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Twenty three years ago, on this very day, the glorious history of Indian Army witnessed one of the greatest victories against the enemy in Drass (Kargil) during 'Op Vijay'. We bow our heads in reverence of those soldiers, who in the true rich traditions of the '2nd Battalion the Rajputana Rifles' made the supreme sacrifice for the motherland while fighting the enemy. It is but for you, that today every member of the '2nd Battalion the Rajputana Rifles' holds his head high.

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KUMAR**

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RANKS
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RIFLES
(EVER VICTORIOUS)**



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BAHADUR SAHI**



**RfN SUJIT
THAPA**

On this day 5043612A Nk/Chef Ram Bahadur Sahi and 5049096M Rfn Sujit Thapa of 5/1 Gorkha Rifles made the supreme sacrifice during 'OP RAKSHAK', Jammu and Kashmir in Jun 2003 in a true act of valour and courage. The brave soldiers will always be remembered for their enthusiasm. To these brave hearts we pledge that we shall always be guided by their immortal spirit and make their name proud.

CO AND ALL RANKS, 5/1 GORKHA RIFLES

PERSONAL

I Yaspreet Kaur spouse of No. 4486656L Rank Hav Kulwinder Singh VPO Gehri devi nagar, Tehsil Bathinda Distt. Bathinda have changed my name from Yaspreet Kaur to Yashpreet Kaur. Please known me as my new Name Yashpreet Kaur.

0020440577-1

I hitherto known as Morr Sunil Thorpe s/o Edga Thorpe r/o H. No. 486 W. No. 1, Mission School Compound, G.T Road Moga have change my name and she hereafter be known as Sur Thorpe

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E-AUCTION NOTICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC FOR SALE OF MOVEABLE AND IMMOVEABLE PROPERTIES

DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION : 20-07-2022 FROM 12.00 NOON TO 03.00 PM

DATE OF INSPECTION OF PROPERTIES : 06-07-2022 FROM 11.00 AM TO 04.00 PM WITH CONCERNED BRANCH

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 5(6) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the Public in general and in particular to the Borrowers and Guarantors that the below described immovable and movable properties mortgaged / charged to the secured Creditor, the Constructive / Physical / Symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank / Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is basis" on the date as mentioned in the respective borrowers & guarantors. The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

AUTHORIZED OFFICER : MR. PAWAN KUMAR (CIRCLE SASTRA HEAD) (M) 70150-33263, EMAIL : cs8295@pnb.co.in

Name of the Branch / NPA Account	Description of the Immoveable Properties (Nature of Possession / Date of Possession)	Demand Notice Date Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price EMD Bid Increase Amount
BRANCH : COLLEGE ROAD, PATHANKOT (1) M/s Shivalik Buildcon, Near Laxmi Narayan Mandir, MC Colony, Collage Road, Pathankot through its Partners Sh. Amit Saini S/o Sh. Vishwa Mittar Saini and Smt. Dayarti W/o Sh. Amit Saini, Rio House no. 71, Ward no. 28, Near Laxmi Narayan Mandir, MC Colony, Collage Road, Pathankot	House constructed on Land Measuring 7.5 Marla forming part of the Land bearing Khassra no. 1979 (9-10) being 15/380 share situated at Village Daulatpur, Tehsil and Distt. Pathankot, Hadbasi no. 331, standing in the name of Sh. Amit Saini S/o Sh. Vishwa Mittar Saini, Registered with Sub-Registrar, Pathankot vide Registered Title Deed no. 2781 dated 16-08-2016 and bounded by North : Property of Chetan Dax, South : Property of GP Sharma, East : Property of Amar Singh, West : Gali (Symbolic Possession 11-03-2022)	27-07-2021 Rs. 64,51,122/22 as on 01-05-2021 + interest, other charges and less recovery if any, till date affected	Rs. 54.45 Lacs Rs. 5.45 Lac Rs. 50,000/-
BRANCH : CHAK BIJURA, PATHANKOT (2) M/s Kissan Agro Industries through its Prop. Sh. Gurdial Singh S/o Sh. Rattan Singh, Sonia Gali, Sujapur and Guarantor Smt. Neelam Devi W/o Gurdial Singh, Village Khudawar, P.O. Sujapur, Pathankot	Land and Building, measuring 2 Kanal comprising Part of Khassra no. 12R/22/1 (3-0), as per Sale Deed and 2 Kanal Part of Khassra no. 12R/22/1/1 (2-0), 12R/22/1/1 (2-0), situated in Village Kailashpur, Tehsil and Distt. Pathankot, Hadbasi no. 228, in the name of Sh. Gurdial Singh S/o Sh. Rattan Singh, Registered with Sub-Registrar, Pathankot, vide Registered Title Deed no. 4540 dated 09-01-1999 and bounded as North : Plot of Vendor, South : Road, East : Plot of Owner, West : Plot of Kuldeep (Symbolic Possession 13-09-2021)	28-05-2021 Rs. 18,40,205/22 as on 01-04-2021 + interest, other charges and less recovery if any, till date affected	Rs. 65.45 Lacs Rs. 6.55 Lac Rs. 50,000/-
BRANCH : CHAK BIJURA, PATHANKOT (3) (i) M/s G. P. Enterprises, Near Guru Ravidass Mandir, Sujapur, Pin Code 145023, Distt. Pathankot (ii) Sh. Gautam Kumar S/o Sh. Tilak Raj, Shahpuri Gali, Sujapur, Pin Code 145023, Distt. Pathankot (iii) Sh. Pawan Kumar S/o Sh. Raj Kumar, Village Akhwana, Pin Code 145023, P.O. Gho, Tehsil and Distt. Pathankot	(i) Land 5 Marla Khassra no. 338(0-18), 539(1-4) Hadbasi no. 352, situated at Abadi Akhwana Part, Village Gho, Tehsil and District Pathankot. Sale deed no. 1665 dated 24-06-2014, in favour of Sh. Pawan Kumar S/o Sh. Raj Kumar (Physical Possession 14-01-2020) (ii) Vacant plot land measuring 1.39 Marla bearing Khewat no. 672, Khatsuni no. 881, Khassra no. 6R/10(7-19), 11(1-1), Kitta 2, situated at area Village Sujapur, Hadbasi no. 228, Tehsil and Distt Pathankot, in the name of Sh. Gautam S/o Sh. Tilak Raj (Physical Possession 14-01-2020)	06-08-2019 Rs. 18,18,560/- as on 30-06-2019 + interest, other charges and less recovery if any, till date affected	(i) Rs. 1.06 Lac Rs. 10,600/- Rs. 5,000/- (ii) Rs. 1.88 Lac Rs. 18,800/- Rs. 5,000/-
BRANCH : HANUMAN CHOWK, PATHANKOT (4) M/s Lalit Sweet Shop through its Prop. Sh. Lalit Mohan S/o Sh. Kashi Lal and Guarantor Sh. Inder Mohan S/o Sh. Kashi Lal, both Rio Purana Bazar, Gurdaspur	Equitable Mortgage of Commercial Building (Shop) measuring 140 sq. ft. having Dimensions 7 x 20 ft. in the name of Sh. Lalit Mohan and Sh. Inder Mohan, situated at Purana Bazar, Gurdaspur, as per Title Deed no. 535 dated 03-05-2000, Bani no. 1, Jld no. 3687, Page no. 43 (Symbolic Possession 05-04-2022)	31-01-2022 Rs. 36,10,773/93 as on 31-12-2021 + interest, other charges and less recovery if any, till date affected	Rs. 28.40 Lac Rs. 2.84 Lac Rs. 20,000/-
BRANCH : MOHAN MARKET, PATHANKOT (5) Smt. Naninder Kaur W/o Sh. Kuldeep Singh and Sh. Rajinder Singh Natt S/o Sh. Kuldeep Singh and Guarantor Sh. Kuldeep Singh S/o Sh. Khushwant Singh, all above Rio House no. 343, Gali no. 2A/5, Bharat Nagar, Pathankot 145001	All that Part and parcel of House constructed on Plot measuring 0-12 3/4 Marla, situated at Bharat Nagar in the Revenue Estate of Village Daulatpur, Hadbasi no. 331, Khewat no. 837/825, Khatsuni no. 1424, Khassra no. 930 (11-11) measurement East : 73' 0" Gali 20, West : 66' 10" Kuhl, South : 87' 8" Open Plot, North : 93' 7" Open Plot now House. Title deed no. 3524 dated 07-09-2010, in the name of Sh. Rajinder Singh S/o Sh. Kuldeep Singh and Title deed no. 3523 dated 07-09-2010, in the name of Smt. Naninder Kaur W/o Sh. Kuldeep Singh, in the Revenue Estate of Village Daulatpur Hadbasi no. 331, Khewat no. 837/825, Khatsuni no. 1424 no. Khassra 930(11-11), share 0-12 3/4 East : 73' 0" Gali 20, West : 66' 10" Kuhl, South : 87' 8" Open Plot, North : 93' 7" open Plot, total Land 1 Kanal 5/5 Marlas, Registered with the Sub Registered of Pathankot. (Symbolic Possession 24-12-2019)	25-09-2019 Rs. 36,55,248/- as on 01-06-2019 + interest, other charges and less recovery if any, till date affected	Rs. 95.26 Lac Rs. 9.53 Lac Rs. 80,000/-

Terms and Conditions : The Sale shall be subject to the Terms and Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions :- The Properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS". The Particulars of the Secured Assets specified in the Schedule here in above have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. It is the duty of auction bidder to verify all the documents including area if reliability, property tax, water and sanitation tax of other statutory obligations before putting the bid. Bank / Authorised Officer shall not be responsible for it. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com> on 20-07-2022 at above mentioned timings. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to websites : www.ibapi.in, www.pnbindia.in, <https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app>, www.mstcecommerce.com

Statutory 30 Days Sale Notice under Rule 6(2) and 8(6) read with Rule 5 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 of SARFAESI Act

Date : 13-06-2022 Place : Pathankot Sd/- Authorised Officer

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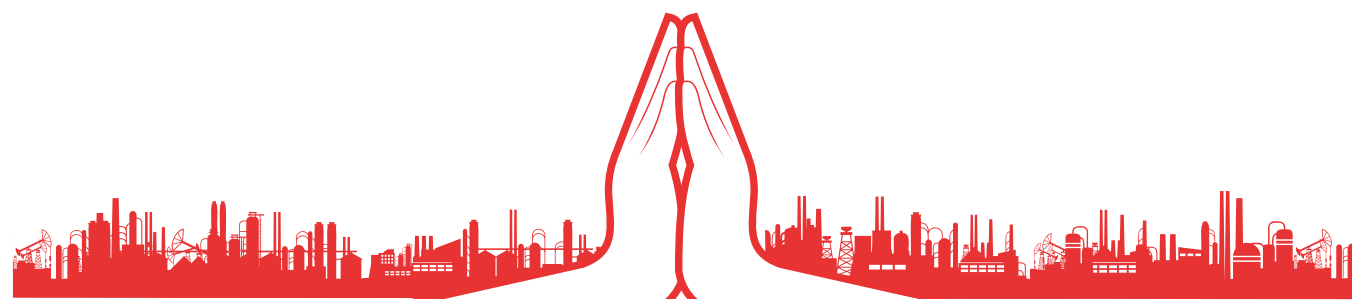
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Lanka official says PM wanted Adani to get project; retracts, Gotabaya denies



Sri Lanka President Gotabaya Rajapaksa

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

A SENIOR Sri Lanka official claimed before a Lankan parliamentary panel that Prime Minister Narendra Modi allegedly pressured President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to award a power project to the Adani Group, but retracted the statement a day later as the controversy spiralled. Sri Lanka President Rajapaksa “vehemently” denied the allegation.

The retracted claim is related to a 500-megawatt renewable energy project in the island nation’s northern Mannar district. The Chairman of Sri Lanka’s Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB), MMC Ferdinand, appearing before a parliamentary panel in Colombo Friday, claimed that during his conversation with Rajapaksa, the President had told him that Modi had put pressure on him to award the project to the Adani Group.

Ferdinand, who was addressing the Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE), can be heard saying that Rajapaksa “told me that he was under pressure from Modi”. The senior official told the committee that the President had asked him to give the project to the Indian company.

He also told the committee
CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

‘Nobody can use the police. We don’t work by insinuation, persuasion or inclination’

SANJAY PANDEY

MUMBAI POLICE COMMISSIONER

PAGE 11

AUTHORITY CLAIMS NOTICE FIRST SERVED ON MAY 10, FAMILY DENIES

Residence of activist in Prayagraj bulldozed after just a day’s notice

Cops say no proof against daughter, student leader Afreen, so far

ASAD REHMAN & MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, JUNE 12

AFTER RUNNING bulldozers in Kanpur and over properties of two accused in Saharanpur, the Uttar Pradesh administration Sunday demolished the house of Mohammad Javed, a political activist and businessman, after serving just a day’s notice to vacate the house. The demolition happened in the presence of the Prayagraj District Magistrate Sanjay Khatri and Senior Superintendent of Police Ajay Kumar.

The district police had on Saturday arrested 54-year-old Javed, who is a Central Working Committee Member of the Welfare Party of India, a political party floated in 2011, and claimed he was one of the conspirators behind Friday’s violence in Prayagraj. His role came to light during questioning of other accused, the police claimed, and
CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

EXPRESS NETWORK



AFREEN, FATHER TOOK PART IN CAA, OTHER PROTESTS

PROTESTS SPREAD IN BENGAL **PAGE 10**



A bulldozer tears down the house of activist Mohammad Javed in Prayagraj on Sunday. Ritesh Shukla

Totally illegal, says ex-CJ of Allahabad High Court; bulldozer cases in limbo

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

THE BULLDOZER brought in by the Uttar Pradesh government in Prayagraj on Sunday to raze the house of Mohammad Javed is part of a familiar playbook: the issue is under substantive challenge in three courts, the Supreme Court, Allahabad High Court and the Madhya Pradesh High Court. And in all three, the cases are in a limbo.

The bulldozing of houses, under the pretext of alleged viola-

tions of the state’s municipal and urban planning laws, has been challenged before the courts as a violation of fundamental rights and due process. In many cases, notices are issued but the demolition is timed with a protest and a particular section is targeted giving the subject no time to appeal.

“This is totally illegal. Even if you assume for a moment that the construction was illegal, which by the way is how crores of Indians live, it is impermissible that you demolish a house on a Sunday when the residents are
CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Prophet remarks India’s matter... why should we instigate: Bangladesh

Congratulate India for action taken: Minister

MONOJIT MAJUMDAR
DHAKA, JUNE 12

THE CONTROVERSY around the derogatory references to the Prophet is India’s internal matter and the government in Dhaka need not respond to it, Information and Broadcasting Minister of Bangladesh Dr Hasan



Bangladesh I&B Minister Hasan Mahmud. Express

Mahmud said here Saturday. “First of all, this is an external issue (for Bangladesh). This is the
CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Four militants killed in Kashmir gunfights; death toll touches 100 this year

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, JUNE 12

FOUR MILITANTS — including one involved in the killing of two police personnel — have died in shootouts in south Kashmir and Srinagar, taking the toll this year to 100, police said Sunday.

Adil Ahmad Parray, who was behind the killing of J&K Police’s Special Operations Group member Saifullah Qadri on May 24,

was killed on the outskirts of Srinagar city in a “chance encounter” with a small police team. A tweet by J&K police said that Parray, from Ganderbal, had injured a 9-year-old girl — Qadri’s daughter — during the attack.

Police said Parray was also involved in the killing of another policeman, Ghulam Hassan Dar, in Sangam.

The three other militants, allegedly affiliated with
CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

THE WORLD



U.S. SENATORS REACH BIPARTISAN DEAL ON GUN SAFETY

CHINA SAYS U.S. TRYING TO ‘HIJACK’ SUPPORT IN ASIA **P 14**

Australia calling Indian students, but fraud cases getting in the way

ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA
JALANDHAR, JUNE 12

THOUGH CANADA is still the number one dream destination for students from India, particularly from Punjab, to pursue their higher studies, Australia is not lagging far behind, thanks to new student-friendly norms related to fee and living expenses Down Under.

Lifting of the Covid travel restrictions has only added to the attraction to Australia. Although

Australia has been keeping pace with the competition, it has not been able to capitalise on the boom because of detection of a number of fraud cases in travel documents in the recent past. The fraud cases have been getting in the way of students, causing refusals and inordinate delay in getting study visas, especially for students from Punjab and Haryana.

Various consultants dealing in “study in Australia” revealed that the trend to go to Australia is gathering speed because stu-

dents now need to pay only six months’ fee in advance Down Under and there is no need to pay for living expenses upfront. Also, in Australia, all six bands are required in International English Language Testing System (IELTS) with at least 5.5 each in four modules, including reading, listening, speaking and writing.

It is learnt that some unscrupulous travel agents are attaching fake documents related to funds and educational qualifications which have put things under
CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

IPL media rights: Bids cross Rs 100 cr per game

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
KOLKATA, JUNE 12

AT STUMPS on Day 1, the scorecard looked healthy. The TV rights bid had reached Rs 57 crore per game and digital rights Rs 48 crore per game. Taken together, the IPL 2023-2027 cycle’s per-game media rights value stood at Rs 105 crore -- and Rs 43,050 crore for the five-year pe-

riod, an increase of Rs 10,160 crore from the BCCI’s base price of Rs 32,890 crore.

More than half the match is still to be played.

“We are happy with the way the day has progressed and the best part is all the bidders have shown keen interest. We are hoping that bidding reaches figures the IPL deserves. The second day will be more interesting for all stakeholders,” a BCCI official

told *The Indian Express*.

The e-auction commenced at 11 am on Sunday, with Package A (TV rights for the Indian subcontinent only) and Package B (digital rights for the Indian subcontinent). At 6 pm, when the day ended, bids on those two categories were not exhausted.

The auction will resume for both the packages at 11 am on Monday. Once they are done, Package C (special bouquet of 18

matches with non-exclusive digital rights for the Indian subcontinent) and Package D (world rights for TV and digital) will come into play.

The BCCI expects the combined rights value for five years to soar past Rs 45,000 crore. And, going by the first day’s figures, Indian cricket is set to witness an unprecedented windfall.

In 2017, when Star India
CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



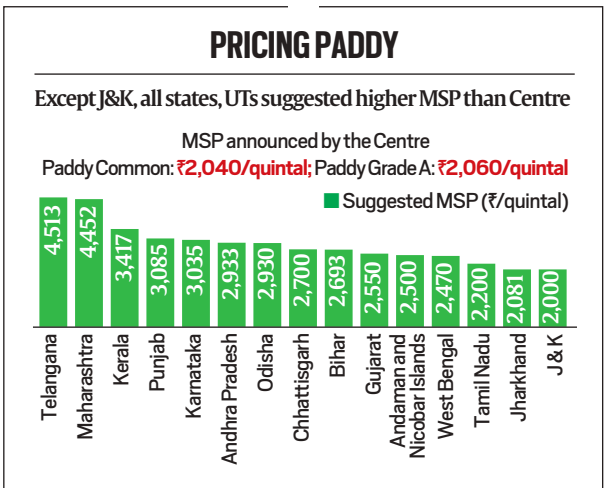
Coach Rakesh Singh’s 10x Shooting Academy in Ballabgarh, Faridabad, has produced several India shooters

how popular local music videos advocate the use of weapons.

Shiva talks about how he got hooked to the sport. “I had started after watching Manish. I wasn’t too keen early on,” he said. At a CBSE Nationals a few years ago, a dramatically improved showing, after a poor finish in the first event, lit the spark. “The fact that I did well and stood on the podium motivated me. That was the turning point,” he said.

Haryana has produced top shooting talent over the years, including Manu Bhaker and Yashaswini Deswal and the potential of the state’s young shooters was on full display at the

14 of 15 states had asked for higher MSP for paddy than what Centre announced



HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

FOURTEEN OF 15 states and Union Territories which suggested a minimum support price for paddy recommended a higher MSP than the one declared by the Union government.

On June 8, the Centre announced the MSP at the rate of Rs 2,040 per quintal for paddy (Common) and Rs 2,060 per quintal for paddy (Grade A) for the kharif marketing season 2022-23.

A report of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), based on which the government announces the MSPs for various crops, shows that all 15 states and UTs had suggested

the paddy MSP in the range of Rs 2,000 per quintal to Rs 4,513 per quintal, on the basis of their production cost projection.

These states and UTs are Andhra Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal.

Out of these, only Jammu and Kashmir suggested a lower paddy MSP than the one declared by the Centre, shows the CACP’s ‘Price Policy for Kharif Crops Of 2022-23 Season’ report.

In fact, the paddy MSP suggested by Jammu and Kashmir (Rs 2,000 per quintal) was the lowest among the 15 states and UTs.
CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

SUPPLY OF SIX NUCLEAR REACTORS

Question mark on Russia inputs, India evaluates French push at Jaitapur

MIHIR MISHRA & ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

AMID MOUNTING uncertainties over the civil nuclear partnership with Russia in the wake of the Ukraine war, there are indications of fresh progress on the much-delayed deal with French power utility EDF for the supply of six EPR (European Pressurised Water Reactors) nuclear reactors.

The Department of Atomic Energy is actively examining a binding techno-commercial offer submitted by the French state-owned power company to help build six third-generation EPR reactors at Jaitapur in Maharashtra.

A high-level team from EDF was here late last month.

New Delhi had accorded an “in-principle” approval of the site at Jaitapur in Maharashtra for setting up of six reactors of 1650 MWe (megawatt electric) each as part of an umbrella nuclear deal signed with France in September 2008.

However, that proposal has been hanging fire on account of multiple factors, including the slowdown in nuclear projects globally post the Fukushima incident and internal reorganisation at French nuclear utility

EXPLAINED

E

A bigger n-power basket

IF JAITAPUR takes off, it will be the largest n-power site in the country with a capacity of 9000 MWe. Given the war in Europe, there is also a need to diversify the nuclear cooperation basket. Also, New Delhi is factoring in the patchy French record on dead-line management on EPR projects across the world.

Areva (which was subsequently taken over by EDF).

If the Jaitapur deal takes off, it would be the largest nuclear power generating site in the country with a total capacity of 9,900 MWe and one of the biggest-ever export deals for the French side.

Sources said the issue of the techno-commercial offer came up during delegation level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron in May.

At present, Russia is the only country setting up imported
CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Medals in Tokyo, Youth Games: Siblings star in Haryana shooting success

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

NAMIT KUMAR
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

WHILE GROWING up, Shiva Narwal wanted to be a kabaddi player. It made sense: his state Haryana has a rich history of producing top athletes in contact sports. But then, his elder brother Manish established himself as a top shooter, breaking the world record to win gold in 50m air pistol at the Tokyo Paralympics last year. And their

father Dilbaug asked Shiva and his younger sister Shikha to accompany Manish to the range.

Their switch to shooting was quick — and, as it turns out, the right call.

Shiva and Shikha are seasoned international shooters now, having won gold at the ISSF Junior World Championship and the ISSF Junior World Cup. Last week, at the Khelo India Youth Games, Shiva won a gold and Shikha a bronze, helping Haryana pocket seven of the 12 medals at stake and placing the state on the top of the tally.

Their father admits to being skeptical when Manish, who

could not participate in contact sports due to an impairment in his right arm since birth, showed interest in shooting. “(But) as I have gained more knowledge watching my children compete, I can tell you there is no greater test of an athlete’s focus and commitment. There are less chances of injury, it is an individual sport, it can be played across all age groups,” Dilbaug said.

In a state that grapples with a “gun culture”, and at a time when the high-profile killing of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala is dominating headlines, the essence of Narwal’s push for shooting is quite the opposite of



Coach Rakesh Singh’s 10x Shooting Academy in Ballabgarh, Faridabad, has produced several India shooters

how popular local music videos advocate the use of weapons.

Shiva talks about how he got hooked to the sport. “I had started after watching Manish. I wasn’t too keen early on,” he said. At a CBSE Nationals a few years ago, a dramatically improved showing, after a poor finish in the first event, lit the spark. “The fact that I did well and stood on the podium motivated me. That was the turning point,” he said.

Haryana has produced top shooting talent over the years, including Manu Bhaker and Yashaswini Deswal and the potential of the state’s young shooters was on full display at the

Khelo India Youth Games.

Of the seven Haryana medalists, five were pistol shooters, four of whom are trained by coach Rakesh Singh who runs 10x Shooting Academy at Ballabgarh in Faridabad. Singh coaches Shiva, Shikha, Tiyaana Phogat and Palak — all of whom have represented India recently. He also coaches paralympians Manish and Rahul Jakhar, as well as Deaflympian Shubham Vashisht.

“The environment we have been able to create is the best thing about our academy. Someone will practice at the range and two places next to him will be an India international,

two places next to that will be a Paralympics gold medalist. No better motivator than that,” Sharma said.

Individual attention is central to the formula. “There is so much talent in this state but it is about seeing the little differences in each of these youngsters. With Shiva, he needs no motivation. Regardless of what technique you try to teach him, he has a natural feel for the pistol. His sister, Shikha, may not have the same energy, but she’s an amazing learner. She’s doing so well for her age because she picks up things so quickly,” Singh said.
CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Australia

“Students applying to Australia have doubled in the floor,” the notice said. It also said Javed was served a

1973. "The construction of 25 x 60 feet was done without getting permission on the ground and first floor," the notice said.

On April 21 this year, the Supreme Court issued a stay against demolition in Delhi's Jahangirpuri area where the North

There were some protests by Muslim groups in Dhaka on Friday, including one outside the city's main mosque. Opposition parties and Islamist groups in Bangladesh have attacked their government's failure to criticise the Modi government.

While the EPR is EDF's next-generation nuclear reactor, there competitive bidding was being done away with "to make way" for

SJB parliamentary Nalin Bandara pointed to concerns that competitive bidding was being done away with "to make way" for

Haryana

Haryana's recent sporting success is well documented, particularly in contact sports: 12 of the 31 athletes from the

With no predetermined end to the bidding, the e-auction is expected to be a long-drawn process and the winner is unlikely to be named before Monday evening or Tuesday.

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER PROJECT,
PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, JODHPUR**

Tel. 0291-2651700 E-mail: rj_cejod@nic.in

No.CE/PHED/JR/ Pat/22-253321-3364 Date: 20-5-2022

Notice Inviting Bid (NIB No. 05/2022-23)

Bids for Execution of works related to "Drinking water supply project for 36 villages & 3 towns (Sirahi, Pindwara & Bhanwar) through Ballista Dam for providing FHTCs of District- Sirahi" viz. WTP, Pump Houses, RCC CWR/DHRS, PILU of Transmission mains, Cluster distribution system, Village distribution system and civil, mechanical, electrical & instrumentation works including Geo-tagging complete job as per scope & specifications on Single Point Responsibility Basis including necessary Design and Operation & maintenance for 10 years (upto VTC) after 1 year defect liability period under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) are invited from interested bidders upto 14:00 hrs, 22/05/2022. Other particulars of the bid and subsequent amendments/ corrigendum issued (if any) may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state, and <http://phedwater.rajasthan.gov.in>. The estimated value of procurement is Rs. 170.11 Cr.

Sd/-
(Naeraj Mathur)
Chief Engineer Project
PHED Jodhpur

UBN : PHE2223WLCB02470
DIPR/C/7732/2022

At the Sena, he worked under Subhash Desai, who is now the industries minister, and was also considered a trusted aide of party founder Bal Thackeray. BJP's Dhananjay Mahadik de-



The strategy planned by Kulkarni was fine tuned by Fadnavis; a top BJP functionary said that only Fadnavis and Vaishnav were aware of the plan. "They got the rest of the independent MLAs and those of smaller groups to their side, thanks to Fadnavis's skills," the leader said.

On Friday, a protest was held in Cachar district's Sonai. "One rally was already held, and two more were planned for today. However, they did not proceed further because we intervened," said Cachar SP Raman Dhillon.

Hailakandi SP Gaurav Upadhyay said it was a “preventive step” taking into account the protest in Cachar and the rest of the country.

Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi make up south Assam's Barak Valley.

Several officials from NDRF, SDRF, South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) and private experts along with district machinery are engaged in the operation. A medical team is on stand by, officials said. According to rescue workers, the NDRF team has dug upto 60 feet parallel to the borewell and are planning to build a tunnel to the main pit in order to reach the boy.

7 THE CITY

FOR THIRD DAY IN A ROW

Now armed man snatches scooter at gunpoint in Mohali

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MOHALI, JUNE 12

ANOTHER ARMED robbery was reported on Sunday afternoon when a man snatched a two-wheeler from a woman at gunpoint on Airport Road. This is the third reported armed snatching in the last three days in Mohali and the fourteenth in a month.

The incident happened at around 2 pm on Sunday afternoon when the victim Jasleen Kaur, a resident of Aerocity, had gone to buy some groceries on her Scooty.

Jasleen told the police that she saw a middle-aged man standing under a tree, who signalled her to stop.

"I stopped to help the man but the moment I came close to him, he tried to snatch my mobile phone and I escaped somehow," Jasleen alleged.

She added that after failing to snatch her phone the man

took out a gun and threatened to shoot her if she did not leave her Scooty. The man took away the scooty and fled from the spot.

Police said that they found another Scooty on the spot which was left there by the snatcher as it did not have fuel. Police checked the registration number of the abandoned Scooty, which was found to be fake.

Zirakpur registered a case and launched an investigation.

On Saturday, four assailants snatched three bags containing 500 grams of gold and around three kilograms of silver from a jeweller in Landran. The victim, Praveen Kumar, was going home with his wife after closing his shop at around 10 pm.

Parveen was carrying gold and silver in three bags when he was intercepted by four men who attacked him and snatched the bags. The police is yet to make a headway in these cases.

Slight spike in Covid cases in Mohali, Civil Surgeon says caution necessary

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MOHALI, JUNE 12

THE HEALTH department has recorded a slight spike in COVID-19 cases. As many as 130 positive cases have been reported this month.

The health authorities have asked people to be cautious and follow the guidelines so that the number of cases could not go up in the coming days.

The Civil Surgeon, Dr Adarsh Pal Kaur, said that people should remain vigilant as they had noticed a slight spike in the cases in

the past few days.

She added that in the past few days, the number of positive cases were more than 15 in a single day. She added that it is not a major spike but caution is necessary.

The Civil Surgeon said that a total of 97 cases are active in the district and no patient is hospitalised at present.

A total of 96,163 cases have been reported in the district so far and 1,149 deaths have been reported due to the pandemic.

Out of a total of 97 active cases in the district, 88 cases are from the urban areas while nine are from the rural areas.

Police check Zirakpur housing society, recover two pistols, detain man

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MOHALI, JUNE 12

THE ZIRAKPUR police on Sunday carried out a search operation in a housing society. During the checking, the police recovered two pistols and also detained one person for questioning.

According to police officials, the search operation was carried out at Panta Homes Society on VIP Road.

The officials said that a total of 782 flats were checked

The officials said that a total of 782 flats were checked and during the checking, five two-wheelers and two weapons (one 12 bore, 0.32 bore) were taken into possession. One person was apprehended with 12 bottles of liquor.

Karnal girl wins gold in recurve archery

NITIN SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 12

BACK IN 2012, Manoj Kumar, who runs an ice cube business in Karnal, shifted to Gurgaon for a period of three months to learn archery from coach Bhagwat at the Haryana Sports department complex. Kumar wanted to learn the basics of archery for putting his daughter Ridhi Phor into the sport. He returned home three months later and started practice sessions for his daughter at a nearby plot in Karnal.



Ridhi Phor with her medal

like winning a medal myself," says Kumar while speaking to the Indian Express.

The Haryana youngster had won seven medals in the wooden bow nationals before shifting to the recurve event, an Olympic event.

In the junior national archery championship in 2018 held in Bhopal, she had won the title before competing in her first senior international competition in Asia Cup Stage 2 in Manila, where she won a bronze medal each in mixed team and women's recurve team.

The same year, Ridhi, who also trained under coach Jeewanjit Singh Teja, was part of the silver medal winning mixed

Zone around Sukhna critical for conservation, will discuss with Amit Shah, says UT Adviser

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 12

CHANDIGARH ADVISER Dharam Pal on Sunday said that the UT will bring up the matter of notifying the Eco-Sensitive Zone around Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary that falls under Punjab and Haryana with Union Home Minister Amit Shah during a meeting in July.

While addressing the media about the matter, Pal said, "We have a meeting of the northern zonal council in Jaipur on July 9 where this will be one of the key issues to be taken up in the

meeting. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be chairing the meeting and this issue would be taken on priority." The Adviser said that conservation of the sanctuary is necessary and the UT administration had written to the Centre to expedite the process to notify the ESZ around Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary. The ESZ is aimed at curbing encroachments around Sukhna that might pollute the area.

In 2017, Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) Debendra Dalai had written to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), requesting a 2-2.75 km radius ESZ around

Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary.

UT had submitted its objections

On January 25, 2017, the union ministry issued the ESZ notification for Chandigarh. Earlier in 2015, the ministry had issued a draft notification only for the sanctuary area falling under the UT and not for that falling in the neighbouring states. The UT had then submitted its objections, urging the ministry to issue a notification for the entire ESZ as 90 per cent of the sanctuary falls in Punjab and Haryana and it is thus critical that the ESZ is notified immediately. The

ministry turned down UT's demand and retained its initial notification.

What the ESZ would do

Once an ESZ is declared, no new construction of any kind will be permitted within 0.5 km (zone-I) from the boundary of the zone and locals can only carry out reconstruction/repair of buildings in zone-I.

Furthermore, between 0.5-1.25 km area from the boundary of the Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary, construction of low density (ground coverage less than half of the plot size) and low-rise buildings (height up to

15 feet) will be allowed. Beyond the 1.25km limit, the construction of new buildings and houses will be regulated as per building bylaws.

Collector rates to be rationalised

The Adviser also said that he has asked the deputy commissioner to rationalise the collector rates. He said that many stakeholders have asked for a revision as the rates of properties in some sectors are really high. According to the officials, at present the collector rate of Sector-17 SCO is Rs 5.25 lakh per square yard and that of Madhya Marg,

Sector-34, 22, and 35 SCO is Rs 3.75 lakh per square yard. Similarly, the rates for Industrial Area Phase-I, 2 are Rs 62,599 per square yard.

A land pooling policy for villages

Pal said there are plenty of construction sites outside Lal Dora and the administration is working on a land pooling policy to tackle this issue. The administration has hired the Indian Institute of Human Settlement (IIHS), Bangalore, as a consultant for this policy. They have already submitted a draft after studying Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat.

H S Lucky is new UT Congress president

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 12

HARMOHINDER SINGH Lucky was appointed as the Chandigarh Congress chief, here on Sunday. Lucky's appointment comes a day after Congress leader Subhash Chawla resigned from the post. A statement issued on Sunday stated, "Congress president has appointed Harmohinder Singh Lucky as the president of Chandigarh Territorial Congress Committee with immediate effect. The party appreciates the contributions of outgoing president Subhash Chawla."

Lucky had contested the Municipal Corporation polls in December, 2021 but lost to BJP Councillor Mahesh Inder Singh Sidhu by a margin of 11 votes. Lucky had contested the last two



H S Lucky (in white, receiving bouquet) after being appointed as the new city Congress chief, on Sunday. Express

elections as well and had lost the polls. He has remained an active leader in the Congress.

Chandigarh unit president Subhash Chawla resigned from the post on Saturday. Chawla was given the charge just a year and a half ago after removing the then president Pardeep Chhabra,

who later joined the Aam Aadmi Party. Citing the reason for his resignation, Chawla had told *The Indian Express* that he will be doing a press conference in a day or two "to say everything". Chawla said he has not quit the party.

Chawla's resignation came just two days after Congress

councillor and old warhorse Gurcharan Jeet Singh left the Congress and joined the city unit of BJP. Sources said that many were holding Chawla responsible for the switch. Also, many workers in the group said that the high command was upset with him and sought his resignation. Earlier, Devinder Singh Babla and his wife Harpreet Kaur also switched to BJP a month after Harpreet's win in the MC elections, a few days before the mayoral polls. With this shift, now there are only two prominent leaders left in the Congress: Gurbax Rawat and HS Lucky.

48-year-old HS Lucky is a lawyer by profession. He has also remained the deputy mayor of UT. While listing out his priorities, he said that he wants to strengthen the Congress in UT and take up issues of public concern.

Cong councillors to support Sidhu but won't attend BJP functions: Mohali Deputy Mayor

JAGDEEP SINGH DEEP
MOHALI, JUNE 12

WITH MAYOR Amarjit Singh Sidhu joining the BJP, the Congress is wary of the fact that the party's councillors could switch loyalties.

Deputy Mayor Kuljeet Singh Bedi said that the Congress councillors would support Sidhu but will not attend any functions of the BJP.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Bedi said that when he contested the elections under the leadership of Balbir Singh Sidhu and Amarjeet Singh Sidhu, they contested like a family but since the Sidhus have joined the BJP, their relation will remain intact.

Bedi said that when

Kulwant Singh was the Mayor, they supported him despite being in opposition and now being Congress councillors they will support Amarjeet Singh Sidhu. He added that removing Sidhu from the mayoral post could lead to defections in the party which would harm the larger interests of the party.

Asked whether Congress councillors would support a BJP mayor, Bedi said that they could support the mayor but the Congress councillors would not attend any function of the BJP and the majority of the councillors have decided not to join the saffron party.

"We shall continue to support the mayor but will not join BJP as there is no pressure from either Balbir Singh Sidhu (former Punjab health minister) or

Amarjit Singh Sidhu," Bedi added.

Both Balbir Singh Sidhu and Amarjit Singh Sidhu had joined the BJP last month setting off speculation that Congress councillors could remove Amarjeet Singh Sidhu as a mayor.

Bedi also said that in case of differences between the Congress councillors, the party would face a setback as it could face defections and they do not want to give any opportunity to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

A Congress councillor requesting anonymity said that there are some councillors who are close to Balbir Singh Sidhu and they may join the BJP soon but the majority of the Congress councillors are not in favour of joining the saffron party and after Sangrur bye-elections, the

councillors could meet the Punjab Congress chief and decide the future course of action.

"I won't comment on what the deputy mayor is saying. But how can the Congress councillors support a BJP mayor?" the councillor added.

Former senior deputy mayor and district Congress committee president Rishab Jain, when contacted, said that they will remain with their party and they will decide the future course of action only after consulting the party's high command.

A councillor close to Balbir Singh Sidhu also said that a party was also organised by a councillor close to Sidhu in a hotel in Mohali on Sunday to ensure that the councillors would support the mayor.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 12

A RALLY and public meeting was organised by the Chandigarh BJP at Mauli Jagaran, Vikas Nagar, to commemorate eight years of the Central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Bhojpuri artiste and Lok Sabha MP Ravi Kishan participated and addressed the public meeting.

MP Kishan explained in detail the work done by the Central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the last eight years. He said that the country has been emerging as a New India since 2014 under the leadership of Modi.

Attacking the Aam Aadmi Party government in Punjab, Kishan said that the AAP government in Punjab has proved to be a failure at every level.

He paid tribute to Sidhu Moosewala as an artiste and held the Punjab government respon-



Ravi Kishan in Chandigarh on Sunday. Express

sible for his murder.

He alleged that "Moosewala was killed because of the incompetence of the Punjab government".

On this occasion, BJP state president Arun Sood welcomed the chief guest and other guests and thanked the people for coming to the rally in large numbers.

Sood said that in the last eight years, while many historical works have been done by the Central government, in Chandigarh also during the last eight years, unprecedented work had been done.

NETAJI SUBHAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (NSUT)
(Formerly Netaji Subhas Institute of Technology (NSIT))
Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Azad Hind Fauz Marg,
Sector-3, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078

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Sd/-
Chairman Admission Committee

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Tel: +91-0361-2313102 Web: www.cppipr.res.in

विज्ञापन संख्या Advt. No. 07/2022
CPP-IPR INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS
Centre of Plasma Physics-Institute for Plasma Research (CPP-IPR), Nazirakhat, Sonapur-782 402, Kamrup(M), Assam is a Centre of Institute for Plasma Research (IPR), Gandhinagar, an aided institute of Department of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India. Applications are invited from highly motivated and result oriented candidates to pursue doctoral research in the broad areas of experimental and theoretical/computational plasma physics for the following temporary posts.

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01	Junior Research Fellow (JRF) (Post Code: CPP-IPR/JRF/2022)	5 (Five)	M.Sc. in one of the following subjects : Physics and Applied Physics with a minimum aggregate of 60% marks in the M.Sc. final exam. Students should have Physics and Mathematics at the under graduate level. NET, JEST and GATE qualified students can directly appear for the interview at CPP-IPR. Other shortlisted candidates will be invited to appear for a national level written test that will be conducted at CPP-IPR.

The last date of receipt of duly filled application form at CPP-IPR is **13.07.2022**. For more details regarding Eligibility Criteria, Nature of work, Age limit, Tenure, Remuneration, general information and application procedure, visit Institute's website www.cppipr.res.in.

कार्यकारी केन्द्र निदेशक
Sd/- Acting Centre Director



Tamil Nadu team after a 2-0 win against Jharkhand. Express



Chandigarh

Man on way to Golden Temple shot dead in front of wife, children

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AMRITSAR, JUNE 12

A MAN was allegedly shot dead in front of his wife and two children in Amritsar on Sunday morning as they were on the way to Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple), the police said.

The victim, identified as Harinder Singh of Chheharta locality in Amritsar city, was working in Dubai and returned home just five days ago, the police said. He was going to the Harmandir Sahib for the first time after returning from Dubai, on a bike, added the police. According to CCTV footage, the attackers began to follow Harinder and his family soon after they left their home. According to Harinder's wife, the attackers tried to snatch their

valuables and he resisted. It led to a scuffle during which they shot him dead, she told the police. Harinder was brought dead at a hospital, said the police. The police added that they are investigating all the angles, including snatching in this case.

It was the second murder with a gunshot in Amritsar city in the last 24 hours. Earlier, on Saturday afternoon, one person was killed and another injured when a Congress councillor's son allegedly opened fire. Charandeep Singh Babba, son of Congress councillor Dalbir Kaur from ward number 45, allegedly opened fire in the presence of police on 100 feet road during a clash between two groups over a land dispute.

The deceased was identified as Raja and the injured as Rishi, a car mechanic.

SGPC to install suicide bomber Dilawar Singh's portrait tomorrow at Golden Temple museum

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AMRITSAR, JUNE 12

A PORTRAIT of suicide bomber Dilawar Singh, who killed former Punjab chief minister Beant Singh, will be installed at the Central Sikh Museum inside the Golden Temple in Amritsar on Tuesday, said Sulakhan Singh, the manager of the Harmandir Sahib.

Singh told *The Indian Express* that the portrait will be installed in a ceremony organised by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC).

Former Punjab Police officer Dilawar Singh had tied a belt of explosives around his waist which led to the blast that killed Beant Singh and 16 others at the Punjab Civil Secretariat on the evening of August 31, 1995.

The move to install Dilawar Singh's portrait has come ahead of the Sangrur bypoll in which Kamaldeep Kaur, the sister of Balwant Singh Rajoana, is

The portrait will be installed in a ceremony organised by the SGPC

contesting for the Shiromani Akali Dal Badal, which controls the SGPC. Sentenced to death in the Beant Singh assassination case, former Punjab Police constable Rajoana had been on standby in case Dilawar Singh had failed in his mission. Rajoana and Dilawar Singh were close friends.

In 2012, the Akal Takht had declared Dilawar Singh as 'Qaumi Shaheed' (martyr of the community). Sources said that one of the reasons behind the delay in installing the portrait of Babbar Khalsa International militant Dilawar Singh at the Central Sikh Museum was that he used to trim his beard. Besides, the alliance between the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) proved to be an obstacle.

Four killed in accident

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
FATEHGARH SAHIB, JUNE 12

FOUR PEOPLE died and three were injured when the car in which they were travelling was hit by a truck here on Sunday, police said. Two of the deceased were from Delhi and the other two from Haryana's Rewari, they said.

One of the injured persons told reporters that they were on

their way home from the Golden Temple at Amritsar when the truck hit them from behind on the Sirhind GT road.

Sirhind Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police Najar Singh said the truck driver fled the spot after the accident.

The police have started an investigation, and the bodies were kept at the mortuary of the Civil Hospital for post-mortem examination, Singh said.

Haryana CM's residence will now be called Sant Kabir Kutir

Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced Sunday that his official residence in Chandigarh would be named as Sant Kabir Kutir.

Khattar, who arrived as the chief guest at the state-level Sant Kabir Das Jayanti celebrations organised in Rohtak, made several other announcements too.

The CM said that the provision of "cadre-wise reservation" will be made during promotions to Haryana government employees like the Centre.

He said that even if a single room is available in all the educational institutions, dharamshalas of Haryana that belong not only to the Scheduled Castes but also to the backward societies, the education department would make arrangements for the library. Khattar announced that 75 per cent subsidy will be given for setting up 5 KW solar plants in dharamshalas of not only scheduled castes but also backward communities. Talks will be held with the Centre for the arrangement of reservation in NITs and IITs. **ENS**

Punjab starts procurement of moong on MSP for first time

Jagraon Mandi in Ludhiana leads state with arrival of around 58% of total crop

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 12

FOR THE first time in the history of Punjab, the government has started the procurement of the summer moong crop directly from farmers at a minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 7,275 per quintal. Jagraon Mandi in Ludhiana district leads the state with the arrival of around 58 per cent of the total crop so far.

As the summer crop is being procured on an MSP of Rs 7,275 per quintal, the farmers will get Rs 36,000 as an additional income for five quintals, the expected yield per acre in

As the summer crop is being procured on an MSP of Rs 7,275 per quintal, the farmers will get Rs 36,000 as an additional income for five quintals, the expected yield per acre in between wheat harvest and paddy cultivation

between wheat harvest and paddy cultivation.

A government statement said as an affirmative response to the appeal of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, the farmers this year sowed the moong crop on around one lakh acres of land as compared to 50,000 acres last year. A yield of 4.75 lakh quintal is expected this year.

According to the spokesperson of the chief minister's office, Mann had appealed to the farmers: "This step will definitely save the natural resources of the state in terms of precious groundwater besides improving soil health and generating additional income for the farmers. This will further benefit the cultivation of short-duration

varieties of paddy which is expected to save 10-20 per cent of underground water."

Out of total arrival of moong across the state, 790 quintal (58 per cent) crop arrived only in Jagraon Mandi followed by Barnala with arrival of 510 quintals. Out of the 790 quintals crop that arrived in Jagraon Mandi, 555 quintals were procured by government and private agencies on MSP or above.

The government has already implemented the DBT (direct benefit transfer) for the crop procured on the MSP and the payment thereof is being directly credited to the bank accounts of the farmers by the procurement agency Markfed.

Delhi in deep water due to poor planning: Haryana govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 12

INSISTING THAT Haryana is supplying more than the allotted share of drinking water to the national capital, the Manohar Lal Khattar-led government on Sunday alleged that "shortage of water in Delhi is due to poor planning, abnormally high production and distribution losses, which the government there has failed to control it".

The Haryana government said that for the past two years, Delhi has been alleging that Haryana is not releasing Delhi's full share of water, but the actual facts are totally different. The inter-state allocation of Yamuna waters among Haryana, Delhi, UP and Rajasthan is determined and decided by Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB), a statutory body headquartered in Delhi.

The Haryana government said: "Haryana is not only supplying the authorised share of Delhi determined by UYRB but also much more than that, in compliance with orders of the Supreme Court... Due to poor planning and high production and distribution losses (more than 30% as highlighted in Economic Survey of Delhi for 2017-18), Delhi is facing drinking water problems, for which it tries to find a scapegoat every summer and tries to pass the blame on Haryana. But the reality is - Haryana has been on the receiving end. It has been supplying water to Delhi by sacrificing its own share and at the cost of people of Haryana."

Moreover, the Khattar government says the water availability in Haryana is only 135 LPCD (litres per capita per day) for its urban areas against 200 LPCD for Delhi.



Tourists visit Atal Tunnel in Rohtang on Sunday. PTI

NATIONAL HERALD CASE

ED summons to Sonia, Rahul BJP's tactic to muzzle opp voice: Ranjan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 12

SENIOR CONGRESS leader and Rajya Sabha member Ranjeet Ranjan on Sunday alleged that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) summons issued to Congress president Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi was "the BJP government's tactic to muzzle the voice of opposition and divert public attention from pressing issues like inflation, unemployment, deteriorating security situation in Kashmir and social disharmony".

Addressing a press conference here on Sunday, Ranjan said, "The ED summonses were legally and technically untenable as no case can be made since there was no transaction of money anywhere."

Referring to the National

Herald case, she said, "The Congress party had bailed out the National Herald newspaper, which was running in huge losses." She said, "Of the Rs 90 crore, Rs 67 crore was paid to employees for VRS and gratuity, and the remaining amount was paid for rent and electricity charge, while some amount was also paid to the government which the company owed to it."

The Congress leader clarified that "the Young India was only acting as a protector and its directors had not taken a single penny from it. Since there was no cash transaction of any kind, there is no question of money laundering which the government is trying to make out".

Ranjan said, "It was a clear case of vendetta and harassment as the BJP's policy is to ei-

ther make people join it or unleash various central agencies like the CBI and ED on its political opponents."

To corroborate her statement, she pointed out, "How one Bengal leader who faced several cases got the clean chit after joining the BJP. Also, how leaders from the opposition parties like Congress, Shiv Sena, DMK, TMC and Nationalist Congress Party were being selectively targeted and harassed by misusing the CBI and ED."

But she said, "The Congress party and its leaders cannot be cowed by such harassment. We will face it legally while at the same time won't let BJP off the hook. We will continue to oppose and expose BJP. The Congress party will put the heat on the government and draw public attention towards its wrongdoings."



Ruth Goode, RELO head, India, with teachers. Express

ment officials said that they came in touch with experts from RELO after an introductory meeting was organised by Delhi education minister Manish Sisodia, which set the ball rolling and it was explored that how the US Embassy wing which has already been working to train English teachers in Delhi, can also help in improving the language learning pedagogy in Punjab. "The purpose of the Knowledge Sharing Agreement (KSA) that we signed with the Delhi government was

to extract best of their practices and implement them in Punjab to improve the health and education systems. Delhi education minister Manish Sisodia had arranged our first meeting with RELO a few days back. We also interacted with teachers who underwent this training in Delhi and what impressed us was their confidence levels while interacting, teaching etc. We then requested RELO if they could also work for Punjab. The preliminary workshop was organised to

know the basic problems being faced by teachers, students etc." Punjab education minister Gurmmeet Singh Meet Hayer said.

Work in Delhi

Since 2017, the US Embassy has been working with the Delhi government for training and capacity building of English teachers. A pool of 'mentor teachers' has been created who further continue to train and coach government teachers in Delhi.

Several batches of teachers in

Disabled soldier awaits relief, AFT principal bench upset at orders not being implemented

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 12

THE ORDERS issued by Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) are increasingly being treated in a cavalier manner and this has drawn the ire of the principal bench of the tribunal. In a recent case, the bench comprising AFT chairperson Justice Rajendra Menon was left quite upset when it came to light that a soldier who had lost his leg in a landmine blast had not been paid compensation despite the fact that the AFT had repeatedly passed orders for compliance of its judgement in his favour.

The jawan, who belongs to 15 Kumaon, had suffered amputation of his leg below the knee in landmine blast in Jammu and Kashmir in June 2000. He had filed a case in the AFT in 2017 demanding higher payment of ex-gratia as the amount had been revised from time to time and that it was unfair that a cut off date had been put on the payment of ex-gratia each time it was revised to a higher amount.

Since the jawan had been retained in service with 60 per cent disability, he was told that as per the rules in vogue he was entitled to only Rs 20,000 as ex-gratia. During the course of the proceedings, the AFT had also found that ex-gratia payments to authorised category of personnel had been

bench and every regional bench of the tribunal is burdened with the execution applications as on an average 20-25 execution applications are being filed in a day".

The AFT bench also ordered that a copy of its order be forwarded to the Defence Secretary and the Chief of Army Staff for necessary compliance. Advocates dealing with similar matters say that it has become a routine for AFT orders to be challenged in Supreme Court on frivolous grounds and, thus, delaying justice to the appellants for several years by dragging the matter.

Tour of Duty announcement put off again

There was considerable buzz last week that the new system of recruitment named Agneepath/Tour of Duty would be announced shortly. However, it soon became clear that the announcement has once again been put off even as there have been a slew of opinion pieces by retired senior officers of the defence services cautioning against the new method of hiring contractual soldiers. While sources say the government is steadfast in its decision to introduce this new method of recruitment, there has been considerable opposition from within the defence officers community with many pointing out at the imminent dismantling

of the old single class system of regiments. While there are arguments that a one class Army

is the way forward in a modern India and that the British legacy of martial races theory of regiments must be discarded, there are counter arguments pointing out that the share of Army recruitment from states like Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan could fall drastically if the single class regiments are done away with under the Tour of Duty.

Meanwhile, with an amendment in rules having been made making retired Lt Generals eligible for the appointment of Chief of Defence Staff, there has been quite a buzz on the possible name having been chosen. One of the names being spoken of is that of Lt Gen Anil Chauhan (retd, former Eastern Army Commander. An officer of the 11 Gorkha Rifles, just as the former CDS late Gen Bipin Rawat was, Lt Gen Chauhan was known to be quite close to Gen Rawat. He has commanded the 19 Infantry Division in Baramulla, J&K and has served as GOC 3 Corps. A native of Uttarakhand, Lt Gen Chauhan works in close co-ordination with the National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval, in the National Security Council Secretariat after his retirement as GOC-in-C Eastern Command in May 2021.

How US Embassy's RELO will help English teachers in Punjab

TAKING A leaf from Delhi government's book, the Punjab education department has organised a one-day training workshop for English teachers from government schools in association with experts from Regional English Language Office (RELO). The development comes nearly two months after the Bhagwant Mann-led Aam Aadmi Party government in Punjab had signed a Knowledge Sharing Agreement (KSA) with the Delhi government. **DIVYA GOYAL GOPAL** explains the American link in training of English teachers and what the Punjab government plans to do next.

What is RELO?

RELO is a wing of the US Embassy in India that was established in 2005 as a part of its Public Diplomacy Section. The project aims to strengthen India-US ties by supporting English learning. Headquartered at the US Embassy office in New Delhi, RELO's mission is to "support the effective teaching and learning of English in Afghanistan, Bhutan and India, while enhancing mutual understanding between the US and these countries".

RELO collaborates with state government and educational institutions to support them in teacher training, curriculum de-

velopment and other English language training projects.

"RELO supports English language training because it strengthens connections between the United States and India, expands access to local and global employment, particularly for youth, and enables access to academic and professional exchange opportunities in the United States," says its website. In India, RELO is headed by Ruth Goode, who is responsible for designing, managing and advising on English learning programmes for India, Afghanistan and Bhutan.

Behind Punjab's association with RELO

For nearly five years now, RELO has already been working in association with the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP government in Delhi to train English teachers. The Delhi government has now acted as a facilitator in the Punjab government's recent association with the US Embassy wing. Two days back on June 9, the Punjab education department conducted its first workshop at PAU Ludhiana in which the experts from RELO headed by Goode, interacted with at least 320 English and social studies teachers from government schools.

The Punjab education depart-

Delhi underwent TESOL Core Certificate Programme (TCCP) offered by the US Embassy, an intensive 140-hour English teacher training programme in which participants learned research-based teaching strategies to make English learning in classrooms better and easier.

TESOL stands for 'Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages'. More than 800 teachers from Delhi have undergone training by the RELO for improving their English language teaching skills and bringing creativity in the classrooms. The trained teachers further train their colleagues who interact with students in classrooms.

The Delhi government had also launched an online professional development programme for English teachers in government schools in partnership with RELO. The 8-week programme — 'Professional Development for English Teachers' (PDET) — exposed middle and secondary grade teachers to the best teaching practices for English language to improve their instructional skills.

What next for Punjab

A senior education department official said RELO experts

would now be conducting a 'teacher need analysis' survey for government teachers in Punjab to assess what kind of programmes would best suit them.

"The one-day workshop was a basic interaction. We are looking forward to a long-term collaboration with the US Embassy to train teachers in Punjab like Delhi did," said the official.

Education minister Hayer said that a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is on cards with the US Embassy for training of teachers in Punjab. "For every basic thing in today's world, you need English. From a job to moving abroad, our students need English at every step. After seeing the results in Delhi, we are planning to sign an MoU with RELO for a long-term training of teachers in English teaching," he said. Hayer said that during his recent visits to government schools, he was "shocked" to see that students could not even read basic Punjabi textbooks. "Leave English, they cannot even read basic Punjabi textbooks. Most of them told me that they never attended online classes during Covid due to lack of smartphones. We have to make them proficient in both English and Punjabi," he said.

RAJYA SABHA POLLS

Decks cleared for Kuldeep’s Cong exit as BJP aims to woo Rajasthan Bishnois

SUKHBIR SIWACH
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 12

WITH THE All India Congress Committee (AICC) leadership expelling senior Haryana Congress leader Kuldeep Bishnoi, the Adampur MLA, from all party positions — including as a special invitee to the Congress Working Committee (CWC) — for cross-voting in the June 10 Rajya Sabha election in favour of the ruling BJP-JJP-backed Independent candidate Kartikeya Sharma instead of the party’s nominee Ajay Maken, the BJP is now hoping that Bishnoi will join its fold.

The son of former Haryana chief minister late Bhajan Lal, Bishnoi, the 53-year-old four-time MLA and two-time MP, had been sulking since the AICC leadership appointed Udai Bhan, a staunch loyalist of the Leader of the Opposition and ex-CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda, as the Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee (HPCC) president one-and-a-half months ago. Bishnoi, a known detractor of Hooda, was also an aspirant for the HPCC chief’s post.

Since Bhan’s appointment as the state party chief, Bishnoi has appeared to be warming up to the BJP dispensation followed by his cross-voting in the Rajya Sabha polls that led to Maken’s defeat at the hands of Sharma. The stage now seems to be set for Bishnoi to switch to the saffron party. His father Bhajan Lal, a Congress veteran and three-time CM, was the prominent non-Jat leader in Haryana, a state whose politics is driven mainly by caste equations.

He worked his way up from the position of a village sarpanch to panchayat samiti chief to legislator to the CM. His third chief ministerial tenure was during 1991-1996. In 2005 too, when the grand old party emerged victorious in the state Assembly polls, Bhajan was a strong claimant for the CM’s post but Hooda managed to get the better of him and remained the CM for consecutive two terms. In 2007, Bishnoi along with his father floated their own political outfit, Haryana Janhit Congress (HJC).

After his father’s death, the Bishnoi-led HJC entered into a poll alliance with the BJP, which broke up prior to the 2014 Assembly polls. Following a meeting with top Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in 2016, Bishnoi decided to merge his HJC with the Congress. His supporters have always projected him as a CM face. They hope that if he

joins the BJP he would get a significant government assignment. There are already talks of a bypoll in the Adampur constituency soon. The Bishnoi family has never lost any election from Adampur over the last five decades.

Bishnoi’s induction into its fold may give the BJP a shot in the arm in its bid to woo the Bishnoi community in neighbouring Rajasthan, where the Assembly polls are scheduled next year. The Akhil Bharatiya Bishnoi Mahasabha (ABBM)’s president Devendra Bishnoi, who hails from Jodhpur, told The Indian Express that Bishnois have a considerable presence in 32 Assembly constituencies across Rajasthan. “If Kuldeep Bishnoi joins BJP, a majority of them may move towards the saffron party,” he claimed. The Bishnoi community also has a significant presence in a few seats in Haryana’s Fatehabad and Hisar districts. Kuldeep Bishnoi himself is the ABBM’s patron and like his father he has remained actively involved in its activities.

Reacting to his expulsion from Congress posts, Bishnoi said: “Congress has rules for some leaders and exceptions for others. Rules are applied selectively. Indiscipline has been repeatedly ignored in the past. In my case, I listened to my soul and acted on my morals.” However, a close Bishnoi associate said his cross-voting against the Congress candidate in the Rajya Sabha polls was actually a “show of resistance” against the “supremacy” of the Hooda family in the state party politics. On the other hand, Hooda’s supporters feel the Congress’s action against Bishnoi would not impact the party’s prospects in the state. They seem to be rather happy that “the party has shown the door to a Hooda detractor for his own fault”.

A close Hooda associate said: “Kuldeep Bishnoi’s support base has shrunk to just one seat (Adampur) in Haryana. His son Bhavya Bishnoi had come third in Hisar in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. How can he influence voters in Rajasthan when he is not able to win seats in Haryana?”

At a meeting of senior Haryana Congress leaders held by Rahul Gandhi in Delhi a few months ago, Bishnoi had staked his claim over the HPCC chief’s post, projecting himself as a prominent non-Jat leader. It was, however, shot down by Hooda’s son Deepender, a Rajya Sabha MP, and some other leaders, who dismissed his claim as “untenable” while pointing to his son’s Hisar performance.



Kuldeep Bishnoi, a known detractor of Hooda, was an aspirant for the HPCC chief post. Express

How a Chautala and a Khattar aide wooed a sulking Bishnoi

SUKHBIR SIWACH
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 12

EVER SINCE the appointment of former MLA Udai Bhan — a staunch loyalist of former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda — as president of Haryana Congress, the BJP was keeping an eye on the movements of Congress legislator Kuldeep Bishnoi.

Bishnoi had met Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar in Gurgaon on May 17, but it was not sure then that the Congress leader will turn a rebel so soon.

Meanwhile, BJP decided to back independent candidate Kartikeya Sharma in the Rajya Sabha polls apart from fielding Krishan Lal Panwar as party nominee. The Congress fielded Ajay Maken as party nominee and as per the party’s strength in the Assembly (31 MLAs), it would have been an easier task to win the Rajya Sabha polls, had BJP not acted to woo Bishnoi and a few others in the Opposition camp.

Amid voices of discontent in the Congress after revamping the party organisation, the BJP gave the responsibility to two prominent leaders; state power minister Ranjit Singh Chautala and former minister Manish Grover, a close-aide of Khattar to woo Kuldeep Bishnoi. Sources

said that first Grover contacted Bishnoi to seek vote for Sharma. Then, Chautala met him and tried to convince him to vote for the BJP-backed candidate. According to sources, Kuldeep Bishnoi was urged to take a right decision at a right time insisting that Hooda and Congress were not trusting him anymore. He was also told that Hooda won’t let him grow further especially after the Congress high command has given him a free hand. He was told that his future in Congress was not very bright. It’s learnt that Bishnoi wanted to take a call after careful consideration while referring to his past experience with the BJP. Bishnoi’s Haryana Janhit Congress (HJC) had joined hands with BJP in 2011 but the alliance was broken ahead of the 2014 Assembly polls. In 2016, Bishnoi had merged his party with Congress after a meeting with Rahul Gandhi.

According to a source, Chautala told Bishnoi that the BJP may give him a suitable role in the party while sending him to campaign in favour of its candidates in Rajasthan’s 15 Bishnoi community-dominated constituencies.

Sources said that Chautala also urged him to join BJP unconditionally while giving his example how he had also extended

unconditional support to the saffron party and was given an important assignment even being an independent MLA. Sources also claimed that Chautala got Bishnoi contacted with the CM too. Grover also talked to Bishnoi again, following which sources claim that Khattar, Chautala and Grover were convinced that Bishnoi will extend his support to Kartikeya Sharma.

Sources added that Chautala was also instrumental in getting two more MLAs from the Opposition camp in contact with the CM just ahead of the Rajya Sabha polls. One of these MLAs voted for Kartikeya Sharma while another extended “tactical support”.

Bishnoi had told *The Indian Express*, “I listened to my soul and acted on my morals”.

A close associate of Kuldeep Bishnoi said everybody had contacted them for the vote in support of Kartikeya Sharma but none sought votes for Congress candidate Ajay Maken. Bishnoi’s associate said, “We have only opposed Bhupinder Singh Hooda. Bishnoi had sought time to meet Rahul Gandhi but he was not facilitated for the same. That’s why Bishnoi voted for the independent candidate. We don’t want the Congress party to go into the hands of a family (Hooda).”

Over 250 units of blood needed in Ludhiana daily: Survey

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUDHIANA, JUNE 12

A SURVEY conducted by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) has found that over 250 units of blood are desperately needed in Ludhiana daily.

This blood is required for accident victims, childbirth, and for the patients of thalassemia—a blood disorder.

“But unfortunately, there is a severe shortage of blood donors in the city. Estimates by organisations working in this field suggest that only 30 percent of the blood supply in Ludhiana comes from voluntary donations or blood camps. In majority of the cases, the patient or their family has to run door to door even during an emergency asking for blood donations from others. Despite a population of 50 lakh, Ludhiana city does not have enough people who come forward to fill the blood supply gap,” said the IMA.

As per the survey, the main reason for this shortage of donors is misinformation and myths around blood donation. People are nervous about donating blood and unaware of its benefits.

So, to encourage people to donate blood more regularly, IMA Ludhiana & City Needs organized a first-of-its-kind workshop titled “Surprising Health Benefits of Blood Donation” at IMA House, Ludhiana, Sunday.

‘IRREGULARITIES’ IN GRAIN-LIFTING TENDERS

VB starts probe to verify allegations against Ashu

NAVJEEVAN GOPAL
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 12

AFTER ARRESTING Congress leader and former Forest Minister Sadhu Singh Dharamsot in a corruption case in which his successor Sangat Singh Gilzian has also been named, the Punjab Vigilance Bureau (VB) has initiated a probe to verify the allegations against Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC) working president and former Food and Civil Supplies Minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu for alleged irregularities to the tune of “Rs 2,000 crore in allotment of labour and transport tenders for lifting grains”.

The probe has been initiated after representatives of small contractors of labour and transport submitted a complaint to the VB in this regard.

VB chief director Varinder Kumar said, “Ludhiana SSP (VB) has been asked to verify the allegations.”

The complainants alleged that after 2019-20 contracts in the tenders of labour and transportation for the grain markets in Punjab were “allotted by the department to 20 to 25 big contractors at arbitrary rates bypassing 5,000 small contractors”.

It was also alleged that during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2019-20, tender rates were suddenly doubled by the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs department. The complaint alleged that the tenders which were earlier allotted for Rs 10,000 were increased to Rs 20,000 to “benefit big contractors in lieu of getting kickbacks from them”.

There are about 2,500 grain markets in Punjab where around 700 tenders for labour and transportation are floated every year by government procurement agencies such as PUNSUP and PUNGRAIN, among others.

The complainants alleged involvement of Ashu, local MLAs and a deputy director

rank official of Food and Civil Supplies department who “used to fix deals for each grain market between the contractors and the minister”.

It has been alleged that local MLAs/halqa in-charges used to recommend the names of persons for allotment of contract. “If a grain market was settled for Rs 1 crore, Rs 25 lakh to Rs 30 lakh was given to the MLA and the rest was shared between the minister and the department deputy director,” a source in the VB said, citing the complaint.

The complaint named two main contractors who were “favoured”.

A VB official also pointed out that members of union of small contractors of labour and transport had held a press conference at Chandigarh on June 9 wherein they “released documents relating to these alleged irregularities”.

When contacted, Ashu said, “Ask Vigilance Bureau about this.”

Why weedicides are essential for DSR technique to prosper

ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA
JALANDHAR, JUNE 12

AFTER ANNOUNCING a Rs 1500 compensation per acre for farmers using Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR), Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann recently claimed that nearly 20 lakh acres of land will be used to grow rice using the DSR technique, the highest ever of any paddy sowing season in state history. But as efficient as it is, DSR has a major flaw - an increase in the growth of weeds, and the obvious choice to tackle this problem is to use weedicides. Amid talks by the government to ban 10 agrochemicals to improve soil health and have yields that meet international market standards, **Anju Agnihotri Chaba** explains why the technique is prone to more weeds and why weedicides are critical for DSR to prosper.

EXPLAINED

ample, Nominee Gold can be sprayed when the weed reaches the 2-4 leaf stage.

The fields must be moist and maintain the right soil moisture before the chemicals are sprayed. Experts said that even after spraying various herbicides, weeds that remain must be uprooted manually before they produce seeds.

“These (weedicides) are very economical and don’t more than cost Rs 250 - 500 per litre,” said Prof Makhan Singh Bhullar of the Department of Agronomy, PAU Ludhiana. Prof Bhullar is working on DSR and the impact of weedicides on soil and the environment.

Does traditional Puddled Transplanting require weedicides?

In this method, one spray of weedicides is done within a week after the transplanting and 1200 ml is used per acre. After that, stagnant water does not allow weeds to grow.

What is the impact of herbicides on soil health, environment and the consumer?

The Government of India has listed Pendimethaline, which is mandatory for DSR and has no other alternative in pre-emergence weedicides, in its proposal to ban 27 chemicals. The proposal is part of a move to phase out 66 contentious pesticides for their toxicity; the government will make a decision sometime soon.

Experts said that application of 1-2 kg/hectare of Pendimethalin—registered in 1987 and approved for the control of weeds in wheat, rice, cotton and soybean crops under the 1968 Insecticides Act - TO persist up to 90 days in the soil. But in April 2022, the government held a meeting to discuss a ban on the recommendation of an expert committee.

PAU Experts said that the chemicals are toxic to aquatic life and must not be used near water bodies, aquaculture and pisciculture, and more tests must be conducted to study their impact on soil and the environment. Experts in the Punjab agriculture department said that most farmers in the state use more than the recommended fertiliser and pesticide dose.

If 20 lakh acres do come under DSR this year in Punjab, then farmers will use 10-15 Lakh litres of pendimethalin more than the recommended dose, a senior Agriculture officer said while adding that no one knows about its impact on soil health. He said that there is a need to develop an organic solution as an alternative to herbicides if the government decided to ban them.

“If Pendimethalin is banned, then there is no chance of adopting DSR as it has no alternative,” agricultural experts said.

PRE-PADDY SEASON New scheme to regularise higher load tubewell motors without penalty fee

ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA
JALANDHAR, JUNE 12

PUNJAB STATE Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) has introduced Voluntary Disclosure Scheme (VDS) for Agriculture Tubewell (AT) ahead of the paddy sowing season so that farmers can use more powerful motors to pull water from the low ground-water reserves in the state.

The scheme - it will be applicable for all existing consumers from June 10 onwards - will regularise higher power loads and allow farmers to extend their tubewells. Earlier in February, farm union leaders had demanded to be allowed to extend their tubewells during a farm year, and have welcomed this move.

Farmers covered under this scheme and who have increased their power loads without clearance by PSPCL will not be levied any penalty. Field officers will visit farms of AP consumers and inspect the power load and regularise any unauthorised increase in the connected load. It will be mandatory for farmers under the scheme to either remove the unauthorised or get it regularised.

PSPCL officials informed that under the scheme, AP consumers will have to pay Rs 2,500 per BHP and Rs 200 as security. Before VDS, farmers would have to pay Rs 4,750 per BHP apart from a penalty fee to regularise an unauthorised increase in power load.

The circular issued for VDS on Friday reads, “Keeping in view the onset of paddy season and urgent requirement to increase the load of AP consumers due to depleting water level, this VDS scheme is being introduced immediately in anticipation of approval of Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (PSERC). PSPCL has considered to start the augmentation work immediately in order to arrest the damage rate of distribution and transformers. Terms and conditions of the VDS scheme shall be subject to the final order passed by PSERC.”

Jagmohan Singh, General Secretary of Bharti Kisan Union (BKU) Dakaunda, told *The Indian Express* that it is good that the government launched such a scheme ahead of paddy sowing as many farmers have already increased the capacity of their submersible motors due to the depleting groundwater levels.

“Practicing agriculture is the source of livelihood of the farmers and it is the business for them. Farmers are compelled to invest in higher rating motors without any increase in land holding or crop increase due to depleting water levels,” he said.

Earlier in 2019, meetings were held between PSPCL officials and various farmer unions to discuss the issue of bonafide consumers settled outside being a roadblock to complete formalities; this issue has now been addressed.

Govt school teacher booked for stalking girl students

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUDHIANA, JUNE 12

THE LUDHIANA rural police booked a government school teacher for allegedly harassing and stalking girl students and sending them inappropriate messages on phone.

Police registered an FIR against Kanwar Manwant Singh, posted as a Physical Training Instructor (PTI) at Government Senior Secondary School, Sawaddi Kalan village for allegedly sending inappropriate messages to the students and forcing them to talk to him over phone at odd hours.

An FIR has been registered after the Ludhiana district education office (secondary) instructed the school principal to get the case registered following a departmental probe which found the teacher guilty.

The FIR has been lodged following the statement of Jasvir Kaur, principal of the school. The teacher has already been suspended by the education department. The matter came to light after some of the students filed a written complaint to the principal in May. The students accused him of calling them in the night and forcing them to talk to him.

After an inquiry, the principal informed the education department, following which a committee was formed to investigate the matter. During the investigation the students produced screenshots of the messages sent by the teacher.

‘BJP to protest against AAP govt today’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUDHIANA, JUNE 12

PUNJAB BJP president and MLA Ashwani Sharma on Sunday announced that the party would be protesting across Punjab on June 13 (Monday) against the deteriorating law and order situation in the state. Sharma said that the protests would be held in all districts of Punjab to “wake up the Bhagwant Mann-led AAP government from deep slumber”.

Sharma said that since AAP has formed government in Punjab, law and order situation has deteriorated. He said that

under the AAP government, murders, snatchings, shootouts etc have become a daily feature. He said that under the AAP government, gangsters and other criminals have become active and they are executing snatchings, robberies, and murders on daily basis. Despite all this, the AAP government is sleeping and taking no concrete steps to handle law and order situation in the state, he said. He said that police and administration are watching entire situation like mute spectators.

Meanwhile, while addressing a rally ‘Modi Sarkaar ke Aath Saath Bemisaal’ at Daresi ground

in Ludhiana Sunday to mark 8 years of PM Narendra Modi-led BJP government at the Centre, Sharma added that it was only because of Modi’s leadership that India has become a leader in manufacturing goods. “From a needle to an airplane, everything is being manufactured in India now,” said Sharma.

He said that it was due to special attachment of Modi with Punjab that the central government has taken many historic steps for the welfare of Sikhs including opening of Kartarpur Corridor, exempting langar at Golden Temple from GST among others.



BJP supporters at the party's rally at Daresi Ground in Ludhiana on Sunday. Gurmeet Singh

10 EXPRESS NETWORK

Over 400 SC verdicts translated, until Covid stalled AI project

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

OVER 450 verdicts of the Supreme Court have been translated into 12 regional languages using an artificial intelligence software, with Hindi topping the list of translations followed by Tamil.

While 469 verdicts have been translated since the launch of the ambitious project in August 2018, it came to a halt during the pandemic and is yet to be revived.

"The focus on vernacular languages is more than ever but like many other functions of the Court, Covid impacted the priority given to the project," a Supreme Court official said on the condition of anonymity.

An analysis by *The Indian Express* showed that 86 per cent of the 469 verdicts were translated before March 2020 before the pandemic began, and the last verdict to be translated was in October last year.

Of the 469 translated judgments, 243 translations are in Hindi while Tamil ranks second with 70. There were 42 translated verdicts in Malayalam, 25 in Marathi, 23 each in Kannada and Oriya, and 19 in Telugu. Verdicts were also translated into Urdu, Assamese, Punjabi and one in Nepali.

The project to translate select verdicts of the court to regional languages was mooted after President Ram Nath Kovind in October 2017 suggested that translations of judgments must be made available to litigants.

"It is important to not only take justice to the people, but

also to make it understandable to litigating parties in a language they know. High Courts deliver judgments in English, but we are a country of diverse languages," the President had said speaking at the diamond jubilee celebrations of the Kerala High Court.

In July 2019, then Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi announced the project to translate judgments. The Supreme Court began by translating verdicts into six languages — Assamese, Hindi, Kannada, Marathi, Odia and Telugu — through an artificial intelligence platform developed in-house. A committee headed by former SC judge L. Nageswara Rao looked into the working of the AI tools to ensure the translation was seamless.

The verdicts translated in nine languages had a 90 per cent accuracy rate and the errors were fixed manually before uploading them, according to court officials. They said the software has also been shared with some high courts.

Sources said that the eventual goal is to translate verdicts of High Courts instantaneously to ensure litigants save time and cost while making an appeal before the top court.

On May 1, speaking at the Chief Justices Conference, PM Narendra Modi and CJI NV Ramana underlined the need to "encourage the use of local languages in courts". The CJI, at the same event, had earlier highlighted the need for some courts to conduct business in local languages. Courts often rely on a panel of translators to translate verdicts of lower courts where regional languages are used.

EC to govt: Limit seats a person can contest to 1, ban opinion & exit polls

Panel renews other long-standing demands, seeks notification on linking Aadhaar

ANISHA DUTTA & RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

SOON AFTER taking charge as Chief Election Commissioner, Rajiv Kumar asked the Law Ministry to issue notifications for the linking of Aadhaar with voter IDs, allowing four qualifying dates for eligible people to register as voters, and also renewed the commission's proposals for banning opinion polls and exit polls as well as limiting the seats from which a candidate can contest to just one, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

"The EC sent six key proposals to the Law Ministry. We have requested the government to notify the rules for linkage of Aadhaar to voter IDs and also for the four cut-off dates for eligible people to register as voters," said an EC official

who did not want to be named.

In December 2021, Rajya Sabha passed the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 by voice vote, enabling "the linking of electoral roll data with the Aadhaar ecosystem" as the Opposition walked out in protest. Parties had alleged that the government passed the Bill in haste without adequate discussion.

The EC has also sought powers to deregister political parties, a long-standing demand of the poll panel, and sought the modification of Form 24A to mandate the disclosure of all donations above Rs 2,000 instead of Rs 20,000.

This also comes in the backdrop of the commission's action against 'registered unrecognised political parties' (RUPPs) last month. The EC had announced a clean-up drive initiating "graded action" against more than 2,100

RUPPs for flouting rules, including failure to furnish a contribution report and communicate any change in its name, head office, office bearers and address to the EC.

Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 empowers the commission to register associations and bodies as political parties. However, there is no constitutional or statutory provision that gives power to the EC to deregister parties.

"Many political parties get registered, but never contest election. Such parties exist only on paper. The possibility of forming political parties with an eye on availing the benefit of income tax exemption also cannot be ruled out. It would only be logical that the commission which has the power to register political parties is also empowered to deregister in appropriate cases," the EC had noted

in 2016 in its handbook of proposed electoral reforms.

Renewing another one of its long-standing demands, the EC has sought an amendment of Section 33(7) of the Representation of People Act, 1951 to restrict the number of seats a candidate can contest from. The Act currently allows a person to contest a general election or a group of by-elections or biennial elections from up to two constituencies. In 2004, too, the EC had proposed an amendment of Section 33(7).

It had also recommended a ban on exit polls and opinion polls and said there should be some restriction on conducting and disseminating the results of opinion polls right from the day of the first notification of an election till the completion of the election in all its phases.

Ex-CM Badal hospitalised

Mohali: Former Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Parkash Singh Badal was admitted to Fortis Hospital, Mohali on Saturday with complaints of gastritis and bronchial asthma.

"Appropriate treatment was given under Dr Deepak Bhasin and Digambar Behera and now he is improving. All his parameters are normal," the medical bulletin of the former five-time CM said.

Badal, 94, was also admitted to PGI, Chandigarh earlier this week, with similar health problems. **ENS**



Sachin Pilot at a press conference in Lucknow on Sunday. **PTI**

Congress leaders to march in solidarity as Rahul to appear before ED today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

ALMOST THE entire top leadership of the Congress, the party's two Chief Ministers, Ashok Gehlot and Bhupesh Baghel, and its Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs will converge at the AICC headquarters at around 9 am on Monday, the day Rahul Gandhi is set to appear before the Enforcement Directorate.

The plan is to take out a solidarity march to the ED headquarters, while there will be sit-ins outside the ED offices in state capitals.

Rahul Gandhi was summoned by the ED in connection with a money laundering case related to the National Herald newspaper.

A letter sent by AICC general secretary in-charge of organisation, K C Venugopal, to all CWC members says Rahul has "agreed" to appear before the ED and asked them to be present at the AICC headquarters on Monday morning in solidarity with him in his fight for justice in the "fabricated" case.

The party had organised a similar show of strength in 2015 when the Gandhis appeared before the Patiala House court in the National Herald case.

On Sunday, the party held press conferences in several cities, slamming the BJP government for the "vendetta politics". Sachin Pilot was in Lucknow, Vivek Tankha in Raipur, Sanjay Nirupam in Shimla, Ranjeet Ranjan in Chandigarh, Syed Nasseer Hussain in Patna, Pawan Khera in Ahmedabad and Alka Lamba in Dehradun. Party leaders said the plan to

Covid-related issues: Sonia taken to hospital

New Delhi: Congress president Sonia Gandhi, 75, was rushed to the emergency department of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in Delhi on Sunday "owing to Covid-related issues", party spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said. She is in a stable condition, according to sources at the hospital. She was diagnosed with Covid-19 10 days ago. She was accompanied to the hospital by her daughter, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. Her son Rahul Gandhi was also by her side. Surjewala tweeted that Sonia would be kept at the hospital for observation. **ENS**

take out a march to the ED will go ahead as scheduled although party chief Sonia Gandhi has been hospitalised due to complications arising out of Covid infection. "The protest will go ahead as planned," a senior leader said.

"There is not an iota of illegal activity. Despite this, Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi were served notices by the ED out of political vendetta, with the aim to gain some headlines for a week," party's national spokesperson Pawan Khera told reporters in Ahmedabad. Senior leader P Chidambaram said, "I speak as a Congress member and an advocate. The ED's summons to Rahul Gandhi under PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) is baseless."

Protests spread in Bengal, train vandalised in Nadia

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JUNE 12

A DAY after parts of Howrah were hit by violence, massive protests spread to several parts of West Bengal — from South 24 Parganas to Murshidabad — on Sunday over the remarks on Prophet Mohammad by now suspended BJP leaders.

A group of protesters damaged a local train at Bethuadahary railway station in Nadia district, officials said, adding that no one was severely injured. "After the Ranaghat-Lalgola local train got stranded, it was vandalised by the protesters... The Hazarduari Express was left stranded. The train service was disrupted for at least one

hour," Chief Public Relations Officer (Eastern Railway) Eklavya Chakraborty said. Sources said that train services were also disrupted at Dhubulia station by the protesters.

In Murshidabad, protests erupted in the Baryan area of the district, affecting the traffic. "Roads were temporarily blocked, but the police later brought the situation under control," an official said. Internet services have been suspended in three areas of the Murshidabad district till 6 am on June 14, an official said.

In South 24 Parganas, hundreds of protesters blocked Diamond Harbour road. Later, they were dispersed. Protests also took place in district's Usti and Shirakol areas.

22 booked by name in 25 FIRs as Ranchi limps back to normalcy

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, JUNE 12

FROM MARSON to rioting to unlawful assembly to promoting enmity between two groups, Ranchi police have pressed various charges against 22 persons booked by name and hundreds of unidentified ones in the 25 FIRs registered so far into the June 10 violence. The police had to use force, including firing, to quell the protesters. Two people had died of bullet injuries while seven are under treatment. The protest was organised against the derogatory comments against the Prophet by the now-suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma.

The situation remained peaceful in the capital city with senior police officers out on the roads. On Sunday, Section 144 was lifted for five hours to let people buy essentials.

Police said that majority of the FIRs were registered at Hindipuri and Daily Market Police stations in the city. Kin of the two persons aged 20 and 15, who had died of bullet wounds, assembled at the Daily Market police station.

Surendra Jha SSP, who, too, had sustained pellet injuries, said: "We have formed an SIT. I want to reiterate that innocent people need not worry. We are monitoring social media platforms and action will be taken if anyone is found making statements aimed at hurting reli-



Violence broke out in Ranchi on June 10 during a protest over controversial remarks against the Prophet. **File**

gious sentiments."

Among the seven who are being treated for bullet injuries one remains in critical condition. Nusrat Parveen, sister of Nadeem Ansari (24) who took a bullet in the neck and is on ventilator at the Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences, said: "He worked as an electrician and we have no clue how he became part of the protest. He has a daughter and his condition remains critical." RIMS' "investigation requisition form" of Mohammad Afzar, 19, another patient mentions 'bullet injury'. His father Sarfaraz Alam said: "We are not even allowed to go inside and talk to our son. The administration has been very strict and is not allowing people to visit my son." The father said: "He had just gone to the market where he sells electrical goods. Splinters are

stuck in his waist."

Anamika, Sister of Usman (20) whose investigation requisition form mentioned 'gunshot injury' said that the parts of the bullet is stuck in his shoulder and neck. "He told us that he was part of the crowd, but he had just been on the sidelines. He told me that he didn't pelt stones. We are lucky that he is alive. We are very scared by the turn of events," said Anamika, who was sitting on the floor outside the ICU. The form of 18-year-old Tabrak also mentions 'bullet injuries'. His father Mamun Qureshi said: "He worked in an eye glass shop. We haven't been able to speak to him."

RIMS Superintendent Hirendra Birua said: "All except one are stable... A few people have bullet splinters in their body. It will be removed in a few days."

316 held, UP CM says 'take such an action that it sets an example'

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, JUNE 12

THE UTTAR Pradesh Police on Sunday evening said that 316 people have been arrested and 13 FIRs registered in connection with the protests and violence in nine districts of the state on Friday in the wake of the remarks made on Prophet Mohammad by now suspended BJP leaders.

During a review meeting in Lucknow, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath told officials to "take such an action against those guilty that it sets an example so that no one commits a crime or take law into their hands in future."

"The chief minister has directed Additional Chief Secretary Home to take strict action in the incidents that have taken place in the past few days. He made it clear that no one would be allowed to play with the law and order in the state and such an action should be taken against those guilty that it sets an example," a statement issued by the state government read.

Part of civil society, Javed, Fatima took part in anti-CAA protests

ASAD REHMAN & SUKRITA BARUAH
LUCKNOW, NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

MOHAMMAD JAVED and his daughter Afreeen Fatima, whose house the Uttar Pradesh administration demolished on Sunday, two days after Prayagraj saw protests over Nupur Sharma's remarks on the Prophet, are prominent members of the city's civil society and members of the Welfare Party of India.

While Javed is the party's central working committee member, Afreeen is national secretary of the Fraternity Movement, the student wing of the party. The police arrested the 54-year-old on Saturday and claimed he was one of the conspirators of Friday's protests. SSP Ajay Kumar claimed that during questioning, Javed said that Afreeen often gave him suggestions. He, however, said their preliminary probe had not found any evidence against her.

Welfare Party president Ilyas SQR said, "...We are doing everything possible to help him (Javed) legally. He is being framed..."

Saying Javed has been part of several protests in the city for over 30 years, an activist in Prayagraj said, "Who wasn't



Mohammad Javed and Afreeen Fatima

there for the CAA protests (in 2020)? Hindus, Muslims, Christians, atheists... Everyone took part and so did Javed." A civil society member said Javed "worked round the clock" during the first and second waves of the pandemic.

Afreeen has been active in student politics for several years. She did her BA Honours in Linguistics from Aligarh Muslim University. She enrolled for her Master's in Linguistics from Delhi's JNU, where, in 2019, she was elected as a councillor in the students' union. She graduated from JNU in 2021.

"Afreeen was part of my council and was a very vocal student activist on campus... We will stand by her and give her whatever help she requires," said JNUSU President Aishe Ghosh.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Rath Yatra coming, Gujarat cops plan 'mixed' cricket matches for 'peace'

VAIBHAV JHA
AHMEDABAD, JUNE 12

WITH AHMEDABAD'S own rath yatra around the corner, and tensions simmering in the wake of protests over remarks against the Prophet made by BJP's Nupur Sharma, the city's police are moving to secure the procession's route using a popular "glue"-cricket.

Senior police officers told *The Indian Express* that a cricket tournament involving "mixed teams" from six communally sensitive wards on the route will be organised before the Rath Yatra starting July 1.

"Sports teaches us discipline and team spirit — and most im-

portantly, cricket is a gentleman's game. We have decided to have teams from six wards, each with a mix of Hindu and Muslim cricketers. The idea is to build bridges through sports," said R V Asari, Additional Commissioner of Police, Sector 1, Ahmedabad City.

These six wards are Jamalpur, Kalupur, Khadia, Dariapur, Shahpur and Saraspur, all located in the old city. Five of these wards, except Saraspur, witnessed protests last week against the comments made by the now-suspended BJP spokesperson Sharma. The area had also witnessed protests during the anti-CAA agitation two years ago.

The Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra in Ahmedabad is the biggest such event after the

world-famous Yatra in Odisha's Puri, with about 3-4 lakh devotees taking part in the 9-km procession from Jamalpur Darwaza to Saraspur in the old city.

According to officers, this year's event — the 145th Yatra — will be a full-scale version after the procession was cancelled in 2020 and a truncated festival held in 2021 due to the Covid outbreak. Preparations for the cricket tournament have already started with the police reaching out to local community leaders and clubs.

The Rath Yatra, hosted by the Jagannath temple in Jamalpur, usually comprises chariots, akharas, bhajan teams, elephants and large groups of devotees with music played by DJs.

Police records show several



The Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra in Ahmedabad is the biggest such event after the one in Odisha's Puri. **File**

instances of communal clashes during the Yatra before the riots of 2002. According to the

Nanavati Commission report, violence broke out in the old city in 1941, 1946, 1965, 1969, 1992

and 1993 during the Yatra.

The records also show that local cricket matches, and celebrations during India-Pakistan games, have previously triggered communal violence in Ahmedabad and other cities of Gujarat.

In 2003, three people were killed in Viramgam on the outskirts of Ahmedabad in a brawl during a local match. In 2020, the state government had informed the Assembly that nine incidents of communal violence occurred in the Anand district in 2018, with a cricket match as one of the main catalysts.

"Communal violence occurring during cricket matches in Ahmedabad is a bygone era. Now, we are trying to build bridges through sports. In a game, one side

wins and the other side loses, yet the game teaches something to both sides. Therefore, the two communities should learn from sports, and such tournaments should be held on an annual basis," said Bhushan Bhatt, a BJP leader from the old city and former Jamalpur Khadia MLA.

The police have also been organising peace meetings in the area over the past two weeks.

"We had recently organised a collective blood donation camp in the Lord Jagannath temple where Hindus and Muslims both donated units of blood towards the common cause of humanity. What relation can go deeper than blood?" said Mohammad Hussain Mammibhai, 78, who has been at the forefront of the

peace meetings.

"We have good cricketing talent in Jamalpur and Khadia," said Mammibhai, who has also taken on the responsibility of arranging the teams for the tournament.

"This is a very important step taken towards humanity by the police," said Mansuri Mohammad Faruq, 45, an old city resident and organiser of the Mansuri Premier League, a local cricket tournament.

"Both Hindus and Muslims of my country want to live in peace but a few elements want to disturb that peace. Our family has been organising local cricket tournaments for the past 80 years in Ahmedabad and we know how this sport can act as a glue for communities."



Chandigarh

SANJAY PANDEY/MUMBAI POLICE COMMISSIONER

“Nobody can use the police. We don’t work by insinuation, persuasion or inclination”

Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey talks about the need to be responsive towards citizens, political interference in probes, playing by the rulebook and his advocacy of a new Citizens’ Forum Bill. The session was moderated by Special Correspondent Mohamed Thaver

Mohamed Thaver: The assumption, whenever a new police commissioner took charge of Mumbai, was that he'd go after traditional offences like street crimes. You have changed that image by connecting with citizens on social media, sharing your mobile number and focussing on issues like harassment by housing society committees and noise pollution. What's the feedback?

As the Commissioner of Police, which is an executive charge, administration is one part of the role. But most of it is directed towards citizens. So, it was a no-brainer that I would follow the role as intended. When I joined as a DGP of Maharashtra, I had shared my number with all 2.25 lakh constables across the state. Now I have shared it with 2.5 crore citizens. Initially, I got hundreds of calls and text messages. Now I receive a minimum of 70 to 75 text messages every day. Footfalls have increased as I have encouraged people to walk into our office after 3 pm. So about 80 people show up every day. And then we have constables as well, 40 to 60 of whom I meet every day. I stay in office till the last person goes. I think our effectiveness down the line, as far as administration goes, has improved.

Mohamed Thaver: In the 90s, Mumbai was seen as the hotbed of the underworld and later, street crime. Is the crime spiral under control?

On my social media, you see talk about traffic, construction, noise pollution and so on. But what you've not seen and heard is our internal talk and briefings, which are basically on crime, from robberies, chain snatchings, motor vehicle thefts to house break-ins. Crime hasn't come down but the control mechanisms are better and each offence is being registered.

Jayprakash Naidu: What about cybercrimes?

Cybercrime is huge because there are no physical boundaries or territoriality involved. The person can be sitting anywhere and start siphoning off money with a fake account. Tracking the criminal means we have to look at jurisdictions of various countries. Then various factors come into play such as extradition treaties and foreign relations. Today, you have to beg Google or Yahoo to get details and IP addresses. For arrests in cybercrime, the world has to come together. There has to be one law that should apply equally across all courts, wherever they are. All technology companies should follow the same law. Otherwise, somebody may make an app in some country and we don't even get the IP address. As far as mobile numbers are there, we can trace them. But many of them are Voice-Over-IP, which comes through proxies.

Sandeep Singh: Local parties allege that Central agencies like ED and CBI are being used to settle political scores. Similarly, the Central party says that the Mumbai Police is being used for the same purpose. The Supreme Court has questioned even the sedition case against Maharashtra MP Navneet Rana. What do you say to such allegations?

I don't think Mumbai Police is being used by anybody. If there was a cognisable case, we have registered one. We do not work by any insinuation, persuasion or inclination. There is a Maharashtra Government circular that no sedition case can be filed without the opinion of the public prosecutor. In this case also, there was a special prosecutor. It was on the basis of his opinion that the sedition case was filed. Now, the courts have said that wherever the circular has been applied, it should be held in abeyance. So, we follow that.

Zeeshan Shaikh: Your work as the DCP of Dharavi rattled many, especially people who are in power now. Have you changed or have they changed their opinion about you?

I don't think I have changed a lot. But people who would have had misgivings about what I was doing in Dharavi, have seen my work. I think people have really seen that we have been following the law and are trying to comply with it.

Yogesh Naik: There was a point when you had quit the IPS. What made you come back despite the fact that you got sidetracked?



WHY SANJAY PANDEY

Sanjay Pandey has been in the news ever since he was the unexpected pick of the MVA government for the top job as CP. A no-nonsense officer, he has attempted a makeover of the city police by sharing his personal mobile number with citizens and not towing vehicles. Under him, the police also registered cases against some Opposition leaders, a move that has come under some criticism

When I quit the service, there were administrative issues because of which I wasn't really relieved in the manner that I should have been. There were certain dues such as the house-building advance and that was being charged at a penal rate of interest. That was the point when I withdrew my resignation. In 2006, I had opted for voluntary retirement. That again did not happen for four-and-a-half years. Then I re-joined in 2012 but came under the lens over whether I was a government or a private servant. That was settled in court. I've never objected to postings because I got the same salary. I only objected to the way you cannot overlook seniority.

Shubhangi Khapre: Irrespective of the government in power, there has been an emphasis on police reforms in Maharashtra since the 1960s. Yet, we cannot stop political interference in appointments of officers and their transfers. Your views?

The key question is how you look at the police? Are you looking at the police as an independent body? The fact is it doesn't exist on its own. Every police officer in the country is a government servant. The government comprises elected representatives, who are part of the Parliament or local Assemblies. If you are governing a state or city, would you not have your choices? So, there will be control. Until and unless you have a very seminal change in how the bureaucracy works, I think the idea of an independent police force is utopian and impractical in the current situation. The UPSC is an independent body but it is elected or selected by the government. So, the government has a prerogative.

Shubhangi Khapre: Do you think the former state finance minister Anil Deshmukh, who is facing allegations of wrongfully making transfers or misusing the police force for mobilising funds, is being targeted?

The matter is before the courts and it won't be appropriate for me to talk. As I said, we are government servants and we

have to follow government guidelines.

Sandeep Singh: Do you think more reforms are required?

You're talking about rewriting the Constitution and the bureaucracy is defined by it. There are subjects within the purview of the Centre, State and Concurrent lists. If thought processes change, that is where you should start. Everything else is just semantics. You can tweak something here and there and bring in a neutral person. But ultimately, you remain a government servant and that's exactly what I want to emphasise.

Yogesh Naik: Do you think the attack on NCP chief Sharad Pawar's house was a failure on the part of the Mumbai police?

We had an inquiry and we found out that there weren't any great lapses. Yes, there was an issue with two or three of our people not being there at that time and we have addressed it. We cannot always be 100 per cent.

Mohamed Thaver: Recently, there has been a lot of communal tension due to loudspeakers in mosques. Given the communally charged atmosphere in the country today, do you see things improving or worsening?

People are more informed and aware about the result of any kind of violence or arson. Mumbai has seen it in 1992-93 and 2009. I would credit this knowledge to sharing of information, which has become much easier now. Earlier, we didn't have social media as a connective tissue. It played a very big part as we could send out the right messages, build confidence and bring people together. Also, Mumbai is totally quiet because people have to earn their livelihood and cannot afford to keep fighting. Political parties have their ways and means but citizens have become more educated, informed and can judge for themselves. Everybody wants a peaceful life. That's my basic premise.

Sadaf Modak: The Mumbai riots also revealed the communal bias among policemen. Does that continue?

The police are as communal as the local population. We also draw our people from the local population. We are as communal or 'a-communal' as citizens. But we are a disciplined force. And even during the riots in 1992-93, it was the policemen

who brought them under control. There were just a few aberrations.

Rahul Sabharwal: In the aftermath of communal flare-ups, like the one in Khargone in Madhya Pradesh or Jahangirpuri in Delhi, we've seen the rule of the bulldozer replacing the rule of law in minority-dominated areas. Do you think this sort of punitive action undermines what the policing structure stands for?

This hasn't happened in Mumbai, so to comment on other cities will be totally out of context. The police all across India are governed by the Indian Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code. And they lay down the guidelines for action.

Jayprakash Naidu: Recently, there was a communal incident in the eastern suburbs of Mumbai. How can we prevent such flare-ups from spiralling out of control?

Isolated groups and aberrations always exist in society and they can be controlled. But I must give full credit to both communities who were mature enough to handle the situation in Mankhurd and Malwani. Few people are too overzealous, not driven by any fervour but perhaps just goaded by their own situation. Some people want to be in the news and create a nuisance. Besides, if an incident was intended to mean something, it would not have happened at 3 am but in broad daylight. Just because it happened outside a masjid, we call it communal. Stray incidents can happen anywhere. We have arrested all the instigators and offenders with the help of both communities.

Zeeshan Shaikh: Perhaps the police tend to get blamed in communal incidents because there is poor representation of minorities in the force. Do you think there needs to be a diversity policy?

I am really not a voter of representative policing. Any Indian citizen can join the police force or the bureaucracy, they are open for everybody. If there are certain people who do not want to join, that's

their issue. If you put percentages in appointments, it will make the structure more communal rather than being harmonious. Since there's no restriction in terms of selection, anybody can apply. I think that independence is the beauty of our bureaucracy and should remain exactly that way.

Sagar Rajput: You have stopped the towing of vehicles...

Where are the roads in Mumbai? We've just got two roads. And where is the parking? Even my car got towed away when I took my family to the Gateway of India. You can impose fines and enforce laws but provide the facilities first. Build parking lots, build roads first. Mumbai has probably crossed the population density to an extent that it cannot afford people buying any

To arrest cybercrime, there has to be one law that should apply equally across all courts, wherever they are. All technology companies should then follow the same law

I'm supposed to do the investigation after registering the FIR. Now it is up to the court. A settlement could happen before the court, not before the police. We're talking about public money. And that's the complaint made by a particular bank. Today, it can say the money is not lost but then it should say so before the court. We will be very happy to close the case, don't we already have other work? But as of now, we don't have the right.

Mohamed Thaver: We have seen FIRs being registered against certain people, especially in political cases, but most of them have got court protection against their arrests. How would you respond to this move?

Some of the cases we are investigating are cheating cases. Courts have very clearly said that an arrest must be based on documents. An arrest is required only for recovery, where the criminal knows where he has kept the stolen property. In cases that we were dealing with, there was no reason to arrest and there was no reason for recovery.

Wherever there is a need, we are doing our job. That's the natural course of an investigation. An arrest is not a punishment, it is just to keep the person away from influencing an investigation. It's unfortunate if we have not been able to lay hands on certain people but it's not by design.

Sandeep Singh: Over the last two years, controversies surrounding Paramvir Singh and Sachin Vaze have tarnished the image of the Mumbai police. How has this affected morale down the line?

These are not happening for the first time. The Mumbai city police has 45,000 personnel and the Maharashtra police strength is about 2.25 lakh. How many people have been in controversies? May be just six? The morale of the police force is not made up of a few individuals. I am a firm believer that the system has been built within the framework of law and has a structure which helps you function and take care of aberrations. As long as the rules of business have not changed and the Constitution remains where it is, I don't see how the general moral fabric of any organisation could be affected.

Jayprakash Naidu: During your online interactions on Facebook, you've talked about the Citizen Forum Bill, which should be placed in Parliament. Why do we need such a legislation?

I am a firm believer that citizens need to be empowered. After much effort we have formed a forum with regional and zonal heads. And now citizens themselves have drafted a Bill that talks about the citizens' rights and the Government's duties vis-a-vis their rights. It's going to the Government as a proposal from the citizens themselves. And it has very clearly defined what the structure of the forum will be, what wards will be represented, how zones and regions will find a place. It includes suggestions on the election process and grievance redressal. In fact, this is not my idea. Earlier, there was a Nagar Raj Bill. Karnataka already has something of this sort.

We are setting up a trust which will fund all the forum's activities. I have proposed looking at funding and educating students from kindergarten to the fifth grade in ethics and moral science. That's my suggestion to the board. The Bill also defines punishment and cognisable offences.

Zeeshan Shaikh: The NYPD has a budget of around \$2.5 billion. London also has a massive budget. Is the Mumbai police adequately funded?

I don't think more policing, infrastructure or investment can bring safety and security to our citizens. The Mumbai police is adequately funded, has the required infrastructure and manpower, which have to be optimised. Gone are the days when you talk about one-to-one policing. In most global cities, you won't see a cop. Now monitoring is technology-enabled; we've gone beyond the camera and are talking about bigger things like Artificial Intelligence (AI), face-mapping and photo-matching. But above all, there should be a fear of law and its enforcement. Then, I won't need these many people on the ground. How many criminals, who have committed two to three crimes, do you think there are? Not more than 3,000. How many policemen do you require for that number?

Illustration: Suvajit Dey



WORDLY WISE
BY MEANS OF INDUSTRY AND PERSEVERANCE YOU
WILL RISE HIGHER AND HIGHER
— ROBERT SCHUMANN

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

PURSUIT OF JUSTICE

Chargesheet in Nagaland killings is a key step towards accountability. All sides should ensure sanctity of due process

THE CHARGESHEET FILED by Nagaland police with regard to a botched-up security operation last year in which six civilians were killed is a welcome first step. The chargesheet, which names 30 Indian Army personnel including a Major, is based on a probe by a special investigation team set up by the Nagaland government. The Army had admitted that the killings were a case of mistaken identity and error of judgement — the Court of Inquiry has been completed and is being examined. All stakeholders — the government, state police, Army — must ensure that due process is protected in this sensitive case that had led to massive protests in Nagaland and almost derailed the peace talks between the Centre and the NSCN-IM.

In all, 13 civilians and a security personnel were killed when personnel of 21 Para Special Forces fired at a jeep carrying miners in Oting, Mon district on December 4 last year and in the violence that followed. Six miners were killed in the initial shooting while seven others and a security personnel lost their lives when a mob attacked the security forces later. The firing in Mon took place in the backdrop of the killing of a commanding officer of Assam Rifles, his wife and son, and four security personnel by militants from Manipur Naga People's Front and People's Liberation Army of Manipur in Churachandpur district a few days earlier. The Mon massacre, in the run-up to Assembly elections in Nagaland, gave fresh impetus to civic campaigns for repealing the Armed Forces Special Powers Act. The Centre promised to look at the demand favourably as public protests rocked Nagaland, where a tenuous ceasefire between the NSCN-IM and the Armed Forces has held out for over two decades despite the political deadlock over the demands of the insurgents. On April 1, the Centre withdrew AFSPA from 15 police station areas in seven of Nagaland's 15 districts, a decision that has the potential to influence the narrative on federal relations in the region — according to the Ministry of Home Affairs, militancy in the Northeast has seen a major decline in recent years. It is necessary to nurture this positive spirit and consolidate the gains of hard-won peace in a region that has been wrecked by ethnic strife and militancy.

Action on the SIT report and the chargesheet on the Mon incident should proceed keeping in mind the complex history of the region. It should be insulated from the competing claims of regionalism and nationalism. A closure in this case will help heal the wounds of insurgency and its terrible offshoots including the AFSPA, and enable a conversation on matters of governance such as development, jobs, corruption etc. As for the armed forces, they will have to take the SIT accusation that personnel did "not follow the Standard Operating Procedure and the Rules of Engagement" and resorted to "indiscriminate and disproportionate firing" seriously, pin responsibility and take remedial action. How they respond to the chargesheet will be very significant in the discourse in the region around security and society.

HOME TRUTHS

While corporates, banks are now better-placed to invest and lend, decline in household consumption is a cause for concern

INDIA'S INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT rose 7.1 per cent year-on-year in April. Coming after a 11.4 per cent increase for the whole of 2021-22, it points to a recovery, albeit from the negative growth of the preceding lockdown-impacted fiscal. What's worrying, however, is consumer non-durables production growing by just 0.3 per cent in April, on top of 3.3 per cent for 2021-22. The National Statistical Office's data tallies with what private consumer research firms have also been putting out. NielsenIQ has estimated India's fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector to have registered minus 4.1 per cent year-on-year volume growth in January-March, minus 2.6 per cent in October-December, and 1.4 per cent in July-September. Kantar Worldpanel has reported volume contraction in the country's FMCG market for the last three consecutive quarters. Even the market leader Hindustan Unilever posted a 10.4 per cent sales turnover jump for the January-March quarter, but "with flat underlying volume growth".

The simple takeaway is that the Indian consumer is buying less, although paying more for the same, if not less, volume of groceries and essentials. One reason is inflation. Most market surveys suggest high price increases to have impacted discretionary as well as staple consumption. While consumers are either cutting down on purchases or opting for lower-priced/non-premium/unbranded products, FMCG firms have sought to push sales of smaller packs and even undertake "grammage reductions". In other words, passing on soaring costs — whether of palm oil, wheat or packaging material — not through explicit price hikes, but by decreasing product weight/size for the same price points. There are limitations to such stratagems. Individual companies may grow significantly ahead of the market, gaining both value and volume shares. But even they would want the market itself to expand, rather than resorting to "shrinkflation" or consumers "downtrading" and "titrating" volumes.

Inflation should come under control, hopefully sooner than later. Of greater concern is the stress on incomes. Most households in India received little, apart from free grain, as stimulus during the last two years of job and income losses. As a result, they emerged from the pandemic with battered balance sheets. This is in contrast to the previous decade, where household consumption held up even as overall economic growth was dragged down by an over-leveraged corporate sector and bad loans-laden banks. That "twin-balance sheet" problem looks less of a threat. Profit margins of listed companies in 2021-22 were the highest for over a decade, with the non-performing assets ratio of banks moderating to their lowest in six years. Today, corporates and banks are better-positioned to invest and lend, respectively. But the weak balance sheets of households and government constrains their ability to spend — and that's a real problem.

FREEZE FRAME

E P UNNY



MANISH TEWARI

THE OBJECTIVE OF writing this piece is not to make a case for the abolition of the Rajya Sabha, for that would be a fool's errand. It is, rather, to re-articulate a question that was uppermost even in the minds of members of the Constituent Assembly as they deliberated upon draft Article 67 corresponding to Article 80 of the Constitution of India, pertaining to the composition of the Council of States.

Lokanath Misra led the charge against a federal second chamber in the Constituent Assembly stating: "Sir, ... I do not think there is any real need for the second chamber, nor do I think that it will serve any useful purpose. Sir, so far as I have studied the Constitution and the constitutional precedents, it is now admitted almost on all hands that second chambers are out of date. The only argument that is generally advanced in favour of such a chamber is that it will have a sobering effect on the decisions of the Lower House which is more representative of the people and that the people are now restive... Its creation will only result in so much waste of public money and so much waste of time... I do not think that without a second chamber the country will be any the poorer for it, as now we stand."

Elaborating further Misra stated: "From our actual experience we find that such a huge number of people either in the House of the People or in the Council of States does not serve any very useful purpose. And we know that there is real difficulty in finding out so many members who will be qualified and quite interested in such law-making. We see from the proceedings of this very House which consists of more than three hundred members that so few of us take real part in and are really useful to constitution making". This, perhaps, is the most profound argument even today against enlarging the size of either Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha.

Lokanath Misra was not alone in opposing a federal second chamber. His colleague, Shibban Lal Saksena, was equally emphatic: "I cannot refrain from saying that I am one of those who believe in only one chamber and not two chambers. Here they have provided for two chambers and the worst part of this

What has Rajya Sabha achieved that a stand-alone Lok Sabha has not, or would not? This requires debate

Upper House, a question

that in the Upper Chamber we shall have twelve nominated members; and we passed the other day that even those members, who have been nominated and who will never seek the vote of the people, can become ministers also. I think this is a most undemocratic aspect of our Constitution."

Opposing the motion setting up a bicameral federal legislature, Saksena had earlier argued: "In this motion, we have been asked to vote for two Houses, the Lower House and the Upper House. I wish to point out that our experience has been that the Upper House acts as a clog in the wheel of progress. I think that everywhere in the world the experience about Upper Houses has been the same...." They were not the only ones who had concerns. Other members expressed them too in different contexts during the Constituent Assembly debate on draft Article 67.

Article 1 (1) of the Indian Constitution states "India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States." It is, therefore, obvious that the primary responsibility of a Council of States would be to protect the interests of the states vis a vis the Union, especially after the Union Powers Committee, post the announcement of the Partition plan on June 3, 1947, decided that India's constitutional design would be more unitary than federal. There is hardly any empirical evidence that substantiates that the Rajya Sabha has measured upto the task ever since it came into existence on April 3rd 1952.

Moreover, from 1952 to 2003, at least there was a veneer of a state focus when it was mandatory that any citizen desirous of contesting a Rajya Sabha election had to be an elector from that particular state. By amending Section 3 (1) of the Representation of People's Act 1952 and doing away with the domicile requirement, the NDA/BJP Government removed this fig leaf also in 2003.

Kuldip Nayar, then a nominated member of Rajya Sabha, challenged this amendment in the Supreme Court principally on the ground that it militates against the raison d'être of the Rajya Sabha. However, a five-judge bench did not uphold his contentions. This amendment and the subsequent judg-

ment buried the earlier practice of individuals entering the Rajya Sabha from anywhere based upon rather dodgy but still some form of domicile credentials. Both the amendment and the subsequent judgement require urgent revisiting by the legislature to restore the fundamental character of the Council of States.

Coupled with this is another major inconsistency. Twenty-four states have unicameral legislatures, that is, only one legislative body, and only six states are bicameral. There is no justifiable legal basis for this classification for if size is a determinant for bicameralism then for every Uttar Pradesh or Maharashtra that is two-House in design there is a West Bengal and Tamil Nadu that is not. If the bulk of the states can make do with one House why not the Centre?

However, all this does not still answer the fundamental question: What has Rajya Sabha been able to achieve that a stand-alone Lok Sabha has not, or would not, in the future? This requires a full debate in Parliament, especially the Rajya Sabha, as India enters the 75th year of its independence.

If the only argument for the existence of the Rajya Sabha is that it is a continuous House as opposed to the Lok Sabha that gets mandatorily dissolved every five years, if not sooner, then that can be fixed with a simple amendment to Article 83 (2) that should state that "Lok Sabha would remain in existence till the time its successor body/house is not constituted through general elections mandatorily held three months prior to the completion of the five year term of the previous body/House or sooner as the case maybe". Article 83 (1) would stand deleted and consequential amendments can be carried out to other parts of the Constitution.

Finally, it would be instructive to keep in mind that the Basic Structure doctrine enunciated by the Supreme Court in *Re: Kesavananda Bharti* holds parliamentary democracy to be basic structure, not bicameralism.

The writer is a lawyer, Congress MP, former I&B Minister. Views are personal

FOR SABKA SAATH SABKA VIKAS

PM Modi must use Mann Ki Baat to warn against vigilantism against minorities



ZAKIA SOMAN

THE SUSPENSION OF one member from the BJP, and the expulsion of another, for incendiary remarks on the Prophet of Islam, is perhaps the first significant step taken by the party in the last eight years to contain the lethal onslaught on the plural fabric of society. India has become religiously polarised with hate speeches and open calls for mass violence against Muslims going unchecked. Indian Muslims, the second largest population of Muslims globally, could be living proof of our vibrant, inclusive democracy. Sadly, their protests did not matter to the government, which acted only when pressured by foreign powers that, incidentally, are not known for their democratic outlook.

The Prime Minister's call for sabka saath, sabka vikas remains meaningless as our nation continues to get divided in the name of mandir-masjid, azaan, hijab, halal, love jihad, gau raksha, Babur and Aurangzeb. Most ordinary Indians would have thought that with the BJP at the Centre there would be a semblance of communal peace. This has not happened.

The unity and integrity of the nation is threatened by the actions of hate-mongers on the streets as well as in TV studios. Forces of hatred have always existed in our society amongst both Hindus and Muslims. The two-nation theory had subscribers amongst both communities. Pakistan became a reality for Jinnah and his followers. Those espousing a Hindu Rashtra must take a cue from the recent statement of the RSS chief and stop seeing red in everything Muslim and anywhere Islamic.

We must remember that our independence from the British was hard-won with sac-

rifices from women and men of all faiths. We gave ourselves a Constitution rooted in the universal values of justice, equality, pluralism, freedom and fraternity. The freedom fighters demonstrated a lived nationalism of shared humanity and struggles. We have lived as neighbours despite differences in faith, language and culture. Those arguing for a civilisational state must remember that our civilisation represents vasudhaiva kutumbakam and shared heritage unlike the monochrome universe of the Crusades or Jihad.

This discussion cannot be complete without asking the Muslims what they can do to help restore harmony. Indian Muslims have paid a heavy price for the kind of secularism practised by the Congress party where a bunch of conservative men of religion were pampered at the cost of the well-being of the community. Official data show that the Muslims got poorer and more backward educationally and economically even as the BJP's charge of Muslim appeasement gained traction. Thankfully, today the conservative cleric is no more the spokesperson except perhaps in TV studios. There are several activists, students, lawyers, journalists, fact-checkers and academics who are engaged with community issues in a secular manner. The lack of democratisation and social reform in the community predates the Narendra Modi government. Most Muslims are adopting a democratic line of thinking on sensitive matters such as loud-speakers in mosques and cow slaughter. More and more are asserting the constitutional principles of democracy, diversity, justice and equality. But more democratic-minded per-

sons are required for meaningful dialogues on faith, culture, and democracy.

Clarity on various issues concerning inter-faith harmony can go a long way. Muslim activists can learn a lot from Dalits about building coalitions and democratic alliances with those from other faiths for a just and peaceful co-existence. Issues such as women's equality, caste amongst Muslims, and ideas of blasphemy and apostasy need to be discussed and sorted threadbare. Also, political Islam has to be shunned and a more liberal humane faith must be adopted.

Although the responsibility of preserving the plural social fabric is of every Indian, it is first and foremost the duty of the government to enforce the rule of law and act against hate-mongers. A nationalistic government should be all the more aware of threats to internal security posed by fanatics baying for the blood of fellow Indians. There should be a clear directive from the concerned ministries to book those indulging in polarisation and violence. The Prime Minister must make inter-faith harmony a key topic of his Mann Ki Baat and issue a warning to the vigilantes indulging in hooliganism against minorities.

All of us ordinary Indians engaged in various spheres of work and life need to regain the middle ground for a peaceful and harmonious society. We need to shun hate and extreme posturing on social media and in our individual lives.

The writer is a women's rights activist and founding member of Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan

JUNE 13, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

ANTULAY LOSES TRUST

THE CONGRESS (I) high command is likely to ask A R Antulay to relinquish the chairmanship of the Pratibha Pratishthan following the verdict of a division bench of the Bombay High Court holding him guilty of bartering cement for donations to the pratishthan. Antulay is going to Delhi. The high command may ask former high court judge, R R Bhole or state Chief Secretary P G Gaval to take over the pratishthan chairmanship till the trust is revamped. The judgment of Justices SK Desai and BJ Rele has apparently shaken the confidence of the trustees in Antulay.

PRESIDENTIAL POLLS

A STRAIGHT FIGHT between the combined opposition and the ruling party in the presidential election on July 12 became a certainty with both sides hardening their stance on putting up their own candidates. While AICC (I) general secretary G K Moopanar made it clear that there was no question of his party going for a consensus candidate as it had a two-thirds majority, Lok Dal President Charan Singh made an urgent appeal to all opposition parties to discuss their strategy at a meeting on June 15. He sent a formal letter to this effect to the leaders of the Janata Party, BJP, Congress (J), Congress

(S), CPM and CPI.

ISRAEL ATTACKS PLO

ISRAELI FORCES POUNDED Palestinian guerrillas entrenched around Beirut's international airport from land, sea and air but scrupulously respected their ceasefire with the Syrian army. Israeli bombs and Palestinian anti-aircraft fire shook the paralysed city at intervals throughout the day. A Boeing-707 jetliner of Middle East Airlines went up in flames in the airport tarmac and an air freight office was damaged less than 3 km from the most advanced Israeli position in suburban Khalde.

A biased benchmark

Environmental Performance Index's approach does little to encourage honest conversation on ecological issues



NAVROZ K DUBASH
AND
SHARACHCHANDRA
LELE

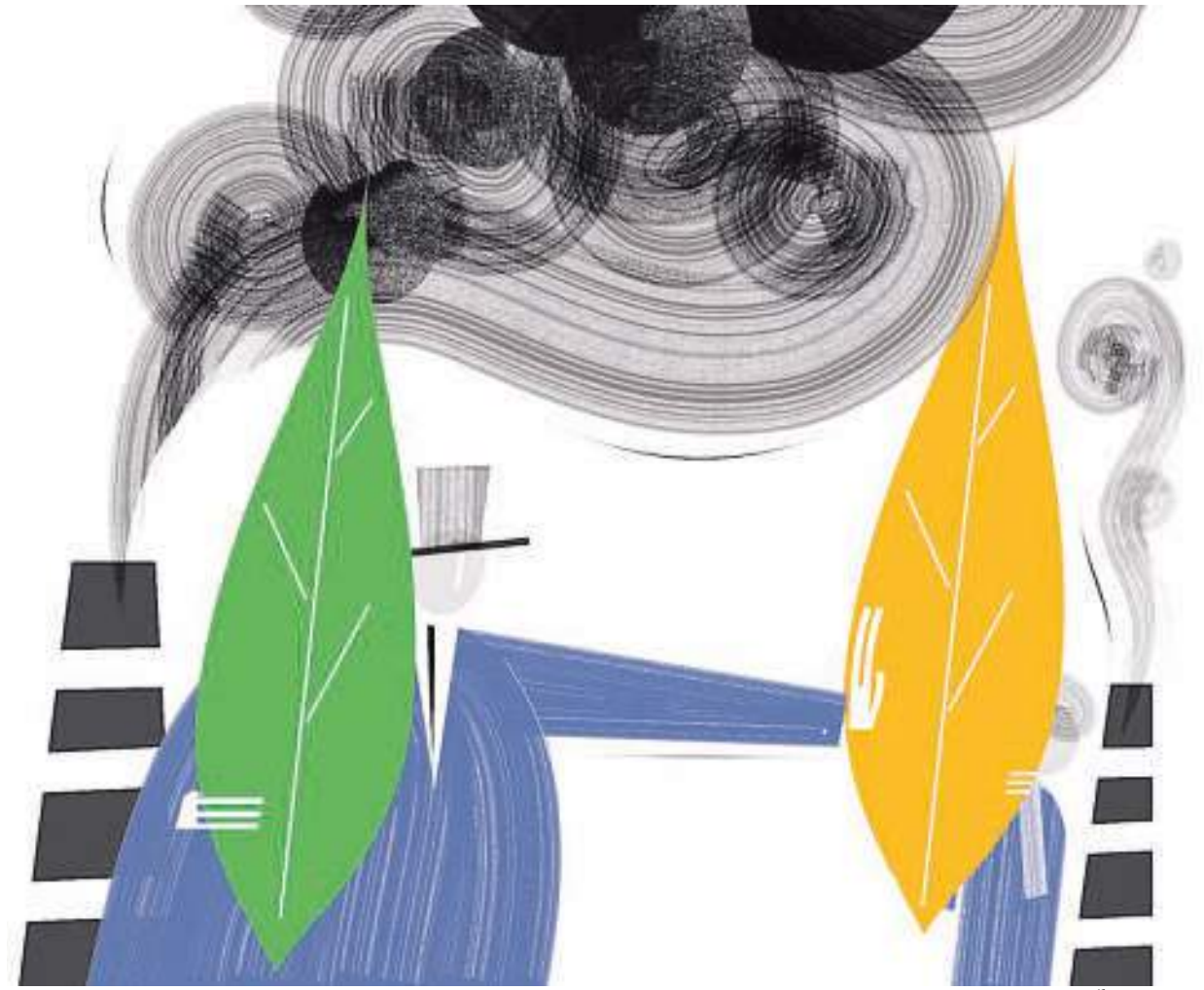
THE 2022 ENVIRONMENTAL Performance Index (EPI) released on World Environment Day (June 5) has triggered much consternation in India, as the country is ranked last (180th). While news reports have religiously, and largely uncritically, reported the finding, and environmentalists might be tempted to take an “I told you so” attitude, the government has issued a fierce rebuttal. How do we make sense of this debate?

Indexes are inherently problematic, especially when applied to something as multi-dimensional and complex as environmental performance. In trying to quantify, aggregate and rank, index makers have to make judgements about what issues count, how they are best measured individually, and how much importance to give to each issue and indicator in aggregating. For example, indicators may focus on current rates of increase or decrease in environmental pressures (flows) — as the EPI does for carbon dioxide emissions and tree cover gains — but understate the accumulated effect (stocks) that relates to actual harm, thereby ignoring past effects. Moreover, when ranking countries, one is essentially applying the same standard across vastly different socio-ecological contexts — this involves difficult choices. For example, the EPI leaves out arsenic in water, which is a major threat in Bangladesh. Arsenic is not counted by the EPI because it is not as widely prevalent as lead, which is included.

We would argue that ranking countries is best done on some specific indicators such as urban air quality or domestic water pollution, for which metrics are relatively well-accepted and universal, and so comparisons are defensible. At best, aggregate indices give a coarse picture: Top 20, middle of pack, or bottom 20, nothing more. Unfortunately, the EPI 2022 produced by Yale and Columbia Universities is far from making even this modest contribution: The index is severely compromised by how it incorporates action on climate change mitigation.

Climate change is a global environmental problem, and because its effects depend on the accumulation of greenhouse gases over time, measuring progress in a given country is challenging. Unlike air quality, where absolute increases or decreases in emissions of air pollutants in that country signal progress, climate change mitigation has to be measured against what it is reasonable and fair to expect from different countries, taking into account their past emissions as well as national contexts. The problem, however, is that there has been an inconclusive 30-year debate on this question; any choice of benchmark involves major ethical choices. Giving climate change a high weight in the index (38 per cent) — itself a questionable decision, given the development needs of poorer countries — means this thorny problem comes to the centre of the EPI.

The Yale-Columbia researchers thus set themselves a near-impossible methodolog-



C R Sasikumar

ical problem to solve, and then proceed to make things worse with a really poor—even biased—choice of benchmarks. Specifically, they rely heavily on the trend of greenhouse gas emissions by a country in the past decade as an indicator of progress. For climate change, 53 per cent of the weight is allocated to these trends, and another 36 per cent to whether the continuation of these trends brings a country close to zero emissions in 2050. They assume that the world must reach net zero emissions by 2050, and so the appropriate benchmark is whether all countries are reducing emissions and reaching zero by 2050. This approach is contrary to widely accepted ethical principles, especially the global political agreement on common-but-differentiated-responsibility (CBDR).

The Yale-Columbia approach ignores the fact that countries have different responsibilities for past accumulations and are at different levels of emissions and energy use. For example, India's energy use and carbon dioxide emissions are about a tenth each of the US's. So, while it is reasonable to expect the US to decrease emissions rapidly, the contribution of a country like India should lie in becoming ever more carbon-efficient with its development, or increasing emissions but at a decreasing rate and as little as possible. The inclusion of indicators on emissions intensity and emissions per capita partly addresses this issue, but these two account for 7 per cent of the weight, versus 89 per cent for indicators derived from current emission trends. This approach is guaranteed to make richer countries look good, because they have accumulated emissions in the past, but these have started declining in the last decade. Meanwhile, poorer countries that have emitted comparatively little in the past, look bad even as they are grappling with addressing poverty while trying to limit emissions. In brief, the methodology is indefensible, blind to ethics, ignorant of a body of

We would argue that ranking countries is best done on some specific indicators such as urban air quality or domestic water pollution, for which metrics are relatively well-accepted and universal, and so comparisons are defensible. At best, aggregate indices give a coarse picture: Top 20, middle of pack, or bottom 20, nothing more. Unfortunately, the EPI 2022 produced by Yale and Columbia Universities is far from making even this modest contribution: The index is severely compromised by how it incorporates action on climate change mitigation.

literature on ecology, and inconsistent with broadly-accepted politics.

This is not to say that India's overall environmental performance is very positive — far from it. But the EPI's flawed and biased approach distracts from a much-needed honest conversation about the environment in India. India's local environmental performance on air, water and forests is deeply problematic. Air quality in India is now the second largest risk factor for public health in India, behind only child and maternal nutrition. Rivers and lakes are increasingly polluted, rivers are drying, groundwater tables are rapidly declining, and gains in tree cover hide declining natural productivity and diversity of forests and grasslands. Solid waste mounts, and pesticide contamination is unabated. Despite these warning signs, we see a continued dilution of or inattention to environmental regulations, notwithstanding grand pronouncements and sporadic gains.

Unfortunately, intellectually weak and ethically suspect efforts such as the EPI 2022 do not add anything useful to the debate, but rather confuse and stifle honest discussion. While indices like these have a limited attention-grabbing purpose, they serve this purpose well only when they are focused, limited to easy-to-measure metrics, and consciously minimise value judgements. The EPI 2022 resoundingly fails this test. And as such, it risks setting back the cause of addressing local environmental problems. Ironically, through choices of biased and skewed benchmarks, it also hurts honest global conversation and much-needed progress on the global climate crisis that it purports to foreground.

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A steady hand

Government has taken steps to tackle inflation. A normal monsoon, and resisting urge to hike GST rates will provide further relief



SACHCHIDANAND
SHUKLA

ALL THAT COULD have possibly triggered higher inflation globally has already occurred — multiple waves of the pandemic, supply disruptions, an overdose of policy stimuli, war, sanctions, energy shocks, geopolitical adversity and weather disruptions. In India, however, there are a few other triggers as well that will have a bearing on the inflationary trajectory, especially on the food side. Two of them relate to policy, while the other revolves around the weather gods.

The first is minimum support prices. Policymakers in India have often acted with alacrity to protect the interests of farmers over the years. The MSP that is fixed by the government for kharif and rabi crops has been one of the key policy instruments. The government has just announced MSP for Kharif crops and it is heartening to see that while the farmers are being compensated for higher cultivation costs, the urge to splurge or overcompensate them has been eschewed with the hike likely to have an impact of around 10 basis points on inflation going forward. The backdrop was dire, given the persistence of negative terms of trade for farmers due to runaway prices of inputs, especially diesel and fertilisers.

Note that in the last 20 years, the weighted average MSP for kharif crops saw double-digit growth four times — in 2007, 2008, 2012 and 2018. The years 2007 and 2008 witnessed an unprecedented rise in agri inflation with the global recession leading to a shortage of farm inputs. The Centre responded with an annual increase of 14 per cent in 2007 in the MSP of 14 kharif crops and by 26 per cent in 2008. Food inflation shot up to 12 per cent in 2007-08 as against 8 per cent in 2006-07 and 4 per cent in 2005-06. The inflationary surge continued in 2009 as a monsoon failure hit agricultural output hard. Global agricultural commodity prices started to rise in 2010 again and the FAO food price index reached an all-time high in July 2012. One of the key reasons for the increase in food prices was the oil price surge and a rise in demand for biofuel production. The global upside in food prices coincided with a 22 per cent increase in MSP for Kharif crops in India. Following the rise in MSP, food inflation in 2012 increased by 14.6 per cent as against 3.6 per cent the preceding year.

Then, in 2018, there was a change in the MSP methodology. For the first time, the MSPs for all 23 kharif and rabi crops were fixed at a margin of at least 50 per cent

higher than the cost of cultivation. The cost of cultivation (A2 + FL) includes the paid-out cost and cost of imputed family labour. Accordingly, the MSP of kharif crops in 2018 saw an annual increase of about 14 per cent. However, despite the significant rise in MSP, food inflation in 2018-19 was muted at 0.3 per cent. This was because farm input costs were under control and the terms of trade for farmers remained positive.

The second trigger relates to the GST council. In the upcoming meeting, there is talk of a rejig of GST slabs and rates with an eye on raising the revenue-neutral rate from around 11.5 per cent, which is far lower than the 15.5 per cent estimated at the time of the launch of GST. This has become more pertinent given that the compensation mechanism will cease to be in effect from July 2022 and state governments will have to look for ways to absorb the revenue shock. However, a GST rate shock to the system is best avoided given the global inflationary backdrop and the fragility of consumer balance sheets.

The third concerns the weather. While the dependence of agricultural output on the quantum of rainfall has reduced, variance in the spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall is emerging as a key risk. A look at 2021 — a normal monsoon year with rainfall at 99 per cent of its long period average — is instructive. In the first three weeks of June, there was huge surplus rainfall but it slowed down from the fourth week. In the crucial month of July, weekly variation ranged from a minus 46 per cent in week one to a surplus of 14 per cent in week four. The weakness in rainfall continued in August and the cumulative rainfall for the period from June to August was lower by 10 per cent than its long-period average. However, there was huge surplus rainfall in September (35 per cent) at the time of harvesting of kharif crops in certain parts of the country. The late excess rains delayed the crop cycle and led to crop damage in several parts of the country. Likewise, the spatial distribution of rainfall remained uneven in 2021. Thus, even with normal rainfall in 2021, there were several disruptions to the crop cycle and farm cash flows. Moreover, wheat output, estimated to reach a record high of 111 MT as per the 2nd Advance Estimate released in February had to be pared by 4 per cent in the 3rd Advance Estimate due to extreme heat. Private traders estimate a sharper drop in output due to high temperatures.

The government has taken various steps lately to rein in inflation. However, the RBI will have little freedom in case the GST council decides to accord revenue protection to states via higher GST rates or if the monsoon is not in line with expectations. One hopes these events pan out right, like the MSP hike, when most other things have gone wrong.

The writer is Group Chief Economist, Mahindra & Mahindra. Views are personal. He thanks Minakshi Chakraborty, Senior Economist, M&M for her contributions

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TIME FOR AMENDS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Cornering a friend’ (IE, June 11). There was a certain inevitability about the criticism of Muslims and Islam by right-wing elements in India provoking a backlash from Islamic countries, considering the rising and largely unchecked tempo of such criticism over the past few years. Now that a red line has been drawn, the government must do everything in its power to stop the minority baiters and allay the fears of Muslim countries, most of who are in our neighbourhood.

Hemant Contractor, Pune

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Cornering a friend’ (IE, June 11). Some needless religious comments by the now-suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma have created a huge furor within and outside the country. Violent agitations in different regions point towards a hard-to-miss orchestration. While a somnambulant opposition will not mind fishing in troubled waters, India's international diplomacy is being severely tested as local pressure is making even friendly foreign countries up the ante against India. BJP is now learning the hard way that divisive politics may lead to electoral gains, but at the cost of international goodwill.

Vijai Pant, Hempur

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Concerning a friend’ (IE, June 11). While delivering a keynote address in January this year, during Azadi Ka Amrit

Mahotsav at Brahma Kumari's ceremony, PM Narendra Modi said, “There is a tendency to tarnish the image of India, including at the international level”. He urged everyone to tell the “truth about the rumours being spread about India”. Ironically, the damaging jolt came from BJP's own stable in the form of insulting remarks against Prophet Mohammed, with the consequent international outrage from the Islamic world upsetting old ties. In an interdependent world all nations have to balance their domestic and global politics.

L R Murmu, Delhi

DOUBLE STANDARDS

THIS REFERS TO the report, ‘Bulldozers out in Saharanpur, Kanpur: UP cop say 255 held’ (IE, June 12). Bulldozers are back on riot-stricken cities in UP. It is ironic that it took BJP a week for a mild rap on the knuckles of the two spokespersons by way of suspension and excommunication who made communal statements. On the contrary, it wants to dispense instant justice to the so-called accused in the arson. Moreover, the properties have been demolished on the premise that they were illegal. Why then, did the government sit twiddling its thumbs and waiting for a riot to take place? This strategy can be juxtaposed with the unleashing of investigative agencies against adversaries only on the eve of elections. It seems that that for the BJP, destruction is taking precedence over construction in its governance model.

Deepak Singhal, Noida



ASHISH KUMAR, DAVENDRA VERMA AND PRAVIN SRIVASTAVA

A poor count

NSS, CMIE are surveys not comparable. Studies should not relate them

INCOMPLETE DATA OR the absence of data itself sets the ball rolling for economists to bring out their macroeconomic models to estimate sensational, eye-catching results, whether it be Covid-19-related deaths or the impact of the pandemic on the vulnerable population. Some economists have argued that the pandemic has directly impacted informal workers and those employed in smaller establishments by pushing them into poverty. Poverty estimation through the consumption approach has its challenges. Some researchers have been attempting to arrive at poverty estimates based on ancillary data available from the government or from other small sample studies.

Recently, policy advisors and researchers at the IMF and World Bank have also attempted to estimate headcount ratios under various assumptions. The huge differences in the headcount ratios between the two studies only add to the confusion in the already complicated measurement issues of poverty in India.

The IMF has carried out the exercise using adjustments for private final consumption expenditure from the National Accounts Statistics and also using the expenditure incurred by the government under the public distribution system. The World Bank has tried to estimate headcount ratios using CMIE data

from the consumer pyramids household survey from 2015 to 2019, relating it with the NSS consumer expenditure data from 2011 and data from other sources like the National Family Health Survey, the Periodic Labour Force Survey, the Situation assessment of Agriculture Households, and the All India Debt and Investment Survey. This exercise appears not to follow the basic principles of statistics.

In fact, a lot of econometric tweaking has probably been carried out in an effort to relate the divergent data sets of NSS with CMIE. It may be noted that India uses the NSS consumption expenditure survey for the measurement of poverty and the results from it, carried out in 2017, are not available due to quality issues in the data collected.

The World Bank paper appears to be based on unrealistic and unviably assumptions. First, the sample design of the NSS and CMIE surveys are different. The NSS adopts multistage stratified sampling whereas CMIE uses rotational sampling. Further, CPHS households have unequal sampling probabilities as households on the main streets have a higher likelihood of selection. Even the basic definition of the household is different in the two surveys. Unlike the NSS, the CPHS does not conduct a listing exercise and instead uses projections of households and population growth to construct sampling weights. It has been stated by

various scholars that the NSS adequately captures information from the households at the lower end of consumption distribution but inadequately for those at the upper end. However, a lot of doubts have been raised about CMIE data in terms of its representativeness.

Second, NSS collects information on more than 345 unique items to arrive at consumption expenditure estimates whereas CMIE does so through 114 items. While NSS expenditure is based on a recall period of 30 days for food items and others over 365 days, the CPHS consumption expenditure is based on a recall period of the last four months. The attempt to make a comparison by using subgroups of expenditure like food, non-food, and durables may also not be of great help since errors in data collection from the two sources will not necessarily cancel out, but may be additive due to different sets of items.

Third, there is a time difference between the data used from the NSS survey, which is for the year 2011, and the CMIE survey from 2015 to 2019. This lack of comparable years for the development of the model has introduced another error.

Fourth, the change of weights in the CMIE survey at the household level using NFHS and other surveys may not correctly reflect the weighting pattern since the changes in con-

sumption expenditure for a long period can bring out required demographic and other changes.

Truly speaking, the measurement of poverty at the national level does not serve any policy purpose. One has to go down to the state, district, block and village level to identify pockets of poverty to develop and deliver special programmes needed in each case. India already has a measurement of multi-dimensional poverty that gives a better understanding of deprivation. Another initiative is the aspirational districts programme, which is being extended to the block level and provides the direction and location where specific interventions are required.

If at all the World Bank wants to estimate the poverty in India, it should use only the CMIE data which is available from 2015 onwards and measure changes in the poverty ratios, given the structural limitations of the survey. Alternatively, one can wait for the results of the survey that will be undertaken by the National Statistical Office between July 2022 and June 2023. The results are likely to be available a year or so after the completion of the survey.

Kumar is Senior Fellow NITI Aayog, Verma is former DG MOSPI, and Srivastava is former Secretary MOSPI



TOPOF THE WORLD



Prince Charles is said to have called the policy 'appalling'. File

UNITED KINGDOM Rwanda ruling appealed amid Prince's scoff

OPPOSITIONS OF the British government's plan to deport migrants to Rwanda are preparing for an appeals court hearing Monday amid the political backlash following reports that Prince Charles had privately described the policy as "appalling." A coalition of groups including immigration rights advocates and public employee unions will seek to reverse a lower court ruling allowing the first deportation flight to go ahead on Tuesday. The debate filled Britain's news media over the weekend after the Times of London reported that an unidentified person had heard Prince Charles express opposition to the policy "several times" in private conversations. AP

EGYPT UN-brokered talks on Libya polls resume

LIBYAN OFFICIALS returned to the Egyptian capital Sunday for a third round of talks on constitutional amendments for elections. The North African nation once again finds itself at a political impasse with two rival administrations claiming legitimacy. The talks in Cairo come on the heels of clashes between rival militias that caused residents of the Libyan capital of Tripoli to panic and revived nightmares of previous bouts of fighting. AP

THE KOREAS Seoul says North fired multiple artillery shots

NORTH KOREA on Sunday fired multiple artillery shots between 8:07 a.m. and 11:03 a.m. local time, South Korea's military said, a day after leader Kim Jong Un vowed to boost the reclusive nation's military power. The Joint Chiefs of Staff said the shots were of a traditional type, with relatively short range and low altitude. The firing comes as Kim on Saturday presented goals to boost the country's military power and defence research, as it concluded The Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea held last week. REUTERS



CHINA TIGHTENS CURBS

Workers set up metal barriers around shops and restaurants in Beijing, Sunday. Officials have called a Covid outbreak linked to a bar in the capital city 'ferocious', with some 166 cases detected since last week. Reuters

Russia 'destroys' Ukraine depot stocked with Western weapons

REUTERS KYIV, JUNE 12

RUSSIAN FORCES fired cruise missiles to destroy a large depot containing US and European weapons in western Ukraine's Ternopil region, Interfax reported on Sunday, as street fighting raged in the eastern city of Sievierodonetsk.

The governor of the Ternopil region said a rocket attack on the city of Chortkiv fired from the Black Sea had partly destroyed a military facility, injuring 22 people. A local official said there were no weapons stored there.

Reuters could not independently confirm the differing accounts.

Local officials said Russian forces also blew up a bridge linking the embattled Ukrainian city of Sievierodonetsk to another city across the river, cutting off a possible evacuation route for civilians.

Sieverodonetsk has become epicentre of the battle for control over the industrialised Donbas region in the east, made up of Luhansk and Donetsk provinces. Luhansk Governor Serhiy Gaidai said on Sunday that Ukrainian and Russian forces were still fighting street by street in Sievierodonetsk.

Russian forces have taken most of the city but Ukrainian troops remain in control of an industrial area and chemical plant where hundreds of civilians are sheltering, he said.

gaidai said Russians had de-



Ukrainian soldiers in action in Donetsk Region. Reuters

stroyed a bridge over the Siverskyi Donets River linking Sievierodonetsk with its twin city of Lysychansk.

Moscow has repeatedly slammed the United States and other nations for supplying Ukraine with weapons. President Vladimir Putin said earlier this month that Russia would strike new targets if the West supplied longer-range missiles to Ukraine for use in high-precision mobile rocket systems.

Ukrainian leaders have renewed pleas to Western countries in recent days to speed up deliveries of heavy weapons as Russian forces pound the east of the country with artillery.

Meanwhile, a former British soldier was killed fighting for Ukraine in Sievierodonetsk, his family said on social media.

NATO CHIEF: TURKEY'S TERROR CONCERNS ARE 'LEGITIMATE'

Helsinki: NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said Sunday that Turkey has "legitimate concerns" over terrorism and other issues that need to be taken seriously. Turkey has accused Finland and Sweden of supporting Kurdish militants and says it will not back the two Nordic nations joining NATO. Speaking at a news conference in Finland, Stoltenberg said: "These are legitimate concerns. This is about terrorism, it's about weapons exports." AP

French cast their ballots as Macron battles for majority

REUTERS PARIS, JUNE 12

FRENCH VOTERS cast their ballots on Sunday in the first of two rounds that will decide whether President Emmanuel Macron gets a working majority in parliament or ends up without the support needed to drive through his reform agenda.

Less than two months after re-election, Macron faces a strong challenge from a united left-wing bloc that polls show could deprive the president of an

outright majority.

Government insiders expect a relatively poor showing in Sunday's first round for Macron's coalition "Ensemble", with record numbers of voters seen abstaining. Hard-left firebrand Jean-Luc Melenchon's bloc hopes to capitalise on anger over the rising cost of living.

At risk is Macron's ability to pass his reform agenda, including a pension reform he says is essential to restore public finances. His opponents are pushing to cut the pension age and launch a big spending drive.

AFTER RULING BY ISRAELI COURT

Largest Palestinian displacement in decades looms

REUTERS MASAFER YATTA, JUNE 12

SOME 1,200 Palestinians in the occupied West Bank region of Masafar Yatta face the risk of removal to make way for an army firing zone after a decades-long legal battle that ended last month in Israel's highest court.

The ruling opened the way for one of the largest displacements since Israel captured the territory in the 1967 Middle East war. But residents are refusing to leave, hoping their resilience and inter-



Residents have protested the demolitions. Reuters

national pressure will keep Israel from carrying out the evictions.

"They want to take this land from us to build settlements," said Wadha Ayoub Abu Sabha, a resi-

dent of al-Fakheit, one of a group of hamlets where Palestinian shepherds and farmers claim a historic connection to the land. "We're not leaving," she said.

In the 1980s, Israel declared the area a closed military zone known as "Firing Zone 918". It argued in court that these 3,000 hectares along the Israel-West Bank boundary were "highly crucial" for training purposes and that the Palestinians living there were only seasonal dwellers.

The communities in this part of the South Hebron Hills traditionally lived in underground

caves. Over the past two decades, they have also started building tin shacks and small rooms above ground.

Israeli forces have been demolishing these new constructions for years, Abu Sabha said, but now that they have the court's backing, the evictions are likely to pick up.

The Supreme Court concluded that the residents "failed to prove their claim of permanent habitation" before the area was declared a firing zone.

The UN and the EU have condemned the court ruling.



RUSSIA McDONALD'S SUCCESSOR OPENS IN MOSCOW

Three months after McDonald's suspended its Russia operations over the war in Ukraine, hundreds of people Sunday streamed into its Russian replacement — Vkusno-i Tochka (Tasty-period) — at Moscow's Pushkin Square.

BREAKTHROUGH ENDS YEARS-LONG IMPASSE

US senators reach bipartisan deal on gun safety measures

Reform outline includes significant provision to address 'boyfriend loophole'

EMILY COCHRANE & ANNIE KARNI WASHINGTON, JUNE 12

SENATE NEGOTIATORS announced on Sunday they had agreed on a bipartisan outline for a narrow set of gun safety measures with sufficient support to move through the evenly divided chamber, a significant step toward ending a yearslong congressional impasse on the issue.

The plan, endorsed by 10 Republicans and 10 Democrats, would include funding for mental health resources, boosting school safety and grants for states to implement so-called red flag laws that allow authorities to confiscate guns from people deemed to be dangerous. It would also expand the nation's background check system to include juvenile records for any prospective gun buyer under the age of 21.

Most notably, it includes a provision to address what is known as the "boyfriend loophole," which would prohibit dating partners — not just spouses — from owning guns if they had been convicted of domestic violence. The framework says that



The plan includes funding for boosting school safety. Reuters

convicted domestic violence abusers and individuals subject to domestic violence restraining orders would be included in criminal background checks.

The gun violence agreement was announced on the sixth anniversary of the mass shooting at Pulse, a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, where a gunman killed 49 people in what was then the deadliest shooting in modern American history.

"Today, we are announcing a common-sense, bipartisan proposal to protect America's children, keep our schools safe and reduce the threat of violence

across our country," the 20 senators said in a joint statement. "Families are scared, and it is our duty to come together and get something done that will help restore their sense of safety and security in their communities."

Negotiators must now translate the broad principles of the framework into legislative text, a far more fraught process, and secure enough support in both chambers for the legislation to become law.

Senator Chuck Schumer of New York, the majority leader, pledged to put the agreement up for a vote once the legislation

'FOOD CRISIS COULD LAST UNTIL 2024'

Desperate for oil, Lanka PM says open to buying more from Russia

KRUTIKA PATHI COLOMBO, JUNE 12

SRI LANKA may be compelled to buy more oil from Russia as the island nation hunts desperately for fuel amid an unprecedented economic crisis, the newly appointed prime minister said.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said he would first look to other sources, but would be open to buying more crude from Moscow.

Western nations largely have cut off energy imports from Russia in line with sanctions over its war on Ukraine.

In a wide-ranging interview on Saturday, Wickremesinghe also indicated he would be willing to accept more financial help from China, despite his country's mounting debt.

And while he acknowledged that Sri Lanka's current predicament is of "its own making", he said the war in Ukraine is mak-



At a filling station in Colombo. PTI

ing it even worse — and that dire food shortages could continue until 2024. He said Russia had also offered wheat to Sri Lanka.

Wickremesinghe, who is also the finance minister, was speaking one day shy of a month after he took over for a sixth time as PM.

Two weeks ago, the country bought a 90,000-metric-ton shipment of Russian crude to restart its only refinery, the energy minister told reporters.

Wickremesinghe did not

comment directly on those reports, and said he did not know whether more orders were in the pipeline. But he said Sri Lanka desperately needs fuel, and is currently trying to get oil and coal from the country's traditional suppliers in the Middle East.

"If we can get from any other sources, we will get from there. Otherwise (we) may have to go to Russia again," he said.

Sri Lanka has remained neutral in the Russia-Ukraine war. AP

EXPLAINED Narrow, but offers hope

THE OUTLINE, which has yet to be finalised, falls far short of the sprawling reforms that Democrats have long championed. Still, many activists have called it a "historic moment" and hope the measures mark a shift in how Republicans approached gun safety.

had been completed, calling it "a good first step to ending the persistent inaction to the gun violence epidemic that has plagued our country."

"We must move swiftly to advance this legislation because if a single life can be saved, it is worth the effort," he said in a statement.

Representative Jamie Raskin, Democrat of Maryland, said he said he would work with the modest deal being forged in the Senate. "It's moving in the right direction," he said on CNN.

SHANGRI-LA MEET

US trying to hijack support in Asia: China

ASSOCIATED PRESS SINGAPORE, JUNE 12

CHINA'S DEFENCE minister accused the United States on Sunday of trying to "hijack" the support of countries in the Asia-Pacific region to turn them against Beijing, saying Washington

is seeking to advance its own interests "under the guise of multilateralism."

Defence Minister Gen. Wei Fenghe lashed out at US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin, rejecting his "smearing accusation" the day before at the Shangri-La Dialogue that China was causing instability with its claim to the self-governing island of Taiwan and its increased military activity in the area.

Austin had stressed the need for multilateral partnerships with nations in the Indo-Pacific, which Wei suggested was an attempt to back China into a corner.

"No country should bully others...," Wei said. "The strategy is an attempt to build an exclusive small group to hijack countries and target one specific country."

Pak soldier killed in gunfight with militants near Afghan border

Islamabad: A Pakistani soldier was killed during an exchange of fire with militants in the tribal district of North Waziristan near the Afghan border, the military said Sunday.

The shootout took place in the Datta Khel area and security forces quickly started a search-and-clearance operation to locate militants who fled, the military said in a statement.

No militant group immediately claimed responsibility. The militant Pakistani Taliban recently extended a cease-fire agreement and are holding talks with Pakistani authorities.

North Waziristan and other tribal districts served as a safe haven for local and foreign militants until 2014, when the military carried out a massive operation to clear the area of militants. But they still attack security forces sporadically.

50 YEARS AFTER RESEARCHERS LET HUNDREDS OF BLACK MEN DIE

New York fund apologizes for role in Tuskegee syphilis study

JAY REEVES ALABAMA, JUNE 12

FOR ALMOST 40 years starting in the 1930s, as government researchers purposely let hundreds of Black men die of syphilis in Alabama so they could study the disease, a foundation in New York covered funeral expenses for the deceased. The payments were vital to survivors of the victims in a time and place ravaged by poverty and racism.

Altruistic as they might sound, the checks — \$100 at most — were no simple act of

charity: They were part of an almost unimaginable scheme. To get the money, widows or other loved ones had to consent to letting doctors slice open the bodies of the dead men for autopsies that would detail the ravages of a disease the victims were told was "bad blood."

Fifty years after the infamous Tuskegee syphilis study was revealed to the public and halted, the organization that made those funeral payments, the Milbank Memorial Fund, publicly apologized Saturday to descendants of the study's victims. The move is rooted in America's

racial reckoning after George Floyd's murder by police in 2020.

"It was wrong. We are ashamed of our role. We are deeply sorry," said the president of the fund, Christopher F Koller.

The apology and an accompanying monetary donation to a descendants' group, the Voices for Our Fathers Legacy Foundation, were presented during a ceremony in Tuskegee at a gathering of children and other relatives of men who were part of the study.

Endowed in 1905 by Elizabeth Milbank Anderson, part of a wealthy and well-con-



President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore with Herman Shaw, a Tuskegee Syphilis Study victim, in 1997. AP File

nected New York family, the fund was one of the nation's first private foundations. With an early focus on child welfare and public health, today it concentrates on health policy at the state level.

Koller said there's no easy way to explain how its leaders in the 1930s decided to make the payments, or to justify what happened. Generations later, some Black people in the United States still fear government health care because of what's called the "Tuskegee effect."

Starting in 1932, government medical workers in rural

Alabama withheld treatment from unsuspecting Black men infected with syphilis so doctors could track the disease and dissect their bodies afterward. About 620 men were studied, and roughly 430 of them had syphilis. Reverby's study said Milbank recorded giving a total of \$20,150 for about 234 autopsies.

Revealed by AP in 1972, the study ended and the men sued, resulting in a \$9 million settlement from which descendants are still seeking the remaining funds, described in court records as "relatively small." AP

15 ECONOMY

AT 12.1% AS OF MAY 20, COMPARED TO 6% GROWTH IN THE YEAR-AGO PERIOD

Bank credit offtake ticks up even as interest rates rise: Services lead

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, JUNE 12

CREDIT OFFTAKE in the banking system is showing signs of a pickup at a time when interest rates are on the upswing. The year-on-year bank credit growth rate has crossed the 12 per cent level to 12.1 per cent as of May 20, 2022, as against 6 per cent growth in the same period of last year, according to the latest Reserve Bank data.

In absolute numbers, bank credit has gone up by Rs 13 lakh crore as of May 20 to Rs 120.27 lakh crore, as against Rs 6.08 lakh crore a year ago.

Bank credit to the services sector and personal loan segment has been growing faster than other segments. While credit offtake by the services sector has gone up by over Rs 3 lakh crore, personal loan segment, which includes housing,

vehicle and credit cards, rose by over 3.4 lakh crore.

“Bank credit offtake has gradually improved in the recent months, supported by both resilience of the banking system and progressive normalisation of economic activity,” RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said while unveiling the monetary policy last week. The RBI has jacked up repo rate by 90 basis points since May this year, making borrowing through the repo-linked lending rate (RLLR) costlier for borrowers. However, credit growth can hit the speed breaker if the economy doesn't improve and the capex plan of the government and industry slows down, said an official of a bank.

This (credit growth) was driven by the low-base effect, shift to bank borrowings due to high capital market rates, sustained rise in retail loans and higher working capital require-

EXPLAINED Positive outlook

AFTER MODEST credit growth in recent years, the outlook for bank credit growth is expected to remain positive due to economic expansion, rise in government and private capital expenditure, rising commodity prices and retail credit push.

ments owing to elevated inflation, according to CareEdge. Retail growth has been relatively high due to the improvement in the job market and economic activities.

After modest credit growth in recent years, the outlook for bank credit growth is expected

to remain positive due to economic expansion, rise in government and private capital expenditure, rising commodity prices and retail credit push. “The medium-term prospects look promising with diminished corporate stress and a substantial buffer for provisions. CPI inflation too is trending up, which is likely to add to the credit growth,” it said.

On the other hand, rising rates could offset this growth to some extent by curbing the demand for credit, CareEdge said. The retail loan segment is expected to do well as compared with the industry and service segments.

The ongoing Russia-Ukraine war is likely to have a limited impact on the credit growth in India. Meanwhile, any subsequent Covid-19 variants, if severe, could lead to lockdowns and cause a slowdown in the economy.

With the introduction of the external benchmark lending rate, the rate of transmission will be faster and higher.

In addition to that, the deposits in the banking system have already started moving up from the extremely low levels, and this will again be transmitted to higher MCLR for wholesale lending.

“The sensitivity of interest rate over aggregate demand has increased in a meaningful way. Therefore, a faster and higher transmission of interest rate could become onerous for a section of the borrowers. The situation will aggravate if the real income does not improve,” said a report by India Ratings.

On the other hand, deposit growth has remained sluggish at 9.3 per cent (Rs 14.07 lakh crore) as on May 20 this year, as against 9.7 per cent a year ago even as interest rates started moving up.

MARKETS WATCH FOREIGN PORTFOLIO INVESTORS

FPIs step up equity exit, pull out ₹1.8 lakh cr so far in 2022

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

WARY OF the scenario on the global and domestic fronts, foreign investors continued to withdraw from domestic equity markets and pulled out close to Rs 14,000 crore in this month so far.

With this, net outflow by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) from equities reached Rs 1.81 lakh crore so far in 2022, data with depositories showed.

Going forward, the FPIs' selling may continue in the near-term, however, a moderation in sell-off is expected during short to medium-term, Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

“This is because a large part of the changeover like economic slowdown, hawkish monetary policy, supply constraints and high inflation is factored in, in the market prices, which was consolidating over the last 7 months. And for central banks to maintain the aggressive policy in long-term, the inflation must remain high,” he added.

According to the data, foreign investors withdrew a net amount of Rs 13,888 crore from equities during June 1-10. FPIs have been incessantly withdrawing money from Indian equities since October 2021.

Nair attributed the latest FPI outflow to anticipation of



The BSE, Mumbai. File

a hawkish Federal Reserve meeting.

“Global markets witnessed selling pressure in anticipation of record high inflation numbers in the US, which could force the Fed to accelerate increasing interest rates. At 8.6 per cent, the US inflation is at a 40-year high. Talks of stagnation and China announcing another round of lockdowns all weighed down on investors, prompting another round of selling,” Vijay Singhania, Chairman, TradeSmart, said.

In addition, RBI also increased repo rate by 50 basis points and revised upwards its inflation projection. The central bank expects inflation to remain above 6 per cent for three quarters which will add pressure on bond yields. These factors encouraged foreign investors to continue their walk out of the door, he added.

Apart from equities, FPIs withdrew a net Rs 600 crore from the debt market during the period under review. WITH PTI

Inflation fight: Central banks double down

Major central banks are picking up the pace of interest rate hikes to get on top of surging inflation, as per a Reuters report. The RBI recently raised the repo rate by 50 basis points



Jerome Powell



Shaktikanta Das



Andrew Bailey



Haruhiko Kuroda

US
50-bp hikes: The Federal Reserve is set for half-point rate increases in June, July, and perhaps even beyond as jobs data show no sign the US economy is buckling under high inflation and rising borrowing costs

The Fed is also reducing its \$9 trillion stash of assets accumulated during the pandemic

INDIA
90-bp jump in repo rate to 4.9 per cent in a matter of five weeks, with the hikes set to raise the lending rates in the banking system and impact demand

Inflation likely to rise to 7.5 per cent for Q1FY23 and 6.7 per cent for the full year, sharply up from the 5.7 per cent it had projected in April for the full fiscal

BRITAIN
1% key rate is at the highest since 2009. The Bank of England has raised rates four times since December, including last month's quarter-point move

Another hike is likely on June 16 and markets see rates ending 2022 above 2%. But deteriorating economic outlook is making some cautious

JAPAN
2.1% Japan's core consumer prices in April, exceeding the BOJ's 2% target for the first time in seven years. Still, BOJ officials have repeatedly stressed that such cost-push inflation will prove temporary

The holdout dove: BOJ boss Haruhiko Kuroda says the top priority is to support the economy

EURO ZONE

Record-high 8.1% inflation has turned the dovish European Central Bank into a hawk

Bond buys will end on July 1, rates will rise by 25 bps later that month and again in Sept

Source: Reuters

India's first display fab unit to be in Telangana, worth ₹24,000 crore

Hyderabad: Elest, a subsidiary of gold retailer Rajesh Exports, will be setting up the country's first display fab facility in Telangana with investments worth Rs 24,000 crore.

Telangana IT Minister K T Rama Rao along with Chairman of Rajesh Exports Rajesh Mehta announced setting up of Generation 6 AMOLED Display FAB, an official release said on Sunday. The Telangana government signed an MoU with Karnataka-based Elest for the proposed fabrication unit which will manufacture next generation displays for smartphones,

tablet computers, and laptops.

The display fab would be set up under the India Semiconductor Mission programme of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

Rama Rao tweeted: “Historic day for Telangana. Rajesh Exports (Elest), a Fortune-500 company, to setup India's first Display FAB to manufacture the most advanced AMOLED displays, with an investment of Rs 24,000 crore, making it one of the largest investments in high-tech manufacturing sector in India.” PTI

Govt loses challenge to \$111-million award in RIL, Shell dispute

New Delhi: The government has lost its appeal in the English High Court against a \$111 million arbitration award in favour of Reliance Industries Ltd and Shell in a cost recovery dispute in the western offshore Panna-Mukta and Tapti oil and gas fields.

High Court judge Ross Cranston on June 9, 2022 ruled that the government should have brought its objections over the arbitration tribunal not meeting the required thresholds, when issuing the 2021 award earlier, two sources with knowledge of the matter said.

Rejecting the government's arguments, the court said the objections are barred by an English law principle whereby a party cannot raise matters in new proceedings that could have been raised in earlier proceedings.

While an email sent to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for comments remained unanswered, officials said the government will study the court order and look for appropriate forums for remedy.

A separate email sent to Reliance for comments too remained unanswered. Reliance and Shell-owned BG Exploration & Production India on December 16, 2010, dragged the government to arbitration over cost recovery provisions, profit due to the State and amount of statutory dues including royalty payable. PTI



Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal with WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala at G33 Ministerial Meeting, Geneva. PTI

down the people of the LDCs and developing countries. The rich countries need to introspect! We

need to bow our heads in shame for our inability to respond to the pandemic in time,” he said. PTI

MARKET WATCH

Top-10 valued COS LOSE ₹2L CR IN M-CAP

New Delhi: The market capitalisation (m-cap) of the top-10 most valued companies eroded by over Rs 2.29 lakh crore last week, with Life Insurance Corporation taking the biggest hit. The Sensex tumbled 1,465.79 points or 2.63 per cent. PTI

FOR \$264 MN

Tencent buys stake in Flipkart from Binny Bansal

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
BENGALURU, JUNE 12

CHINESE TECHNOLOGY major Tencent has bought a stake worth \$264 million (Rs 2,060 crore) in Walmart-owned Flipkart from co-founder Binny Bansal, through its European subsidiary, according to PTI.

Binny Bansal holds around 1.84 per cent stake in Flipkart after selling part of his stake to Tencent Cloud Europe BV. The transaction was completed on October 26, 2021 and was shared with government authorities at the beginning of the current financial year, the news report stated.

Post the transaction, Tencent's arm holds 0.72 per cent stake in Flipkart, which is valued at around \$264 million, as per the last valuation of \$37.6 billion disclosed by the e-commerce firm in July 2021.

Flipkart had raised \$3.6 billion that time in a funding round led by Singapore's sovereign wealth fund GIC, CPP Investments, SoftBank Vision Fund 2 and Walmart.

A slew of investors like DisruptAD, Qatar Investment Authority, Khazanah Nasional Berhad, Tencent, Willoughby Capital, Antara Capital, Franklin Templeton and Tiger Global also

participated in that round.

Sources said the transaction took place in Singapore but Flipkart informed Indian authorities about it as a responsible entity, and that the transaction does not fall under the purview of 'Press Note 3', which calls for scrutiny of investment that any Indian company gets from countries sharing land borders with India.

While there are several companies operating in India in which Tencent has made investments, the government has banned some gaming apps including PUBG Mobile and PUBG Mobile Lite, which were published by Tencent Group.

E-mail queries sent to Flipkart and Bansal did not elicit any reply, according to the PTI report. FE

PUBLIC NOTICE

That my clients Sh. Santosh Kumar Gupta S/o Lt. Sh. Phool Chand Gupta R/o - 30/23, Gali No. 12, Hanuman Mandir Wali Gali, Wazirabad, Jagtaran, Jalandhar, North Delhi - 110084 alongwith Smt. Anila Gupta W/o Sh. Santosh Kumar Gupta R/O - 30/23, Gali No. 12, Wazirabad Village, Hanuman Mandir Wali Gali, Buzar, North Delhi - 110084 both are the legal owners of the properties/business. Clients have decided to disown their son, daughter in law and grandchildren i.e.:- Lt. Sh. Abhishek Gupta, Shrut Gupta & Grand-Children:- Aravi Aggarwal, Yash Aggarwal, Sarvi Aggarwal. My clients have decided that in future their above mentioned Son, Daughter in law and Grandchildren shall not have a share/ownership in any of the movable or immovable properties.

SUCHANSHU (Advocate) Env. No. D/582/2020 Ch. No.578, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

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कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग-भरतपुर।

क्रमांक: ए.सी.ई./बी.टी.पॉलिटिक्स/2022-23/डी-535 दिनांक: 6/6/22

निविदा सूचना संख्या: 08/2022-23

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से भरतपुर संभाग के अन्तर्गत जिला भरतपुर एवं करौली में बजट घोषणा 2022-23 के अन्तर्गत एस्.आर.एस्. एस्.एस्. एस्.डी.आर एवं ग्रामीण सड़क बजट मद में स्वीकृत कुल 02 सड़क कार्य राशि 3404.75 लाख एवं योग निवारण के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राश संस्कार/केन्द्रीय संवेदकों के अधिकृत संगठन/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/लवरे इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर प्रकियम हेतु ऑन लाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

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DIPR/C/7848/202

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER PROJECT, PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, JODHPUR
Tel. 0291-2651700 E-mail: rj_cejod@nic.in

No.CE/PHE/JOD/Ar. Pall/22-23/3321-3364 Date: 20-5-2022

Notice Inviting Bid (NIB No. 05/2022-23)

Bids for Execution of works related to “Drinking water supply project for 36 villages & 3 towns (Sirohi, Pindawara & Bhanwari) through Battista Dam for providing FHTCs of District- Sirohi” viz. WTP, Pump Houses, RCC CWR/OHRs, P/LJs of Transmission mains, Cluster distribution system, Village distribution system and civil, mechanical, electrical & instrumentation works including Geo-tagging complete job as per scope & specifications on Single Point Responsibility Basis including necessary Design and Operation & maintenance for 10 years (upto VTC) after 1 year defect liability period under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) are invited from interested bidders upto 14:00 hrs, 22/06/2022. Other particulars of the bid and subsequent amendments/ corrigendum issued (if any) may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>) (<http://sppp.rajj.nic.in>) of the state; and <http://phedwater.rajjasthan.gov.in>. The estimated value of procurement is Rs. 170.11 Cr.

Sd/-
(Neeraj Mathur)
Chief Engineer Project PHED Jodhpur

UBN : PHE2223WLOB02470
DIPR/C/7732/2022

CHHATTISGARH STATE RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (Dept. of Energy, Govt. of Chhattisgarh)

VIP (Air Port Road), Near Energy Education Park, Raipur 492015, Chhattisgarh
Tel.:94252-30025 Email: credatendercell@gmail.com Web: www.creda.co.in
Ref.: 3978/CREDAS/SPWDWP-02/2022-23 Date: 10.06.2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

CREDAS invites sealed Bids for Survey, design, supply, installation and commissioning of Solar Photovoltaic Drinking Water pumps (Solar Drinking Water pumps) with five years CMC, unconditional onsite warrantee for anywhere in the State of Chhattisgarh from registered System Integrators of CREDAS for SPV with 5 years track record in Solar Drinking Water Pumps.

Last Date of submission of Online Bid : 04.07.2022 till 5:00 PM
Opening of Technical Bid : 05.07.2022 till 11:00 AM onwards

Technical Bid and Price Bid shall be submitted online only at <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>. However, hard copy of technical bid documents (which were submitted in online bid) shall have to be presented during bid evaluation. If there's any discrepancy between the online bid documents and hard copy, only documents of e-bid shall be considered. Bidders are advised to follow the instructions provided for Registration and e-Submission Process accordingly (For any query about e-bidding please visit user manual at <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>)

Tender document is available at - www.creda.co.in & at <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

CREDAS reserves all rights to accept/reject any or all tenders in full/part without assigning any reasons.

Chief Engineer (RE-V)
CREDAS

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Vishal Dhingra S/O Mr. Darshan Paul Dhingra, R/o Flat-No.4B, GH4, Orchid Garden,Suncity, Sector-54, Gurgaon-122001,have changed my minor daughter's name from Bahaar to Bahaar Dhingra.

0040618268-5

I, Potturi Shravya Pravalika D/O Mr. Gopi Krishna Potturi R/o House No. 59, Second Floor, Ashoka Enclave Part-I, Sector 34, Amarnagar, Faridabad, Haryana-121003 have changed my name from Potturi Sravya Pravalika to Potturi Shravya Pravalika for all future purposes.

0040618243-1

I Bhagwan Singh S/o Nathu Ram R/o-166-D, Pocket-B, Mayur Vihar Phase-2 Delhi-110091 have changed my name to Bhagwan Singh Verma

0070790058-1

I, Pooja Verma D/O Mahesh Kumar Verma, R/o 279, New Colony, Sugar Factory, Biswan, Sitapur Uttar Pradesh- 261201. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Astha Verma

0070789976-1

I, Nithiya Gulecha, W/O Sumit Kochar R/o 67/A, Kochar Niwas 5th Phase, JTK Extension Behind Rmp Quarters, Kuvempunagar, Mysore, Karnataka-570023. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Nithiya Kochar

0070789974-1

I, Kamya Chopra D/O Pramod Malhotra, R/o C-10/19 First Floor, Sector 4, Eldeco Estate, Panipat, Haryana- 132103. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Kamya Malhotra

0070789981-1

I, Imrana Raza S/O Kaisar Raza, R/o House No- 45, Chitarsari, Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh- 222001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Imran Raza.

0070789990-1

I, Dharmendra Kumar S/O Shri Jhamman Lal R/o H. No.-29 Sai Enclave, Greater Noida, UP- 201009, have changed my name from Dharmendra to Dharmendra Kumar for all future purposes.

0070790080-1

ISHIBU MATHEW C, S/O C K MATHEW AND MY WIFE SHIJI SHIBUBOTH RESIDING AT H.NO E-4, SECOND FLOOR, KH. NO 862, INDRAPRASTH APPARTMENT, SANT NAGAR, BURARI, DELHI- 110 084, WERE CHANGED OUR NAMES FROM SHIBU MATHEW TO SHIBUMATHEW C AND SHIJI CYRIAC TO SHIJI SHIBU RESPECTIVELY FOR ALLFUTURE RECORDS.

0040618206-2

I Prabir Paul S/O Rishi Pada Pal, House NO1933/A, Pana Mamurpur, Near Dada Mohan Dass Mandir, Narela, Delhi-40 have changed my name to Prabir Pal

0050198791-1

I Nishidha D/o Sunil Kumar Jain R/o-1/5567, Gali-No-16, Balbir Nagar Extn., Shahdara, Delhi-110032 have changed my name to Nishidha Jain.

0070790053-1

I Maimoona D/O, Abdul Hannan R/o House No-1-80-a Top Floor Galib Road Hazrat Nizamuddin New Delhi - 110013 have changed my name to Memuna for all purposes.

0040618297-1

I Kripa Shankar Yadav S/O, Bachau Prasad R/o 8/303 Greenarch GH-10 Sector- techzone-4 Greater Noida West Gautam Budh Nagar UP 201318 have changed my name to Kripa Shanker for all purposes

0040618295-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

A residential apartment bearing CSP Unit No. 2406, parking No. EW2114, situated in DLF Capital Greens, 15, Shivaji Marg, New Delhi-110015 was purchased from M/s DLF Home Developers Limited by Late Sh. Akhil Jain S/o Late Sh. Sohni Lal Jain R/o FB, 1st Floor, Prem Shanti Apartment-2, Club Road, Civil Lines, Delhi -110054 who expired on 22.06.2021, leaving legal heirs as Wife Mrs. Neeru Jain, son Ankit Jain and daughter Anshika Jain Ahuja. Accordingly, all above legal heirs relinquish their rights, in the captioned apartment in favour of Neeru Jain & the name Neeru Jain is being noted in DLF's record in respect of the captioned apartment.

If anybody has objection to this, he or she may approach M/s DLF Home Developers Ltd., DLF Centre, Sansad Marg, N.D.-110001 or the undersigned within 10 days from the publication of this notice, failing which it shall be deemed that there are no claims against the said Apartment.

Prashant Neel Advocate

14/16, Punjabi Bagh Extension,

M. 9911959222 New Delhi-110026

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I Manishaben Krunalkumar Valand W/o Vala Krunal Suryakant R/o 31, Panchvati Apartment, NR Bhagyodaya Bank, Kasiba Road, Ranip, Ahmedabad-382480 have changed my name to Vala Manishaben Krunal

0040618293-1



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

THIS WORD MEANS

RAMSAY HUNT SYNDROME

Rare disorder Justin Bieber is suffering from. What causes it, how does it manifest itself, and what is the treatment?

POP PERFORMER Justin Bieber said last week that a neurological disorder, called the Ramsay Hunt Syndrome, has temporarily paralysed one side of his face, leading to the recent cancellations of his shows. He posted an Instagram video where he says: “As you can see, this eye is not blinking. I can’t smile on this side of my face... So there’s full paralysis on this side of my face.”

THE CONDITION: Ramsay Hunt Syndrome is rare neurological disease in which a virus, Varicella Zoster, causes inflammation of the nerves involved in facial movements. When the nerves get inflamed, they lose their ability to function, leading to temporary facial palsy or paralysis.

“Ramsay Hunt Syndrome is the viral infection impacting the 7th cranial nerve that is involved in facial movements. The inflammation caused by the Varicella Zoster Virus makes the nerve ineffective,” said Dr (Col) J D Mukherji, Principal Director and Head of Neurology, Max Healthcare at Saket, Delhi.

SYMPTOMS: The symptoms include painful, red rash and blisters in and around the ear, and facial paralysis on the same side. Patients also report hearing loss in the impacted ear, apart from ringing sounds.

“You can get a rash on the eardrum, the ear canal and the earlobe. Rashes can also appear inside the mouth, on the tongue. There is hearing loss, vertigo or spinning sensation. It causes weakness of one side of the face and causes difficulty in closing one eye and eating as food falls off from the affected side. There is drooping of the face,” said Dr Mukherji.

Initially, the patient may complain of facial weakness and a little difficulty in closing one eye. The disease fully manifests in two to three days. Prompt treatment re-



Bieber posted on Instagram saying he has Ramsay Hunt Syndrome. Reuters

duce chances of severe nerve damage. **TREATMENT:** It is treated using anti-viral drugs, steroids and physiotherapy. “Facial exercises are very important. Patients need to protect their eyes. When one eye doesn’t close, there is a chance of developing corneal aberration. Patients must use tear drops and use eye protection. They should wear glasses when they go out, and tape the eye that has been impacted when they sleep at night,” Dr Mukherji said.

Patients get cured within 15 days to three months of starting the treatment. “Near-complete resolution happens. Even the hearing loss is reversible. Little bit of residual facial palsy may remain. There may be just a little bit of lag in the closure of the eye later on. That’s very minor,” Dr Mukherji said.

NOT CONTAGIOUS: The disease is not contagious but can lead to chickenpox in those not vaccinated for the disease. Until the blister scabs fall off, patients are advised to avoid contact with vulnerable people.

SAURABH KAPOOR

Extra chromosome in 1 in 500 men, disease risk higher: study

AROUND ONE in 500 men could be carrying an extra X or Y chromosome, most of them unaware, according to researchers at the universities of Cambridge and Exeter. This puts them at increased risk of diseases such as type 2 diabetes, atherosclerosis and thrombosis, the researchers report in a study published in *Genetics in Medicine*.

They analysed genetic data collected on over 200,000 men aged 40-70 from UK Biobank, a biomedical and anonymised database on half a million UK participants. They found 356 men who carried either an extra X chromosome or an extra Y chromosome.

Sex chromosomes determine our biological sex. Men typically have one X and one Y chromosome, while women have two Xs. However, some men also have XXY or XYY.

In the study, the researchers identified 213 men with an extra X chromosome and 143 men with an extra Y chromosome. As the participants in UK Biobank tend to be ‘healthier’ than the general population, this suggests that around one in 500 men may carry an extra

X or Y chromosome, they said.

Only a small minority of these men had a diagnosis of sex chromosome abnormality on their medical records or by self-report: 23% men with XXY and only one of the 143 XYY men (0.7%) had a known diagnosis.

By linking genetic data to routine health records, the team found that men with XXY have much higher chances of reproductive problems, including a three-fold higher risk of delayed puberty and a four-fold higher risk of being childless. These men also had significantly lower blood concentrations of testosterone. Men with XYY appeared to have a normal reproductive function.

Men with either XXY or XYY had higher risks of several other health conditions. They were three times more likely to have type 2 diabetes, six times more likely to develop venous thrombosis, three times as likely to experience pulmonary embolism, and four times more likely to suffer from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

SOURCE: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

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Food safety index: how it is worked out, how the states have performed

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

LAST WEEK, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) released the State Food Safety Index (SFSI) 2021-22. A look at how the index assesses and ranks states, and their performances.

What is the SFSI?
Developed by the FSSAI, the index aims to measure the performance of states and Union Territories on selected “parameters” of food safety. According to the FSSAI, the index is aimed at encouraging states and UTs to “improve their performance and work towards establishing a proper food safety ecosystem in their jurisdiction...”
The SFSI is released annually for a financial year. For instance, the latest SFSI, released on World Food safety Day, June 7, is for the fiscal 2021-22. This is the fourth edition of the SFSI since its inception in 2018-19.

Which are these food safety parameters?
The SFSI takes into account the perform-

ance of the states on five key parameters, each of which is assigned a different weightage in the assessment.
HUMAN RESOURCES & INSTITUTIONAL DATA: This carries a weightage of 20% and measures the “availability of human resources like number of Food Safety Officers, Designated Officers facility of adjudications and appellate tribunals, functioning of State/ District level Steering Committees, pendency of cases and their monitoring and participation in Central Advisory Committee meetings of the Food Authority”.
COMPLIANCE: This carries the highest weightage, 30%. “This is the most important parameter and measures overall coverage of food businesses in licensing & registration commensurate with size and population of the State/UTs, special drives and camps organized, yearly increase, promptness and effectiveness in issue of state licenses/ registrations,” the FSSAI says. “Promptness” in attending to consumer grievances, and availability of a help desk and web portals, too, come under this parameter.
FOOD TESTING—INFRASTRUCTURE AND SURVEILLANCE: Weighted at 20%, this

measures the “availability of adequate testing infrastructure with trained manpower in the States/UTs for testing food samples”. The FSSAI says, “The States/ UTs with NABL accredited labs and adequate manpower in the labs score more in this parameter.” It takes into account the “availability and effective utilization” of Mobile Food Testing Labs and registration and utilization of InFoLNet (Indian Food Laboratories Network).
TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING: This parameter carries the lowest weightage, at 10%. It measures states’ performance on training and capacity building of regulatory staff.
CONSUMER EMPOWERMENT: This carries a weightage of 20%. It evaluates the states and UTs on their performance on various consumer empowering initiatives of FSSAI, such as participation in Food Fortification, Eat Right Campus, BHOG (Blissful Hygienic Offering to God), Hygiene Rating of Restaurants, Clean Street Food Hubs, etc.
Besides, the states’ initiatives for creating consumer awareness are also considered under this parameter.

How is the states and UTs assessed?
The states and Union Territories are not assessed and ranked together. They are segregated into three categories — large states, small states and UTs— and assessed separately within their respective categories, based on their performance on the selected food safety parameters.
“The assessment and evaluation of each category are done by separate teams comprising of outside experts for food testing and food & nutrition professionals in addition to FSSAI officials,” the FSSAI says.
These expert teams examine details received from the states and UTs. They also interact with the states/UTs through video-conferencing for verification and confirmation of data.

How have the states and UTs performed this year?
In the category of the 20 large states, Tamil Nadu was an overall score of 82 out of 100 has performed the best and been ranked 1st on SFSI 2021-22, while Andhra Pradesh with an overall score of 26 has been ranked at the bottom —17th place (some states share a common rank).

Following Tamil Nadu in the rankings of the larger states are Gujarat (rank 2nd with a score 77.5), Maharashtra (3rd with 70), Himachal Pradesh (4th with 65.5) and West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh (sharing 5th with a score of 58.5).
Bihar (rank 16th, score 30), Telangana (rank 15th , score 34.5), Assam (rank 14th, score 35) and Chhattisgarh and Haryana (rank 13th, score 38) join Andhra Pradesh in the bottom 5 among the large states on the SFSI for the large states.
Among the remaining 8 large states, Kerala with a score of 57 has been ranked at 6th, Uttarakhand (score 55) at 7th, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh (both 54.5) at 8th, Karnataka (score 52.5) at 9th, Rajasthan (score 50.5) at 10th, Punjab (score 45) at 11th and Jharkhand (41.5) at 12th.
Among the eight small states, Goa with a score of 56 has been ranked at the top, while Arunachal Pradesh (rank 8th and score 21) is at the bottom.
Among the eight Union Territories, Jammu and Kashmir with a score of 68.5 has been ranked 1st and Lakshadweep (score 16) as the bottom. Delhi with a score of 66 has been ranked at 2nd place.

SUSHANT KULKARNI
PUNE, JUNE 12

ON JUNE 12, 2001, the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was first tested from a land-based launcher in Chandipur. In the 21 years since, BrahMos has been upgraded several times, with versions tested on land, air and sea platforms. A look at the 21-year journey of the versatile asset, which recently bagged an export order from the Philippines.

Background and development
Since the early 1980s, the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme, conceived and led by Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, started developing a range of missiles including Prithvi, Agni, Trishul, Akash and Nag, with a wide spectrum of capabilities and ranges.
In the early 1990s, India’s strategic leadership felt the need for cruise missiles — guided missiles that traverse the majority of their flight path at almost constant speed and deliver large warheads over long distances with high precision. The need was felt primarily following the use of cruise missiles in the Gulf War.
An Inter-Governmental Agreement was signed with Russia in Moscow in 1998 by Dr Kalam, who headed the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), and N V Mikhailov, Russia’s then Deputy Defence Minister. This led to the formation of BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture between DRDO and NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPOM), the Indian side holding 50.5% and the Russians 49.5%.
In 1999, work on development of missiles began in labs of DRDO and NPOM after BrahMos Aerospace received funds from the two governments. The first successful test in 2001 was conducted from a specially designed land-based launcher. The missile system has since reached some key milestones, with the first major export order of \$375 million received from the Philippines Navy this year.

Strategic significance
BrahMos is a two-stage missile with a solid propellant booster engine. Its first stage brings the missile to supersonic speed and then gets separated. The liquid ramjet or the second stage then takes the missile closer to three times the speed of sound in cruise phase. The missile has a very low radar signature, making it stealthy, and can achieve a variety of trajectories. The ‘fire and forget’ type missile can achieve a cruising altitude of 15 km and a terminal altitude as low as 10 m to hit the target.

MILESTONES
2001: Maiden launch from land-based launcher in anti-ship mode from ITR, Chandipur
2002: Launch in land-to-sea configuration from ITR
2003: Maiden launch from Naval warship
2005: Navy receives first batch of BrahMos
2007: BrahMos land system delivered to Indian Army
2013: Launch from a submerged platform in Bay of Bengal
2017: Cruise missile’s maiden launch from Su-30MKI
2020: Su-30MKI equipped with BrahMos inducted in an IAF formation
2022: First mega export order from Philippines Navy

BrahMos systems on display during the 2018 Republic Day Parade. File



BrahMos systems on display during the 2018 Republic Day Parade. File

Cruise missiles such as BrahMos, called “standoff range weapons”, are fired from a range far enough to allow the attacker to evade defensive counter-fire. These are in the arsenal of most major militaries in the world.
The BrahMos has three times the speed, 2.5 times flight range and higher range compared to subsonic cruise missiles. With missiles made available for export, the platform is also seen as a key asset in defence diplomacy.
An extended range version of the BrahMos air-launched missile was tested from a Sukhoi-30 MKI recently. On January 11, an advanced sea-to-sea variant of BrahMos was tested from the newly commissioned *INS Visakhapatnam*. The BrahMos is also said to have been involved in a recent controversy, Pakistan claimed that an unarmed Indian missile had landed in its territory on March 9, and the

Ministry of Defence said a technical malfunction had led to accidental firing. While the government, which ordered a high-level court of enquiry, did not officially identify the missile, experts felt its trajectory suggested the signature of BrahMos.
Present and future
Senior DRDO scientists say what makes the missile system unparalleled is its extreme accuracy and versatility. Land-based BrahMos formations along the borders, BrahMos-equipped Sukhoi-30s at bases in Northern theatre and and Southern peninsula, and BrahMos-capable ships and submarines deployed in sea together form a triad.
With requirements evolving in multi-dimensional warfare, the BrahMos is undergoing a number of upgrades and work is on to de-

velop versions with higher ranges, manoeuvrability and accuracy.
Versions currently being tested include ranges up to 350 km, as compared to the original’s 290 km. Versions with even higher ranges, up to 800 km, and with hypersonic speed are said to be on cards. Efforts are also on to reduce the size and signature of existing versions and augment its capabilities further.
Versions deployed in all three Armed forces are still being tested regularly, and so are versions currently under development.
LAND-BASED: The land-based BrahMos complex has four to six mobile autonomous launchers, each with three missiles on board that can be fired almost simultaneously. Batteries of the land-based systems have been deployed along India’s land borders in various theatres.
The upgraded land attack version, with capability of cruising at 2.8 Mach, can hit targets at a range up to 400 km with precision. Advanced versions of higher range and speed up to 5 Mach are said to be under development. The ground systems of BrahMos are described as ‘tidy’ as they have very few components.
SHIP-BASED: The Navy began inducting BrahMos on its frontline warships from 2005. These have the capability to hit sea-based targets beyond the radar horizon. The Naval version has been successful in sea-to-sea and sea-to-land modes. The BrahMos can be launched as a single unit or in a salvo of up to eight missiles, separated by 2.5-second intervals. These can target a group of frigates with modern missile defence systems.
AIR-LAUNCHED: On November 22, 2017, BrahMos was successfully flight-tested for the first time from a Sukhoi-30MKI against a sea-based target in the Bay of Bengal. It has since been successfully tested multiple times.
BrahMos-equipped Sukhoi-30s, which have a range of 1,500 km at a stretch without mid-air refuelling, are considered key strategic deterrence for adversaries both along land borders and in the strategically important Indian Ocean Region. The IAF is said to be integrating BrahMos with 40 Sukhoi-30 fighter jets across the various bases.
SUBMARINE-LAUNCHED: This version can be launched from around 50 m below the water surface. The canister-stored missile is launched vertically from the pressure hull of the submarine, and uses different settings for underwater and out-of-the-water flights. This version was successfully tested first in March 2013 from a submerged platform off the coast of Visakhapatnam.

[about honey and herbs] just confuses people, especially those who aren’t very educated. It is good to have one clear message that there should be exclusive breastfeeding for six months.”
How widely are breastfeeding guidelines followed in India?
“Despite our best efforts, only about 56% to 60% of women breastfeed their children. Some aren’t able to, but some also go for formula milk. But that is not recommended. Bottles are actually a major killer. For bottle feeding, it has to be sterilised for 10 minutes in rolling boiled water after every use. It is not possible to maintain 100% sterilisation all the time and this leads to diarrhoea in children,” Dr Garg said.
“It is also difficult to adjust the proportions of the formula. People tend to put say one spoon in one glass of water, but that is actually dilute. The formula box should get over in eight to ten days ideally and it is very expensive. But less feed might lead to malnutrition,” she said.

Federer ‘definitely’ planning on Tour return in the 2023 season



London: Roger Federer said he is "definitely" intending to return to top-level tennis in 2023, but added that he had not made any concrete plans beyond his scheduled appearances at the Laver Cup where he'll team up with Spaniard Rafa Nadal, and his home tournament in Basel later this year. "Yes, definitely," Federer told newspaper Tages-Anzeiger when asked if he wanted to return to the ATP tour after last year's Wimbledon, in 2023. "I haven't planned more than the Laver Cup and Basel yet. After Basel, the sea-

son is over anyway. It's important for me to get fit again so that I can train fully. Once I've done that, I can choose how many tournaments I play and where. The Laver Cup is a good start, I don't have to play five matches in six days. I will have to be able to do that in Basel. But I'm hopeful, I've come a long way. I'm not far away..." on Nadal's 14th title, he said, "I was happy for him that he did it again. Hats off to Rafa. After the 10th, 11th time, I already thought, 'This can't be'. He keeps raising the bar. It's gigantic."

REUTERS

Schwartzel wins LIV golf event

London : Charl Schwartzel banked USD 4.75 million on Saturday by winning the richest tournament in golf history, holding on for a one-shot victory at the inaugural LIV Golf outside London to secure the USD 4 million prize for individual victory, plus USD 750,000 from his team share. He collected more prize money from winning the three-day, 54-hole event than from last four years combined. He dismissed criticism: "Where the money comes from is not something... that I've ever looked at playing in my 20 years career. I think if I start digging everywhere where we played, you could find fault in anything." **AP**

Five subs to be allowed in laws

Doha: The use of five substitutes instead of three in three opportunities, excluding changes made at half-time, introduced as a tweak to the rules because of the COVID-19 pandemic, will be formally written into the Laws of the Game starting July 1, at Doha's Monday meet, the International Football Association Board (IFAB) said. It will become permanent but remain at the discretion of the body organising the matches. A potential sixth substitution would be allowed if a match went into extra time. **REUTERS**

Two silver for Indian lifters

New Delhi: India's Akansha Kishor Vyavhare won the silver medal in 40kg category while Vijay Prajapati finished second in 49kg in 2022 IWF Youth World Weightlifting Championships for men and women in Leon, Mexico. Akansha lifted a total of 127kg (59kg + 68kg), while Vijay managed to lift 175kg (78kg + 97kg). Akansha is a trainee of SAI National Centre of Excellence, Aurangabad and Vijay of NCOE Patiala. "I would laud efforts of Indian coaches who trained the athletes in short span of time in the national camps," said Sahdev Yadav, president of Indian Weightlifting Federation. **PTI**

Van Rijthoven shocks Medvedev

Hertogenbosch: Dutch wildcard Tim van Rijthoven capped a dream run at the Libema Open beating top seed Daniil Medvedev 6-4, 6-1 in the final. Ranked 205th, he'd never won a main-draw match at an ATP Tour event before this. "First time in an ATP tournament (final) and straightaway you destroy the number two in the world in straight sets," Medvedev who will become the number one Monday, said. "I don't know how it feels, so it must be a good feeling!" van Rijthoven said. **REUTERS**

Aishwarya only behind Anju in long jump on Indian soil

Triple jump her pet event but leaps 6.73m in long jump at the JN Stadium

ANDREW AMSAN
CHENNAI, JUNE 12

LONG JUMPER Aishwarya Babu may have recorded an impressive leap of 6.73m, the best on Indian soil since 2005, on Sunday but it still isn't her pet event. In fact, coming into the competition, the 24-year-old triple jump specialist hardly practised for the long jump, her "B event", as her coach likes to put it.

"Not really training specifically for the long jump. Obviously, something must be working because she is jumping 6.73m in the long jump," says coach Sri Aiyappa who has trained 2010 Asian Game heptathlon bronze medallist and wife Pramila Aiyappa.

Aishwarya's attempt, which came in the qualification round, also helped her breach the Commonwealth Games entry mark of 6.50m. Her leap makes her the second-best all-time Indian jumper after the legendary Anju Bobby George who holds the national mark of 6.83m, set in 2004. Anju, India's lone World Championships medallist, still has four other jumps (2001- 6.74m, 2002- 6.74 m, 2003 - 6.70m, 2005- 6.75m) better than Aishwarya's 6.73m.

Although Aishwarya did not aim for Anju's national mark, her jump has made her reassess her targets. "She will break Anju's record," says coach Sri Aiyappa.

Aishwarya was spotted by Pramila during a Railways trial two years ago. "Her speed down the runway is something. Her two biggest traits are her speed and explosive ability. In fact, if you see her, you will ask 'she jumps 6.73m?' 'She's half Anju's size,' says Aiyappa. "She almost flies off the runway."

Unexpected leap

Aishwarya will be back on field at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai on Monday for her pet event, the triple jump, where she has already achieved the qualification mark for the Birmingham CWG. Aishwarya is now second in the triple jump India season-best list with 13.94m and has reached the top of the corresponding long jump charts overtaking Ancy Joseph (6.55m).

Sunday's leap not only took everyone present at the venue by surprise but Aishwarya's coach himself. She had never measured distances close to this mark even during practice.

"She was jumping 6.40 in practice (her previous best was 6.52m at the Open Nationals in 2021). So, I knew she had it in her. But this jump was surprising. The main thing now is for her to do well in both the fi-



Aishwarya Babu will be back to compete on Monday in her pet triple jump event.

nals here and go home with two national records," says Aiyappa confidently.

Even though long-jump is still her "B" event, they are not shutting the door on it. "Right now, she is training for the triple jump but she has done great in the long jump. So, there is a pattern and we will follow it. But if she continues to do exceedingly well in long jump, we might change our plan altogether. To be honest, we never gave long jump a serious thought until today. But today's jump has changed everything," says Aiyappa.

At the finals, Aishwarya will face tough competition from Joseph and the prodigious Shaili, Singh who is recovering from an injury. It will also be a sort of battle of mates as Shaili's coach Bobby George is a close friend of Aiyappa's.

"We know each other really well. We were roommates back in the day. So, this battle is kind of personal (laughs). After

Aishwarya breaks the national record, I will go talk to him," Aiyappa says in a lighter vein.

Yarrajai stumbles

Hurdles sensation Jyothi Yarrajai, favourite to win the race in Chennai, stumbled on a hurdle midway and finished last in the finals. Jyothi, who has rewritten her national mark three times in less than a month, broke down after her race.

Even though she has already made the cut for CWG, she wanted to register for a good timing at the event. Coach James Hillier had to console the young athlete as she picked up her spikes and walked off the track, hanging her head. The smile returned a bit later though when one of the reporters asked if she would be visiting home soon.

"Yes. I missed my brother's wedding recently. But he's proud of what I have achieved," she said.

Hendrickx brace in Belgium's 3-2 win over India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ANTWERP, JUNE 12

ALEXANDER HENDRICKX struck a brace as Belgium notched up a thrilling 3-2 victory over India in the second match of the two-leg FIH Pro Hockey League tournament here on Sunday. Hendrickx (49th, 59th) produced two goals in the fourth quarter to go with a 33rd minute goal from Nicolas de Kerpel as the Olympic champions fought back from a 0-1 deficit to get the better off India, a day after being stunned by the visitors 4-5 in a shootout.

For India, Abhishek (25th) had put India ahead, while Mandeep Singh (60) scored another goal just moments before the hooter. With this win, world champions moved up to 2nd spot on the points table, while India were at the third. India will now take on Netherlands next week.

Belgium controlled the game early on with better ball possession and also earned the first penalty corner when Sreejesh saved one with his foot but in the process ended up pushing the ball into one of the Indian defender's foot. However, Belgium squandered the opportunity. India had a chance at the 5th minute when Jarmanpreet sent a cross from the right but Sukhjeet ended up sending it over the bar.

India enjoyed better possession during the final stages of the first quarter and Jugraj had created an opportunity with a long ball through the center but the visitors faltered with the finish as Belgium defence was up to the job.

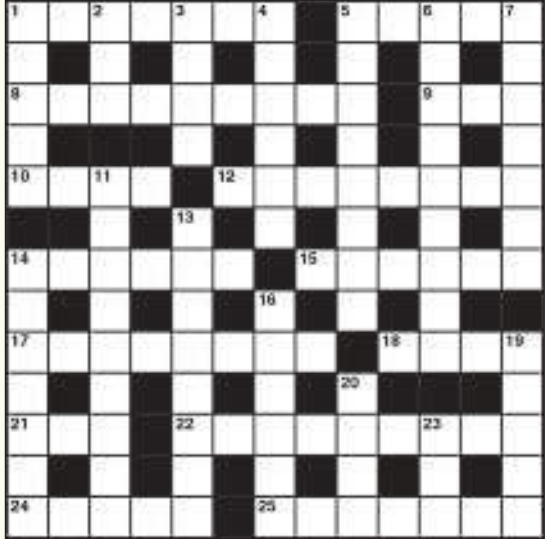
In the 25th minute, India produced the breakthrough with a superb field goal with Abhishek guiding the ball into the net after set up by Gurjant Singh, who superbly combined with Vivek Sagar Prasad inside the circle. Belgium came back strong looking for an equalizer but the defence held on with PR Sreejesh effecting a superb save as the second quarter ended with India leading 1-0.

In the 33rd minute, Nicolas de Kerpel brought the hosts back into the game with a tight finish after being fed by Arthur de Sloover. In the third quarter, India were reduced to 10-man after Akashdeep received a green card.

Women blanked 5-0

Indian women's team had a forgettable day in office getting a sound 0-5 thrashing at the hands of Belgium in a FIH Pro League match here on Saturday. Barbara Nelen (2nd minute), Charlotte Englebert (4th), Abi Raye (19th), Stephanie Vanden Borre (23rd) and Ambre Ballenghien (36th) scored a goal each for the hosts, while India drew a blank. Belgium's Barbara gave the hosts an early lead in the second minute as India were caught off guard in the counterattack.

CROSSWORD 4766



ACROSS

- 1 A crime upsets a whole continent (7)
- 5 Type of brush undergrowth (5)
- 8 Using such a pencil is (9)
- 9 The one that is the expert (3)
- 10 A form of need where there was none (4)
- 12 Seat breaks with danger to star (8)
- 14 Bedding for the young (6)
- 15 Leader of a team that makes the headlines (6)
- 17 Apprehends about a thousand supporters (8)
- 18 Plays parts or play's parts (4)
- 21 A short spell of physical jerks is appropriate (3)
- 22 Set fire to one outhouse - polished it off (9)
- 24 Tree of greater age (5)
- 25 Main plant producing wonder in children (7)

DOWN

- 1 Fruit drink very quietly swallowed (5)
- 2 Old priest taking part in the litany (3)
- 3 I come up to a matter of trivial importance (4)
- 4 Disinclined to serve a stew (6)
- 5 Stays and uses up the money going round the States (8)
- 6 Article is made practical (9)
- 7 He can tame a horse - a white horse? (7)
- 11 Not exactly valued (9)
- 13 Don't forget about a person in society (8)
- 14 Accidental loss of ale a keg contains (7)
- 16 Fumes capable of causing a lot of damage (6)
- 19 Took the part of another (5)
- 20 Very keen to rise as a singer (4)
- 23 Garden tool he carries round (3)

Solutions Crossword 4765: Across: 1 Nautical, 5 Star, 9 Kudos, 10 Rolling, 11 Minesweepers, 13 Rights, 14 Scarce, 17 Sugar coating, 20 Galatea, 21 Ozon, 22 Sink, 23 Construe. Down: 1 Nike, 2 Undoing, 3 Inspectorate, 4 Arrows, 6 Twine, 7 Register, 8 Altercations, 12 Presages, 15 Rancour, 16 Potato, 18 Galen, 19 Mete.

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 impossible to _____ and be unhappy - Dr Howard Murphy (4,7)

ELAAR



FYILL



ETUDPY



AEHRKW



SOLUTION: AREAL, FILLY, DEPUTY, HAWKER
Answer: It is impossible to walk rapidly and be unhappy - Dr Howard Murphy

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4864

Difficulty Level 4s

Instructions

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

Difficulty Level

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



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4863



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Although financial pressures and plans are still very much on your mind, you can afford to put a few possible developments off until later. You're so full of good ideas that all you need is extra confidence. And a little more tact

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

It's time for a fresh start. Emotional and psychological spring-cleaning should encourage you to put the past behind you and face the future with an open heart. You seem to be keeping a secret. And may have to hang on for just a little while longer.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You might have to come into the open, so have your story ready and make sure you're capable of making yourself understood. Throughout the day you should find that your self-esteem is restored, and that it's no longer necessary to take refuge in your daydreams.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

It's quite a good moment to keep yourself to yourself, to have time and space to listen to your imagination and conscience. You may even consider cancelling a social engagement. But before you take any precipitate action, realise that when the time comes, your feelings might have moved on.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

You may feel as if you are being forced to do something against your will or against your dignity. However, the best advice now is to press ahead and concentrate on making colleagues see your point of view. Gentle persuasion might work better than brute force. In fact, I'm sure it will.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

You will soon be afforded a splendid chance to travel to somewhere you've never been before. In any event, you'll do yourself a very big favour if you extend and develop all contacts with companions in distant parts and people from different cultures.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Problems of a partnership or matrimonial nature ought now to be faced. You should find that once you talk about your concerns, they begin to disappear and your innate sense of well-being returns. An old expense is bugging you, but it's also time to collect a debt.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Much as you'd like to be the centre of attention, you still have no choice but to listen to other people, understand their feelings and try to satisfy their desires. Financial choices are now appearing, but there is no need for a final decision just yet.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

When dealing with finances and business or property matters, you should make a point of being as clear-headed as you can. Your heart tells you one thing, your wallet another, so seek expert advice. This is not a good time to give people the wrong idea about your intentions, so make sure you're not misunderstood.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

This looks like a busy day, and it's time to call on your versatile talents. In view of emotional complications, it seems that you'll have to juggle different balls at the same time. It may not be easy, especially if a friend or colleague backs out of a commitment.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Favourable planetary alignments are perfectly balanced by challenging ones, which means that you could have the best of both worlds. This should also be an ideal moment to put your plans into practice. Thought and action should go hand in hand, with your heart and your head leading you in the same direction.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

If you are feeling at all isolated or confused it is because your planetary cycles are now changing and you are being obliged to stand on your own two feet, emotionally speaking. In future you will have to rely more on your own resources and less on support from outside.

PLAYING TONIGHT

FIFA World Cup Qualifier: Australia vs Peru
11.30pm, Live on Sports18 & Voot

Bhuvneshwar’s solo act falls short in Cuttack

Four-wicket haul not enough as Klaasen helps South Africa overhaul modest target to hand hosts second successive T20I loss

SANDIP G
JUNE 12

WHEN BHUVNESHWAR Kumar scythed the match open with a probing exhibition of swing and seam bowling in the Power-play, the game seemed like a low-scoring thriller in the making. Indian hopes lingered after his three-wicket burst had South Africa on the knees in pursuit of a modest score of 148. But they soon went up in smoke and blended with the haze that had enveloped the Barabati Stadium, as South Africa wrapped up the game with 10 balls to spare and four wickets in hand.

After six overs, including the splendid Bhuvneshwar spell that read 3-0-10-3, South Africa were 29/3. That was as good as it got for the hosts in search of a series-levelling win. From then on, the visitors took utter control, first through a steady-a-sinking-ship alliance between skipper Temba Bavuma and Heinrich Klaasen, where their priority was to ward off further damage, and then with a rampaging alliance between Klassen and David Miller. The first one cost India 64 runs in seven overs, and the second 51 in only 3.4 overs.

The protagonist, this time around, was Klassen with 81 runs off 46 balls — the tour seems to unearth new heroes for South Africa, and hence is becoming an even more profitable one in a World Cup year. Klaasen comes with a big-hitting reputation, a reason he displaced the scratchy Quinton de Kock for this game. But he had a large box to tick, his ability to play spin bowling in the subcontinent. He accomplished this with panache, cutting Yuzvendra Chahal and Axar Patel to ribbons. He smeared Chahal for three sixes, each stroke infused with telling power. Patel was meted out a six and a brace of boundaries in the only over he bowled.

Nothing worked for the spin duo — Patel was bereft of both bite and accuracy, the ball barely spun, whereas Chahal had not his trademark fizz. Then all the bowlers, apart from Bhuvneshwar, were unremarkable.

Verstappen wins in Azerbaijan, extends lead

ON THE PODIUM		
1. Max Verstappen	1:34:05.941	
2. Sergio Perez	+20.823 seconds	
3. George Russell	+45.995 seconds	

REUTERS
BAKU, JUNE 12

MAX VERSTAPPEN rode his luck to an unchallenged first Baku win on Sunday, opening up a commanding championship lead after Ferrari's challenge imploded at the Azerbaijan Formula One Grand Prix.

The Dutchman eased across the line 20.8 seconds clear of Sergio Perez who, ordered not to fight Verstappen, completed a one-two for Red Bull. George Russell kept his record of finishing every race this season in the top five with third for Mercedes.

Ferrari's miserable afternoon ended after 20 of the race's 51 laps. Charles Leclerc, who is leading the team's challenge and had started from pole, pulled into the pits from the lead with his Ferrari spewing smoke to chalk up his second retirement from three races.

His team mate Carlos Sainz had pulled to the side of the track 10 laps earlier with a hydraulic failure. "Today we had incredible pace in the car, we could look after the tyres and chip away at it," said Verstappen, all too familiar with the heartbreak of retiring from the lead, having crashed out while running first in Baku last year. "A tiny bit lucky with the retirement but the car was quick today."

The win was Verstappen's fifth from eight races this year and made him the sixth different Baku winner from six races. He extended his overall championship lead to 21 points over Perez, winner in Monaco two weeks ago, who has moved up to second.

Leclerc, who has won two races this year but none since the third of the season in Australia, slipped to third, 34 points adrift of his Dutch rival. "It hurts, we need to look into it so it doesn't happen again," said Leclerc who left Australia with a 46-point lead over Verstappen. Leclerc had gone into Sunday's race determined to make good on his fourth successive pole after being unable to convert top spot into victory at the last three races.

But he was on the back foot from the off, losing the lead to second-placed starter Perez into the first corner. He did not appear to have the pace to match Perez and was instead busy fending off Verstappen.

But an opportunistic pitstop under a virtual safety car period, triggered by Sainz's failure, allowed him to jump back into first until his car's demise eventually dashed his hopes. Verstappen, meanwhile, had moved past Perez, who was bidding to become the Baku race's first repeat winner.



South Africa bowler Wayne Parnell celebrates the wicket of Hardik Pandya during the second T20I on Sunday. PTI

Short on skill as well as energy — as if India turned up with just a solitary bowler. Chahal's dip in form has been most worrying, as he is among the regular crew, unlike his largely second-string colleagues.

Disappointing with the willow

But as toothless as India's bowling was, the defeat only exposed the vulnerabilities of their batsmen, most of them contenders rather than regulars in pursuit for permanent slots.

Among the prospects for World Cup spots, only Ishan Kishan is presenting a sturdy case for inclusion. His breezy 34 off

21 balls injected the impetus after a slack start. Kishan stuck to his strengths, slouching and swivelling on the back foot to take full toll of the short balls. Andre Nortje offered those gifts, as Kishan reeled off three sixes, two of them in one over. He lived and died by the same sword, as he spliced a Nortje short ball that had more skid and bounce on a surface that was not as quick as the Kotla one.

His dismissal decelerated India. Iyer's 35-ball stay fluctuated between distress and pity. The sluggish nature of the strip induced numerous mistimed and miscued strokes. A leading edge, comically, soared over the

long-on fence, whereas he had intended to chip Keshav Maharaj's arm ball over long-on. He blindly put faith on one plan — scrape through the seamers' overs and flay the spinners. But the backlog of dot balls would haunt him. At one point, he was 12 off 15 balls, before Tabraiz Shamsi's introduction unshackled him. He would step out and swing the left-arm wrist-spinner for a six and a four. But relentlessly attacking the spinners, or any brand of bowling, is risk-coated. Soon perished Rishabh Pant, slapping his bat with hard hands at a wide ball from Maharaj.

From there, India's batting was at best

How Sakshi, Sindhu’s medals helped Jaismine enter ring

NIHAL KOSHI
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

A BRONZE in the repechage for wrestler Sakshi Malik and silver for shuttler PV Sindhu saved India the blushes at the Rio Olympics six years ago. Boxer Jaismine Lamboria is also thankful to them for reducing the bias against women in sport. Jaismine is from Bhiwani, known as the country's 'mini Cuba' because of its boxing clubs. Yet, it took a lot of convincing for her grandfather Chandraban, an army man and a wrestler with the final word in the family, to allow Jaismine to take up boxing. Both her uncles were boxers but age-old notions of patriarchy remained within the family.

Minutes after Jaismine got the better of World Championship bronze medalist Parveen Hooda in the 60kg category to book a Commonwealth Games berth, her uncle Sandeep recalled how the two medals in Rio brought about a change of heart in Bhiwani. "I told him we have to move with the times. Women are bringing glory to the country. We have to allow our girls to step into a boxing ring. Those medals in Rio made a difference. Jasmine is the first girl from our family to take up a sport," Sandeep, a former youth champion pugilist, said.

Sandeep and his older brother Parvinder, a 2006 CWG boxer, groomed Jasimine once the go-ahead was given. They went all-out and launched their own boxing academy called Lamboria in Bhiwani where Jaismine was enrolled in the first batch. At the CWG trials at the IG Stadium, Jasimine's uncles were understandably the most vocal during her bouts. The medals displayed in the family's trophy cabinet, and the snatches of conversation she heard between Sandeep and Parvinder about their days in the ring, piqued her interest in boxing. When Mary Kom won the historic bronze at the London Olympics, Jaismine was hooked. "As I am from Bhiwani, I always heard stories about Vijender Singh and then there was Mary Kom's medal. Before that, because my uncles were into boxing, I had watched video clips of them in bouts. There was so much boxing talk around me when I was growing up. I guess I had to become a boxer only," Jaismine said.

Her father Jaiveer is a home guard, her mother Joginder a housewife, one older sister is a physiotherapist and the other is still studying. "When I was in Class X, I told my mother about my interest in boxing. She told me she would tell my uncles," Jaismine said.

Just a week into training and Jaismine was thrown in at the deep end. There was another boxer Sandeep had coached for over a year. He pitted the two against each other. Jaismine was a clear winner. "She beat up the other boxer. I knew we had a special talent because she was a natural. We only needed to guide her well," Sandeep said.

Jaismine missed out on a medal at last month's World Boxing Championships where



CWG-bound pugilist Jaismine with her uncles — Sandeep (left) and Parvinder — both former boxers. Express

her opponent in the final of the CWG trials, Parveen Hooda, bagged a bronze in 63kg. Saturday's 60kg contest between the two evenly matched boxers was a busy affair. Both have a good reach and are equally tall at 5ft 9in. Jaismine was smarting from returning without a medal from the Worlds in Turkey. She also made a crucial change — made sure her blows landed with greater force instead of producing light punches and taking a full step back immediately. Chief national coach Bhaskar Bhatt said the change in strategy paid off.

"Today, Jaismine was at her best. The way she swayed, and landed side punches had been heartening. Technically Jaismine was much stronger today. Earlier her punches were not being 'released' fully even though she had the power. The punch needs to have an effect in terms of the judges seeing the impact. Earlier, she was using a lot of touch punches, but today her opponent felt the full force. It is important for scoring. Her straight punches are landing on the target now," Bhatt observed.

At the World Championships, Jaismine lost to USA's Rashida Ellis, who went on to win gold. "When she received a couple of body punches from the USA boxer, she forgot what her strategy should be. But now she is becoming more mature in the ring," Bhatt said about the bout in Turkey.

"Greater aggression" would have helped her progress at the World Championships; that's how Jaismine analysed her game in Turkey, about what went wrong.

A bronze medal winner in the Asian Youth Boxing Championships and a silver medalist in Boxam International Championship in Spain, she went through a tough time last year after contracting Covid. "I had a lot of problems. For five to six months, I could not train properly. My Haemoglobin had dropped. It was a difficult period for me. But a year on, I am feeling fine and have no fitness issues," Jaismine said.

Sandeep considers a CWG berth just a small milestone in a long journey that lies ahead. "She is driven, has the talent and is from a boxing family. Our duty is to make sure the next generation reaches greater heights in the ring."

Centurions Root, Pope lead Eng’s strong response

REUTERS
NOTTINGHAM, JUNE 12

JOE ROOT scored his fastest test century while Ollie Pope struck a superb 145, as England launched a stirring fightback to reach 473-5 at the close of play on the third day of the second Test against New Zealand on Sunday.

Resuming on 90-1 in the morning after the touring side had posted a massive first-innings total of 553, England excelled on a good batting wicket at a sunny Trent Bridge to trail by 80 when stumps were drawn.

Root was unbeaten on 163 with Ben Foakes not out on 24 after being handed a lifeline. Pope, dropped early in his innings on Saturday, looked in sublime form for most of the day to notch his second test ton as the hosts made New Zealand toil with former captain Root joining in the fun after opener Alex Lees fell for 67.

Regaining composure

Root arrived having hit an unbeaten 115 to guide England to a five-wicket win in the first test but endured nervy moments early on and was lucky to survive after flashing at a ball from Tim Southee who also dropped him at slip. But the 31-year-old regained his composure to bring up his half-century off 56 deliveries, before frustrating New Zealand who struggled to contain the batters as they took their team past the 300-run mark in the 75th over.

A reverse sweep off Michael Bracewell took Root to 97 before an edge for a four off Daryl Mitchell two overs later completed his 27th test century and fourth at this venue, with the knock coming off only 116 balls.

It was Root's fourth century in five tests, coming after he reached 10,000 runs in the format in the last match, and a flick off the pads for four took him to 150 as he put New Zealand to the sword.

BRIEF SCORES: New Zealand 553 (Mitchell 190, Blundell 106) vs England 473/5 (Root 163*, Pope 145, Lees 67). England trail by 80 runs



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