Ukraine conflict started, the global oil supply went down, exacerbating inflation. Dense energy is critical for economic growth and if there is a shortage of gas and oil, the global GDP has to shrink by that much. Now for that to happen, demand has to fall, and for demand to fall, prices have to go up. I think this is a very serious problem. Fiscal and monetary interventions are being undertaken by most countries which can afford to subsidise oil prices. Everyone, from Australia to the US and China, is giving incentives. They have cut down excise duties so that the retail price of oil doesn't change. But the suppliers benefiting from this are unwilling to invest in increasing capacity because they're unsure how long this will last. Then there is what I would call forced saving. If the global oil market was \$2.5 trillion at \$70 a barrel, it is now closer to \$4 trillion, so \$1.5 trillion is moving from consumers to suppliers. The consumers are buying less and the suppliers are saving the surplus. This



(Left) Neelkanth Mishra (Above) Anil Sasi

## AUDIENCE QUESTIONS

### On whether inflation could dent Indian economy's recovery

Sustained inflation of above five to six per cent destabilises economies. But as of now the risk and the challenge for us is that we are dependent on imported energy. You cannot grow without dense forms of energy and that has become expensive. I don't think by itself this inflation is going to slow us down. The underlying drivers of growth are quite robust.

is a forced saving which is very bad for growth and leads to stagflation. I don't think this is going away in a hurry.

### On CPI inflation converging towards wholesale inflation

Whether rate hikes are the right solution is debatable. We tend to look at inflation on a year-on-year basis. We need to look at how inflation impulses have been coming through month-on-month changes, if they are below or above seasonal. The CPI inflation went up from 4.3 per cent in September last year to 7.8 per cent in April, because of the seasonal moves in the index. The October-November moves were almost 100 per cent in vegetables as prices went up sharply. While there was correction in onion prices,

### On the government's FDI relaxation in banking

If the economy had to maintain a 12 to 13 per cent nominal GDP growth, would India's credit or financial system be able to manage that level? This is why the privatisation of PSU banks came to be considered quite seriously and was mentioned in the Budget. The expansion of financial system capacity is very much on the radar. The rest would be as and when necessary.

tomatoes and potatoes became costlier.

The March-April inflation was global because of higher prices of crude oil. Cereal inflation went up mostly because of global wheat and our free grain scheme, the Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Ann Yojana, caused rice and wheat prices to fall. So, there are several one-offs in that local component. When you raise rates, you are slowing the economy down to match demand and supply. That is debatable.

### On the variation in Central bank interventions

The biggest problem for India is our significant dependence on imported energy, which is four per cent of our GDP. So, if prices go up by 50 to 60 per cent, you see a natural outflow of nearly

two per cent of GDP. It's simplistic, but say everything remains the same and prices go up by 2.5 per cent, is it necessary to raise rates to control that price? Our challenge is the need to curtail demand and our biggest problem is our balance of payments. We were running a reasonably comfortable balance of payment surplus of about \$15 to 20 billion on an annual level. If your imported energy bill goes up by \$90 billion and there are commensurate increases in coal, gas, fertiliser and edible oil, because all of them at some level are linked, your balance of payments is suddenly in a \$70 billion deficit.

Now you can keep paying for it by increasing capital flows but you need to reduce your imports. Before the Russia-Ukraine war, my view was we would report a GDP growth of 3 to 4 per cent in FY23. That number has to be brought down because there's almost a 2.5 per cent extra burden of energy cost. We need to frame monetary policy based on our needs, not follow the US Fed.

### On the RBI's role

There are multiple aspects here. In my view the most reliable unemployment indicator is the NREGA job demand. If two crore people are wanting to work at Rs 200 a day, that's an important indicator of the slack in the economy. That number is now only about 20 lakh higher than the average in April 2019, which I think is an important indicator of normalisation.

But the question is which tool do you use? There is a repo rate, the rate at which banks borrow from the Reserve Bank, and there is a reverse repo rate, so that banks can deposit surplus funds to the Central Bank. When there is significant overnight liquidity, too much money in the system and banks are unable to lend it, they deposit funds with the

Central bank. When you have this kind of surplus, the effective rate is the reverse repo rate, not the repo rate, and it has gone up. For the fortnight ending September 2021, the cost of absorption, the effective reverse repo rate, was 3.37 per cent, and in February it became 3.87 per cent because the RBI started to absorb liquidity through what they call the VRRR, variable rate reverse repo auctions.

The wage-price spiral in the US is not visible here. Most vegetable prices are local and till the time we see local wage rates go up significantly, there is a lesser need to tighten because of the risk of entrenched inflation expectations. This is something we need to watch.

I think the inflation expectations are more anchored to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is what companies see and it's much more influenced by crude and commodities. If inflation expectations start getting entrenched, then we need to worry more.

### On the signals from RBI

I think the off-cycle hike was to a large extent influenced by the Fed's increase, because when we think about capital flows, we tend to think of it as portfolio investors, as foreign direct investment, venture capital, private equity and external commercial borrowing. A very reasonable part of our dollar inflows is actually trade financing. What happens is that if the Fed hikes and you don't — and these are all very short-term loans — it makes much more sense on a currency arbitrage basis because the US rates are always lower than ours.

There is a risk of the rupee depreciating, which is why those rates are stabilising at a certain gap now. If that gap widens, it makes sense for the new borrower to repay the dollar debt and borrow in rupees. That increases the demand for dollars. If you raise rates, you get more dollar inflows but that is not really true in India. If you see our capital inflows, most are related to growth. So, for indirect investment, venture capital, private equity, portfolio investment in equities, we don't have rate-linked flows.

In any case, there was some normalisation that was necessary given that the economy is reviving, so some rate hikes will happen and should happen. We need to check if the Fed keeps hiking on the very short-term flows. If we are not careful, we could see a much sharper dollar outflow than we have seen so far, which can then pressure the currency.





TOP OF THE WORLD



A vessel sinking after it snapped in two, Reuters

HONG KONG

Over 24 crew missing as storm Chaba hits

*Hong Kong:* More than two dozen crew on an engineering vessel with 30 people on board were missing after it snapped in two in waters off Hong Kong as tropical storm Chaba passed through, authorities said. Three crew members were rescued, and search and rescue operations were continuing for others about 300 km southwest of the city, the Hong Kong Government Flying Service said. Some of the crew had abandoned the vessel and harsh weather conditions were hampering rescue efforts, they said. The weather forecaster lowered the storm warning to signal No 3 on Saturday afternoon as Chaba was set to make landfall near Zhanjiang in China's Guangdong province. **REUTERS**

IRAN

Strong quake kills 5, injures 44

*Tehran:* Five people were killed and 44 others injured in a magnitude 6.3 earthquake in southern Iran on Saturday, state television reported. Rescue teams were deployed near the epicenter, Sayeh Khosh village, which is home to around 300 people in Hormozgan province, some 1,000 km south of the capital, Tehran, the report said. **AP**

AFGHANISTAN

Meet ends with calls for recognition

*Kabul:* A Taliban-run gathering of thousands of male religious and ethnic leaders ended on Saturday by asking foreign governments to recognise their administration, but made no signals of changes on international demands, such as the opening of girls' high schools. **REUTERS**

ISRAEL

Hezbollah drones shot down

*Jerusalem:* Israel shot down three unarmed "hostile drones" coming from Lebanon on Saturday that were approaching gas rigs in Israel's maritime economic zone, an Israeli security source said. The source said the drones had been launched by the Iranian-backed Hezbollah group. **REUTERS**

STAY IN SHELTERS: MYKOLAIV MAYOR TO RESIDENTS

As Russia steps up attack, Belarus says intercepted 'missile strikes' by Ukraine

Don't want war, but will fight if territory invaded: Lukashenko

REUTERS

KYIV, SERHIIVKA, JULY 2

EXPLOSIONS ROCKED the southern Ukrainian city of Mykolaiv on Saturday, the mayor said, at the end of a week in which Russian missiles have slammed into an apartment block and a shopping mall in other cities, killing dozens of people. Air raid sirens sounded in the Mykolaiv region, which borders the Black Sea port of Odesa. "There are powerful explosions in the city! Stay in shelters!" Mykolaiv mayor Oleksandr Senkevych wrote on the Telegram. The cause of the blasts was not immediately clear, although Russia said on Saturday it had hit army command posts in the area.

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko on Saturday said Ukraine had tried to strike military facilities on Belarusian territory three days ago, but all its missiles had been intercepted, the state-run Belta news agency reported.

Lukashenko, who did not pro-



Firefighters work at damaged residential building in the town of Serhiivka, southwest of Odesa, Ukraine. AP

vide evidence for the claim, said Belarus did not want war with Ukraine, but would fight if its own territory was invaded. The Ukrainian military did not comment. "They are provoking us. I have to tell you, three days ago, maybe more, an attempt to strike military facilities on Belarusian territory was made from the territory of Ukraine," Belta quoted Lukashenko as saying.

"But, thank God, the Pantsir anti-aircraft systems managed to

intercept all the missiles launched by Ukrainian armed forces."

Kyiv says Moscow has intensified missile attacks on targets far from the frontline and that it has deliberately hit civilian sites while Russian forces have been grinding out gains on the battlefield in the east. Russia says it has been aiming at military sites and denies taking aim at civilians. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said "Russian Armed Forces do not work with civilian targets".

Ukraine: Russia dropped white phosphorous on Snake Island

THE NEW YORK TIMES

KYIV, JULY 2

UKRAINE'S ARMY has accused Russia of dropping incendiary white phosphorus on Snake Island on Friday, the day after Moscow's forces retreated from the strategic rocky outcrop on the southwestern part of the Black Sea that is key to the Kremlin's war aims.

Andriy Zagorodnyuk, a former Ukrainian defence minister who leads the Center for Defence Strategies, a think tank in Kyiv, on Saturday described the strikes as "weird," because according to a video released by the Ukrainian military, he said, it appeared that "most of the shots were missed."

He also said the use of white phosphorous seemed strange given that Ukrainian personnel were not believed to be on Snake Island at the time of the attack. He said he believed that Russia had

struck the island "to complicate any Ukrainian presence there."

White phosphorous, which produces a thick white smoke and has a garlic-like odour, can melt deep into flesh when the phosphorous lands on skin and cause severe burns. While controversial, it is not considered a chemical weapon, because it causes harm by burning at a high temperature rather than through toxic properties.

On Saturday morning, Ukraine's top military official, Valeriy Zaluzhnyi, said that two sorties of Russian Su-30 fighter jets flying from the Crimean Peninsula the previous day had dropped phosphorus bombs over the island, known in Ukrainian as Zmiinyi. "The leadership of the armed forces of the Russian Federation does not even adhere to its own statements, which declare a 'gesture of good will,'" General Zaluzhnyi wrote on the Telegram.



Lawmakers debate legislation to consider new firearms regulations. AP

NY overhauls handgun rules to preserve some limits

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALBANY, JULY 2

NEW YORK lawmakers approved a sweeping overhaul Friday of the state's handgun licensing rules, seeking to preserve some limits on firearms after the Supreme Court ruled that most people have a right to carry a handgun for personal protection.

The measure, signed by Gov. Kathy Hochul after passing both chambers by wide margins, is almost sure to draw more legal challenges from gun rights advocates who say the state is still putting too many restrictions on who can get guns.

Hochul, a Democrat, called the Democrat-controlled Legislature back to Albany to work on the law after last week's high-court ruling overturning the state's longstanding licensing restrictions. Backers said the law, which takes effect Sept. 1, strikes the right balance between complying with the SC's ruling and keeping weapons out of the hands of people.

But some Republican lawmakers, opposed to tighter restrictions, argued the law violated the constitutional right to bear arms. They predicted it too would end up being overturned.

Senior journalist in Pak calls Army Generals property dealers, assaulted

M ZULQERNAIN

LAHORE, JULY 2

A SENIOR Pakistani journalist and political analyst has been assaulted by unidentified masked men, who also tore his clothes, as he left his office in the Punjab province, a day after he termed Pakistan's powerful Army Generals "property dealers".

Ayaz Amir, 73, was returning home late Friday after recording his television show for *Dunya News TV channel*, where he works as a senior analyst, when unknown people stopped his car. The attackers then manhandled him and also tortured his driver before fleeing from the scene.

With bruises on his face, Amir said the masked men not only "hit him and tore his clothes, they also took away his cellphone and wallet. They left when people started gathering on the busy road". In a tweet later, Amir said those who attacked him did not care about his age. "I have no personal enmity with anyone and I had no quarrel

with anyone. Whoever attacked me didn't even care about my age," he said. "The only fault was that I speak the truth and I will continue to speak, God willing," he said in another tweet.

On Thursday, during a speech at a seminar in Islamabad on the 'Regime Change and its Fallout on Pakistan', Amir targeted the powerful military establishment for its role in Pakistan's politics. The seminar was also attended by former prime minister Imran Khan.

He referred to the Army Generals as "property dealers" and even suggested removing the portraits of Pakistan's founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the country's national poet Allama Iqbal and replacing them with the "property dealers".

In an indirect reference to Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, Amir said he was into his sixth year of tenure and looking for another extension.

Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz has sought a report from police over the assault and ordered that the culprits be arrested at the earliest. **PTI**

China's top diplomat visits Myanmar amid Opposition protest

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BANGKOK, JULY 2

CHINA'S TOP diplomat on Saturday arrived on his first visit to Myanmar since the military seized power last year to attend a regional meeting that the government said was a recognition of its legitimacy and opponents protested as a violation of peace efforts.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi will join counterparts from Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam in a meeting of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation group in the central city of Bagan, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The grouping is a Chinese-led initiative that includes the countries of the Mekong Delta, a potential source of regional tensions due to an increasing number of hydroelectric projects that are altering the flow and raising concerns of ecological damage. China has built 10 dams along the upper stretch of the Mekong.

Military government spokesman Maj. Gen. Zaw Min Tun told a news conference in the capital Naypyitaw on Friday that the attendance of the for-

EXPLAINED

China biggest trading partner

CHINA IS Myanmar's biggest trading partner and an old ally. Beijing has invested billions of dollars in Myanmar's mines, oil and gas pipelines and other infrastructure and is its major arms supplier, together like Russia.

eign ministers at the meeting was a recognition of Myanmar's sovereignty and its government.

He said the ministers will sign memorandums of understanding and contracts. He did not elaborate. It's unclear whether Wang would meet Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing.

The foreign minister of Myanmar's shadow government, which opposes the ruling military council, protested the Bagan meeting, saying any such efforts in partnership with Myanmar's military violate the will of the people and undermine community building.

AL JAZEERA JOURNALIST KILLING

Palestinians to hand bullet that killed journalist to US: Official

REUTERS

JERUSALEM, JULY 2

THE PALESTINIAN Authority will hand the bullet that killed prominent Palestinian-American Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh to US author-

ities for forensic examination, a Palestinian official said on Saturday. "We agreed to transfer the bullet to the Americans for examination," Akram al-Khatib, general prosecutor for the Palestinian Authority, told Reuters without providing further details.

COUNTRY HAS NEVER MANDATED MASKS OR VACCINATIONS

Japan's secret to taming Covid-19: Peer pressure, fear of public shaming

MOTOKO RICH & BEN DOOLEY

TOKYO, JULY 2

TO UNDERSTAND how Japan has fared better than most of the world in containing the dire consequences of the coronavirus pandemic, consider Mika Yanagihara, who went shopping for flowers this past week in central Tokyo. Even when walking outside in temperatures in the mid-90s, she kept her face fully covered. "People will stare at you," Yanagihara, 33, said, explaining why she didn't dare take off her mask. "There is that pressure."

Japan's Covid death rate, just

one-twelfth of that in the US, is the lowest among the world's wealthiest nations. With the world's third largest economy and 11th largest populace, Japan also tops global rankings in vaccination and has consistently had one of the globe's lowest infection rates.

Although no government authority has ever mandated masks or vaccinations or instituted lockdowns or mass surveillance, Japan's residents have largely evaded the worst ravages of the virus. Instead, in many ways, Japan let peer pressure do a lot of the work.

Even now, as average daily cases have fallen to just 12 per 100,000 residents — about a

third of the average in the US — a government survey in May found that close to 80 per cent of people working in offices or enrolled in school wear masks and about 90 per cent do so when using public transit. Movie theatres, sports stadiums and shopping malls continue to request that visitors wear masks, and for the most part, people comply. The term "face pants" has become a buzzword, implying that dropping a mask would be as embarrassing as taking off one's underwear in public.

Many factors have undoubtedly contributed to Japan's coronavirus outcomes. But social conformity — and a fear of pub-



A government survey in May found that about 90% of people wore masks when using public transit. NYT

lic shaming that is instilled from the youngest ages — has been a key ingredient in Japan's relative

success in Covid prevention, experts say. Unlike in many other countries, Japanese law does not

permit the government to order lockdowns or vaccinations. The majority of the population followed each other in heeding guidance from scientific experts who encouraged people to wear masks and avoid situations where they would be in enclosed, unventilated areas with large crowds.

After a slow start, once Japan ramped up the distribution of vaccines, most people followed advisories to get them. In Japan, "if you tell people to look right, they will all look right," said Kazunari Onishi, an associate professor of public health at St. Luke's International University in

Tokyo. Japanese culture also depends on an ethic of public self-restraint that can be marshaled into group action. When Emperor Hirohito was dying in 1988, pop singers postponed weddings and schools cancelled festivals. After the 2011 nuclear disaster in Fukushima led to serious power shortages, the public cut back on electricity use voluntarily.

With few legal options for enforcing the guidance, authorities hoped the population would voluntarily comply with pleas to stay home. The public embraced the guidelines, and the overall death rate actually fell below that of the year immediately preceding the

coronavirus outbreak.

Those who tried to buck the guidance were subjected to public condemnation. Toshio Date, who operates a venue in Osaka devoted to the board games Go and shogi, initially tried to stay open when the city requested that restaurants, bars and other entertainment businesses shut down. When local television stations started asking to film the club as an outlier, Date, 58, got the message and quickly closed.

Even after infections settled down in Osaka, which recorded the highest death rate in Japan, and businesses reopened, he said strangers scolded him for hosting too many customers. **NYT**



# 7 SUNDAY STORY

## THE SUNDAY PROFILE

# At T-junction

Uddhav Thackeray tried one way of running Sena and failed. As the loss drives him more into the arms of his family, what went wrong for Sena’s ‘moderate’ face and what lies ahead as Uddhav faces rebels and a pumped-up BJP

ZEESHAN SHAIKH & VALLABH OZARKAR

STUNG BY the revolt of Chhagan Bhujbal with 17 other MLAs, and jibes from within over turning his party into his fief, Shiv Sena chief Balasaheb Thackeray on July 18, 1992, wrote a signed article in *Saamana*, and announced that he was quitting the party.

Two days later, on June 20, a sea of Shiv Sainiks landed up outside the Sena office, pleading with Thackeray to reconsider. Senior Shiv Sena leaders were heckled and manhandled for not being loyal enough and many of Thackeray’s potential detractors were cut to size. Thackeray then “magnanimously” acceded to the Sainiks’ requests to reconsider his decision, with the episode stamping his authority on the party forever.

Almost exactly 30 years later, the above is the best-case scenario for son Uddhav Thackeray. However, on June 29, as he resigned as the Chief Minister and MLC after a 15-minute-long staid speech, it was with an appeal for peace, which seemed unnecessary. Barring a few incidents of vandalism, the transfer of power from his Sena faction to the one represented by Eknath Shinde in Maharashtra was smooth, with the Sainiks more puzzled than angry at Uddhav for “throwing in the towel” without a fight.

Uddhav seemed determined to maintain the detente though, congratulating Shinde promptly after he was sworn in as CM. Even rabble-rouser Sanjay Raut appealed to the Sainiks to not make a fuss when he appeared before the Enforcement Directorate.

But then again, a day later, Uddhav seemed to flex his muscles by talking about

the BJP’s “betrayal”, and by “expelling” Shinde. For Sena ranks, this dilly-dallying represents all that is wrong with the party. A decade after stepping into Bal Thackeray’s big shoes, Uddhav appears uncertain about where he wants to take the party. Should he stick to the new, ‘moderate’ mould that is seen as better suited to his own personality of a laidback politician? Or under heat from the rebels, over particularly Uddhav’s Hindutva credentials, should he fall back on the in-your-face tactics that have paid off for the Sena over the years?

**The numbers**

With 39 of 55 MLAs rebelling, any politician would find a fightback difficult. Uddhav must contend with that plus a BJP snapping at his heels. The rebels will have the Sangh’s support and the money and muscle power that comes with being in government.

Many Sena watchers doubt Uddhav has the stomach for it, especially given how the recent crisis played out. Still in the initial stages, Uddhav inexplicably vacated his official residence, making a show of it; then let a good farewell moment pass; only to hang on as numbers dwindled; and lastly quit without using the Assembly floor to make a grand exit.

“He should have presented his case on the floor of the House. He could have put forth his views and explain why he chose the Congress and NCP. That would have been in the records of the House for posterity. Instead he chose Facebook Live,” says leader Prithviraj Chavan, not hiding his dismay.

The loss of 39 MLAs to Shinde won’t be felt only in the Assembly. The Sena has in the process lost its second-rung leadership across Maharashtra. Shinde himself was No. 2, next only to the Thackerays. Of the six MLAs from North Maharashtra and five in Western, none

remain with Uddhav. The same is the case with Vidarbha, where three of the four Sena MLAs have gone with Shinde. In Marathwada, eight of the 12 MLAs, and in Konkan, 12 of the 15, are now with Shinde.

The only place where Uddhav has retained some support is Mumbai, where eight of the 15 MLAs are still with his faction. One of the first tests of how strong that base is will be the approaching BMC polls. The BJP is determined to wrest the cash-rich body, and within hours of the Shinde-Fadnavis swearing-in, the volley against the Sena-controlled corporation started. Says a former BJP corporator tasked with handling the BMC polls: “It is time for change. This year the BJP will get control of the city as well.”

The Sena’s track record in the BMC polls under Uddhav doesn’t inspire much confidence. In the 2002 elections, when he played an important role, while Bal Thackeray was around, the Sena won 97 of the 227 seats. It has been downhill since: 84 seats in 2007 and 75 in 2012 (Thackeray Sr died that year), with the BJP as an ally. In 2017, when the Sena and BJP fought separately, the Sena got 84.

Even in the Assembly elections, the Sena has been on the decline. It came to power in 1995 winning 73 of the 288 seats. After Uddhav started playing an active role, it got 62 in 2004, 45 in 2009, 63 in 2014 and 56 in 2019. In 2014, the Sena, BJP fought separately.

**Series of splits**

Since Uddhav took over the party in 2003, this is the third split in the Sena. Many Sena rebels note that while Uddhav does not have the aura of his father, he expects to be treated

with the same deference, with no questions raised about his methods. His “aloofness” adds to the problem, with Uddhav operating through a coterie, including his family.

“Those in his inner circle became gatekeepers and many old leaders were disappointed that they had to go through them to approach Uddhav. The trust deficit only grew,” says Sanjay Patil of the University of Mumbai who has traced the Sena between 1985 and 2022 for his doctoral work.

Partymen say that not only did he rely on a select few, Uddhav was unable to monitor what they were up to. NCP chief Sharad Pawar minced no words in private about the Sena being clueless on the brewing rebellion.

After the transfer of power on Thursday, Pawar told reporters: “Uddhav Thackeray’s working style is such that if he has faith in someone, he gives him complete autonomy. We saw this with Eknath Shinde. I do not know if this is behind what transpired.”

Even in the days following the revolt, Uddhav seemed to have left the talking to the others, particularly Raut and son Aaditya. Many Sena leaders feel that the aggressive stance of the two pushed the rebels away.

For now, Uddhav has the support of the

Congress and NCP. But this will be tested when the three parties, with their separate agendas, fight an election. Even Pawar has been guarded over poll commitments.

**New Uddhav, or old family man?**

Nearly everyone is unanimous that Uddhav needs to readjust. “He needs to face the uncomfortable reality that his hold over the second- and third-rung leadership of the Sena has been wiped out. Him doing some hard thinking to reach out to the Sena cadre, which still has a significant presence on the ground, is essential,” a Congress MLA says.

Whatever he does going forward, Uddhav might find himself even more dependent on the advice of wife Rashmi, Aaditya and NCP chief Pawar. Just like Balasaheb, who after the 1992 rebellion by Bhujbal started inducting his family in the party, Uddhav too might draw an even tighter circle of family around him.

Aaditya’s growing clout, another cause of heartburn for the rebels, is already more visible. The Yuva Sena, which he has headed for 12 years since its formation, is leading the rallies to lobby support across the state. The core committee members, who are mostly Mumbai-based, have been instructed to fo-

cus on districts.

Samajwadi Party MLA Rais Shaikh says that for all of Aaditya’s enthusiasm, he represents a new face of the Sena that the rebels have mutinied against. “With Aaditya, you can talk about nice things like what is happening in Davos. But if you tell him that there is garbage strewn around a chawl... he gets uncomfortable. I had a conversation with him where I told him that these issues will not get votes. He told me somebody should think beyond only votes. I told him that this is not the time. But then he starts ignoring you and stops talking to you,” Shaikh says.

Rashmi is also seen as key to Uddhav’s political career, having played an important role in pushing him to take on the CM’s role. And, more importantly, to making the difficult decision of breaking with the BJP.

On June 22 night, as Uddhav travelled the short distance from his official residence Varsha to his private home Matoshree, it was the dynasty at the forefront. Uddhav, Rashmi and their two sons, hailed and cheered by supporters, appearing repeatedly from their vehicles to acknowledge the support.

That evening showed there could be a new day for Uddhav. But the clock is ticking.



Illustration: Suvajit Dey



TORA AGARWALA

EVERY RESIDENT of Silchar has a story of the “bejaan jol”, or the big flood, that hit the south Assam town on June 20.

“Till my waist,” says the taxi-driver, driving us from the airport to the town. “It came up to my neck,” says the manager at our hotel. The project officer at the Cachar district disaster management, our third stop, holds up his left arm: “This high, for seven days.”

Nine days after the deluge hit, the main road that cuts through the heart of Silchar — the second-most populous town in Assam — is choked with traffic, its sidewalks teeming with pedestrians, its restaurants open.

That an unprecedented flood, which most describe as “worst in their memory”, had submerged the road a few days back, is hard to imagine at first glance. But the signs are everywhere: in the big trucks with banners that read ‘on flood relief duty’, in the marks the water has left on boundary walls, in the shop fronts that have furniture stacked on top of each other, in the white-canopied medical camps. And in the conversations.

Officials admit that in the beginning, there was a complete sense of “helplessness”. “The scale of the disaster was too big. There were not enough boats, not enough manpower,” says a district disaster management official.

At Fatak Bazaar, the wholesale market that is the commercial nerve centre of three Barak Valley districts, a man recounts to bystanders his close shave with a “gang of thieves”, who tried to rob his home during the flood. At Maya Hotel, one of the town’s oldest restaurants, famous for its Sylheti-style fish curry, the cashier can’t help recalling, as he accepts payment from customers: “*Ki be-jaan jol*... What big waters!”

The water gushed in on the afternoon of June 20, following a suspected breach at the Bethukandi embankment along the Barak river the previous day. In a matter of hours, the river came rushing in.

Calling it “a scene from a horror movie”, A Sinha, 41, says water entered first her lane,

then her porch, then the house, swallowed the floor, then her furniture. Soon, she could see only the tops of cars on the roads.

In another part of town, head teacher Dilip Roy reached his government lower primary school after the waters receded somewhat to find books, OMR sheets, a brand new order of school uniforms floating. Roy and the school watchman are busy laying out the same on the rusted tin roof of the school to dry. “We are trying to save what we can,” says Roy.

At the Cachar Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, the staff fashioned a raft to ferry patients, through knee-deep water.

A temporary OPD was set up under the trees on drier ground. “While the serious patients were ferried to the hospital, what could be done outside, we did it there,” says oncologist and director of the hospital, Dr Ravi Kannan.

In low-lying localities, the water, stagnant for more than 10 days, has started to smell.

At Chencoori road, which now resembles a canal with wooden boats and floating shops, a father who left home to fetch



(Top) At the Durga Shankar Pathshala, a lower primary school in Silchar, a caretaker lays out school uniforms to dry on the roof; a temporary raft used to ferry patients to the Cachar Cancer Hospital. The approach to the hospital has waist-deep water, even 10 days after the flood hit. Tora Agarwala

The stoic resignation hits you, but there are also spurts of anger. “What is the use of taking photos and videos? Not like our problems go away,” says a man. Another shouts from his rooftop: “They spent so much on Namami Barak (a government festival to celebrate the Barak river), they could have dredged the river instead.”

Many say “the only good thing” the floods brought was a “sense of community”. “Without anything to do in the evenings, no phones, electricity, we would sit on our rooftops and talk,” says a resident of Das Colony. “I don’t think we did that before.”

In localities that had network, WhatsApp groups became channels for information. “People were looking out for each other,” says Suraj Singha, a 32-year-old IT professional, adding that a group called ‘Silchar Flood’ with 400 participants became his saviour. “From ‘I have a lifeboat but please return on the same day’ to ‘What is the water level at Link road?’, it tackled various questions,” he says.

However, others have more scarring memories, like Mahitosh Pal, 66. His brother suffered a brain stroke the same day as the floods hit, and died two days later in hospital. The shocked family then realised the town’s crematorium, too, was under water.

Pal was able to cremate his brother only two days later in Udharbond, 15 km away. He hired a country boat for Rs 12,000. “We floated with the body in waters that were 15 feet high... through a town that was in absolute devastation... Some people shouted at us asking us to get food and water, but fell quiet when they saw I had a body with me.”

While floods in Assam arrive every year like clockwork, the geographical spread of the current wave has been unprecedented, with Silchar among those unexpectedly hit.

Many blame the breach at the Bethukandi embankment, about 5 km from the town. The embankment lies adjacent to a wetland, Mahisha Beel. On May 22, a portion of it was allegedly cut by “miscreants”, as Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma put it. On Friday, Sarma announced a CID probe, adding that six persons have been identified.

But the locals who live around the wetland say they did it to “save themselves”, tired of the waters. “For more than two decades, we have petitioned different governments, but our concerns have fallen on deaf ears,” says a local, who did not wish to be named.

Four years ago, a sluice gate was constructed, but it was never completed. In May, after the first wave of floods receded, the water did not decrease at the beel. So locals allegedly cut a canal, to let the water out. They claim they told the authorities about it.

Three weeks later, it was through this now-widened gap that the water came in.

On Friday, workers from different departments are busy reinforcing the dyke.

An irrigation department official says that while the breach was a contributory cause, it was not the only reason behind the floods. “Apart from the breach year, the incessant rains led the waters to top embankments at several places, not just Bethukandi,” he says, adding that the Barak basin had “fragmented over the years owing to developmental activities”.

At its peak last week, the Barak’s water level had risen to 21.59 m, against the danger level of 19.83 m. In the last few days, it fell at an excruciatingly slow pace. Finally on July 1, 12 days after the flood, it hit 19.83, just below the danger level.



Aerial view of flooded Assam

### ASSAM FLOODS AS OF JULY 1

Human lives lost	
<b>173</b>	(155 flood, 18 landslide)
Districts affected	
<b>29,70,405</b>	Population affected
<b>3,03,384</b>	Population displaced

Cachar district flood data (including Silchar) as of July 1

Human lives lost	<b>24</b>
Population affected	<b>14,04,748</b>
Population displaced	<b>2,35,661</b>

**POWER STATUS AS OF JULY 2**  
■ 2,210 transformers affected  
■ 1,697 restored

### OTHER NE STATES MEGHALAYA

Lives lost to floods and landslides	<b>35</b>
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### ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Lives lost to landslides	<b>9</b>
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### MANIPUR

Lives lost to landslides	<b>27</b>
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### SIKKIM

Lives lost to landslides	<b>8</b>
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## Across THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

Website: pchidambaram.in  
Twitter: @Pchidambaram\_IN

Thankfully, the Supreme Court of India has located the right to abortion in the right to privacy as well as in the right to life and personal liberty. In India, the law allows medical termination of pregnancy up to 24 weeks of gestational age and thereafter on the opinion of two medical practitioners after satisfaction of conditions such as injury to the woman's physical or mental health

A SURVEY conducted by Pew Research Centre between March 7 and March 13, 2022, found that a 61 per cent majority of US adults said abortion should be legal in all or most cases; 37 per cent were opposed. The divide is political too: Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents support abortion (80 per cent), and Republicans and Republican-leaning independents oppose abortion (38 per cent). The gap has increased since 2016 from 33 points to 42 points.

All this, however, is beside the point. What matters is 'what do the justices of the US Supreme Court hold that the Constitution says'. The longest-serving Chief Justice of the US, John Marshall, had said: "It is emphatically the province and duty of the Judicial Department (*meaning the US Supreme Court*) to say what the law is", and that dictum is sacred in the United States.

## THE ORIGINALIST INTERPRETATION

In 1973, in *Roe vs Wade*, the US Supreme Court held that the right to abortion is part of the 'liberty' protected by several provisions of the Constitution including the 'due process' clause in the Fourteenth Amendment. Twenty years later, in *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pa. vs Casey*, the Supreme Court affirmed the conclusion in *Roe vs Wade*. Three generations of women in

America have lived with the right to abortion.

On June 24, 2022, in *Dobbs vs Jackson Women's Health Organization*, by a majority (including all three Trump appointees) of 5:3, the Supreme Court held that the "Constitution does not confer a right to abortion". Calling the reasoning in *Roe vs Wade* "egregiously wrong", the Court said that "the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives".

At first blush, it appears that returning the authority to the "people" is the right thing to do. But "people" here does not mean all the people — or all the adults or all the voters — of the United States voting in a referendum. If it did, the people of the US would overwhelmingly vote in favour of *Roe* and *Casey*. "People" here means people divided by states, and "their elected representatives" means legislators elected by electorates of different sizes and from constituencies that had been carved out to suit partisan political interests — in short, 'gerrymandered'.

## MANY RIGHTS THREATENED

America is divided as never before since at least the Civil War. One-half of the 50 states are expected to make or reaffirm laws that will practically outlaw abortion; the other half will allow abortions until the second trimester. Millions

of American women will be denied the right to abort an unplanned or unwanted child; a rapist's child; a child whose seed was sowed by incest; a child that the mother cannot afford to bring into this world or feed; or a child that will not get any love or care.

The US Supreme Court's judgment is terribly flawed because the judgment, to the great shock of legal scholars, rests on the argument that "the Constitution makes no reference to abortion". The Court also held that the right to abortion was not "deeply rooted in the Nation's history and tradition". If these were the tests of constitutionality, many rights that Americans take for granted in the 21st century would be obliterated. For example, the right to privacy is not mentioned in the US Constitution. Racism and race discrimination are deeply rooted in America's history and tradition. Contraception will not be allowed. Sexual relations between two people of the same sex will be a criminal offence. The examples can be multiplied.

In my reading of *Dobbs*, I am of the view that returning the authority to regulate abortion to the people does not mean that a State can, by law, compel a pregnant woman to carry the child until its birth. The State's law will apply only to residents within the *territory* of the State. The law will have no extra-territorial operation. The pregnant woman can go to a pro-abortion State and get the foetus aborted. The Federal Executive or a

charity can fund the travel of a woman who desires or needs an abortion. The error in *Dobbs* is that it placed the *right of the State* above the *right of the individual* in a matter of intimate concern to the individual but of little concern to the society or the State.

## DIVIDED NATIONS

Thankfully, the Supreme Court of India has located the right to abortion in the right to privacy as well as in the right to life and personal liberty. In India, the law allows medical termination of pregnancy (MTP) up to 24 weeks of gestational age and thereafter on the opinion of two medical practitioners after satisfaction of one of many conditions, including the condition that the continuation of the pregnancy would result in grave injury to the woman's physical or mental health.

After abortion was made legal, numerous surveys have found that the ability of women to study or work had increased significantly. *Dobbs* has revived the fault lines in America. America stands divided. So does India for other reasons. An India already divided by caste, religion, language and gender inequality is being further divided by the BJP's majoritarian and centralizing policies, but that requires a separate essay.

Did you ever imagine there will be a day when the two largest federal democracies would be divided nations?

## Fifth COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

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## Islamism has no place in India

THE SORDID shenanigans in Maharashtra ended last week with the toppling of the government, but the drama of this political saga made us almost forget the barbaric, jihadi killing in Udaipur. This is unfortunate. In my view, the beheading of Kanhaiya Lal and the way in which a video of it was posted on the Internet is more significant than politics because it seems to mark a new phase in the spread of radical Islam in India. The killers were clearly inspired by similar killings in the Islamic Republic next door and by the savagery that we routinely saw when ISIS still had control of its truly repugnant Caliphate.

There have been hundreds of jihadi killings in India, especially in Kashmir, but this beheading in Udaipur indicates that the fanaticism that defines radical Islam has gone up a few notches. In the horrific video that the killers posted, they can be seen smiling proudly and flaunting their machetes, because in their sick, twisted minds they were convinced that by killing an innocent man for the sake of their Prophet, they would be on a fast track to Islamic paradise. The mullahs and madrasas that put these ludicrous ideas into their heads are as responsible for the beheading of Kanhaiya Lal as his killers.

Arif Mohammad Khan, whom I am proud to call an old friend, has become the voice of sanity in an insane time. It made absolute sense to me when he said last week that it was useless to react to 'symptoms' and do nothing about destroying the roots of the problem. Will someone in Delhi please listen? Jihadi Islam is a sickness that is crammed into the heads of small children in the mosque schools they attend, usually because their parents are too poor to afford proper schools. So far nobody has made a serious effort to inspect the curriculum in these schools, but it is time that this happened. It is from dodgy 'religious' books taught by semiliterate mullahs that Islamism comes. It is for Islamic scholars and seminaries to bring more enlightened ideas into madrasas, but if they are not prepared to do it, then it must be done by the State.

It cannot be said loudly enough that India is (mercifully) not an Islamic country, so there is no room for schools that teach children to think in terms of infidels and believers. This is another idea perpetuated by madrasas that must go. If there are Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist schools that spread ideas like this, then they also need to be ordered to reform their curriculums.

There are Muslims who believe that Hindutva is a mirror image of Islamism. It is not. We have recently seen far too many fanatical Hindu priests preaching genocide at religious gatherings and they deserve to be locked up. But because the distinction between believers and infidels does not exist in Indic religions, there is less reason for fanatical Hindus to go around beheading people.

Having said this, I admit it would be stupid to pretend that much poison and hatred has not been spread in recent years by Hindus who believe that Hindutva is a better idea than traditional Hinduism. These people seem not to have noticed that the real harm done by spreading hatred is to India, and not to our Muslim communities. When mobs wearing saffron scarves lynch some random Muslim cattle trader, they make India look bad. When they demand that Muslim shops be boycotted, they do the same. When BJP spokesmen vomit bile against Islam and Muslims, they cause incalculable harm as the Supreme Court pointed out when Nupur Sharma appealed last week for the cases against her to be transferred to Delhi.

Using unusually strong language, the judges hearing her plea upbraided her for 'igniting emotions' with her comments on the Prophet. "This lady is single-handedly responsible for what is happening in the country. She and her loose tongue have set the country on fire." She has been suspended by the BJP and spokesmen for the government of India have dismissed her as representing a 'fringe element'. If only this were true. As someone who is attacked constantly by those who speak for Hindutva, I can say with certainty that she represents the mainstream and not the fringe. There has been a campaign on social media in support of her and prominent BJP voices have spoken up in her defence.

Fanaticism exists in every religion. But it is only the violent ideology spawned by Islam that makes ordinary Muslims go off and kill people in ways that are primitive, barbaric, and utterly unacceptable. Radical Islam has become a problem even in Islamic countries, but in India it has no place at all. This needs to be made clear to madrasas that teach small children to think of beheading infidels as a noble act and not a horrific crime.

The beheading of Kanhaiya Lal has caused so much outrage in India that there are demands that his killers be summarily executed in a public place. This cannot happen in a country that believes in the rule of law. But, if their trial and punishment is conducted at the usual, languid pace of our justice system, the anger and hatred that exists between Hindus and Muslims will intensify. This is something that we cannot afford at a time when tensions are already at boiling point.

## inside TRACK

COOMIKAPOOR



## SHAH'S STRATEGY

THE SURPRISE anointment of Eknath Shinde as Chief Minister, and Devendra Fadnavis's acceptance of the junior position, had Amit Shah's imprint. Fadnavis played a secondary role in the Sena rebellion. He kept Shah in the loop over Maharashtra developments from the beginning. The latter cautioned the over-ambitious Fadnavis against revealing his hand too soon. Operation topple was so secret that when Fadnavis flew to Vadodara to meet Amit Shah and Shinde on June 25 night, he first caught the plane to Indore to put Thackeray's men off the scent. The BJP worked on Shinde for over six months. The Sena leader was particularly rattled when the premises of a close associate were raided by Income Tax authorities. Shah and Fadnavis have long patched up their differences, but Shah saw Shinde's elevation and Fadnavis's humiliation as part of a long-term strategy to bring the powerful Maratha caste into the BJP fold and weaken the Sena. Fadnavis was, himself, kept in the dark about his own future role till the very end. Hence his initial reluctance to accept the deputy CM's post.

## POLITICALLY UNSOUND

While the BJP's manoeuvring is half the story, Uddhav Thackeray has also to share the blame for the disenchantment of his MLAs. The mild-mannered Uddhav is temperamentally unsuited for politics, especially heading a party teeming with tough-talking street fighters. He was never keen to be CM, but his wife Rashmi and son Aaditya were ambitious on his behalf. Rashmi placed relatives in key positions in the government and she and Uddhav's close aide Milind Narvekar blocked all access to Uddhav. The Hindutva-minded Sena MLAs felt closer to the BJP representatives whom they had known for years. In contrast, they were suspicious of their NCP allies, their long-time adversaries in Maratha-dominated constituencies. Incidentally, besides Shinde, there is a BJP mole in both the NCP and Congress camps. Both were willing to assist the BJP in its defection plans, but unlike Shinde they could not promise a defection by two-thirds of the MLAs. And the BJP wanted to ensure that a fresh election was avoided.

## RAHUL CALLS EPS

After the BJP announced the name of Droupadi Murmu as its presidential candidate, Rahul Gandhi telephoned AIADMK leader Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS), seeking backing for the Opposition candidate Yashwant Sinha. The DMK was understandably concerned over an overture to its rival. But Rahul has been suspicious of the DMK's intentions since its chief and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin's representatives in the Opposition discussions searching for a presidential candidate stopped short of categorical support to a joint candidate before the BJP announced Murmu's name. Though Murmu's profile, which sends a social justice message, suited the DMK better than the upper-caste Sinha, it eventually fell in line. The go-between for the Congress talks with the AIADMK was Sunil Kanugolu, a pollster who worked for the AIADMK and is now with the Congress. Rahul reportedly wants to keep his options open in Tamil Nadu for 2024, in view of the DMK's lukewarm support on certain issues, including the National Herald case against him, Sonia Gandhi and other Congress leaders.

## BORDERLINE TALES

In his latest book, *Scars of 1947: Real Partition Stories*, the affable Congress politician, journalist and cricket administrator, Rajiv Shukla, has laced his reminiscences with some intriguing tales from Pakistani high society, with whom Shukla has been rubbing shoulders for over three decades. For instance, he recounts the mysterious circumstances under which the bruised body of Mohammad Ali Jinnah's sister Fatima was discovered in 1967. Fatima lived alone. A day earlier she had attended a wedding and was in fine spirits. There was a demand that the corpse be exhumed, but the then government of Ayub Khan refused. Shukla also recounts that singers Noor Jehan and Lata Mangeshkar were close friends. Lata, though she had numerous fans in Pakistan, refused to visit the country. So the two singers met at the BSF guest house at the Wagah border, both of them carrying culinary delicacies from their homes. Writing about Sharmila Tagore's late husband, Nawab of Pataudi Mansoor Ali Khan, Shukla notes that he and his father were both captains of the Indian cricket team. But Pataudi senior, Iftikhar Ali Khan, was appointed captain because the initial choice, Bhausaheb Babasaheb Nimbalkar, an outstanding cricketer, came from an ordinary family and members of royal houses in the team refused to be led by a commoner.

## life& WORK

MANOJ TIWARI

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IT WAS the year 2009 and I was shooting for Bhojpuri movie *Gangotri* in Mumbai. Amitabh Bachchanji was also in the film. One day, the late Samajwadi Party leader Amar Singh, who was very close to Amitji, came on the sets and while talking to me proposed that I should contest elections. It was dazzling, sitting on chartered planes and helicopters, meeting big politicians. I contested Lok Sabha elections from Gorakhpur on a Samajwadi Party ticket against Yogi Adityanathi, and lost. This all happened in the course of three months.

Another incident happened in 2010. I was close to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumarji. Our (Bhojpuri) fraternity mostly supported him because of the change he was bringing in Bihar. In 2010, he cancelled a dinner for BJP leaders he was to host, reportedly as he was angry over an advertisement put up by the party featuring him with Narendra Modiji (Nitish was at the time vociferous in his opposition to Modi on account of the 2002 riots). This made me and others in the fraternity very sad.

In July 2012, Modiji addressed a Bihar Shatabdi Mahotsav in Surat, which I attended. He was all praise for Biharis at the meeting and had a vision for Bihar. I was highly impressed. It was then that I started gathering support for him. Even while in college, at BHU, I was in the ABVP.

The Bhojpuri film industry, already moved by nationalism, was also impressed with Modiji. We were convinced that he should take the lead and become the PM. Social media was then not as it is today, so wherever we went for shows or functions, we would try to convince people that the country now needed Modiji.

Then came 2014. I was in the BJP by now, and given ticket from North East Delhi. The same year, Ravi Kishan, who was in the Congress, contested from Jaunpur in Uttar Pradesh. The real life rivalry from the Bhojpuri film industry now became political rivalry. Newspapers had regular columns on who got which movie, who replaced whom etc. I won and he lost. By now I had mostly given up working in the movies. One day, while we were both on a TV debate on Star News, I told Kishan that, after the show, he should join my party. What I meant was a feast at my home. He thought I am talking about the BJP, and true to his witty self, said, "*Sachchi* (truly)".

Thereafter, I would often tell him that

## Corrupt okay as MPs, not Bhojpuri actors. It's elitism



Bhojpuri actor-MPs Dinesh Lal Yadav 'Nirahua', Manoj Tiwari, Ravi Kishan

you are the right man in the wrong party, and he eventually made up his mind to move. I put the proposal before our then party president Amitji, and his joining the BJP was finalised.

He campaigned for us in MCD and other polls, but was restless. He would tell me, "*Yaar kuchh karwao* (Do something for me)". Then came the 2019 polls, and I got to know that we are searching for a candidate from Gorakhpur as Yogiji had become the CM and the seat had become vacant. I told our president, "Sir, could Ravi be an option?". I could see a spark in his eye, and his candidature was soon announced.

Life is strange. I lost Gorakhpur, and after 10 years, the ticket was given to someone I recommended, and he won. Thanks to Modiji and Yogiji who gave him a chance.

The case of Nirahua (Dinesh Lal Yadav) is different. He even as an actor was ideologically with the BJP. I heard him support most things the party stood for. He joined in 2019, his coming very natural.

After Nirahua's win (from Azamgarh, a seat held by Akhilesh Yadav as MP), I see many people sharing memes, making fun of our Bhojpuri identity, and putting up our posters and movie scenes with an intent to make fun of us. After all these years, I have understood all this comes from an elitist mindset. These are the people who would accept English-speaking persons as MPs, even if they are corrupt, but they will mock Bhojpuri actors.

And this is what we are here to change. The roles we do is because our characters are ordinary people, our viewers are ordinary, poor people; and because we understand their psyche, issues, we are here to make changes in their life. We are here to challenge this elitist mindset, where you make fun of a *chaiwalla* becoming the Prime Minister.

Now when Bhojpuri artistes meet me, they talk to me more of politics than cinema. They think I am the gateway into the party. In coming times, you will see more artistes in the party. Bhojpuri industry is dominated with people with nationalist ideology.

I saw it as my duty to help people during the migrant crisis (after the Covid lockdown). I have fought for the Chhath festival in Delhi, cleaning of the Yamuna that has been ignored by the AAP government, and ensured that no one can beat a migrant and get away. Once Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal was reported to have said that '*500 ka ticket le ke aa jatae hain* (Migrants buy a Rs 500 ticket and come)', we strongly opposed it. No one in Delhi's politics can now dare say such things. So when you empower a person from the community, you also empower the community.

The writer is MP, North-East Delhi, and former Delhi BJP president

As told to Abhinav Rajput

## history HEADLINE

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THE FOUNDATION of free and fair elections is the secrecy of the ballot. The Rajya Sabha elections are unique in that respect, where voting is not secret. The MLAs elect their state Rajya Sabha MPs, and as the process stands now, have to show the votes to their party's representative.

However, the open ballot voting system is a 2003 addition to our Rajya Sabha electoral system.

Until 1998, Rajya Sabha elections were the bastion of party discipline, their outcome a foregone conclusion. Candidates nominated by parties would win uncontested. Voting only took place when there were more contestants than vacant seats in the state. Electoral contest was usually among Independent candidates.

The June 1998 Rajya Sabha elections in Maharashtra changed this position.

## How RS polls came to be open ballot

Seven contenders were in the fray for six seats. The Congress had fielded two candidates — Najma Heptullah, who had served three terms in the Upper House, and Ram Pradhan, a former Maharashtra-cadre IAS officer and ex-Union home secretary. The Shiv Sena's candidates were its sitting MP Satish Pradhan and media personality Pritish Nandy. Pramod Mahajan, who had lost the Lok Sabha elections earlier that year, was contesting for the BJP.

There were two Independent candidates: media baron Vijay Darda, whom the Congress supported, and former railway minister Suresh Kalmadi, whom the Shiv Sena supported. Kalmadi had rebelled against the Congress.

The Congress had enough votes to ensure the victory of both its candidates. But in a surprising turn of events, Congress candidate Ram Pradhan, a close aide of Sonia Gandhi, lost. An Independent candidate sailed through.

The votes cast by MLAs were secret, and Congress MLAs defied their party's voting instructions, causing Pradhan's defeat. Reports suggest that legislators from other parties also cross-voted.

Pradhan's loss reverberated in all political circles to a point that parties started thinking about steps to rein in their MLAs.

The solution eventually came from the Ethics Committee of the Rajya Sabha, which was set up in 1997 and was headed by Rajya Sabha MP and former Maharashtra Chief Minister S B Chavan.

In its first report in December 1998, the committee observed that money and muscle power played an increasing role in Rajya Sabha elections, suggesting: "In order not to allow big money and other considerations to play mischief... the Committee is of the view that instead of a secret ballot, the question of holding the elections to the Rajya Sabha and the Legislative Councils in states by open bal-

lot may be examined."

The Atal Bihari Vajpayee government in 2001 acted on the suggestion.

Arun Jaitley, the law minister at the time, introduced a Bill in Parliament to amend the law relating to the Rajya Sabha elections with an open voting system and the removal of domiciliary requirements for contesting the polls.

Kuldeep Nayar, a veteran journalist who was a nominated Rajya Sabha MP, challenged its constitutional validity in the Supreme Court, arguing that the "concept of open ballot would defeat the attainment of free and fair elections".

The Court overruled this contention and held the law to be constitutional. It reasoned that "the secrecy of the ballot is a vital principle for ensuring free and fair elections. The higher principle, however, is free and fair elections and purity of elections. If secrecy becomes a source for corruption, then sunlight and transparency

have the capacity to remove it".

But an open ballot has not helped bring purity to the Rajya Sabha elections or stopped party candidates from losing. A common response of the parties, as evident in the recent Rajya Sabha elections, has been to herd their MLAs to hotels and resorts to prevent poaching.

As Niloptal Basu, a CPM Rajya Sabha MP, said during the debate on the open ballot law: "We should, as political parties, seriously introspect as to how the principles on which political parties function can be rectified; as to how we can recapture certain healthy practices in politics... The problem of indiscipline and the problem of dissidents can never be stopped in this manner unless we improve our system of internal democracy, unless we have healthy practices".

The writer is head of outreach PRS Legislative Research





Swathi Muthyam (1986)

Arun Janardhanan

KAMAL HAASAN has been known to make films that pulse and enact roles that peel the skin of pretence and reveal to us our innermost desires. For over six decades, he has been unflinching in his commitment to cinema, making it his very life breath.

His latest action-thriller *Vikram* has the coffers ringing with an estimated collection of over Rs 172 crore in Tamil Nadu alone, while the global collection has crossed Rs 400 crore since its release a month ago. With *Vikram*, Kamal makes a comeback in the Tamil film industry. Those in his close circles say it's also possible that the actor's huge debt accumulated over the years, due to several disappointments in his film projects and venture into politics, may have been managed. Taking off from his 1986 eponymous film, *Vikram* has 67-year-old Kamal in the lead and tells the story of black ops who rally to eliminate a gang of masked murderers. It's bolstered with power-packed performances by Fahadh Faasil and Vijay Sethupathi.

Kamal always had a movie to work for, and most of them have kept the coffers full. However, over the last two decades, he's had an erratic run at the box office. Though his films were celebrated for content and startling experiments, his peers, Rajinikanth, Vijay and other superstars, won the popular vote in the Tamil film industry. *Vikram*, therefore, emerges undeniably as Kamal's biggest hit in six decades, following previous films such as *Nayakan* (1987), *Indian* (1996), *Dasavatharam* (2008) and *Vishwaroopam I* (2013).

Ramesh Aravind, actor, director and screenwriter from the Kannada film industry, says, "Failure and success are not new to him. As far as the audience is concerned, his last few years have not been smooth, so this massive success of *Vikram* couldn't have come at a better time."

One who began his acting career at the age of five, Kamal has appeared in over 250 films across languages, including Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Bengali and Hindi. It's the late Malayalam director KS Sethumadhavan who noticed the hero in him and cast him in *Kanyakumari* (1974).

"Kamal sir is truly a man of many talents," says actor R Madhavan. "He has excelled in every field be it singing, dancing, fighting, directing, or writing. He can do a *Sagara Sangamam* (1983) and *Nayakan* at the same time. He will do a *Vikram* and also *Hey Ram* (2000). He can do *Michael Madana Kama Rajan* (1990), a spoofy comedy, and also films like *Sadma* (1983) or *Monodram Pirai* (1982). His range and ability to convincingly play every character are incredible. I don't think any other actor in the world has that ability, that makes me a devout fan of Kamal Haasan," he says, a day before the release of his directorial debut, *Rocketry: The Nambi Effect*.

Bengaluru-based film historian S Theodore Bhaskaran says, "Forget about his big movies and experiments, his first role as a child actor was in *Kalathur Kannamma* (1960). Even today, I watch it because he was so natural in it; he acted as natural as the children in Satyajit Ray's *Pather Panchali* (1955)."

It's his willingness to try new things that sets him apart from other actors in the industry. Be it his 10 roles in *Dasavatharam*, a dancer in *Sagara Sangamam*, the triple role in *Apoorva Sagodharargal* (1989), including that of the dwarf character Appu, a don in *Nayakan*, a mentally-disturbed man in *Guna* (1991) or wearing a bun and a *bindi* as the nanny in the Tamil *Avvai Shanmugi* (1996) or its Hindi remake, *Chachi 420* (1997).

Many of Kamal's friends and colleagues, across generations, speak of his unwavering commitment that has kept him focused on the industry. One of south India's best-known actors, Khushbu calls Kamal an encyclopaedia of cinema. "We didn't believe him when he said that television would be the next big thing. Everyone thought the prosthetic make-up he planned for *Indian* would be a waste of money, but he was right on every prediction. Unlike the rest of us, he didn't make any investments outside of the film industry. I don't think anyone else is deserving of this level of success right now," she says.

Kamal was the first to do a digital film in Tamil with *Mumbai Xpress* (2005). His *Mahanadhi* (1994) was the first Indian film edited in Avid Editing software, with its numerous in-built special effects. He was successful in persuading several theatres in Chennai to convert into Auro 3D sound technology, touted as one to bring in the 3D sound experience, which made headlines during the release of *Vishwaroopam*.

He was also the first Tamil superstar to lead in Bollywood with *Ek Duije Ke Liye* (1981), a path that many others such as Rajinikanth and others followed later.



# A HERO WITH A HUNDRED FACES

Kamal Haasan, known for his numerous experiments with form and character in films, after nearly two decades of numerous disappointments, returns with the roaring success of action-thriller *Vikram*



HUNGRY FOR MORE

(Clockwise from top) Stills from *Vikram* (2022); *Chachi 420* (1997); *Ek Duije Ke Liye* (1981); *Sadma* (1983)

Bhaskaran sees Kamal as someone who has a critical understanding of cinema, its possibilities, its strengths, and what cinema is. "In the 1970s, there was a United States Information Service centre in Madras. They used to show American classics. He was a young man then, and would be there at all the screenings. He was raised on those classics. He is sensitive to the art of film. He knows the possibilities of cinema, is well-informed and well-read. I don't agree with the ideology, but the way he made *Hey Ram* and its pe-

riod setting was very good. So was his role as a middle-class father in *Papanasam* (2015), another example of his innate talent," he says.

Kamal brings this level of commitment to his personal relationships as well. "He used to be my mentor, teacher and philosopher. He would flatten my long, curly hair, make dosa for me, carry stones and chase away boys who teased me," says senior Tamil-Malayalam ac-

tor Suhasini Maniratnam, his niece. She recalls the days when they would drive to Madurai from their village near Paramakudi, about 60 km away, just to whistle and clap for movies in which he had brief appearances as a dancer. "After the song, we would leave the theatre and do the same thing the next day," she says. She lived with Kamal and her grandmother in Chennai from the age of 12 to 27, when she married director-producer Mani Ratnam.

Suhasini has seen Kamal grow as a child artiste, a dance assistant, a budding actor to



Apoorva Sagodharargal (1989)

a villain and a superhero. "I have been there with him all along, his entire life, through his success and failures, through his marriages, and everything," she says.

Kamal married Vani Ganapathy in 1978. After their separation, he married Sarika in 1988, a relationship that ended in 2002. He then lived-in with Gautami, a partnership that lasted 13 years. His two daughters, Shruti and Akshara, have also found a career in cinema.

Cinema is not the only thing that makes Kamal a super star. His talent for ventriloquism makes it to his films, as well. He knows morse code and can recall *yappu ilakkanam*, a separate grammar for poetry in Tamil, similar to mathematics.

Sanu John Varughese, who shot Kamal's *Vishwaroopam*, says Kamal is the most educated school dropout he has ever met. "What happens to a computer with the installation of a new operating system is what happened to me after working with him, I was able to see things in a new light," he says.

Chennai-based producer-writer Sujatha Narayanan, who's worked in a few of Kamal's projects, including *Anbe Sivam* (2003), says he's one of those disciplined scriptwriters, "like one who goes to the gym to burn calories on a daily basis. He writes at least one page a day and churns out at least one poem a week. He is one of the best screenwriters and dialogue writers we have."

She adds that during shoot days, Kamal is diligent about maintaining a routine for himself and as a director, he doesn't hold back. "To work with Kamal, one has to have a genuine love for cinema or an in-born talent. As for surprising him with any new film or technical trivia, it's impossible, he's always ahead of us, be it watching films or in the latest technology," she says.

Kamal is a film school for Mahesh Narayanan, the Malayalam director and film editor of *Vishwaroopam*. He believes that Kamal is more than just an actor or director; he is also an efficient technician. "Almost 90 per cent of *Vishwaroopam*'s Afghanistan scenes were shot in Chennai. We had no idea how to shoot those scenes here, like the choppers scene in an airstrike, for instance. Kamal set up a fan with huge propellers with stunning effects, that brought the chopper and the ground together in the correct number of frames," he says.

Melancholy has been a common theme in Kamal's many works, but he is also a hero with a dark side. In his silent film *Pushpaka Vimana* (1987) or *Aalavandhan* (2001), he played out one of the most favourite themes, of good vs evil. In *Kuruthipunal* (1995), he explored the deep layers and psychology of terrorism, while stills of his dream project *Marudhanayagam* (announced in 2015) show a half-naked Kamal riding a buffalo.

Outsiders regard Tamil Nadu as a unique case study where people vote for any film star who enters politics. The fact remains that the state has only favoured those with strong ideologies over the years, not celebrities.

So, when Kamal formed a political party in early 2018, the question was whether he would follow in the footsteps of MG Ramachandran, Tamil super star and the former chief minister, or ven a Captain Vijayakanth, who sustained for about a decade in electoral politics and power. However, after nearly five years of his Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) party formation, it is clear that he is neither.

"Perhaps because he lacked the street-smart talent of a politician? But what made him a dictator in the party then? Could it be the need to mobilise resources? All we could manage were a few events, which was easy because people wanted to see the actor. Then why didn't they vote for his party?" asked a leader, who left Kamal's team shortly after the 2021 assembly elections. "In terms of contributions to cinema, he is far ahead of MGR and Rajinikanth. In politics, I do not question his motives, but I believe he was unable to take that political leap in style for a variety of reasons, including a lack of understanding of people and politics itself," he adds.

Many party leaders were either unhappy or refused to discuss Kamal as a political leader. His political endeavours were seen as sluggish, his ideas without logic, and his causes appeared half-baked.

But when it comes to his films, nobody can fault him his passion. "Like Clint Eastwood, I see him as an artiste with no expiration date. He's got more than 50 broken bones due to his passion for acting. Even before he begins filming, he has a finished movie in his head. If cinema is a bug, he is someone who has taken the most bites," says Mahesh, who will direct *Thevar Magan II*, for which Kamal has written the screenplay.



## DOWN IN JUNGLELAND



Ranjit Lal

Ranjit Lal is an author, environmentalist and bird watcher

## The Other Cousin

Grey hornbills of Delhi are nowhere as glamorous as the Great Indian Hornbill, but they can work that pickaxe beak

A FEW DAYS ago, for the second time, a baby grey hornbill perched on my towel hung out in the balcony and caught my eye, reminding me that at least they were doing well — having been born and brought up in Delhi's Nicholson Cemetery next door. He or she only gave me time enough to snap a couple of pictures before flying off, but the message was clear: it's time you wrote about us, dude!

I first met grey hornbills decades ago in lush verdant Borivali National Park, now known as Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Mumbai. It was early morning and over-cast and we were stumbling over huge slabs of cracked cement and tarmac, part of an abandoned and ill-conceived highway project right in the middle of the forest. Foliage sprouted between the cracks and crouched over us because the monsoon had begun. It was all too easy to imagine you were back in time millions of years ago. And then, we heard this high-pitched squealing call, coming from high overhead, in the ivory-white sky, there they were: a small flock of flying lizard-like creatures, flapping in tandem, as they made their way across the sky. Their downward curving pickaxe-like bills, crowned with that strange casque on top made it seem as if all it took now was a Brontosaurus to come stomping up. Alas, none did, but the birds were enchanting enough.

Here, in Delhi, I was able to renew my acquaintance with them at a more personal level. Every spring (March and April) the hornbills residing in the cemetery next door would begin squealing and one often caught sight of them flying between trees or perching high up on some bough, dangling their long tails, nonchalantly. They are a little larger than the black kite and dressed in shabby grey, have lovely long eyelashes and their down-curved profile makes them look somewhat bemused: as if they're wondering what the heck they are doing in the modern world and what happened to all the dinosaurs!



RANJIT LAL

### FITS THE BILL

They hold a neem berry deftly in their beak, toss it up and gulp it down like we'd toss a peanut into our mouth

Grey hornbills are largely frugivorous, subsisting on figs and berries, delicately picking them, like someone using a giant pair of chopsticks. That down-curved bill of theirs can be a formidable weapon (while hunting small rodents, lizards and nestlings), but is also used for gentler purposes. In spring, grey hornbills get romantically inclined and now the gentleman would perch by his lady, and begin to woo her.

It's astonishing how deft they are with that huge pickaxe of a bill. They can hold a neem berry right at the tip of their bills, toss it up and gulp it down rather like a teenager would toss up a peanut and catch it in the mouth.

Once, a pair of hornbills was on a neem tree just across the cemetery wall, and here the gentleman leaned over and with infinite delicacy picked up a single green neem- berry as if selecting the rarest emerald from Columbia. He diffidently hopped close to his lady and gently offered it to her. Now which lady could resist such a gem: she took it from him and gulped it down. Hugely excited he cast about for more — and there were plenty. In his excitement, he almost toppled over backwards to pick an especially large one and I knew, now they were an "item".

Sure enough, they found a hollow in another neem tree nearby and set up home here. The lady ensconced herself in the hollow, and laid probably two-three dull white eggs. To ensure *scoorty* (security), she blocked the entrance to the hollow using her own excreta (not hygienic, perhaps, but effective) and mud pellets while her caring husband did the same from the outside using mud. (What would happen if he discovered reinforced concrete?) A narrow slit was left through which he would, all through her three-week period of incubation and when the chicks were very young, feed his beloved with a stash of berries (and maybe a lizard or two) which he would regurgitate one by one and she would gulp down gratefully.

Grey hornbills have done well in Delhi, but they are nowhere as glamorous as their forest dwelling cousins, the huge Great Indian Hornbill or the Malabar hornbill, magnificent black and white birds with enormous yellow bills and casques. The ordinary Malabar hornbill is a little wimpier-looking though and resembles the grey hornbill. I first encountered the Great Indian Hornbill in Corbett — we heard this strange rasping sound coming from the sky and there they were; a small flock of about five or six birds flying in tandem across the sky. Unforgettable.

An artist on his lock-up works and how inmates turned collaborators

Vandana Kalra

WHEN ARTIST Chintan Upadhyay left Thane Central Prison on bail in September 2021, after spending nearly six years there for the alleged murder of his estranged wife and artist Hema Upadhyay and her lawyer Haresh Bhambhani, he had hundreds of artworks that needed to be transported. "It is not a cohesive body of works but my recordings, which includes sketches that could propel future works. If it wasn't for art, I do not know what I would have done," says Upadhyay, 49, from his Navi Mumbai home-cum-studio.

He distinctly recalls the events of December 11, 2015, when the bodies of Hema and Bhambhani were found in Mumbai's Kandivali. Chintan was in Delhi at the time. He had moved to the Capital in 2011, when the divorce proceedings were on. Preparations were under way for his exhibition that was to be held in February 2016 in Vadodara, where he would have unveiled two years of work with the series titled *Gandi Baat*, comprising caricatures of men, women and children, and addressing subjects of aggressive male gaze, abusive gestures and moral policing, among others.

With him being arrested days after the murder, the exhibition was cancelled, and a leading contemporary artist at the time found himself in the Thane prison. "For the initial months, I was in a cell with over 400 people. It is certainly painful and difficult being there, away from friends and family. It is a tense atmosphere and there is constant fear," he says.

It took some prodding from the then prison superintendent for the artist to pick up the paintbrush again, when he was requested to make preparatory drawings for a mural that depicted prison life — the scene included inmates cooking, cleaning, working in *karkhanas*, playing board games, volleyball and so on. Few months later, he made his first acrylic on paper in prison — a deformed elephant with elongated legs, hatching from four eggs. "I don't remember how the painting began but perhaps the eggs were suggestive of the name of my cell, Anda. The elephant is struggling to find its feet and move ahead with its brittle legs that are erupting from hatched eggs. It is trying to gather strength. The work also depicts what I felt at the time," he says. Exhibited as part of "Art from Behind Bars" initiative (of the NGO Dagar



Pathway Trust) in Mumbai in 2017, it was purchased by filmmaker Kiran Rao for Rs 4.5 lakh. He donated the proceeds to the "Prisoners' Welfare Fund".

Soon, he managed to create his own work space in the prison's confines. He also began taking workshops, and regular art classes from 2019, where he'd impart lessons to 25-30 students at a time. "I'd encourage them to imagine and analyse their situation and surroundings through art. In order to build their confidence, I even let them make small interventions in my larger works," says the artist. Several of his students and other under-trial prisoners also became the protagonists of his charcoal portraits on newspapers that he sketched during the pandemic. "These portraits are the stories of these men and reflect their varied backgrounds and ideologies," he adds. In the coming months, he hopes to bring almost 500 of these portraits together in a single installation — sharing common space, akin to how they lived in prison.

Hailing from Jaipur, the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda alumnus drew attention early on with his provocative works. His trademark babies were born in 2003 with the exhibition "Designer Babies". Over the years, he

modified them to adapt different sizes, mediums and hybrid forms, painting them with varied motifs — miniatures to abstract patterns — and using them to address a range of issues, such as manipulative society, female infanticide, censorship, and social commodification. Recognition came with opportunities, fame and commercial success. In 2007, he set a record when his installation *New Indians* was auctioned for \$529,000 at Sotheby's.

Each artwork, made in the last five years, reminds him of his moments in prison. He reckons it would suffice for multiple exhibi-

tions but he doesn't have the bandwidth to put it together. "I'm still struggling to get into the rhythm to concentrate and work," he says.

Created over a long duration, the subjects are far-ranging: from a project *Mutatis Mutandis* based on Sanjeev Khandekar's poems that delve into mutation, to the black-and-white stripes of the prison uniform that merge with red on 8x10 ft canvases. Daily news also became fodder for his work as he continued to respond to socio-political developments. When debates on nationalism was raging in the country, Upadhyay was reading Rabindranath Tagore's lectures titled *Nationalism*. "I was interested in exploring how nationalism was viewed before we attained independence. I'd read fragments from Tagore's lectures and requested a friend to arrange for the book," he says. The ensuing drawings focus on keywords from Tagore's lecturers, such as *India*, *Nation* and *Political*, and he hopes to scan and bring them together in a composite print that would be painted over.

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# 12 ECONOMY

## SECTOR WATCH AVIATION

### Smoke in cabin forces turnback of SpiceJet flight, 5th incident in 2 mths

PRANAV MUKUL  
NEW DELHI, JULY 2

IN WHAT is at least the fifth air safety incident involving a SpiceJet aircraft in the last two months, a Jabalpur-bound flight operated by the low-cost carrier on a Bombardier Q400 Dash 8 plane made an emergency landing in Delhi Saturday morning after smoke was noticed in the aircraft cabin.

#### EMERGENCY LANDING IN DELHI

■ A Jabalpur-bound flight operated on a Bombardier Q400 Dash 8 plane made an emergency landing in Delhi early Saturday after smoke was seen in the aircraft cabin

#### MAY DAY call

The aircraft took off from Delhi early Saturday, and while climbing past 5,000 feet, the crew noticed smoke in the cabin along with the lavatory smoke alarm sound going off, a top official at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said. "Cabin crew informed cockpit crew of mild smoke in the cabin, but on visual check, no sign of smoke or damage was observed in lavatory," the official added.

Later, when passing 14,000 feet, increased smoke was seen in the cabin and the same was conveyed to the pilots, who levelled the aircraft at 15,000 feet and initiated a turn back to Delhi, the official said, adding that a "MAY DAY" call was declared to the air traffic control.

The aircraft landed safely in Delhi few minutes after 7am and all passengers were evacuated on the taxiway.

In a statement, a SpiceJet spokesperson said: "On July 2, 2022, SpiceJet Q400 aircraft was operating SG-2962 (Delhi-Jabalpur). While passing 5000 ft, the crew noticed smoke in the cabin. The pilots decided to return back to Delhi. Aircraft landed safely at Delhi and passengers were safely disembarked."

#### Safety incidents

This is at least the fifth air safety incident faced by the airline in the last two months. On June 19, two

SpiceJet incidents were reported — one involving a bird hit on a Boeing 737-operated Patna-Delhi flight, in which the pilots landed back safely at Patna after an engine shut down, and the other also involving a Bombardier Q400 Dash 8 plane from Delhi to Jabalpur that had to make an emergency landing in Delhi after cabin pressure did not build up in line with the altitude gain of the plane.

Prior to this, on May 4, a SpiceJet-operated Boeing 737 MAX plane from Chennai to Durgapur made an air turn back after one of its engines had to be shut down mid-air as a result of an oil filter warning.

Just days before this, a SpiceJet Boeing 737 aircraft from Mumbai to Durgapur flew into severe turbulence shortly before landing, which led to several passengers being severely injured.

This is in addition to the DGCA intervening with SpiceJet's simulator training program for the Boeing 737 MAX plane, where it was found that the airline continued to train its pilots on a simulator with known equipment faults.

Following the Mumbai-Durgapur incident, where the damaged aircraft that had witnessed severe turbulence, was allowed to takeoff from Durgapur, the DGCA had ordered a check of all SpiceJet planes.

## NITI AAYOG-COMMISSIONED REPORT WHICH STUDIED 3 ORDERS BY SUPREME COURT, 2 BY NGT '5 green verdicts cost govt ₹8K-cr revenue'

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK  
NEW DELHI, JULY 2

THE GOVERNMENT lost revenue worth Rs 8,000 crore from mid-2018 to mid-2021, and at least 75,000 people were adversely impacted with around 16,000 workers losing their jobs, due to five major environment-related judgements passed by the Supreme Court and National Green Tribunal (NGT), a report commissioned by the NITI Aayog has estimated.

The verdicts assessed in the report include three judgements by the apex court — stopping iron ore mining in Goa, shutting down Sterlite Copper's Tuticorin plant in Tamil Nadu, and halting consultation of Mopa Airport in Goa — and two from the NGT — the sand mining ban case, and halt on construction activities in Delhi-NCR.

According to a person aware of the deliberations about the report, these five cases were chosen due to their prominence when the report was being commissioned.

According to the report titled 'Economic Impact of Select Decisions of the Supreme Court

and National Green Tribunal of India', in the aftermath of the five verdicts, the industry lost close to Rs 15,000 crore in revenues, and workers lost around Rs 500 crore of income. The estimated revenue loss of Rs 8,000 crore to the government could have resulted in an economic impact of more than Rs. 20,000 crore if invested as capital expenditure, it said. The report was first commissioned in 2019 and has been finalised with financial support from the NITI Aayog. It was prepared by Jaipur-based policy research and advocacy group CUTS International, which submitted the report to the government think-tank this June.

In an order passed in 2018, the SC had cancelled Vedanta Ltd's lease to mine iron ore, which the then Goa government had renewed in 2014. The order also directed mining companies to stop all mining operations until they obtained new environmental clearances and leases. Due to this ban, the report said, "State public debt increased at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 10.06 per cent from 2007 through 2021, while the market loans taken by the state increased at a CAGR of 19.93 per



cent, consequently due to mining suspension."

As a result of the ban on mining in the coastal state, the total revenue earned by the Goa government between financial years 2015-16 and 2017-18 was Rs 1,128.38 crore, which declined by 79.51 per cent to Rs. 231.23 crore in between 2018 and 2021, a difference of Rs. 897.15 crore, the report said.

"As a consequence of the mining ban in Goa, the central and state revenues cumulatively suffered an estimated deficit of

Rs 668.39 crore in taxes paid by the mining companies, whereas the state revenues exclusively suffered an estimated deficit of Rs 1,821.32 crore," it added.

"While quashing 88 mining leases, the SC could have directed the government of Goa to restart mining operations within a stipulated time under the court's supervision and facilitated by a committee of subject experts including economists, environmentalists, etc" the report recommended.

It added, "Such an approach

### Power consumption up 17.2% to 134.13 bn units in June

Power consumption grew by 17.2% on-year to 134.13 billion units (BU) in June, amid severe heat and spurt in economic activity, as per Power Ministry data



The third Covid wave hit the country in January, forcing states to impose local restrictions such as night and weekend curfews, which restrictions were eased gradually

POWER CONSUMPTION IN JUNE OVER LAST 2 YEARS:  
June 2021 114.48 BU, June 2020 105.08 BU

In pre-pandemic June 2019, power consumption was at 117.98 BU

Peak power demand met, which is the highest supply in a day, during this June remained at an all-time high of 209.80 giga watt (GW), on June 8. Power consumption and demand, according to experts, rose mainly due to severe heat and spurt in economic activities

## India-EU FTA talks: Next round at Brussels in Sept, says ComMin

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JULY 2

THE COMMERCE Ministry on Saturday said that India and the European Union (EU) concluded the first round of talks for their proposed free trade agreement (FTA) on Friday and the next round of talks is scheduled at Brussels in September.

India and the 27-nation bloc resumed negotiations on June 17, after a gap of over eight years, on the proposed agreements on trade, investments and Geographical Indications (GI).

The first round of talks, which began on June 27, ended July 1.

India's FTA negotiations were led by Chief Negotiator Nidhi Mani Tripathi, Joint Secretary in the Department of Commerce and the EU was represented by its Chief Negotiator Christophe Kiener, the ministry said in a statement. The week-long negotiations were held in a hybrid fashion — with some of the teams meeting in Delhi and the majority of officials joining virtually.

During the first round, 52 technical sessions covering 18 policy areas of FTA and seven sessions on investment protection

and GIs were held, it added.

India's bilateral trade with the EU amounted to \$116.36 billion in 2021-22. At present, the EU is India's second largest trading partner after the US, and the second largest destination for Indian exports. "The trade agreement with the EU would help India further expand and diversify its exports of goods and services, including securing the value chains. Both sides are aiming for the trade negotiations to be broad-based, balanced, and comprehensive, based on the principles of fairness and reciprocity," it added. WITHPTI

## MoS IT meets UK PM; discusses collaboration in innovation, tech

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 2

MINISTER OF State for IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar met UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Friday and discussed future collaborations and partnerships between India and the United Kingdom in innovation and technology sectors, as per an official release.

Briefing reporters later, Chandrasekhar said both India and the UK want to dramatically expand the innovation economy, the release said.

"Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Friday met UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson

along with a delegation of Indian startups, unicorns and innovators," it said adding that they both discussed future collaborations and partnerships between the two sides on innovation and the technology sector.

Chandrasekhar also met Paul Scully, British MP in this regard. "We want to take the digital economy to be 25 per cent of the

total economy. The UK government also wants to expand the slice of that pie too," Chandrasekhar told reporters.

He also held ministerial roundtable discussions with Priti Patel, Home Secretary UK, Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Secretary of State for International Trade and President of the Board of Trade-Government of UK and Chris

Philip, Minister for Technology and Digital Economy UK at the India Global Forum.

Chandrasekhar outlined the rapid strides taken by India in the field of technology, and informed that the country is designing 5G gear and manufacturing devices that go into making of 5G products.

Chandrasekhar also attended

a session on the Future of Digital at the IGF, UK where he spoke on the rapid digitalisation and the need for safeguarding rDigital Nagriks' against user harm.

He called for collaboration among countries, especially like-minded democracies, to ensure safety and trust for the users in the boundaryless domain of cyberspace.

#### BRIEFLY

##### Indian Bank pact

Chennai: Indian Bank said it has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Haryana government towards distribution of mobile phones to consumers through e-unified payment interface system.

##### D-Mart revenue

New Delhi: Avenue Supermarkets Ltd, which owns and runs retail chain D-Mart, posted a near two-fold rise in standalone revenue from operations to ₹9,806.9 crore for the June quarter. PTI

##### SAS, pilots talks

Stockholm: Scandinavian airline SAS and its pilots have agreed to extend their wage talks until Monday in the hope of averting a strike, a company executive told reporters on Saturday. Close to 1,000 pilots in Denmark, Sweden and Norway plan to strike if talks break down, according to the unions, which SAS had said could leave some 30,000 passengers stranded each day. REUTERS

##### Canara Bank loan

New Delhi: Canara Bank surpassed the Rs 1-lakh-crore mark under Gold Loan outstanding as on June 30. For the current fiscal, the public sector bank grew 26.19% under Gold Loan as compared to previous year, amid contribution from 435 Gold Loan Plaza Branches. ENS

#### E-FILING PORTAL

### Infy taking measures to deal with traffic: I-T

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 2

AS TAXPAYERS are facing issues in accessing the e-filing portal, the Income Tax department on Saturday said that the software services company Infosys is taking "proactive measures" to deal with the "irregular traffic" on the portal.

"It has been noticed that taxpayers are facing issues in accessing IIT e-filing portal. As informed by @Infosys, they have observed some irregular traffic on the portal for which proactive measures are being taken," the I-T Department tweeted.

The new e-filing portal www.incometax.gov.in — which was launched on June 7, 2021 — had a bumpy start with taxpayers and professionals reporting glitches and difficulties in its functioning. Infosys was given the contract in 2019 to develop the portal.

More recently, the portal faced snags on the first anniversary of its launch and many users complained that they were unable to log in into the portal, while some complained malfunctioning of the search functionality.

The Central government has paid Rs 164.5 crore to Infosys to build the new income tax e-filing portal.

## Berkshire Hathaway buys 9.9 mn more Occidental shares

REUTERS  
NEW YORK, JULY 2

WARREN BUFFETT'S Berkshire Hathaway Inc said it has bought another 9.9 million shares of Occidental Petroleum Corp, giving it a 17.4 per cent stake in the oil company.

Berkshire paid about \$582 million for the shares, which it bought between Wednesday and Friday, according to a Friday night filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Buffett's company is Occidental's largest shareholder, now owning 163.4 million shares worth about \$9.9 billion. Its stake is about 60 per cent larger than that of Vanguard, the next largest shareholder, according to Refinitiv data.

Berkshire also owns warrants to buy another 83.9 million Occidental shares for \$5 billion.

Occidental's share price has more than doubled this year, benefiting from Berkshire's purchases as well as rising oil prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The Berkshire investment has prompted market speculation that Buffett's Omaha, Nebraska-based conglomerate might eventually buy all of Occidental.

In a June 23 research report, Trust Securities analyst Neal Dingmann saw a "good chance" of a Berkshire takeover once



Berkshire Hathaway chairman Warren Buffett. The company now owns 17.4% stake in Occidental Petroleum Corp. Reuters file

Occidental became an investment-grade credit, saying a purchase would help diversify Berkshire's energy portfolio.

Occidental has been reducing debt, which swelled when it bought Anadarko Petroleum Corp for \$35.7 billion in 2019.

Berkshire bought \$10 billion of Occidental preferred stock to help finance that purchase, and obtained the warrants at that time. It also had a \$25.9 billion stake in oil company Chevron Corp at the end of March.

Berkshire's share price has fallen 8 per cent this year, compared with a 20 per cent decline in the Standard & Poor's 500.

Buffett's company owns dozens of businesses, including the BNSF railroad, Geico car insurer and its namesake energy business, as well as stocks including Apple Inc and Bank of America Corp.

## Tesla sales fall, hurt by China's Covid curbs

REUTERS  
BENGALURU, JULY 2

TESLA INC delivered 17.9% fewer electric vehicles in the second quarter from the previous quarter, as China's COVID 19-related shutdown disrupted its production and supply chain.

The world's biggest electric car maker said on Saturday that it delivered 254,695 vehicles in the April to June period, compared with 310,048 vehicles in the preceding quarter, ending a nearly two-year-long run of record quarterly deliveries.

A resurgence in COVID-19 cases in China had forced Tesla to temporarily suspend production at its Shanghai factory and also affected suppliers' facilities in the country. Tesla is ramping up production at the Shanghai factory with the easing of the Covid-19 lockdown, which will help boost deliveries in the second half. Early in June, CEO Elon Musk told executives that he had a "super bad feeling" about the economy and needed to cut about 10 per cent of staff at the electric car maker.

Musk has said demand for Tesla vehicles remains strong, but supply-chain challenges still remain. In June, Tesla again hiked prices for some of its models in the United States and China after Musk had warned of significant inflationary pressure in raw materials and logistics.

#### CONFIDENT OF DIWALI TIMEFRAME TO READY DRAFT

## Financial services exciting aspect of India FTA: Sunak

ADITI KHANNA  
LONDON, JULY 2

THE FINANCIAL services sector holds out an "exciting" prospect of closer exchange between India and the UK with a free trade agreement (FTA) being negotiated between the two countries, according to British Chancellor Rishi Sunak.

In an interaction with reporters ahead of India Global Forum's UK-India Awards celebrating Indian diaspora success within the UK-India corridor on Friday, the senior British Indian Cabinet minister said he sees enormous opportunity for both countries in areas such as fintech and welcomed the opening up of the Indian insurance market.

The minister also expressed his confidence over the Diwali timeframe for an FTA draft to be ready. "There's good progress being made and I think one of the exciting things for me in my role is financial services," he told PTI.

"Financial service is an area where there's an enormous opportunity for both of our countries. India's goal is to spread insurance across the entire economy because insurance is a great thing for enabling protection for individuals and growth. We can help with that in the UK because we have a fantastic insurance industry. And bit by bit we've been able to provide more



UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak at the UK-India Awards 2022, in Windsor, near London, Friday. PTI

of those products, services and expertise to Indian firms and citizens and companies," he said.

He also referred to India's plans for a Sovereign Green Bond and the UK having gone through that journey would want to help India raise that capital. "It builds on a tradition of us helping provide capital to India from across the world because one of the defining movements of capital of our time will be the flow of capital from the west into fast growing India. That's an incredibly exciting and significant event. And the UK can really help be the place which allows India the access to the biggest pool of capital on the best possible terms to drive its growth."

In the interaction with the Indian Journalists' Association (IJA), the senior Cabinet minister

said he is "very supportive of India playing an increasingly influential role in the region, and indeed, in the world" as a massive economy and the world's largest democracy and an FTA would prove a greater champion of that cause.

Sunak also highlighted the important role to be played by the Indian diaspora in strengthening a "partnership of equals" between the two countries.

"The UK doesn't have a monopoly on opportunity. There's an enormous amount of opportunity in India, we also want to make sure that if this living bridge is going to be a real thing, we have got to make it easier for people in the UK to go to India, to study at world-class institutions to go work in all these amazing start-ups," he said. PTI



Two shuttlers suspended for age fraud

NITIN SHARMA  
CHANDIGARH, JULY 2

A DAY after the Badminton Association of India (BAI) postponed the All India Sub-Junior Ranking Tournament in Mohali for a day after parents' made allegations of over-age players in the fray, the governing body for the sport suspended two players from Rajasthan.

While the matches got under way on Saturday at Mohali, the two players were suspended after the protesting parents met Sanjay Mishra, the BAI secretary early on Saturday morning. Mishra assured the parents of strict action. The All India Sub-Junior Ranking tournament (Under-13) is being organised by Punjab Badminton Association.

"After the complaint by the parents, Badminton Association of India has suspended two players from Rajasthan and their Badminton Association of India ID's too have been deactivated. The issue has been forwarded to the age fraud committee and further action will be taken by BAI. Regarding the complaints regarding more players having fake birth certificates, the BAI will take action based on evidence," BAI observer Bamang Tago said.

Earlier this week, more than 60 parents had written to Sanjay Mishra, secretary, BAI, about some players submitting fake birth certificates. While the parents had submitted a written complaint on Wednesday, some of them protested during the main draw matches of the tournament on Friday.

After a two-hour discussion between Tago and the protesting parents, the organizing committee of PBA decided to postpone the matches to Saturday

There were also reports of overaged players participating in the All India Sub-Junior under-13 ranking tournament in Hyderabad too.

"BAI only took the matter seriously when we protested and stopped the matches. We had submitted the complaints earlier too at the ranking tournament at Hyderabad. We are glad that two players from Rajasthan have been suspended. We have also asked BAI to lodge a FIR in this case of age fraud so that it creates a deterrent for other players to do so. We also hope that complaints regarding other players, against whom many parents have submitted proof, are investigated," Ravi Vyas, one of the parents of a player participating in the tournament, said.

KK Sharma, chairman of BAI's age fraud committee, was not available for comments.

SPORTLINE

Ahead of the FIH women's World Cup, Janneke Schopman's Indian team has used football-training technology to help players scan the field faster, make fewer touches on the ball, improve decision making and craft quick passes

Split-second hockey



SmartGoals is a training system that helps to improve players' game intelligence, reaction speed and vision and has been used by the Indian Women's team ahead of the WC.

Hockey India, felixdenayer/Instagram

feat to Belgium a couple of weeks ago. India now stand at a very critical juncture.

A deep run into the World Cup and the Commonwealth Games will go a long way in enhancing their reputation and giving further thrust to women's hockey in the country.



India have speed in the form of Salima Tete, the skills of Lalremsiami and the combination of Monika, Neha Goyal and Navneet Kaur, who find each other easily and play in triangles to unlock opposition defences. The previous coach Sjoerd Marjine made these attackers play give-and-go hockey, wherein a player passes the ball to a teammate and continues her forward run to receive a return pass.

Schopman, who was the analytical coach on Marjine's staff before succeeding him as the chief coach, wants to take the concept forward but has demanded more fluency, higher speed and better accuracy. She is mindful of the fact that against top teams, the players can't afford to depend on the coach to bark out instructions or delay a pass even by a second. "Good players are able to make decisions in a split-second by themselves," she says. "So, we have been training specifically to create awareness."

That meant getting the players to look at each other more often, pre-scan the pitch, play with fewer touches - a maximum of three - and look up all the time to be able to craft a

good pass. These may sound very rudimentary aspects but lest one forgets, it wasn't until five years ago that the women's team started operating in a professional environment.

For India, who are routinely able to get a result against teams ranked closer to, or below, them, this is paramount to challenge the top guns - the Netherlands, Germans and Argentinas of world hockey. In the split second between a player looking down to control the ball and lifting her gaze up to spot a teammate and pass the ball, these teams are capable not just of closing down the passing lines but also stealing possession and launching a counter.

Most of the attacking drills post-Tokyo have centred around making the players operate while looking up and making the right decisions.

In the weeks leading up to the World Cup, the team management even imported a technology, named SmartGoals, to enhance the players' game intelligence, reaction speed and vision. It's an interactive system in which light signals, the shape and size of a training cone, are placed as makeshift goalposts. When a player runs, dribbles, or shoots a ball through them, the light in that smart goal goes off and will jump to another goal.

"So basically, we have to look up all the time to see which goal is lit up and play accordingly," forward Sangita Kumari says. "We play using four such goals in two teams of four and have to keep the ball moving while trying to spot

which goal is open and attack accordingly."

This is a commonly-used training system in football and the manufacturer's website lists Dutch clubs Ajax and PSV Eindhoven, Turkish giants Fenerbahce, Bundesliga side Schalke and the Dutch football association, among others, as their clients.

It's one of the many crossovers between football and hockey, which are perhaps the closest any two sports can get tactically, but Schopman's purpose of using this tool is clear: "To improve their decision-making and awareness. You'll hear me saying those two words a lot."

Sangita, a junior team star who has seamlessly transitioned to the senior level, says the technology has helped them build stamina given the quick switching of the goals, improved reaction speed, and understand how to play while constantly looking up, pre-scan their passing options and enhance their decision-making.



India are in Pool B of the 16-team World Cup, alongside England, New Zealand and China. "It's the group of death. Four good teams..." Schopman says.

Led by goalkeeper Savita Punia, India will open their campaign against England just like at the 2018 World Cup, when the unfancied Indians held the hosts to a hard-fought 1-1 draw in front of 15,000 fans in London.

That result began India's surge but when

the two teams met each other at the Tokyo Olympics twice, including the bronze-medal playoff - England played as Great Britain but a majority of the players remained the same - India lost on both occasions.

England are one of the most dangerous teams while transitioning to attack, which they often do through the middle while committing a lot of numbers forward and using their speed well.

If England play through the centre, New Zealand, Schopman says, like to stretch the field. "For us, it'll be important to be willing to commit our numbers and not drop with them because if we keep walking backward, we'll invite these teams to come up. I really want us to be brave and stay higher and put pressure," she explains. "These two countries are just very good, great attacking transitions, they love big spaces, love to run at teams... that's something we'll have to manage."

It'll put the spotlight on the defence, which has often looked shaky and rescued by Savita, a proper big-match player.

India have gained an upper hand over China in recent years but to arrest their decline, China pulled off a coup by bringing together two of the sharpest minds in international hockey. They recently appointed Australian great Alyson Annan, who succeeded Marjine as the Dutch women's team coach and guided them to a stunning Tokyo Olympics gold medal.

After getting Annan on board, China then appointed the legendary Ric Charlesworth as her assistant. And the duo, within no time, has turned China into a team that is extremely tough to crack, as Belgium and the Netherlands experienced in the FIH Pro League last month.

Four years ago, it would have been hard to imagine that India would escape unscathed from such a group. "But we have grown in the last four-five years. Not many took us seriously until then (2017-18)," Savita says. "But now, we are a team that no one would want to play."

IN A NUTSHELL

India's schedule (Pool B, all matches in Amsterdam)

July 3:	vs	England (8pm)
July 5:	vs	China (8pm)
July 7:	vs	New Zealand (11pm)

BRIDGE

Dealer: South Vulnerable: North/South

NORTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
♠KQ104	1C	1S	Pass	1NT
♥A105	Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
♦J102	Pass			
♣Q64	Pass			
EAST				
♠A97				
♥873				
♦53				
♣KJ1053				

South opens 1C and rebids 1NT. North raises to game and West is on lead. His choice is the nine of diamonds. What do you think West has in diamonds?

The West Hand: S - 652 H - K42 D - 98764C - A9  
The South Hand: S - J83 H - QJ96D - AKQC - 872

South is marked with the three top diamonds. West would not lead the nine of diamonds from a holding like K9864. You should credit South with nine points in diamonds. South is marked with the three top diamonds. West would not lead the nine of diamonds from a holding like K9864. You should credit South with nine points in diamonds. How many tricks does declarer have at this point?

You know only part of this answer. You know he has three diamond tricks and you are pretty sure he has three or four heart tricks. The next thing declarer does is lead a low spade from the dummy. What does East know and what does he do?

East knows a lot about the South hand. He has nine points in diamonds (AKQ) and we think he has three points in hearts (QJ). His play in spades is a sure clue that he has the jack of spades. That gives him thirteen points that East knows about.

The ace of clubs? Since South opened 1C and rebid 1NT, he should have 12-14 points and he has shown up with thirteen. He should not have the ace of clubs unless he is a sloppy counter, which is not common. If South had the ace of clubs he would have opened 1NT, a bid that players seem to enjoy making.

Lead your fourth best club to West's ace and hope that he has a second club to lead to you. He does and the result is a nice down two.  
Dealer: South Vulnerable: North/South

NORTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
♠AQ4	1C	♠J965	1NT	
♥6542	Pass	♥KQJ	Pass	
♦K87	Pass	♦A10932	Pass	
♣QJ10	Pass	♣2		

South gets to 3NT and West leads the ten of hearts, dummy's suit. You play the jack and it wins. You continue with the king and South takes the ace. How do you feel?

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2380

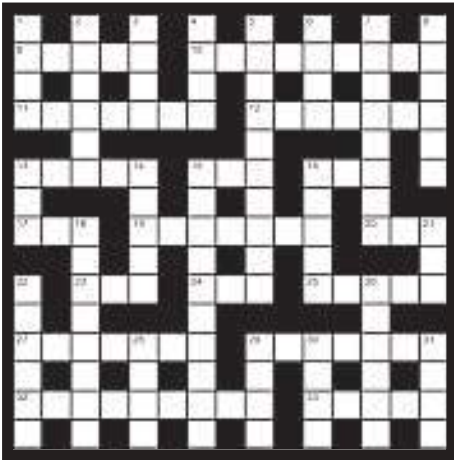
QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- Golf course (5)
- Face or confront boldly; dare (5,2,2)
- Toy dog breed (7)
- Damaged, harmed (7)
- Musical entertainment (5)
- Purse or a satchel (3)
- Policeman (3)
- Obese (3)
- Progress (7)
- Sweet potato (3)
- \_\_\_ Kapital : Karl Marx's magnum opus (3)
- Happiness (3)
- Capital of Japan (5)
- Common (7)
- Type of radio show (5-2)
- Very discommoding (9)
- Sneaked or crawled (5)

DOWN

- A stone fruit (4)
- Director of "Brokeback Mountain" (3)
- Land in the water (4)
- Labourer of yore (4)
- Corridor (10)
- Root of the taro (4)
- Disease producing fits (8)
- Boundary (6)
- Clumsy fellow (3)
- Cricket trophy (5)
- Winegrowing region of France (10)
- Vault beneath church used as a burial place (5)
- Quality of neatness and orderliness (8)
- Lowling sound (3)
- Strictness (6)
- Caused to turn over or fall down (6)
- A speed (4)
- Domestic hogs (4)
- A killer whale (4)
- Fame or renown (4)
- One getting presented with an alloe-like amaryllid (5)
- Too self-important to hit back to us? Nothing in it (9)
- Songs that fishermen bring home? (7)
- She may be sent round to sell tea (7)
- Lofty operator responsible for Blair being without one-to-one (3,2)
- What a blow backwards and forwards this can deliver! (3)
- Sleeping part of the small house? (3)



- The bird is black and back (3)
- Going out, one aunt takes the back seat of a car (7)
- Leaders of the north and west abandon the snows with a call for help (3)
- For this one became out of one's mind, perhaps (3)
- There's no holding a key man given some authority (3)
- Mineral well cut we hear (5)
- How golfers start to find drama cancelled! (4,3)
- He uses magical powers in a struggle to get a grip (7)
- Note how different title colour shown (9)
- Fellow's nasty look and mocking laugh (5)
- Instrument noted for precision (6,4)
- Reported fish in lock (5)
- Opinionated setter, perhaps, starts to moan about themes in crosswords (8)
- Is up over 10? Considerably less! (3)
- Assail the devil with a faulty gun (6)
- Overcharged and got the bird? (6)
- Rubbish rots anyway (4)
- Off the mark with an extra run (4)
- Split, if in the night? (4)
- Church of Scotland (4)

Solutions to 2379

QUICK CLUES Across: 1 Ursa, 3 Lily, 6 Babel, 10 Performer, 11 Girls, 12 Psychic, 13 Spiders, 14 Lugs, 16 Famine, 18 Doe, 21 Rio, 22 Buying, 23 Trot, 25 Opacity, 27 Estonia, 29 Lying, 30 Approving, 31 Steps, 32 Spy, 33 Eyed Down, 1 Unpopular, 2 Sorry, 4 Democracy, 5 Yarns, 6 Beguiled, 7 Bartender, 8 Lists, 9 Goths, 15 Globalize, 17 Inkeeper, 19 Estranged, 20 Abridges, 24 Ethos, 25 Ogles, 26 Years, 28 Noisy. CRYPTIC CLUES Across: 1 Ruth, 3 Knew, 6 Pickup, 10 Cabanossi, 11 Ounce, 12 Pedrine, 13 Thinned, 14 Rounce, 16 Rattle, 18 Vix, 21 Hag, 22 Pounce, 23 USSR, 25 Intones, 27 Beatles, 29 Tabby, 30 Arch-enemy, 31 Spend, 32 Sing, 33 Tyre. Down: 1 Rock-perch, 2 Tubed, 4 Nosteratu, 5 Wrist, 6 Provided, 7 Penknives, 8 Plead, 9 Snook, 15 Vegetable, 17 Backbeon, 19 Peristyle, 20 Open-eyed, 24 Males, 25 Iotas, 26 Seals, 28 Leary.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip. It is wonderful how quickly you get used to things, even the most \_\_\_\_\_. Edith Nesbitt (11)

DVAIO



EOWNNT



AOISS



ACTUGH



Answer: It is wonderful how quickly you get used to things, even the most astonishing. SOLUTION: DVAIO: AVOID, AOISS: NEWTON, CAUCHY

SUDOKU 4884

Difficulty Level 3s

Instructions

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

Difficulty Level

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



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4883



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Your horoscope is devoted to work. Not just work, we should say, but your broader professional ambitions, your desire to fulfil your Arien destiny to be the first and foremost in all human activities. It looks very much as if you will place family commitments and romantic hopes in second place.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Some of you are now pretty tired of a close partner's inconsiderate ways. But what should you do? Should you follow the normal Taurean practice and put up with irritations until they go away? Well, with so many planets in your favour you may take a different approach, tackling such people head-on.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Neptune, that most mysterious of planets, is approaching the end of its passage through a special region of your chart, one which rules not just your money, but all joint finances. The only forecast we can make is that your business situation is bound to be more complicated.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Get into gear now and you'll be ready to make the most of your brand-new astrological cycle. You're bound to concentrate on domestic activities and aspirations at first but, by the end of the week, you'll be focusing on work, where it looks as if conditions will be more complicated than usual.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Even though some of your affairs seem to have been thrown into reverse, you should remember: in no circumstances should you take a back seat now, or allow anyone to push you into second place. There are challenges to be met, but also a great many glittering prizes to be the reward of those who come through on top.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

You are beginning to share a number of characteristics with Pisces, your opposite sign. This is strange, because sensitive Pisceans are often so different from sober Virgoans, yet with an enormous build-up of planets pointing at your house it is time for you to liberate your imagination.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Have you considered going away sometime soon? We can forecast firmly that you will enjoy yourself, meet new people and feel more energetic than if you stay at home. Please double-check all instructions before setting off. There's a discovery waiting for you, but where and what only time will tell.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

This is a classic moment. You're at your most secretive, perhaps you yourself aren't even sure what you're up to! Yet you're very public about your feelings, and you may even be making a drama out of a relationship. You must take as many short trips as you can, visiting as many different environments as possible.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

You should be on top form, thanks to your own efforts as much as to any good fortune that fate is bringing your way. This is no time to wait at home for the phone to ring, hoping that other people will contact you. You must seize the initiative and arrange social activities and meetings.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Remember some planetary activity that it's difficult to separate what is important from what is completely irrelevant. Mercury's rapid movements means that you'll be changing your mind on important matters, cancelling major engagements and meeting delays in all your plans.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

You're building up to the next great lunar alignment in two weeks. I won't pretend that everything will become clear around then. In fact the reverse is true, and questions which you thought were about to be answered may grow more obscure. Life, you might guess, is about to become even more weird than before.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Shyness can be your great hang-up, in spite of the fact that you are also the friendliest person. You probably don't need an astrologer to tell you that, but it may help to know that you can do something about it and be increasingly outgoing more of the time. Mature Pisceans have already found a way to boost their social skills.



# Bumrah — Right arm pure theatre

First, there was a small matter of looting runs with the bat; then he squeezed in the pressure with the ball to leave English gasping

SANDIP G  
JULY 2

JASPRIT BUMRAH: Right Arm Fast. The categorisation is oversimplifying Bumrah. He is many in one—a versatile new-ball merchant; an old-ball virtuoso, a seam artist; supreme length-manipulator, an all-format freak of nature, a talisman and a matchwinner, an icon and an entertainer. On Saturday, he was all, more than all, and pure theatre too.

There are many reasons spectators flock to watch him in flesh or turn on the television when he is winding up that unique action of his. Apart from the sense of achievement that will grow with the years in just having been there the day that Bumrah did that, a desperation almost to be part of him in some tiny way, Bumrah brings something for everyone. For the masses, he gifts the visceral thrill of a supersonic fast bowler splaying stumps and blasting pads; for purists the joys of his fine subtleties; for the scientists the mechanics of his action; for the students of the game, a light of enlightenment; and for the spectators watching from the stands, a song for their tune, a rhythm for their beat.

If Bumrah does not make you fall in love with cricket, perhaps nothing this decade in cricket will.

He began the Super Saturday, exceeding his own powers to entertain. His 16-ball 31 was both pantomime and cult. He consigned Stuart Broad, he of the retro headband and 550 Test wickets, to another slice of cricketing ignominy—35 runs in an over, 31 runs from his bat. No one ever has scored as many runs in a single over in Tests as Bumrah had—not Rishabh Pant or Virinder Sehwa; not Brian Lara or Viv Richards

Using the word “score” to denote those 31 runs hardly does justice, or captures the essence, of those 31 runs. You could call it fluke, freak, or even farce, but it did embellish the entertainment package that Bumrah is. It would be one of the most chaotic overs ever in cricket—a top-edge four that just eluded the long-leg fielder, five wides, a top-edged six off a no ball, a French-cut four, a heave that ended him crashing onto the surface (ala Pant), a one-legged pulled six (ala Gordon Greenidge) and a comic single.

In the middle, Bumrah was rolling in laughter with partner Mohammed Siraj. So were his teammates in the dressing room. But to gauge the impact of his knock, however fortuitous it was, one just had to zoom into the face of Broad and his captain Ben Stokes. Broad looked as pale as someone trapped with a ghost in a Gothic castle; Stokes, for the first time since becoming captain, looked dazed, leaving to fate the passing of the storm.

Those 35 runs not only took India to 416, a target that seemed impossible when they were 100/5 at one stage, but also plausibly destroyed them psychologically. The last three had added 93, and the last pair 41 runs. It was not the first time that he had hurt England with the bat—the 34 not out at Lord’s and 24 at Oval were useful runs. Don’t yet call him an all-rounder though. Stokes blew his cheeks in relief when the partnership eventually ended, with James Anderson consuming Siraj for his 32nd five-wicket haul in Tests.

Then kicked in the real storm. Bumrah with the new ball. His transformation from a goofball to an executioner. From Robin Williams to Al Pacino. He has bowled 6052 balls in Test cricket, before he steamed in from the Birmingham City End. Every stride, every movement, every quirk, every cell of his bowling body might have been dissected, yet he continues to be unmastered. There are batsmen who have played him well, but not mastered him. Joe Root has found success against India in the Bumrah-era, but Bumrah has nabbed him six times. He is a lesson that great bowlers could be decoded but not reined over.



## BOOM! A WORLD RECORD

Captain Jasprit Bumrah pulls Stuart Broad for a boundary during the first innings of India’s Test match against England at Birmingham on Saturday. Reuters

■ Jasprit Bumrah smashed Stuart Broad for 35 runs in one over, making it the most expensive in Test history. Bumrah scored 29 while six runs came from extras.

■ He hit Broad, who claimed his 550th Test wicket earlier in the match, for four fours and two sixes in his over, which included a no-ball and a wide.

■ Bumrah bettered the previous mark held by Brian Lara by one run. Lara had hit SA’s Robin Peterson for 28 runs in 2003-04, which included four fours and two sixes.

■ Broad had also been hit for six sixes in an over by Yuvraj Singh in the inaugural World T20 in 2007. Bumrah, meanwhile, remained unbeaten on 31.

## Bumrah’s pull in record over evokes memories of Kapil’s Nataraja shot

SRIRAM VEERA  
JULY 2

THE MOST breathtaking shot from Jasprit Bumrah in the over of mayhem, in which he looted 29 of the 35 runs against Stuart Broad to break the world record for most runs in a single over in a Test, was a marvellous pull. The front leg swivelled up in the air, and it brought memories of three glorious pulls, somewhat similar. The soul of the shots was the flamboyant upward thrust of the front leg and the individuality comes through in what transpires next.

### Kapil’s Nataraja shot

The takeaway from Kapil’s signature shot wasn’t a sense of brutality but of something wildly beautiful. There wasn’t violence in it, like most pull shots can often have.

No wonder The Hindu’s R Mohan instinctively sensed something classical in it and christened the shot ‘Nataraja’, from Lord Shiva’s cosmic dance of creation, sustenance, and dissolution of the universe. Shiva’s *bhujangatr-asita* *karana* dance pose is a thing of grace – and perfectly befits a cricketing shot that also brims with grace just after the destruction of a ball. When he saw Kapil’s pull, Mohan’s mind immediately went to the Nataraja statues. “At home we would have so many of those figurines of Nataraja. See the pose and Kapil’s pull shot was similar, his left foot in the air,” Mohan told this newspaper.

No Kapil mix-tape could escape that shot. An exhilarating kick of the left leg would allow him to balance his weight on the back, and the arms would waft across to absolutely wallop the ball. The crucial difference from Bumrah’s version was that Kapil would cross kick his front

The crucial difference from Bumrah’s version was that Kapil would cross kick his front leg across the body but the shots were quite similar in their essence.

leg across the body but the shots were quite similar in their essence. At times, Rohit Sharma would settle into a Kapil-like Nataraja lift (Kapil even called it the best Nataraja version he has seen after himself), but Rohit’s wasn’t as often and as wildly adventurous as Kapil’s.

### Greenidge’s unleashed version

The first instinct when Bumrah finished his swivelling pull over fine-leg was to think about Gordon Greenidge’s version. No batsman has cut the ball harder than the West Indian opener, by all accounts. But he also had a very mean pull. Just after Greenidge would press his back leg across, to quote the late Martin Crowe, who was in awe of that shot even decades later, “all sorts of things would happen.”

“Firstly, the knee would come up right up into the stomach. And this would give him the balance and the power to unleash hell on the short ball,” Crowe once told ESPNcricinfo. “Booof! I have never seen the ball hit so hard.” And Crowe would go on to say that next time he saw that shot was when Brian Lara effected his version of it. “I think Lara copied him.”

### Lara’s whiplash version

Once Crowe presented its lineage from Greenidge to Lara, it’s difficult to unsee it. But

the main difference lay in how Lara absolutely whiplashed that small round thing. The press back, the lift of the leg, and then the dance began. No one has used the bat as fluidly as if it was a weightless thing as Lara at his pomp. From that position, with his front leg high and across his hip, he would whiplash his bat at the shortish ball – like a crack of doom. A balletic movement of the feet and the upper body, before he sealed it with a wondrous fluid swing of the wood.

### Tendulkar’s pull

It was no Nataraja, but Tendulkar wasn’t ever going to allow himself such self-abandoned flamboyance, was he? Tendulkar’s pull shot was a thing of purist beauty. The compactness is startling. He almost controlled and tamed a shot known for its inherent violence in thought and in sight. The bat levers back straight, it comes back down almost straight, and the elbows line-up perfectly to help finish the shot in one tight arc of arm movement. No energy is frittered away. The body doesn’t lurch sideways too much, the head doesn’t bob away. There is no unnecessary movement.

If only it wasn’t for Fanie de Villiers and his captain Hansie Cronje plotting a downfall at short midwicket, and to a lesser extent Chaminda Vaas and Arjuna Ranatunga, one wonders whether Tendulkar would have allowed himself a greater run with that shot. For a brief while, he had almost become obsessive with that shot and when his obsession turned into a tool of his entrapment, he abandoned it mercilessly. It was at that moment that Tendulkar, whose batting was a mix of Gavaskar and Richards, began to leave the Richards persona behind and went the way of Gavaskar.

## BRIEFLY

### Ronaldo wants to leave Man United

Manchester: Manchester United risk losing talisman Cristiano Ronaldo this season as the 37-year-old forward has asked to leave the club should the Red Devils receive a satisfactory offer in the transfer window, according to the Times. The Portuguese superstar’s decision is said to be driven by a desire to play in the Champions League for the remainder of his career. Ronaldo believes that he has ‘three or four years’ at the highest level to win major trophies, according to the report.

### Kalaivani storms into final of Elorda Cup

New Delhi: Indian boxer Kalaivani Srinivasan stormed into the final with a dominating victory while Kuldeep Kumar progressed to the semi-finals of the Elorda Cup in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan on Saturday. Kalaivani demonstrated excellent skills against Uzbekistan’s Farzona Fozilova in the women’s 48kg semi-final. The Chennai-born boxer’s powerful blows and persistent attack didn’t allow her opponent any opportunity to settle down as she comfortably won by unanimous decision in the end. Meanwhile, another boxer in the men’s section, Yashpal lost to Kazakhstan’s Aslanbek Shymbergenov by 0-5 margin in the 71kg quarter-final. The finals will be played on Monday.

### Sainz takes pole position for British GP

Silverstone: Carlos Sainz was fastest in the rain at the British Grand Prix to earn his first career pole position in his 150th start in Saturday qualifying. Sainz set the fastest time of 1 minute 40.983 seconds late in the third qualifying session to edge reigning Formula One champion Max Verstappen by just .072 seconds. It was the seventh pole in 10 races for Ferrari this season, though it was Sainz teammate Charles Leclerc on pole prior to Sainz’s surprise run. Leclerc will start third, ahead of Sergio Pérez in the second Red Bull. Seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton qualified fifth for his home race as Mercedes seemed to have made progress with its problems of bouncing at high speed. His teammate George Russell was eighth.

### Sourav Kothari wins All-India snooker title

Mumbai: Oozing with confidence, PSPB’s Sourav Kothari raced to a 7-2 victory over Laxman Rawat in the best-of-13-frame finals of the NSCI All India Snooker Open ‘Bauklime’ 2022 here on Saturday. Kothari, who recently had won both the snooker and billiards titles in the Pacific International Championship in Melbourne, recorded a comfortable 95-17, 37-75, 64-05, 70-77, 116-01, 124-05, 70-23, 91-50 71-39 win. The 37-year-old Kolkata-based Kothari compiled breaks of 65 (1st frame), 58 (4th), 83 (5th) and 107 in the sixth, while Laxman managed a solitary break of 63 in winning the fourth. Kothari was presented the champions’ trophy and the winners’ cheque of Rs two lakh.

PTI & AP

# Play on a Middle Sunday, commemorative NFT, potential NextGen rivalry

NAMIT KUMAR  
JULY 2

FOR AN event deeply steeped in tradition, Wimbledon has embraced change more rapidly than other tournaments recently. It broke its longstanding stance on staying clear of politics by banning Russian and Belarusian players, a decision that has not been repeated by a single tournament.

Other significantly smaller changes follow suit. The grass court Grand Slam is celebrating the 100th anniversary of Centre Court – with a commemorative NFT (Non-Fungible Token) no less – that is accompanied by changes to the showpiece court including a new WWE-style entrance for the players from the clubhouse through a set of automatic green doors to the sound of a roaring audience.

On the court, the biggest change seems to be the end of the ‘Middle Sunday.’ The break between the two weeks of action has been preserved for long, barring a delay caused by rain. But with the advent of technology and retractable roofs on the showpiece courts, it is abolished to give the singles Round of 16s a bit of a breather, ending another preserved tradition of the ‘Manic Monday.’

The changes at SW19 show the All England Club’s attempts to take the sport’s

oldest tournament into a new era. And perhaps fittingly, play on the first Middle Sunday at Wimbledon will be highlighted by the start of a rivalry that could take men’s tennis into a new era – the fourth-round clash between fifth seed Carlos Alcaraz and tenth seed Jannik Sinner.

### New rivalry

Sinner, two years his opponent’s senior, was meant to be tennis’ next big thing after he made his breakthrough in the COVID-de-railed 2020 season. However, physical issues – including a left foot injury which forced him to retire from the fourth round of the French Open – have halted his progress.

He has only played 10 tournaments this year out of which he withdrew from three due to injury and is without a title in 2022 so far. Over the past two years, he has been in and out of the top 10.

Meanwhile, Alcaraz has emerged this year as the most exciting teenager in men’s tennis since Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic. The Spaniard has won four titles this year – two Masters 1000s and two ATP 500s, and has raced into the top 10.

Alcaraz’s meteoric rise has been a series of ‘one-ups’ on his next opponent. Sinner won the ATP NextGen title in 2019, and Alcaraz won it in 2021. Sinner won his first



Carlos Alcaraz will take on Jannik Sinner in the fourth round on Sunday. Reuters

career title at the age of 19, Alcaraz won his a few months after his 18th birthday. Sinner made his big ATP breakthrough by reaching the Miami Masters final in 2021, Alcaraz won the event the following year. Sinner reached the quarterfinal at Roland Garros in 2020, Alcaraz not only matched the result but actually entered the main draw as one of the favourites for the title.

The duo have made their mark as the most exciting and talented players on tour recently, but are yet to get a rivalry going. They faced off at the Paris Masters last year, where Alcaraz emerged victorious in straight



sets, but have not faced each other in best-of-five sets, where Sinner has the edge. Such is the Italian’s consistency at Grand Slams that he has now reached at least the fourth round at all of the Majors, something an established top 10 player like Stefanos Tsitsipas is yet to achieve.

The hype around the Spaniard, as his results suggest, far outweighs that around Sinner, who has meandered on tour recently. But a win for Sinner has narrative-changing potential, both for this rivalry and his own status as one of the big future stars of the sport.

### SWIATEK’S 37-MATCH WIN STREAK ENDS

London: Top-ranked Iga Swiatek’s 37-match winning streak has ended with a straight-set loss to Alize Cornet in the third round at Wimbledon. Swiatek was coming off a title at the French Open but her play was filled with mistakes in the 6-4, 6-2 defeat against the 37th-ranked Cornet. Swiatek had been unbeaten since February and won her preceding six tournaments in a row.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Contrasting styles

Both players are relatively unknown on grass, making their encounter unpredictable. Sinner’s game, built around a big backhand, redirection of pace, and baseline aggression, has never suited the surface: he had never won a tour-level match on grass prior to the start of the Championships this year.

However, he has looked in inspired form this week. The Italian has navigated a tricky

draw with maturity and high-quality tennis. He took out Stan Wawrinka in four sets in the first round, and withstood the challenge from big-serving John Isner, fresh off the triumph over home favourite Andy Murray, in the third round. The Italian converted two of his four break points against Isner and was laser-focused on his own serve, not conceding a single break point.

Alcaraz brings something different to the game though. He boasts of a punishingly powerful forehand, and an underrated serve that has been in his corner all week, also during a five-set thriller in the first round. His footspeed has already created plenty of high-light-reel moments at the grass Major.

However, it is the dynamism of his all-out attacking style that has built up his stock as one to watch in London this time. For all his evident talent, it is the well-disguised drop shot – a shot of audacity and daring – that has become one of his biggest weapons, perhaps telling of his commitment to variation and attack.

Wimbledon is embracing change, and tennis needs it too. Even though the age-old Nadal-Djokovic rivalry continues to dominate headlines and tournament main draws, the first Middle Sunday at SW19 could be the start of the rivalry of a new generation – one where politics will play a role in sports, and so might N.F.T.s.