



ONLY PATH OF REFORM CAN TAKE US TO NEW VISION AND GOALS: MODI

Armed Forces chiefs set to brief PM today on Agnipath, Army issues recruitment notification

Many reforms may not seem right, benefits with time: Modi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

THE CHIEFS of the three services are to brief Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday on the Agnipath short-term recruitment scheme for the armed forces, official sources said Monday after the Army issued a notification for compulsory online registration by aspirants.

The Agnipath scheme has led



Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Bengaluru on Monday. PTI

to protests in several parts of the country.

Speaking in Bengaluru where he dedicated a slew of connectivity, education, health-

care and research projects Monday, the Prime Minister said sometimes decisions may not seem right at the first instance

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Agnipath a pilot, tweaks if needed after 4-5 yrs, says Army Vice Chief

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

LIEUTENANT GENERAL B S Raju, Vice Chief of the Army Staff, said Monday that the Agnipath recruitment scheme has been "well thought out", and if any tweaks are required, they will be carried out at the end of four or five years.

In an interview to *The Indian Express* on the day the Army issued a notification for compulsory online registration of all Agnipath job aspirants, Lt Gen



Lieutenant General B S Raju

EXPRESS NETWORK

U.P. COPS: WILL SEND RECOVERY NOTICES TO PROTESTERS FOR PROPERTY DAMAGE
MORE REPORTS, PAGE 10

Raju said the scheme, as being rolled out now, is a "pilot project". He said Agnipath marks a "fundamental change" in recruitment into the armed forces and there is "a need" for all to "absorb the change".

The VCOAS's remarks come in the wake of violent protests against the Agnipath scheme in different parts of the country. Youth who have been waiting since 2020 to join the forces -- a freeze on recruitment was imposed that year -- have been on the rampage against the new

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daCunha/AB/815

Joint drug controller held by CBI in bribery case, Biocon Biologics executive also booked

Mazumdar-Shaw, firm reject charge: Meeting minutes in public domain

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

THE CBI Monday detained a Joint Drug Controller of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) and the Director of a Delhi-based private company while they were allegedly exchanging bribe money of Rs 4 lakh.

The agency also booked three others including an Associate Vice President of Biocon Biologics Ltd, a company founded by Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, claiming that bribe money was being paid to get regulatory clearance for an insulin injection manufactured by the company -- a charge Mazumdar-Shaw and Biocon Biologics rejected.

Officers of the CBI identified the detained men as S Eswara Reddy, Joint Drug Controller posted at the CDSCO headquarters in New Delhi, and Dinesh Dua, Director of Synergy Network India Pvt Ltd.

The others booked in the case are L Praveen Kumar, Associate Vice President and Head --

National Regulatory Affairs of Biocon Biologics Ltd; Guljit Sethi alias Guljit Chaudhary, Director of Bioinnovat Research Services Private Limited, Delhi; and, CDSCO Assistant Drug Inspector Animesh Kumar.

"It was alleged that the accused was trying to exert undue influence on officers of CDSCO (Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation) under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (GOI), Delhi to waive the Phase III trial of 'Insulin Aspart Injection'," a CBI spokesperson said.

"It was further alleged that the accused agreed to pay bribe amount of Rs 9 lakh to JDC, CDSCO for favourably processing the said three files related to private company based at Bangalore and also for favourably recommending the file of 'Insulin Aspart injection' to the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) meeting," the spokesperson said.

CBI officers claimed a trap was laid and Reddy was caught

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To end illegal mining, MP govt plans to make it legal in parts of Chambal sanctuary

JAY MAZOOMDAAR
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

TO FREE its forest department from devoting too much time, resources, and efforts in fighting illegal mining in the National Chambal Sanctuary, the Madhya Pradesh government has proposed to open 292 hectares for mining in five stretches on Chambal and its tributary Parvati rivers. Sand mining has been banned in the sanctuary since 2006.

In a December 2021 proposal submitted to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEF-CC), the state said opening up the five stretches would minimise the conflict with illegal miners, gain local support, and fetch revenue from royalty, one-fourth of

EXPLAINED

Strict watch

THE STATE government's proposal to denotify 292 hectares is a tacit acceptance of its inability to curb or stop illegal mining. Even with this move, protection of Chambal's wild habitat would require effective enforcement.

which could be used to strengthen protection measures.

Additionally, the proposal sought to make the contractors of the soon-to-be legal quarries re-

PROPOSED FOR MINING (IN HECTARE)	
Barodia ghat	9.49
Dalarna	31.10
Rajghat-Piprai	78.90
Barbasin	152.00
Badapura	20.90
Total	292.39

sponsible for checking illegal mining on adjacent sanctuary land four times their leased areas, failing which their leases would be terminated. Denotifying 292 hectares for mining would bring 1,168 hectares under the miners' protection.

The Madhya Pradesh forest

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EXPRESS NETWORK



ED QUESTIONS RAHUL GANDHI AGAIN

GOPALKRISHNA GANDHI SAYS WON'T CONTEST POLLS FOR PRESIDENT'S POST
PAGE 9

EXPLAINED



SIMPLY PUT SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAN
PAGE 5

TEACHERS' RECRUITMENT 'SCAM'

Calcutta HC orders removal of primary education board chief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JUNE 20

THE CALCUTTA High Court on Monday ordered immediate removal of West Bengal Board of Primary Education (WBBPE) president Manik Bhattacharya from his post in connection with alleged irregularities in the recruitment of teachers for government primary schools.

The single-judge bench of Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay also directed Bhattacharya to appear in person in the court on Tuesday. The judge authorised the state government to arrange his replacement. He judge also ruled that during the interim period, Bhattacharya's responsibilities will be handled by WBBPE secretary Ratna Chakraborty Bagchi.

The petitioners' lawyer Firdous Shamim said, "The court said that Manik Bhattacharya cannot remain the education board president. The government will find his replacement. Bhattacharya has been asked to appear in the court tomorrow."

On June 13, Justice Gangopadhyay had ordered a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the alleged irregularities in the recruitment of primary teachers by the WBBPE in 2014.

The judge had also ordered immediate cancellation of the appointment of 269 candidates for the posts. Two days later, Justice Gangopadhyay modified his earlier order and ordered that a special investigation team (SIT) be set up for conducting a probe into the primary teachers' recruitment.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



RESCUE OP

Eleven tourists were stranded for hours after a cable car was stuck mid-air at Parwanoo Timber Trail in Himachal Pradesh's Solan district on Monday. All of them were rescued. Jaipal Singh **P9**



9 OF FAMILY FOUND DEAD IN SANGLI **P 9**

Main shooter held in Moosewala case, was in touch with gangster Goldy Brar: Delhi Police



The three men were arrested from Gujarat. PTI

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

FOLLOWING THE arrest of two men described as "shooters" and an associate from Gujarat by the Delhi Police's Special Cell for allegedly killing Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, officers said on Monday that one of the accused was in touch with Canada-based gangster Goldy Brar at the time of the incident last month.



Moosewala was killed on May 29

Among those arrested from Kutch on Sunday, Special Commissioner of Police H G S Dhaliwal identified Priyavrat (26) as the alleged "main shooter

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At table reworking school syllabus, science to arts: 24 with RSS links

Most say their politics delinked from academic inputs

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

EXPRESS INVESTIGATION PART 4

the table; restructuring of the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for schools -- the first such exercise since the Modi Government came to power in 2014 and the fifth since Independence.

From a national co-convenor of Swadeshi Jagran Manch to the chief of Vidya Bharati, 24 members with RSS links, some of them

serving functionaries, figure in at least 17 of 25 NCF national focus groups working on curriculum changes, an investigation by *The Indian Express* has found.

The investigation also revealed, over the past three days, key deletions in social science textbooks, including references to Gujarat riots and the caste system, Mughals and contemporary protest movements, in a separate rationalisation exercise by the NCERT.

The NCF curriculum revision, meanwhile, is being led by a 12-member steering committee



Focus groups will guide school curriculum. Amit Mehra

headed by former ISRO chairman K Kasturirangan and appointed by the Union Ministry of Education.

The revised NCF will be the foundation for new NCERT textbooks. And the papers prepared by the NCF focus groups will provide a roadmap for the changes. These focus group members -- 7-10 in each group -- were appointed by the NCERT through a notification on December 28.

The terms of reference states that the groups are expected to "develop a clear understanding of the theme in the context of the perspectives and recommendations of the NEP-2020 specifi-

cally with regard to...curricular and pedagogical structure and to clearly specify implementation strategies for each stage".

When contacted, Kasturirangan said he would not comment on any matter related to NCF. A senior member of the committee said: "We will do full justice to the task given to us and do everything possible to present a fair, objective and impartial document."

Here are the focus group members with RSS links, and their response to queries -- on the links and the groups:

Philosophy and Aims

of Education

Dr Bhagawati Prakash Sharma: Ex-Vice-chancellor of Greater Noida-based Gautam Buddha University. National co-convenor of RSS-affiliate Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM).

Response: "I am with the SJM because it is a movement. SJM is a forum, which is about awakening people about economic patriotism. I am also in the central committee of SJM."

Datta Bhikaji Naik: Committee member of Goa wing of RSS-affiliate Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram. Response: "(I suggested that) ideological

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FROM PAGE ONE

Briefing PM

but pay dividends over time.

"The path of start-ups and innovation is not easy and comfortable and it has not been easy to put the country on the path to rapid development in the last eight years. Many decisions and many reforms may not seem right in the short term, but with time the country experiences the benefit of the reform," Modi said.

"Only the path of reform can take us to a new vision and goals. We have opened the space and defence sectors to youths after only the government had authority over these sectors for years. From drones to aircraft to cutting-edge technology, youths are being encouraged. From ISRO to DRDO, we are telling youths to link their vision to world-class facilities created by the government and test their ideas," he said.

"In the last eight years from 100 start-ups, over 70,000 start-ups have come up," Modi said, citing this as an example of the capabilities of the youth in the country.

"During the Covid period, youths in Bengaluru helped people all around the world. Bengaluru showed that if governments provide facilities and interfere to the minimum in the lives of people, then there is no limit to what youths can do and the heights to which they can take the country," he said.

"The Bharat of the 21st century is the Bharat of wealth creators, job creators, and innovators. Being the world's youngest nation is the real strength of Bharat and this is our tradition. To promote this strength, constant efforts have been made but it has had limited results. But Bengaluru has won over this culture," he said.

"There is also a lot of discussion on the start-up ecosystem in India, of which Bengaluru is a big centre. In the last eight years, a lot of progress has been made. It is evident when we look at the numbers. In the previous decades, the number of billion-dollar companies that were created could be counted on the fingers but in the last eight years, more than 100 billion-dollar companies have come up, and every month new companies are joining them," he said.

"The strength of Bengaluru is that it teaches people to also change their mindsets including those people who view the private sector of India and private enterprises with disrespect. The strength of the country and the ability of crores of people are belittled by the people who are obsessed with politics," Modi said.

He inaugurated and dedicated to the nation several projects worth over Rs 33,000 crore during his visit Monday in what is seen as an infrastructure push ahead of the state polls that are scheduled for 2023.

Army Vice Chief

scheme that will take in only limited numbers, and does not assure a permanent job, or pension and health benefits for those exiting the three services after four years.

"The methodology of recruitment, percentages of retention-extension, anything of that nature, if there is a requirement to be tweaked, it will be done at the end of four to five years, once we have some reasonable data. Right now, we have a policy that has been well thought through, and which we are implementing," Raju said.

Asked why the armed forces had not carried out a pilot project that would have provided this data earlier, he said: "What we are doing is actually a pilot project... the rate at which it is happening, yes, it is deemed as a pilot project. We may not have called it a pilot project. But this, it's a work-in-progress. So what we are doing is actually some kind of a pilot project, but with very clear timelines put in place. The government has repeatedly said that they are amenable to modifications based on our experience."

He said he would not be able to predict what exactly might be tweaked. "Based on our experience of this, of the four to five years, necessary changes will be brought about. (The tweaks) could be on any front."

Raju said changes to regiments would take place in a "very slow manner" and there was no plan to do away with ho-

mogenous units right away. "We are not in a hurry to change anything along these lines," he said, responding to criticism that the 'All India, All Class' recruitment would undermine the cohesiveness of fighting units, so far built on homogeneity of personnel.

He dismissed the suggestion that the spate of announcements after the policy had been announced for the re-employment of ex-Agniveers -- 10 per cent reservation in Central Armed Police Forces; 10 per cent in Coast Guard and Defence PSUs; two years relaxation in the upper age limit; preference for Agniveers in state police services -- indicated that the policy had not been well thought out.

"I don't agree with your contention that it seems to be (policy making) on the fly. Because the only change and announcement that has taken place is from 21 to 23 years, all others are some offers which are coming from different establishments to give more strength to the programme that has been announced by the government to take care of the 75 per cent of the people who would be exiting. So it is an add-on to what the government already had thought of (providing)," he said.

This includes a package of Rs 11.71 lakh Seva Nidhi tax-exempt financial package, in addition to the Rs 11.72 lakh as his pay for four years. "So, a young boy coming in at 18 years of age, after four years goes back with around 24 lakh rupees," Raju said. The government has also said an ex-Agniveer can take a loan of Rs 18 lakh over a period of three years, using the Seva Nidhi package as a collateral.

"So after that, we thought -- and we still believe -- that he's got multiple opportunities outside. It is designed not for giving him a pension at the end of four years, it is designed to make him a more capable boy. The more capable ones are retained within the system, the balance of people with a tonne of skills of varied kinds, based on whether he has come to infantry, to EME, Signals, Engineers, each one has come into the system, he gets a unique set of skills. So for these people, we said that this kind of money will give him a second option, a secondary option to either study -- he goes from Class 10 to Class 12 (at the end of four years). They also give him a multiple skilling certificate as per the NSQ (National Skills Qualification) Format. So, which puts him in place to get on to the next phase of life. And before, (we thought) that was sufficient. Now there is new feedback that has come into the environment, that he needs a government job. But that was not the aim, the aim was to skill him and put him into the environment where he finds multiple opportunities in front of him, to be an entrepreneur himself," Raju said in defence of the scheme.

The implementation was going to be slow, he pointed out, with 40,000 this year, the same number in 2023, increasing to 45,000 in 2024 and 50,000 in 2025.

"So the number of Agniveers who are coming into the system is going to be very small. Along the way, if there's any tweaking required to be done, we will do it. So in an infantry battalion of 880 people, at the end of four years we will have 120 (Agniveers). So in a section, we may have only one to two persons. That is the rate of change. Four years from now is the first time that 75 per cent of the Agniveers will be exiting. So we have time to learn along the way, and we will make necessary changes," he said.

Raju said the scheme was "a fundamental change" in recruitment. "So, there is a need for all of us to absorb the change. It is to give (a young person) an opportunity to serve the nation for four years and exit and do something more. It is not an end in itself," he said.

Rejecting the charge that this would turn the Army into a finishing school for imparting skills to Class 10 graduates, Raju said this was a "wrong" interpretation. "It is not that we are going to give him some extra training or extra skill which is outside the job he's doing. So if we have an (Agniveer) as an EME boy who is expected to maintain vehicles. That is captured as a skill, so at the

end of it he wants to start a workshop of his own, or he can get employed as a supervisor in a workshop, those opportunities open," he said.

Raju said a cap of 50 per cent of Agniveers in the composition of the Army would ensure balance. The remaining 50 per cent would be the "permanent force".

The VCOAS said the number of Agniveer recruited could go up to 1.30 lakh per batch, which means that the numbers in the 25 per cent re-hired would also go up proportionately.

School syllabus

aspects of Indian philosophy should be conveyed to students through short stories...and Sanskrit be used as a link language. There is no clash between my association with RSS and being a part of this group."

Education in Social Sciences

Prof (ret'd) CI Issac (group chairman): Member of Indian Council of Historical Research, former faculty at Department of History, CMS College, Kottayam. State working president of Kerala unit of RSS-linked Bharatiya Vichara Kendra and member of ABVP since 1975. In March, during an NCF consultation session, Prof Issac had said: "Nowadays, our history in school syllabus is subjective, not objective. The Indian defeat, Hindu defeat is the main theme of the school syllabus."

Response: "I am a swayamsevak and a church-going Christian...I never allow my ideology to be reflected in such forums. I work for national interest, irrespective of religion, caste, or regional differences."

Prof Vandana Mishra: Assistant Professor with School of International Studies, JNU. Former national secretary of ABVP. She declined to comment.

Mamta Yadav: Sociology teacher at a Haryana government school. Former national vice president of ABVP, still a member. Response: "I am not the vice president anymore, and there is no conflict between me being a part of the focus group and a member of ABVP."

Holistic, Enjoyable & Engaging Curriculum & Pedagogy

D Ramakrishna Rao (group chairman): All-India president of RSS educational wing Vidya Bharati. Response: "My connection with education is important, other aspects are not important."

Science Education

Prof Milind Sudhakar Marathe (group chairman): Retired associate professor at Mumbai's KJ Somaiya College of Engineering. Former national president of RSS student wing ABVP.

Response: "I am not in the focus group because I am an ABVP member but because of my credentials as a teacher of science and technology."

Kishore Chandra Mohanty: Odisha president of Vidya Bharati. Response: "(I was chosen) based on a four-page note I had prepared on science education and my credentials of having worked in this area in the past."

Environmental Education

Prof Payal Magro: Principal of Delhi's Shaheed Rajguru College of Applied Sciences, director of DU's Campus of Open Learning, ABVP office-bearer till 2013.

Response: "I teach Botany and am working on an ICSSR study on 'Ecological Feminism of Indian Women'. I contested the students union election in 1984. Until 2013, I was a member of the (ABVP's) core group, which is the academic council."

Mathematics

Dr Shiriram Muralidhar Chauthaiwale (group chairman): Retired maths professor, all-India convener of Department of Vedic Mathematics under Delhi-based Shiksha Sanskriti Uthan Nyas. Member of Vidya Bharati's All India Vedic Mathematical Council.

Response: "I was nominated to the group by the NCERT direc-

tor. And I have worked very rationally."

Arts Education

Prof Mamta Singh: Associate professor of Visual Arts at MKP Girls Inter College in Dehradun. Associated with the ABVP "for past three decades", currently Doon area president and member of national executive.

Response: "We need to go beyond Islamic architecture and focus on Indian art forms and culture... The UN honoured me in 2009 for my work on the role of art on women empowerment."

Early Child Care & Education and Foundational Literacy & Numeracy

Dr Suresh Gohe: Educational consultant with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). Area head of RSS-affiliated teachers' forum Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal.

Response: "I have a specialisation in psychological and educational counselling...we need to ensure that India once again cements its position as jagatguru (world leader)."

Linkages Between School and Higher Education

Prof Ishwar Sharan Vishwakarma: Chief of UP Higher Education Commission, member of Indian Council of Historical Research, retired professor of Ancient History and Archaeology at Deen Dayal Upadhyay university in Gorakhpur. General secretary of RSS-affiliate Akhil Bharatiya Itihas Sankalan Yojana.

Response: "We have been picked on qualification and expertise. My basic identity is that I have been a professor of ancient history and archeology."

Raman Trivedi: Former professor and head of department of fisheries at Bihar Animal Science University, and currently its director (student welfare). Ex-national vice-president of ABVP. Response: "I no longer hold any official post in ABVP."

Publication of Quality Textual and Non-textual Materials

Prof Ashutosh Mandavi: President of ABVP Chhattisgarh unit, teaches in the advertising department of Kushabhau Thakre Journalism & Mass Communication University in Raipur. He declined to comment.

Prof Brj Kishore Kuthiala: Chairperson of Haryana State Higher Education Council, former VC of the Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication (MCNUJC). RSS ideologue. In 2019, the then Congress state government ordered a probe into his conduct as VC, including the alleged purchase of a liquor cabinet using university funds.

Response: "I am a swayamsevak. But I am an academic also and have been a vice-chancellor." He did not respond to the allegations during his VC stint.

Guidance and Counselling

Prof (ret'd) Nilima Bhagabati (group chairman): Faculty member in education studies at Guwahati University, chairperson of the eastern regional committee of National Council for Teacher Education. Executive member of RSS-affiliate Bharatiya Sikshan Mandal.

Response: "I specialise in adolescent psychology. I have done over 4,000 counselling sessions of students and parents in Assam. I am involved in the counselling of learners and parents through Students Wellness Society and Education Support Society."

Alternative Ways for Schooling

Prof Ramachandra G Bhat: Former Vice-Chancellor of Karnataka-based Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana. Key member of All India Gurukulam Prakalpa of Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal, an RSS body. Response: "Our focus group made recommendations on introducing Indianness in

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EXPRESS AUDIO

Behind the Agnipath protests, Assam floods, and India's environment rank

Defence aspirants and veterans react to the Agnipath scheme, Northeast India's increasing number of floods, and India's poor rank on Environment Performance Index

every aspect of education."

Gender Education

Rashmi Das: Editor of magazines and news services TelecomLive and InfraLive, run by Live Media & Publishers Pvt Ltd; PhD in International Relations from JNU, member of executive council. Former president of ABVP's JNU unit and former general secretary of JNU students' union.

Response: "My work with ABVP is part of my identity. But where is the contradiction or conflict in that? I am not an office-bearer of ABVP anymore...I have been involved in capacity building of students pro bono...I also publish on awareness and rights campaigns for autistic children."

Anjali Deshpande: Secretary of RSS-linked DRISHTI Stree Adhyayan Prabodhan Kendra, a study centre. Response: "DRISHTI represents the same school of thought as RSS. I started working with ABVP in 1976. I am among the first full-time women workers of the organisation."

Adult education and Value Education

Govind Prasad Sharma: Chairman of National Book Trust, former president of Vidya Bharati, member of the 12-member national steering committee on NCF. Response: "What matters is our contribution as members through extensive discussions over the months."

Value Education

J P Singhal: Former Vice Chancellor of University of Rajasthan, quit in 2017 following adverse remarks on his qualifications by Rajasthan High Court. National president of RSS-affiliate Akhil Bharatiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh. Response: "The position paper of our group is still being prepared."

Emerging Role of Community in Education

Dr Bishnu Mohan Dash: Associate professor at IGNOU's rural development department. General secretary of Bharatiya Samaj Karya Parishad which, he said, works under the patronage of Sangh's Bhartiya Shikshan Mandal. Response: Claimed expertise in "Indianisation of social work education."

Teacher Education

Prof (Retd) Chandkiran Saluja (group chairman): Retired from DU's Central Institute of Education in 2013. Headed working committee of RSS-constituent Samskrita Bharati. Response: "I support the NEP because it has the potential to infuse new energy in the student community and shape their ideas and imagination."

'No comment'

NCERT director Dinesh Saklani declined to comment on the focus groups. School Education Secretary Anita Karwal did not respond to requests for comment. Former NCERT director in-charge Sridhar Srivastava, who had issued the notification on focus groups, declined to comment.

Calcutta HC

recruitment scam. He also said that the SIT members should not be assigned other cases and also not be transferred till the probe is completed.

The CBI on June 17 submitted names of the six SIT members to the High Court. The same day, the agency submitted the first status report on the progress of its investigation in the case.

Bhattacharya has already appeared before the CBI that interrogated him over his alleged involvement in the case. On June 16, the West Bengal government had approached a division bench, headed by Justice Subrata Talukdar, challenging the order for CBI inquiry in the matter by Justice Gangopadhyay.

The division bench is likely to hear the matter on Tuesday.

Illegal mining

department, records show, started working on the proposal on July 13, 2021, a day before transferring the then superintendent of NCS who made headlines for seizing 78 vehicles engaged in illegal quarrying and facing multiple attacks allegedly from the mining mafia during her three-month stint.

Records show the denotification proposal was moved through the office of Shashi Malik, then Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Gwalior). Asked if the move was necessitated by the escalated conflict with the mining mafia, Malik said: "Neither did I ask for the proposal nor did I make any observation on it. I cannot comment further."

"This is a policy decision of the government. Opening a legal window to meet local requirements should minimise the pressure of illegal mining," Jasbir Singh Chauhan, chief wildlife warden, Madhya Pradesh, told The Indian Express.

The standing committee of the MoEF-CC's National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL) has considered the proposal at its last two meetings on March 25 and May 30. A committee set up by the SC-NBWL to examine the proposal visited Chambal last week. "We have seen the areas and will submit our report before the next SC-NBWL meeting," said NBWL member HS Singh.

Spread across three states, National Chambal Sanctuary (NCS) runs along a total stretch of 435 km of Chambal and its tributary Parvati in Madhya Pradesh. An important bird habitat, NCS is home to the critically endangered gharials, river dolphins, mugger crocodiles and several rare turtle species.

In its "justification" for the proposal, the Madhya Pradesh government noted that over 4 lakh locals directly depended on various resources of the NCS. They farm along the river, extract river water for irrigation, practice sustenance and commercial fishing, and quarry sand -- activities that can destroy the natural nesting grounds of gharial, mugger, and turtles.

"Due to the absence of any legal quarries on Chambal since 2006, illegal sand mining persisted in the sanctuary area," the proposal said. The three sand quarries allowed in 1999, noted the proposal, were shut down following an order by the Gwalior bench of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh in 2006.

Since "illegal mining has become a major commercial activity" in the area, the proposal underlined that upholding the nistar -- concessional access to natural resources for livelihood needs -- rights of the people while ensuring conservation of biodiversity

was the "responsibility of the government" under the policies of the Centre.

Therefore, the Madhya Pradesh government proposed to denotify five stretches (see chart) that it claimed were already disturbed by mining and no longer used for mating, breeding or basking by gharials, muggers, dolphins, turtles or any migratory bird species.

Not everyone is convinced. "Such measures have not stopped rampant illegal mining in Chambal due to weak enforcement. Our experience in the neighbourhood tells that every legal mine allows a dozen illegal ones in the vicinity to manipulate papers and move their load as legal material," said conservation biologist Dr Dharmendra Khandal.

Moosewala case

and head of the module" that gunned down Moosewala. Sources told The Indian Express that after the incident, Priyavrat sent a message to Brar saying "work is done".

They said Priyavrat's associate, Kashish (24), was allegedly the "second shooter". The third arrested accused, Keshav Kumar, allegedly received the shooters after the murder, the sources said.

Priyavrat was previously involved in two other murder cases, in 2015 and 2021, while Jhajar resident Kashish was wanted in another murder case, the police said. Keshav has a criminal record, too, including alleged involvement in a murder case in 2020, the police said.

The accused were arrested near Mundra port in Kutch on Sunday morning following a police raid at a rented apartment where they were hiding, officers said.

Kutch (west) police said the Delhi Police team picked up the three accused from Baroli village. "They came to Mundra around a week ago in search of work and had taken a room on rent in Baroli," said Hardeep Trivedi, Police Inspector, Mundra.

Six "shooters" have so far been identified by the Delhi Police Special Cell, which is questioning jailed gangsters Lawrence Bishnoi, Kala Rana and Kala Jathedi in connection with the Moosewala killing. A total of 16 gang members and leaders have been arrested by the Delhi Police and other agencies in the case.

Moosewala was killed on May 29 at his village in Punjab's Mansa by assailants who waylaid the vehicle he was driving and opened fire, killing him on the spot. Brar and Bishnoi had taken responsibility for the murder on social media.

According to police sources, the preliminary probe has revealed that Brar and Bishnoi had planned the murder to take revenge for the killing of Akali Dal leader Vicky Middukhera. The two gangsters allegedly suspected that Moosewala and his manager had helped the assailants who gunned down Middukhera.

In the Moosewala killing, police sources said, the shooters were seen in CCTV footage recovered from a petrol pump near the spot. They were spotted in Fatehgarh right before the incident, they said.

"The murder was well planned. The men had conducted recce around 9-10 times in the weeks before the killing. They roamed around different routes to note

Moosewala's movement. They were not aware of his security arrangements, and were waiting for him to be alone," the sources said.

"Their aim was to kill Moosewala. For this, they had mounted grenade launchers in reserve and were ready to throw grenades as well. However, Moosewala died within minutes of firing and the additional weapons weren't used," the sources said.

According to sources, the police also found that the accused had bought uniforms to pose as Punjab Police officers but didn't use them and decided to wear masks instead.

Dhalival said: "All teams of the Special Cell worked round the clock to track down the syndicate members. We have identified six of the shooters. Two modules were involved in the murder. One was in a Bolero car, which was driven by Kashish. The others were in a Corolla car in which assailants Jagdeep Roopa and Manpreet Mannu were travelling."

In the Bolero, sources said, Priyavrat and other alleged accused Ankit Sirsa and Deepak Munde were in the back seat. According to police, Mannu allegedly fired the first burst from the Corolla at Moosewala's car. This halted the singer's vehicle, they said. From the other side, the shooters in the Bolero then shot the singer, they said.

The men later left in an Alto for different hideouts, sources said.

According to the police, they found weapons and ammunition in Haryana's Hisar in raids conducted after Sunday's arrest, including eight grenades, nine electric detonators, an assault rifle, three pistols and a grenade launcher. **(WITH ENDS/RAJKOT)**

Bribery case

allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 4 lakh from Dua. "Searches were conducted at 11 places located at Delhi, Noida, Gurugram, Patna, Bengaluru which led to recovery of incriminating documents/articles," a CBI statement said.

CBI officers claimed Bioinnovat Research Services Private Limited had been asked to get regulatory clearance for the Biocon product. Bioinnovate, in turn, engaged Synergy Network to get the work done, the officers claimed. "Dua, who negotiated and paid the bribe, is Synergy's Director. Both Reddy and Dua are under detention and are being questioned," a CBI officer said.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and Biocon Biologics rejected the CBI claims.

Mazumdar-Shaw said, "We deny the bribery allegations. All our product approvals are legitimate and backed by science and clinical data. Our bAspart is approved in Europe and many other countries. The regulatory process in India is online and all meeting minutes are in public domain."

A similar statement was issued by the spokesperson of Biocon Biologics. "All our product approvals are legitimate and backed by science and clinical data. Our bAspart is approved in Europe and many other countries. We follow due regulatory process for all our product approvals by DCGI. The entire application process in India is online and all meeting minutes are in public domain. We are co-operating with the investigation agency," the spokesperson said.

40-yr-old dairy farmer stabbed to death in Gujarat

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
RAJKOT, JUNE 20

A DAIRY farmer was allegedly stabbed to death by man after a minor tiff in Kitipara area of Rajkot city in the early hours of Monday.

Asif Juneja, a dairy-farmer and a resident of Gaekwadi area of the city was allegedly stabbed to

death by Vicky Bajariya in nearby Kitipara area at around 4 am on Monday, police said.

Police said the incident happened after Asif's cousin brother Jakir alias Tapudo Juneja got into an argument with Vicky.

"Jakir Juneja, who is the complainant in this case (of murder), was sitting with his friend Sunil Devipujak in Kitipara. During that

time, he had an argument with a youth named Vicky Bajariya. Jakir's cousin brother Asif knew Vicky and therefore, he was called to calm him down. Asif rushed to the spot and tried to reason with Vicky but he pulled a knife out of his waist and stabbed Asif," Sudhir Kumar Desai, deputy commissioner of police (zone-II) said.

Police said that Vicky fled the

spot after stabbing Asif and the victim bled to death.

"Asif was rushed to the civil hospital but he was declared dead due to excessive bleeding," Desai said. Vicky was booked for murder on the basis of a complaint filed by Jakir.

Police said that 40-year-old Asif and his cousin Jakir are dairy-farmers.

SIPPY SIDHU MURDER

Main accused to be produced in court today

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 20

THE CBI will produce Kalyani Singh, the main accused in the murder of Sukhmanpreet Singh Sidhu aka Sippy Sidhu, in court on Tuesday as the agency's two-day custodial remand ends.

Kalyani, the daughter of acting Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court, Sabina, was arrested last Wednesday by the CBI after being subjected to several rounds of interrogations. She was initially sent to 4 day police custody on June 15, with her police custody being extended by two days on June 19.

Sources said the bureau has so far taken Kalyani to the public park in Sector 27 where Sippy was shot dead in September 2015 for recreating the scene of crime. Kalyani has also been taken to Sippy Sidhu's office in Mohali by the CBI.

The national-level shooter and advocate Sukhmanpreet Singh Sidhu, aka Sippy Sidhu was

shot dead at a park in Sector 27, on September 20, 2015. A 12 bore shot gun was used in the crime and four bullets were fired from it.

Kalyani's counsel Sartaj Narula had so far rebuffed the claims made by Sippy's family about them having turning down a marriage proposal.

3 West Bengal

REPORT ALSO SUBMITTED AGAINST 2 JUVENILES

CBI files 2 chargesheets in Birbhum violence cases

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JUNE 20

THE CENTRAL Bureau of Investigation on Monday filed two charge-sheets in the killing of a Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader and the ensuing violence in which 10 persons were burnt to death at Bogtui village in West Bengal's Birbhum district on March 21.

In the case involving the murder of Bhadu Sheikh, a panchayat deputy pradhan owing allegiance to the TMC, the agency named four persons in the charge-sheet. They are Palash Khan alias Faizul Khan, Sanju Sheikh alias Nur Islam Sheikh, Safi Sheikh alias Safizul Sheikh and Mahi Sheikh alias Mahirul Sheikh. It claimed to have collected digital and other scientific evidence in the matter.

The CBI had registered an FIR in the matter on April 8 after taking over the probe on the Calcutta High Court's order. The police had earlier registered a case on March 22 at the Rampurhat police station against 10 persons.

In the arson and killings of 10 people, the agency filed chargesheet against 16 persons, including TMC leader Anarul Hussain, besides submitting a report against two juveniles in the juvenile Justice Board.

The 10 people named in the chargesheet are Azad Chowdhury, Intaj Sheikh, Mofizul Sheikh, Morteji Ali, Raston Sheikh, Rohan Sheikh, Nazir Hossain alias Rajib Sheikh, Lalan Sheikh alias Boro Lalan, Sal Mohammad alias Bappa, Jahangir Sheikh, Tousib Sheikh, Amzad Khan, Anarul Hussain, Taj alias Chand Mohammad, Samir Sheikh and Riton Sheikh.



The houses that were burnt at Bogtui village in Birbhum district on March 21. The central agency named four persons in the chargesheet in the killing of TMC leader Bhadu Sheikh, and 18 in the retaliatory arson in which 10 people were burnt to death. *Express Archive*

Both the charge-sheets were filed in the CBI Special Court in Birbhum. The CBI had registered an FIR on March 25 against 22 persons following the High Court order to take over the probe. The police had filed a case in the matter on March 22 against the 22 and others.

Soon after the killing of Bhadu Sheikh, tension had erupted in the area. It was alleged that Bhadu's associates and supporters ransacked the houses of rival groups at Bogtui before setting them on fire. Seven persons were charred to death on the spot while four sustained severe burn injuries. Three of the injured, including a woman, died during treatment.

The state police had arrested 21 persons.

After taking over the probe, a



TMC leader Anarul Hussain has also been named

CBI team along with forensic experts had visited the spot. The seven bodies recovered from the spot were charred and beyond recognition. The victims were identified using DNA profiling that was done by matching their biological samples preserved during autopsy with the blood samples of their direct relatives.

It was found that there was a long-standing rivalry between two groups, one led by Bhadu, in the village, a CBI official said. The agency had arrested six accused, four from Mumbai, during the course of investigation.



Singer KK died in Kolkata on May 31

HC directs govt to file affidavit on KK's death

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JUNE 20

THE CALCUTTA High Court on Monday directed the West Bengal government to file an affidavit on the death of Bollywood playback singer Krishnakumar Kunnath, popularly known as KK, who died after his performance at Kolkata's Nazrul Mancha auditorium on May 31.

A division bench of Chief Justice Prakash Srivastava and Justice Rajarshi Bharadwaj ordered the government to file the affidavit within three weeks and asked the administration to be mindful so that such tragic incidents do not occur in future.

The directive came while hearing three public interest litigations (PILs) by three lawyers on the singer's death. One of the petitioners also demanded a CBI probe into the matter. The petitioners had claimed that there was "utter mismanagement" at Nazrul Manch during KK's live performance on May 31. It was also alleged that the air-conditioning system did not work properly due to overcrowding which led to suffocation in the auditorium. A number of clips were produced to claim that KK was feeling uneasy during the performance, and that he took a 10-minute break to take rest in the middle of the show.



TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee

PRESIDENTIAL POLL

Abhishek may attend Oppn meet today

Kolkata: A senior Trinamool Congress (TMC) functionary said on Monday its national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee is likely to represent the party at the opposition meeting convened by NCP chief Sharad Pawar on June 21 over the coming presidential poll.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is unlikely to participate in the meeting due to prior engagements.

"The Chief Minister has asked Abhishek Banerjee to be present at the meeting. He was also there with Mamata Banerjee at the last opposition meeting on June 15," the TMC functionary said. **PTI**

NUPUR SKIPS POLICE SUMMONS

Kolkata: Sacked BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma skipped her appearance on Monday before Narkeldanga police station here, which had sent her a notice on the basis of an FIR filed by a local resident over her controversial remarks against the Prophet, an officer said. Sharma sent an email to the police station expressing her inability to appear before it on Monday, the police officer stated.

have seen disturbances. But it shouldn't have happened. We arrested the rioters. But why haven't they (BJP leaders) been arrested yet?" This comes after the suspension of seven BJP MLAs, including Suwendu Adhikari, from the Assembly.

Portal to be set up for admission to govt colleges, varsities in state

Kolkata: In a bid to bring transparency in the admission process at all government and government approved colleges and universities in the state, the state cabinet on Monday approved a decision to create a single portal for the purpose.

A cabinet meeting that was convened in the Assembly on Monday under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee accepted a proposal in this regard.

The Department of Higher Education has taken the decision after observing the admission process over the past few years. After the results of higher secondary examination are announced, there have been complaints about the admission, it is learnt. College student unions have been at the centre of complaints in most cases. So the higher education department does not want to face this complaint anymore. **ENS**

Assembly passes motion slamming Nupur remarks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JUNE 20

THE BENGAL Assembly on Monday passed a motion condemning the controversial remarks by former BJP national spokesperson Nupur Sharma against Prophet Muhammad.

Minister Partha Chatterjee moved the motion in the Assembly. The BJP MLAs, led by Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari, opposed the proposal and started protest when Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was addressing the House.

The CM claimed that the BJP does politics of provocation and hatred. "We took action when there was violence in the state. But how come this lady (Nupur Sharma) is still not arrested? I know she will not be arrested. She has sought four weeks from the Kolkata Police. She was to appear before the police today."

"There are three-and-a-half crore Muslims in our state. Howrah, Resinagar and Nadia

DARJEELING

NH-10 blocked for hours as rain triggers landslides

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JUNE 20

VEHICULAR MOVEMENT on the National Highway-10 connecting Siliguri to Kalimpong and Sikkim remained suspended for several hours on Monday after heavy rain triggered landslides between Sevoke Bagpool and Kalijhora in West Bengal's Darjeeling district.

The police and local administration engaged local residents to clear the blocked roads and restore the traffic. Later in the afternoon, the debris was cleared from the road near Kalijhora and then traffic restored even as people were advised to avoid the route due to heavy traffic.

In the wake of an incessant rain in the last few days, water level in various rivers of north Bengal has risen significantly. Several areas of the Dooars,

the foothills of the eastern Himalayas, have also submerged, it is learnt.

The water level of the Teesta river went up due to release of water from the Teesta Barrage on Monday morning. A red alert was issued by the Irrigation Department in the area near Teesta river.

"Riverbanks and roads were destroyed by the heavy rain in Siliguri. Some houses are on the verge to collapse," said a local resident. According to the meteorological department, thunderstorm and moderate rain along with gusty winds is likely to continue in parts of Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Jalpaiguri districts. People have been advised to stay in safe places during thunderstorm. The department has issued "orange alert" for Alipurduar and Coochbehar on Tuesday as the two districts are likely to receive "heavy to very heavy rain".

ASSEMBLY SESSION

BJP is trying to create armed cadre base via Agnipath: CM



Passengers at Howrah railway station after several trains were cancelled on Monday due to 'Bharat Bandh', called to protest against the Centre's Agnipath scheme. **PTI**

ENS & PTI

KOLKATA, JUNE 20

CHIEF MINISTER Mamata Banerjee on Monday targeted the BJP-led central government over its Agnipath recruitment scheme, alleging that the saffron camp was trying to create its own "armed" cadre base through the new defence recruitment programme.

Terming the scheme as an "insult" to the armed forces, Banerjee also wondered whether the BJP plans to hire 'Agniveer' soldiers as "watchmen" at its party offices, after their four-year service period.

"The BJP is trying to create its own armed cadre base through this scheme. What will they do after four years? The party wants to give arms into the hands of the youth," the TMC chairperson said in the Assembly.

Banerjee also said the BJP is trying to fool the masses ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls by announcing such schemes.

"They had promised two crore jobs every year. But, now they are only fooling the people of the country in the name of these schemes," she added.

Mamata, who joined the ongoing Assembly session for the first time, said, "The four-year job in the Agnipath project is not an army job," she said. She added, "The project was not announced by the Army. The Ministry of Home Affairs announced it. BJP wants to create cadre before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in the name of four years of service [in the armed forces]."

BJP MLAs started protesting and after some time they walked out of the Assembly. Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari said, "The honourable Chief Minister claims that the BJP has

provoked unrest. She also alleges that Agniveers will become BJP cadres. Our point is... it is she who has provoked unrest in the state. In spite of the violence [amid protests] in Nakashipara, Howrah, the situation was calm overall. We are walking out of the Assembly in protest against the CM's remarks.

Meanwhile, despite a call for a 'Bharat Bandh' on Monday against the Centre's Agnipath recruitment scheme, the situation remained normal in the state. The state government had deployed police at key locations to prevent any untoward incident.

Police were also deployed outside offices of state government and central government buildings to provide security in case a protest broke out. The Kolkata Police have identified over 100 places in and around the city where additional forces will be kept to prevent such protests.

12 interstate trains cancelled amid protests

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA, JUNE 20

THE EASTERN Railway on Monday cancelled 12 interstate express trains and rescheduled 11 others, including those originating from Howrah, Sealdah and Kolkata stations, owing to the agitations in Bihar and some other states over the Centre's 'Agnipath' scheme for recruitment in the Armed forces, an official said.

Protests over the short-service scheme had turned violent in various parts of the country last week, with the agitators setting fire to trains and vandalising railway properties.

Of the 12 trains cancelled are the Kolkata-Jaynagar Express, the Kolkata-Azamgarh Express, the Doon Express and the Sealdah-Ajmer Express, the Eastern Railway official said.

Among the trains rescheduled are Howrah-New Delhi Poorva Express, Howrah-Bikaner Express, Howrah-New Delhi Duronto Express, Kolkata-Jammu Tawi Express and Kolkata-Dehradun Kumbh Express.

A South Eastern Railway official, however, said that interstate express train services under the zone - from Howrah, Shalimar and Santragachi stations - ran on schedule during the day.

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Navdeep Suri
Former Ambassador of India to UAE & Egypt



Shubhajit Roy
Associate Editor
The Indian Express

In conversation with

The Narendra Modi government has showcased India's excellent relations with the Arab world as one of the highlights of its foreign policy.

The Prime Minister has invested personally in relationships across the Arab world, visiting mosques and posting selfies with regional leaders.

It was, therefore, a blow to India as over a dozen Arab and Muslim countries protested the offensive remarks against the Prophet by BJP spokespersons.

Why is India's relationship with the Arab world so important? What are the business, strategic, and people-to-people links between India and the Arab world? How can stress in this relationship create problems for New Delhi?

Listen to Navdeep Singh Suri, former Ambassador to the UAE and Egypt, and one of the leading voices on India's diplomacy in the Middle East, answer some of these and related questions.

Ambassador Suri will be in conversation with Shubhajit Roy of The Indian Express

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As Covid cases see uptick, doctors say ‘not unusual’

New case count has seen a daily jump of 70-100 over the past few days

EXPRESSNEWSERVICE
KOLKATA, JUNE 20

AMID A rise in the number of Covid-19 cases in Bengal over the past few days and concern about a possible fourth Covid wave hitting the country, doctors say that there is no reason to panic as a fourth wave was “expected” and cases going up is “not unusual.”

On Monday, the positivity rate rose to 4.19 per cent. West Bengal on Sunday recorded a positivity rate of 3.50 percent and 362 new cases - 74 more than the previous day's count of 288 new infections. Till date, 21,208 persons have succumbed to the virus in Bengal. In the past 24 hours, the state recorded 224 new Covid-19 cases, the state health department figures showed. With this, the state's overall case count reached 20,22,141 till date. Data shows that 1,988 infected people are in home isolation in Bengal while 56 are in hospitals.

“Whether it is 400 or 4,000 [cases] is immaterial. The virus has always been there. It decided to change its nature four-five months ago. From being a severe assault on lungs, it has become barely a mild respiratory track infection. All in all, this wasn't unexpected. If you see Indian dynamics, every six-seven months we see a surge. It is called the 'tail' of the pandemic. Two things are combined now: One, our overall detection level is better now and the virus has changed its nature. We must have confidence in the combination of vaccine and natural immunity. Instead of daily count, the number we should really be tracking is the number of hospitalisations — that would make the things more clear,” said

senior cardiac surgeon Dr Kunal Sarkar. Sarkar has appealed to the government and public health authorities to give the public an idea of Covid related activities at hospitals.

Bengal's Covid-19 tally is seeing a surge as the state is recording a jump of 70-100 cases in terms of daily count recently, according to the health department. Around ten days ago, on June 9, the daily Covid case count was 95. On Friday, the state logged 295 new infections and on Sunday the daily count reached 362.

In the first week of April Bengal, reported 12 new Covid-19 infections.

“In a span of three months, the daily count has jumped from 12 to 362 cases which seems alarming but there are no such movements at the hospital. If people have developed immunity and are fighting with the virus without a need of hospitalisation, I think we shouldn't panic but remain alert,” said a senior doctor at a private hospital that has been handling Covid cases since the first wave.


The state had reported its lowest number of daily cases on April 5.

“It [another Covid wave] is quite expected. Pandemics usually have 5-6 waves. Now how devastating it will be depends on

the mutation of the virus. Things are happening as per scientific law. What is important is to understand that a fourth wave is coming and we must treat the present scenario as its beginning. The figures are showing the indication that cases will go up further. What is important is we had preparations already which was not sufficient,” said Professor Manas Gumta, general secretary of the Association of Health Service Doctors (AHSD). While giving emphasis on revamping the infrastructures Gumta also appealed to people to maintain basic protocol such as wearing masks and using sanitisers.

“We have seen during second wave how people were suffering due to lack of beds, oxygen etc. We must be prepared for a fourth wave. It is key to revamp the infrastructure that was set up. People have also become a bit reluctant [to adhere to Covid protocol]. Many haven't completed their vaccine dose too. The government should urge people to use face masks and maintain Covid protocol. If we have developed herd immunity, there may not be a large number of cases. This is the beginning of the fourth wave. Instead of waiting for it to reach its peak, we must follow Covid protocols. We should ramp up vaccination too,” added Gumta.

SALUTE THE SOLDIER



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Tender Enquiry No. 1399/O&M/PC-2311 Dated: 16.06.2022
Chief Engineer/ O&M (P&P Cell-II), GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat, invites E-tender for the Procurement of Heating Elements (APH Baskets) for 2x250 MW Stage-II Units, Quantity as per NIT. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 16.06.2022 17.00 hrs. onwards.
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<p>WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 hereinafter called the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13[12] read with Rules 9 of the Security Interest [Enforcement] Rules, 2002 issued demand notices on the dates mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrowers, to repay the outstanding amount with interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.</p> <p>The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers in particular and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties mortgaged with the Company described herein below on the respective dates mentioned against each account in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13[4] of the Act read with Rule 9 of the Rules made there under.</p> <p>The borrowers in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties mentioned herein below and any such dealings will be subject to the charge of Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited for an amount mentioned against each account along with interest and other charges.</p> <p>Under section 13 [8] of the Securitisation Act, the borrowers can redeem the secured asset by payment of the entire outstanding including all costs, charges and expenses before notification of sale.</p>					
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1.	Loan Account No. XOHEGKL00001739806 1. Mita Addhya K-78, Bose Para, Kamdahari, Garia, South 24 Parganas, Pin - 700084 2. Linaj Addhya K-78, Bose Para, Kamdahari, Garia, South 24 Parganas, Pin - 700084 3. Maha Maya Utensils 44A, Kali Temple Road, Kolkata - 700026		All that piece and parcel of Land measuring 1 Cottah 11 Chittacks And 28 Sq. Ft. together with building thereon comprised in Mouza - Kamdahari, Pargana - Magura, Touzi No. 14, R. S. No. 200, J. L. No. 49, Khatian No.C.S.322 & R. S. No. 723 comprised in Dag No. 447 Lying and situated at Premises No. 84, Bose Para Road, Corresponding to Mailing Address at K-78, Bose Para Road under P. S. - Regent Park, Now Bansdroni, Kolkata - 700084, within the limit of Kolkata Municipal Corporation under Ward No.111, Assessee No. 311110400840 under the local jurisdiction of A.D.S.R. Alipore, District - South 24 Parganas. Butted and Bounded by : North - House of Mr. Dutta, South - Land of Sovra Rani Chatterjee, East - 6 Feet Wide Common Passage, West - House of Gopal Biswas.		A) 15.06.2021 B) Rs. 33,96,077.12 (Rupees Thirty Three Lakhs Ninety Six Thousand Seventy Seven & Twelve Paise Only) as on 10.06.2021 and interest thereon C) 20.06.2022 (Physical Possession)
2.	Loan Account No. XOHEGKL00001369237 1. Uttam Kumar Ghoshal 2. Naren Ghoshal Nandabhangra, Brahmanpara, Bakhrarah, Bishnupur, South 24 Parganas, Pin -743503 Also at : Flat No. B, Ground Floor, Ebony Homes Housing Complex, Bakhrarah Road P.O. - Rasarpunja, P. S. Bishnupur, Kolkata - 743503.		All that Flat No. B, measuring about 1495 Sq. Ft. super built up area on the Ground Floor together with open covered car parking space on the ground floor of the building built and constructed at or upon the plot of land measuring about 276 Decimals Forming Part of R. S. Dag Nos. 1825, 1825/2320, 1825/2321, 1822, 1821 and 1758 L. R. Nos.1229, 1789, 1226, 1225 And 1150 in Mouza - Rasa Punja, under P. S. Bishnupur in the District South 24 Parganas within the limits of Rasarpunja Gram Panchayat.		A) 15.06.2021 B) Rs. 29,95,183.56 (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakhs Ninety Five Thousand One Hundred Eighty Three & Fifty Six Only) as on 10-06-2021 and interest thereon. C) 20.06.2022 (Physical Possession)
Date : 21.06.2022 Place : Kolkata, West Bengal			Authorised Officer Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited		

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E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (b) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/ symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.
DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES [The Said Properties are under Constructive Possession/ Physical possession of the Secured Creditor]

Sl. No.	BRANCH NAME / Name & Address of the Borrowers / Guarantors	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged, Owner's Name(Mortgagers of property(ies) & Possession	A) Date of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) B) Date of Possession C) Outstanding as on	A) Reserve Price B) EMD C) Bid Increase Amount	Date & Time of E-Auction	Details of Encumbrances known to the Secured Creditors
1.	B/O- Asansol, 122/130, G.T.Road, Murgasol, Asansol- 713303 Borrower: Sayan Enterprise, Prop: Chandra Sekhar Choudhury, Puranhat(Main Road), Bumpur-713325 Guarantor: Arati Dhibar, D/O- Amulya Dhibar, Hirapur, Asansol- 713325	All the piece and parcel of landed property situated at Mouza- Hirapur, Jt. No. 19, LR Kh No. 12214 & 12215, Plot Nos. 3270, 3370, 3633, 3485, 3526, 3640, 3642, 4439 & 3376, Area- 33.50 decimal in the name of Arati Dhibar covered by Deed No. 3128 of 1971. Bounded By: North- Single Stoned Building, By South- Vacant Land or Others, By East – Road, By West – Vacant land of Others. Possession-Constructive	1. 24.07.2014 2. 21.10.2014 3. Rs.42,09,749.63 (Rupees forty two lac nine thousand seven hundred forty nine&sixty three paise only) as on 30.06.2014plus further interest thereon from 01.07.2014 and costs, Charges and Expenses incurred/to be incurred and less amount recovered thereafter.	A) Rs.21.44 Lakh B) Rs.2.15 Lakh C) Rs.10,000/-	28.07.2022 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM	Not known to Bank at present
2.	B/O- S B Gorai Road, C.R. Park, Ground floor, Hill View, Asansol- 713304 Borrower: i) Sh Arup Kumar Ghosh, S/O- Late Nandalal Ghosh, 586/1, Mohisila Colony, Asansol-713303. ii) Ms Tanushree Ghosh, D/O- Arup Kr Ghosh, Nanadalaya, 222, S P Mukherjee Road Bye Lane, Murgasol, Asansol- 713303	All the piece and parcel of the land and two storied building situated under Asansol Municipal Corporation, Mouza- Mohisila, Jt. No. 37, RSPlot No.49 & Layout Plot No. 586, RS Kh No.211 to 226 measuring area about 5.36 decimal in the name of Arup Kumar Ghosh & Tanushree Ghosh covered by Deed No. 13751 of 2010, Boundary: North: House of Tanu Baia Dutta, South: House of Bhim Chandra Bank, East: 18 Ft Road, West: Remaining portion of Vendor. Possession-Constructive	1. 19.07.2011 2. 06.11.2012 3. Rs. 10,94,277.00 (Rupees ten lac ninety four thousand two hundred seventy seven only) as on 30.06.2011 plus further interest thereon from 01.07.2011 and costs, Charges and Expenses incurred / to be incurred and less amount recovered thereafter.	A) Rs. 22.98 Lakh B) Rs. 2.30 Lakh C) Rs. 10,000/-	28.07.2022 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM	Not known to Bank at present
3.	B/O- BCET, Bengal College of Engg & Tech, Bidhannagar, Durgapur-713212 Borrower: Bengal Creamics and Monolithic Industries, Plot No. 146, Jt. No. 65, Gopalpur, Sarenga Road, PO, Gopalpur, Durgapur-713212 Prop: Goutam Das, S/O- Late Santi Ranjan Das, R-III-224, Bidhan Nagar Housing Colony, Durgapur- 713206. Goutam Das, S/O- Late Santi Ranjan Das, Flat No.G-60, 7th Floor, Prityayee Housing Complex, G Block, , Bamunara, Durgapur-713212	All the piece and parcel of the Factory land, structure, plant & Machineries situated at Mouza- Gopalpur, Jt. No.65, LR Plot No.146, LR Khatian No.4716, Vill- Gopalpur, PO- Durgapur, PS-Kanksa under Gopalpur Gram Panchayet, Dist- Paschim Bardhaman in the name of Sri Goutam Das S/O-Late Santi Ranjan Das being Deed No.03201 of the year 2013. Boundary: North: vacant land of Dag No.139 South: 30 ft wide road East : Plot No. 146 West : Plot No. 147 & 149 . Possession-Constructive	1. 21.01.2022 2. 07.04.2022 3. Rs. 47,85,681.22 (Rupees Forty seven lakh eighty five thousand six hundred eighty one and Paisea twenty two only) as on 31.12.2021 plus accrued interest, incidental expenses, cost & charges etc. from 01.10.2021 till the date of repayment.	A) Rs.29.95 Lakh B) Rs.3.00 Lakh C) Rs.10,000/-	28.07.2022 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM	Not known to Bank at present
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5.	B/O- Hutton Road, Hutton Road, Asansol-713301 Borrower: Krishna Enterprise, Prop- Smt Krishna Mukherjee, W/O- Maruti Mohan Mukherjee, Vill-Puchra, Near Puchra Jore Nala, PO-Kelepora, PS- Baraboni, Pin-713334 Smt Krishna Mukherjee, W/O- Maruti Mohan Mukherjee, Rabindra Nagar Court More, Asansol-713304	All that piece and parcel of the land situated at Vill-Puchra, Near Jore Nala PS- Baraboni, Dist Burdwan, Mouza- Puchra, Jt. No. 21, RS Kh No. 117, LR KH No. 2507, Plot No. 170, Area- 59 decimal in the name of Smt Krishna Mukherjee covered by Deed No. 9788 of 2009, Boundary: North: Property of Others South: 14 Ft wide Road East : Property of Others West : Puchra Jore Nala. Possession-Constructive	1. 17.10.2013 2. 18.06.2014 3. Rs.13,29,033.00 (Rupees thirteen lakh twenty nine thousand thirty three only) as on 30.09.2013 plus accrued interest, incidental expenses, cost & charges etc. from 01.10.2013 till the date of repayment	A) Rs.5.84 Lakh B) Rs.0.59 Lakh C) Rs.10,000/-	28.07.2022 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM	Not known to Bank at present
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Sl. No.	BRANCH NAME / Name & Address of the Borrowers / Guarantors	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged, Owner's Name(Mortgagers of property(ies) & Possession	A) Date of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) B) Date of Possession C) Outstanding as on	A) Reserve Price B) EMD C) Bid Increase Amount	Date & Time of E-Auction	Details of Encumbrances known to the Secured Creditors
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TERMS AND CONDITIONS
The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions:
1. The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"
2. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
3. **The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://www.msotecommmerce.com> on 28.07.2022 @ 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM**
4. For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer to website: www.bapi.in, www.msotecommmerce.com, <https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app> & www.pnbindia.in
5. For any queries regarding the terms and conditions of the sale, the interested bidders may contact, **Sadhan Chandra Mondal (Chief Manager) Mob: 9771441436 or Madan Mohan Mandal (Manager) Mob: 8617314696**

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 9(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST ENFORCEMENT AMENDMENT RULES, 2002.	
Date: 21.06.2022 Place: Durgapur	Manoranjan Satpathy, Asstt. General Manager Authorised Officer, Punjab National Bank
STATUTORY SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002	

"IMPORTANT"

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GUJARAT MARITIME BOARD

ONLINE TENDER NOTICE FOR

1. Electrical infrastructural work for development of Fishery harbour phase-III at Mangrol-2nd attempt (Est. Cost Rs. 02,73,10,160)

Tender Notice No.XEN(M)/2022-23/08

On behalf of Chairman, Gujarat Maritime Board, the Executive Engineer (Mech), Bhavnagar (Tel: 0278-2443195) invites online tender offer through www.nprocure.com from experienced agencies for above mentioned work.

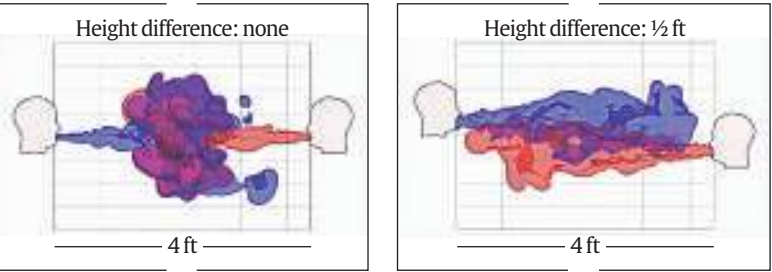
Bid document downloading and online submission end date is **11/07/2022 upto 18:00 hrs.** and physical submission of Tender fee/EMD & other document through **RPAD/Speed post only** as per detailed NIT upto



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The risk of Covid transmission when two people are talking



Interactions of speech jets during short conversations between two people separated by a distance of 4 feet. Rohit Singhal, Indian Institute of Science

WHEN A person infected with Covid talks to an uninfected person, what is the risk of the first person transmitting the virus to the second? Researchers have examined this question by carrying out computer simulations to analyse the movement of speech aerosols, and published their findings in the journal *Flow*.

The team included researchers from the Department of Aerospace Engineering at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), and collaborators from the Nordic Institute for Theoretical Physics in Stockholm, and the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences in Bengaluru.

For the simulations, the team visualised scenarios in which two maskless people are standing 2 ft, 4 ft or 6 ft apart and talking to each other for about a minute, and then estimated the rate and extent of spread of speech aerosols. The simulations showed that the risk of getting infected was higher when one person acted as a passive listener and didn't engage in a two-way conversation. Factors like the height difference between the two people, and the quantity of aerosols released from their mouths, also appear to play an important role in viral

transmission, IISc said in a press release.

For the analysis, the team modified a computer code (called Megha-5) they had originally developed to study the movement and behaviour of cumulus clouds. The analysis incorporated the possibility of viral entry through the eyes and mouth in determining the risk of infection, the release said, noting that most previous studies had only considered the nose as the

point of entry. When the speakers were either of the same height, or of drastically different heights (one tall and another short), the risk of infection was found to be much lower than when the height difference was moderate. Based on the results, the team suggests just turning their heads away by about 9° from each other while still maintaining eye contact can reduce the risk considerably.

Moving forward, the team plans to focus on simulating differences in the loudness of the speakers' voices and the presence of ventilation sources in their vicinity to see what effect they can have on viral transmission, the release said.

SOURCE: IISc



PAPER CLIP
NEW RESEARCH

THIS WORD MEANS

BLACK SWAN EVENT

A rare, unpredictable event with a significant impact on society or the world; RBI has flagged the possibility of one.

A STUDY by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has spoken about the possibility of capital outflows to the tune of \$100 billion (around Rs 7,80,000 crore) from India in case of a major global risk scenario or a "black swan" event.

A black swan is a rare, unpredictable event that comes as a surprise and has a significant impact on society or the world. These events are said to have three distinguishing characteristics – they are extremely rare and outside the realm of regular expectations; they have a severe impact after they hit; and they seem probable in hindsight when plausible explanations appear.

ORIGINS: The black swan theory was put forward by author and investor Nassim Nicholas Taleb in 2001, and later popularised in his 2007 book – *The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable*. The *Sunday Times* described his work as one of the 12 most influential books since World War II.

Taleb does not try to lay out a method to predict such events, but instead stresses building "robustness" in systems and

strategies to deal with black swan occurrences and withstand their impact.

The term itself is linked to the discovery of black swans. Europeans believed all swans to be white until 1697, when a Dutch explorer spotted the first black swan in Australia. The metaphor 'black swan event' is derived from this unprecedented spotting from the 17th century, and how it upended the West's understanding of swans.

PRECEDENTS: Taleb's book predated the 2008 global financial crisis – a black swan event triggered by a sudden crash in the booming housing market in the US. The fall of the Soviet Union, the terrorist attack in the US on September 11, 2001, also fall in the same category.

Taleb does not agree with those who believe the Covid-19 pandemic to be a black swan event. In an interview to Bloomberg in 2020, he called it a "white swan", arguing that it was predictable, and there was no excuse for companies and governments not to be prepared for something like this.

SAURABH KAPOOR



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Banning single-use plastic

The Centre has defined a list of single-use plastic items that will be banned from July 1. How much such plastic is released into the environment, what are the items chosen, and how will the ban be enforced?

ESHA ROY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

THE CENTRE has banned the use of 'single-use plastic' from July 1. The Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change had issued a gazette notification last year announcing the ban, and has now defined a list of items that will be banned from next month.

"The manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of following single-use plastic, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, commodities shall be prohibited with effect from the 1st July, 2022," says the Ministry notification.

What is single-use plastic?

As the name suggests, it refers to plastic items that are used once and discarded. Single-use plastic has among the highest shares of plastic manufactured and used – from packaging of items, to bottles (shampoo, detergents, cosmetics), polythene bags, face masks, coffee cups, cling film, trash bags, food packaging etc.

A 2021 report by one of the Australian philanthropic organisations the Munderoo Foundation said single-use plastics account for a third of all plastic produced globally, with 98% manufactured from fossil fuels. Single-use plastic also accounts for the majority of plastic discarded – 130 million metric tonnes globally in 2019 – "all of which is burned, buried in landfills or discarded directly into the environment", the report said.

On the current trajectory of production, it has been projected that single-use plastic could account for 5-10% of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The report found that India features in the top 100 countries of single-use plastic waste generation – at rank 94 (the top three being Singapore, Australia and Oman. With domestic production of 11.8 million metric tonnes annually, and import of 2.9 MMT, India's net generation of single-use plastic waste is 5.6 MMT, and per capita generation is 4 kg.

What are the items being banned?

The items on which the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) have announced a ban are earbuds; balloon sticks; candy and ice-cream sticks; cutlery items including plates,



Activists in Chandigarh clear a forest area of single-use plastic in May. Express

cups, glasses, forks, spoons, knives, trays; sweet boxes; invitation cards; cigarette packs; PVC banners measuring under 100 microns; and polystyrene for decoration.

The Ministry had already banned polythene bags under 75 microns in September 2021, expanding the limit from the earlier 50 microns. From December, the ban will be extended to polythene bags under 120 microns. Ministry officials have explained that the ban is being introduced in phases to give manufacturers time to shift to thicker polythene bags that are easier to recycle. While manufacturers can use the same machine for 50- and 75-micron bags, the machinery will need to be upgraded for 120 microns.

According to the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, there is also a complete ban on sachets using plastic material for storing, packing or selling *guthka*, tobacco and *pan masala*.

Why these items?

Ministry officials have said that the choice for the first set of single-use plastic items for the ban was based on "difficulty of collection, and therefore recycling".

"The enemy is not that plastic exists *per se*, but that plastic exists in the environment. When plastic remains in the environment for long periods of time and does not decay, it turns into microplastics – first entering our food sources and then the human body, and

this is extremely harmful. We have chosen these items as they are difficult to collect, especially since most are either small, or discarded directly into the environment – like ice-cream sticks. It then becomes difficult to collect for recycling, unlike the much larger items," said a Ministry official.

Satish Sinha of the environmental group Toxic Links described the items chosen as "low-hanging fruit". "Of the single-use plastic industry – the production and sale of these items is miniscule. The largest share of single-use plastic is that of packaging – with as much as 95% of single use belong to this category – from toothpaste to shaving cream to frozen foods. The items chosen are of low value and of low turnover and are unlikely to have a big economic impact, which could be a contributing reason. Having said that, we do need to start with something, and it is a beginning," said Sinha.

How will the ban be enforced?

The ban will be monitored by the CPCB from the Centre, and by the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) that will report to the Centre regularly. Directions have been issued at national, state and local levels – for example, to all petrochemical industries – to not supply raw materials to industries engaged in the banned items.

Directions have also been issued to SPCBs and Pollution Control Committees to modify

or revoke consent to operate issued under the Air/Water Act to industries engaged in single-use plastic items. Local authorities have been directed to issue fresh commercial licenses with the condition that SUP items will not be sold on their premises, and existing commercial licences will be cancelled if they are found to be selling these items.

Last week, the CPCB issued one-time certificates to 200 manufacturers of compostable plastic and the BIS passed standards for biodegradable plastic.

Those found violating the ban can be penalised under the Environment Protection Act 1986 – which allows for imprisonment up to 5 years, or a penalty up to Rs 1 lakh, or both.

Violators can also be asked to pay Environmental Damage Compensation by the SPCB. In addition, there are municipal laws on plastic waste, with their own penal codes.

How are other countries dealing with single-use plastic?

Earlier this year, 124 countries, parties to the United Nations Environment Assembly, including India, signed a resolution to draw up an agreement which will in the future make it legally binding for the signatories to address the full life of plastics from production to disposal, to end plastic pollution.

Bangladesh became the first country to ban thin plastic bags in 2002. New Zealand became the latest country to ban plastic bags in July 2019. China issued a ban on plastic bags in 2020 with phased implementation.

As of July 2019, 68 countries have plastic bag bans with varying degrees of enforcement.

Eight states in the US have banned single-use plastic bags, beginning with California in 2014. Seattle became the first major US city to ban plastic straws in 2018.

On July 2, 2021, the Directive on Single-Use Plastics took effect in the European Union (EU). The directive bans certain single-use plastics for which alternatives are available; single-use plastic plates, cutlery, straws, balloon sticks and cotton buds cannot be placed on the markets of the EU member states. The same measure applies to cups, food and beverage containers made of expanded polystyrene, and all products made of oxo-degradable plastic.

Vanuatu and the Seychelles have banned plastic straws outright.

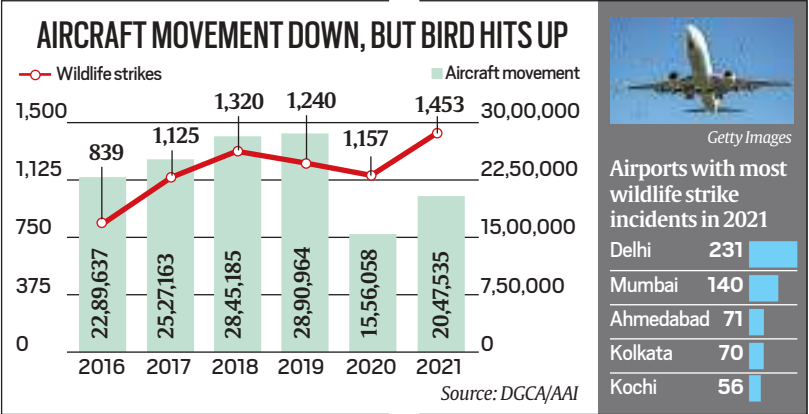
How bird hits happen, why they are a concern

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

AT LEAST two bird strike incidents happened on Sunday. Both aircraft returned to their origin airports and were grounded for maintenance. An IndiGo A320neo aircraft, which took off from Guwahati towards Delhi, suffered damage to its left engine following a bird hit at 1,600 feet. The pilots returned to Guwahati. The other strike happened on a Spicejet flight from Patna to Delhi. The pilots of the Boeing 737-800 suspected a bird strike during the take-off roll but continued to climb. Following the take-off rotation, they were informed by the cabin crew of sparks emanating from the left engine. Subsequently, the pilots were also informed by air traffic control of smoke coming out of one of the engines. The pilots declared an emergency and returned to Patna.

Why are bird strikes a concern?

Bird strikes are among the most common threats to aircraft safety, and they typically occur during take-off or landing. Dozens of bird strikes happen each day but some can be more dangerous than others. Typically, when birds collide with an aircraft's airframe, it is unlikely to cause significant problems for the pilots flying. But there are instances – like those on



Sunday – where the aircraft engine ingests the birds. This can lead to a loss of thrust for the engine and cause manoeuvrability problems for the crew. In these cases, where a jet engine ingests a bird, procedures would generally call for pilots to get the plane on the ground at the closest airport. While most airframe bird strikes are not considered critical to air safety, if a collision cracks a window or a windshield, pilots will look to land as early as possible.

How critical are bird strikes to air safety?

Smaller planes would generally be more

susceptible to the dangers of bird strikes than larger ones. Also, modern jetliners are built with a number of redundancies, and common passenger aircraft like Boeing 737 or Airbus A320 are designed to safely land with even a single engine.

However, given that bird strikes mostly happen during take-off and landing, these incidents could distract the pilots during what are highly critical phases of a flight that demand the complete attention of the crew.

What causes bird strikes, and what are the

ways to prevent these?

In the simplest of terms, the presence of birds around an airfield increases the chances of a bird strike. In the monsoon, as water puddles emerge on open grounds attracting insects to breed, these also increase the presence of birds. In some cases, bird hits also happen at higher altitudes when a plane is cruising. These are more dangerous than the low-altitude hits given that they can cause rapid depressurisation of cabins. Other reasons for bird activity around an airfield could be the presence of landfills or waste disposal sites that attract a large number of birds.

For example, in 2019, the Ahmedabad airport saw 11 wildlife strike events every 10,000 flights. One of the key reasons behind this was the dismantling of a large garbage dump that was located almost directly in the trajectory of flights approaching the airport, a move that has caused the birds circling the landfill to disperse.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation and the DGCA have recognised wildlife strikes, including bird and animal hits, to aircraft as one of the "State Safety Priority", and the aviation regulator regularly carries out aerodrome inspections that are considered critical with regard to wildlife strikes. Aviation authorities, along with local agencies, work on reducing wildlife presence around airports from time to time.

How lightning kills, and which areas are the most prone to strikes

PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS & AMITABH SINHA
PUNE, JUNE 20

SEVENTEEN PEOPLE have been killed by lightning over the last two days in various parts of Bihar. Six deaths have been reported from Bhagalpur district, while three people were killed in Vaishali, and two each in Banka and Khagaria. Other deaths happened in Madhepura, Saharsa, Munger and Katihar.

Of all the atmospheric phenomena, lightning perhaps is the most dangerous and mysterious. In India, lightning kills about 2,000-2,500 people every year. Bihar is just one of the several hotspots for lightning in India, as a new atlas of lightning shows.

What is lightning?

Scientifically, lightning is a rapid and massive discharge of electricity in the atmosphere some of which is directed towards earth. The discharges are generated

in giant moisture-bearing clouds that are 10-12 km tall. The base of these clouds typically lie within 1-2 km of the Earth's surface, while the top is 12-13 km away. Temperatures in the top of these clouds are in the range of -35° to -45°C.

As water vapour moves upward in the cloud, the falling temperature causes it to condense. As they move to temperatures below 0°C, the water droplets change into small ice crystals. They continue to move up, gathering mass until they are so heavy that they start to fall to Earth. This leads to a system in which, simultaneously, smaller ice crystals are moving up and bigger crystals are coming down.

Collisions follow and trigger the release of electrons, a process that is very similar to the generation of sparks of electricity. As the moving free electrons cause more collisions and more electrons, a chain reaction ensues. This process results in a situation in which the top layer of the cloud gets positively charged, while the middle layer is nega-

tively charged. The electrical potential difference between the two layers is huge, of the order of a billion to 10 billion volts. In very little time, a massive current, of the order of 100,000 to a million amperes, starts to flow between the layers.

While the Earth is a good conductor of electricity, it is electrically neutral. However, in comparison to the middle layer of the cloud, it becomes positively charged. As a result, about 15%-20% of the current gets directed towards the Earth as well. It is this flow of current that results in damage to life and property on Earth.

Direct lightning strikes are rare but even indirect strikes are fatal given the immense amount of charge involved.

Which areas are lightning-prone?

A recently released annual report on lightning by the Climate Resilient Observing Systems Promotion Council (CROPC), which works closely with government agencies like the India Meteorological Department,

2019-22: TOP 8 LIGHTNING-PRONE DISTRICTS

Over 2 lakh strikes each

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| ■ Mayurbhanj | ■ Korba |
| ■ Keonjhar | ■ Jaipur |
| ■ Purulia | ■ Medinipur West |
| ■ Chandrapur | ■ Prakasham |

Source: Lightning Annual Report 2021-22

includes a lightning atlas which maps vulnerability at the district level.

According to the report, Madhya Pradesh has reported the largest number of cloud to ground lightning strikes, followed by Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Odisha and West Bengal. Other states with high strike rate include Bihar, UP, Karnataka, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu.

Lightning is fairly common, though it is not often realised in the urban centres. In India, well over one crore lightning strikes have been recorded in recent years. It is only over the last few years that lightning records have begun to be maintained, thanks to the efforts of CROPC and India Meteorological Department.

In 2019-20, about 1.4 crore lightning strikes were recorded, which increased to 1.85 crore in 2020-21.

In 2021-22, about 1.49 crore strikes were recorded across the country. The reduction, in line with the trend observed globally, has been attributed to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The reason attributed to reduction in lightning is due to Covid-19 pandemic induced reduction in aerosol level, pollution, environmental upgradation and relatively stable weather system in Indian subcontinent," the annual lightning report said.

But most of this reduction was seen in the cloud-to-cloud lightning. Of the strikes

that reach the Earth, only a 2.5% reduction was observed.

How can the effects of lightning strikes be mitigated?

Lightning is not classified as a natural disaster in India. But recent efforts have resulted in the setting up of an early warning system, that is already saving many lives. More than 96% of lightning deaths happen in rural areas. As such, most of the mitigation and public awareness programmes need to focus on these communities.

Lightning protection devices are fairly unsophisticated and low-cost. Yet, their deployment in the rural areas, as of now, is extremely low.

States are being encouraged to prepare and implement lightning action plans, on the lines of heat action plans. An international centre for excellence on lightning research to boost detection and early warning systems is also in the process of being set up.



C R Sasikumar

On jobs, the big picture

Data on employment paints a complex landscape. Government’s intent to add over a million jobs in the next 18 months is laudable, but the task is audacious and challenging



MADAN SABNAVIS

LET US LOOK at three reports that have appeared recently on the issue of jobs. The first pertains to start-ups that have begun issuing pink slips to their employees. The number given for this year so far is above 10,000 and more could be in the offing. The second pertains to the NSO survey which says that the unemployment rate in 2020-21 (July to June) was at 4.2 per cent, down from 4.8 per cent in 2019-20. This sounds good because it seems that even though start-ups are retrenching staff, somewhere in the country, opportunities are being created. And the third is the determination shown by the government in creating opportunities — it has assured the creation of one million jobs over the next one-and-a-half years. This may be optimistic, but if it does materialise, the employment landscape will change dramatically.

So what is the employment situation today in India? Ex-post, one can say that if jobs are being created on a progressive basis, there will be an increase in income generation, which in turn, should spur consumption. Therefore, if consumption picks up — this can be indicated by the growth in the consumer goods segments — then one can be confident of jobs being created. Here the picture may not be too assuring. Consumer durable goods have been registering negative or slightly positive growth for the last five years or so — this is a reflection of the purchasing power of the people that ultimately can be linked to job creation.

There has also been a lot of talk about start-ups with several companies having witnessed impressive listings, despite their profit and loss accounts being weak. It is one thing to say that these firms were able to ride the stock market boom post-Covid and have garnered resources. But those that are still dependent on funding from venture capital-

ists or PE funds have suffered a setback, with this channel drying up.

Interestingly, it is a well-known fact that, globally, 80-85 per cent of start-ups fold up in the first couple of years mainly due to non-viable models that fail the scaling-up challenge — when an enterprise that works at the micro-level does not survive as it expands. For this deep pockets are required and if funds are not forthcoming, it adds to the pressures on the firm. A fallout of this is retrenchment. Start-ups have been the flavour with several qualified engineering and management graduates who prefer to start their own ventures, especially in the fintech space. Therefore, while start-ups sound exciting, job creation at scale cannot be part of these experiments, unless there is an assured flow of funds.

The NSO data which talks of the unemployment rate coming down to 4.2 per cent in 2020-21 sounds like good news because it says that during the height of the pandemic there was a decline in the unemployment rate. But this does not seem in sync with those times when several people had lost their jobs and when migrants were forced to go back home with their workplaces closing down. In fact, the PLFS data does throw up some anomalies. From 2018-19 onwards, the unemployment rate has been coming down — from 6.1 per cent in 2017-18 to 5.8 per cent in 2018-19 to 4.8 per cent in 2019-20 and then to 4.2 per cent in 2020-21. But, during this phase, the GDP growth rate declined from 6.8 per cent in 2017-18 to 6.5 per cent and 3.7 per cent in 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively, contracting thereafter by 6.6 per cent in 2020-21. Therefore, there does seem to be something amiss here as lower GDP growth is being associated with a decline in the unemployment rate which should be the other way. This is something that requires further examination given that CMIE’s unemployment rates have been between 7-10 per cent during the Covid period.

The government’s intention to hire one million employees is laudable. It will be a really big task given that presently the central government offices house around 3.45 million personnel as per the budget for 2022-23. Employing a million more will mean an addition of around 30 per cent to this num-

The NSO data which talks of the unemployment rate coming down to 4.2 per cent in 2020-21 may sound like good news because it says that during the height of the pandemic there was a decline in the unemployment rate. But this does not seem in sync with the times when several people had lost their jobs and the migrants were forced to go back home with their workplaces closing down. In fact, the PLFS data does throw up some anomalies.

ber. The questions that arise are the following: First, can this number be accomplished in this short period of time considering that there are fairly lengthy processes involved in hiring people to government departments? Second, hiring such a number is good for the country, but finding meaningful roles for them in various departments needs to be seriously examined. Interestingly, in 2012-13, the total employee strength was 3.41 million which came down to 3.18 million by 2020-21 as the government worked on reducing its flab significantly. It has increased in the last two years to 3.46 million. Quite clearly, plans need to be in place to provide work to this set of new employees. It is possible that the opportunities may go beyond the central government departments, perhaps in the realm of education, health and social welfare. But that would be outside the system.

The third issue that would have to be kept in mind is the increase in cost for the government. As per the budget for 2022-23, the average outgo per employee was around Rs 12.20 lakh. Assuming the new set earns half of the existing average, the additional cost would be at least Rs 60,000 crore. The salary outlay for the year was Rs 4.22 lakh crore. These provisions would have to be made in subsequent budgets. The other associated cost that has to be kept in mind relates to pension funds — this necessity builds up every year as employees retire periodically.

Therefore, the overall unemployment picture looks complex today. While officially, the rate is coming down, our experience during the pandemic doesn’t support such optimism. While the government’s intent to add over a million jobs in the next 18 months is laudable, the task is audacious and challenging from both an administrative and financial point of view. Lastly, the high hopes placed on startups to propel India have proved to be a dampener from the point of view of the stock market performance as well as employment. It has led to job destruction rather than creation. We may have to wait for the traditional route of economic growth to gradually create spaces for more jobs.

The writer is Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda and author of Lockdown or economic destruction. Views are personal

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“Last month, leaks by US officials revealed that the US helped Ukraine kill Russian generals, and Mr. Biden signed a \$40 billion aid package for Ukraine. At the very least, what the US is doing in Ukraine is not not war.”

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Rebuilding school, children first

Post-pandemic learning assessments must differ from those before it. They should be sensitive to children’s experiences during the crisis



DISHA NAWANI AND VIVEK KUMAR

A DEEP learning crisis has set in during the Covid pandemic. The National Achievement Survey (NAS) has captured a fall of nine percentage points between 2017 and 2021 in the performance of students in subjects ranging from maths to social science (IE, May 25). Since the absence of a formal, structured learning environment is being identified as the primary cause of this crisis, the learning loss seems to be more applicable to those children who do not have educational support at home and are constrained in other ways as well.

It is natural to expect any tool that assesses and quantifies the acquisition of formal learning skills among children will show gaps between what they should know and what they actually know. What is a bit perplexing, however, is that while the meanings of learning, pedagogy, and peer interaction have changed with the shift to the online mode, the assessment tools continue to be centred on the offline mode of instruction. Typically, curriculum, pedagogy and assessment go hand-in-hand and a change in any of these necessitates a change in the other two as well. That is not the case here.

The NAS is the first nationwide survey of quality education after the lockdown and extended closure of schools. Therefore, its results assume greater significance. School teachers have also been asked to assess students on a regular basis.

Now that the learning loss has been estimated, children with learning gaps have been identified and appropriate strategies framed for them, it is important to recognise the implications of labelling a section of children as “weak”. We also need to examine the impact of this kind of assessment on the meaning of learning. Labelling a child as “kamzor bachcha” impacts her self-worth and dignity. In the Kotra village in Rajasthan, for instance, where one of us works, it’s common to see a few children playing early morning while most others make their way to the support classes — a sense of shame on their downcast faces is obvious.

One has also seen children running in the opposite direction on seeing their teacher: “Maasahab aa rahain hain, bhag, Mobile se kuch sawal pochenge aur phir kahenge tum log ko kuch nahin aata hai” (The teacher is coming, let us run. He will ask a few questions from his mobile and say that you don’t know anything). Incidents such as these reflect how children have begun to view their teachers and what assessment means to them.

The more fundamental impact of such assessments is on the meaning they give to learning. Remedial programmes like bridge courses are based on an understanding of learning as an additive process, one that can be recovered by increasing either the con-

tent intake or the instruction time. Second, it also assumes that learning manifests itself easily irrespective of who is evaluating and under what circumstances, without bothering to understand how children relate to the assessment exercise. Third, it validates certain kinds of learning which takes place in the classroom and excludes all other experiences outside it. Without downplaying the importance of foundational skills of literacy and numeracy, one must admit that there is a risk of them being given disproportionate importance to the neglect of all other kinds of learning that seldom gets measured. Related to this is the narrative of poor children lacking basic foundational skills.

While the assessment survey focuses on what children do not know, it is also important to know what they may have experienced/acquired in this period. While the experience of each child may differ, one may not be wrong in generalising that each child may have gone through some amount of grief, uncertainty, fear of death, the pain of losing someone close, alienation from one’s friends and classmates. Some would have even faced poverty, hunger, dislocation and the resultant frustration. This also means that children may have also matured more, their needs would have changed and so would their expectations from school. It is also important to acknowledge the fact that just because children did not come to school, they did not stop learning. In Kotra, we observed that the last two years have also meant a little more time for children to be with friends, support their parents and learn from them, and explore local forests and areas in their village. All these experiences should be integral to the learning process. It becomes critical for schools to integrate elements of these into classrooms.

Rather than asking how to make children ready for school, a more valid question to ask perhaps would be how to make schools more responsive to children and their needs. Although the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) has been continuously lamenting the falling learning levels of school children since 2005, we will confine our discussion around the pandemic. Schools need to be prepared to offer and invite students to process grief through cultivating safe spaces to express and share their feelings and needs. Providing such spaces would be very critical in processing grief. This should be ingrained in school culture, and not be a one-off event and its effect on the overall growth of children should be observed. This will allow children to reclaim their spaces in the classroom. This practice is rooted in the child first approach.

Opportunities to build confidence in children must be created and students should be enabled to work in groups so that they can share their experiences with their peers. The well-being of teachers should be considered absolutely essential to the process. Thrusting them with responsibility unilaterally mandated by their seniors will not take us far. These measures will have a positive influence on the teacher-student relationship and help bridge the trust deficit that has been created by long school closures.

Nawani is with the School of Education, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Kumar is the CEO and Co-founder of Kshamtalaya in Kotra, Rajasthan

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WAY FORWARD

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Grim reminder’ (IE, June 20). Saturday’s incident is the latest targeted attack on a place of worship of a minority community in Afghanistan. This shows that the Taliban is not in full control. The Afghan economy has gone into a tailspin, hunger is acute, and women’s rights are disappearing. The Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the deadly terror attack. Delhi must raise its voice in shaping the international debate on Afghanistan as well as revisit its Afghan policy.

SS Paul, Chalkdaha, Nadia

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Grim reminder’ (IE, June 20). The attack on a Gurdwara in Kabul will have long-term consequences. First of all, the global community will have to keep asking the Taliban regime to respect minority rights and provide them security. Secondly, threat of terrorism, which was an expected fallout after US’ withdrawal, looms large in the region. The complex nature of terrorism in Afghanistan is a grim reminder to stay vigilant. Presence of the Haqqani Network, Al-Qaeda, and Taliban has been complicated further by the prominent presence of ISIL-K. Finally, for New Delhi, this is a setback. Because we have started the process of reopening the Indian embassy in Kabul recently, and those efforts could be derailed by this attack. Having said that, along with

the global community, India should keep asking for accountability from the Taliban regime for the larger interest of the region. At the same time, we need to keep diplomatic channels open.

Dewang Ganesh Thosar, Raigad

BOTTOM UP

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘In Arunachal district, women lead fight for drug-free community’ (IE, June 20). Kudos to all the women of this village who showed the courage to convince their husbands to enroll in a drug de-addiction centre. Former District Commissioner, Devansh Yadav, also needs to be applauded for his innovative solution to this age-old issue. A bottom up approach in a de-addiction programme is a good idea because it can be adopted on a larger scale progressively. We don’t become a drug-free society overnight. It requires a huge amount of will power and sustained efforts.

Bal Govind, Noida

DOUBLE SPEAK

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘The vishwaguru fantasy’ (IE, June 20). Bhagwat’s parallel narrative of “manavta” and “Hindutva” appears to be noble, but is simultaneously overlooking its denigration by bigotry from certain factions of the Sangh Parivar.

LR Murmu, New Delhi.



SARBANANDA SONOWAL

THE POST-COVID world faces several dilemmas. The rising tide of parochialism threatens to engulf humanity while depression, anxiety and innumerable physical and mental diseases have affected the well-being of people around the world. The World Health Organisation estimates that nearly 280 million people are suffering from depression.

In such a restive milieu, yoga can bring us together, help us to learn from each other’s experiences and address our shortcomings. In 2020, when the world was in the grip of the pandemic, researchers from the Harvard Medical School published an article, “Coping with coronavirus anxiety”. It highlighted how yoga and meditation can help one stay calm in an increasingly tense environment. Yoga helps in elevating the levels of a chemical called gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) which is associated with better mood and decreased anxiety. Researchers around the world agree that yoga therapies play a key role in improving the quality of life by significantly reducing symptoms linked to depression, boosting im-

munity, improving cardiovascular functioning, and enhancing sleep patterns.

Ancient texts also elucidate the importance of yoga. In the second chapter of the Bhagwat Gita, Lord Krishna asks Arjuna to perform his duties without flinching as if he was in a state of yoga. Krishna seems to see yoga as a state of mindfulness under all circumstances. Yoga fundamentally means letting the virtues of godliness and spirituality permeate one’s mind — it’s about self-realisation and the ability to merge one’s mind with the soul. Buddhist Dhamma also talks about qualities such as patience, self-control, tolerance, and understanding — these, according to Dhamma, are qualities that make virtuous rulers. Yoga can help people constantly improve themselves.

A healthy mind forms the nucleus of a harmonious community. Yoga can not only help us improve our mental health but also help us become karma yogis; a community of karma yogis is one where every member performs his or her duty while maintaining equanimity

under all circumstances. Yoga can also spark creativity, which can, in turn, enhance one’s self-esteem and improve focus. A community of karma yogis could, therefore, help the world become a more peaceful place. In a sense, therefore, yoga has the potential to spark a revolution that lifts us out of our miseries.

Apart from healing the mind, yoga also heals the body. It helps in relieving back pain and easing the symptoms of arthritis. Yoga also helps in improving strength, balance, and flexibility.

India has already taken the first step in sowing the seeds for a peaceful community. The recently inaugurated Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) in Jamnagar, Gujarat, is a collaboration between the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Government of India. It seeks to deepen research in the field of traditional medicines and practices, including yoga. A Yoga Certification Board (YCB) has been established with the objectives of bringing synergy, quality, and uniformity in the knowledge and skills of yoga pro-

fessionals across the world. This dovetails with the vision and mission of the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, under the Ministry of Ayush: “Health, harmony and happiness for all through yoga”.

Through the celebration of the International Day of Yoga 2022, the Ministry of Ayush aims to make the traditional practice of yoga go global. Such initiatives promote the sacredness of yoga cutting across the barriers of race, caste, religion, gender, and class. The promotion of yoga is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal number 3 of ensuring healthy lives.

Today, a peaceful self and a harmonious world appear to be difficult goals. However, by making conscious efforts toward self-improvement, we can contribute towards the collective good. Using yoga as a tool for self-improvement would be a step towards a calmer, more compassionate world.

The writer is Union minister for Ayush and Ports, Shipping & Waterways

Adityanath's 16 ministers vs Azam Khan: BJP mobilises to storm Rampur in bypoll

LALMANI VERMA
LUCKNOW, JUNE 20

AHEAD OF two crucial Lok Sabha by-elections in Uttar Pradesh on Thursday, the BJP has thrown its weight behind capturing the constituency of Rampur that is the stronghold of veteran Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Azam Khan. The bypoll became necessary after Azam vacated the seat following his victory from the Rampur Assembly constituency in the state polls earlier this year.

Calculating that it has a bigger possibility of causing an upset in Rampur than in Azamgarh, which SP chief Akhilesh Yadav's cousin Dharmendra Yadav is attempting to retain for the Yadav family, the ruling party has deployed at least 16 state ministers to canvass among voters from their castes and those they can easily reach out to because of their portfolios. Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya addressed public meetings on Sunday while Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is scheduled to address two public meetings on Tuesday, the last date of campaigning, in support of Ghanshyam Singh Lodhi. The BJP candidate, who is a former SP MLC, is up against Azam's long-time associate Asim Raja.

Among the senior ministers touring Rampur frequently is Finance Minister Suresh Khanna who has so far met local traders' associations, chartered accountants, and tax bar association lawyers. Minister for Social



UP Finance Minister Suresh Khanna in Rampur. *Express*

Welfare, Scheduled Caste and Tribal Welfare Asim Arun, a former IPS officer, has addressed meetings of Jatav Dalits in various localities. The BJP has also deployed Minister for Secondary Education Gulab Devi and Minister of State for Revenue Anup Pradhan to reach out to Dalits.

To consolidate voters from the Lodh community, which is categorised as an Other Backward Class (OBC), the BJP has sent Basic Education Minister Sandeep Singh, Union Minister of State for Cooperation B L Verma and UP Minister for Irrigation Dharampal Singh to the constituency. Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Jitin Prasada has addressed meetings of the Prabuddha Varg



While Azam Khan is not contesting, his aide is in the poll fray

(intellectuals) and Brahmins.

While UP Panchayati Raj Minister Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary has been camping in the area, Kapil Dev Agrawal, Dharamvir Prajapati, Jaswant Saini, and Rakesh Sachan are some of the other ministers to have toured the constituency.

Meanwhile, in Azamgarh, the party's election efforts are being overseen by Minister of State Girish Chandra Yadav and local leaders have been playing a more prominent role in the campaign. In the last few days, a few high-profile leaders such as minister and state BJP president Swatantra Dev Singh, Power Minister A K Sharma, Transport Minister Dayashankar Singh, Deputy CM Maurya, and Cabinet ministers Anil Rajbhar and Surya Pratap Shahi have campaigned in the constituency. Ministers Ashish Patel and Sanjay Nishad who belong to parties allied to the BJP were seen on the stage when Adityanath addressed a rally there on Sunday.

"We are focusing more on Rampur because chances of winning that seat are more strong there compared to Azamgarh," a senior BJP leader told *The Indian Express*. "BJP had won this seat in the past. There is a bipolar contest due to a majority of Muslims. We have to avoid the division of Hindu votes. We have deployed ministers and leaders according to caste equations to attract voters. We are giving special attention to Dalits because the BSP (Bahujan Samaj

Party) is not contesting and that is an opportunity to win them over."

A BJP leader said that in Azamgarh the party was involved in a three-way fight with the SP and the BSP and Muslim voters were likely to be a deciding factor there.

In Rampur, the SP is banking on the Azam Khan factor to sail through and so far no prominent party leader has visited the constituency. Teams of Azam's supporters and MLAs from the constituency and adjoining areas have taken the responsibility of canvassing for Raja. "Yahan Azam Khan ke alawah zarurat nahi padhti kisi ki. Azam Khan apne aap mein kaafi hain (No one else is required here. Azam Khan himself is sufficient)," SP's Rampur district president Virendra Goyal told *The Indian Express*.

Goyal said teams of workers were going door to door with Azam, his son Abdullah Azam and Raja. He added that former minister Swami Prasad Maurya had also campaigned for the candidate.

In comparison, the Opposition party has been focussing more on Azamgarh. There, Rajya Sabha MP Ramgopal Yadav, veteran leader Ram Govind Chaudhary, Swami Prasad Maurya and former minister Dara Singh Chauhan, and allies Om Prakash Rajbhar (Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party, or SBSP president) and Sanjay Chauhan (Janvadi Party president) have already campaigned. Azam himself canvassed for Dharmendra Yadav last week. The party's Maharashtra unit president Abu Asim Azmi and the SBSP's Mau MLA Abbas Ansari, the son of jailed politician Mukhtar Ansari, have also hit the roads to seek votes for Akhilesh's cousin.

Ensure adequate supply of fuel to Chhattisgarh: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAIPUR, JUNE 20

CHHATTISGARH CM Bhupesh Baghel wrote to the union ministry Sunday regarding shortage of petrol and diesel in the state and its impact on the agrarian economics. He requested the minister to provide a regular supply of the fuel to all petroleum company depots in Chhattisgarh.

Baghel wrote to Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri, apprising him of depleting buffer stock. He alerted the minister about ambulance services and agricultural activities getting affected due to shortage of fuel for the past couple of months.

"Since Chhattisgarh is an agrarian state and with the onset of monsoon, farming activities start here. But due to the unavailability of diesel in sufficient quantity, farmers are facing trouble. Even necessary services are getting affected," Baghel wrote.

The Chhattisgarh Petroleum Dealer Welfare Association has also informed the CM that there are 750 retail outlets of Messrs. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited in Chhattisgarh is getting closed due to the fuel shortage. The review of petroleum companies has revealed that earlier, the buffer stock would last for 4-5 days, while for the past months it only lasted for one day, drying up the petrol pumps.

17,880 DIED FROM JAN-JUNE 2021: BMC DATA

Mumbai sees 6-fold rise in monthly heart attacks

RUPSACHAKRABORTY
MUMBAI, JUNE 20

MUMBAI WITNESSED an over six-fold rise in monthly deaths related to heart attack in the first six months of 2021 compared to previous years. Between January and June 2021, as many as 3,000 people lost their lives to heart attacks every month in the city, compared to 500 in 2020.

According to data provided by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), a total of 5,849 patients lost their lives to heart attacks in Mumbai in 2019. This dropped by 3.6 per cent when 5,633 patients succumbed to the disease in 2020. But between January and June 2021, a total of 17,880 succumbed to heart attacks in the city — a surge of 217 per cent over the previous year, according to a reply to an RTI request filed by activist Chetan Kothari.

"Pre-pandemic, cancer was the biggest killer. But last year, although deaths due to cancer subsided, heart attacks surged significantly," said a civic official.

Dr Avinash Supe, in-charge of Covid-19 death committee, said there are three major reasons for the surge in deaths related to heart

HIGHEST MORTALITY				
DISEASE	2018	2019	2020	2021*
Heart attack	8,601	5,849	5,633	17,880
Cancer	10,073	9,958	8,576	6,861
Kidney failure	1,396	1,516	1,634	1,182
Covid-19	0	0	11,105	10,289
Tuberculosis	4,940	4,899	3,719	2,921
Head injury	1,021	1,000	760	545

Source: RTI response from BMC

*(Jan-June)

attack — possibility of development of thrombosis among recovered Covid-19 patients, delay in diagnosis of patients during and better recording of data.

"Globally it has been witnessed that heart attack-related deaths increased during the pandemic, so it is not a new phenomenon that has only been observed in Mumbai. Secondly, since the start of the pandemic, medical practitioners are more conscious of segregation and bifurcation of types of deaths, so it has possibly helped maintain better data pertaining to heart attacks," said Supe.

It has been observed that SARS-Cov-2 injures the heart and blood

vessels in infected patients, which leads to development of clots, heart inflammation, arrhythmias and heart failure. In August 2021, The Lancet reported that the risk of a first heart attack increased by three to eight times in week after a Covid-19 diagnosis. Dr Kedar Todaskar, director of critical care at Wockhardt Hospital and member of Maharashtra Covid-19 Task Force, said though there is no proven cause and effect relationship, the data suggests that Covid-19 infection was a risk factor for thrombosis, not only arterial but venous thrombosis, which included deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary thromboembolism, too.

PARTY BLAMES BJP; RULING PARTY DENIES, SAYS 'ALL DRAMA'

Cong Tripura candidate 'attacked' 3 days before bypolls

DEBRAJ DEB
AGARTALA, JUNE 20

FORMER TRIPURA minister and Congress candidate from Agartala seat in Thursday's bypolls, Sudip Roy Barman, allegedly came under attack late Sunday at Ujan Abjoyanagar area of the state capital, where he had gone to meet a party worker whose house had been attacked the same night.

Injured on his face and head, Roy Barman is admitted at ILS Hospitals here. His car was also smashed in the incident, it is

learnt. While Roy Barman or any family member was not available for a comment until Monday evening, the Congress blamed ruling BJP for the attack. Party general secretary Dr Ajoy Kumar said state minister and BJP leader Sushanta Chowdhury was present during the "hooligan attack". "We will file an FIR against the minister," Kumar told the media.

Denying that Roy Barman was attacked, Chowdhury called the incident a "political drama" to garner sympathy before the bypolls.

A police officer said two FIRs have been registered and probe is

going on. He said one FIR was registered on a complaint by BJP, which accused Roy Barman and a few "outsiders" of provoking unrest; the second FIR was registered suo motu by the police. No arrest was made until Monday evening. Tripura Pradesh Congress tweeted: "...Sudip Roy Barman was attacked at the hands of BJP. Fascist BJP government has only political violence and terror left after losing ground..."

Chowdhury, once a close associate and political protégé of Roy Barman, said: "There was no attack on him. I was present there,

discussing [bypolls-related issues] with our local leaders and workers. Suddenly, we were told that Roy Barman came with outsiders and was trying to create nuisance. We rushed to the spot and called police. I was talking to him (Roy Barman) when he fainted suddenly and fell... This is all a drama."

A police statement said, "A verbal exchange of words followed by brick-batting took place between supporters of INC led by Roy Barman and BJP supporters led by Chowdhury around 11 pm on June 19 at Abhoyanagar in Agartala city."

KABUL TERROR ATTACK AFTERMATH

11 visas now won't bring my father back, says son

DIVYA GOYAL GOPAL
LUDHIANA, JUNE 20

IT HAD BEEN nearly two years now that Savinder Singh Kakkar (42) hadn't visited his family in Delhi. On Saturday, the day he died in the terrorist attack at Gurdwara Dashmesh Pita Sahib Guru Gobind Singh, Karte Parwan of Kabul, his mortal remains were not brought back to Delhi and his family watched his cremation on a video call.

Two days after some gunmen stormed inside gurdwara premises in Kabul and opened fire, killing Kakkar and gurdwara's local security guard Ahmad, the Afghan Sikh community in Delhi gathered at Gurdwara Arjan Dev ji, Tilak Nagar and organized a prayer meeting in his remembrance. The prayer meeting was also attended by the union minister Hardeep Singh Puri and SGPC president Harjinder Singh Dhumi.

The local Afghan Sikh community leaders said that Kakkar had shifted his wife, three sons and a daughter to Delhi in 2012 from Afghanistan for their safety but he himself would keep juggling between Kabul and Delhi for work and sewa of gurdwaras. He owned a small grocery shop in Kabul which he hadn't sold even after his family had moved to Delhi and it was his only source of livelihood in Kabul. It had been nearly two years now that he had visited Delhi to meet



A prayer meeting in Delhi for Savinder Singh Kakkar, who was killed in the Kabul terrorist attack, on Monday. *Express*

family and was waiting for the issuance of visa after the Taliban takeover.

Kakkar's son Ajmeel Singh who returned from the UK, said that his father was a sewadar at the gurdwara in Kabul and all his life, sewa of gurdwaras in Afghanistan remained his priority. "He used to prepare langar at the gurdwara and stay in a small room there. Even as our mother and we four siblings shifted to Delhi, he used to live in Kabul because of gurdwara sewa," said Ajmeel.

Ajmeel said that for months now, his father was awaiting for the issuance of the visa to visit India but the approval never came. "So many times he had applied for the visa to visit India as the earlier one had expired

but he never got it in his lifetime. Had this visa approval come earlier, my father would have been alive today," he said.

Kakkar's younger son Jaganpreet Singh said that what was the use of issuing and publicizing 11 visas for Afghan Sikhs now when his father had died. "Leaders such as Manjinder Singh Sirsa are now boasting that they have got 111 visas issued for Afghan Sikhs and Hindus but my father is gone. Will he return? Why his visa did not come when he was alive. Why they wake up only after lives are sacrificed knowing well what the situation is in Afghanistan," Jaganpreet asked, adding that in 2012, his father had taken loans to send them to Delhi.

'Moosewala shooter got weapons consignment from Pakistan'

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

PRIYAVRAT ALIAS Fauzi, the alleged main shooter in the murder of singer Sidhu Moosewala, received a consignment of weapons sent from Pakistan via drone, initial probe by the police has revealed. The consignment included eight grenades, an under-barrel grenade launcher, nine electric detonators and an AK-47. The weapons were a contingency plan in case they failed to shoot Moosewala.

Police said Priyavrat was hired by Canada-based gangster Goldy Brar in April and got Rs 4 lakh from him. Sources in the Special Cell said the quality of all the recovered weapons suggests they were made abroad. The grenades are designed for use with grenade launchers that can be mounted on AK-47 assault rifles.

"Priyavrat, during questioning, said he was evading arrest in a murder case from Sonapat when one of his old associates, Monu Dagar, approached him. Dagar had been approached by Goldy after another contract killer supposed to target Moosewala, Sharukh, was arrested by the Delhi Police. Goldy spoke with Priyavrat via an app and offered a hefty amount to kill Moosewala. He assured him support in the form of other shooters, logistics and accommodation," a senior police officer said.

Satyendar Jain admitted to Delhi Hospital

New Delhi: Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain, currently being investigated in an alleged money laundering case by ED, was rushed to Lok Nayak hospital at 11 am with low oxygen saturation. He was admitted to a special ward and is stable. **ENS**

BANGALORE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka)
Office of the Director cum Dean, Fort, K.R. Road,
Bengaluru - 560 002. Telephone: 080-26700810, Tele Fax: 080-26704342
E-mail: director_bmcric@yahoo.co.in

No: BMCRI/Sup(2)/02/2022-23 Dated: 20-06-2022

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

e-Tenders are invited for the "Rate fixation for the Purchase of Computer, Laptop, Printer, Printer Cartridge, Scanner and Other Items" for BMCRI and its attached Hospitals.

Tender details, EMD details and other related details can be viewed, downloaded and applied only through the e-Procurement mode only. Website: <https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in>. Interested tenderers have to register in the e-Procurement portal, details of which can be viewed in the said website. 1) Commencement date for uploading of tenders: **20-06-2022**. 2) Pre Bid Meeting: **27-06-2022 at 11.30 AM**. 3) Last Date for Uploading the Tenders: **05-07-2022 before 4.30 PM**. 4) Date of Opening of Tenders: **07-07-2022 at 11.30 AM**. For further details contact **Director cum Dean, Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, Bangalore.**

Sd/- Director cum Dean, BMCRI, Bengaluru.

DIPRI/CP/999/Advtor/2022-23

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE

Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene

ROURKELA SMART CITY LIMITED, Rourkela
C-599 Udit Nagar, Rourkela-769012, Email: rourkelascl@gmail.com
BID ID:- RSCL/1400 DATE : 20.06.2022
NOTICE INVITING TENDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
The Chief Executive Officer, RSCL invites bids from eligible contractors for the following project:

SL No	Name of the Project	Estimated Cost of the Project Rs. (in Lakhs)
1	Supply, Installation, Commissioning of Computers and other Peripherals for E-Sushrut Project	42.00
2	Ecological Rejuvenation of DAV Pond through "Nature Based Solution"	99.50

Tender Fees is Rs.11,800/- each to be deposited with the bid which is Non-refundable. The complete BID documents can be viewed/downloaded from official portal of Rourkela Municipal Corporation (<https://www.rmc.nic.in>) or e-procurement portal of Odisha <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> from 21.06.2022 to 07.07.2022 (up to 17:00 Hrs. IST). Pre- Bid Meeting will be held on 27.06.2022 at 12.30 P.M. in the Conference Hall of RSCL. For queries, intending bidder may contact General Manager (E&T) vide Phone no. 9437638780 and Email Id:rourkelascl@gmail.com.

Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, Rourkela Smart City Limited
OIPR-13080/11/0006/2223

NOTICE INVITING BID
Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar - 751 001
Tel.: (0674) 2380950, Website: www.osmcl.nic.in, Email: drugs-osmcl@gov.in

Bid Ref. No.: OSMCL/2022-23/DRUGS-VETERINARY/14 Date: 20.06.2022

Online Bids through e-Tender portal (<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>) are invited from eligible bidders for supply of Veterinary Items as per the particulars mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time
1.	Date & time of release of bid	20.06.2022, 3 PM
2.	Date & time for submission of queries by E-Mail id: drugs-osmcl@gov.in	23.06.2022, up to 5:00 PM
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time: 29.06.2022, 3 PM End Date & Time: 19.07.2022, 6.00 PM
4.	Date & time for submission of Tender Documents, Tender Document Fee of tender document	Start Date & Time: 20.07.2022, 10 AM End Date & Time: 27.07.2022, 11.00 AM
5.	Date & time of online Technical bid opening	27.07.2022, 11:30 AM
6.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: www.osmcl.nic.in and <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

SD/- Managing Director OSMCL Ltd., Odisha
OIPR/10112/11/0021/2223

नगर परिषद कार्यालय, उमरगा
ता. उमरगा जि. उस्मानाबाद
जा.क्र. /नपड./४४९/२०२२ दिनांक : १९.०६.२०२२

ई-निविदा सूचना (१३) ते (१६)/२०२२-२०२३

मुख्याधिकारी, नगरपरिषद उमरगा जि. उस्मानाबाद यांनी शासनाच्या विविध योजनां अंतर्गत उमरगा शहरात विविध कामांसाठी ई-निविदा मागित आहेत.

सदर कामांच्या ई-निविदा, ई-निविदा सूचना क्र. (१३), (१४), (१५) व (१६) / २०२२-२०२३ दिनांक १४.०६.२०२२ रोजी १९.३० वा पासून www.mahatenders.gov.in संकेतस्थळावर प्रसिद्ध करण्यात आल्या आहेत.

रामकृष्ण जाधवर
मुख्याधिकारी, उमरगा न.प.

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) – U40109RJ2000SGC016483
Office of the Superintending Engineer (MM&C) Material Management & Contract Wing
Regd. Office : New Power House, Industrial Area, Jodhpur-342003, Ph. 0291-2742223, Fax : 0291-2746539

E-PROCUREMENT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE
E-procurement Short Term Tender is invited for purchase of Three Phase Meter Box under **TN-1820(UBN JV2223GLOB00201)**. Details regarding Quantity, Tender cost, Earnest Money, Schedule date of tender opening for aforesaid tenders are available on our website at www.jdvnl.com and also at <http://sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in>

Superintending Engineer (MM&C)
For Electricity Complaints Toll free No. 1800 180 6045

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office.: PSEB H.O. Building, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813; Website: www.pspcl.in
Mobile No. 96461-07205

E-Tender Enq. No. 385/P-1/EMP-W/11996 dated 17.06.2022
Dy. Chief Engineer/Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2022, POWER, 86923, 1 for Routine cleaning of station building at various levels for unit-III to VI including other related buildings and service building and for providing skilled assistances of plumber, Carpenter mason & tractor driver at GGSSTP, Rupnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 17.06.2022/ 06.00 PM onwards.

NOTE: Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

RTP-43/22

Conainer Corporation of India Ltd.
Navratna Company (A Govt. of India Undertaking)
NSIC New MDPB Building, 2nd Floor, Okhla Indl. Estate
(Opp. NSIC Okhla Metro Station), New Delhi-110020

TENDER NOTICE (E-Tendering Mode Only)
Online E-Bids are invited FOR LICENSE OUT OF SPACE FOR ISO CONTAINER REPAIR FACILITY at MMPL-Bali, Goa for 03 (Three) years through single packet e-tendering mode.

Tender No. CON/AREA-IV/Cont. Repair/MLPB/2022
Name of Work LICENSE OUT OF SPACE FOR ISO CONTAINER REPAIR FACILITY at MMPL-Bali, Goa.

Estimated Cost Rs.11.68,200/- (Inclusive of GST)
Period of the contract 36 Months (3 years) plus four months obligatory period
Earnest Money Deposit* Rs.7800/- (Inclusive of GST)
Cost of Document* Rs.1,000/- inclusive of all taxes and duties (Non-refundable)
Tender Processing Fee* Rs.690/- inclusive of all taxes and duties (Non-refundable) through e-payment.

Date of Sale (On Line) From 21/06/2022 at 15:00 hrs. to 05/07/2022 (upto 16:00 hrs.)
Last Date & Time of Submission On 06/07/2022 upto 15:00 hrs.
Date & Time of Opening On 06/07/2022 at 15:30 hrs.

* Through e-Payment
For eligibility criteria and other details please log on to www.concorindia.com or eprocure.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com. Bidders are requested to visit the websites regularly. CONCOR reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof. For complete details log on to www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL. **Executive Director /Area-II**

DELHI JAL BOARD: DELHI SARKAR
OFFICE OF THE ADDL.CHIEF ENGINEER (M)-10
TENDERING DIVISION (M)-10
ROOM No. 103, 1st FLOOR, ENGINEERS BHAWAN,
NEAR MOOL CHAND CROSSING, ANDREWS GANJ, NEW DELHI-110049
Mail:- etm10.djb@gmail.com, Mob.- 9650291341

NIT No. 30/EET(T) M-10/2022-23 Press Tender

S. No.	Name of Work	Reserve price	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date and time for download & RTGS through e-procurement solution
1	Improvement of sewerage system in L-Block of Lalpet Nagar-II under EE (M)-41 (AC-41 Jangpura)	2831030/-	2022_DJB_224491_1 17.06.2022	1.7.2022 upto 2:00 PM
2	Improvement of sewerage system by providing new Sewerage line from (Rampal to Shiv Mandir Marg) in Lalpet Nagar under EE (M)-41 (AC-41 Jangpura)	3072542/-	2022_DJB_224491_1 17.06.2022	1.7.2022 upto 2:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Adv. No. J.S.V. 195 (2022-23)
STOP CORONAVIRUS "WEAR MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE"

Sd/- (B.N. Gupta)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (T)M-10

EXPRESS NETWORK

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



WARM AND SWEET

POLITICAL SCENE may be volatile and acrimonious, but some still try to keep the relationship warm with the opponents. On Monday, a meeting of the Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children Youth and Sports witnessed some emotional moments. With Monday being the last meeting under the chairmanship of BJP MP and senior leader Vinay Sahasrabudde, whose term as RS member ends on July 4, almost all members spoke appreciating the way he ran the committee and bid him a fond farewell. Sahasrabudde, who was for two consecutive years the Chairman of the committee, also was overwhelmed by the words of appreciation he received from the members, including those from the Opposition. BJP's Chandreshwar Prasad and Congress's T N Prathapan gave their appreciation in writing to Sahasrabudde. From the Congress's Akhilesh Prasad Singh to Communist member Bokash Ranjan Bhattacharya, YSRCP's Lavu Sri Krishna to BJD's Anubhav Mohanti, all spoke affectionately about their outgoing Chairman. To make the last day even more memorable, Sahasrabudde's wife Nayana served the Maharashtrian delicacy of sweet Modaks as a token of thanksgiving for the members.

EASTERN YOGA

UNION MINISTER for Law and Justice Kiren Rijiju will lead the International Yoga Day programme on Tuesday at Dong in Arunachal Pradesh's Anjaw district. From his home state, Rijiju chose Dong, the easternmost village in India close to the point where India, China and Myanmar meet. Dong experiences the first sunrise in India and is dubbed 'India's Land of the Rising Sun'.

LEAD, MISS

AFTER TAKING lead in convening a joint meeting of the Opposition to pick a consensus Presidential candidate, West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee will skip the second round of discussions on Tuesday. TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee will represent TMC in the meeting, which has been convened by NCP chief Sharad Pawar. Over the last few days, Abhishek has been busy campaigning in Tripura, where bypolls will be held to four Assembly seats on June 23. The TMC officially maintains that Mamata will give Tuesday's meeting a miss due to prior engagements.

Poll panel to delete 111 unrecognised political parties for flouting norms

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

THE ELECTION Commission on Monday decided to delete 111 Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs) from the register, as part of the poll panel's "graded action" against parties that flouted its rules.

The EC had deleted 87 RUPPs in May after announcing a clean-up drive against more than 2,100 such parties that it said had violated a string of rules by failing to furnish contribution reports or communicating changes to party-related information.

The poll panel has also sent a reference to the revenue department for necessary legal and

criminal action against three RUPPs that it said were involved in "serious financial impropriety".

There are 2,796 RUPPs, according to EC's data till September 2021, an increase of more than 300% since 2001.

According to the EC, during verification the RUPPs against whom action has been taken were found existing only on paper or letters sent to their addresses returned undelivered.

The EC has for long been seeking powers to deregister political parties. The poll panel has also been seeking modification to Form 24A to mandate disclosure of all donations above Rs 2,000 instead of the current Rs 20,000.

Top Maoist, 2 other operatives killed in MP gunbattle: police

IRAM SIDDIQUE
BHOPAL, JUNE 20

THREE MAOIST operatives, collectively carrying a reward of over Rs 57 lakh on their heads, were killed by Madhya Pradesh police in an encounter in Balaghat district on Monday morning, the police said.

The three were identified as Nagesh, alias Raju Tulavi (40), who carried a bounty of Rs 29 lakh on him, Manoj (25) and Rama (23). The latter carried a bounty of 14 lakh each on them.

The police said Nagesh was commander of Tanda area committee of Mafalling, under Gondia-Rajnangaon-Balaghat (GRB) area of Maharashtra-Madhya Pradesh-Chhattisgarh (MMC) corridor. Manoj and Rama were members of the area committee, they said.

The encounter comes months after Maharashtra police killed 26 Maoist operatives in MMC zone, where police say Maoists are trying to expand their base.

According to police, during

PRESIDENTIAL POLL: OPPOSITION STRUGGLES TO FIELD CANDIDATE

Gopalkrishna Gandhi opts out, TMC may pitch Yashwant Sinha's name

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

THE OPPOSITION'S elusive search for a "true custodian of the Constitution" ahead of the election for the next President has landed in troubled waters, with all three candidates proposed so far opting out.

On Monday, former West Bengal Governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi became the third proposed face, besides NCP supremo Sharad Pawar and National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, to decline the request of the joint Opposition.

By quitting the race just a day before the second round of discussions, convened by Pawar at Parliament Annexe, Gandhi made the task all the more difficult for the leaders. "Having considered the matter deeply, I see that the Opposition's candidate should be one who will generate a national consensus and a national atmosphere, besides



Gopalkrishna Gandhi



Yashwant Sinha

Opposition unity. I feel there will be others who will do this far better than I. And, so, I have requested the leaders to give the opportunity to such a person," Gandhi said in a written statement released to the media.

There were signs of a consensus developing around Gandhi's name, with even parties such as AAP hinting that it might be acceptable to them due to his illustrious career straddling the world of diplomacy and academia.

"The idea was also to focus on the fact that he is the Mahatma's grandson," one Opposition leader involved in the talks said. "In 75th year of Independence,

that would have sent out a powerful message, especially when the forces behind the murder of the Father of the Nation are more emboldened than ever before."

Even in 2017, the Opposition camp wanted to field Gandhi, but the NDA's decision to pick Ram Nath Kovind as its face had forced a rethink. Eventually former Lok Sabha speaker Meira Kumar, also a Dalit like Kovind, was fielded by the Opposition. Gandhi fought unsuccessfully for the post of Vice President.

While TMC sources are now pitching the name of former Union minister Yashwant Sinha (84), as an alternative, the possi-

bility of any unanimity on the former BJP leader's name appears thin.

Sinha had served as Finance minister and External Affairs minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee cabinet. Initially seen as an L K Advani loyalist, Sinha fell out of the BJP patriarch's good books in the later years. He remained in BJP till 2018 when he quit, alleging that the country's democracy was facing a "threat" under the Narendra Modi government.

While Sinha's political past may come in the way of any Opposition consensus around his name, the overall poll maths, which is heavily stacked against the Opposition, is also emerging as an obstacle, with leaders refusing to enter a race headed for a seemingly predictable end — the victory of NDA's yet-to-be-declared candidate.

The NDA already has over 48 per cent of the vote share in the electoral college.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

MAHARASHTRA

Family of nine found dead, note suggests suicide pact due to debt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, JUNE 20

IN A suspected case of suicide pact, nine persons from a family — two brothers, their wives and children and their mother — were found dead in separate houses of the brothers in Mhaisal town of Sangli district on Monday afternoon. Police suspect the family members to have taken extreme step because of debt and a case for abetment of suicide was being registered against those to whom they owed money.

According to the police, the nine bodies were found around 1 pm on Monday at the residences of Manik Vanmore (49), a veterinarian, and his brother Popat Vanmore (52), a teacher. While six of the bodies were found in Manik's house, the other three were in Popat's house located nearly a kilometre away, officers said. Senior police officers in Sangli district rushed to the spot and a preliminary probe was launched.

Special Inspector General of Police (Kolhapur Range) Manojkumar Lohiya said, "Primary probe showed that there were no external injuries on any of the bodies. Poisoning due to consumption of some substance seems to have led to the death of all the nine persons."

DSP (Miraj division) Ashok Virkar said: "We have found what appears to be a suicide note. All the initial clues point to the deaths being the result of a suicide pact. The note mentions the names of the persons they owed money to. We are filing a case of abetment of suicide against these persons."

HIMACHAL PRADESH



NDRF personnel carry those who were rescued in Parwanoo on Monday. Jaipal Singh

11 stranded mid-air in Himachal cable car rescued after six hours

SAURABH PARASHAR
PARWANOO, JUNE 20

At least 16 people — 14 tourists and two attendants — were stuck midair when two cable cars developed a snag at Parwanoo Timber Trail in Himachal Pradesh's Solan district on Monday.

Eleven of them were rescued in an operation that lasted more than six hours. The others reached down safely on their own, officials said.

While one cable car carrying five couples from Delhi, a tourist and an attendant got jammed while coming down, another car stopped near the destination uphill. The latter had on board three youths and an attendant, who managed to use the winch to clamber down to safety.

Later in the day, the state police lodged an FIR against the management of Timber Trail resort management for rashly and negligently endangering human life or personal safety of others. The FIR was registered on the statement of Anand Goyal, one of the rescued tourists, under IPC Sections 336 and 283.

State Disaster Management director Sudesh Mokhta said the cable cars got stuck due to a technical snag, which was noticed around 10.30 am.

A similar scene was witnessed at the Timber Trail on October 13, 1992, when the haulage cable broke near the docking station and the cable car carrying 11 passengers slid backwards. In panic, the operator jumped off the car just as it began its slide and died.

On Monday's incident, Solan

SP Varinder Sharma said another cable trolley was used to rescue the people, and the operation was successful.

A team of National Disaster Response Force and the resort conducted the rescue operation. They brought the passengers to safety with the help of local residents.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, who reached the spot to oversee the rescue operation, told the media that the incident would be probed to determine if there was any negligence on part of the firm running the trail.

The passengers claimed assistance arrived only when their video clips went viral. "We were stunned when the attendants told us that the only way to go down is the rope," Anita Garg, a rescued tourist from Delhi, said.

LUCKNOW

FIR registered after Dalit food delivery partner 'thrashed'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JUNE 20

A 25-YEAR-OLD Dalit delivery executive, who is employed by food aggregator app Zomato, was allegedly thrashed by a group while he was delivering an order at a house in Lucknow's Aashiana area on Saturday evening. The man, Vineet Kumar Rawat, alleged that the customer refused to take food from him after coming to know that he belonged to the Dalit community and also made casteist remarks against him, police said.

An FIR has been lodged against the customer — Ajay Singh — one Abhay Singh and 12 other unidentified persons at Aashiana police station. No arrests have been made in the case so far. The accused have been charged under various sections of the IPC. The police have also invoked the SC/ST Act against the accused.

Cybersecurity linked to national security, India upgrading to take on threat: Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

CYBERSECURITY is linked to national security, and with many countries having created their own "cyber armies", India is upgrading itself to deal with this threat, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday.

Shah also said many new dimensions of cyber fraud will be seen in the coming days and India will have to make many preparations to gear up to fully secure cyberspace.

Addressing the National Conference on Cyber Safety and National Security at Vigyan Bhavan here, Shah said: "Cybersecurity is also linked with national security in a way. Those who do not want to see our country safe attempt various types of cyber-attacks — some nations have even created cyber armies. But the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is fully alert to deal with this and is upgrading itself to prevent such threats."



Amit Shah receives a memento from Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla in New Delhi on Monday. Prem Nath Pandey

Stating that "questions of privacy of citizens are already there", the Home Minister said: "We have to be more careful in the context of critical information security. Both data and information are going to become a huge economic force in the coming days, so we have to prepare ourselves for security of data and information."

According to the MHA, Shah informed the gathering that the



Rahul Gandhi, accompanied by Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, arrives at the ED office in New Delhi on Monday. Abhinav Saxena

ED questions Rahul for 4th time, asks him to appear again today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

CONGRESS LEADER Rahul Gandhi was on Monday questioned for the fourth day by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the National Herald case. He had earlier been called on Friday but had sought exemption following which he was called on Monday.

Officials said the agency has summoned the Congress leader for questioning again on Tuesday.

Sources said Rahul arrived at the ED office around 11 am and was questioned till late in the evening. Sources said while the agency believes it may need to summon Rahul again on Tuesday, the Congress MP has been requesting the agency to finish the interrogations as early as possible as he needs to take care of his mother Sonia, who is suffering from Covid-19 infection. Sonia, too, has been called for questioning by the agency on June 23.

The ED had summoned Rahul last Monday and questioned him for three straight days. Sources said Rahul is being questioned about the ownership

of Young Indian (YI) by the Gandhi family and its shareholding in Associate Journals Limited (AJL), the company that runs the National Herald newspaper. He is being questioned about the circumstances under which AJL was acquired by Young Indian in 2010 for a "pittance" making it in turn the owner of all assets owned by the National Herald newspaper.

The ED case is based on a trial court order that allowed the Income Tax Department to probe the affairs of the National Herald newspaper and conduct a tax assessment of Sonia and Rahul. The order was the result of a petition filed by BJP MP Subramanian Swamy in 2013.

Swamy's complaint had alleged cheating and misappropriation of funds on part of the Gandhis in acquiring the newspaper.

Swami had alleged that the Gandhis acquired properties owned by National Herald by buying the newspaper's erstwhile publishers, AJL, through an organisation called Young Indian in which they have 76 per cent stake. Sonia and Rahul were granted bail in the case by the trial court on December 19, 2015.

'Conman' Chandrasekhar's plea seeking transfer from Tihar Jail opposed by ED

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate has opposed alleged conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar's plea to transfer him from the Tihar Jail due to threat to life and said he "is only making up an excuse to repeat his modus operandi in some other prison where officials would not be familiar with his antics".

In an application filed in the Supreme Court, which is set to hear his plea Tuesday, the ED narrated how he had been running his operations even while inside the Tihar Jail.

It pointed out: "The Tihar Jail has ensured that it would thwart any future possibility of misuse of jail facilities. For any new prison to put in place similar measures or even to come to terms with the sophisticated

means of con-manship by Chandrasekhar will take time and transferring the petitioners to any other prison would be hazardous as he is likely to repeat the same mischief and offences."

Denying his claim that there was a threat to his life, the ED said Chandrasekhar has "repeatedly committed offences, including that of money laundering, during his incarceration in the jail by subverting the legal system and prison rules with the help of his knowledge of technology and his abilities to con people".

During ED custody, Chandrasekhar "admitted that he impersonated as Law Secretary Anup Kumar... and Home secretary Ajay Bhalla" and "admitted to collecting cash from Aditi Singh", wife of Shivinder Singh, former owner of Ranbaxy through co-accused Deepak Ramnani.

digital world. He said there has been a 231-per cent increase in internet connections in the last eight years and India's data cost per GB has come down by about 96 per cent, which is expected to come down further since data becomes cheaper as the number of users increases.

Shah emphasised that public awareness is of utmost importance to ensure cyber safety. "We should try to take cybersecurity to every part of the country," he said.

Pointing out that cyber crimes have increased over the years, Shah said that 3,377 such cases were reported in 2012, and the corresponding figure was 50,000 in 2020. While an average 136 cyber crime cases were registered every day in 2020, the number of cyber crimes per 1 lakh population also increased by 270 per cent in four years from 2016, when the figure was 1 — in 2020, it was 3.7 per 1 lakh population.

"This shows how big a challenge this is going to be in the coming times," Shah said.



AGNIPATH SCHEME: REGISTRATION STARTS IN JULY

Army sets ball rolling, issues notification

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

EVEN AS protests against the government's Agnipath policy for recruitment in the armed forces are yet to die down completely, the Army took the lead among the services and issued its notification Monday for induction of soldiers under the recruitment scheme.

The mandatory online registration begins in July, according to the notification.

It said the service of soldiers, or Agniveers, "commence from the date of enrolment", and they will "form a distinct rank in the IA [Indian Army], different from any other existing ranks".

"With introduction of this Scheme, the enrolment of Soldiers in the regular cadre of [Indian Army], except technical cadres of Medical Branch, will be available only to those personnel who have completed their engagement period as Agniveer," the notification stated.

The basic eligibility criteria includes clearing class X with minimum 45 per cent aggregate marks for general duty; clearing class XII in Science with Physics, Chemistry, Maths and English with aggregate 50 per cent for technical units; and class VIII with aggregate 33 per cent to become eligible for Agniveer Tradesmen.

While the age limit will be 17-and-a-half years to 21 years, as announced last week, there will be a two-year relaxation in the upper age limit for this year, raising it to 23 year.

The notification said that "Leave, Uniform, Pay & Allowances during the service period of four years will be governed by orders and instructions in respect of such individuals issued" by the government. Agniveers will be "liable to be assigned any duty in organisational interest, as decided from time to time", and they can be "posted to any regiment/unit and can be further transferred in organisational interest", it stated.

After their four-year tenure, a "detailed" skill-set certificate

EXPLAINED
Going full steam ahead

THE ARMY'S move to issue the notification for induction of soldiers under Agnipath signals that the government has no plans to roll back the short-service recruitment scheme and is keen to see that the first batch of Agniveers will be in training by the end of this year.

will be provided to the Agniveers, highlighting the skills and level of competence achieved "during their engagement period", the notification mentioned. It said a Class XII certificate or its equivalent will be given to those who had joined the Army after clearing Class X, "based on skills attained".

"Detailed instructions shall be issued separately," it added.

The Agniveers will be discharged after four years but based on organisational requirements, the notification said, those "completing their engagement period in each batch will be offered an opportunity to apply for enrolment in the regular cadre" of the Army, which will be "considered in a centralised manner by the Army based on an objective criteria, including performance during their engagement period".

It stated that "not more than 25% of each specific batch of Agniveers" will be enrolled in regular cadre of the Army after their four-year engagement period.

Those enrolled as regular cadres will serve for another 15 years. They will be paid between Rs 30,000 and Rs 40,000 — 30 per cent of this amount will be deposited under the Seva Nidhi package; the government will contribute the same amount each month. Agniveers will get this money, income tax-free, after completing their four-year tenure. Each Agniveer will also have a Rs 48 lakh insurance cover.



Army aspirants and farmers protest against the Agnipath recruitment scheme at Makroli toll plaza in Rohtak on Monday. *Manoj Dhaka*

State will recover damages from protesters: UP police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JUNE 20

UTTAR PRADESH Police on Monday said the state government will recover damages for the destruction caused to public and private properties by the protesters during the violent protest against the Centre's new military recruitment scheme — Agnipath.

"Recovery will be made from people who will be found involved in the violence," Additional Director General (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar said here.

During the protests in 14 districts since Friday after the Centre unveiled the new recruitment scheme, youth protesters damaged trains, buses and vehicles and set them on fire at several places.

Several private and government properties were also damaged in stone-pelting, police said. Police have so far registered

49 FIRs, and arrested 525 people, with 145 booked for breach of peace.

Sources in the police said that they initially adopted a "lenient" approach towards the Agnipath protesters.

"The strategy was changed after anti-social and political elements got involved in the protests... We had to then take strict steps by registering FIRs and arresting the culprits," said a senior police officer.

Goa to reserve posts

Panaji: Goa CM Pramod Sawant on Monday said his government will reserve posts for Agniveers in its administration.

In a social media post, Sawant said he had informed Defence Minister Rajnath Singh "that Government of Goa has decided to provide reservation to 'Agniveers' in recruitment of state police, forest, fire & emergency services, prisons, health and electricity department."

Scheme illegal, must be quashed: PIL in top court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

A PUBLIC Interest Litigation (PIL) filed in the Supreme Court Monday has challenged the 'Agnipath' scheme for recruitment to armed forces.

The plea by Advocate M L Sharma sought quashing of the Jun 14, 2022 notification issued by the Defence Ministry claiming it is "illegal, unconstitutional and ultra vires to the Constitution of India, being also void in the interest of justice".

The plea said that by issuing the notification the government "contra to the constitutional provisions, without having approval in the Parliament and without any gazette notification... quashed century-old army selection process and imposed" the scheme. It also referred to protests against the scheme in different parts of the country.

Over 600 trains cancelled so far due to protests, says Railways

ANISHA DUTTA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

THE ONGOING protests against the Agneepath scheme has so far impacted 612 trains, with 602 of them cancelled and 10 partially cancelled, according to the Railways Ministry.

Among cancelled trains, 223 are mail and express trains and 379 are passengers trains. Four mail/express trains and six passenger trains were partially cancelled, it was informed.

The worst-affected zone has been the East Central Railways — headquartered at Hajipur, Bihar, it comprises Sonpur, Samastipur, Danapur, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, and Dhanbad railway divisions. Around 350 trains in this zone remain cancelled, including those that pass through it.

Northeast Frontier Railways (NFR) cancelled at least 26 trains due to violent protests and floods at several places in Assam, an NFR official said. Many trains have been short-terminated, short-originated, diverted or rescheduled, the official added.

Besides the trains cancelled on Monday, another five have been cancelled for Tuesday, NFR chief public relations officer Sabyasachi De said.

Cong leaders meet President Kovind

Meanwhile, a delegation of senior Congress leaders Monday approached President Ram Nath Kovind and demanded the rollback of what they called a "poorly conceived" Agnipath scheme.

The Congress leaders also sought initiation of "breach of privilege" proceedings over the "vicious attack" of the Delhi Police on party MPs who were protesting against the ED's questioning of Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald case.

Over 50% govt depts fail to report hiring of ex-Servicemen

Officials skipped top-level meet on job policy held by DG-Resettlement

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

MORE THAN half the Central government departments have not submitted details of ex-Servicemen (ESM) recruited by them, as also the reasons for the shortfall in filling these vacancies, according to records.

Neither did more than half the departments attend a top-level meeting called to monitor implementation of the Reservation Policy of ESM in Central civil services & posts (CCS&P), banks, Central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), scrutiny of official records reveal.

The records show that officials of 48 of 77 Central government departments (62 per cent) did not attend the June 2 meeting, chaired by Secretary, Ex-Servicemen Welfare (ESW), to discuss "means to enhance the representation of ESM in Central Civil Services & Posts (CCS&P)".

The meeting called by the reservation monitoring cell of the Directorate General Resettlement (DGR), under the Department of Ex-servicemen Welfare (ESW), of the Defence Ministry, was supposed to be attended by liaison officers appointed by various ministries/departments. The main aim of the meeting was monitoring the implementation of reservation policy of ESM in CCS&P, banks, CPSEs and CAPFs.

The meeting, which took place at the South Block, was attended by Lt Secy (ESW) Pudi Hari Prasad; Maj Gen Sharad Kapur, D-G (R); Cmde Atul Dewan, Principal Director (DGR); as well as liaison officers of various ministries.

Among those which did not attend the meeting are the departments of Commerce, Agricultural Research and Education, Atomic Energy, Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Civil Aviation, Corporate Affairs,

Defence Civil, Public Enterprises, Road Transport and Highways, Law and Justice, Ports Shipping and Waterways, UPSC, etc.

During the meeting, the Secretary, Department of ESW, even drew participants' attention towards the absence of officials from several ministries/departments. He said the next meeting will be held with CCS&Ps that have "not nominated liaison officers till date, and liaison officers who have not attended any meeting" — whether virtual or physical.

The date of the next meeting was not specified.

While officials of nearly 60 per cent Central government departments did not attend the meeting, almost an equal number did not share information about vacancies for ex-Servicemen, and the number of ESMs recruited by them.

The record shows the reservation monitoring cell at DGR had circulated a 'format for half-yearly report' to all ministries and departments, seeking details about their total strength of personnel (both total and ESM); total number of direct recruitment vacancies in this period; total direct recruitment vacancies authorised for ESM; direct recruitment vacancies reserved for ESM; number of direct recruitment vacancies filled during the period—total and the ESM both; shortfall in filling vacancies of the ESM; overall strength and percentage (total and ESM); and reasons for shortfall in filling the vacancies of ESM.

Records show 45 of 77 departments did not share the information on hiring of ex-servicemen until May 15. These include departments of Atomic Energy, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Agriculture Research and Education, Food and Public Distribution and Corporate Affairs, and Ex-servicemen Welfare.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Rajasthan, Bombay HCs line up Yoga Day events, ask judges to attend

DEEP MUKHERJEE & OMKAR GOKHALE
JAIPUR, MUMBAI, JUNE 20

FOR THE first time, several High Courts will hold Yoga Day celebrations and have invited judges, advocates and court staff to the Court complex to attend a live telecast of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to mark the day on June 21 at 6:30 am.

Bharat Bhushan Gupta, Registrar (Administration), Rajasthan High Court, said: "This is the first time the court would hold Yoga Day celebrations. These are being held because we have received directions from the Department of Justice, Government of India."

Rahul Bhagwat, Registrar (Original Side) of the Bombay High Court, said the Ministry of Ayush has issued guidelines regarding holding the event and the Ministry of Law and Justice, along with the Supreme Court, has issued directions in this regard. Apart from its principal seat in Mumbai, judges and members of the registry at the benches of the High Court at Goa, Aurangabad and Nagpur will also mark Yoga Day, Bhagwat said.

A report from the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said 47,72,140 people were affected in more than 5,000 villages. More than 2 lakh people are in relief camps in various parts of the state. On Monday, 10 people, including two children, drowned in floodwaters in Cachar, Darrang, Dibrugarh, Hailakandi, Hojai, Kamrup, Lakhimpur and Nagaon districts.

Two policemen, including the officer in-charge of the Kamrup police station in Nagaon, were washed away while on rescue duty. "During an ops last night, a team of @assampolice fell in a water body in Kamrup area of Nagaon," tweeted Assam Special DGP GP Singh, adding that Officer in-charge Samujjal Kakoti and Constable Rajiv Bordoloi had jumped in to save their colleagues. Bodies were retrieved the next day.

Advocates and all other officers / officials of Rajasthan High Court, Jodhpur, are requested to assemble... at 6.30 A.M. sharp on Tuesday, the 21st of June," the notification said.

Justice (ret'd) Panachand Jain, former judge of the Rajasthan High Court, told *The Indian Express* that he had never heard of judges being asked to be present for such a programme. "The notice doesn't seem to be in good humour," he said. "I do not know why a constitutional court has to be so excited about the PM's speech," a senior advocate said, on condition of anonymity.

The fact that the request coincides with summer vacation at the Rajasthan High Court has also raised eyebrows. The court reopens on June 27.

Surya Prakash Kakra, the Registrar General of the Rajasthan High Court, told *The Indian Express* that the invite was in the nature of other such events.

"Much like other celebrations, we have invited everyone," Kakra said.

Registrar Rahul Bhagwat of the Bombay High Court said that 100-125 people are likely to participate at the event organised through the court administration and High Court Legal Services Committee, including Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and 20-25 other judges. The court has hired yoga instructors for the event and set a dress code of "T-shirt and track pants (in) sober colours such as blue and black".

Subordinate courts across Maharashtra have also been directed to conduct programmes in a similar manner with the assistance of District Legal Services Authorities and local sub-committees.

The Chief Justice is the head of the administrative side of a High Court, responsible for the invites.

In the Rajasthan High Court, the post has been vacant since Justice Akil Kureshi retired on March 6.

A dam break to farmer stir: Book on Modi digs out details

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

WHAT DID the dam break in Gujarat's Machchhu river in 1979 have to do with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public life? Why was the 'Khedu' movement in 1984 significant in shaping Modi as a leader? What role did he have in taking out a 'Swayambhoo Yatra' in Ahmedabad in 1986, amidst a ban? How did the Ahmedabad Municipal Election of 1987 become a turning point in his life and for the Gujarat BJP?

All these questions are answered in a new book on the PM — *The Architect of the New BJP: How Narendra Modi Transformed the Party* — by Ajay Singh, a senior journalist who is currently working as Press Secretary to President Ram Nath Kovind.

In the book, which is set to hit the stands soon, Singh lists a series of incidents that have con-

tributed towards Modi finessing his electoral prowess and emerging as a strong leader.

One of the incidents he mentions is a flood in Morbi town in Saurashtra, a manufacturing hub for pottery and wall clocks, after a dam burst on the Machchhu river, on August 11, 1979. With government help delayed, social organisations stepped in to fill the gap. "What appears to have stood out in this relief operation was the focused approach of a team of RSS volunteers led by a young pracharak... known as Narendra Damodardas Modi. When the dam broke, Modi was in Chennai along with Nanaji Deshmukh of the RSS. He rushed back to Gujarat to organise relief operations."

According to the book, this proved a major boost for the RSS, at a time when its political wing Bharatiya Jana Sangh had lost its identity after merging into the Janata Party.

Later, when farmers launched

Khedu movement seeking free trade for their produce across states for best returns, the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh roped in Modi in Gujarat and Om Mathur in Rajasthan to plan the agitation. When the agitation faced police action, Modi ensured that donations gathered by cadres from across the state went to families of victims of police firing, says the book. "For the first time, the movement expanded the Sangh Parivar's base in the rural areas of Gujarat and effectively enhanced its social acceptability."

Singh says that the gesture also helped "exorcise the ghost of Gandhi's assassination that had got stuck with the RSS" by playing up the symbolism of Gandhi in the peasants' movement.

Singh further writes that the 1987 Ahmedabad MC polls helped Modi hone his skills as an organiser, having taken over when the structure of the city unit was "quite nebulous and loose".



Army personnel rescue villagers at Kalita Kuchi in Kamrup district, Assam, Monday. *Dasarath Deka*

Two cops among 11 dead in Assam, toll climbs to 81

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GUWAHATI, JUNE 20

MONDAY BROUGHT more devastation to Assam, as the floods claimed the lives of 10 more people, including two policemen.

As rain continued to batter parts of the state, affecting more than 45 lakh people in 32 districts, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said an inter-ministerial Central team would be dispatched to assess the damage. The team would visit both Assam and Meghalaya, the two worst-affected Northeastern states this monsoon.

"Spoke to CM Assam @himantribiswa and CM Meghalaya @SangmaConrad to discuss the situation in parts of both states in the wake of heavy rain and flooding. Modi government stands with people of Assam and Meghalaya in this hour of need," Shah tweeted on Monday evening.

While in Meghalaya 28 persons have died since April, Assam

has witnessed 81 deaths.

On Monday, Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma met families of those killed in a landslide in Mawsynram Block in East Khasi Hills. He said the government was working to ensure that electricity and mobile connectivity was restored in the affected areas.

Traffic has now started moving on the damaged NH-6 — that serves as the road link between the rest of the country and south Assam's Barak Valley districts, as well as Mizoram and Tripura — on a trial basis, Sangma said.

Meanwhile, Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma held a virtual meeting with his Cabinet and state government officials and DCs, on Monday morning, emphasising that relief and rescue operations should be "top priority", without any delay due to procedural hurdles. He also directed authorities to form health camps to deal with post-flood diseases as water recedes.

Husband among 2 held for killing woman on suspicion of affair: Mumbai Police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JUNE 20

THE MUMBAI Police has arrested two persons for the murder of a 30-year-old woman in Tilak Nagar area, including the husband of the victim. According to police, the accused Satish Jawle (40) suspected his wife, Dipali, of having an extra-marital affair and allegedly killed her with help from his friend.

An officer said Dipali, who worked as a beautician, had

moved out of her husband's Worli residence and started living with her mother in Chembur. The incident took place around 9.15 am on Sunday when the police received a call about a woman being stabbed at MG Road in Pant Nagar. A police team from the local Tilak Nagar police station rushed to the spot and Dipali was taken to Rajawadi Hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

The officer said the accused, Satish and his friend Swapnil Pawar, were beaten up by local residents. To escape the mob, the

duo rushed towards the police van and confessed to their crime, following which they were taken into custody.

Senior Inspector of Tilak Nagar police station Sunil Kale said that during questioning, it came to light that Satish and Dipali fought frequently as he suspected her of having an affair. On Saturday night, he told Pawar that he was planning to stab his wife and took his help, said police. The duo waited for Dipali at Pant Nagar, where they allegedly stabbed her several times.

ECONOMY

SENSEX: 51,597.84 ▲ 23742 (0.46%) NIFTY: 15,350.15 ▲ 56.65 (0.37%) NIKKEI: 25,771.22 ▼ 191.78 HANG SENG: 21,163.91 ▲ 88.91 FTSE: 7,103.27 ▲ 87.02 DAX: 13,197.70 ▲ 71.44

International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH AVIATION

4 'wildlife strikes' daily in 2021; DGCA writes to AAI, pvt operators

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

NEARLY FOUR "wildlife strike" incidents occurred every day near Indian airports last year, double from a little over two daily incidents in 2016, even as aircraft movement numbers for 2021 remained below the 2016 total, according to data sourced from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Airports Authority of India (AAI).

A "wildlife strike" means an aircraft either suffered a bird hit or was disrupted by an animal on the runway during take-off or landing. One landing or take-off is calculated as one aircraft movement.

Following two bird hit incidents on Sunday, which forced an IndiGo plane and a SpiceJet aircraft to turn back to their airports of origin, India's aviation safety regulator has written to all airport operators, asking them to work on managing the threat of wildlife strikes to aircraft.

"We are all aware that during the monsoon season, wildlife (birds and animals) activity increases in and around airports. The presence of wildlife in the airport vicinity poses a serious threat to aircraft operational safety," the DGCA noted in its letter to the AAI and private airport operators on Monday.

According to official data, there were 1,453 suspected and confirmed wildlife strike incidents in 2021, up from 839 in 2016. In comparison, the number of aircraft movements was 20.47 lakh in 2021, down from

22.89 lakh in 2016.

The top five airports which reported most wildlife strike incidents in 2021 were Delhi (231), Mumbai (140), Ahmedabad (71), Kolkata (70) and Kochi (56). "All airports are requested to review their wildlife hazard management plan for any gap and ensure strict implementation of strategies for wildlife hazard management within and also outside the airfield," the DGCA said in its letter.

On Sunday, an IndiGo A320neo aircraft's left engine got damaged after suffering a bird hit when it was at an altitude of 1,600 feet after take-off from the Guwahati airport. The pilots declared an emergency and returned to the airport.

A Delhi-bound SpiceJet-operated Boeing 737-800 plane also had to make an emergency landing in Patna, minutes after take-off from there, after one of its engines suffered a bird hit.

The DGCA has asked airports to ensure that within the airport premises, grass is trimmed and insecticide is sprayed, in addition to conducting frequent runway inspection for bird activities and deploying bird chasers and bird-scaring devices. It has also asked airports to ensure regular garbage disposal in the operational area and to avoid water concentration and open drains. Airport operators have been asked to convene meetings of the Airport Environment Management Committee to discuss and review implementation of the measures to reduce bird hazard. *Full report on* www.indianexpress.com

BIHAR, KERALA, PUNJAB, RAJASTHAN, BENGAL HIGHLY STRESSED

5 states need to take steps to stabilise debt levels: RBI

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, JUNE 20

BIHAR, KERALA, Punjab, Rajasthan and West Bengal are the five highly stressed states after taking into account the warning signs flashing from all the indicators, a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) study has said.

"We can identify a core subset of highly stressed states from among the 10 states identified by the necessary condition i.e., the debt/GSDP ratio. The highly stressed states are Bihar, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan and West Bengal," said the RBI study on state finances released last week.

It said Punjab is expected to remain in the worst position as its debt-GSDP ratio is projected to exceed 45 per cent in 2026-27, with further deterioration in its fiscal position. Rajasthan, Kerala and West Bengal are projected to exceed the debt-GSDP ratio of 35 per cent by 2026-27. These states will need to undertake significant cor-

Explained Limited room

COMMITTED EXPENDITURE, which inter alia includes interest payments, pensions and administrative expenses, accounts for a significant portion (over 35 per cent) of the total revenue expenditure in states like Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala and Punjab, leaving limited fiscal space for undertaking developmental expenditure.

rective steps to stabilise their debt levels. "Based on the debt-GSDP ratio in 2020-21, Punjab, Rajasthan, Kerala, West Bengal, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana turn out to be the

states with the highest debt burden," the study said. These 10 states account for around half of the total expenditure by all state governments in India, it said.

Among the 10 states, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Punjab exceeded both debt and fiscal deficit targets for 2020-21 set by the 15th Finance Commission (FC-XV). Kerala, Jharkhand and West Bengal exceeded the debt target, while Madhya Pradesh overshot the fiscal deficit target. Haryana and Uttar Pradesh were exceptions as they met both criteria. Rajasthan, Kerala and West Bengal are projected to surpass the FC-XV targets for debt and fiscal deficit in 2022-23 (BE), it said.

It said the own tax revenue of some of these 10 states, viz., Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Kerala, has been declining over time, making them fiscally more vulnerable. "For most of these states, non-tax revenue has remained volatile, dropping significantly in recent years. The decline

in non-tax revenue is under general services, interest receipts and economic services," the study said.

The share of revenue expenditure in total expenditure of these states varies in the range of 80-90 per cent. "Some states like Rajasthan, West Bengal, Punjab and Kerala spend around 90 per cent in revenue accounts. This results in poor expenditure quality, as reflected in their high revenue spending to capital outlay ratios," it said. Committed expenditure, which inter alia includes interest payments, pensions and administrative expenses, accounts for a significant portion (over 35 per cent) of the total revenue expenditure in states like Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala and Punjab, leaving limited fiscal space for undertaking developmental expenditure, it said. "Consequently, the share of developmental expenditure in these states is considerably lower than the other states."

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

To recover ₹148-cr bad loans, banks to auction Great Indian Tamasha Co assets

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, JUNE 20

IDBI BANK has put on sale properties of Great Indian Tamasha Company Ltd, which is the corporate guarantor of Great Indian Nautanki Company, to recover defaulted loans, or non-performing assets (NPAs), worth over Rs 148 crore taken from IDBI Bank, HDFC Bank and Bank of Baroda.

The immovable properties, which will be sold through an e-auction next month, are located in Karnataka's Kodagu district, according to a public notice issued by IDBI Bank. Great Indian Nautanki Company owes IDBI Bank Rs 86.48 crore, HDFC Bank Rs 6.26 crore and Bank of Baroda Rs 49.23 crore. "The dues of IDBI Bank outstanding as of May 1, 2022, stand at Rs 92.69 crore plus interest thereon with effect from May 2, 2022," the notice said.

The guarantors and directors of the company were Anumod Sharma, Anu Appaiah, Sanjay Choudhry, Viraf Sarkari, SG Investments, Great Indian Tamasha Company and Wizcraft International Entertainment Pvt Ltd, the notice said.

"IDBI Bank invites bids/offers in sealed covers for sale of the property of Great Indian Tamasha Company (corporate guarantor of

The immovable properties, to be sold via e-auction next month, are in Karnataka's Kodagu district

Great Indian Nautanki Company) under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act," the lender said.

IDBI took possession of the property on May 20, 2022. The e-auction will take place on July 27, 2022, and the last date of submission of bids is July 22. The sale of the secured assets for which the reserve price has been fixed at Rs 11.53 crore will be on "as is where is basis", "as is what is basis", "whatever there is basis" and "no recourse basis" on behalf of the secured creditors.

Great Indian Nautanki Company was set up in September 2007 with a registered office in Delhi. Great Indian Tamasha Company, set up in January 2008, is classified as a non-government company. Anumod Sharma and Sanjay Choudhry are directors of both the companies.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

Trained youth for industry: India Inc leaders back Agnipath

Amid protests against the Agnipath defence recruitment scheme, India Inc on Monday rallied behind it, saying the scheme has a large potential to provide disciplined and trained workforce to the industry

Source: PTI, Twitter



"Agnipath... will also make available a very disciplined & trained youth for industry, including Tata Group"

N CHANDRASEKARAN
CHAIRMAN,
TATA SONS



"The Mahindra Group welcomes the opportunity to recruit such trained, capable young people"

ANAND MAHINDRA
CHAIRMAN,
MAHINDRA GROUP



"Delighted with Agnipath scheme. Agniveers in armed forces will ensure right blend between youth & experience"

SANJIV MEHTA
PRESIDENT,
FICCI



"The RPG group too welcomes the opportunity to employ the Agniveers"

HARSH GOENKA
CHAIRMAN,
RPG
ENTERPRISES



"Agniveers will have advantage in recruitment in industrial job market"

KIRAN
MAZUMDAR-SHAW
CHAIRPERSON,
BIOCON



"No better place than our Armed Forces for training our youth"

SAJJAN JINDAL
CHAIRMAN &
MANAGING DIRECTOR,
JSW GROUP

'Vaccines: TRIPS waiver to help'

New Delhi: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday said intellectual property rights (TRIPS) waiver for five years agreed in the recently concluded WTO meet will help developing countries manufacture patented Covid vaccines to deal with the pandemic.

Goyal said that India already has a number of Covid vaccines and can help other developing countries to make vaccines.



PIYUSH GOYAL
Commerce Minister

"We have sufficient types of vaccines... So for the current strains of COVID-19, we do not need this TRIPS waiver. We have supported it more for the other developing countries to manufacture vaccines," he said.

Members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) last week agreed to grant a temporary patent waiver for manufacturing COVID-19 vaccines for five years. *PTI*

Cos ask govt to defer plastic straw ban deadline

New Delhi: Makers of small packaged fruit juices and dairy products like Parle Agro, Dabur and Mother Dairy are resorting to imported paper straws despite higher costs to continue selling their products as the deadline for implementing the ban on plastic straws from July 1 draws closer.

Manufacturers want the Centre to extend the implementation date of the ban till proper infrastructure is developed.

"There is no infrastructure at present in India to be able to produce the quantum of straws required for the industry," Parle Agro CEO Schauna Chauhan said. "We would urge the government to extend the implementation date of the ban till proper infrastructure for producing paper straws locally is developed," Shahrukh Khan, executive director-operations, Dabur, said. *PTI*

FINMIN'S MONTHLY ECONOMIC REVIEW 'Slowing growth likely but low stagflation risk'

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

INDIA IS expected to witness slowing growth and faces an upside risk to the fiscal deficit owing to the recent excise duty cuts on fuel, but it has low risk of stagflation owing to prudent stabilisation policies, said the Department of Economic Affairs on Monday in its Monthly Economic Review for May 2022. Maintaining growth momentum, restraining inflation, keeping the fiscal deficit within Budget and containing the current account deficit while maintaining a fair value of the Indian currency is the challenge for policymaking this financial year, the Finance Ministry report said.

"Going forward, global growth is expected to witness head-

winds with rising commodity prices, supply chain bottlenecks and faster than the projected withdrawal of monetary accommodation. Various international agencies have projected a slowing of global economic growth. India's economy is also expected to witness slowing growth, though still higher than the other emerging market economies."

FinMin, PSB heads meet

Meanwhile, as per *PTI*, the Finance Ministry held a meeting Monday with heads of public sector banks (PSBs) to review their annual performance and progress on schemes. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman could not attend due to some other engagement, but Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat K Karad chaired the meet. *Full report on* www.indianexpress.com

Telco PLI extended

New Delhi: The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has extended the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for telecom by 1 year and has amended the scheme to raise the incentive rate by an additional 1 per cent.

The amendment comes days after the country took its first step towards 5G rollout as the Union Cabinet cleared a proposal to invite applications for spectrum auctions.

According to an official release, the design-led manufacturing scheme is open for both medium and small-scale enterprises (MSMEs) and non-MSMEs,

including domestic and global companies. The DoT also said applications for design-led manufacturing will be prioritised over other manufacturers. The scheme requires an investment threshold of Rs 10 crore for MSMEs and Rs 100 crore for non-MSMEs, excluding land and building cost. The incentives will be based on incremental sales of the manufactured goods, and range between 4 per cent to 7 per cent for different categories over the years. MSMEs will get an additional 1 per cent incentive in the first, second, and third years. *ENS* *Full report on* www.indianexpress.com

BRIEFLY

RIL, 2 others fined

New Delhi: Sebi levied fines of ₹30 lakh on RIL (Reliance Industries) and two individuals, Savithri Parekh and K Sethuraman, for not making prompt clarification to bourses on Jio-Facebook deal, which was disclosed via newspapers. The fine need to be paid jointly and severally by them within 45 days, according to a Sebi order.

Vedanta, Sterlite

New Delhi: Vedanta put on sale its copper smelter plant in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu, which was shut in 2018 after 13 people died in a police firing on protestors agitating against alleged pollution by the unit. Vedanta sought bids by July 4 for the unit with 400,000 tonnes a year output capacity. *PTI*

Sebi circulars

Mumbai: Sebi said untagged demat accounts of stock brokers need to be appropriately tagged by June-end. Credit of securities will not be allowed in any demat account left untagged from July 1, but credits on account of corporate actions will be allowed, it said. It set up an advisory panel on hybrid securities, for recommendations to boost growth of such instruments. *ENS*

EPFO base

New Delhi: EPFO added 1708 lakh net new subscribers in April, 34% over 12.7 lakh enrolled a year ago. *PTI*

TATA POWER DELHI DISTRIBUTION LIMITED
A Tata Power and Delhi Government Joint Venture
Regd. Office : NDPL House, Hudson Lines, Kingsway Camp, Delhi 110 009
Tel : 66112222, Fax : 27468042, Email : TPDDL@tatapower-ddl.com
CIN No. : U40109DL2001PLC111526, Website : www.tatapower-ddl.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
Jun 21, 2022
TATA Power-DDL invites tenders as per following details:

Tender Enquiry No. Work Description	Estimated Cost/EMD (Rs.)	Availability of Bid Document	Last Date & Time of Bid Submission/ Date and time of Opening of bids
TPDDL/ENGG/ENQ/200001422/22-23 Transitioning to Microsoft 0365	10.10 Crs/ 17,15,000	21.06.2022	12.07.2022; 1630 Hrs 12.07.2022; 1630 Hrs

Complete tender and corrigendum document is available on our website www.tatapower-ddl.com → Vendor Zone → Tender / Corrigendum Documents
Contracts - 011-66112222

सैनिक स्कूल अम्बिकापुर (छत्तीसगढ़)
(सैनिक स्कूल सोसायटी, रक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार द्वारा संचालित)
दूरभाष: 7747032999, E-mail: sainikschoolambikapur@rediffmail.com

निविदा सूचना
सैनिक स्कूल अम्बिकापुर, मेण्ड्राकलॉ, जिला- सरगुजा (छत्तीसगढ़) में निम्नलिखित सामग्री की आपूर्ति/सेवाओं के लिए पंजीकृत फर्मों या अधिकृत विक्रेताओं से निविदाएं निर्धारित प्रारूप पर आमंत्रित की जाती हैं:-

क्रमांक	विवरण	प्रयोज्य कीमत (EMD)	अंदाजित कीमत (अंतिम खरीदी)
1	सब्जी बजटिया (Vegetables) की आपूर्ति	₹ 48,000.00	₹ 18 लाख
2	सब्जी बजटिया (Vegetables) की आपूर्ति	₹ 33,000.00	₹ 11 लाख
3	चिकन (Chicken) की आपूर्ति	₹ 21,000.00	₹ 07 लाख
4	दूध की बजटिया (Eggs) की आपूर्ति	₹ 12,000.00	₹ 04 लाख
5	दवाई (Medicine) की आपूर्ति	₹ 12,000.00	₹ 04 लाख
6	ब्रेड व सन स्नैक्स (Bread & Bakery Items) सप्लाई की आपूर्ति	₹ 15,000.00	₹ 05 लाख
7	सिलाई काल (Tailoring) की सेवा	₹ 30,000.00	₹ 10 लाख

GeM NAC ID: GEM/GARPTS/20062022/FOIM48516NIM
निविदा फार्म अहस्तांतरणीय होंगे। निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 21 जून 2022 से 12 जुलाई 2022 के मध्य सैनिक स्कूल अम्बिकापुर की वेबसाइट व केन्द्रीय सार्वजनिक खरीद पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध है। निविदा प्रपत्र केन्द्रीय सार्वजनिक खरीद पोर्टल (CPP Portal) <https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app> एवं सैनिक स्कूल अम्बिकापुर की वेबसाइट www.sainikschoolambikapur.org.in से भी डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। पूर्ण रूप से भरे हुए निर्धारित निविदा फार्म दिनांक 12 जुलाई 2022 सुबह 11.00 बजे या उससे पहले हाथों-हाथ या डाक के माध्यम से सैनिक स्कूल अम्बिकापुर में जमा किया जा सकता है। निविदा पेट्री सैनिक स्कूल अम्बिकापुर, मेण्ड्राकलॉ में दिनांक 12 जुलाई 2022 सुबह 11.30 बजे खोली जाएगी। डाक विभाग द्वारा किसी भी प्रकार की देरी के लिए सैनिक स्कूल अम्बिकापुर प्रशासन जिम्मेदार नहीं होगा। प्राचार्य, सैनिक स्कूल अम्बिकापुर के पास किसी भी निविदा को किसी भी स्तर पर स्थगित/रद्द करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है।

1034 प्राचार्य, सैनिक स्कूल अम्बिकापुर

Notice Inviting Offer

Sale of CBM Gas from Bokaro Block
ONGC Ltd. on behalf of consortium of CBM Block BK-CBM-2001/1, invites offers for purchase of **0.20 MMSCMD** CBM gas from Bokaro Block, CBM Asset (Jharkhand).
Interested parties are requested to download Request for Proposal (RFP) and Gas Sales Agreement (GSA) from <https://eps.buyjunction.in/gasbidding>
Contact: ongcgasbidding@mjunction.in
e-Bidding Partner - mjunction services ltd.

DELHI JAL BOARD : GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (M)-9
COMMAND TANK NO. 4, SEC-20, DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110075

Press N.I.T. No. 23 (2022-23)/EE (T) M-9

S. N.	Name of work	Amount put to Tender	EMD (Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date / time receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Shifting of water line existing service at 13.50 meter road along SPG complex wall sector - 08 Dwarka under CT-1 Under Bijwasan AEE(M)-36 (Tender I.D. No. 2022_DJB_224454_1)	Rs. 56,66,632/-	Rs. 1,13,400/-	16.06.2022	29.06.2022 upto 3:00 PM
2.	Demolition and Re-construction of water and sewer store near Palam Flyover under EE(M)-37 (Tender I.D. No. 2022_DJB_224454_2)	Rs. 49,30,438/-	Rs. 98,700/-	16.06.2022	29.06.2022 upto 3:00 PM
3.	Improvement of sewerage system by P/L 300mm dia sewer line in Brahm puri area in Railway line side and 400 mm dia to Brahm puri Centre road to Kallesh puri road connecting main sewer in Dabri ward in Dwarka Assembly Constituency under AEE(M)-33 (Tender I.D. No. 2022_DJB_224454_2)	Rs. 72,51,467/-	Rs. 1,45,100/-	16.06.2022	29.06.2022 upto 3:00 PM

NIT along with all the terms & conditions is available on DJB Web Site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.
ISSUED BY PRO (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 197 (2022-23)
STOP CORONA
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (TM)-9
"Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail- ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CE-W.B.P. (O) - 10 / 2022-23

- The Chief Engineer (World Bank Project), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE firm eligible contractors for construction of Road & Bridge works as detailed in the table below :
- Nature of work** : Road work
- No. of work** : 01 no.
- Tender cost** : Rs. 10,00,000
- Class of Contractor** : Super Class Contractor
- Available of bid document in the website** : From 10.00 AM of 22.06.2022 to 5.00 PM of 20.07.2022
- Pre-Bid meeting** : Dt. 29.06.2022 at 11.30 AM
- Date of opening of Bid** : Dt. 21.07.2022 at 11.30 AM
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
World Bank Project, Odisha
OIPR-34003/11/0017/2223

Reliance Infrastructure Limited
Regd. Office: NKM International House, 5th Floor, 178 Backbay Reclamation, Behind LIC Yogakshema Building, Babubhai Chitani Road, Mumbai - 400 020
Phone: +91-22-4477 9053 • Fax: +91-22-4477 9052 • E-mail: investor_relations@ril.in
CIN: L60300MH1988PLC049019

NOTICE
(b for the attention of Equity Shareholders of the Company)
Sub.: Transfer of Equity Shares of the Company to Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority

This notice is published pursuant to the provisions of the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016, as amended ("the Rules").

The Rules, amongst other matters, contain provisions for transfer of all shares, in respect of which dividend has not been paid or claimed for seven consecutive years or more, in the name of the Investor Education and Protection Fund ("IEPF") Authority.

Adhering to the various requirements set out in the Rules, the Company has, so far, transferred to IEPF Authority, on respective due dates, all shares in respect of which dividend(s) for the financial year 2013-14 or before had remained unpaid or unclaimed for a period of seven consecutive years or more. The Company has, vide its letter dated June 16, 2022, communicated individually, the concerned shareholders whose shares are liable to be transferred to IEPF Authority during the financial year 2022-23 for taking appropriate action.

The Company has uploaded full details of such shareholders and shares due for transfer to IEPF Authority on its website at www.ril.in. Shareholders are requested to refer to the web-link https://www.ril.in/transfer_suspense_accountiepf.html to verify the details of unencashed dividends and the shares liable to be transferred to IEPF Authority.

Shareholders may note that both the unclaimed dividend and the shares transferred to IEPF Authority including all benefits accruing on such shares, if any, can be claimed back by them from IEPF Authority after following the procedure prescribed under the Rules.

The concerned shareholders, holding shares in physical form and whose shares are liable to be transferred to IEPF Authority, may note that the Company would be issuing new share certificate(s) in lieu of the original share certificate(s) held by them for the purpose of dematerialisation and transfer of shares to IEPF Authority as per the Rules and upon such issue, the original certificate(s) which stands registered in their name will stand automatically cancelled and be deemed non-negotiable. The shareholders may further note that the details uploaded by the Company on its website shall be deemed to be adequate notice in respect of issue of new certificate(s) by the Company for the purpose of transfer of shares to IEPF Authority pursuant to the Rules.

In case the Company does not receive any communication (claiming the unclaimed / unencashed dividend) from the concerned shareholders on or before October 16, 2022, the Company shall with a view to complying requirements set out in the Rules, dematerialise and transfer the shares to IEPF Authority by way of corporate action as per procedure stipulated in the Rules.

In case the shareholders have any queries on the subject matter and the Rules, they may contact Shri S. P. Venugopal, Vice President, **KFin Technologies Limited**, Company's Share Transfer Agent at Selenium Tower B, Plot 31-32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad - 500 032; Tel: +91-40-6716 1708; Fax: +91-40-6716 1680; Toll Free No.: 1800-309-8998 (From 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on all working days); Email: rilnkfm@kfintech.com; Website: www.kfintech.com.

For Reliance Industrial Infrastructure Limited
Sd/-
Shalish Dholakia
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer
www.ril.in

Place : Mumbai
Date : June 20, 2022

CAMBODIA

WORLD'S LARGEST FRESHWATER FISH IN NET

The world's largest recorded freshwater fish, a giant stingray, has been caught in the Mekong River in Cambodia, as per scientists from the Southeast Asian nation and the US. The stingray, captured on June 13, measured almost four metres from snout to tail and weighed slightly under 300 kgs, said Wonders of the Mekong, a joint Cambodian-US research project.



TOP OF THE WORLD



Paul Haggis is under house arrest. AP

ITALY

Director Haggis held on sexual abuse charges

Rome: Oscar-winning Canadian screenwriter and director Paul Haggis is under house arrest in southern Italy on charges of sexual assault and aggravated personal injury, accusations that Haggis denies, his lawyers said on Monday. "Mr Paul Haggis was detained on Sunday with an emergency measure issued by the Brindisi prosecutors and is now under house arrest in Ostuni. He will be questioned by Thursday," his Italian lawyer Michele Laforgia said. Haggis was charged with forcing a young non-Italian woman to have sex against her will the course of two days in Ostuni, public prosecutors in Brindisi said on Sunday. **REUTERS**

JAPAN

Same-sex marriage ban not illegal: Court

Tokyo: A Japanese court ruled on Monday that a ban on same-sex marriage was not unconstitutional, dealing a setback to rights activists in the only Group of Seven nation that does not allow people of the same sex to marry. The ruling dashes activists' hopes of raising pressure on the central government to address the issue after a court in the city of Sapporo in March 2021 decided in favour of a claim that not allowing same-sex marriage was unconstitutional. **REUTERS**

CHINA

Intercepted a missile in flight, says Beijing

Beijing: China says it has successfully intercepted a missile in flight, in a test of an anti-ballistic missile system that could improve its defences as it presses its territorial claims. A statement from the Defence Ministry late Sunday gave no details, but said the test was purely defensive and not aimed at any foreign nations. **AP**

BELGIUM

Congo national hero's tooth returned to kin

Brussels: Belgian authorities on Monday returned a gold-capped tooth belonging to the slain Congolese independence hero Patrice Lumumba. The restitution of the relic took place after Belgium's King Philippe this month expressed his "deepest regrets" for his nation's abuses in its African former colony, Congo. **AP**

SAUDI ARABIA

Travel curbs lifted for India

Riyadh: Saudi Arabia lifted coronavirus travel restrictions on Monday on its citizens travelling to Turkey, India, Ethiopia and Vietnam, state news agency SPA reported. Earlier this month, the kingdom lifted measures imposed to prevent the spread of the virus, including a requirement to wear face masks indoors. **REUTERS**

PRIME MINISTER MEETS IMF TEAM

21st Amendment cleared by Lanka cabinet to trim President's power

Crisis-hit nation scrambling to get fuel shipments in next 3 days: Minister

PTI & REUTERS

COLOMBO, JUNE 20

SRI LANKA Cabinet on Monday approved the 21st Amendment to the Constitution aimed at empowering Parliament over the executive president and it will now be tabled in Parliament soon, two senior ministers have said.

The 21st Amendment is expected to annul the 20A to the Constitution, which gives unfettered powers to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa after abolishing the 19th Amendment that will strengthen Parliament.

"The 21 amendment was tabled and passed in cabinet today and will be tabled in @ParliamentLK soon. Like to thank @RW_UNP and @wijerajapakshe for pushing it through," Minister of Tourism and Lands Harin Fernando tweeted.

The 21A aims, among other reforms, at barring dual citizens from contesting elections to hold public office. "Today the cabinet approved the 21A - this was the draft that I had discussed with all political parties and other organisations. This will now be sent to the legal draftsman,"



Demonstrators demand immediate release of protesters who were taken into police custody for obstructing an entrance to Presidential Secretariat. Reuters

Constitutional Affairs Minister Wijedasa Rajapaksa told PTI.

He said he was keen to make sure that the draft would not incorporate any provision which would be deemed as required to be approved at a national referendum by the Supreme Court.

The island nation of 22 million people is scrambling to get fuel shipments in the next three days, the energy minister told Reuters, as public disaffection grows because of a persistent shortage of diesel and petrol.

A nine-member IMF team, which arrived in the commercial

capital Colombo on Monday, held talks with Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe on how to structure what will be Sri Lanka's 17th loan programme with the global lender. "The prime minister commenced discussions with the IMF team," Wickremesinghe's office.

Taliban release several British citizens held in Afghanistan

Islamabad: The Taliban have released several British citizens who were detained in Afghanistan after an agreement was reached between the two countries, Taliban and UK officials said Monday. The detainees were released Sunday following a series of meetings between Afghan and British officials, said Zabihullah Mujahid, spokesman for the Taliban government.

"A number of British nationals were released, who were arrested about six months ago for violating the laws and traditions of the Afghan people," he said.

Mujahid didn't say what laws the UK citizens had broken or elaborate on why they had been detained. The statement said all of them pledged to respect the laws of Afghanistan, the traditions and culture of the Afghan people and not to violate them again. **AP**



President Emmanuel Macron voting on Sunday in Le Touquet, France. NYT

LE PEN CALLS IT HISTORIC VICTORY

Macron camp seeks allies, says going to be complicated after losing majority

Both Right and Left gain in France election

REUTERS & AP

PARIS, JUNE 20

PRESIDENT EMMANUEL Macron faced calls for his prime minister to resign on Monday and doubt hung over his ability to rule decisively after his camp lost parliamentary majority.

Macron's centrist camp is under pressure to secure support from rivals to salvage Macron's reform agenda after weekend elections delivered a hung parliament. If it fails, France could face a long spell of political paralysis.

The loss of his Ensemble alliance's absolute majority is a painful setback for Macron who won a second term just two months ago. "It's going to be complicated," government spokeswoman Olivia Gregoire told France Inter radio. "We're going to have to be creative."

Macron now needs either to form a wider coalition or accept leading a minority government that negotiates with opponents on a bill-by-bill basis. His only consolation: the opposition groups are themselves bitter rivals and in some cases risen by internal rifts. "Such a fragmented parliament will likely result in political deadlock, with a much slower reform agenda," said Philippe Gudin of Barclays.

The broad leftwing Nupes alliance of Jean-Luc Melançon and Marine Le Pen's far-right

promised to hound Macron and his administration relentlessly in parliament. Marine Le Pen said on Monday that her party's extraordinary surge in the country's parliamentary election is a "historic victory" and a "seismic event" in French politics.

Le Pen's National Rally got 89 seats in the 577-member parliament, up from a previous total of eight. On the other side, the leftist Nupes coalition, led by hardliner Jean-Luc Melançon, won 131 seats to become the main opposition force. "Macron is a minority president now. (...) His retirement reform plan is buried," a beaming Le Pen declared on Monday in Hénin-Beaumont, her stronghold in northern France, where she was reelected for another five-year term in the parliament. "It's a historic victory (...) a seismic event."

Port of Odesa comes under attack as Russians advance in eastern Ukraine

REUTERS

KYIV, JUNE 20

RUSSIAN FORCES captured territory along a frontline river in eastern Ukraine on Monday and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy predicted Moscow would escalate attacks ahead of a summit of European leaders expected to welcome Kyiv's bid to join the EU.

Moscow's separatist proxies claimed to have captured Toshkivka, a town on the mostly Ukrainian-held western bank of the Siverskyi Donets river, south of Sievierodonetsk, which has become the main battlefield city.



COLOMBIA PICKS FIRST LEFT PRESIDENT

■ Leftist Gustavo Petro won Colombia's presidency, the first progressive to do so in the country's history. He beat Rodolfo Hernandez with a margin of 700,000 votes

■ Francia Marquez (right), a single mother and former housekeeper, will be Colombia's first Black woman vice-president after a historic vote on Sunday. AP

15-yr-old killed, 3 shot at in gunfire at US music fest

A 15-YEAR-OLD boy was killed and three adults, including a police officer, were shot when gunfire erupted Sunday night at an unauthorized music event in a Washington, neighbourhood, the authorities said.

Police had shut down the event, known as Moechella, a free street festival near the city's culturally storied corner of 14th and U Streets Northwest, after violence earlier in the evening. Chief Robert J. Contee III of Metropolitan Police Department said late Sunday he wanted to ensure people would be held accountable for holding events without a permit. **NYT**

As incidents of rape rise, Pak Punjab to impose 'emergency'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAHORE, JUNE 20

AUTHORITIES in Pakistan's Punjab province have decided to declare an "emergency" following a spike in cases of sexual abuse against women and children, the media reported on Monday.

Punjab Home Minister Atta Tarar on Sunday said the administration was forced to "declare an emergency to deal with rape cases". The minister said the rapid increase in cases of sexual abuse against women and children in the province was a serious issue for the society and government officials.

"Four to five cases of rape are being reported daily in Punjab due to which the government is considering special measures to deal with cases of sexual harassment, abuse and coercion," the Dawn quoted the provincial minister as saying at Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz headquarters.

The minister, in the presence of Law Minister Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan, stressed that all cases will be reviewed by the Cabinet Committee on Race and Law and Order, and that civil society.

Tarar also urged parents to teach their children about the importance of safety and that youngsters should not be left alone at home without supervision. The home minister also said the role of Punjab Forensic Science Agency would be improved for sampling of DNA on a fast track basis and a meeting with the lab authorities was scheduled for later Monday.

EDITORS AT AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL DICTIONARY CENTRE WORK TO DOCUMENT IT

Buzz words: 'Hard yakka' of defining Australian English's many quirks

DAMIEN CAVE

CANBERRA, JUNE 20

AMANDA LAUGESEN scrolled through the spreadsheet of 7,000 words and idioms being considered for the next edition of the Australian National Dictionary, but no matter how hard she looked, she just could not find the phrase.

"Few bricks short of a pallet" was there. So was "face like a bucket of smashed crabs." But where was "face like a half-sucked mango?" Spinning quickly from the screen, she got up and walked down the hall to ask Mark Gwynn. They had been working together at the

Australian National Dictionary Centre in Canberra for more than a decade, and they had both seen phrases go missing in drafts of what a colleague had called their "herbarium of words."

Gwynn, a former poetry student, was also stumped by the disappearance. "Well, we know we've got 'face like a twisted sand shoe'," he said, recalling similar entries in their database. "It's not under 'mango' or 'sucked'?" Laugesen shook her head. The author of a book about Australia's penchant for off-colour language, with a doctorate in US history, she looked almost as mad as a cut snake. "This is the problem," she said, lamenting the lost mango insult.



An index card regarding 'mad as a cut snake' phrase in the archive room in Canberra, Australia. NYT

"Sometimes you get stuck."

Clearly, updating a dictionary of Australian English on a shoe-string budget is a special kind of hard work — or "hard yakka," for

those who speak the local language. The Australian National Dictionary includes only words and phrases that have originated in Australia, that have a greater cur-

rency in the country or that have a special significance in Australian history. And the process is a bit like panning for gold.

Sometimes the job requires sifting through the muck of politics, collecting Australianised phrases like "loose unit," which is how PM Scott Morrison described Anthony Albanese after Albanese made an economic proposal. Sometimes it means scanning Twitter or reading memoir after memoir, looking for phrases that have become valuable among Indigenous Australians, like "story custodian," or new communities of Australians — like "ABC," for Australian-born Chinese.

It can also mean paying close attention to how words change. food prices on the continent. In Odesa, Ukraine's biggest Black Sea port, a food warehouse was destroyed in a Russian missile attack on Monday, the Ukrainian military said. No civilians were reported killed. The Operational Command "South" said Russian forces fired 14 missiles at southern Ukraine during a three-hour barrage.

Meanwhile, discussions between Turkey, Finland and Sweden about the Nordic countries' NATO membership will continue and an alliance summit in Madrid next week is not a deadline, Turkey said after talks in Brussels on Monday.

Australians have a long history of turning some abbreviations or seemingly innocuous phrases into slurs, based on race, gender or country of origin. And they also tend to shine up, or "ameliorate," others, taking "bloody" or "bastard" and making them part of the more commonly accepted vernacular, often long before Britain. All of this work, the forensics of national dictionary research, is relatively new in Australia.

The Oxford English Dictionary emerged gradually from 1884 to 1928. Noah Webster published "An American Dictionary of the English Language" in 1828. But the first serious look at the Australian language, by Sidney Baker, a New Zealander, came out in 1945. And

the first edition of the Australian National Dictionary hit libraries only in 1988.

Bruce Moore, a former medieval English scholar who was the director of the National Dictionary Centre from 1994 to 2011, noted that a lot of words and sayings that captured "Australian qualities" were looked down upon among educated elites.

Words like "battler" (a person who works doggedly and with little reward) or the admonition to never "dob in your mates" (inform on your friends) or "rort the system" (cheat or engage in fraud) were all there in Australian English, "but they were not recognised in the traditional 'public square,'" Moore said. **NYT**



Yair Lapid is likely to take charge next week

EXPLAINED

A political lifeline to Netanyahu?

OPINION POLLS have forecast that Netanyahu's hardline Likud will once again emerge as the largest single party. But it remains unclear whether he would be able to muster the required support of a majority of lawmakers to form a new government. The dissolution threatened to overshadow a visit scheduled next month by President Joe Biden.

Gantz, head of a centrist party in the coalition. "But we will continue to function as a temporary government as much as possible," he said. A date for the snap parliamentary election was not announced, but Israeli media reported it was likely to take place in October. **REUTERS**

BRIEFLY

India at full strength for CWG hockey

New Delhi: India on Monday named a full-strength 18-member senior men's hockey squad for the Commonwealth Games with Manpreet Singh returning as captain and dragflicker Harmanpreet Singh as his deputy. Hockey India (HI) had initially decided to send a second-string team to the CWG due to the short turnaround time between the Birmingham event and the Hangzhou Asian Games, which is a qualifier for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Team: PR Sreejesh, Krishan Bahadur Pathak **DEFENDERS:** Varun Kumar, Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh (VC), Amit Rohidas, Jugraj Singh, Jarmanpreet Singh. **Manpreet Singh (C), Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Shamsher Singh, Akashdeep Singh, Nilakanta Sharma; Mandeep Singh, Gurjant Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Abhishek.**

India win two bronze in Asian cycling meet

New Delhi: India win two bronze on Day 3 of Asian cycling meet India enjoyed a successful outing at the Asian Track Cycling Championship with two bronze medals here on Monday. Ronaldo Singh bagged the country's first-ever international medal in the 1km time trial event. After three days, India has 20 medals in the kitty. World junior champion and Asian record holder Ronaldo pedalled the cycle with a speed of 58.254 km/hr and clocked 1:01.798s to come in the leaderboard. He won the bronze medal in the 1km time trial event of men's senior category. This was his and India's first-ever medal in this event.

Archer Deepika set for India comeback

Paris: Sidelined after the Tokyo Olympics debacle, star Indian archer Deepika Kumari is all set to make a India comeback in the upcoming Stage 3 of the World Cup beginning here on Tuesday. Exactly a year after she won an individual gold here in the same tournament last year, the 28-year-old world number three will look to redeem herself after failing to win a medal at the Tokyo Games. That the Olympics is slated in two years at the same venue will be an added motivation for Deepika.

Bengaluru FC signs Das for next season

Bengaluru: Bengaluru FC announced the signing of right-back Prabir Das from ATK Mohun Bagan on a three-year-deal set to run until the end of the 2024-25 season. Das, a product of the Pailan Arrows Youth Academy, brings with him the experience of having played for a number of clubs, and has won the Federation Cup and Indian Super League. "I am very happy at having signed for Bengaluru FC because this is a football club that I have admired for a while now."

— Agencies

Female, Male and 'Open'

After swimming's international body (FINA) barred the participation of transgenders in the women's category, athletics and football are set to do the same. **Shashank Nair** on how FINA are thinking of introducing an 'Open' category to include trans-women.

THE INTERNATIONAL Swimming (FINA) voted against allowing transgender athletes to participate in female competitions – the exception being that the transgender athlete must have completed their transition before the age of 12.

The policy was voted upon by 274 members with 196 casting their votes in favour of it. The ruling only applies to elite competitions run by FINA. Athletics and FIFA were reported by BBC and British media, as two other major sporting bodies set to follow swimming's cue.

FINA President Husain Al-Musallam announced that a Working Group was being set up to create an 'open category' in some FINA competitions. On the 'open category' Musallam said, "The creation of an open category will mean that everybody has the opportunity to compete at an elite level." He then added, "This has not been done before, so FINA will need to lead the way."

Track and Field's IAAF boss Seb Coe later told BBC: "We see an international federation asserting its primacy in setting rules, regulations and policies that are in the best interest of its sport.

This is as it should be. We have always believed that biology trumps gender and we will continue to review our regulations in line with this. We will follow the science."

The move was also widely criticized by gender activists, on grounds of exclusion.

Why have these changes been made?

Transgender athletes in sports, particularly transgender women participating in women's competitions, are at the heart of this change. A transgender woman who has gone through male puberty and then later on transitioned into a female, has been shown in case studies to retain testosterone levels that lead to higher structural advantages in sport over cisgender (A person whose sense of identity and gender corresponds with their birth sex) women.

Ross Tucker, a sports scientist explained on his podcast, the Real Science of Sport that the effects of testosterone result in the development of a body post puberty differently for men and women. He said that according to at least 13 case studies, men who later transitioned to becoming women do not have the effects of testosterone completely removed because they transitioned to become a woman.

"In a number of physiological systems that are relevant to performance – muscle mass, muscle strength, body performance, body fat, heart and lung size – testosterone creates things that are never fully undone," said PHD Tucker on the Real Science of Sport podcast. He then added, "The difference between men and women for power, strength and muscle mass can be 30–40%. Testosterone suppression for a year can take away 5–10%. The result is quite a large retained advantage – and if you've retained biological advantage, then you've retained performance advantage."

What is the stance of the IOC and other major sport bodies?

It is the importance given to testosterone and the timing of when it affects a human body, that has divided world bodies to the extent that the International Olympic Committee and the International Swimming Federation have almost opposite policies on transgender athletes.

For example, World Athletics has said



After hormone therapy, Lia Thomas beat Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Emma Weyant.

THE TRANS QUESTION IN OTHER SPORTS

While FINA adopted their constitution to bar transgender athletes from participating in women's competitions, other sports saw athletes in both team and individual sport compete at the highest level and grapple with the tricky issue.

FOOTBALL

Canadian athlete Quinn won the gold medal in football when their team beat Sweden in the final of the 2021 Tokyo Olympics. Quinn became the first ever transgender athlete to win a medal at the Olympics in the process.

WEIGHTLIFTING

In the women's +87kg weightlifting category, Laurel Hubbard created

history in becoming one of the first openly transgender athletes to take part in the Olympics. While she failed to register a lift, at 43-years-old, this probably would have been the last time that she participated in high level weightlifting – something that she insinuated when she said that age was catching up with her. Hubbard transitioned to a female aged 35.

SKATEBOARDING

In this new Olympic discipline, Allana Smith stood up and stood out. From Forth Worth, Texas, Smith came last at their event, the women's street but participating was the real prize for the 20-year-old. "I wanted to walk out of this knowing I UNAPOLOGETICALLY

was myself and was genuinely smiling," Smith wrote on Instagram

RUGBY

In October 2021, World Rugby became the first international sports governing body to institute a ban on transgender women competing in global competitions like the Olympics and the women's Rugby World Cup. The decision was deliberated for nine months at the end of which, World Rugby said that in a collision sport with multiple injuries, "safety and fairness cannot presently be assured for women competing against trans women in contact rugby."

— EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

that once transgender women reduce testosterone for 12 months, they should be allowed to compete in competition. USA Swimming dictates that trans athletes must undergo three years of hormone replacement therapy before they can be allowed to compete.

The IOC's trans-inclusion framework essentially gave the right to the leading bodies of sport to decide how they would incorporate their transgender athletes. It also said that sport bodies shouldn't automatically assume that trans women athletes were inherently more advantaged than cisgender women athletes nor that transgender

women shouldn't have to reduce their testosterone levels to compete. FINA called upon their medical, legal and athlete counsels to speak. Each counsel had a couple of delegates who spoke on why FINA came to the decision. And then the member organisations voted for this historic measure.

Why is Lia Thomas important here?

One could say Lia Thomas was the reason the world body of swimming took this measure. Thomas earlier competed in the male category in swimming for Penn State University and was part of their team for

three years. In 2019, she started undergoing hormone replacement therapy as per NCAA and Ivy League rules.

In 2022, after two years and six months of the therapy, she took part in the 500-yard NCAA Swimming Championship and came first, beating Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Emma Weyant. In March, Lia Thomas told *Sports Illustrated*: "The very simple answer is that I'm not a man. I'm a woman, so I belong on the women's team. Trans people deserve that same respect every other athlete gets."

Reka Gyorgy, who competed for Hungary in the 2016 Rio Olympics, complained about

missing out on her final race to the NCAA. According to the Guardian, she said that Thomas essentially took her spot and that it hurt her, her team and other women in the pool. Thomas said that she was looking to participate at the 2024 Paris Olympics and judging by her times, could probably have won medals for the USA. It is important to note, that before she transitioned to become a woman, Liz Thomas was an NCAA swimming athlete already.

Why are the words 'competitive fairness' so important in this decision of FINA?

The advantages of testosterone on Liz Thomas' body before she transitioned into becoming a woman had provided her with the ideal setup to be an elite athlete. This was despite the rules of NCAA with regards to hormone replacement therapy and a three-year gap. This is why competitive fairness is a term that was used at the Extraordinary Congress. It was the main reason why transgender women were barred from elite competitions unless their transition happened before the age of 12. The age of 12 however is not scientifically determinant and a random number because puberty doesn't happen to the human body at a set age. Transition also requires three stages – social, medical involving hormones and surgical.

"Which of these three do they mean? Should the patient have undergone surgery by that time, which is almost impossible," said Dr. Alireza Hamidian Jahromi, co-director of the Gender Affirmation Surgery Center in Philadelphia.

The issue of certification

"All athletes must certify their chromosomal sex with their Member Federation in order to be eligible for FINA competitions," read the latest ruling. Add to that the conundrum of how this certification will take place ("Member Federations must confirm their athletes' certifications of chromosomal sex when registering their athletes to compete in FINA competitions") and suddenly everyone has to prove their gender through their own federations and the chromosomal test on the lines of a doping test.

What is the 'other' category and what does it entail?

The second part of the FINA ruling was to, in the next six months, come up with an 'open category'. This would be the category that transgender athletes would be a part of. While scientifically there are many pros to this idea, including trans athletes being able to participate among each other – there are problems.

There is the problem of numbers. There simply aren't enough transgender elite athletes around. A Liz Thomas might essentially go through her entire life without ever competing in the Olympics because there aren't enough elite transgender women swimmers in the world. The ruling fails on this account.

It also fails on the issue of privacy where an athlete can decide their gender status without pressure. Tucker spoke about the flip side in a BBC. "There is still a lot of stigma attached to being trans and I'm not sure that trying to force or create a platform through sport would help overcome that. If anything, there might be certain barriers that are created," he said.

Pandit: High priest of Ranji coaching, messiah of underdogs

ABHISHEK PUROHIT
MUMBAI, JUNE 20

"THERE SHOULD be some fear in the player, otherwise he will not do what he is supposed to do. And he knows that if he does not act according to the plan, he will have to face Sir's wrath," veteran Madhya Pradesh pacer Ishwar Pandey says.

Planning and discipline - that, essentially, is coach Chandrakant Pandit's philosophy. The former India wicketkeeper-batsman has guided another side not used to making summit clashes – Madhya Pradesh in this case – to their first Ranji Trophy final in 23 years. Having won back-to-back titles with then-unknowns Vidarbha three years ago, Pandit is now up against his 'home' team Mumbai, whom he coached to their last title in 2015-16.

Pandit is famed for his hard-taskmaster style, and painstakingly-prepared plans that brook little interference from either captain or bowler. During a Ranji semi-final against Karnataka, he had taken away the phones of the Vidarbha players, worried that they might keep checking them late into the night and lose focus. There are tales of him not being averse to slapping the odd player who broke a law he'd laid down. It is this aspect of his coaching that gets played up the most, but there is doubtless a method behind the remote control, and it has worked for years now.

"Both go hand in hand, the planning and

discipline," says former India and Mumbai all-rounder Abhishek Nayar, who played under Pandit's coaching. "All his plans require a certain amount of skill and discipline. He tries to incorporate certain life skills that will help players on the field. Ranji Trophy is a format in which each person can play a role. He understands and assigns roles to players very early in the season. But to fulfil those roles, be it playing a certain number of balls, or playing in a certain style, his ideology of discipline comes into play.

"It also goes hand in hand with the analytical work on what the opponents have done in the past and what they do now," Nayar adds. "He (Pandit) needs freedom to pick the kind of players he wants and then he gets the results that are desired by the association."

Both Vidarbha Cricket Association and now the Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association have given Pandit the leeway to run a tight ship, and have reaped benefits.

"Chandu developed the entire strategy and planned the practice sessions," former India opener Wasim Jaffer, who was part of the victorious Vidarbha side, had told this correspondent once. "He gave everyone confidence. Kisiko pyaar se samjhaana, kisiko daantke samjhaana [Convince some with love, some with scolding].

"That is the role of the coach. It is nothing new for him, he has been doing it for so many years. And Vidarbha needed somebody like that," Jaffer had said. "Today's youngsters need



Planning and discipline - that, essentially, is coach Pandit's philosophy.

someone to pull them out of their comfort zone and he did that to a great extent, without a doubt."

Tough act to follow

It is a tight rope some other domestic coaches have tried to walk, unsuccessfully. Push too hard, and one can lose the respect of the dressing room. Nayar does not see that happening with Pandit. "Because he takes responsibility for his actions and does not blame the player when things go wrong," Nayar says.

"If you follow him blindly and fail, most likely he will take responsibility. That gives a player security. And when you keep playing finals, you obviously grow as a player."

Pandey, who took 11 wickets at an average of 20 until he got injured before the knockouts, was one who benefited from following Pandit's instructions. Into his 12th year of first-class cricket, Pandey says he enjoyed the "very different experience" from what he's had till then in his career.

"He is excellent at reading players. He'll as-

sess the strong and weak points of an opposition batsman and then make us bowl accordingly. So it becomes easier for us, and we don't have to try too hard to make things happen," Pandey says.

Of course, there is to be no swaying on the field from the path set by Pandit, unless he himself sends in a word asking for a change in tactics.

"The planning is done in front of everyone and the team follows it, ki bhaiye karna hai aur kaam khatam [we have to do this, and nothing else]. It is not like the bowler will do what is in his mind and the captain will be thinking about something else," Pandey explains. "Like if you have to keep a fielder at a certain position, you have to. It may take some time to get the result, but the process has to be gone through. If it doesn't work, he'll send in a message with another plan."

The downside to this micromanagement approach is that those who are used to thinking and expressing their thoughts might find it hard to fit in. And those who become used to being fed plans may never start thinking on their feet. "There are many players who also operate at their best under instructions from others," says former Madhya Pradesh captain Devendra Bundela, who was the side's batting coach before Pandit took over.

"He (Pandit) has his own way of thinking, but his overall understanding of the game is remarkable," Bundela adds. "There may be some who don't like his working style but then,

he also gives you the results."

Says Nayar: "A player who wants to grow will grow, and a player who doesn't want to will not. If everything is good about someone, he is not trying to make an impact, just trying to survive.

"Chandu sir is a very brave person, he takes the onus on himself to control all the controllables. And the results he has given over the years just prove that there are a lot more pros than cons to his style of coaching."

Unique style

The last time MP played the final, in 1998-99, Pandit was their captain. A young Bundela, who would go on to become the third-highest run-getter in Ranji Trophy history, was part of that side, and remembers the backing he got from his skipper.

"I remember when I was young, Chandu bhai supported me a lot, ki jao aur bindaas khelo [just go out and play freely]. His presence has made a lot of difference to this team; in the past couple of years, their self-belief and confidence has increased," Bundela adds.

Pandit has himself acknowledged that his methods might not work at international level, but Nayar calls him the Ranji Trophy "king". "No one comes close to him. He has figured out how to win championships," Nayar says. "It is one thing to win a championship with a strong team, it is another to win with a team that has never won before. He is undoubtedly the best first-class coach in India."

Daruvala’s chance to impress F1 teams

23-year-old Indian racer will test drive for Formula 1 team McLaren for two days this week

MIHIR VASAVDA
MUMBAI, JUNE 20

FOR A man who’s about to realise his dream, a part of it at least, Jehan Daruvala appears remarkably calm. He doesn’t seem over-eager and is careful not to over-promise. Only occasionally, the 23-year-old Indian racer gives an impression that he’s buzzing.

“It’ll be tempting to go flat out. But the main goal is to learn,” Daruvala says. After a slight pause, he adds: “(But) at the end of the day, I am a racing driver so I want to drive as fast as I can...”

Daruvala is talking about his maiden ride in a Formula 1 car after it was announced that he will test drive for F1 giants McLaren on Tuesday and Wednesday at the fabled Silverstone circuit in England. It’s a small but significant step in Daruvala’s pursuit of becoming only the third Indian to race in F1 and the first since Narain Karthikeyan a decade ago.

The test is ‘nothing related’ to him getting a drive in F1 next year, Daruvala clarifies. “There are not many seats opening up in F1. But I want to tick all the boxes before hopefully, I get a seat,” he says.

Over the two days, McLaren will evaluate Daruvala’s driving skills and test his potential. It’s not linked, at the moment, to a long-term deal, something the racer from Mumbai repeatedly underlines. Rather, this’ll be for him a, to borrow the title of the Netflix show, drive to survive.

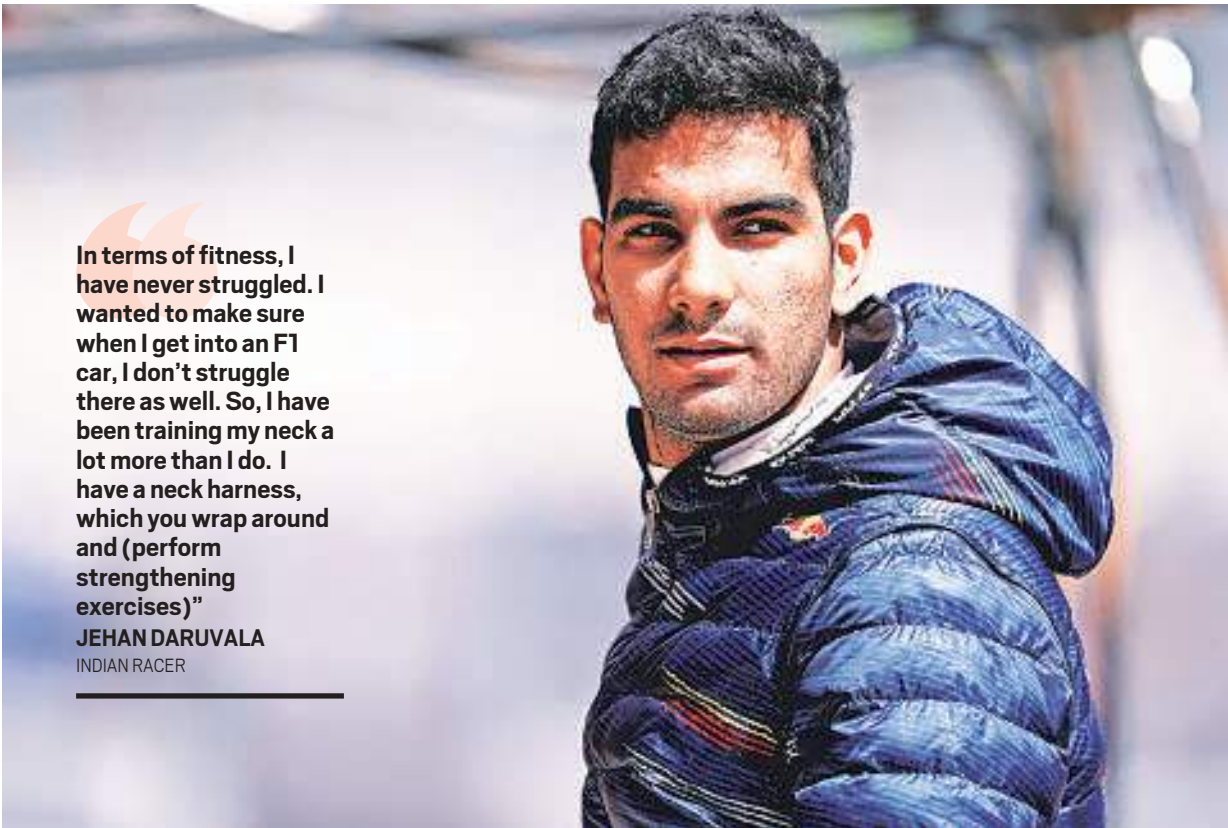
Before the opening race in Bahrain, Daruvala – a Red Bull Junior team member who drives for Prema Racing in Formula 2, a feeder competition for F1 – had called this a make-or-break season for him with regards to his F1 ambitions. This is his third season in F2 and it’s widely held that if a driver is unable to secure a seat in F1 after such a long period, chances for the future diminish considerably.

With five podium finishes in the six races of the season so far, a third place in the championship race and first among the Red Bull junior drivers, Daruvala says he’s had a ‘pretty decent’ season so far. But it’s not yet opened the doors of an F1 team. In this context, his drive with McLaren comes at a crucial time.

McLaren, he says, were ‘looking at young drivers’. This is because the British team is among the few that hasn’t yet named its youth drivers who’ll race in at least two practice sessions this year, in accordance with new F1 rules.

A step up

Daruvala and his father Khurshed spoke to Red Bull’s head of driver development programme, Marko Helmut, about the opportu-



Jehan Daruvala is aiming to become only the third Indian to race in F1. *Express*

EXPLAINED

An evaluation and a step closer

WHEN DRIVERS test F1 cars, it’s usually for the car’s development; to make it better. In Jehan Daruvala’s case, it’ll be his evaluation more than the car’s. The test drive will not automatically lead to a seat in F1 for Daruvala. However, it’s an important step in that direction. After driving in F2 for the last three years, Daruvala has a chance to showcase his potential and if he can handle the speed of F1, he could secure another drive with McLaren or even woo other teams.

nity and an agreement was reached. “So this test, together with my F2 results, is the next step in my career,” Daruvala, who does not disclose the financials involved, citing a Non-Disclosure Agreement, says.

He will drive McLaren’s MCL35M car, which they used last year. It was considered to be one of the quickest cars of the season, with McLaren routinely emerging as the third-fastest team.

Daruvala has spent the last couple of days on the simulator but knows nothing can prepare him for the moment he’ll step into the cockpit.

Compared to F2 drives, F1 cars weigh more, churn out almost double the horsepower, and zip around the track much faster. Daruvala doesn’t sound bothered a lot about these factors but singles out the biggest step-up – the g-force. “We go through a lot of Gs. That’s the main thing, that’s the biggest step-up from F2,” he says.

With F1 cars travelling at great speeds, both on straights and corners, F1 drivers have to deal with much higher lateral g-force as they move forward, backward and side-to-

side. Daruvala says he’s been working for the last two weeks to strengthen his neck muscles to deal with this.

“In terms of fitness, I have never struggled. I wanted to make sure when I get into an F1 car, I don’t struggle there as well. So, I have been training my neck a lot more than I do,” he says. “I have a neck harness, which you wrap around and (perform strengthening exercises). I’ve been doing that for the past few weeks and now I’m fully ready for the F1 test.”

This might not be his last chance to sit in an F1 car but Daruvala knows the importance of this drive. Most seats for the 2023 season have already been filled with Alpha Tauri, also owned by Red Bull, being one of the few teams that’s yet to finalise its roster.

Daruvala says he’ll discuss with Helmut the option of taking up the role of a reserve driver in case a permanent seat doesn’t work out so that it keeps the F1 door open for him for 2024. Before that, he’ll have to show he can handle an F1 car.

“This is a dream come true,” he says. “(Now) I want to make an impression so that if I do get an opportunity in F1, I’ll be ready.”

Verstappen holds off Sainz to strengthen grip on drivers’ C’ship

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MONTREAL, JUNE 20

MAX VERSTAPPEN maintained his hold on the Formula One championship fight by holding off a late challenge from Carlos Sainz Jr. to earn his sixth win of the season in a fairly easy drive in the Canadian Grand Prix.

Verstappen won from the pole at Circuit Gilles Villeneuve to extend his lead in the standings to 46 points over Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez, who retired early with a gearbox issue. “It’s still a very long way to go and I know the gap of course is quite big, but I also know that can switch around very quickly,” Verstappen said of his points lead. He noted he trailed Charles Leclerc by 46 points following the third race of the season.

The Dutchman had no trouble clearing Fernando Alonso, who earned his first front-row start in a decade then joked he’d attack Verstappen in the first turn to steal the victory. But there was no challenge and by the time Sainz cleared Alonso for second on Lap 2, Verstappen had already built a lead of 2.4 seconds. Sainz was able to close the gap over the final 10 laps and pressured the reigning F1 champion but faded on the last lap and finished .993 seconds behind in his Ferrari.

“It was good racing, it is always more enjoyable to be able to really push rather than just save your tires,” said Verstappen, who added Sainz didn’t have “a go in terms overtaking, but it was super close.”

Sainz said second was the best he could get on Sunday. “When I gave it all, I was risking everything,” Sainz said. “I can tell you I was pushing. I left everything out there. For the first time this season I can say I was fastest man on track, which gives me confidence and some hope for the next races.”

Mercedes had a tremendous rebound from its season-long struggles, which included a terrible Friday practice, as seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton scored his first podium since the season-opening race in March. George Russell was fourth as Hamilton beat his new teammate for just the second time in nine races this season. “It feels great to be amongst the battle and at the end there I was keeping up with these guys. It does give me and the team a lot of hope,” Hamilton said. “The potential is truly there if we can get the setup right and I think that’s been the most difficult thing this year.”

Hamilton received a rousing ovation after his finish and said he had no problems with his back, which has been plaguing him all season because of how the new Mercedes



Max Verstappen won his sixth race of the season. *Reuters*

bounces all over the track. “It’s good, I’m back to being young,” said the 37-year-old.

Mercedes boss Toto Wolff said the team had raised the ride height on its cars to make them more drivable and eliminate the “porpoising” effect that has bogged down Hamilton and Russell all season. The bouncing has caused back pain and headaches for its drivers. “The (wind) tunnel has told us that the lower the car, the faster you go, the more ground effect it will have,” Wolff said. “But in effect, you can’t drive the car there so you need to lift it, and lift it, and lift it, and then on paper you are losing half a second or so in downforce. “We raised it already (Saturday) but the more you raise, the more performance you lose. So it’s always a compromise.”

Verstappen, meanwhile, has now won six of the first nine races in his title defense season. It was Verstappen’s first win in Montreal, which F1 said hosted a record 338,000 spectators over the three-day weekend as the series returned to Canada after a two-year pause during the pandemic. The Sunday crowd was treated to clear, sunny skies after two days of rain that upended qualifying and created the slick track that allowed Alonso – and other drivers, including Hamilton – to earn their top starting spots this year.

Leclerc rallied from a 10-place grid penalty for changing the engine in his Ferrari to finish fifth from 19th. Estaban Ocon of Alpine finished sixth and teammate Alonso, who said he’d be pleased with a fifth-place finish, was seventh but penalized five-seconds after the race for weaving. That dropped Alonso to ninth, while Valtteri Bottas of Alfa Romeo moved to seventh. Bottas was followed by rookie teammate Zhou Guanyu, who was moved to eighth after the Alonso penalty and finished in the points for the second time this season.

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