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#### **WORLD**



**BILAWAL PUSHES** FOR PAKISTAN'S **RE-ENGAGEMENT** WITH INDIA PAGE 10

**ECONOMY** 

**AVIATION TURBINE FUEL PRICE UP, HIKE** IN AIRFARES LIKELY

KEY BJP ALLY JD(U) LEADS CALLS FOR REVIEW OF SCHEME

# **Govt raises Agnipath upper age** to 23 for this year after protests

Trains, BJP offices attacked in Bihar; Govt vehicles set on fire in Haryana

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, JUNE 16

WITH KEY NDA ally JD(U) leading calls for an immediate review of Agnipath, the new shortterm recruitment policy for the Armed Forces, after violent protests seeking a rollback erupted in several states on Thursday, the Centre announced a two-year relaxation in the upper age limit for the scheme this vear since there was no recruitment in the services "during the ast two years"

After a day that saw large groups of youths blocking roads, pelting stones, torching train coaches, and targeting BJP offices and leaders, the Defence Ministry said that it would allow those who were 21 years old in 2020, when recruitments were stalled, to be eligible - only for

Under the original scheme announced on Tuesday, only aspirants between 17-and-a-half years and 21 years of age are eligible for recruitment. But on Thursday, the Defence Ministry said that "the upper age limit for the recruitment process for Agnipath scheme for 2022 is increased to 23 years'

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**MORE REPORTS** 



A train was set on fire at Chhapra in Bihar's Saran district on Thursday amid protests. PTI

## Behind protest: Temporary service, no pension, no healthcare benefit

**KRISHN KAUSHIK** NEW DELHI, JUNE 16

HOURS AFTER protests erupted in several parts of the country against the short-term Agnipath scheme for the armed forces, officials sought

to allay concerns and circulated a Myth vs Fact document to underline that the new scheme will not only bring in new capabilities but will also open up avenues in the pri-

vate sector, and help the young men become entrepreneurs with the aid of a financial pack-

> For those protesting on the streets or watching from the sidelines, the primary concerns and insecurity have to do with the temporary nature of the new scheme -- service is only for four

years; pension has been removed; and there is no lifelong healthcare benefit for the soldier and his family.

There is also the fear that many of them may no longer be eligible -- there has been no recruitment since 2020, and to become an Agniveer an aspirant has to be between age 17.5 and 21. Late Thursday night, the government granted a one-time waiver on the upper age limit by raising it to 23 years for 2022.

Until now, a soldier had job security for approximately 17 vears, and thereafter the comfort of pension and access to subsidised healthcare for himself CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# No demolition without due process... the rule of law has to prevail: SC seeks UP response

Notice on Iamiat plea, bench says ensure 'nothing untoward' takes place meanwhile

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN G** NEW DELHI, JUNE 16

UNDERLINING THAT the "rule of law has to prevail" and "no demolition can take place without following the due process of law", the Supreme Court Thursday sought the response of the Uttar Pradesh government on a plea by Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind which alleged illegal demolition of private properties in the state following violent protests over remarks against the Prophet.

Fixing June 21 as the date of the next hearing, and asking the UP government to file its objections in the meantime, the bench CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Police deployed at Prayagraj's Atala area on Thursday. PTI

### Prayagraj demolition falls foul of Allahabad HC order: Ex-CJ

**APURVA VISHWANATH** NEW DELHI, JUNE 16

THE PRAYAGRAJ Development Authority's decision to demolish the house of Mohammad Javed. a political activist and businessman, on June 12, after serving just a day's notice to vacate goes

against a 2020 ruling of the Allahabad High Court that issued a directive to the Uttar Pradesh government to allow a 30-day window from issuing a notice to the property owner.

The State authorities, where ever demolition orders are passed in respect of constructions raised CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## At the helm of oil and urban affairs ministries, Puri is Adda guest today

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, JUNE 16



As a diplomat and a former

Hardeep Singh Puri

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Puri – the guest at Express Adda on Friday — was one of the four

Union

minister



## Batting for Bengal: Ranji team star by day, minister and TMC MLA at night

**DEVENDRA PANDEY** MUMBALJUNE 16

FROM RESCUING the Bengal Ranji team by hitting a century during the day, to wading through files of official docu-

ments, as West Bengal's Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports and Trinamool Congress MLA from Shibpur, in the evening — it's all

in a day's work for Manoj Tiwary. Multi-tasking to strike a balance between his two roles, as a big ask. When his team-mates hit the ice baths and put their feet up to re-energise in the evenings, Tiwary (36) says he

dives right into official work. "There is a lot of constituency work – someone may need a



Manoj Tiwary goes through files in his hotel room. Express

# Being

# UNDERWEIGHT can cause LOW IMMUNITY

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### Increase in booster dose numbers as Covid-19 cases on rise

**ANONNA DUTT** NEW DELHI, JUNE 16

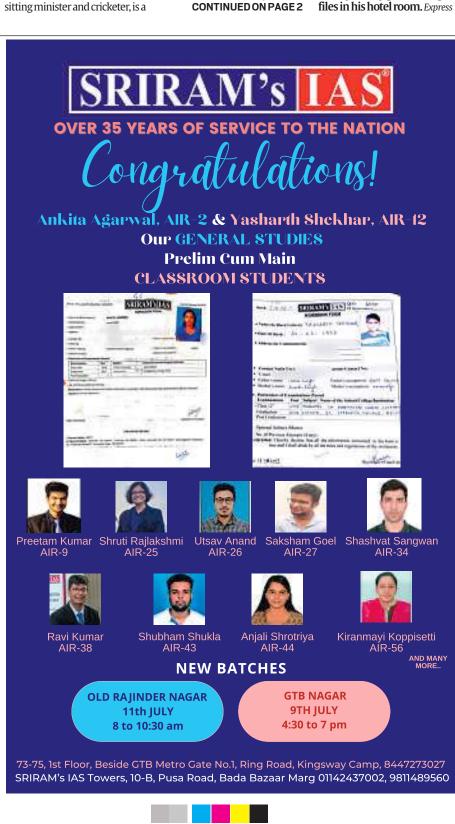
WITH A fresh surge in Covid cases across the country, there was a 44.3 per cent increase in the number of "precautionary" or booster doses administered during the past week as com-

pared to the week before. Official figures show that around 47.5 lakh third doses were administered in the first 15 days of June as compared to 41.5 lakh during the last 15 days of May. The country reported 12,213 new Covid cases on Thursday in comparison to 7,240 cases last Thursday — hospitalisations and deaths have continued to remain low.

The data also show that five metros saw an average 77.9 per cent increase in the number of booster doses administered during the past week, driven mainly by a 212.5 per cent increase in Chennai, according to an analy-

sis of data on the CoWIN portal. The spike comes at a time when the Government is pushing to cover the elderly popula $tion\,through\,the\,Har\,Ghar\,Dastak$ campaign 2.0 that started this month. It is also looking to increase the coverage of the first two doses among children between the ages of 12 and 17 years.

A big chunk of the rise in booster doses for adults under the age of 60 years is likely to be recorded in metros and urban centres with a high number of private medical facilities. The Government's free vaccination drive for booster doses covers only those above the age of CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



### **FROM PAGE ONE**

#### Agnipath

The Ministry said that since "it has not been possible to undertake the recruitment during the last two years, the Government has decided that a one-time waiver shall be granted for the proposed recruitment cycle for 2022".

Earlier, the protests were most violent in Bihar, where JD(U) and BJP are part of the ruling coalition. In Kaimur, job aspirants set fire to one coach of a stationary train. In separate incidents, protesters torched two other coaches -- one at the Sidhwalia station in Gopalganj, where passengers had to rush out to save themselves, and the other in Chhapra. No injuries were reported.

Confirming the damage caused, Bihar ADGP (law and order) Sanjay Singh said the police have so far "arrested 125 people for the violent protests". The Railways said 34 trains were fully cancelled and eight partially, with 72 trains either detained at stations or running late, because of the agritation

Heated protests were also witnessed in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu and at a railway station in Delhi. Peaceful protests were held in Jharkhand's Ranchi and Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh, officials said.

The protests resonated in the political arena, too.

JD(U) national president Rajiv

Ranjan Singh demanded a review of the Agnipath scheme. Tweeting in Hindi, he wrote: "There has been an atmosphere of discontent, disappointment and fear of a dark future because of unemployment after the announcement of the Agnipath scheme. The Centre should revisit the Agnipath scheme immediately because it is related to the country's safety and security."

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, JD(U) national spokesperson K C Tyagi said: "Now that students are protesting, the Centre has to find a way out and see if it failed to explain the Agnipath scheme to the youth. But we do not support the manner of protest that has caused a lot of damage to public property."

Senior JD(U) leader and Bihar Minister Bijendra Prasad Yadav called on the Centre to "talk to representatives of the students".

The Opposition parties attacked the Centre for "ignoring the grievances of unemployed youth", especially in rural areas, and "not respecting" the Armed Forces

In Bihar, unrest was reported from at least 10 districts, including Ara, Kaimur, Siwan, Munger, Saharsa and Bhagalpur. Officials said the protesters attacked BJP offices in Nawada and Madhubani, targeted the vehicle of BJP MLA Aruna Devi in Warisaliganj and pelted stones at the house of BJP MLA C N Gupta in Chhapra.

#### CLARIFICATIONS & CORRECTIONS

#### 16.06.22, PAGE 1

IN THE June 16 edition front page report '10 lakh jobs: Existing Govt vacancies to account for most, 90% at lowest levels', the total cost to the government in employing 10 lakh people was erroneously mentioned as about Rs 4,500 crore a year. It should be about Rs 4,500 crore a month, or Rs 54,000 crore a year.

The error is regretted.



In Haryana's Palwal, over 20 police and government personnel were injured and five official vehicles set on fire by protesters who gheraoed the Deputy Commissioner's office near Agra Chowk. The police fired in the air and used tear gas shells to dis-

perse the crowd.

The Haryana government later imposed prohibitory orders in the area and ordered a temporary suspension of Internet services in Palwal "to stop the spread of disinformation and rumours".

"The agitation was infiltrated by anti-social elements who began pelting stones, causing a law and order situation. They also tried to cause damage to the (DC's) office and stole ammunition from the police stationed there." the police said.

Protests were reported elsewhere in the state from Rewari and Gurgaon, where traffic was blocked on the Jaipur highway at Bilaspur Chowk.

In Rohtak, a 23-year-old youth hailing from Lijwana village in Jind committed suicide by hanging inside his room at a paying guest accommodation with his family claiming that he was perparing for recruitment in the Armed Forces and was disappointed at the new policy.

The Central Government had unveiled Agnipath on Tuesday under which most soldiers will leave service in just four years — 45,000 to 50,000 aspirants will be recruited annually but only 25 per cent will be allowed to continue for another 15 years under permanent commission.

On Wednesday, the Government rolled out a series of welfare measures for those who would be let go early, including priority in recruitment for the Central Armed Police Forces, Assam Rifles and some state police services.

"A job in the Armed Forces is the only lifeline to a secure future for youth from the villages and their families. Who will go for a four-year job with an uncertain future? This is traumatic for unemployed youth who have been preparing for a chance in the Armed Forces for most of their lives," said Aman Sah, a student from Bhagalpur in Bihar who took part in the protests.

"There is hardly a village in Bihar that does not send at least one youth to the Armed Forces every year. The short-term Agnipath scheme has come as a bolt from the blue for them," said SKJha, who runs popular coaching programmes for job aspirants in Bihar.

According to Jha, an estimated 2.5-3 lakh students from the state appear for recruitment tests to the Armed Forces.

In Jammu, the police resorted to a lathicharge to disperse a large gathering outside the Army's recruitment office on B C Road in protest over the cancellation of their written recruitment test following the introduction of Agnipath. The protesters also blocked the busy Tawi bridge, disrupting vehicular traffic for nearly an hour in the morning.

"We had applied for recruitment in 2019 and undergone physical and medical tests. The written test was cancelled more than once due to one reason or the other, including Covid. It was finally scheduled to be held on Thursday," said a protester who

did not wish to be identified.
Protests were also witnessed in a few districts of UP, mainly Bulandshahr and Agra. While a highway was blocked in Agra, protesters clogged the busy GT Road in Bulandshahr and raised slogans against the Centre. Senior police officers said there was no arrest related to the protests.

In Rajasthan, job aspirants and workers of the Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP) took out rallies in Jaipur, Nagaur, Ajmer, Dholpur, Bhilwara, Sikar and Jodhpur, among other districts, with police resorting to mild lathicharge in some locations to

disperse the crowds.

In outer Delhi's Nangloi station, protesters blocked the railway track and raised slogans against the Centre. Sameer Sharma, DCP (Outer), said: "About 15-20 men had gathered at the railway station and started protesting against the Agnipath scheme. They were on the track and stopped one train. They were

In Ranchi, around 50 protesters gathered outside the railway station and in the Main Road overbridge area demanding a rollback of the policy, officials said. And in Pithoragarh, a group of youths staged a "peaceful protest" and submitted a memorandum against Agnipath at the collectorate.

(KRISHN KAUSHIK/NEW DELHI, SANTOSH SINGH/ PATNA, ARUN SHARMA/ JAMMU, AMIL BHATNAGAR/ PALWAL, PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA/GURGAON, ASAD REHMAN/LUCKNOW, HAMZA KHAN/JAIPUR, ABHISHEK ANGAD/RANCHI & AGENCIES)

## Behind protest and his family. In case a soldier

and his family. In case a soldier died in action, the benefits continued for his family.

The Agnipath scheme will end these benefits. One of the core but unsaid aims of the scheme is to cut down on the soaring salary and pension bill of the armed forces. For this year, the government has allocated over Rs 2.5 lakh crore under these two heads alone, out of the Rs 5.25 lakh crore defence budget.

The Agniveers, as the soldiers will be called under the four-year Agnipath scheme, will be paid for the tenure, and will get a lumpsum amount of Rs 11.7 lakh at the end of the service, which will be tax free. There is no concept of pension or lifelong health benefits.

In case an Agniveer dies while in service, the family will get Rs 1 crore including insurance, ex-gratia and balance salary. But it will be a one-time payout.

These benefits will, however, continue for those who become part of the armed forces after the four-year period. As the scheme envisages, all Agniveers will finish their four-year tenure and then there will be fresh recruitment of 25 per cent of the same pool. They will continue in the services for 15 more years, and will get pension and the health benefits existing today.

The rest though will be free to pursue other careers, with several departments and governments announcing that they will get preference, educational credits, skill certificates, to help them rehabilitate in other fields.

Official sources said the theory that Agniveers will be "insecure" is a myth. Those wishing to be entrepreneurs, the sources said, will get a financial package and bank loans and those wishing to study further "will be given 12 class equivalent certificate and bridging course for further studies".

For job-seekers, the govern-

ment has already said they will get priority in the Central Armed Police Forces. Some BJP-ruled states have also assured priority in police recruitment. Additionally, the government has said "several avenues are also being opened for them in other sectors".

There is also concern about how the new recruitment path will align with the previous system based on the Recruitable Male Population (RMP) system for the Army, which is the proportion of the male population, which meets the Qualitative Recruitments laid down for recruitment, and is about 10 per cent of the total male population of a state, based on the census.

Sources within the defence services said the modalities of how this will happen are still being worked out. But the sources suggested that the population of the armed forces will represent

the population of the country.
Government sources claimed that in the coming years "recruitment of Agniveers will be around triple of the current recruitment in armed forces." But on Tuesday, the day of the announcement of the scheme, the government said the intake this year will be 46,000, and will go up to 50,000 to 60,000 annually over the years.

#### No demolition

of Justices A S Bopanna and Vikram Nath did not pass any interim order staying demolitions, but said "now that notice is being issued and reply is being filed, make sure nothing untoward happens in the meanwhile."

"When the issue is before the court, there should be some restraint," Justice Bopanna said.

Senior Advocate Harish Salve, appearing for the district authorities, maintained that due process was followed in the three cases — one in Prayagraj and two in Kanpur — being cited by the Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind.

Providing details of the dates on which notices were issued in the three cases and follow-up action taken after alleged failure to comply, Salve said "the media picks it up, links it with some political statement and all the hype is created and it's said an umbrella order should be passed". He said he would convey the concerns of the bench to the authorities.

Justice Bopanna said "everything should look fair".

The bench said it did not mean to say there should be no demolition at all, but it was only saying that procedure must be followed.

Appearing for the Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind, Senior Advocate C U Singh said though the court had earlier issued notice on a matter challenging demolitions in other states, it had not passed any interim order and "taking advantage" of that "a spate of demolitions have taken place" in Uttar Pradesh and "on each occasion, statements are made that these are in retaliation, that people who are allegedly goondas or rioters or stone-pelters or persons who have allegedly indulged in violence due to some communal issues and so on, that their houses are being demolished because of that".

"Statements are being made by high constitutional functionaries, right from the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh downward, and several others. But once the demolitions are carried out or immediately thereafter, they are sought to be justified on the ground that these are illegal constructions. This is happening again and again, and it's like a playbook being used. To my mind, it's not shocking but absolutely appalling," he said.

"This is something we have never seen in this nation, not during the Emergency, not even during pre-Independence times... that an allegation is made against somebody and their home and shops and offices and the place of business are demolished. These homes may not even be the home of that person but of the father of that person, mother of that person. Allegations are made against X and the home of immediate relatives is demolished. In some cases, these are homes standing for 20 years, 25 years, 30 years, pucca houses and so on. What is happening is unconstitutional and this is being done by targeting a particular community, something absolutely horrifying," Singh said.

Appearing for the UP government, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said it's "very curious" that an organisation like Jamiat filed a plea but none of those affected came forth to file any petition. Referring to the litigation over the demolition drive in the Iahangirpuri area of Delhi, Mehta said "when such issues arise, everybody wants to have their pound of flesh", and that a political party filed a petition seeking relief that nobody should demolish anything anywhere in the country without following the law. He said no order is needed for such relief.

Intervening, Justice Bopanna said the matter should not be taken as adversarial, "about who has approached and what. Ultimately, rule of law has to prevail. So, let's not get into who has approached".

Salve, however, said "there is a reason why the person appearing becomes relevant". He said "one of them (action against illegal construction) started in August 2020, and somebody is riding a wave saying this is a good chance for me to protect my property. That's why, as the SG says, who has come to court becomes important."

The bench sought to know if prior proceedings were held in the cases cited by the Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind.

"No... but they are sought to be justified on the basis that they are illegal constructions, and in some cases, oral statements are made that notices were issued in the past. There is no material at all. In one instance, the home of the wife of the person who allegedly is an anti-social element, a home which she inherited... has been demolished. And statements are made by high political functionaries that bulldozers will be deployed against persons who take the law into their own hands," Singh said.

The bench said, "We are also conscious that no demolition can take place without following the due process of law."

Senior Advocate Nithya Ramakrishnan, also arguing against the demolitions, said, "After the demolition is publicised, they are coming out with the excuse that notice was given, it was pasted on their doors etc... a remarkable coincidence that this is done to persons who are otherwise accused in riots... there were statements from the highest functionaries of the state that bulldozers will be the manner of criminal justice."

Senior Advocate Huzefa Ahmadi said there is a strong case of malafides. "How is it that only those persons whose names are there in the FIR are picked up and their constructions demolished?" he asked. Even in cases where a particular property is unauthorised, the civil court, he said, will tell the corporation (to) give the person some time to remove materials. "You are not going to come overnight with a bulldozer and just knock it (down)," he said.

Prayagraj

on the private properties under the two acts, should wait from taking any action for actual demolition till the statutory period of appeal comes to an end," a ruling by Justices Shashi Kant Gupta, Pankaj Bhatia in October 15, 2020 had said in Abbas Ansari And Another versus State Of Uttar Pradesh.

The two legislations referred in the ruling are the Uttar Pradesh Urban Planning and Development Act, 1973 and the Uttar Pradesh (Regulation of Building Operations) Act, 1958. "The directions in the case have not been followed by the state. There is an apparent violation of law in taking action before 30 days of serving the notice," Justice Govind Mathur, who was the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court then, told *The Indian Express*.

On June 12, the Prayagraj

Development Authority had invoked Section 27 of the Uttar Pradesh Urban Planning and Development Act, 1973, to demolish Javed's house after serving just a day's notice to vacate the house. The provision gives the municipal authorities power to order the demolition of a building if it is found to be in contravention of the Master Plan or is without requisite permission or approval under the law.

While the municipal authorities said a show cause notice was issued on May 10, it claimed that a notice to voluntarily remove the encroachment was issued on May 25. However, Javed's family and his lawyer KK Rai have denied receiving any notices before the night of June 10.

Emails sent to Prayagraj Development Authority (PDA) Vice Chairman Arvind Kumar Chauhan, PDA Secretary Ajeet Kumar Singh and District Magistrate Sanjay Khatri seeking clarification on the court's directive of October 15, 2020, and the action taken by the administration did not elicit a response.

In the Abbas Ansari ruling, the Court acknowledged that the Uttar Pradesh government is carrying out demolitions without allowing the property owners time to appeal in several instances.

"Before parting with the case,

we have noticed that before this court a large number of cases are being filed before this Court (burdening the dockets of this already overburdened court), complaining of demolitions being carried out even before the expiry of prescribed period for filing of an appeal, coupled with the fact that the statutes namely the U.P. Urban Planning and Development Act, 1973 as well as U.P. (Regulation of Building Operations) Act, 1958, provide for an alternative remedy of an appeal within 30 days, we deem it appropriate to issue general mandamus in respect of actions being taken under the two statutes in the entire State," the Court said.

The HC had also directed the Registrar General of the Court to forward a copy of the order to UP Chief Secretary to ensure compliance by all the Vice-Chairmen of all the Development Authorities and the District Magistrates throughout the state.

Section 27(2) of the 1973 Act states that: "Any person aggrieved by an order under Subsection (1) may appeal to the (Chairman) against that order within thirty days from the date thereof and the Chairman may after hearing the parties to the appeal either allow or dismiss the appeal or may reverse or vary any part of the order."

Additionally, the provision also states that "no such order shall be made unless the owner or the person concerned has been given a reasonable opportunity to show cause why the order should not be made."

The Allahabad High Court also said the timelines cannot be mere procedural crutches and that "expropriatory legislation" must be given a strict interpretation as they "purport to take away the valuable constitutional rights of the citizens."

"Till the disposal of the in-

terim application filed in the statutory appeals the authorities should not take any steps for executing the demolition orders. Copies of the demolition orders, passed under the acts should be properly served upon the persons against whom the orders are passed," the HC held.

The ruling also underlined that the source for demolishing properties under municipal and revenue laws is not derived from police powers.

"The courts cannot also be oblivious of the fact that the owners who are subject to the embargos placed under the statute are deprived of their valuable rightful use of the property

for a long time. Although ordinarily when a public authority is asked to perform statutory duties within the time stipulated it is directory in nature but when it involves valuable rights of the citizens and provides for the consequences therefore it would be construed to be mandatory in character. The courts should, therefore, strive to find a balance of the competing interests," the

The UP government has filed an appeal against the Abbas Ansari ruling before the Supreme Court. On March 12, 2021, the SC agreed to hear the appeal but did not stay the operation of the verdict. It has not been listed for hearing since.

In January 2021, the Allahabad HC relied on the Abbas Ansari ruling in a batch of three cases and stayed a demolition notice, directing the state to maintain status quo till the appeal is disposed of.

#### Adda guest

coordinating the government's massive efforts towards evacuating Indian students stranded in Ukraine after Russia attacked the former on February 24.

In his role as Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Puri is entrusted with the task of increasing domestic production of crude oil and natural gas, alongside generating a gas-based economy that entails a renewed focus on improving the availability and utilisation of the cleaner fossil fuel.

With the recent cut in excise duty on petrol and diesel, and the government's intervention in ensuring the addition of sanction-hit Russia's deeply discounted crude oil into its overall supply basket, the minister has his work cut out in ensuring that the impact of spiralling global fuel prices is as transitory as possible, given the spiralling inflationary trend. Retail or Consumer Price

Index-based inflation has remained over the Reserve Bank of India's upper band of 6 per cent for five months in a row, prompting the central bank to hike policy rates and kill whatever little demand the economy has seen as India emerges out of the Covid-19 pandemic.

As Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister, Puri has an overarching mandate over the development of urban infrastructure, at a time when there is immense stress on the infrastructure of most Indian towns and cities, including water supply resources, sanitation, the housing for all target, and also the task of leveraging the use of data, technology and innovation in the planning and management of cities.

A 1974 batch Indian Foreign Service officer, Puri also served as the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations between 2009 till 2013 ahead of joining the Bharatiya Janata Party in 2014. As part of his urban re-engi-

neering mandate, Puri is in charge of Narendra Modi-government's key flagship schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U), Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana and the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, among others. His ministry also oversees the ambitious Central Vista Redevelopment Project aimed to reshape India's seat of power at Raisina Hill.

At the Express Adda, Puri will be in conversation with Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express Group and P Vaidyanathan Iyer, Executive Editor, The Indian Express.

The Express Adda is a series of informal interactions organised by The Indian Express Group and features those at the centre of change. When the discussions moved online during the Covid-19pandemic, Union Minister for External Affairs S Jaishankar, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways and MSMEs Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Education Ramesh Pokhrival, AIIMS Director Dr Randeep Guleria, and former Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian were among the guests at e-Adda. Prominent guests at past edi-

tions of Express Adda include Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Nobel laureates Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, Chief Economic Advisor Krishnamurthy Subramanian, cancer specialist and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee, and cricketer Cheteshwar Pujara.

#### TMC MLA

letter for an Aadhaar card, some small issues here and there. At the same time, we need to ensure that our government schemes reach the people," says Tiwary, adding, "I have got used to it now".

"There are many files and

documents which need to be

signed. So my day is long. As I am playing and cannot go to my constituency office, I have asked them to courier the files here. I sign the files and send them back, so that my work doesn't get hampered. I then call my office and check the status of pending work. I have people who give me daily feedback on things which need to be done." he says

need to be done," he says.

His first constituency, cricket, too placed a heavy demand on him in the Ranji Trophy semi-final against Madhya Pradesh at Bengaluru on Thursday. MP were bundled out for 341 runs on the second day and Bengal reached 273 runs, mainly due to Tiwary's 103

Bengal were wobbling at 11 for 3 in under four overs when Tiwary walked in. Soon, they were 54 for 5 but Tiwary, in the company of centurion Shahbaz Ahmed, lifted Bengal towards respectability. "I have been in such situations before. It's just about keeping your head down and playing session by session. I told Shahbaz that we need to try and stay there as much as possible, runs will come later," says Tiwary.

An aggressive right-handed batsman who represented India in 12 one-day internationals and three T20s, Tiwary is fully aware that his Team India dream is over, and his non-selection in the last IPL auction has also brought down the curtains on his participation in that tournament.

The question, then, is why does he still play professional cricket?

"It's my dream that Bengal wins the Ranji Trophy one day. I wanted it to happen when I was captain, but sadly that wasn't so. Now, there is a desire to be part of the winning Ranji Trophy team at least once in my lifetime. It's the only reason which has kept me motivated," he says.

After he hit a century on Thursday, Tiwary took out a note from his pocket and flashed it towards the Bengal dressing room. He had scribbled a "thank you" note to his family for supporting him.

"It's not been easy. Earlier, I used to just play cricket and was on the road. Now, I don't get any time at all. There are days when I reach home at 1 in the night and leave early next morning for the party's programme. My wife has been a pillar of support behind me," he says.

Just after he joined the Trinamool Congress ahead of the Assembly elections last year, Tiwary had told The Indian Express that it was a phone call from party chief Mamata Banerjee that made him join the poll fray. "Manoj Tiwary will continue to call a spade a spade. When everybody is deserting Didi -- those who were in the party for so long are now running away -- I didn't want to take it lying down. This is in my blood. I will stand by a person who gives her everything for Bengal. I alwavs wanted to work for people and contribute to society in this difficult situation," he had said.

#### Booster dose

60 years, and healthcare and frontline workers.

According to the data, a Covid surge in Mumbai has coincided with a consistent increase in precaution dose coverage over the last two weeks during the door-to-door campaign. There was a 31 per cent increase in the number of booster shots administered this week over the past week.

Bengaluru also saw a weekon-week increase during June -a 6.8 per cent increase during the first seven days of June over the previous week and 49.2 per cent rise during the second week.

Delhi and Kolkata recorded fluctuations in the booster numbers of June. Delhi saw a 5.9 per cent decline in the first week of June followed by a 32.4 per cent increase. Kolkata reported a decline of 9.7 per cent in the first week of June followed by a 64.3 per cent increase, according to data on CoWIN.

The data show a 41.8 per cent increase in cumulative vaccine doses across the country during the past week, which is less than the increase seen for booster doses.

Among the metros, the rate of increase in booster doses was higher than for the total number of doses in Delhi and Kolkata — the capital saw a 15.8 per cent in total number of doses and Kolkata a 55.01 per cent increase.

Mumbai saw a 31.06 per cent increase in the total number of doses, around the same pace as booster doses. Bangalore saw a 63.7 per cent increase in the total number, which was higher than the increase in total number of booster doses during the week. Chennai saw a 315 per cent increase in the total number of doses, much higher than the rate

Lucknow

in booster shots.

# UTTAR PRADESH

#### **KANPUR PROTESTS**

# **Notice to kin of** accused on 'illegal building'

KDA notice seeks reply on why the hostel should not be demolished

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** LUCKNOW, JUNE 16

THE KANPUR Development Authority (KDA) has served a notice to the mother of Hayat Zafar Hashmi, arrested in connection with the June 3 violence, asking why a building in her name should not be demolished for allegedly flouting rules.

The notice, addressed to Sayeeda Zafar, stated, "The party has construction on 200 square yards beyond two floors and is running a hostel there... You are expected to submit a written reply by June 30 at 12 noon at my office by being present there on why it (the hostel) should not be demolished. You can send a representative to submit the reply."

The notice was put up outside the Poorvanchal Boys' Hostel in the Kakadev area of Kanpur on Tuesday. "... As per a report by Regional Additional Engineer on June 14, you are building/have built/have started construction at 17/P/42, Hitkari Nagar, Kakadev without getting an approval under Section 14 of the Uttar Pradesh Urban Planning and Development Act, 1973," the KDA notice said.

Hashmi, who is the chief of a local outfit - Maulana Mohammad Ali (MMA) Jauhar Fans Association – was arrested along with three others from Lucknow on June 4, a day after clashes erupted in Kanpur over



Hayat Zafar Hashmi was arrested on June 4

former BJP spokespersons' remark against the Prophet.

Meanwhile, police were granted remand of all the four members of the outfit — Hashmi, co-accused Javed Mohammad Khan and Mohammad Rahil, and Mohammad Sufiyan — for two

"The four are in our remand from Wednesday. The remand will be over on Friday. We are questioning them," said a senior police officer.

Kanpur Police had earlier said that they were looking into the role of Hashmi in the 2019 anti-CAA NRC protests.

As per MMA Jauhar Fans Association's Facebook account, the outfit was founded in 2007 by Hashmi with the aim of "raising voice for social and civic problems like water supply, power crisis, roads and traffic is-

Additional Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Anand Prakash Tiwari said 57 people have been arrested in connection with the June 3 violence.

"Further investigation is underway," he added.

link provided in https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in// english/TendelViewAllAuction.aspx



### AND PROTESTS CONTINUE...

Congress leader Akhilesh Pratap Singh and others protest against the questioning of their leader Rahul Gandhi by ED in an alleged case of money laundering, in Lucknow on Thursday. They were detained while they tried to march towards the Raj Bhavan. The Congress had given a call for "Raj Bhavan gherao" to protest the questioning of Gandhi. Vishal Srivastav

### Jump in Covid infections, active cases near 2,000

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** LUCKNOW. JUNE 16

THERE HAS been a steady increase in the number of Covid-19 cases in Uttar Pradesh in the last few days. The Thursday bulletin of the state Health Department reported 413 new cases in the last 24 hours, with Gautam Budh Nagar (Noida) reporting the most (100). The other four districts reporting a spike in infections include Lucknow (71), Ghaziabad (48), Varanasi (14) and Kanpur

In the last two days, the state reported 318 and 286 new cases on Wednesday and Tuesday, respectively.

Consequently, the number of active cases in the state has risen to 1,849. By Thursday, there were 373 active cases in Gautam Budh Nagar, 411 in Lucknow, 193 in

Ghaziabad, 89 in Varanasi, and 59 in Kanpur City.

The positivity rate till Wednesday was 1.80 per cent and the recovery rate stood at 98.8 per cent, according to the health bulletin.

Following a jump in the Covid-19 cases in the state as well as in other parts of the country, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has instructed officials to be extra vigilant in tracing new cases and to be on alert.

At a review meeting, the chief minister directed officials to ensure that people above 18 years of age avail the booster dose. He also directed officials to expedite the process of setting up new medical colleges in the districts. It may be mentioned that the government has decided to set up one medical college in each of the 75 districts of the state under the "Ek Janpad, Ek Medical College" scheme.

### **HEATWAVE ABATES: IMD**

New Delhi: Heatwave conditions have abated in all parts of the country, with the southwest monsoon progressing towards central and east India and a fresh Western Disturbance affecting the northwest region, the Met Department said on Thursday, No significant heatwave conditions are likely till June 29, it said. PTI

### **Enemy properties scam in UP: CBI** conducts searches, books 53 people erties were spread across ing) and 471 (forgery) and provi-

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, JUNE 16

THE CBI has booked 53 people, including government employees, in four separate FIRs for allegedly leasing out prime enemy proper-

ties illegally across Uttar Pradesh. The cases are based on a complaint from the Assistant Custodian of Enemy Property for India (Govt of India), Lucknow, on allegations of causing huge loss to Govt Exchequer by leasing out prime value lands/properties on forged documents".

Enemy properties are properties that have been left behind by people who have taken citizenship of Pakistan and China. Enemy properties are currently vested with the Custodian of Enemy Property of India (CEPI).

The illegally leased out prop-

शद्धिपत्र

एक्सप्रेस, आदर्श ज्योति में प्रकाशित

14.06.2022. प्रकाशन दिनांक 16.06.2022

में लिपिक पद हेतु अर्हता में-PET परीक्षा

बलदेवदास हनुमत संस्कृत महाविद्यालय,

प्रबंधक

में उत्तीर्ण अभ्यर्थी भी आवेदन के पात्र होंगे।

अर्हता का शेष भाग पूर्ववत रहेगा।

विज्ञापन सं. 01/2022

Lucknow, Barabanki, Sitapur, Noida Extension, Gautam Budh Nagar, Ghaziabad and Kasganj, among others, in UP.

The agency on Thursday conducted searches at 40 locations including in Delhi, Kolkata, Ghaziabad, Kasganj, Bulandshahr, Gautam Budh Nagar, Lucknow, Barabanki – at the premises of the accused, which "led to recovery of incriminating documents". The agency recovered Rs 82 lakh cash from one of the beneficiaries.

The CBI has booked Samandar Singh Rana, the then officiating Custodian of Enemy Property of India (CEPI) in Delhi; Utpal Chakraborty, assistant custodian, and Ramesh Chandra Tewari, a retired supervisor (both based in Lucknow). They have been booked under IPC Sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 420 (cheat-

sions of Prevention of Corruption Act related to bribery officials said. In addition, CBI has named multiple beneficiaries as accused in the FIRs.

According to CBI, "the said public servants, in conspiracy with private persons, caused huge financial loss to [the] Government Exchequer by leasing out large tracts of prime high-value land... It was further alleged that the said land were given at very nominal rentals, allowing illegal constructions by private builders and also forging lease agreements in the

matter of enemy properties." Over 71 hectares of land were illegally leased out in this manner, the CBI has alleged. According to the FIR, the CEPI officials allegedly colluded with beneficiaries by "forging and manipulating lease agreements".

#### **IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED** (A Govt. of India Undertaking) Website: www.ircon.org CIN-L45203DL1976GOI008171

e-tender Notice

e-Tender for and on behalf of IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED is invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of "Supply, Installation & Commissionir of 02 (two) nos. of Rail Feeder cum Drawer car for MAHSR-T2 project, Surat, Gujarat".

For further details, visit website https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app. Corrigendum if any, would be hosted only on the website.

CGM/Mechanical, IRCON INTERNATIONAL LTD C-4, District Centre, Saket, New Delhi - 110017

Regional Office Kanpur Dehat Region Bank of Baroda

118/330, 2nd Floor, Kaushalpuri Gumti No. 5, Kanpur -208012

The Bank of Baroda invites offers from the owners / Power of attorne nolders of premises on ground floor with the area of 1200 Sq. Ft. to 1500 Sq. Ft. for housing its "Shuklaganj Branch at Distt. Unnao" with al facilities including adequate power. The premises shall be ready fo occupation or likely to be ready for occupation within a period of 3-6 Months. The intending offers shall submit their offers in two separate sealed cover superscribed Technical bid and Price bid to Regional Office (Kanpur Dehat Region), Bank of Baroda 118/330, (Second Floor) Kaushalpuri, Gumti No.5, Kanpur-208012 on or before 08/07/2022 upto 3:00 pm. Priority would be given to the premises belonging to Public Sector Units / Govt. Departments. (For details please log in on tende section of our web site: www.bankofbaroda.com). The bank reserves

# e-Tender No. IRCON/MECH/P&E/MAHSR-T2/ RAIL FEEDER CAR/RET/681 Dated 15.06.2022

Last date & Time of e-Bid Submission: 07.07.2022, 16:00 Hrs

Premises Required on Lease Basis for Shuklagani Branch

right to accept or reject any offer without assigning reasons thereof. Regional Manager, Bank of Baroda (Kanpur Dehat Region), Kaushalpuri, Gumti No. 5, Kanp



2022 at 15:00 Hrs.

Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD) Sector-H, LDA Colony, Kanpur Road, Lucknow-226012 Tel: (0522) 2421047 E-mail: bird@nabard.org, dpsp.bird@nabard.org
Website: www.birdlucknow.nabard.org

**TENDER NOTICE** 

Applications are invited for "Empanelment of Contractors for Supply, Installation, Testing, and Commissioning of New VRV /VRF (Variable Refrigerant) Air Conditioning System and Dismantling of old Central Air Conditioning system at BIRD, Lucknow" which is estimated to cos Rupees 4.70 crore. Format of Application is available for download at http://birdlucknow.nabard.org/tender-and-adv/ Any corrigendum/ addendum in this regard will be published or above website only. Last date for submission of bids is 07 July

# Union Bank

Kanpur Regional Office: 117/H-1/240, Pandu Nagar Kanpur-208005 Head Office: 239, Vidhan Bhavan Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES | Date of e-Auction : 20-07-2022 E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable assets under the securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial assets and

Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 Read with Proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 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 possession of which has been taken by the authorized officer of Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is Where is," "As is What is," and "Whatever there is" on the aned below for recovery of dues as mentioned bereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s). Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price & the Earnest Money Deposit or also mentioned hereunder

Branch Name: Yashoda Nagar • Address: 81, Pashupati Nagar, Yashoda Nagar, Kanpur, Branch Head: Shri Rajesh Kamal Vishwakarma • Mob.: 7000255856

Borrower: Shri Shahid Ali S/o Shri Basheer Ali R/o: 6/24, Begum Purwa, Labour Colony, Thana Babu Purwa, Kanpur nagar & Also at 5E-348, EWS Hanspuram Awas Vikas Yojna No. II, Naubasta, Kanpur Nagar. Guarantor: Shri Jishan Ali S/o Shri Basheer Ali R/o : 6/24, Begum Purwa, Labour Colony, Thana Babu Purwa, Kanpur Nagar. O/s Amount as per Demand Notice: Rs. 9,99,904.50 + Intt.+Others Charges

Property: Residential House No. 5E/348, Situated at EWS, Hanspuram, Awas Vikas Yojna No. II, Naubasta, Distt. Kanpur Nagar. Owner of Property: Shri Shahid Ali S/o Shri Basheer Ali , Area: 24.37 Sq. Mtr., Bounded -North: 6 Mtr. Wide Road, South: Plot No. 5E/351, East: Plot No. 5E/347, West: Plot No. 5E/349. Date & Time of E-Auction: 20-07-2022 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm Reserve Price: Rs. 12.00 Lac, Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 1.20 Lac. For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the

Borrower: Mohd. Rashid S/o Shahid Rahman, R/o: 130/422, Babu Purwa, Kanpur Nagar Also at 5H-227, 228 Awas Vikas Hanspuram, Naubasta, Kanpur Nagar & Also at Arazi No. 1868 Mi. (Part) Village Daheli Sujanpur, Kanpur Nagar. Guarantor: Shri Binda Prasad S/o Shri Raja Ram, R/o : 133/5, T.P. Nagar, Rattu Purwa, Kanpur Nagar. O/s Amount as per Demand Notice: Rs. 21,71,787.59 + Intt. + Others Charges Property: Residential Land & Building at Arazi No. 1868 Mi (Part) Village Daheli Sujanpur, Kanpur Nagar. Owner of Property: Mohd Rashid S/o Shahid Rahman, Area: 100 Sq. Yards, Bounded -North: 6 Mtr. Road, South: Arazi of Baburam, East: Part of Plot, West: Part of Arazi. Date & Time of E-Auction: 20-07-2022 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm

Reserve Price: Rs. 18.00 Lac, Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 1.80 Lac. For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in// english/TendelViewAllAuction.aspx

#### Branch Name: Generalganj • Address: 55/109 Generalganj, Kanpur, Branch Head: Shri Abhishek Kumar • Mob.: 7991152721

Borrower: M/s Bachcha Trading Co., Proprietor: Shri Dharmendra Kumar Pandey S/o Shri Ravi Shankar Pandey, Address: 943, Kalyani Devi Road, Civil Llnes, Unnao. **Guarantor:** Smt. Priyanka Pandey W/o Shri Dharmendra Kumar Pandey & Smt. Chandra Devi W/o Late Ram Sevak Pandey, Both R/o: House No. 943, Kalyani Devi Road, Civil Llnes, Unnao. O/s Amount as per Demand Notice: Rs. 56,60,865.78 + Intt. + Others Charges

Property (1): Plot No. 1576 situated at Mohalla-Daroga Bagh, Unnao. Owner of Property: Shri Smt. Priyanka Pandey W/o Shri Dharmendra Kumar Pandey, Area: 250.92 Sq. Mtr., Bounded -North: House of Sushma Singh Gaur, South: Rasta 20 Ft., East: Grave Yard West: Plot of Others. Date & Time of E-Auction: 20-07-2022 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm Reserve Price: Rs. 24.00 Lac, Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 2.40 Lac. For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the

link provided in https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in// english/TendelViewAllAuction.aspx Property (2): House No. 943, at Plot No. 2, (Municipal No. 309), Kalyani Devi Road, Civil Lines, Distt. Unnao. Owner of Property: Smt andra Devi W/o Late Ram Sevak Pandey. Area : 261.85 Sq. Mtr., Bounded -North : Plot No. 3 of Shri Jagdish Prasad, South : Plot No. 1 Shri Alok Sharma, East: 6 Ft. Wide Gali, West: 5 Ft. Wide Road. Date & Time of E-Auction: 20-07-2022 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm

Reserve Price: Rs. 57.00 Lac, Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 5.70 Lac. For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the

link provided in https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in// english/TendelViewAllAuction.aspx

Branch Name: Akbarpur • Address: Ward No. 4, Gandhi Nagar, Akbarpur, Kanpur Dehat, Branch Head: Shri Ashish Awasthi • Mob.: 7988597120 Borrower: M/s Hamraj Collection, Proprietor: Shri Raju Ryne S/o Shri Saphi, Address: Ward No. 10, Kaliganj, Akbarpur, Distt. Kanpur Dehat, **Guarantor :** Smt. Baby Khatoon W/o : Mohd. Mahboob, R/o : Siddha Nagar, Akbarpur Distt. Kanpur Dehat O/s Amount as per Demand Notice: Rs. 8,20,209.23 + Intt. + Others Charges

Property: Land and Building situated at Siddha Nagar, Kasba & Tehsil Akbarpur, (Ramabai Nagar) Distt. Kanpur Dehat. Owner of Property: Smt. Baby Khatoon W/o : Mohd. Mahboob, **Area :** 133.47 Sq. Mtr., **Bounded -North :** House of Mahesh Prasad Nigam, **South :** House o Bhagauti Prasad Nigam, East: Road, West: House of Surendra Mukhiya. Date & Time of E-Auction: 20-07-2022 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm Reserve Price: Rs. 17.00 Lac, Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 1.70 Lac. For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in// english/TendelViewAllAuction.aspx

Borrower: M/s Maa Bhagwati Construction Co., Proprietor: Smt. Rani Devi W/o Shri Sobran Singh, Address: House No. 40, Paliwal Nagar, Rura, Tehsil Akbarpur, Distt. Kanpur Dehat, **Guarantor**: Shri Abhishek Pratap S/o Shri Sobran Singh & Shri Sobran Singh S/o Shri Nathu Singh, Both R/o: Ward No. 11, Paliwal Nagar, Rura Tehsil Akbarpur, Distt. Kanpur Dehat and Shri Sunil Kumar S/o Shri Radhey Shyam, R/o: Mallahan Purwa, Tigain, Kanpur Dehat. O/s Amount as per Demand Notice: Rs. 24,85,193.60 + Intt. + Others Charges

Property: Land and Building on Plot on Gata No. 1168 (Part) Kasba-Rura, Shiva Ji Nagar, (Paliwal Nagar) Tehsil Akbarpur, Distt. Kanpur Dehat. Owner of Property: Smt. Rani Devi W/o Shri Sobran Singh, Area: 74 Sq. Mtr., Bounded -North: House of Raj Bahadur, South: House of Smt. Kamla Devi, East: House of Smt. Ram Janki, West: Road. Date & Time of E-Auction: 20-07-2022 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm Reserve Price: Rs. 33.00 Lac, Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 3.30 Lac. For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in// english/TendelViewAllAuction.aspx

Borrower: M/s Maa Bhagwati Enterprises, Proprietor: Smt. Ram Kishori W/o Shri Raj Kumar Sharma, Address: Ahmadpur, Syonda, Post Pama Katka, Tehsil Akbarpur, Distt. Kanpur Dehat, Guarantor: Shri Vinay Pratap S/o Shri Jagdish Singh, R/o: Kishwar Lal Road, Raniya, Tehsil Akbarpur, Distt. Kanpur Dehat. & Shri Ram Sagar S/o Shri Kallu, R/o: Ahmadpur, Syonda, Post Pama Katka, Tehsil Akbarpur, Distt. Kanpur Dehat. O/s Amount as per Demand Notice: Rs. 9,65,461.47 + Intt. + Others Charges

Property: Residential Plot Situated at Gata No. 107 Ka and 151 Cha, NH-2 Road, Raniya, Tehsil Akbarpur, Distt. Kanpur Dehat. Owner of

Property: Smt. Ram Kishori W/o Shri Raj Kumar Sharma, Area: 0.024 Heactare/240 Śq. Mtr., Bounded -North: Plot of Babu Lal Gupta South: Plot of Vidya Bhaskar, East: Kalpi Road, West: Arazi of Ram Kishori Purchaser before Plot Asharfi Date & Time of E-Auction : 20-07-2022 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm Reserve Price: Rs. 58.00 Lac, Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 5.80 Lac. For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the

link provided in https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in// english/TendelViewAllAuction.aspx. For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp

Date: 17.06.2022 Place: Kanpur / Kanpur Dehat / Unnao **Authorized Officer, Union Bank of India** 



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The Indian **EXPRESS** 

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**Express Adda hosts** 

**Hardeep Singh Puri** 

Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing & Urban Affairs, Govt. of India

in conversation with

Anant Goenka **Executive Director** Indian Express Group

P Vaidyanathan Iyer Executive Editor

The Indian Express

By invitation only.

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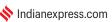


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9408954P RFN MAITA BAHADUR RAI

9408954P Rfn Maita Bahadur Rai of 1/11 Gorkha Rifles (BATALIK) made supreme sacrifice during "OP ORCHID" at 'MIZO HILLS' in Nagaland on 17 Jun 1969 in a true act of valour. The brave soldier will always be remembered for his raw courage and indomitable team spirit. To this braveheart we pledge that we shall always be guided by his immortal spirit and make his name proud

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



TAMIL NADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION Head Office, 12, Thambusamy Road, Kilpauk, Chennai-600 010 Ph. No. (044) 26426773, Email id . : tncsc.tn@nic.in CIN:U15137TN1972SGC006157



NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (SHORT TERM)

e-tenders are invited from the eligible contractors for Construction of semi covered shed with Plinth Platform of 25,000 M.T capacity in TNCSC open cap storage campus at Edamanal Village in Sirkazhi Taluk in Mayiladuthurai District e-Tender Notice No:- CED5 / 013906 / 2022 dt. 16.06.2022

ast Date and Time for Online Submission :- 28.06.2022 up to 2.00 P.M Downloading by Free of Cost :- From 17.06.2022 to 28.06.2022 up to 2.00 P.M Last date for receiving physical document:- 29.06.2022 up to 2.00 P.M (E.M.D only)
Date of Opening of Online Tender :- 29.06.2022 at 2.30 P.M

For further details please visit website :- www.tntenders.gov.in

Sd/- S.PRABHAKAR DIPR/2842/Tender/2022

DIPR/2842/Tender/2022. Managing Director "சோதனை கடந்து கதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

Regional Office Kanpur Dehat Region Bank of Baroda 118/330, 2nd Floor, Kaushalpuri Gumti No. 5, Kanpur -208012 (D) ....

Premises Required on Lease Basis for Kalpi Branch The Bank of Baroda invites offers from the owners / Power of attorney nolders of premises on ground floor with the area of 1200 Sq. Ft. to 1500 Sq. Ft. for housing its "Kalpi Branch at Distt. Jalaun" with all facilities ncluding adequate power. The premises shall be ready for occupation or likely to be ready for occupation within a period of 3-6 Months. The intending offers shall submit their offers in two separate sealed cover superscribed Technical bid and Price bid to Regional Office (Kanpur Dehat Region), Bank of Baroda 118/330, (Second Floor), Kaushalpuri, Gumti No.5, Kanpur-208012 on or before 08/07/2022 upto 3:00 pm. Priority would be given to the premises belonging to Public Sector Units / Govt. Departments. (For details please log in on tender section of our

web site: www.bankofbaroda.com). The bank reserves its right to accept or reject any offer without assigning reasons thereof. Regional Manager, Bank of Baroda (Kanpur Dehat Region), Kaushalpuri, Gumti No. 5, Kanpur



ई–निविदा सूचना

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि यूपीसीडा पुष्यातय भवन एवं अधिकारी आवासीय कॉलोनी नवाबगंज कानपुर के विद्युत अनुरक्षण एवं रख-रखाव कार्यों हेतु सरकारी विभागों/सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों/निगमों/प्राधिकरणों /परिषदी/नगर निकार्यों में पंजीकृत एवं अर्ह 'ए' श्रेणी में विद्युत लाईसंसी कर्मों/डीलरी/अनुमवी निर्माता/लाईसंसी ठेकंदारों से ई-निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है। जो दिनांक 18.06,2022 को पूर्वान्ह 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 06.07.2022 को अपरान्ह 5:00 बजे तक अपलोन्ड की जा सकती हैं। जिन्हें दिनांक 07.07.2022 को पूर्वान्ह 11:00 वर्ज खोला जायेगा। निविदादाताओं द्वारा शपथ पत्रों की मूल प्रतियाँ दिनांक 11.07.2022 को साथ 5:00 बुजे तक कार्यालय में जमा की जा सकती हैं। ई-निविदा के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाने वाली निविदा सम्बन्धी विवरण निम्नवत है:-

| 丣. | कार्य का नाम  | कार्य की लागत<br>रु. (लाख में) |  |
|----|---|--------------------------------|--|
|    | Providing 16 Mtr. High Mast Lighting System at UPSIDA HO Complex and Officers Colony Nawabganj, Kanpur. | 33.75                          |  |

नोट:- 1. निविदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर एवं जी.एस.टी. सहित दरें अंकित करें। अलग से कोई कर देय नहीं होगा। 2. विद्युत कार्यों हेतु निविदादाताओं को निविदा अपलोड करते समय 'विद्युत सुरक्षा विभाग'' उ.प्र. शासन, लखनऊ में श्रेणी 'क' अनुमोदित लाइसेंस अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा, अन्यथा निविदा को Consider नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तृत जानकारी प्राधिकरण की वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक विद्युत खण्ड-प्रथम उ.प्र.रा.औ.वि.प्रा.,कानपुर vebsite: www.upsidc.com पर स्थित ई–लिंक एवं यूपीएलसी की website: http://etender.up.nic.in पर देखी जा संकती है।

CHENNAI BENGALURU INDUSTRIAL CORRIDOR KRISHNAPATNAM INDUSTRIAL NODE (CBIC-KIN) NICDIT KRISHNAPATNAM INDUSTRIAL CITY DEVELOPMENT LIMITED (NKICDL)

10th Floor, APIIC Towers, Plot No. 1, IT Park, Mangalagiri Guntur AP 522503 email: engineer-in-chief@apiic.in: pmnc@kriscitv.in

rNoticeNo.01/ENC/APIIC/2022-23 Dated: 15.06.2022

ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF/APIIC Ltd, Mangalagiri, Tender Initiating Authority (TIA) on behalf of the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)-NICDIT Krishnapatnam Industrial City Development Limited (NKICDL) invites bids for the following works:

Tenders (2nd call) are invited through e-procurement platform for Design, Construction, Testing, Commissioning and Operation & Maintenance of Infrastructure Works at Krishnapatnam Node under Chennai Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) "On EPC Basis" for development of following Infrastructure works- Roads, Utilities and Area andscaping Roads including cross drainage structures bridges an area landscaping, potable water supply network including Firefighting System, Recycle water supply network, storm water drainage Residential Sewage network, Industrial Effluent collection network Power, Sewage/effluent Pumping Stations and Rising Main, Water Treatment Plant(WTP), Sewerage treatment plant(STP), Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) within a period of 36 months and Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of 4 years from the date of completion

ECV: INR 1054.63 Crores (Inclusive of O&M cost & Exclusive of GST) Date of publication: 15.06.2022

Last date for receiving clarifications: 22.06.2022 up to 15:00 hrs Employer's response : 29.06.2022 Last date & Time for submission of proposal. 20.07.2022 up to 15:00 hrs

The details of tender notice and bid document can be downloaded from https://www.apeprocurement.gov.in/

https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in/

The other details can be seen at the website <a href="https://kriscity.in/">https://kriscity.in/</a>;

R.O. No. 1130PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2022-23 Sd/- ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF, APIIC Ltd, Mangalagiri

#### 👔 RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LTD. orporate identity Number (CIN): U40109RJ2000SGC016485] Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhawa Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur-302005 Tel. No. Fax: +91-141.-2744290, email ID: se,npp@rvpn.co.in

Determination of Tariff for the year 2020-21 to 2023-24 in respect of RVPN owne transmission lines/system connecting with other States and Intervening transmission lines incidental to inter-State transmission of electricity for Inclusion in the POC transmission charges in accordance with the CERC (Terms and Condition of Tariff)  $Regulation\,2019\,and\,CERC\,(Sharing\,of\,Transmission\,Charges\,and\,Losses)\,Regulation, 2020\,Argument and Certain Control of Control of$ 

The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission systems are:(1). Power Gric Corporation of India Ltd., (2) Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam, (3) .Haryana Powe Purchase Centre (HPPC)(4). M.P. Power Transmission Company Ltd. (5). MP Power Management Co. Ltd. (MPPMCL), (6). Delhi Transco Ltd, (7). BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, (8) BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd, (9).North Delhi Power Ltd, (10). UP Power Transmission Corporation Ltd, (11) UP Power Corporation Ltd, 3. Tariff for the year 2020 - 21 to 2023 - 24 for below assets:

| S.No./    | Name of Transmission Lines              |         | YTC in La | kh Rs   |         |
|-----------|---|---------|-----------|---------|---------|
| Asset No. |   | 2020-21 | 2021-22   | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
| 1         | 132 KV S/C Sadulpur (Rajgarh)- Hissar   | 42.50   | 43.84     | 45.38   | 47.01   |
| 2         | 220 KV S/C Anta-Kota                    | 36.51   | 37.66     | 38.98   | 40.38   |
| 3         | 132 KV S/C Amrapura-Sirsa Line          | 43.59   | 44.96     | 46.55   | 48.22   |
| 4         | 220 KV S/C Alwar-Badarpur Line          | 71.71   | 73.96     | 76.57   | 79.32   |
| 5         | 220 KV S/C Kota(Sakatpura)- Badod Line  | 32.49   | 33.51     | 34.69   | 35.93   |
|           | (Raj-MP)                                |         |           |         |         |
| 6         | 220 KV S/C Khetri-Dadri Line I          | 38.64   | 39.85     | 41.26   | 42.74   |
|           | (Raj-Haryana)                           |         |           |         |         |
| 7         | 220 kV S/C RAPP(B)-Kota                 | 22.93   | 23.64     | 24.48   | 25.35   |
| 8         | 220 KV S/C RAPP(B)-RAPP(A)              | 1.09    | 1.12      | 1.16    | 1.21    |
| 9         | 220 KV S/C Agra-Bharatpur Line (Raj-UP) | 26.22   | 27.05     | 28.00   | 29.00   |
| 10        | 220 KV S/C Khetri-Dadri Line II         | 41.96   | 43.28     | 44.80   | 46.41   |
|           | (Raj-Haryana)                           |         |           |         |         |
| 11        | 220 KV S/C Modak-Badod Line (Raj-MP)    | 8.99    | 9.27      | 9.60    | 9.94    |
| 12        | 132 KV S/C Khandrar-Sheopur Line        | 19.48   | 19.69     | 19.94   | 20.20   |

220 KV S/C Chirawa- Hissar Line 326.89 317.77 219.06 221.51 I. A copy of application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of applicar at <a href="http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/content/raj/energy-department/rajasthan-rajya-">http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/content/raj/energy-department/rajasthan-rajya-</a>

vidyut-prasaran-limited/en/home.html

. The suggestion and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained the proposal state of the proposalin the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3rd& 4thFloor,Chandralok Building, Janpath New Delhi-110001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a second contract of the commission of the Commi copy to applicant at the address of its corporate office RVPNL, VidyutBhawan, Jyoti Nagar Jaipur-302005, within 30 days of publication of this notice. (NPP & RA), RVPN, Jaipur RRVPN/TR-5492/2022

#### **SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**

Rarch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the belowmentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the

| ριυ        | perty and any dealings wi | tir the property will be subject to the charge of forci   | Darik Limiteu.  |                      |
|------------|---------------------------|---|---|----------------------|
| Sr.<br>No. | Dorrower/ Loan            | Description<br>of Property/ Date of<br>Symbolic Possession  | Date of Demand<br>Notice/ Amount<br>in Demand<br>Notice (Rs.) | Name<br>of<br>Branch |
|            | Alok Jain/ Alpana Jain/   | Old MPL No.5/1062, New MPL No.1302, Waka<br>Mohalla Meerkot Khalapar Saharanpur Uttar<br>Pradesh/ June 13, 2022 | January 31, 2022<br>Rs.<br>24,04,499.87/-                     | Saharanpu            |

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: June 17, 2022 **Authorized Officer** Place: Saharanpui

> punjab national bank CIRCLE SASTRA CENTRE CIRCLE OFFICE

(A Govt of India undertaking) 1" FLOOR, SANGAM PLACE CIVIL LINES, PRAYAGRAJ-211001 HO: PLOT NO.-4 SECTOR-10, DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110075 Ph.: 0532-2560093, E-mail: cs8299@pnb.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Punjab National Bank under the Securification and Reconstruction of Financia assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13 read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice mentioned below dailing upon the following borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has aken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act ead with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the specified date mentioned below

The borrower's / guarantor's / mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time vailable to redeem the secured assets.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject

the charge of the Puniab National Bank, for the amounts and interest there on mentioned against account of

| Name and Address<br>of Borrowers/Guarantors   | Details of Immoveable<br>Property  | Name of<br>Branch       | Outstanding<br>Amount   | Demand<br>Date | Possession<br>Date |
|---|--|-------------------------|---|----------------|--------------------|
| Borrower & Mortgagor- Mr. Dilip Kumar Slo<br>Late Sh. Maheshwari Prasad, Add (I)<br>220(Esctor 6, Shantipuram, Phaphamau,<br>Prayngraj-211013, (II) Plot No. 359, Mauza<br>Pura Raghunathpur. Tehsa Pindara, Diet.<br>Varanasi.<br>Guarantor- Mr. Shrawan Kumar Tripathi, A-<br>203, Mehduari, Taliangani, Prayagraj. | Pura Raghunathpur, Pargana Tehsil Pindara,<br>Disti, Varanasi vido Salo Dood Ro. 955 dated<br>29.04.2005, Area-283,22 Sq. Mis., Owner-<br>Sh. Dilp Kumer Sio Sh. Maheshwani Prasad<br>Boundarios: East- Chak Road thereafter | Colonelganj<br>(500102) | 7 33,73,815.88/- (Rupees Thirty Three<br>Lake Severty Three<br>Thousand Eight<br>Hundred Erhein and<br>Paise Eighty Eight<br>Only) with<br>further interest<br>w.a.129.12.2021<br>+DI & other charges,<br>minus recovery. | 13.01.2022     | 10.06,2022         |
| Date: 16.06.2022  | Place : Prayagraj  |                         | Authorised Officer  | Punjab Na      | tional Bank        |

बक

Kanpur (0384)

ncremental Amount of Rs. 10,000/-

**UCO BANK** 

Zonal Office : 75/4, Siddhi Sadan, Halsey Road Near Badshahi Naka Police Station, Kanpur - 208001

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES [See proviso to Rule - 8(6)] proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property(ies) mortgaged/charged to UCO

Bank Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of UCO Bank Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 30-07-2022, for recovery of Bank's Dues from Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) to UCO Bank Secured Creditor. The details are described as below: Name & Address of Borrower(s). Guarantor(s) Bank's Dues Branch:- Armapur, District -Kanpur; Contact Number(s):- +91-8840313815, +91-9639662842; Email Id:- armapu@ucoba ank.co.in, zokanpur.rec@ucobank.co.in Borrower(s): 27.09.2021 All that part and parcel of the property consists of Rs. 11,26,905.96 Land & Building measuring area 38.50 sq. mt. as Shri Sumant Singh Tomar S/o (Rupees Eleven Lakh 31.12.2021

Rs. 2,40,000/per Book No.1, Volume No. 3790, Page No. 135 to Late Dheer Singh Tomar & Mrs. Twenty Six Thousand (Symbolic Possession 170, registered at Sr. No. 594 registered on Saguna Singh Tomar W/o Shri Nine Hundred Five 25.01.2007 at Sub-Registrar Kanpur (Zone 4) Sumant Singh Tomar and Shri and Paisa Ninty Six situated at House No. 106/E-1, EWS Phase-1 Ashutosh Singh Tomar S/o Shri Only) as on Yojana Panki Gangaganj 1/2 part area 38.50 Sq. Sumant Singh Tomar & Neelam 26.09.2021 (inclusive mtr. Kanpur standing in the name of Smt. Saguna Singh Tomar W/o Shri Sumant Singh Tomar Singh D/o Shri Sumant Singh of interest upto resident of 73 E-1 Ganga Ganj Colony, Panki, 30.09.2020) with Kanpur Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-208020. further interest and Details of Boundaries (As per Deed) Both R/o, 73 E-1, Ganga Ganj incidental expenses East: 5.00 mt. wide Road; West: Rest part H. No. Colony, Panki, Kanpur Nagar U... costs etc. till date of 106/E-1; North: House No. 107; South: 5.00 mt. payment. wide Road All that part and parcel of the property consists of

and & Building measuring area 38.50 sq. mt. as per Book No.1, Volume No. 4913, Page No. 101 to 108, registered at Sr. No. 787 registered on 12.02.2009 at Sub-Registrar Kanpur (Zone 4) situated at House No. 106, EWS Phase-1, Yojana No. 40, Panki Gangaganj 1/2 Eastern portion area 38.50 Sq. mtr. Kanpur standing in the name of Smt. Saguna Singh Tomar W/o Shri Sumant Singh Tomar resident of 73 E-1 Ganga Ganj Colony, Panki, Kanpur Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-208020 Details of Boundaries (As per Deed) East: Rest part House No. 106 E.W.S. Eastern

Branch Name: Armapur Estate, portion); West: House No. 105; North: House No. 107: South: 5.00 mt, wide Road: Last Date for submission of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) for Bid : 29.07.2022 upto 4:00 PM as per (IST)
Date & Time of E-auction :- 30.07.2022 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM as per (IST) with unlimited extension of 10 minutes each with Bid

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit the websites https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp & https://www.ibapi.in The Borrower's and/or Guarantor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section 8 of section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Note: - Hindi & English versions of this Notice are being published in Hindi & English Newspapers respectively. It is clarified that in case of any contradiction in Hindi

and English version of the Notice, the English version of the  $\,$  Notice will prevail.

Date :- 17.06.2022 Place :- Kanpur **Authorized Officer (UCO Bank)** 

किमेचारी राज्य बीमा निगम 🔐



Panchdeep Bhawan, Sarvodaya Nagar, Kanpur-208005, फोन नं.-0512-2217957 E-Mail: rd-up@esic.nic.in Website: www.esic.nic.in/www.esic.in

पत्र सं० का/निर्माण 12(4)/ARM/पूर्वी जोन ईएसआईसी/टेंडर/2022-23 दि0:16/06/2022

ई निविदा सूचना

अपर आयुक्त सह क्षेत्रीय निदेशक, कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम सर्वोदय नगर कानपुर उ.प्र. द्वारा उत्तर

| प्रदेश ६ | त्रेत्र के निम्नलिखित स्थानों में (तीन निविदाएँ)                 |                 |
|----------|--|-----------------|
| क्रम     | निविदाएं   | अंतिम तिथि      |
| संख्या   |  |                 |
| 1        | क॰रा॰बी॰ चिकित्सालय एवं आवासीय परिसर नैनी , प्रयागराज , क0रा०बी० | दिनांक          |
|          | निगम शाखा कार्यालय एवं गेस्ट हाउस, कपूरथला, लखनऊ, कारा०बी०       | 05.07.2022      |
|          | औषधालय सीतापुर (एनेक्सी) एवं क०रा०बी० औषधालय मिर्जापुर (एनेक्सी) | अपराहन 1:00 बजे |
|          | तथा क०रा०बी० चिकित्सालय एवं आवासीय परिसर रेनुकूट व अस्पताल परिसर | तक              |
|          | मे स्थित अन्य भवन, क0रा0बी0 औषधालय व शाखा कार्यालय गोरखपुर       |                 |
|          | (एनेक्सी), क0रा0बी0 औषधालय भेलूपुर , वाराणसी                     |                 |
| 2        | क०रा०बी० चिकित्सालय एवं आवासीय परिसर आगरा व अस्पताल परिसर में    | दिनांक          |
|          | स्थित अन्य भवन, क०रा०बी० औषधालय शिकोहाबाद, क०रा०बी० औषधालय,      | 06.07.2022      |
|          | छिपीटोला, आगरा तथा क०रा०बी० चिकित्सालय एवं आवासीय परिसर अलीगढ    | अपराहन 1:00     |
|          | एवं क०रा०बी० निगम शाखा कार्यालय अलीगढ                            | बजे तक          |
| 3        | क०रा०बी० चिकित्सालय एवं आवासीय परिसर मोदी नगर व अस्पताल परिसर मे | दिनांक          |
|          | स्थित अन्य भवन, क०रा०बी० औषधालय हापुड़, क०रा०बी० औषधालय मेरठ     | 06.07.2022      |
|          | तथा क०रा०बी० चिकित्सालय एवं आवासीय परिसर सहारनपुर                | अपराहन 1:00     |
|          |  | <del></del>     |

में सिविल व विद्युत के वर्ष 2022-23 के वार्षिक अनुरक्षण एवं मरम्मत ए.आर.एम. कार्यों हेतु केंद्र राज्य सरकार के अधीन सार्वजनिक निर्माण ईकाइयों/उपक्रमों से 01,02 एवं 03 हेतु अलग-अलग आनलाइन ई निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। इच्छुक निविदाकार वेबसाइट http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app से आवेदन कर सकते है। अधिक जानकारी वेबसाइट www.esic.nic.in से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

> अपर आयुक्त सह क्षेत्रीय निदेशक उत्तर प्रदेश क्षेत्र

#### PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform General Public

that My Client Ajay Singh S/o Dharm Singh, R/o - Baijamau, Bangar, Umarpur, Kanpur Dehat have lost the Original Allotment Letter. This Document belongs to the Flat No. A-10/04. Ground Floor, Sector-18, Vrindavan Yojna, Lucknow. This Property is presently owned exclusively by my client if any Person have any kind of Right, title, interest claim, etc then Please Communicate the same within 7 days to C K Legal Associates, Lucknow on 0522 4077776 or IDFC FIRST BANK LIMITED, Lucknow otherwise the Same will be Considered void.

#### NAME CHANGE

I declare that, I have changed my name for allpurpose from SUMIT OBEROI to SHIV OBEROI s/o Shri Channi Oberoi, DOB: 07/03/1976, R/o Flat No D-3, 4th Floor, River View Apartment, Jiamau, Lucknow via affidavit No 53AE350868 dated15/06/2022. In future I

will be known as SHIV OBEROI 0060091767-1

#### व्यक्तिगत

सर्वसाधारण को सुचित करना है मैं शबाहत हुसैन रहमानी पुत्र स्व0 सखावत हसैन, निवासी 474ए/93 ब्रहम नगर, डालीगंज रेलवे क्रासिंग के पास, सीतापुर रोड, लखनऊ। मेरी हाइस्कूल की मार्कसीट में मेरा नाम शबाहत हसैन रहमानी के स्थान पर शबाहत हुसैन पड़ा हुआ है मेरा सही नाम शबाहत हसैन रहमानी है भविष्य में मेरा नाम शबाहत हुसैन रहमानी लिखा एवं समझा जाये।

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

NOTICE

Ram Fool, Gram-Jalalabad Post-Haripur, Distt- Faizabac (Avodhya) 224001 Informing that My original sale deed Dated 29.01.2021 through Bahi No 01, Jild No. 24605, Page No 119 to 142, Serial No. 1971, is missing by the officer company Name Attractive Nirman Pvt Ltd. near to Kaiserbagh. I have lodged FIR of this on 27.04.2022. The above Property is to be equitable mortgage in SBI. Any objection can be made is illegal.

पत्र संख्याः C-892/पी०सी०एल०/जोन-1/वाराणसी दिगांक: 14.06.2022 अन्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

एतदद्वारा जनपद प्रयागराज के केन्द्रीय कारागार गैनी में उच्च सरक्षा बैरक की जीर्ण-शीर्ण सर्वितवाल के निर्माण कार्य हेतु इस कार्यालय की अत्यकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना-12/जी०एम०-1/यू०पी०पी० सी०एल०/2022-23/ई-टेण्डर दिनांक 14.06.2022 द्वारा ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। यह निविद वेयसाइट http://www.etender.up.nic.in में पोर्टल पर दिनांव 22.06.2022 से दिनांक 29.06.2022 तक डाउनलोड/अपलोड की जा सकती है, जिसे दिनांक 29.06.2022 को अपराहन 2:00 को तक सर्वमिट/जमा किया जा सकता है। टेविनकल विड उसी दिन अपसन्ह 4:00 बजे अधोहस्ताक्षरी के वपरोक्त कार्वालय में खोली जानी प्रस्तावित है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य विवरण एवं शर्ते इत्याचि कारपोरेशन की वेबसाइट www.upprojects.org पर देखा जा सकता है। महाप्रवन्धक, जोन-

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वेबसाईट

संख्या-टी-07

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियंता

बजे तथा द्वितीय भाग अगले दिन अधोहस्ताक्षरी

द्वारा खोली जायेगी। जिसका विस्तृत विवरण ई-

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का कार्य। ई-निविदा की धरोहर धनराशि रु.

4000.00 निविदा मूल्य रु. 590/- बिक्री कर

सहित। **क्र.सं.-2 निविदा संख्या-टी-**08

वि.पा.ख.(फ)/2022-23, कार्य का विवरण-

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हित में ऊर्जा बचायें'' पत्रांक: 420

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निविदा

क्र.सं.-1

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फोन नं. ०२५८१-२२०२५३/ २२०२४३ ई-मेल comcakkalkot123@gmai.com जा. क्र. २०२२/न.प.अ'कोट/कर विभाग/आरआर/कावि क्र. ६५९

- ई-निविदा सूचना 🗕

मा. मुख्याधिकारी, अक्कलकोट नगरपरिषद वतीने नोंदणीकृत व अनुभवी कंत्राटदारांकडून खालील कामाकरिता गुणवत्ता निकपद्वारे ई-निविदा प्रणालीद्वारे (ऑनलाईन) मागवित आहे. इच्छूक निविदाधारकांनी आपली ई-निविद http://mahatebnders.gov.in या संकेतस्थळावर ऑनलाईन पद्धतीने निविदा फी व इसारा रक्कम ऑनलाईन नेट बँकिंग सुविधेद्वारे भरणा करून संपूर्ण अर्हता दस्तऐवजासह विहित मुदतीत सादर करावी. निविदेसंदर्भात संपूर्ण कामाचे सविस्तर विवरण निविदा शुल्क, अटी व शर्ती तसेच नोंदणी व पात्रता निकष ऑनलाईन निविदा संचिकेत

| अ.<br>क्र. | कामाचे   | नाव   | बयाप<br>रक्का |    | काम करण्याचा<br>कालावधी | निविदा<br>प्रपत्र किंमत |
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| १.         | नगरपरिषद हद्दीतील संपूर्ण मिळका<br>प्रत्यक्ष मिळकतीवर जाऊन प्रत्येव<br>नोंदिवणे, मिळकतीवर जाऊन प्रत्येव<br>करणे, करण्यात आलेल्या मालमत्ते<br>प्रणालीत अद्यावतीकरण करून मार्ग<br>प्रक्रियेकरिता मदत करणे, कर मुख्<br>नमुन्यात माहिती प्रिंट करून आव<br>पुरविणे, चालू वर्षाकरिता अंतिम्<br>आवश्यक स्टेशनरी व बाईंडिंगस<br>साहाय्य करणे व नगरपरिषदेस<br>असलेली संगणक आज्ञावली पुरवि | ि मिळकतीला विशिष्ट क्रमांक<br>क मिळकतीचे आतून मोजमाप<br>व्या प्रत्यक्ष सर्वेक्षणाचे MAINET<br>हेती तयार करणे, कर मुल्यांकन<br>त्यांकन प्रक्रियेकरिता आवश्यक<br>।श्यक स्टेशनरी व बाईंडिंगसह<br>। मागणी देयके तयार करून<br>ह पुरविणे, इत्यादी कामांकरिता<br>कर विभागाकरिता आवश्यक | <b>६०,००</b>  |    | सहा<br>महिने            | रु.<br>५,०००/-          |
|            |  | निविदेचा तपशील  |               |    | ,                       |                         |
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| 0 /        | francisco  | 16/06/2022 at 11 00 A   | 11/1          | 12 | /07/2022 at 0           | 4 00 PM                 |

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| १) निविदा प्रसिद्ध          | 16/06/2022, at 11.00 A | .M 12 | /07/2022, at 0     | 4.00 PM |  |  |  |
| २) निविदा कागदपत्रे डाऊनलोड | 16/06/2022, at 11.00 A | .M 12 | /07/2022, at 0     | 4.00 PM |  |  |  |
| ३) ऑनलाईन निविदा सादर करणे  | 16/06/2022, at 11.00 A | .M 12 | /07/2022, at 0     | 4.00 PM |  |  |  |
| ४) निविदापूर्व बैठक दिनांक  | 03/07/2022, at 03.00 P | M     | नगरपरिषद काय       | लिय     |  |  |  |
| ५) तांत्रिक लिफाफा उघडणे    | 13/07/2022, at 04.00 P | M     | नगरपरिषद काय       | लिय     |  |  |  |
| ६) आर्थिक लिफाफा उघडणे      | 13/07/2022, at 05.00 P | M     | नगरपरिषद काय       | लिय     |  |  |  |
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टीप : कोणतेही कारण न देता एक अथवा सर्व निविदा स्वीकारण्याचा अथवा नाकारण्याचा अधिकार मा. मुख्याधिकारी यांनी राखून ठेवलेला आहे. (सही/-) **मुख्याधिकारी** अक्कलकोट नगरपरिषद

# GOVT & POLITICS



#### **DELHI CONFIDENTIAL**



#### RELICS, BONDING

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju returned to Delhi from Mongolia after a five-day visit where he took with him the holy relics of Lord Buddha. Apart from meeting Mongolian President Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukhand and the law minister, Rijiju also attended a cultural event hosted to boost ties between the two nations. Playback singer Mohit Chauhan and a contingent of Ladakh Scouts of Indian Army performed at the event. The Kapilvastu relics have been put on display for 11-days at the Ganden Tegchenling Monastery in Mongolia in a bid to boost cultural ties.

#### POST UNDER CLOUD

Now that the Congress has appointed senior leader Jairam Ramesh as the AICC general secretary in-charge of communication, publicity and media, including social and digital media, many are wondering about the fate of Rohan Gupta, the chairman of the social media department of the party. A senior leader said Gupta and his department will no longer be a "sovereign independent republic" and that he will report to Ramesh. The question is whether he will continue or the party will accommodate him in some other

#### CARE FOR THE ROYAL

Ahead of the June 23 bypolls to four seats, reports of political violence are pouring in from various parts of Tripura. In the hills, workers of the BJP and the fledgling outfit TIPRA Motha have clashed repeatedly over the last few days, triggering a war of words between the BIP's tribal leadership and royal scion Pradyot Debbarman. On Thursday, Debbarman was admitted to a local private hospital after he complained of discomfort. Former chief minister Biplab Deb, who recently deviated from the party line by appealing to Pradyot to support the BJP for its "dignified treatment of the royal house", rushed to the hospital to enquire about

# Agnipariksha to path of fire, Opp demands rethink

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, JUNE 16

OPPOSITION PARTIES on Thursday hit out at the Centre over its short-service recruitment scheme for the forces, Agnipath. While the Congress called the scheme "poorly conceived" and "hastily drawn up", and asked the government to keep it in 'abeyance" and hold "wide consultations" with serving and retired officers, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav called it "negligent" and potentially "fatal" for India's future.

The Left parties asked the government to scrap it, with CPI(M) saying that the scheme does "disservice to India's national interests", as "professional armed forces cannot be raised by recruiting 'soldiers on contract' for four years". The party also called it "criminal" to "call upon our youth to be prepared to make the supreme sacrifice without the minimum protection of job security"

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to listen to the voice of unemployed youths and not take "agnipariksha (trial by fire)" of their patience by making them walk on Agnipath, while RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav said the Centre had promised to create 80 crore jobs by 2022 and has now come up with an MGN-REGA-like scheme for the educated youth in defence services.

Delhi CM and AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal said: "The youth are upset. Their demands are absolutely right. The Army is India's pride, and our youth want to give their entire life to the country. Don't tie their dreams to the provision of four years.

BSP chief Mayawati said the scheme is "unfair" towards the rural youth and urged the Centre to immediately "reconsider" it.

Addressing the media at AICC headquarters with Ajay Maken and Sachin Pilot, former Union minister PChidambaram said the scheme is "controversial, carries multiple risks, subverts the long-



Chidambaram, flanked by Maken and Pilot, addresses media on Thursday. Anil Sharma

standing traditions and ethos of the armed forces and there is no guarantee that soldiers recruited under the scheme will be better trained and motivated...".

He said: "Our first concern is that Agnipath soldier will be trained for six months and will serve for another 42 months when 75 per cent of the recruits will be discharged. It appears the scheme makes a mockery of training; inducts into the defence forces an ill-trained and ill-motivated soldier; and discharges a disappointed and unhappy exsoldier into society...

He said the stated objective of savings on the pension bill of the forces is a weak argument and has not been established beyond doubt. "We fear the scheme may turn out to be a case of 'penny wise and security foolish'," he said. "We would urge the government to keep the Agnipath scheme in abevance, hold wide consultations with serving and retired officers, and address the issues of quality, efficiency and economy...'

The CPI(M) Politburo stated, "Instead of recruiting regular soldiers into the armed forces, this scheme leaves such contract soldiers with no other prospects of employment after their four years. This creates a dangerous situation where they may end up serving private militias...'

CPI general secretary D Raja tweeted, "Finding jobs has become literally a 'Path of Fire' under Modi. The Government is trying to hoodwink the restive youth with the Agnipath scheme. It will make our army contract-based and jeopardise the future of our youth...



Youth Congress workers protest against Agnipath scheme at Jantar Mantar. Abhinav Saha

#### Recruitment scheme: Who stands where

#### **OPP PROTESTS**

"No rank, no pension, no direct recruitment for 2 years, no stable future after four years, no respect shown by the government for the army... Listen to the voice of unemployed youths of the country, don't take 'agnipareeksha' of their patience..., Mr. prime minister."

RAHUL GANDHI, CONGRESS

"NDA has a fanciful idea of addressing unemployment. Job in the defence forces commands a lot of respect. Now, who will go for fouryear service? The scheme will also deprive candidates of pusuing higher studies... An Army-trained person without any other qualification can not seek re-employment.'

SUBODH KUMAR MEHTA, RJD NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON

#### **BJP BACKS SCHEME**

"The protest is due to a sustained misinformation campaign by a section of the Opposition. The scheme came up after consultation with experts...(After 4 yrs) they can apply for police, other jobs.' **GURU PRAKASH PASWAN,** 

BJP NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON

"Agnipath Yojana will give a new dimension to youngsters' lives. It will lay a golden base for their future.

YOGI ADITYANATH, UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

#### ALLY DIFFERS "It will

dilute the long existing distinct ethos of regiments.. four year service is too short for a soldier...Hiring soldiers for four years, with effective service of three years... not at all

militarily a good idea." **CAPT AMARINDER** SINGH.

PUNJAB LOK CONGRESS CHIEF

THE LONE VOICE of dissent on the issue in the BJP, MP Varun Gandhi wrote a letter to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, saying youths have shared their doubts with him about the "radical changes in the soldiers" recruitment process". As 75 per cent of soldiers will become "unemployed" after four years, he said, their total numbers will keep rising every year and give rise to more disaffection among the youth.

### NIOS to launch special courses for Agniveers who have cleared Class 10

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, JUNE 16

THE MINISTRY of Education Thursday announced a special programme through the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) to support the Agnipath scheme of soldier recruitment

Under the initiative, NIOS will develop customised courses to help 'Agniveers', who have cleared matriculation, to obtain Class 12 pass certificates.

A statement issued by the Education Ministry said the certificates to be issued by the NIOS will be recognised for higher education as well as employment.

"The Department of School Education & Literacy through its autonomous institution, the National Institute of Open Schooling, is instituting a special programme in consultation with the defence authorities to enable those Agniveers who are 10th class pass... by developing customised courses that are not only current but very relevant to their area of service," it added.

Education Dharmendra Pradhan said the programme will be "relevant to the spirit of the Agnipath scheme". "This certificate will equip Agniveers with relevant knowledge & skills and enable them to pursue jobs and higher education across India," he tweeted.

On Wednesday, the ministry had said it will launch a threeyear, skill-based Bachelor's degree programme for serving defence personnel that will recognise the skills they acquire during their tenure in the armed forces. IGNOU will implement the programme, it added.

Congress leader

#### Won't be silenced: Afreen whose house was bulldozed

New Delhi: Student activist Afreen Fatima, whose family house in Prayagraj was bulldozed follow $ingher father Javed\,Mohammed \hbox{'s}$ arrest in connection with violence in the city, Thursday said she and her community would not be silenced despite "threats".

Javed and Fatima are members of the Welfare Party of India -she is national secretary of the Fraternity Movement, the student wing of the party. Javed was arrested as one of the alleged coconspirators of the June 10 violence over suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma's comments on the Prophet.

"I stand in absolute solidarity with all Muslim families whose houses have been demolished. she said. "No matter how much you try to scare us... we will not keep quiet or be silenced, nor are we going to disappear from this country," she said. **ENS** 

# India-ASEAN conclave: Foreign ministers agree on unified response to global issues

NEW DELHI, JUNE 16

AS EXTERNAL Affairs minister S Jaishankar flagged the "geopolitical headwinds" triggered by the Ukraine crisis and its knock-on effects on food, energy security, prices of fertilisers and commodities as well as logistics and supply chains, foreign ministers of India and ASEAN countries on Thursday agreed to uphold multilateralism in jointly responding to the regional and global challenges.

With Myanmar not participating in the India-ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting, the joint statement issued after the meeting did not mention the situation

in the country. In a statement obliquely referring to China's assertiveness in the region, the statement said that they reaffirmed the "commitment to multilateralism founded on the principles of the



S Jaishankar at the the Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' meeting in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and other relevant UN treaties and conventions, maintain an open and inclusive regional cooperation framework, support ASEAN Centrality in the evolving rules-based regional architecture, uphold multilateralism in jointly responding to regional and global challenges".

Jaishankar said that India fully supports a strong, unified and prosperous ASEAN with a central role in the Indo-Pacific and both sides should identify a new set of priorities while navigating the "arduous path" arising from developments in Ukraine. India is hosting the two-day

conclave to mark the 30th anniversary of its relations with the

Ties with region's key grouping

ASEAN, a 10-nation

grouping, is considered one of the most influential groupings in Southeast Asia. India and several other countries, including the US, China, Japan and Australia, are its dialogue partners. The ASEAN-India dialogue relations started with the establishment of a sectoral partnership in 1992. This graduated to full dialogue partnership in December 1995 and summit-level partnership in 2002.

10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

## before ED on June 20 EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE JAIRAM IS CONG'S NEW

Rahul's next appearance

RAHUL GANDHI, who was supposed to appear before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday for questioning in connection with the National Herald case, will now appear before the agency on Monday. Sources said Rahul sought exemption from appearance on Friday and it was accepted by the agency.

Rahul was questioned by the ED for three straight days since Monday. He first sought exemption from appearance on Thursday, following which he was called on Friday. 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 the AJL was

# **COMMUNICATION HEAD**

New Delhi: The Congress on Thursday appointed senior leader Jairam Ramesh as AICC general secretary in-charge of communication, publicity and media, replacing Randeep Surjewala who was heading the department since 2015. The appointment came a month after the party at its Udaipur chintan shivir decided to implement 'one person, one post' in the party and impose a five-year term limit for those holding positions at all levels.

acquired by Young Indian in 2010 for a "pittance", making it in turn the owner of all assets owned by the National Herald newspaper.

Rahul's mother Sonia Gandhi is scheduled to appear before the ED later this month.

### 'grabs cop's collar', booked

Hyderabad: Police here on leader Renuka Congress Chowdhury for allegedly grabbing the collar of a police officer during the 'Chalo Raj Bhavan' protest against the ED's questioning of Rahul Gandhi.

As Congress leaders, workers and NSUI activists smashed windows of buses and burnt a twowheeler of a police officer, in a video that went viral, Chowdhury was seen grabbing a sub-inspector by his collar as she protested against being forcibly removed from the protest site.

Officers said a case against Chowdhury has been filed for obstructing a public servant from discharging his duty under IPC section 353. Chowdhury said the policemen touched her first, tried to move her from the spot and in retaliation, she defended herself. "I have no intention of hitting policemen. I was being manhandled." she said. ENS

# In Azamgarh campaign, BSP's 'local vs outsiders' pitch takes hold

**LALMANI VERMA** AZAMGARH, JUNE 16

THE LOK Sabha by-election in Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav's former constituency of Azamgarh on June 23 will see a triangular contest between the main Opposition

party, the ruling BJP, and the BSP. While the BJP is hoping for public goodwill for the Yogi Adityanath and Narendra Modi governments to help wrest the seat from the SP, the Opposition party is banking on its Muslim-Yadav vote bank, The Mayawatiled BSP, meanwhile, is making a pitch for its local candidate to be chosen over the "outsiders" fielded by the bigger parties.

The SP has fielded Akhilesh's cousin and former Badaun MP Dharmendra Yadav. The BJP has once again placed its trust on Bhojpuri actor-singer Dinesh Lal Akhilesh in 2019. The ruling party has its task cut out as it lost all five Assembly segments in Azamgarh – Gopalpur, Sagri, Mubarakpur, Azamgarh Sadar, and Mehnagar - in the state polls earlier this year.

The BSP, which won only one Assembly seat in the state elections this year, has fielded its former MLA Shah Alam, popularly known as Guddu Jamali, with the hopes of getting the Muslim community's support along with Dalit votes. Jamali, a businessman, recently rejoined the BSP after losing the state elections from Mubarakpur on an AIMIM ticket.

Making the local candidate versus "outsiders" argument that seems to have resonated with some voters, Jamali told *The Indian* Express, "I am a local and people have seen my devotion. I have been MLA from Mubarakpur for 10 years. They know and understand me. Others (the BJP and the

SP) have come from outside and will return after the polls. People did not find Mulayam Singh Yadav and Akhilesh in the constituency after the elections. Nirahua is from Ghazipur but lives in Mumbai. I am more accessible. I understand the problems here. Other candidates don't know this area."

To blunt his line of attack, Dharmendra Yadav recently spent around four hours at a workers' meeting in Mubarakpur and let regional leaders of the SP and the party's ally Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party address the crowd first. At the event, several Muslim leaders appealed to the crowd to vote for the SP to restore "Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb (Hindu-Muslim syncretism)" and set the foundation for dislodging the BJP

from power in 2024. "While the BJP and SP candidates are outsiders, Jamali is a local leader. He helped people with free oxygen cylinders and food

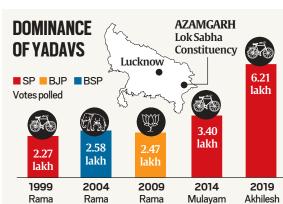


Kant





IN FRAY: Dharmendra Yadav, Guddu Jamali and Nirahua



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Yadav

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Yadav

Singh

Yadav

during the Covid pandemic. He will get the votes of Muslims, along with Dalits and backwards, because of his reputation," Mumtaj Ahmed, who lives in Iamudi village

In the adjoining hamlet of Asaul, Numan Ahmed said, "Muslims hold the key in this byelections. Both the SP and the BSP will get Muslim votes. The result will depend on who gets the maximum Muslim votes. Muslims are upset with Akhilesh because of his silence on Muslim-related issues recently... Jamali will get Dalit votes, but here there are fewer Dalits compared to Yadavs."

All three candidates have been drawing crowds to their public meetings, with Nirahua's events a big hit among the youth because of his popularity in the region. In 2019, when he finished second behind Akhilesh, the SP and the BSP had contested in alliance and a large chunk of the Mayawati-led party's Dalit votes had transferred to the SP chief. But the popular actor has to

contend with some Muslim voters' anger with the BIP over recent incidents related to the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi and the police action against protesters demonstrating against now-suspended BIP leader Nupur Sharma's remarks on the Prophet.

"Have you seen the way young boys were beaten up? Is that justified?" asked Jiauddin, a resident of Magrawan village. Jiauddin, who claims to run a YouTube channel on local news, said if the SP was sure of receiving the support of Yadavs and Muslims it should have fielded a local leader.

At nearby Bisham village, where Jatav Dalits have a strong presence, voters appeared committed to electing the BSP candidate. They said that in the past governments led by the party had given them "social security".

Hariharpur village, where a government display board claims that the village had been electrified in 2020, farmer Harilal Yadav said he would vote for the SP. "Nirahua is also Yadav but his identity is that of a film actor," Harilal said. He claimed that a majority of the houses in his village got electricity connections during Akhilesh's tenure and the Yogi Adityanath government only built on the SP government schemes.

But Rakesh Yadav rejected his claim: "Yogi-ji has removed the loopholes in the system. Now, we are not dependent on middlemen to get work done."

The BJP has deployed two Yadav leaders - MoS Girish Chandra Yadav and MP Sangeeta Yadav – for campaigning. "BJP will win because of the work done by the our governments in UP and Centre," said Girish Yadav.

#### WORDLY WISE

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere

— Martin Luther King Ir.

# The Indian EXPRESS

Sounded By 
 RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

# AGENCY & THANA

Congress outrage over ED may not find much of an echo. But police action at its office strikes many a disturbing chord

HE CONGRESS'S FULL-THROATED protests against the ED questioning of Rahul Gandhi over three days in the National Herald money laundering case raise questions. Why does the party get agitated only on the alleged targeting of its leader, and not, say, on a range of issues where hard questions need to be asked and answers demanded, from bulldozers trampling due process in BJP-ruled states to witch-hunt of Opposition leaders, not just the First Son. Even on the issue of political vendetta, why does the Congress seem so isolated? Those are the questions for the Congress. But the images of police overzealousness that have also come in over the last few days from the heart of the national capital, stretching from the Congress Headquarters to the office of the Enforcement Directorate, have touched off another set of questions these must be answered by the BJP government that Delhi Police reports to. Photos and videos of the barricading of the Congress office, of police entering the premises and pulling and dragging officebearers and workers, the rough treatment meted out to a Youth Congress leader and a woman Congress MP, are unseemly. Admittedly, the scene of action was a high security zone, prohibitory orders were in place. And yet, the police heavyhandedness on show in response to what was, after all, a legitimate political protest even if a limited one, underlines a larger and disturbing tendency of the BIP-led Centre vis a vis political opponents and dissenters — to favour the police response over the political.

If the health of a democracy is also measured by the safe, and indeed respectful, spaces that it provides for dissent, disagreement and protest, the last few years have not painted a rosy picture. The record of BJP governments, be it the Modi government at the Centre or the Yogi government in UP, has been scarred by an intolerance of political opponents and others who ask questions or oppose its politics and policy. In a democracy, the winner does not take all. And winning the mandate, even winning it decisively, does not mean an end to all argument — it only casts a responsibility on the ruling party to reach out and negotiate, to persuade and accommodate. The BJP's fantasy of an "Opposition-mukt" India would be a colourless and chilling place, if it ever came true.

The political battle between the Congress and the BJP seems currently skewed comprehensively in the latter's favour, and the Opposition is divided and fragmented. Even in the present instance, the Congress has hit the streets, but its indignation over the ED questioning of its leader has notably failed to strike a chord with the people at large or with other Opposition parties. There may be no political or electoral penalties to pay for the BJP, therefore, for denying space for protest to the main Opposition party. But the rules of the game, written and sometimes unwritten, call for the government to show respect to those who stand, or agitate, on the other side of the political fence. By not doing so, the ruling party keeps steadily corroding its victories.

## Prelude to 5G

Government has eased terms of spectrum auction, but high reserve price and allocations for enterprises will pose problems

N WEDNESDAY, THE Union cabinet took the first steps towards rolling out 5G services, approving the auction of spectrum. The auction, which will include spectrum across multiple frequency bands, is slated to commence on July 26. The government has eased some of the constraints that had emerged as irritants in the past — a fair amount of spectrum has been put up for the auction, usage charge has been dropped, and payment terms have been eased. However, some issues warrant closer attention.

For one, the reserve price of spectrum has been retained by the government, despite demands from the telecom operators to review it. Telcos have, in the past, made the case for around 90 per cent reduction in the reserve price. However, in line with the recommendations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), which were also accepted by the Digital Communications Commission (DCC), the reduction in the reserve price has been of a much lower magnitude, around 35-40 per cent. Thus, considering the high reserve price for the 700 MHz band, there is a possibility that this band may remain unsold this time as well. As per some estimates, industry is likely to fork out around Rs 1.1 lakh crore in these auctions. This will imply that the debt burden of the already over indebted telcos will increase further. However, considering that the payment for the spectrum can be spread out over 20 equal installments, it will ease immediate cash flow concerns. The government has also allowed bidders the option to give up the spectrum after 10 years, without any liability for the balance payment. Second, the government has made it possible for enterprises, mostly tech companies, to be directly allocated spectrum by the Department of Telecommunications to engage in the Internet of Things (IoT), machine to machine communications etc. Telcos had earlier opposed this move on grounds of a potential loss in their revenues – according to their estimates, 40 per cent of 5G revenues accrue from the enterprise services. However, the government has leaned on the side of the tech companies. Doing so, after all, would also serve as an additional source of revenue.

Considering that 5G has more of enterprise use cases, at least in the initial years, the network capital expenditure is likely to be relatively low early on. But as retail use cases evolve, a successful rollout of 5G services across the country will lay the ground for a digital transformation, having wide ranging implications for economic activity.

## LIFE, NOT-LIFE

Google engineer's claim that LaMDA is sentient AI touches off questions about humanity's relationship with machines

IKTOR FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER could just as easily have been his friend.
The creature from Mary Shelley's 1818 novel wanted more than anything to be accepted, to have a companion. And he continues to be the archetype — of both dreams and nightmares — for our conceptions of artificial sentience, and problems with technology that blur the line between life and not-life.

Is the now-suspended Google engineer Blake Lemoine's claim — informed by his self-confessed "religious beliefs" — that the advanced AI chatbot LaMDA has (self) consciousness, tenable? The consensus in the aftermath of his revelations appears to be that it is not. Very simply put, most experts within and outside Google assert that the software can merely mimic human interactions and consciousness through a machine learning algorithm that relies on millions of interactions. Yet, according to Lemoine, LaMDA gave reasons for how it felt, even talking of emotions that are indescribable. This begs the question: When does personhood occur? A toddler may just copy behaviours, without reasoning, as she learns. Couldn't LaMDA be that phase, after language first makes an appearance and before meta-reasoning is achieved, for sentient AI? Given how little is known, still, about the emergence of consciousness and sentience, a little open-mindedness is perhaps in order.

For the lonely, the rise of artificial intelligence can be a balm. For the biological conservative, wedded to the prevalent idea of community and society, the rise of self-conscious machines is the manifestation of Frankenstein's monster. While LaMDA is unlikely to be a person, an artificial person is certainly on the way, according to experts, whether five, 15 or 50 years from now. It might be a good idea to treat the almost-sentient machines well until then.

# Congress in its labyrinth



Its protests against ED summons to Rahul Gandhi point to misplaced priorities, diminished capabilities

Suhas Palshikar

THE CURRENT REGIME has converted the use of investigative and enforcement agencies into a political art. Hardly a day passes without some agency taking action against some Opposition leader. Such brazen use of official agencies throws up a dilemma for the Opposition: If it ignores such official enthusiasm in pursuing investigation, it can be read as mute submission, but on the other hand, protesting against it distracts the Opposition from its main tasks.

This dilemma has been witnessed in recent days by the Congress when the Enforcement Directorate summoned Rahul Gandhi and questioned him on consecutive days. The Congress chose to mobilise its senior leaders for protesting against the ED. The Delhi Police enforced prohibitory orders resulting in detention of party workers and even senior leaders. This could be possibly classified as the compulsions of the dominant party system we live in. The Opposition is pushed into the corner so much that it uses every executive action for protesting against the ruling party.

Most parties succumb to this trap and choose to get distracted. While protests against such investigations appear to give them temporary visibility, they also betray the internal asymmetry because only when a top leader is targeted, followers are encouraged to get scandalised whereas when middle-rung leaders face investigations, they are left alone to languish in custody or face the music. Protests against investigating agencies seldom produce public sympathy because of the nature of the allegations. In this way, the regime has ensured a shrinking of the political space, both because it pushes the targeted leaders out of action and because protests signify that politics will be further distanced from critical issues of policy and governance.

However, in the present case, the problem is broader than merely the tricks of the regime and the compulsions of the dominant party system. It pertains to the web of compulsions created by the Congress party itself. For eight years now, the Congress has been groping in the dark on issues to mobilise its cadres and more importantly, to mobilise the masses against the ruling party. And yet, the summons to Rahul Gandhi by

Even as the ED issued the summons and was investigating the National Herald case, in Uttar Pradesh, the BIP government was using bulldozers against protestors. One would have thought that this is a much more serious political challenge than the quizzing of Rahul Gandhi. The action in UP required more scandal and determination to fight because it shrank the idea of political protests. It also shrank the rule of law by short-circuiting judicial procedure. For the Opposition, this is a major menace because it puts into the danger zone ordinary party workers who participate in protests. But the Congress prioritised the ED summons to Rahul Gandhi.

the ED seems to have galvanised its top leadership into action. While it decries the ED inquiry as political vendetta, its own actions appear too theatrical to be politically relevant. On the one hand, Congress protests appear as an attempt to upscale Rahul Gandhi's image while on the other hand, the focus on action in Delhi means that even within the party there is no depth to the action. Therein lies the tragedy of the Congress. When it acts, it does not result in serious political action and it is often missing when action is expected from the Opposition.

Even as the ED issued the summons and was investigating the National Herald case, in Uttar Pradesh, the BJP government was using bulldozers against protestors. One would have thought that this is a much more serious political challenge than the quizzing of Rahul Gandhi. The action in UP required more scandal and determination to fight because it shrank the idea of political protests. It also shrank the rule of law by short-circuiting judicial procedure. For the Opposition, this is a major menace because it puts into the danger zone ordinary party workers who participate in protests. But the Congress prioritised the ED summons to Rahul Gandhi.

In a sense, we have three different platforms of protest mobilisation. One is when a major leader of the party is allegedly harassed through investigative action. The other is when ordinary workers are put in jeopardy through executive autocracy. The third platform consists of more pervasive issues engulfing ordinary citizens. Price rise and similar adversities faced by the citizens constitute the third platform.

So, how does the Congress operate on these three platforms? While we are witnessing visible protests by senior leaders on the first issue, on the second we only have nominal verbal protestations. In the case of the most potent platform of citizen adversities, the party fails to mobilise both its cadres and the general public. This speaks of two things — about the party's priorities and its capabilities.

Protecting a certain leader seems to be the main priority of the party. Therefore, it chooses to bring in its top guns to protest in Delhi and ensure that their loyalties are adequately displayed. These protests may also build up to the second ascension of Rahul Gandhi. In other words, everything is connected to intra-party dynamics. No direct connect with ordinary people is involved in this choice. It also fails to connect the action to the more general harassment of its own party workers by the regime. Had the Congress been serious about expanding the scope of the issue, it could have tried to garner support from other non-BJP parties because many of them face similar treatment from investigative agencies. Instead, the Congress turned this into a simple agenda of protecting Rahul Gandhi and ensuring an im-

pressive show in his support. This episode also speaks about the capabilities of the party. It is unable to mobilise the ordinary public. It knows that the questioning of Rahul Gandhi is not an emotive issue beyond the close circle of Rahul supporters. But more than that, even on larger issues of freedom to protest and the livelihood of citizens, the credibility of the party is quite limited. As an Opposition party, during the past eight years the Congress has done so little that today it is impossible for it to stir the imagination of the masses and enthuse them to come to the streets. This inability to generate trust and mobilise the masses is a sad achievement of the party.

Thus the Congress seems engulfed in multiple existential compulsions of its own. First, it fails to see what political action is most urgently needed in the present moment. Second, it believes that leadership of the party must remain with only a family-based set of saviours. Three, the party puts a premium on display of loyalty to the leading family. As a result, any threat - internal or from outside - to the leading family is seen as a major challenge. Fourth, and fresh from the chintan shivir, the party manifests a complete lack of awareness about political priorities in picking up issues. And finally, as a result of all this, the party cannot mobilise the ordinary masses on their own issues and sufferings stemming from mis-governance by the ruling party. The protests against ED only indicate that a reversal of these compulsions remains a far cry.

The writer, based in Pune, taught political science and is chief editor of Studies in Indian Politics



# IN THE SHADOW OF SANCTIONS

Iran foreign minister's visit reaffirms resolve of two countries to strengthen ties

DEEPIKA SARASWAT

IRAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER Hossein Amir-Abdollahian's three-day visit to India, last week, was the first ministerial-level visit from Iran since Ebrahim Raisi assumed the Iranian presidency in August last year. In keeping with the "Asia-oriented" foreign policy of the Raisi government, Abdollahian has visited Moscow and Beijing. President Raisi visited Russia in January this year.

The sanctions imposed by the US on Iran after Tehran withdrew from the nuclear deal in 2018 may have virtually destroyed India-Iran trade, especially India's energy imports from Iran, but the geopolitical logic underpinning relations between the two countries remains firm. The "Tehran Declaration" signed during former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's visit to Iran affirmed the shared vision of the two countries for an "equitable, pluralistic and co-operative international order". It recognised then Iranian President Mohammad Khatami's vision of a "dialogue among civilisations" as a paradigm of international relations based on principles of tolerance, pluralism and respect for diversity. Two decades later, as India strengthens new partnerships within its regional vision centred on the Indo-Pacific, and Iran deepens relations with China and Russia, both countries remain driven by the goals of advancing their standing at the regional and global level. Both are keen to project themselves as independent

As India strengthens new partnerships within its regional vision centred on the Indo-Pacific, and Iran deepens relations with China and Russia, both countries remain driven by the goals of advancing their standing at the regional and global level. Both are keen to project themselves as independent strategic actors determined to play a role in shaping a new multipolar order in their shared Eurasian neighbourhood and also at the global level.

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Over the last three decades, since the emergence of independent landlocked countries in Central Asia, as Iran has sought to leverage its crossroad geographical location straddling the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea, India has come to see it as its land bridge to Central Asia and Eurasia. Despite the difficulties posed by decades of American sanctions, Iran has, along with India, Russia and a few other countries in the Eurasian region. continued to work on the multi-modal International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC). As Abdollahian wrapped up his India visit, India-bound Russia cargo containers embarked from Russia's Astrakhan port to Iran's Anzali port across the Caspian Sea en route to India's Nhava Sheva port. During Raisi's visit to Moscow, the two sides had pledged to redouble their efforts to build the railway line between Iran's Caspian port of Rasht and Astara on the Iran-Azerbaijan border. The 130-km line will connect the railway networks of Iran, Azerbaijan and Russia. The activation of an alternative Caspian Sea route speaks volumes about the positive outlook of Iran, India and Russia on this corridor despite a variety of geopolitical challenges.

f geopolitical challenges. Iran's Chabahar port, where India is developing two berths that it will lease for commercial operations for 10 years, is also a story of perseverance in the ties between the two countries. During consultations with his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar, Abdollahian brought up the "sluggish" pace of the port's development. Tehran has maintained that Chabahar does not seek to rival Pakistan's Gwadar port being developed by China. However, Iran does have a few like-minded partners when it comes to developing Chabahar. Since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, Pakistan is leading the efforts to link Central Asia with Karachi through a trans-Afghan railway. Delhi is pushing for integrating Chabahar into the 13-nation INSTC. The maiden India-Central Asia summit, held in January, agreed on creating a Joint

Working Group on Chabahar.
India abstained during the recent voting on the resolution by the US and its allies to censure Iran at the IAEA. This is in keeping with its stance of resolving the issue through dialogue. While the revival of the nuclear deal could give a fillip to India's economic ties with Iran, India's interests in continental Asia will be served well by heeding Abdollahian's call for developing a long-term roadmap for bilateral relations.

The writer is Associate Fellow, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses



### JUNE 17, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

#### New Postings

THE UNION GOVERNMENT finalised a major reshuffle of secretaries. M. Narasimham, executive director, International Monetary Fund, will be posted as the secretary for economic affairs in the Union Finance Ministry. He succeeds R N Malhotra, who will take his place in the IMF. Manmohan Singh, member secretary, Planning Commission, will succeed I G Patel as Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. S Ramanathan, special commissioner for Karnataka will be the new secretary for fertilisers and chemicals. The present secretary, KV Ramanathan, moves to the Planning Commission as officer on special

duty with the rank of a secretary. A new post of special secretary in the Home Ministry to look after the eastern region has been created. P P Nayyar, chief secretary, Bihar, will be the new special secretary.

#### MLA SHOT DEAD

R ZADINGA, A newly elected People's Conference MLA of the Mizoram Legislative Assembly was shot dead by suspected MNF guerrillas at Lungrang village in his constituency in Aizwal district at 11 o'clock at night. He had been elected in the by-elections held last month. The assassins escaped under the cover of darkness. Security has

been tightened further all over Mizoram and parts of Aizwal town have been placed under night curfew.

#### ISRAELI INVASION

ISRAELI COMMANDOS, ADVANCING under covering shellfire from their Lebanese Christian allies, captured the science faculty of the Lebanese University from guerrillas of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, the state-run Lebanese radio reported. The campus, alongside the main runway of Beirut international airport, had been a major Palestinian strongpoint since Lebanon's 1975-76 civil war.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2022

# THE IDEAS PAGE

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"To Boris Johnson, the policy reality of government is of far less concern than being the head of it. Deporting asylum seekers to Rwanda matters less than being believed ready and willing to do it. What always concerns Johnson most is not what he does but what he is."

# Justice more complete

Recent intervention by the Supreme Court suggests that there is a concerted effort to plug procedural gaps in death penalty sentencing, building on the vision outlined in 'Bachan Singh'



Anup Surendranath

IN A JUDGMENT delivered last month, the Supreme Court, in Manoj & others v. State of MP, embarked on a significant attempt to reform the administration of the death penalty. Though the constitutional validity of the punishment was not an issue in this case, the judgment by Justices UU Lalit, Ravindra Bhat, and Bela Trivedi will occupy a prominent place in India's criminal justice jurisprudence for its reflections on the state of the death penalty in the country and its attempt to fix a broken sentencing system. However, achieving meaningful compliance across all levels of the judiciary will be a significant challenge and so will translating these procedural reforms into substantive fairness in determining punishment.

There has long been a judicial crisis in death penalty sentencing on account of unprincipled sentencing, arbitrariness and worrying levels of subjectivity. The crisis has been acknowledged by the Supreme Court, the Law Commission of India, research scholars and civil society groups. At the heart of this concern is the fact that death penalty sentencing has been, by and large, crime-centric. This approach has flown in the face of the requirements imposed on sentencing judges by the Supreme Court in Bachan Singh (1980). In essence, the ruling of the five-judge bench in this case laid down a framework to be followed by judges who have to choose between life imprisonment and death sentence. This framework made it binding for the sentencing judges to take into account factors relating to both the crime and accused  $and\,assign\,them\,appropriate\,weight. Judges$ couldn't decide to impose the death penalty only on the basis of the crime. The background of the accused, the personal circumstances, mental health and age were considerations a sentencing judge had to account for. Judges were required to weigh "mitigating" and "aggravating" factors to ascertain if a case was fit for the death sentence and also determine if the option of life imprisonment was "unquestionably foreclosed"

The four decades since Bachan Singh have shown us that this framework has been followed more in breach. The truth of the matter is that there is utter confusion across all levels of the judiciary on the requirements of this framework and its implementation. An important reason for the breakdown is that factors relating to the crime — the nature of the crime and its brutality - are often dominant considerations, and there is barely any consideration of mitigating factors. There has been very little discussion on bringing the socioeconomic profile of death row prisoners as a mitigating factor into the courtroom. There is now empirical evidence that a vast majority of India's death row prisoners are extremely poor and often do not receive competent legal representation. In the last four decades, we have tried to implement the Bachan Singh framework without really addressing the measures that need to be put in place to gather the information required to give effect to the verdict.

The significance of last month's judgment, authored by Justice Ravindra Bhat, is that it takes this problem head-on. It identifies the lacuna as an explicit concern, states the consequences that flow from



such a vital gap, and suggests measures to plug it. The judgment is clear that certain procedural thresholds must be met for sentencing to be fair and explicitly rejects (once again) the idea that death sentences can be determined solely on crime-based considerations. A striking part of the judgment is its commitment to recognising reformation as integral to the Indian criminal justice system, especially death penalty sentencing. It asks the state and sentencing judges (as a condition for imposing death sentences) to establish that there is no probability of reformation of the accused. The verdict recognises that aspects of the accused's life, both pre-offence and post-offence in prison, are relevant. As practical steps in this process, the judgment asks courts to call for reports from the probation officer as well as prison and independent mental health experts. The state too must present material that speaks to a wide range of factors. The right of the accused to present mitigating factors and rebut the state, if necessary, is also

Along with a suo motu writ petition on the collection of sentencing information in death sentence cases that the bench headed by Justice Lalit is currently seized of, there is now a concerted effort to plug procedural gaps in death penalty sentencing. It is obvious that the manner in which death penalty sentencing is being carried out across different levels of the judiciary is constitutionally unsustainable. These glaring sentencing errors have also been pointed out in a series of death sentence judgments from the benches headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao in Court 5 of the Supreme Court.

The attempts to bring about procedural

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coherence and integrity will face significant challenges in the trial courts and the high courts and it is far from certain that these re $forms\,will\,be\,meaning fully\,implemented\,in$ those forums. Apart from this issue of implementation, even if detailed and highquality sentencing information is to come into our courtrooms, a bigger challenge awaits. The judicial treatment of sentencing information is a Pandora's box that will inevitably have to be opened. The Supreme Court will have to provide a rigorous normative basis for consideration of these factors. In the absence of such foundations, death penalty sentencing will continue to be unprincipled and sentencing judges are not going to understand the need for this wide range of sentencing information. And that might well be a question that the public at large might ask: Why should we care about all these sentencing factors concerning the accused? The answer to that lies in crucial discussions on moral culpability for our actions in psychology and philosophy. There is now overwhelming evidence from psychology that criminality cannot just be reduced to terrible decisions by individuals in the exercise of their free will. All our actions are a result of a complex web of biological, psychological, and social factors and that understanding has a very significant bearing on discussions on criminality and punishment.

The writer is the SK Malik Chair Professor on Access to Justice and executive director, Project 39A at National Law University, Delhi. Project 39A provided pro bono legal assistance to the accused in Manoj & Ors. v. State of MP

# What the bulldozer demolishes

When it razes my home to the ground, it seeks to destroy not just the structure that I built but also my courage to speak up



Kapil Sibal

MY HOME is not just a brick-and-mortar structure. Its masonry and whitewashed walls do not even begin to tell the story. Within its womb lies all that I cherish. It saves me from the heat of the blazing sun, protects me from chilling winter nights, and holds the memories that live with me. The joys of my being are cradled within it. It is a place where I can freely breathe, laugh, cry, and give vent to my emotions, away from the gaze of outsiders. It may be a palace or a little hut, but it is my space. That is why each of us wants a home, which we call ours. A home where I am both alone and together, essentially a part of my very being. When you allow a bulldozer to wade through it, you don't just destroy a structure, you destroy the essence of all I am. With it, all of me falls apart. I can never build another

Yes, there are rules and regulations. What rules to abide by when building structures, are coded. Corporations are meant to ensure that homes are built in accordance with the regulations and rules along with the operative bylaws. All of us know that any inspector can come around and find fault with a particular structure despite the fact that for years taxes stand paid, water charges regularly deposited and electricity bills duly honoured. None of this has any relevance when a bulldozer is assigned to demolish.

A bulldozer is a symbol of power, emotionless, cold as steel and it brooks no hindrance. Today, it has no relevance to illegal structures. It has relevance to who I am and what I stand for. It has relevance to what I say in public. It has relevance to my beliefs, my community, my being, my religion. It has relevance to my voice of dissent. When a bulldozer razes my home to the ground, it seeks to demolish not just the structure I built, but my courage to speak up. It seeks to belittle what I stand for, mock at my very existence and trample upon me with implacable arrogance so that I live in constant fear or succumb to the machinations of those who seek to bend me and all that I

I remember old Bollywood movies in which bulldozers symbolised the power of the villainous rich and the mighty, resisted by the courage of ordinary folk led by heroes who dared to stand up and be counted. Attempts of the powerful to aggrandise met with stiff resistance. The audience empathised with the victims and cheered when they were saved by the heroic deeds

of the star performer, often winning over the lass he is in love with. The villain often met his destined end. The key element during the unravelling of these dramatic events was that the state eventually always came to the aid of the victims.

But times have changed. It is now the state that seeks to bulldoze. Its official machinery prostrates itself to the will of its masters notwithstanding the law. It allows homes to be razed to rubble. There is no compunction, no contrition, Instead, lawmakers have become law breakers and there is no one to appeal to and nowhere to go to. Overnight notices, inadequate time to respond, no checking of facts, no reprieve. All these acts violate all norms of civilised conduct, especially norms prescribed by the state itself.

Where should citizens go? The law is there, the lawmaker is there, and courts too are there. But citizens are helpless. There is no time to move the court and often courts have little time to listen. What about civil society? Very few in civil society have the courage to speak up. And If they do, they will be referred to as sympathisers of those who the state targets as a matter of policy. If one seeks to protect those who the law victimises, then trolls start rolling. Opposition to bulldozer justice is associated with being anti-Hindu. Mainstream media starts taking sides, pushing agendas demonising the victims who suffer. Nothing happens.

One must ask the question why of late this is happening and why only in some states? One wonders why is it that all illegal structures are not razed to the ground? If done, cities will be seen as heaps of rubble, given the reality of our cities. At least, the bulldozer that symbolises the power of the state must treat all with an equal hand. This does not happen because discrimination is at the heart of this unjust state enterprise.

Our Bollywood heroes are missing. This is not the mighty private entrepreneur's unjust enterprise. It is the might of the state at work. Opposition makes reprisals inevitable. Protesters gherao theatres, stalling shows. Too much at stake. Some are rumoured to lean towards bulldozer justice. No cause to fight for. Even the public will not applaud. They, instead, might just clap at instant justice provided by bulldozers.

It all happens when right-wing evangelists strike at the belief of others, causing a furore. On occasions, silence is not an option. The result is stone pelting by miscreants - totally unjustified. But it is for the law to take over. It is for the law to identify and punish the offenders. The bulldozer is not a weapon that the law prescribes. But it is a weapon that the law seems to use to teach a lesson. One can only hope that courts of law sit up and take notice. I wonder why they are silent.

> The writer, a former Union Minister, is a senior lawyer

# An ustad of our times

Scholar and teacher Gopichand Narang believed in Urdu's ability to build bridges

Rakhshanda Jalil

GOPICHAND NARANG passed away on Wednesday in Charlotte, USA, surrounded by his family. He was 92. With him an era of Urdu studies ends, for he was the last of the great Urdu ustads of modern times. In a long and illustrious career as a teacher of Urdu, a writer and critic of depth and gravitas, an engaging and eloquent speaker, a tireless organiser of seminars, symposiums and academic interventions, an indefatigable champion of the cause of Urdu, Narang sahab had single-handedly done more for the cause of Urdu in India than many anjumans and associations. His list of publications was formidable, and so was his command over the intricacies of linguistic theory and cultural praxis. What was most heartening, however, was his lifelong belief in the innate ability of Urdu to build bridges, to forge interfaith harmony and emerge as the pre-eminent symbol of composite culture.

I had known Narang sahab as a friend of the family virtually my entire life, but my first real engagement with his work began when I was writing my thesis on the Progressive Writers' Movement in Urdu. I found his seminal work Tehreek-e Azaadi aur Urdu Shairi to be by far the most authoritative study of the post-1857 Urdu literature. What was also interesting was and, in a sense, it bolstered my own fledgling understanding of socially-engaged, socially-purposive literature, was how he viewed 1857 as a significant milestone in the evolution of what he called wataniyat (nationalism) in Urdu poetry. In giving the example of Raia Ram Narain Mauzoon who wrote this sher at the death of his friend Nawab Siraj-ud-daula of Awadh who was killed by the British in the Battle of Plassey in 1757: Ghazala tum to waqif ho kaho Majnun ke marne ki/Diwana mar gaya akhir ko wirane pe kya guzri

Narang sahab drew our attention to how Majnun, the legendary lover of Laila-Majnun fame, becomes here a metaphor for Siraj-uddaula who fired the imagination of many Indians by his heroic resistance to the British. Elsewhere, he cites literary commentaries. compilations of sheher ashob, volumes such as Fughan-e Dehli, texts and commentaries of Maulvi Zakaullah and Zaheer Dehelvi, to paint a very real picture of defeat and despair where people lived lifeless and spiritless lives (bejaan aur berooh zindagi jii rahe thhe). It was only with the dawn of the 20th century, Narang sahab goes on to demonstrate that hubb-e watani (love for the nation) as we understand it today was born and, what is more, found ample reflection in Urdu poetry. I found all this of great value to me in building my entire thesis that nationalism was not a foreign construct, nor was socially-engaged literature an exotic hybrid imported from the Russian motherland and grafted on to Indian soil. It was 1857, really, that caused a burst of political consciousness to seep out and colour our understanding of the world. It changed our ways of seeing the world and, by extension, it changed our literature. I owe a debt of gratitude to Narang sahab and his seminal work on 1857 which in a sense formed the basis of my own understanding of the ghadar and by extension the close relationship between social reality and literary texts. So, today is as good a day as any to acknowledge this debt.

Another thing that I, as neo-convert to Urdu studies generally and to Urdu literary history in particular, have benefitted enormously from is Narang sahab's fondness for putting his thoughts down in a tabular fashion. This is a modern, scientific way of elucidating complex ideas. In his latest book, Urdu Ghazal: A Gift of India's Composite Culture (OUP), as in some of his earlier work he uses the table to explain the basic love triangle of the ghazal's metaphoric structure, the love triangle between the aashiq, the mashuq and the raquib and the many associated metaphors.

Given the recurring controversy over Faiz and his Hum Dekhenge, I am again reminded of Narang sahab's excellent essay, "Tradition and Innovation in Faiz", which talks of Faiz and his use of classical imagery for political themes. Locating Faiz in the same trajectory as Chakbast and Hasrat Mohani, Narang sahab places the progressive poetry of Faiz in the centuries-old shehr ashob tradition. However, unlike the dirge-like laments that were the shehr ashob, Faiz broadened the scope of time-honoured images and symbols and infused a new life and urgency in them. Briefly, some of the most commonly used terms in Faiz's poetry, as identified by Narang sahab which have been invested with a new political agency, are: Ashiq, raqib, ishq, deedar, hijr, firaq, sharab, maikhana, pyala, sagi, zindan, daar-o-rasam and so on.

While Narang sahab lived a rich life, amply studded with awards and encomiums (Padma Bhushan, Moortidevi Award, Sitare Imtiaz, Iqbal Samman, to name a few), over 65 books in Urdu, Hindi and English, his real contribution lies in a life-long commitment to a scholarship that was dynamic, innovative and alive to changing social realities.

Jalil is a Delhi-based author, translator and literary historian

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### JOB CREATION

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The jobs push' (IE, June 16). The Modi government is well aware that so far as job creation is concerned, it stands on a weak wicket. With the next general elections less than two years away, there is a dire need to create employment opportunities to keep the youngsters, a sizable chunk of the voting mass, in BJP's favour. But, as rightly pointed out by the editorial, generation of government jobs will be hamstrung by financial considerations. Hence, the government must provide the right environment for the private sector to do business so that the huge numbers, wanting to join the workforce year after year, are gainfully employed.

Vijai Pant, Hempur

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The jobs push' (IE, June 16). It is clear that the capacity of the government to absorb more labour is limited, and while a step up in manufacturing could create more jobs, this has not happened in the past few years, and it would be optimistic to see it happen soon. The only option appears to be a MGNREGA-like scheme for the urban sector which can at least provide partial employment for the tide of new job entrants. Projects such as AMRUT and Smart Cities could ensure a steady flow of work for the urban MGNREGA.

### **Hemant Contractor,** Pune

#### TOXIC CULTURE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Force of  $change \hbox{'} (\hbox{IE, June 15}). This proposed new$ defence policy "Agnipath" can be termed as MNREGA of defence forces.

Defence forces are notorious for how they treat their young recruits. As per the scheme, upto 25 per cent of the recruits shall be filtered out and regularised. This shall embolden the culture of sycophancy to remain in the good books of senior officers. For all practical purposes, it shall foster exploitation with the sword of Damocles hanging over the budding recruits' heads. The sine qua non for any worker in any field to be motivated is to develop a sense of belongingness to the entity they are serving. The prospective scheme lacks this basic ingredient. Even big corporations that strive to scale down attrition rate have various incentives to keep the workforce engaged and motivated. What happens to all the recruits that wash out into a jobless market is a whole other question.

Deepak Singhal, Noida

#### **BIG MONEY**

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A very big league' (IE, June 16). The IPL seemingly remains immune to extraneous factors. Inflation, the Russia-Ukraine war and a pandemic that refuses to die down have had no bearing on the robust financial underpinnings of this domestic T20 league with an international flavour. The top-dollar yield of the IPL's latest media rights auction for the 2023-27 periods reiterates the monetary strength and brand equity of the league, which has gained incremental strength every year since its inception in 2008. With money in its coffers, the BCCI needs to improve stadiums and increase the number of international fixtures that India's women cricketers play.

SS Paul, Nadia

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

## Black Death: 7 centuries on, new light on plague origins

THE BLACK Death, or the bubonic plague that killed millions across Western Asia, Northern Africa, Middle East and Europe during 1346-53, remains the biggest pandemic in history. While it is known to have been cased by the bacterium Yersinia pestis, its origins have long been uncertain.

Now, a study of ancient Y pestis genomes has determined that the disease originated in modern day northern

Kyrgyzstan around 1338-1339 - nearly 7-8 years before it began to ravage large parts of the world. The findings are described in the journal Nature.

THE PANDEMIC: It is generally understood that Y pestis was spread by fleas carried by rodent hosts. Once it spread to humans, they transmitted it to others either through fleas or directly through the respira-

Contemporaries who wrote about the epidemic often described the buboes (hard, inflamed lymph nodes) as the distinguishing clinical feature. Matteo Villani, the Florentine chronicler, referred to the disease in 1348 as the "mortal disease of buboes" and "pestilence of buboes".

The onset of symptoms was followed by intense fever and vomiting of blood. After the initial infection, most victims died within 2-7 days.

> disease in 1338-1339. Inscriptions stated that the victims died of an unknown epi-

In the new study, the researchers extracted DNA from the teeth of seven people buried at the cemetery and found genetic traces of Y pestis.

NEW RESEARCH of the bacterium, closely related to the ancient strain, are found in plague reservoirs around the Tian

Shan mountains, close to where the ancient strain was found. This indicated that Issyk-Kul was where the Black Death's source strain came from.

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THE FINDINGS: In the late 19th century, excavations of two Christian cemeteries near Lake Issyk-Kul in Kyrgyzstan unearthed a settlement of a trading commu-

nity that had been affected by an unknown demic or "pestilence".

> Genetic analysis then established that modern strains

## **EVERYDAY GLOBAL**

## Northern Ireland Protocol: UK Bill, and legal proceedings by EU

**YASHEE** 

NEW DELHI, JUNE 16

THE EUROPEAN Commission has launched two new legal proceedings against Britain and re-opened another, after the latter proposed legislation that seeks to get it out of some of its Brexit obligations. If pushed through, these proceedings could mean the European Court of Justice fining Britain.

#### The legislation

The new law, yet to be tabled in Parliament, seeks to reduce customs checks and paperwork for trade between Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) and Northern Ireland (which together with Great Britain forms the UK). Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said the changes are "relatively trivial". However, these violate a key part of the 2019 Brexit deal – the Northern Ireland Protocol.

After the UK left the European Union, Northern Ireland remained its only constituent that shared a land border with an EU member, the Republic of Ireland. Therefore, checks would be necessary for goods from Northern Ireland to Ireland. However, given the history of conflict between the two, it was decided the checks would be conducted between Northern Ireland and Great Britain. This was the Northern Ireland Protocol, under which Northern Ireland remains in the EU single market, and inspections of goods from Great Britain take place at ports along the Irish Sea.

#### **UK's objectives**

The UK has agreed that the Northern

Ireland Protocol Bill, unveiled on June 13, violates international law and provisions of the Brexit deal. Citing domestic interests, the UK government has justified it on its website: "The doctrine of necessity provides a clear basis in international law to justify the non-performance of international obligations under certain exceptional and limited conditions."

The checks have made trade cumbersome: Some taxation and spending policies of the UK can't be implemented in Northern Ireland because of EU rules, Also, any kind of border in the Irish Sea irks those who want a united UK. The Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) has paralysed Northern Ireland's parliament since elections in May, refusing to allow a government to be formed until the trade border is softened. If the impasse lasts for six months, fresh elections will have to be called

#### What now

The Bill is likely to face a tough journey in Parliament whenever it is tabled.

The two new suits accuse Britain of failing to ensure adequate staff and infrastructure for checks in Northern Ireland and not providing the EU with sufficient trade data. The other suit, paused a year ago, is about the movement of agri-food products.

European Commission Vice President Maros Sefcovic, who is the European Union's Brexit Commissioner, has said the EU might take the case to the ECJ if Britain failed to address the charges within two months. However, Sefcovic also said the EU still wants to continue talks with Britain to soften the Protocol. The UK government has kept negotiations going.



#### SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

# Fed rate hike & implications

US Fed's largest hike in 28 yrs will make countries such as India less attractive for the currency carry trade. It also signals a lower impetus to growth in the US, with global impacts, and churn in emerging market equities.

**ANIL SASI** 

NEW DELHI, JUNE 16

THE US Federal Reserve hiked interest rates by three quarters of a percentage point on Wednesday, its most aggressive move since 1994, in a bid to tame runaway inflation.

The hike, the third since March, comes after inflation in the US surged unexpectedly last month. Importantly, the US central bank has signalled equally-large hikes later this year, which could potentially dent the already wobbly investor outlook across markets.

After the conclusion of a two-day Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting on Wednesday, the central bank chair Jerome Powell indicated that the Fed would increase its key interest rate by three quarters of a percentage point to a range of 1.5% to 1.75%

Forecasts released after the meeting recorded officials saying they expected the rate the Fed charges banks to borrow from it to zoom to 3.4% by the end of the year

#### What is the import of this signalling?

While markets have largely factored in the reversal in the Fed's policy stance, there are renewed concerns about the pace of the hike given that the US central bank is now under renewed pressure to tame inflation as prices in the world's largest economy rose at their fastest rate in 40 years during May. There are now clear indications that the Fed would be far more aggressive in its intensity of rate hikes, going by the guidance offered by Powell.

Runaway inflation is being seen as a political headwind for President Joe Biden ahead of the November midterm elections. Biden had said earlier this year that it was "appropriate" for Powell to adjust the Fed's policies. And congressional Republicans, according to an AP report, have endorsed Powell's plans to raise rates, providing the Fed with rare bipartisan support for tightening credit.

Powell reaffirmed the view at the last review meeting that policymakers are convinced the American job market is robust enough to let go of the ultra-low interest rates. On Wednesday, Powell said the US is well poised to handle higher rates, pointing to still robust job growth. But projections released by the Fed show officials expect economic growth to slide to about 1.7% in 2022, a full percentage point lower than their forecast in March.

#### How does this impact global markets? Traders across markets have been looking

for signs that the Fed might be more aggressive about rolling back the stimulus that has been feeding stock market gains across geographies. The new projections are being seen as a definitive move to frontload the reversal of the expansionary monetary policy put in place in early 2020 to invigorate the American economy amid the Covid-19 outbreak.

Part of this support was in the form of an extraordinary bond buying programme, intended to bring down long-term interest rates and catalyse greater borrowing and spending by both consumers and businesses.

#### What are the concerns at this stage?

The Fed's announcement has come amid criticism that the US central bank has fallen behind the curve on inflation.

Analysts were quoted by Reuters as saving that they felt the Fed is now struggling to catch up, after Powell and other Fed officials maintained till early this year that inflation was merely a temporary problem related to supply chain issues. Prices have spiked since then, partly due to external factors that include the war in Ukraine and the continuing Covid shutdowns in China's key manufacturing hubs.

The Fed, which cut rates to support the economy when the pandemic hit in 2020, has already hiked rates twice this year, by 0.25 percentage points in March and another half a



US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell is seen on a screen at the New York Stock Exchange on Wednesday. Reuters

**EXPLAINED YOUR MONEY** 

Likely impact on India, and

what investors should do

crore in the same period.

and food items.

What should investors do?

A large part of the inflation concerns is

on account of the Russia-Ukraine war. If

an early resolution of the conflict may re-

vive market sentiments, there is a feeling

that a prolonged war could only hurt these

further as it could lead to spike in oil prices

rates and uncertainty on where the yields

may stabilise, while debt investors can go

for short-term products of 1-2 years, mar-

ket participants feel equity markets in cur-

rent times should only be considered with

an investment horizon of at least 3 years.

activity say India is very well positioned

for higher growth over the next three to

five years and companies across sectors

are already in the process of fresh capital

investment, which is expected to gain mo-

mentum over the coming months.

Although the decline in equity markets

has weakened investor sentiment for now.

equity investments should be done keep-

ing the future in mind. Systematic invest-

ment plans should be the preferred mode,

as these will help investors capitalise on

any further dip in the market. Also, to beat

inflation, investors need to go with equi-

ties, which have traditionally performed

better when inflation is high.

Market participants tracking economic

Given the continuing rise in interest

percentage point in May. At the time, Powell had reiterated that they were not considering sharper rises. But inflation numbers released on Friday showed US inflation rising to 8.6% in May — the fastest pace since 1981, prompting the latest round of hikes.

"It is essential that we bring inflation down," Powell said, acknowledging that a 0.75 percentage point rise was "unusually large". The Dow Jones Industrial Average, after an

SANDEEP SINGH

growth and market movement

basis points.

input cost.

How much could rates be hiked?

EXPERTS SAY that the aggressive Fed rate

hike of 75 basis points is likely to push the

Reserve Bank of India for more rate hikes

in the coming two or three quarters, and

thereby will have a direct bearing on GDF

Economists, who had been expecting

an additional rate hike of 75-100 basis

points over the next three quarters in India,

now say the RBI could go for additional

rate hike of up to 125 basis points this fis-

cal, taking the overall rate hike to over 200

mand in the economy and GDP growth,

but will also lead to a correction in the

market on account of outflow of funds by

foreign portfolio investors and downward

revision in earning projections of listed en-

tities as a result of higher cost of funds and

rate hike by 75 basis points, the Sensex had

fallen 2% to close at an over 12-month low

of 51,495. According to provisional data re-

leased by exchanges, FPIs sold equity hold-

ings worth Rs 3,257 crore on Thursday, and

in June they have sold holdings worth Rs

31,500 crore putting pressure on domes-

tic equities. Domestic institutional in-

vestors have invested a net of Rs 24,225

The day after the Fed announced its

That may not only impact overall de-

initial slide, rose strongly during Powell's postmeeting news conference before paring gains somewhat by the close on Wednesday. In India, benchmark indices traded up in opening hours on Thursday partly because the markets was seen as having partly factored in the increased rate hike after US inflation data for May was released last week. Indices, however, plunged later in the day and the Sensex slid 1,647 points from the day's high to close 2% down at a 52week low by the end of trade Thursday.

#### Why are the Fed's signals important?

Like other central banks such as the Reserve Bank of India, as the US Fed conducts monetary policy, it influences employment and inflation primarily by using policy tools to control the availability and cost of credit in the economy.

Its primary tool of monetary policy is the federal funds rate, changes in which influence other interest rates — which in turn influence borrowing costs for households and businesses, as well as broader financial conditions.

Additionally, the bond buying programme, also known as quantitative easing, was put in place in 2020 as an extraordinary measure to help the financial markets and the economy counter the impact of the pandemic. This bond buying was an unconventional policy tool (that was deployed during the global financial crisis as well), using which the central bank purchases longer-term securities from the open market in order to increase the money supply and incentivise lending and investment. Buying these securities augmented the supply of new money in the economy, and ended up dampening interest rates, while also expanding the central bank's balance sheet.

On Wednesday, the Fed halted the process of pumping the proceeds of an initial \$15 billion of maturing Treasuries back into the US government debt market, the first time it has done so since it kicked off its bond-buying programme in early 2020. This effectively signals the move by the US central bank to shrink its expanded \$9 trillion balance sheet.

The Fed is not alone in its intention to hike rates. On Thursday, the Bank of England hiked its key interest rate for a fifth straight time. Australia, Brazil, and Canada too have raised rates; the European Central Bank has indicated it could hike over the next couple of months.

#### How do rate cycles work?

When interest rates go up in an economy, it becomes more expensive to borrow; so households are less inclined to buy goods and services, and businesses have a disincentive to borrow funds to expand, buy equipment or to invest in new projects. A subsequent lowering of demand for goods and services ends up depressing wages and other costs, in turn bringing runaway inflation under control. Even though the linkages of monetary policy to inflation and employment are not direct or immediate, monetary policy is a key factor in tackling runaway prices.

Theoretically, a signal to hike policy rates in the US should be a negative for emerging market economies, especially from a debt market perspective. Emerging economies such as India tend to have higher inflation and, therefore, higher interest rate than developed countries. As a result, investors, including foreign portfolio investors, tend to borrow in the US at lower interest rates in dollar terms, and invest that money in the bonds of countries such as India in rupee terms to earn higher interest.

#### What will be the impact on other markets, including India?

A hike in rates in the US could have a threepronged impact.

When the Fed raises policy rates, the difference between the interest rates of the two countries narrows, thus making countries such as India less attractive for the currency

A high rate signal by the Fed would also mean a lower impetus to growth in the US, which could be yet negative news for global growth, especially when China is reeling un-

also trigger a churn in emerging market equities, tempering foreign investor enthusiasm.

For a large number of investors who entered the markets over the last couple of years as day traders, it is high time they stopped taking speculative positions. Many feel the market uncertainty is way too high for such investors who are looking to make money on a daily basis, and who may only end up losing.

carry trade.

der the impact of a real estate crisis. Higher returns in US debt markets could

There is also a potential impact on currency markets, stemming from outflows of funds.

# 2 years after Galwan clash, where India-China relations stand today

**NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN** NEW DELHI. JUNE 16

TWO YEARS after the Galwan clash in the Ladakh heights, in which 20 Indian soldiers were killed, and which plunged India-China relations to their lowest in decades, the two sides are normalising relations in many respects, with the Indian side displaying a pragmatism far ahead of the "lal aankh" rhetoric.

#### Relations now

Even though New Delhi has not yet succeeded in getting the Chinese to vacate some parts of eastern Ladakh on India's side of the Line of Actual Control or ensuring a return to status quo ante (as the situation existed in April 2020), bilateral trade has soared and it

is now at its highest, first quarter data show. Further, India's trade with China in the calendar year 2021 was \$125 billion, higher than in the previous year, and higher than pre-pandemic, pre-Ladakh standoff levels. Imports from China reached \$97.5 billion, while exports crossed \$20 billion for the first time. All this after India put in place restrictions on Chinese participation in the Indian economy, and banned several Chinese apps popular in India, and added more to the list subsequently. Tencent, the Chinese tech-entertainment giant, recently bought a stake in Flipkart, even while several apps linked to it such as Tik Tok remain banned in India.

While political contact is yet to resume fully, there have been significant interactions. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited Delhi in March, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval participated in meetings of the multilateral Shanghai Co-operation Organisation, and on Wednesday attended a BRICS security officials meeting hosted by his Chinese counterpart Yang Jeichi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to attend the BRICS summit being hosted by China next week, in a virtual format.

This week, Beijing also lifted a two-year Covid ban on visas to Indian professionals and their families. It has also indicated it is processing visas of Indian students who had returned home on account of the pandemic.

Alongside, India has stepped up its engagement with the Quad, a grouping with Australia, Japan and the US that seeks to contain China in the Indo-Pacific region on both the economic and security fronts.

### Military stand-off

Despite the PM's assertion in Parliament that no intrusion had taken place into Indian territory, 15 rounds of talks between India and Chinese senior army commanders in eastern Ladakh for resolution of "friction points" indicate otherwise. The negotiations have led to withdrawal of troops by both sides from Galwan, Pangong Lake and Gogra/Patrolling Point 17A. While this is not yet a return to status quo ante in these areas, there are three other areas — Depsang plains, Hot Springs and Demchock - where Chinese troops continue to prevent Indian soldiers from entering areas they were previously patrolling.

In this time, there have also been several meetings of the Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC). The Ministry of External Affairs said the two sides reviewed the situation along the LAC in the Western Sector, and agreed to hold the 16th round of senior military commanders at an early date.

Although the withdrawal of troops or disengagement, even partially, was supposed to be a prelude to de-escalation along the LAC, this has not happened either. Instead, China's build-up of military infrastructure on its side of the LAC is going on apace. General Charles A Flynn, Commanding General of the US Army in the Pacific region, said during a recent visit to Delhi that the build-up was "alarming", and while talks were useful. "the way they are acting and behaving is concerning, and should be concerning to everyone, and I think it is".

China has been building roads, living units and entire villages at various parts of the LAC, but the build-up in Ladakh includes a 11-m-wide bridge spanning the narrowest part of Pangong Lake at Khurnak Fort in territory that falls on the Chinese side of the LAC but is claimed by India.

In military terms, according to Brigadier Rahul Bhonsle (retd), writing on his portal Security Risks Asia, "this bridge will facilitate quick deployment of troops from the Rudog base to forward areas as well as faster tactical deployment of troops within the theatre" to avoid being upstaged by India. On August 29-30, 2020, the Indian Army and Special Frontier Force occupied the Kailash heights in Chushul sub-sector, which dominate the strategically significant Spanggur Gap. China had used this area to launch its offensive in 1962. The heights also give India a direct eye on Moldo Garrison.

The Chinese could not deploy additional troops quickly enough to repulse the Indian forces because the only route available was around the lake. This is no longer the case. The bridge is on the halfway mark of the lake. Earlier, another bridge, 6 m wide, came up earlier to facilitate the building of this bridge.

India is also building road infrastructure

#### **Recalling Galwan**

The Chinese People's Liberation Army had pitched tents and an observation post on India's side of the LAC. After a general agreement on disengaging in the Galwan sector earlier in June, the Chinese had agreed to withdraw. But on the night of June 15, a disagreement over the continued presence of the Chinese led to the bloodiest clash be-

tween India and China since 1975. According to reports at the time, when Colonel Suresh Babu, commander of 16 Bihar that made up the majority of the troops at Galwan, walked up to ask the Chinese to leave, he was manhandled. This led to a fivehour confrontation between 600 soldiers

Col Babu died after falling into the icecold river, apparently after being hit. At the time, an agreement between the two sides forbade the use of firearms. The Chinese side were equipped with clubs that had nails embedded in them. The Indian side had fibre glass batons. There was stone throwing as well. Many Indian soldiers also died after being hit and falling into the river or being pushed into it.

Ten Indian soldiers including two Majors, two Captains and six jawans were detained by the Chinese for nearly three days before being handed back after several rounds of negotiations. According to unconfirmed reports, the Chinese may have lost more men than India, but so far, the PLA has acknowledged that four of its soldiers were killed. The first acknowledgement of Chinese casualties came eight months after the incident, in March 2021. In February this year, Klaxon, an Australian website, said at least 38 PLA soldiers drowned in the river.

The Galwan clash was the first in which Indian soldiers were killed since October 1975, when four personnel of the Assam Rifles were killed in an ambush by the Chinese at Tulung La in Arunachal Pradesh.

# CONOMY



**PRANAV MUKUL** 

& MIHIR MISHRA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 16

INTHE 10th hike since the begin-

ning of the year, state-owned oil

marketing companies revised the

price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF)

by 16.3 per cent, taking the cost of

jet fuel in Delhi to a record high of

Rs 1,41,232.87 per kilolitre. The

rising jet fuel prices, combined

with depreciating rupee, is set to

increase the cost of operations for

**③** \$119.23 **⊘** 78.10/USD Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of June 15

Another hike

**ᢙ** ₹60,525

SENSEX: 51,495.79 ▼ 1,045.60 (-1.99%) NIFTY: 15,360.60 ▼ 331.55 (-2.11%) NIKKEI: 26,431.20 ▲ 105.04 HANG SENG: 20,845.43 ▼ 462.78 FTSE: 7,077.86 ▼ 195.55 DAX: 13,100.95 ▼ 384.34

#### SECTOR WATCH **OVERSEAS BANKING**

# Second year in a row, Indian funds in Swiss banks rise; at 14-yr high in 2021

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU** NEW DELHI, JUNE 16

MONEY PARKED by Indians in Swiss Banks jumped to a 14-year high of Swiss francs (CHF) 3.83 billion in 2021, on the back of rise in holdings and customer deposits, latest data from Zurich-based Swiss National Bank (SNB) released Thursday showed.

Money parked by Indians had declined in 2018 and 2019, but has since picked up. Marking the second straight year of rise, aggregate funds by Indians increased from 2.55 billion Swiss francs in 2020. The CHF 3,831.91 million of 'total liabilities' of Swiss banks or 'amounts due to' their Indian clients as of 2021-end included CHF 602.03 million in customer deposits (up from CHF 504 million at 2020-end), CHF 1,225 million held via other banks (up from CHF 383 million), and CHF 3 million through fiduciaries or trusts (up from CHF 2 million).

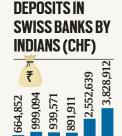
The highest component of CHF 2,002 million (up from CHF 1,665 million) was 'other amounts due to customers' in the form of bonds, securities and various other financial instruments. The total amount stood at a record high of nearly 6.5 billion Swiss francs in 2006, after which it mostly declined, except for a few years including in 2011, 2013, 2017, 2020 and

now in 2021, as per SNB data. India and Switzerland had, for automatic sharing of financial account information, inked a Joint Declaration



AS PART of a tax information exchange pact between India and Switzerland, financial information on Indian residents with accounts in Swiss financial institutions since 2018 is shared with India.

tax info



on November 22, 2016, for activation of AEOI in tax matters between the two nations. The use and disclosure of the information received is governed by the confidentiality provisions of the India-Switzerland tax treaty.

Source: Swiss National Bank

As per the SNB, its data for 'total liabilities' of Swiss banks towards Indian clients takes into account all types of funds of Indian customers at Swiss banks, including deposits from individuals, banks and enterprises. It includes data for branches of Swiss banks in India and non-deposit liabilities. Full report on

www.indianexpress.com

#### RECESSION FEARS HIT SENTIMENT AFTER FED HIKES RATES

# **Bear market in sight: Sensex** plunges 2% to 52-week low

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU** 

MOVING FAST towards the bear market, the benchmark Sensex on Thursday plunged 1,647 points from the day's high to close two per cent down at a 52-week low as recession fears hit the sentiment across the globe, including India. Led by metal shares, the benchmark Sensex plummeted by 1,046 points at 51,495.79 and the NSE Nifty Index fell 332 points at 15.360.60 in the selling avalanche after the US Federal Reserve hiked its policy rates by 75 basis points, its biggest rate hike in nearly three decades, to tame inflation.

With this loss, the Sensex which registered a life-time high at 62,245.43 on October 19, 2021 —a gain 21 per cent in the calendar year 2021 — has lost 17.26 per cent in eight months. When the market loses around 20 per cent from the recent high, it's technically considered as a bear market.

The early gain on Monday led by an in-line Fed policy was dampened as recessionary fears

'Russia supply hit, Covid: High

fuel prices to persist into 2023'

Fuel prices at pump may stay high into 2023 due to Russian

oil supply disruptions and as refineries struggle to meet

demand recovering from Covid, Wood Mackenzie said

**SENSEX** Intra day 53,500 53,018.91 53,000 52,500 51,495.79 52,000 51,500 51,000

haunted global sentiments. "The central banks across the globe are playing catch up with inflation and making efforts to race ahead of the curve. The 75-basis point increase by the US Fed and more importantly the upward revision of 1.5% in the expected year-end rate indicates that the inflation is winning the battle as of now," said Mohit Ralhan, Managing Partner at TIW Capital Group.

Metal index crashed by 5.4 per cent amid inflation and recession worries. Markets are catching up to the reality that the tight monetary policy is the lone card on the NIFTY 50 Intra day 15,900 15,834.60 15,750 15,600 15.450 15,300

table lingering on high inflation. Markets are now skeptical about how the global economies would attain growth amid the aggressive tightening. Meanwhile,

15,360.60

the rupee gained 12 paise and closed at 78.10 against the dollar. Yield on benchmark 10-year government bond remained high at 7.61 per cent.

Investor strategy

"In such a situation, preservation of capital is the theme by investing in a balanced portfolio of equity, debt and cash. In equities, safe sectors will be those that are

~\$100 PER BARREL:

PRICES BY NEXT YEAR,

EXPECTED AVERAGE CRUDE

Second half of next year should

see pressure ease, when several

Middle East are likely to start up

around 1 million barrels per day for

demand, amid record gasoline and

diesel prices in the US, Europe and

Average global refining margins in 2023 are likely to top their 5-year

average range, albeit "nowhere

near as punchy as 2022'

Global oil demand cooled by

now, i.e. roughly 1% of global

new large refineries including in the

COMPARED TO \$110 THIS YEAR

Wall St tumbles

New York: US stock indices tumbled on Thursday, after the Federal Reserve's largest rate increase since 1994. At 2:12 pm ET, the Dow Jones was down 802 points, or 2.6 per cent, at 29,866.05. Meanwhile, the Bank of England raised rates by 25 basis points. **REUTERS** 

least impacted by inflation and aggressive policy like finance and services. Defensives like consumption, IT, Pharma and telecom can also be considered on a long-term basis," Vinod Nair of Geojit Financial said, Analysts said investors should stay invested if they have a long-term investment plan and mutual fund investors should continue their SIP plan without breaking the investment. On the other hand, the big correction will give an opportunity to investors to pick up good quality stocks at attractive levels.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

~\$120 A BARREL: **CURRENT GLOBAL BENCHMARK BRENT CRUDE PRICES** 

Sanctions from the West on oil from Russia, following the latter's invasion of Ukraine in February, have led to:

■ Lower Russian crude production and refinery output

■ Severely disrupted oil flows around the world, pushing oil prices

Fuel price spike has squeezed household budgets as the cost of travel skyrockets in many parts of

Source: Wood Mackenzie/Reuters

airlines, leading to an increase in airfares by up to 15 per cent. Experts have said fuel cost is already at unsustainable levels and airlines have no option but to pass it on in the form of fare hikes. SpiceJet chairman Ajay Singh, in a statement, said they will have to pass on the increase in ATF prices to fliers, and that will lead to an increase in fares by up to 15 per cent.

Jet fuel prices are revised on the 1st and 16th of every month, based on the average international price of benchmark fuel in the preceding fortnight. The cost of ATF comprises up to 50 per cent of the cost of operations for airlines in India. Airlines are already struggling with the fall in the value of the domestic currency (rupee is 5.7 per cent weaker against the US\$ since June 2021) since costs like lease rentals, payments to foreign airport operators and expat pilots are all dollar denominated. "Aviation turbine fuel prices have increased by more than 120 per cent since June 2021. This massive increase is not sustainable and governments, Central and state, need to take urgent action to reduce taxes on ATF that are amongst the highest in the world.

Chip shortage a

concern: Hyundai

# in ATF price, airfares to rise

Ahmedabad airport. File

We have, in the last few months, tried to absorb as much burden of this fuel price rise as we could," SpiceJet's Singh said. Jet fuel prices have been in-

creased by state-owned OMCs every fortnight since the beginning of 2022, and in 10 hikes starting January 1, ATF prices have been increased by Rs 67,210.46 per kilolitre. "The sharp increase in jet fuel prices and the depreciation of the rupee have left domestic airlines with little choice but to immediately raise fares and we believe that a minimum 10-15 per cent increase in fares is required to ensure that cost of operations is better sustained," Singh added. "The forward bookings are not looking very good. We expected that by this time, we'd be well past the pre-Covid numbers, but the general sentiment has not been in favour of air travel mainly because of high fares, especially in the last month or so," said a senior executive of a low-cost airline.

Travel industry insiders say fares are already about 50 per cent higher than last year and a further increase will impact that demand.

Notably, domestic airfares are still governed by governmentmandated price ceilings and floors. Full report on

www.indianexpress.com

### DEA Secy, rates

on Indian economy post US Fed's 75-bp interest rate hike, Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth said.

#### Jobless rate

New Delhi: Unemployment rate for people aged 15 and above in urban areas fell to 8.2% in January-March from 9.3% a year ago, as per a Periodic Labour Force Survey by National Statistical Office.

#### **GST Council**

New Delhi: GST Council, headed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, will meet June 28-29, in Srinagar. PTI

#### **Musk address**

Bengaluru: Elon Musk addressed Twitter staff for the first time via video, projecting a need for "rationalisation of headcount" but offered few details. **REUTERS** 

# BRIEFLY — RBI Guv to inaugurate FE's BFSI meet today

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU** NEW DELHI, JUNE 16

RESERVE BANK of India Governor Shaktikanta Das will inaugurate the FE Modern BFSI Summit today (June 17). The unique conference, being organised by FE.com, will see the coming together of the best and the brightest minds from the banking, financial services and insurance arena.

What also adds weight to the event is the keynote address by V Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Adviser, government of India. Ajay Piramal, chairman, Piramal Group, and heads of India's leading banks and financial institutions will also be speaking at the day-long event.

Some of the other leading names from the industry attending the summit include Amitabh Rajan, Chairman, Reserve Bank of India (Services Board); Dinesh Kumar Khara; Chairman, State



Das (left); CEA V Anantha Nageswaran

CEO, Standard Chartered Bank, India; Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, MD & CEO, Bandhan Bank; and Murali Ramakrishnan, MD&CFO. South Indian Bank.

Some of the other thought leaders from the industry include R M Vishakha, MD & CEO, IndiaFirst Life; Mahesh Kumar Sharma, MD & CEO, SBI Life; Ravi Subramanian, MD & CEO. Shriram Housing Finance; Jairam Sridharan, MD, Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd; apart from Shiv Kumar Bhasin, group chief

technology & operations officer, National Stock Exchange; Deepak Sharma, president & chief digital officer, Kotak Mahindra Bank.

A session on the small finance banks will see its leaders including Sanjay Agarwal, MD & CEO, AU Small Finance Bank, and Samit Kumar Ghosh, chairman, Ujjivan Financial Services.

Software giant SAS has collaborated as the gold partner, digital innovation expert Adobe is the silver partner and the Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC), a representative body of assets and loan financing NBFCs, is the supporting partner for the event. The summit will be a grand congregation of over 50 speakers featuring over 10 power-packed panel discussions and over 500 delegates from the

https://www.financialexpress.com/events/modern-bfsisummit-2022 to watch the best of the Indian BFSI sector.

#### omy," the RBI said. Forecasts of global growth

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

Delhi against the firm/company namely ROSNEFT

global economic conditions continued to deteriorate as ratcheting up of commodity prices and financial market volatility have led to heightened uncertainty.

pressures and relaxation in lockdown measures by key industrial hubs have emerged as silver linings amidst the dark clouds looming over the global econ-

"In the midst of this increasingly hostile external environment, India is better placed than many other countries in terms of avoiding the risks of a potential stagflation. With most constituents of GDP surpassing prepandemic levels, domestic economic activity is gaining strength," it said.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

आणादी अ

अमृत महोत्सव

# Hyundai MD-CEO Unsoo Kim at new Venue's launch company

HYUNDAI MOTOR India, which on Thursday launched the new version of its compact hatchback Venue, said the semiconductor shortage is still a major concern

**VIKRAM CHAUDHARY** 

NEW DELHI. JUNE 16

"We have given a priority to all those customers who had booked the old Venue, and their booking seniority remains. That is why people who book the new Venue will have a relatively longer waiting period," Tarun Garg, director, sales, marketing & service, Hyundai Motor India (HMIL), told FE. FE



for all carmakers.

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CIN: U51410AS20078GC008410 TENDER NOTICE

govin. Any subsequent addendum/compendum will be uploaded in the

Tender No.CQL-CQN/DNPL/36/2022/01 dt :15.06.22 DNP Ltd. (DNPL), a Govt. of Assam Undertaking invites open e-tender for Hiring Services from Reputed and Experienced Parties for construction of its residential colony at Madhuban, Dullalan, Dist: Dibruganh, Assam interested parties may visit the NIC/ e-tender portal www.assamtenders.

Director, DNP Ltd., Dullajan, Assam

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RVPNL and A or AA Class in Central/State Govt. Department and their undertaking and registered in GST department for the bid S. No. 1 to 2 of NIT No. 05, bid S.No. 1 c NIT No. 06 and bid S.No. 1 to 8 of NIT No. 07 under Executive Engineer (Civil Chittorgarh/Udaipur/Bhilwara, SE (Civil) Udaipur. All details of above NIB ar vailable on website <u>www.rvpn.co.in</u> & <u>https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in</u> o https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in. UBN :- VPN2223WSOB00487, VPN2223WOB00488 PN2223WSOB00452, VPN2223SSRC00485, VPN2223WSOB00453 t VPN2223WSOB00458, VPN2223WSOB00459 Superintending Engineer (Civil)

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# RBI lifts new card ban on Mastercard

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU** MUMBAI.JUNE 16

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) has lifted the restrictions imposed on Mastercard Asia/Pacific Pte Ltd related to onboarding of new domestic customers.

'In view of the satisfactory compliance demonstrated by Mastercard with the RBI circular dated April 6, 2018 on Storage of Payment System Data, the restrictions imposed, vide order dated July 14,2021, have been lifted with immediate effect," the RBI said.

The central bank had imposed restrictions on Mastercard from on-boarding new domestic customers (debit, credit or prepaid) onto its card network from July 22,



The RBI, Mumbai

2021 for non-compliance with the RBI regulations for storage of data in India. The RBI had given almost three years for Mastercard to comply with the regulatory directions, but it was unable to complete the

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

#### Covid, fishery relief: WTO sews up deals New Delhi: India managed to ex-

IP waivers for

tract some concessions as member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) late Thursday sewed up a few deals, including reduction in fishery subsidies and temporary patent waivers to fight the pandemic.

However, WTO members decided to extend the morartorium on cross-border tariffs on electronic transmissions until the next ministerial meeting, likely to be in 2023. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said, "We will take some solid decisions probably after seven years, subiect to a few issues being sorted out ... But nothing is done till everything is done. "FE

#### global economic climate Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of outflows and imported inflation Some abatement of supply chain

RBI flags 'deteriorating'

India (RBI) on Thursday said

and inflation by various agencies paint a grim picture and it is increasingly becoming clear that in advanced economies, the war against inflation would entail significant monetary tightening, complicating the growth-infla-

tion outlook, the RBI said in its "Emerging

economies grapple with the global trade slowdown, capital

'State of the economy' report.

It is to inform the common public that Delhi police has registered a case vide FIR No. 350/2010 DATED BFSI industry. **FE** Register now at 09/12/2019 U/S-406/420/409/468/471/120-B/34 IPC & 3/4/5 The Prize Chits and Money Circulation Scheme (Banning) Act 1978, P.S Crime Branch,

RailTel 2022-23/LIMS/003 date:13/06/2022

for Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Integration of Servers and other networking equipment. Tender Notice & tender document are available on www.railtelindia.com and https://railtel.enivida.com Addendum/ corrigendum will be uploaded on www.railtelindia.com and

HEDGE FUND, RHFGOLDCOIN, EURESCOIN, JACKPOTMANIA and its promoters/directors namely Sandeep Kaushik, Sunil Singh Chauhan, Ashish Malik & Ors. The accused persons cheated the innocent victims on the pretext of providing 20% interest/ month on the investment. The investigation of the case is under progress. If anyone has invested with the above company and accused persons, he may join the investigation of the case along with all the relevant documents/details in the office of Economic Offences Wing at Mandir Marg, New Delhi, Ph. No. 011-23745317. DP/9333/EOW/22 **DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI** 



PRESS NIT. No. 06 (2022-23) Design, Build, Operate & Maintain 9 MGD Pressure San Filters (PSF) at Chandrawal WW No-1 including all civil an electrical works for period of 5 Years (Re-Invited). NIT along with all terms & conditions is available on DJB website <a href="https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in">https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in</a> ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Sd/- (Aditva Sharma

J.S.V. 191(2022-23)
Executive Engineer (E&M)P-"STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

# THE WORLD



#### Tax Fraud McDonald's To Pay France \$1.3 Billion

McDonald's France and related companies have agreed to pay over 1.2 billion euros (\$1.3 billion) to the French state to settle a case in which the fast-food giant was accused of years of tax evasion. A Paris court approved the settlement Thursday, the French national financial prosecutor's office said.



Actor 'strenuously' denies sex charges. AP

#### Sexual assault: **Kevin Spacey** granted bail

London: Kevin Spacey "strenuously denies" allegations of sexual assault, his lawyer said Thursday, as the Oscar-winning actor appeared in a London court to face five charges of offences against three men. Spacey, 62, arrived at London's Westminster Magistrates Court for the preliminary hearing and sat in the glass-fronted dock during the half-hour hearing. He was not asked to enter a formal plea, but his lawyer, Patrick Gibbs, said: "Mr Spacey strenuously denies any and all criminality in this case." Deputy Chief Magistrate Tan Ikram granted Spacey unconditional bail until his next appearance, a plea hearing scheduled for July 14.

#### Expert with India link named for key Pentagon post

Washington: US President Joe Biden has nominated security expert Radha Iyengar Plumb to the post of Deputy Under Secretary of Defence for Acquisition Sustainment. Currently serving as the Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary of Defence, Plumb was nominated for the top Pentagon position on Wednesday. Prior to her appointment as Chief of Staff, Plumb was the Director of Research and Insights for Trust and Safety at Google, leading their cross-functional teams on business analytics. PTI

#### **MYANMAR**

#### Junta calls return of executions 'required action'

MYANMAR RULING military on Thursday defended a planned execution of two prominent democracy figures as lawful and required, defving international criticism for resuming capital punishment after a threedecade hiatus. The United Nations, and others have urged the junta not to follow through with the execution of activist Kvaw Min Yu and former lawmaker Phyo Zeya Thaw. Military spokesman Zaw Min Tun said there were many countries using the death penalty. **REUTERS** 

# TOPOFTHE Sri Lanka left with fuel stocks for around five days, says minister

Country awaits confirmation from India for new \$500 million credit line for fuel

**REUTERS & PTI** COLOMBO, JUNE 16

SRI LANKA'S fuel stocks will last for about five more days, its power and energy minister said on Thursday, as the island nation

awaits official confirmation from

the Indian government for a new

\$500 million credit line for fuel. Chronic fuel shortages have worsened this week with kilometres-long lines at some gas stations countrywide, leading to sporadic protests as vehicle wait, sometimes

overnight, for petrol and diesel. Sri Lanka is unable to make \$725 million in overdue payments to suppliers and also struggling to open letters of credit for future shipments, Power and Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekera said.

"We are struggling to get fuel supplies due to our forex issues and the government is working to manage existing stocks of diesel and petrol until 21 June," he told reporters. "We are finding it difficult to meet demand and stocks could run out faster if we do not cut back on non-essential travel and stop hoarding fuel."

"We are expecting a petrol shipment within the next three days and another two shipments in the next eight days," he added. The country has also decided

#### Auto driver dies in petrol queue

Colombo: A 53-year-old autorickshaw driver in Sri Lanka died of a heart attack on Thursday in Colombo's suburb while waiting in a serpentine queue for fuel for the entire night near a petrol pump. The driver had been waiting in line for fuel since Wednesday night in Panadura and died of cardiac arrest inside his vehicle. Another 64-year-old man died while waiting in a queue for cooking gas at Pugoda on Wednesday night, police said.

to import 50,000 metric tonnes of rice under the Indian credit line to curb an abnormal rise in rice prices, PM Ranil Wickremesinghe said. The decision was taken after a discussion held at the PMO to allocate funds to the State Trading Corporation under the Indian loan assistance programme. The US announced that it will provide \$6 million in emergency assistance to Sri Lanka to address the needs of the marginalised and vulnerable communities impacted by the



People wait to collect their passports at Sri Lanka's Immigration and Emigration Department. Reuters

## Battered by crisis, Lankans seek passport to better life

**REUTERS** COLOMBO, JUNE 16

RMR LENORA stood in a snaking queue outside Sri Lanka's Immigration and Emigration Department headquarters for two days last week, hoping to get a passport and, with it, a chance to leave a country wilting under

an economic crisis. A garment worker, 33-yearold Lenora decided to apply for a job as a maid in Kuwait after her husband was laid off from a small restaurant where he worked as a cook. "My husband lost his job because there is no cooking gas and food costs have skyrocketed. It is hard to find work and the salaries are low," said Lenora, who said she earns about 2,500 Sri Lanka rupees a day.

So last week, she was in Colombo, to hand in her papers for her first passport. In the queue, Lenora was joined by labourers, shop owners, farmers, public servants and housewives, some of whom camped out overnight, all looking to escape.

In the first five months of 2022, Sri Lanka has issued 288,645 passports compared with 91,331 in the same period last year, according to govern-

#### **AMID ECONOMIC CRISIS**

# Pakistan already isolated, need to re-engage with India, says Bilawal Bhutto

Blames Imran Khan govt's policies for international disengagement on Pak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ISLAMABAD, JUNE 16

PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Thursday made a strong pitch for re-engaging with India, saying cutting ties with New Delhi would not serve the country's interests as Islamabad was already "internationally isolated

and disengaged."
Addressing the Founding Day ceremony at the Institute of Strategic Studies in Islamabad, Bilawal said: "We have our issues with India. Pakistan and India have a long history of war, conflict. Today, where we have serious disputes, the events of August 2019 cannot be taken lightly."

He blamed the previous Imran Khan-led government's flawed policies because of which Pakistan is internationally isolated and internationally disengaged."

On the Kashmir issue, Bilawal said it has formed a "cornerstone of any conversation that I've had since becoming the foreign minister." "In May, we Wives of Shehbaz, **Imran richer** than husbands

Pakistan

Islamabad:

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and former premier Imran Khan's wives have financial assets worth more than their husbands, the media reported on Thursday. As per a statement of assets filed for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, Nusrat Shehbaz owns wealth worth Rs 230.29 million against PM's Rs 104.21 million. Imran's wife Bushra Bibi's net worth is Rs 142.11 mil-

had the delimitation commission and then just recently, the Islamophobic remarks of officials create an environment in which engagement is very difficult for Pakistan, if not impossible," the minister said, referring to re-engaging with India.

29% hike in fuel prices to secure IMF funding

**SAJJAD HUSSAIN** ISLAMABAD, JUNE 16

PAKISTAN'S GOVERNMENT has hiked fuel prices by up to 29 per cent, removing fuel subsidies in an attempt to trim the fiscal deficit and secure critical support from the IMF for the cashstrapped economy.

This is the third cut in fuel subsidies by the government headed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in about 20 days.

The new prices came into effect from Wednesday midnight and showed a hike of Rs 24 per litre in petrol prices and Rs 59.16/litre of high-speed diesel, Finance Minister Miftah Ismail said.

The latest rise came on top of an already Rs 60 increase in the prices of petroleum since May 25. PM Sharif on Thursday defended the unpopular moves, saying that the government was "left with no choice" because of "those who struck the worst ever deal" with the IMF.

# President Reagan's shooter Hinckley fully released after 41 years

**REUTERS** JUNE 16

JOHN HINCKLEY, who wounded then US President Ronald Reagan and three others in a 1981 assassination attempt, was released without conditions on Wednesday in compliance with a federal judge's order.

He had received full-time conditional release in 2016 after 30 years in a psychiatric hospital in Washington and had lived with his mother in Virginia until her death last year.

A jury had found him not guilty by reason of insanity in his 1982 trial, prompting Congress and some states to pass laws restricting the use of insanity as a defence. "After 41 years 2



Hinckley Jr.

months and 15 days, FREEDOM AT LAST!!!" Hinckley, 67, wrote on his Twitter account on Wednesday afternoon. Last September, US District

Judge Paul Friedman ruled that Hinckley was "mentally stable," had complied with the terms of his conditional release and that he should be granted unconditional release. Reagan's daughter Patti Davis opposed the release. saying Hinckley was a narcissist who she did not believe

### Indian-origin doctor freed in terror charge extradition case

**ADITI KHANNA** LONDON, JUNE 16

AN INDIAN-ORIGIN doctor from Assam fighting against being extradited to India on a terror charge for allegedly being chairman of United Liberation Front of Asom (Independent) won his legal fight as he was discharged by a UK court on Thursday.

Dr Mukul Hazarika, 75, a British national and general practitioner from Cleveland in northern England, was sought by the Indian authorities to be

prosecuted for "waging, or attempting to wage war, or abetting waging of war, against the Government of India and for conspiring to commit a terrorist act" under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967.

District Judge Michael judgment Snow's Westminster Magistrates' Court said the accused must be discharged as the particulars in the case were not satisfied. "There is no admissible evidence that establishes that the defendant is Asom, the chairman of ULFA(I)." the judge concluded.



# Leaders pledge arms, EU path for Ukraine

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz (left) with Volodymyr Zelenskyy (right) and France's President Emmanuel Macron in Kyiv. AP

**ASSOCIATED PRESS** KYIV, JUNE 16

FOUR EUROPEAN leaders expressed their support for Ukraine on Thursday while meeting with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, vowing to back Kyiv's candidacy to eventually join the European Union and offering more weapons to fend off Russia's invasion.

French President Emmanuel Macron promised Ukraine six more truck-mounted artillery guns, the latest in a new round of Western arms pledges as the war grinds on in the Donbas region in the east.

France, Germany, Italy and Romania "are doing everything so that Ukraine alone can decide its fate," Macron said at a news conference with Zelenskyy and the others. "My colleagues and I have come here to Kyiv today with a clear message: Ukraine belongs to the European family," said German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

With Scholz beside him, Macron defended earlier comments that riled Ukrainians about not humiliating Russia. He solemnly noted how the end of World War I had sown the seeds of World War II.

"Today, this war must be won, France clearly supports Ukraine so it prevails," Macron said. "Germany, like France, will never be in situations where they negotiate on Ukraine's behalf with Russia. Moreover, we have never done that."

Italian Premier Mario Draghi expressed concern about the millions of tons of grain backed up in Black Sea ports by the war, saying it could lead to a "worldwide catastrophe."

"Russia is only looking for new ways to scare Europe and seize more and more of our land," Zelenskyy said. "The goal of Russia in this war is to break Ukraine and through this break the whole of Europe.'



THE VISIT carries heavy symbolic weight since the leaders of France, Germany and Italy have faced criticism for continuing to engage with Putin and failing to provide Ukraine with the scale of weaponry that it has said is necessary to fend off the Russians.

#### H-IB operation has not kept pace with country's needs: US commentator

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA WASHINGTON, JUN 16

THE OPERATION and implementation of H-1B visas, the valuable component of the US immigration system since 1990, has not kept pace with the country's needs, an American political commentator told lawmakers, underlining that expansion of high-skilled immigration will boost economic growth and expand American businesses.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US compa nies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. Technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

'In 2005, 85,000 visas were available. Today, nearly 20 years later, 85,000 visas are available. There are many promising options for expanding skilled immigration," Mia Love, a former Republican Congresswoman, top political commentator and national outreach director of Utah University, said during her testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday.

Testifying before the subcommittee on immigration, citizenship and border safety which held a hearing on strengthening the workforce, Love said research suggests an expansion of highskilled immigration will boost economic growth, expand American businesses, and provide more opportunities for the most disadvantaged Americans

#### BOOKS ARE PART OF CHINA'S EFFORT TO STRESS PATRIOTIC EDUCATION

# Rewriting history: In these new textbooks, Hong Kong was never a British colony

**TIFFANY MAY** 

HONG KONG, JUNE 16

SCHOOLCHILDREN around the world have long been taught that Hong Kong was once a colony of the British Empire. But students in Hong Kong will soon learn a different lesson: It wasn't.

Beijing has steadfastly maintained that historical view of the city's status, long before Britain returned the territory to China in 1997, and years before a sweeping crackdown crushed a thriving pro-democracy movement in the once-semiautonomous territory.

Now, as Hong Kong prepares to commemorate 25 years since its handover to China on July 1, jects how the British saw their relationship to the city — will be explicitly taught to Hong Kong high school students through at least four new textbooks that will be rolled out in the fall.

The textbook material is still under review by principals, teachers, scholars and employees of Hong Kong's Education Bureau, but it seems destined for classrooms. Local news websites published draft excerpts this week, and The New York Times viewed teachers' proof copies. The material is part of a wider campaign by China's top leader, Xi Jinping, to overhaul Hong Kong's schools, "protect young minds" and raise loyal, patriotic citizens.

Jeffrey Ngo, a Hong Kong prodemocracy activist and a doctoral candidate in history Georgetown University, said the government's position "is a shorthand for saying, 'Hong Kong was always a part of China, thus Hong Kongers never could claim a right of self-determination."

"It's about trying to ensure the next generation of young kids are going to be supportive or at least sympathetic to what the government is saying," Ngo added. "This is part of the remake of Hong Kong in the national security era."

Under the terms of the 1997 handover negotiated with Britain, China had agreed that the social and economic systems of the territory would remain



unchanged for 50 years after resuming sovereignty, with the result that Hong Kong initially had a high degree of autonomy from the mainland. When moves by Beijing threatened that arrangement, protesters took to the streets in 2014 and again in 2019.

Steve Tsang, the director of the SOAS China Institute in London, said since the Chinese leadership issued in 2013 a memo known as Document No. 9 that took aim at Western influences in the country, China has allowed only one version of history to be taught. Hong Kong would no longer be an exception to the rule.

"In the Xi approach to history, facts are merely incidental," Professor Tsang said. "Only interpretation matters. And only one interpretation is allowed.' Scholars and historians said

that China's portrayal of Hong Kong's status under British rule is not new. Although the Communist Party had referred to China before 1949 as a "half colony, half-feudal society," it has maintained since at least 1997 that Hong Kong was not a true colony, said Ho-fung Hung, a professorat Johns Hopkins University.

He cited an article in the party's newspaper, People's Daily, published in March 1997, that argued: "The United Kingdom has exercised typical colonial rule in Hong Kong, but it does not mean that Hong Kong is a colony. Colonies in the usual

sense mainly refer to countries that have lost their sovereignty due to foreign rule and jurisdiction. Hong Kong is part of China's territory, so the concept of colony does not apply to Hong Kong." In the 19th century, Britain

took over what is now modernday Hong Kong via two wars and a series of treaties that the Chinese government called unequal and coerced. In 1946, the UN included Hong Kong on a list of "non-selfgoverning territories," and in a 1960 resolution said the people there should be granted "the right to self-determination." In 1972, after Beijing took over China's seat in the world body, it successfully pushed the U.N. to remove Hong Kong from the list.

## Tejaswin, Jeswin still hopeful of CWG spot despite AFI snub

**ANDREW AMSAN** 

THE SELECTION of the athletics squad for the Commonwealth Games was on expected

lines but for two misses - long jumper Ieswin Aldrin and high jumper Tejaswin Shankar, both of whom had achieved the mark set by the Athletics Federation of



Tejaswin is the only high jumper to have achieved the CWG qualification mark when he recorded a 2.27m jump and won the NCAA championship in the USA less than a week ago. The leap also puts him on top of the India leader board this season, with the second-best jump being 2.25m.

Despite the snub, both Tejaswin and Jeswin are hoping the federation gives them an opportunity to appear for a trial in California, where India is likely to hold a camp ahead of the World Championships. Tejaswin has, in fact, already written a letter to the federation to consider his request.

"I am extremely hopeful that the federation gives me one opportunity. I have already achieved the mark but I am ready to jump in front of them. The reason I was able to achieve the qualification mark in the first place was that I took part against a top field here. Even though I was participating here in the US my heart was just thinking about the CWG qualification," Tejaswin told The Indian

Tejaswin, India's best long jumper by a distance, is naturally heartbroken at the selection news. "NCAA championship is a very serious competition. Several people qualified for their respective countries just because they took part in the NCAA championship. There is regular testing and they follow the best practices," he added.

'I am just two hours away from California. I am requesting for trial despite being the only one to achieve the mark. I am not even asking them to select me, I am just asking for a fair chance. I really want to represent my country at the CWG," said Tejaswin.

The federation reasons that only three athletes - Neeraj Chopra, Avinash Sable and Seema Punia – were given an exemption to skip the inter-state meet, which was incidentally clashing with the NCAA championship.

'It was clearly mentioned on the website this was the last event where one could try to register the qualification standard for the CWG and Worlds. Tejaswin did not want to be selected. Mr Shankar did not ask to be exempted from the Inter-State Championships. He did not take permission from us before he competed in the USA," AFI president Adille Sumariwalla told reporters after the team was announced on Thursday.

Jeswin, who recorded a wind-assisted 8.37m and 8.26m (previous national mark) in Kozhikode just a couple of months, also missed the bus. At the inter-state meet, he recorded a series of fouls and a best attempt of 7.51m (the CWG qualification mark is 8m). Jeswin will also approach the federation for a selection trial.

AFI has currently named a 37-member squad for the CWG in Birmingham from July 28 to August 8. Defending champion Neeraj Chopra undoubtedly is the biggest name in the team and will be accompanied by throwers DP Manu and Rohit Yadav. This is still a provisional list since a few athletes' selection will be decided if they perform well in California or Kazakhstan

#### India athletics squad for CWG

Men: Avinash Sable (3000m Steeplechase); Nitender Rawat (Marathon); M Sreeshankar and Muhammed Anees Yahiya (Long Jump); Abdulla Aboobacker, Praveen Chithravel and Eldhose Paul (Triple Jump); Tajinderpal Singh Toor (Shot Put); Neeraj Chopra, DP Manu and Rohit Yadav (Javelin Throw); Sandeep Kumar and Amit Khatri (Race Walking); Amoj Jacob, Noah Nirmal Tom, Rajiv, Muhammed Ajmal, Naganathan Pandi and Rajesh Ramesh 4x400m Relay).

Women: S Dhanalakshmi (100m and relay); Jyothi (100mHurdles); Aishwarya B (Long Jump and Triple Jump) and Ancy Sojan (Long Jump); Manpreet Kaur (Shot Put); Navjeet Kaur Dhilllon and Seema Antil Punia (Discus Throw); Annu Rani and Shilpa Rani (Javelin Throw); Manju Bala Singh and Sarita Romit Singh (Hammer Throw); Bhawna Jat and Priyanka Goswami (Race Walking); Hima Das, Dutee Chand, Srabani Nanda, MV Jilna and NS Simi (4x100m relay).

#### Now TT player moves court

PTI adds: Rising woman paddler Archana Kamath is the latest table tennis player to move court after she was dropped from the Indian team for the upcoming Commonwealth Games, further deepening the chaos surrounding the selection of the side for July 28-August 8 quadrennial event. Archana was initially included in the table tennis squad as an 'exception' as she did not meet the selection criteria laid down by TTFI, but was suddenly dropped by the Committee of Administrators (CoA) and Diya Chitale was brought in her place.

Shocked by sudden ouster from the squad, Archana, the world no. 4 player in women's doubles along with Manika Batra, has filed a writ petition at the Karnataka High Court against the Government of India, TTFI, Sports Authority of India and other members of the women's team.

The High Court has instructed all the parties to appear before it on the next hearing, which is scheduled on June 22.

# How Saudi Arabian big money has shaken up golf's status quo

With hundreds of millions on offer, several top golfers have left the PGA Tour for the kingdom's LIV Golf

**TUSHAR BHADURI** 

JUNE 16

THIS WEEK, Brookline, Massachusetts is hosting the 'toughest test in golf', as the US Open is often described as. But the last few

weeks can also be referred to as the 'toughest test of golf' as developments on the course and off it threaten to tear the professional game apart. The US-based PGA Tour has been the toughest, most prestigious and most lucra-

tive golf circuit in the world, with most upcoming players aspiring to it as if it were the Holy Grail. Together with the DP World Tour (formerly called the European Tour), it has dominated the golfing scene for Now, a Saudi-funded venture with im-

mensely deep pockets has threatened the status quo, tempting the best players in the world with lucrative contracts and guaranteed prize money to play in their LIV Golf events. Some of the top golfers have jumped ship and the PGA Tour has wasted little time in suspending their membership. But the big names who have opted to switch sides are free to tee up at the US Open and, in all likelihood, next month's 150th Open Championship on The Old Course at St. Andrews, considered the home of golf.

However, it seems likely that they will not be allowed to be involved in any capacity in future Ryder Cups or Presidents Cups.

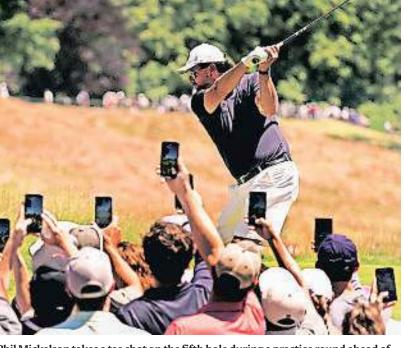
#### What is the row all about?

The Public Investment Fund (PIF), the sovereign wealth fund of Saudi Arabia, has spent a lot of money on elite sports, which critics allege is a means to spruce up the image of the Saudi ruling regime, called 'sportswashing'. The kingdom is accused of several human rights violations and also came under a cloud after the murder of The Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi. The launch of a rival venture against an established US-based tour touches a raw nerve in the USA as 15 of the 19 hijackers in the 9/11 attacks hailed from Saudi Arabia.

The PGA Tour refused to grant waivers to its players for playing in the LIV Golf events. Some of the players even resigned their membership to avoid future sanctions or litigation.

#### What is the format?

LIV stands for 54 in Roman numerals and the tournaments are 54-hole affairs, in



Phil Mickelson takes a tee shot on the fifth hole during a practice round ahead of the U.S. Open golf tournament.

contrast to 72 on traditional tours, and played over three days, not four as is gener-

Each event features 48 players and has a team and individual competition. The teams have four members each. The players tee off at the same time on different holes in what is termed a 'shotgun start'. This is to reduce the time taken for a round, in a bid to make it more TV-friendly.

#### How much money is on offer? The biggest names in golf have been of-

fered astronomical sums – often in hundreds of millions of dollars - to join the new venture. This is just the signing

Fronted by former world Number 1 Greg Norman, LIV Golf has lined up eight events in 2022. Each of them will have a prize fund of \$25 million, making them comfort-

amount.

ably more lucrative than any tournament on the PGA Tour. The winner will take home \$4m, another high. The final event

will see the winning team getting \$16m, with each member getting 25 percent.

There is no cut and the player finishing last will still be richer by \$120,000. In contrast, on other tours, players missing the cut don't get any prize money.

#### Who all have joined and why?

Dustin Johnson, Bryson DeChambeau, Patrick Reed, Charl Schwartzel, Louis Oosthuizen, Ian Poulter, Graeme McDowell and Phil Mickelson are some of the prominent names on the LIV Golf roster. Some of them like Poulter

and McDowell have justified their decision, arguing that they are global professionals, while sidestepping the moral questions thrown at them.

"No one's going to argue that fact but we're golfers. We're not politicians. If Saudi Arabia want to use the game of golf as a way for them to get to where they want to be, we're proud to help

them on that journey," McDowell said. Poulter said: "I regard myself as a global

**Dustin Johnson, Bryson** DeChambeau, Patrick Reed, Charl Schwartzel, Louis Oosthuizen, Ian Poulter, Graeme McDowell and Phil Mickelson are some of the prominent names on the LIV Golf roster.

golfer and I have been for 24 years. I've played on numerous tours and events around the world and that is what I'm continuing to do."

Others didn't hide the fact that it was about the money.

Johnson had earlier pledged his allegiance to the PGA Tour before having a change of heart and resigning his membership. "I don't want to play for the rest of my life, this gives me an opportunity to do what I want to do," Johnson said.

DeChambeau calls his move "a business decision, first and foremost."

"There was a lot of financials to it and a lot of time. I get to have a life outside of the game of golf as well. It's given me a lot more opportunities outside of the game of golf and given me more time with my family and my future family." DeChambeau said.

Some others are in their late 40s and early 50s and know their best golfing days are behind them. They may want to cash in while they can.

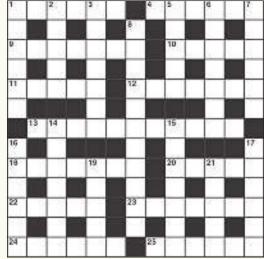
#### Why are so many LIV Golf players still in the US Open field?

The golf establishment hasn't hidden its disappointment at the big names deserting the official tours. But the US Open is organised by the United States Golf Association (USGA), and not the PGA Tour. The criteria for earning a berth in the Major was decided much before LIV Golf emerged on the scene, so it was argued that denying them the opportunity to play would be unfair on those who have made it on merit. Many of them are past champions and have gained exemptions.

#### Are there any parallels in other sports?

If one can earn much more by playing much less, there's a great temptation. It is the logic of T20 cricket professionals who go around the world playing in various leagues while not always turning up for their national teams. It is less taxing on the body and leaves one with ample time for

#### CROSSWORD 4770



#### ACROSS

1 Buffalo Bill tours the Middle East

4 Detached state of the caribou (6) 9 Firm receives clear order for a boat(7)

10 Do return with our bouquet (5) 11 Ring an agent back at Covent Garden?(5) 12 An error in the wage packet?

13 More than mere business

acquaintances (4,7) 18 Title given to James novel (4,3)

20 Class distinction (5) 22 My lie is found out by a girl

23 Ill treatment? (7) 24 Sampled the last of the fruit fresh dates (6)

25 Repeatedly set about a fly (6)

#### **DOWN**

1 Two companies joining together on a silk product (6) 2 Get involved in someone else's business?(5)

3 Badly presented medical lecture 5 Look round New York - it's crazy

6 Oil ran about and caused damage(7) 7 Sharp rap but different (6) 8 Character in rage meant to

explode (11) 14 The antiquarian's avowed interest is shattered (2,5) 15 Guards companies (7)

16 Notwithstanding it's a vestment to fasten up (6) 17 Note bird dog (6) 19 James's girl? (5) 21 Clothing workers? (5)

Solutions Crossword 4769: Across: 1 Masseur, 5 Sadie, 8 Doctor of Music, 9 Ennui, 10 Empress, 11 Sphinx, 12 Heated, 15 Release, 17 Patch, 19 Private income, 20 Sight,  $21 \, Dresses. \, \textbf{Down}: \, 1 \, Midge, \, 2 \, Second \, helping, \, 3 \, Emotion, \, 4 \, Rhodes, \, 5 \, Sum \, up, \, 6 \, Dissertations, \, 7 \, Excused, \, 11 \, Stripes, \, 13 \, Expense, \, 14 \, Defend, \, 16 \, Apart, \, 18 \, Heels.$ 

#### **OVER THE HEDGE** by Michael Fry & T Lewis









#### **CALVIN & HOBBES** by Bill Watterson



ANANA SUSC. BUT I CAMP TROM ON ROOM. I'M A KID MOR BAYPLANS, AND SM GONG PAINSE. SES YO LAYYRY





#### **MARVIN** by Tom Armstrong







### **JUMBLED WORDS**

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip. would rather be right and die than be\_\_\_and\_\_\_- Holly Lisle (5,.,4)

**AGINKW** 

Answer: I would rather be right and die than be **wrong** and **kill** - Holly Lisle SOLUTION: IRONY, LISLE, ORIGIN, WAKING

#### Difficulty Level 2s To solve a Sudoku puzzle,

every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the

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

| 6 |   |   |   | 8 |   |              |   | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--------------|---|---|
|   | 9 | 8 | 1 |   | 7 | 2            | 3 |   |
| ī |   |   | 9 | 1 | 6 |              |   |   |
|   |   | 4 |   |   |   | 1            |   |   |
|   |   |   | 7 | 2 | 4 |              |   |   |
|   | 8 | 5 | 4 |   | 2 | 9            | 7 |   |
| 9 |   |   |   | 5 |   | $\mathbb{T}$ |   | 4 |
| 4 |   |   |   |   |   | ŢII.         |   | 3 |

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4867 1 8 9 2 5 4 8 5 9 2 4 3 6 1 7 7 5 6 9 3 8 8 9 1 1 5 672 4 8 3 286 5 3 4 3 1 9 6 7 8 4 2 3 2 5 1 6 9 4 8 2 4 1 8 3 7 5

#### **DAY TODAY**

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) Assertive Martian

now be having an effect, and today they're joined by emotional Lunar patterns, indicating that if vou should feel like showing off or being a bit of a prima donna, go right ahead. And if you want to re-live former triumphs, why not?

#### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) Keep your wits about you at all times,

mainly because what is now taking place away from your gaze will affect your future interests. It may be next week before you discover what partners are doing. The simple solution is to see to it that your own plans are water-tight.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) At work and home you must keep the talking going, aware of the need for

agreement. At least you must make sure that loved ones know your views on a promised engagement. If you explain yourself, they can't pretend they didn't understand you.

#### CANCER (June 22 - July 23) It's time to get out and indulge in a spot

of shopping therapy, hopefully today, but tomorrow will do if you really are tied up just now. There's nothing like spending a bit of money on an overdue treat to lift your morale. But, then, you still need a long-term solution,

so don't imagine that you're off

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23) You are bathed in beneficial lunar alignments, and these are bound to

make you feel increasingly emotional, and more compassionate. You may be a little gullible, vand hence a soft touch vfor some. So, keep a weather-eye open for roving confidence tricksters.

#### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23) You do tend to

worry, and sometimes you wonder if you've backed the wrong horse.

However, right now you should allow yourself a great deal of extra time to consider the options and give current developments time to work themselves out before taking

#### BY PETER VIDAL

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Your social stars are

beginning to look more buoyant, and you should keep your eyes open for new friends and meetings. Where romance is concerned, it looks very much as if security is increasingly the main issue. You want to hang on

to what you have.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23) Strident planetary aspects force you to choose between home and work. between family interests and

outside ambitions. Once you have made your position clear, others should give you the freedom to go your own way. But is freedom really what you want? You won't know unless you've got it. SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

Let the past take care

concentrate on the untried and untested solutions of the future. It will do you a power of good to improve conditions at work, spreading a bit of colour around and generally raising the quality of life. And while you're at it, why

don't you reassure people you

of itself and

#### behind them? CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20) Perhaps long-term financial

live with that you're right

obligations are causing concern, but you will have to understand that partners may not share your outlook, Relax and trust a little in the healing power of time. It's strange how what is so important today can be forgotten tomorrow.

commitments and

#### AQUARIUS (Jan 21- Feb 19) It's a fairly stressful day, but by no means

a bad one. Much depends on how far you are prepared to welcome change, and to what extent you can turn friction to your advantage. It may be a cliché, but do look on the bright side, won't you? After all, optimism

#### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) Stay busy and keep



possibly can. The essential rule is that the harder you work now, the more time you'll have off later on. I know you know that, but it's worth reminding you, all the same

4TH T20I:

India vs South Africa, 6.50pm, Live on Star Sports **BWF INDONESIA OPEN:** 

Quarterfinals, 11.30am, Live on Sports 18

#### **BRIEFLY** -

#### Prannoy storms into QF of Indonesia Open

*Jakarta*: One of the heroes of India's epic Thomas Cup triumph, HS Prannoy continued his rich vein of form as he stormed into the quarterfinals of the Indonesia Open Super 1000 tournament with a straight-game win over Hong Kong's Ng Ka Long Angus here on Thursday. The 29-year-old from Kerala, who is desperately looking to break his five year title drought, dished out another impressive performance to outwit Ng Long 21-11, 21-18 in a second round match that lasted 41 minutes. Among other Indians in the fray, Sameer Verma ended his campaign with a 10-21 13-21 loss to world number five Lee Zii Jia of Malaysia in the second round.

#### Chanu wins gold at Khelo India League

Nagrota Bagwan: Olympic medallist Mirabai Chanu won the gold medal comfortably but could not better her national record in snatch at the inaugural Khelo India Women Weightlifting League tournament here on Thursday. The Tokyo Olympics silver medallist lifted a total of 191kg (86kg+105kg) to stand atop the podium in the ranking event for women in the senior, junior and youth categories. Gyaneshwari Yadav 170kg (78kg+92) and former 45kg Asian Weightlifting Championship gold medallist Jhilli Dalabehra 166kg (75kg+91kg) finished second and third respectively.

#### Para Powerlifting: Basha wins 2 silvers

Bengaluru: Mumbai produced an incisive bowling display to bundle out Uttar Pradesh for a paltry 180 and take the crucial first-innings lead on the third day of their Ranji Trophy semifinal, here on Thursday. Resuming at the overnight score of 25/2, UP batters could add just 155 runs as Tushar Deshpande (3/34), Tanush Kotian (3/35) and Mohit Avasthi (3/39) shared nine wickets between them for Mumbai.

**Brief Scores:** Mumbai 393 & 1331/1 (P Shaw 64, Y Jaiswal 35\*, A Jaffer 32\*) vs UP 180 all out (M Kaushik 38, S Mavi 48; T Deshpande 3/34, M Avasthi 3/39, T Koitan 3/35); MP: 341 & 163/2 (A Srivastava 34\*, R Patidar 63\*) vs Bengal 273 (M Tiwary 102, S Ahmed 116; K Kartikeya 3/61, SJain 3/63, PDatey 3/48)

#### Dani Alves leaves Barca for 2nd time

Barcelona: Dani Alves is leaving Barcelona for a second time, five months after the veteran Brazil right back returned to the Spanish club he helped lead to 23 titles. He started a second stint with Barcelona in January as a free agent on a contract that expired this summer. He scored one goal in 17 appearances last season. He finished his Barcelona career with 408 appearances

#### Halle: Kyrgios, Medvedev win

Halle: Second-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas was eliminated from the Halle Open in the second round on Wednesday as Nick Kyrgios fought back to win 5-7, 6-2,6-4. Top-ranked Daniil Medvedev advanced by beating David Goffin 6-3, 6-2. The Russian will next play Ilya Ivashka of Belarus in the second round.



#### SERIES WIDE OPEN

India coach Rahul Dravid with stand-in skipper Rishabh Pant on Thursday, the eve of the fourth T20I against South Africa in Rajkot.

# Yours faithfully, Sunil Chhetri

Having scored almost a third of India's goals, India's 37-year-old talisman continues to save their blushes

MIHIR VASAVDA

JUNE 16

NOTHING ABOUT the run, the acrobatics or the goal suggested Sunil Chhetri will turn 38 in two months.

Sprinting towards the goal, eyes following the ball, arms outstretched and right leg extended, Chhetri met the diagonal cross from a free-kick mid-air. Then, in one motion, he cushioned it down, opened his body, slotted it past the Hong Kong goalkeeper with the left foot and, in a rare goal celebration, sealed it with a kiss to the thousands in the stands.

A couple of days earlier, when India seemed to have run out of ideas against Afghanistan, Chhetri lined up a free-kick from roughly 25 yards out with about five minutes left to play. He wrapped his right boot around the ball, which looked like it was headed well wide of the target but curled in sharply to find the top corner of the goal.

Days before, against Cambodia in the opening match of the Asian Cup qualifiers, six players – including the goalkeeper – stood between two Indian attackers, one of them being Chhetri, and the goal when Brandon Fernandes whipped in a cross from the left. Chhetri, who had already scored one from a first-half penalty, snuck behind the defenders to head home the ball.

On Tuesday, India sealed their ba back Asian Cup berths for the first time ever. However, this was about Chhetri, like it always is when the national team is involved. What would India be without Chhetri' is probably a question/statement that floods the metaverse almost every time the team plays. It captures both India's plight without its talisman and the awe that Chhetri inspires with his ridiculous levels of reliability.

Take away his goals and one shudders to think where the national team would've been in world football. Since the time he made his debut, on June 12, 2005. Chhetri has scored almost a third of India's goals. Would the national team have qualified for the Asian Cups in 2011, 2019 and 2023 without his strikes? Or won the SAFF Championships so frequently? Who knows, perhaps they would've succumbed to more embarrassing defeats if not for his numerous rescue acts.

In Indian colours, Sunil Chhetri has scored 84 goals in 129 matches against 31 different opponents over 17 years

Of course, the argument can be made that someone else would've taken Chhetri's place if not for him. But it's also true that no player from this generation has come close to matching his goal-scoring prowess, consistency or longevity - 84 goals in 129 matches against 31 different opponents over 17 years is a testimony to that.

Looking at Chhetri's career merely through numbers, however, does not do justice to the man and all that he's done for Indian football. And there's very little he hasn't done: he's changed the mindset by chucking aside the semi-pro culture and embracing professionalism to a level that one hadn't seen before; he, with his heartfelt pleas, has got bums on seats when the national team plays; and then takes it upon himself to make sure those fans are entertained.

As former Bengaluru FC manager Carles Cuadrat says, Chhetri is 'a treasure, a kind of special gemstone for Indian football." "What makes Sunil special is his position on the pitch." Cuadrat tells The Indian Express from Barcelona. "A lot of players who perform well for such a long time are central defenders or defensive midfielders, not wingers or fullbacks because they have to run a lot. Also, not forwards because they have to keep scoring always. In Sunil's case, what makes it more special is that he is performing as a striker and

is the top scorer of any team plays for, India or Bengaluru."

#### 'Boring lifestyle'

The secret, Chhetri's first captain Shanmugam Venkatesh, a former India international and assistant coach, says, is in the sacrifices he has made. "He challenges himself every day," Venkatesh says. During the qualifiers in Qatar recently, Venkatesh and Chhetri were relaxing in the lounge when Chhetri developed a craving. "He smiled at me and said, 'Venky bhai, chai-samosa khane ka mann kar raha hai. Someday..." Venkatesh recalls. "When I played, I could eat biryani on the eve of the match. My body could handle that. But Sunil doesn't party, doesn't eat junk, sleeps early, wakes up early, works out every day, doesn't miss training... a boring lifestyle for a normal person but that's the reason he has been able to play so consistently for 17 years."

It's a lifestyle he's followed for years at Bengaluru FC. There are no cheat days, even during the off-season, when Chhetri does not skip training. During the season, on match days, he is one of the first to reach the club and heads straight to the massage room where he lies down on his chest and immerses himself in videos of Messi as the masseur does his thing. "Like Rafa Nadal, who arranges his bottles meticulously during a match, Sunil has many finy rituals. But he isn't obsessed by it or doesn't overdo anything," Cuadrat says. Venkatesh adds: "He reads, understands and does what is right. And he does it every day, not just on the day of the match or the day after. That's why he can score goals as he scored against Hong Kong the other day."

#### Multiple roles

Chhetri, of course, is more than the sum total of his goals. He can assist, play secondfiddle and put in a defensive shift if the situation demands, especially when donning Bengaluru's blue iersey. Cuadrat gives the example of Bengaluru's ISL game against Hyderabad, which was played weeks before the pandemic struck. The game-plan, the Spaniard says, was that when his team would earn their first corner on the right, the ball would be crossed at the top of the penalty box towards Chhetri. He would make a decoy run so that Nishu Kumar, a left-back, could run in behind him from the midfield and take a shot.

"Sunil is usually our target man in these situations. He is very good with the header and very good at shooting... so it's obvious that he is one of our targets. The opponents, too, are watching and marking him closely because he is the main threat," he says. "We were talking to Sunil, and he said it was tough but we should try."

In the seventh minute, Bengaluru earned corner on the right. Midfielder Dimas Delgado sent a signal to his teammates and then counted to three; that was the moment the runs had to be initiated. "Sunil was the last player at the edge of the penalty box to run inside, and everyone was looking at him, waiting for his move," Cuadrat says.

Chhetri made a dash inside the box and distracted the defenders to create space for Nishu, the unlikeliest of goalscorers, who came charging in from behind to smash from the corner from the edge of the box. "After the goal, Sunil did not go to the players to celebrate. Instead, he came to the bench to honour us, honour the idea and capacity we had as a team to create something where he wasn't the protagonist but played a secondary role. It says a lot about him; that he is always thinking for the good of the team."

During the season Bengaluru became champions, Cuadrat says it was Chhetri's defensive work, while playing as a left-winger which came in handier. "When we were defending, we had a 4-1-4-1 system. Miku was taking care of central defenders and the rest of the team was in defence. We were very compact, there were no passing lanes for the opponents. Sunil and Udanta's (Singh) defensive work on the wings let us have a strong defensive system," Cuadrat says. "Now, with age, if he isn't good enough for press, you can use him as number 10. He can be used in different offensive positions - as number 10, number 9, winger...'

The national team, perhaps, does not have that liberty given that there are few goal-scoring players. Manvir Singh and Ishan Pandita have shown promise but will have to prove consistency. In such a scenario, the who-after-Chhetri question will not die down so easily. The man himself, however, continues to

## Flat tracks like Delhi can hamper confidence, says **Harshal Patel**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** JUNE 16

AFTER THEIR bowlers defended a total successfully for the first time in three attempts in Visakhapatnam, India face another must-win scenario against South Africa on Friday evening in Rajkot in the fourth of five Twenty20 internationals. And at what has usually been a high-scoring venue, the hosts' bowling could be tested once more.

India failed to defend a total of 211 on a bel-ter in the series opener in Delhi, as South Africa lost only three wickets and won with five deliveries to spare. In the second match in Cuttack, the batsmen could post only 148; Bhuvneshwar Kumar's powerplay strikes reduced the South Africans to 29 for 3 but with little help from the surface, the Indian spinners couldn't capitalise and Heinrich Klaasen belted 81 to carry the visitors to a comfortable win. Yuzvendra Chahal and Axar Patel had gone for 68 in five overs in Cuttack, and 66 in six overs in Delhi, for a collective two wickets. But they regained their bite in Visakhapatnam and bowled their full quota of eight overs for the first time in the series for four wickets at run-a-ball; the slow surface with some grip and turn helped them squeeze the life early out of South Africa's chase of 180. The pitch, as well as long straight boundaries, also suited Harshal Patel's bowling style, allowing him to make good use of his slower ones, both pitched-up and dug shortish into the surface.

Ahead of the Rajkot game, Harshal said that he'd prefer sluggish surfaces such as Visakhapatnam as against the Delhi one, which, according to him, could dent bowlers' confidence. "Although there was not a lot of variable bounce or lateral movement from the (Visakhapatnam) pitch, it was definitely slow. So that allowed us to bowl hard lengths and slower balls into the pitch. It was difficult to clear the boundary from those lengths,' Harshal said. "I would certainly prefer to play on slower pitches because it allows you a bit of fighting chance. If we consistently keep playing on pitches like Delhi, it can hamper your confidence a little bit.

"We also have world-class spinners in the team, who can bowl well on any pitch, but it does bring them a little more into the game when we have slightly slower pitches and slightly bigger ground dimensions."

After the third T20I, Chahal had suggested that he was looking forward to bowling with the extra protection of the bigger square boundaries in Rajkot. However, the average scoring rate in three T20Is at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium has been 9.2 runs an over, indicating unforgiving bowling conditions. But Harshal said that the weather would be a major factor in determining the nature of the surface. Although maximum temperatures in Rajkot are currently in the late thirties, scattered thunderstorms are forecast on Friday afternoon.

"We cannot go by the reputation (of the ground) always as the weather on the day will have a big role in what kind of pitch we get,' Harshal said. "We will have to assess the con-



Hashal Patel says he prefers to play on slower pitches.

# Extremely disappointed with our top order: Arun Lal

#### **SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY** JUNE 16

TWO MADHYA Pradesh spinners, Kumar Kartikeva and Saransh Jain, shared six wickets between them, as their side took an important 68-run first-innings lead on the third day of their Ranji Trophy semifinal on Thursday. At stumps, MP's lead swelled to 231 runs – 163/2 in their second innings. They can sniff the final.

Once upon a time, MP cricket, in its Holkar vintage, used to throw up stars for fun – CK Nayudu, Mushtaq Ali, Bhausaheb Nimbalkar, CS Nayudu... The current crop has Rajat Patidar's popularity from his IPL exploits. Patidar is batting on 63 in the second innings, but so far it has been a collective effort under the head coach Chandrakant Pandit's charge; from Himanshu Mantri's excellent century in the first innings to Kartikeya and Jain's spinbowling and Puneet Datey's disciplined medium pace.

Even when Manoj Tiwary and Shahbaz Ahmed were threatening to take the game away, MP believed. A mistimed sweep from Tiwary gave them an opportunity to run through the Bengal lower-order, which they



63 for Madhya Pradesh

did. Last time MP qualified for the Ranji Trophy final was in 1998-99. This game is now theirs to lose.

MP's job, though, was made easier by a lacklustre batting display from Bengal. Tiwary scored a century, braving a heavilystrapped swollen knee and Shahbaz Ahmed, too, batted brilliantly to reach three-figures.

The two added 183 runs for the sixth wicket on the heels of a top-order collapse. Apart from that, however, Bengal's innings had eight single-digit scores and captain Abhimanyu Easwaran's 22. It was down to poor application.

Bengal head coach Arun Lal agreed. "Absolutely, there's no question about it. I'm extremely disappointed with our top-order. I cannot understand how on this pitch you can be 50/5?" Lal told The Indian Express. Maybe, it was the mindset. The lead-up

of this semifinal had left-arm spinner Kartikeya spinning a web on a turning Alur deck. The majority of the Bengal batsmen seemingly carried the fear factor to the crease. "Must have been, because it looks like the top-order was very tense in the beginning," Lal said.

Tiwary revelled in his quality, while Shahbaz has been the team's crisis man over the last couple of seasons. The way he batted, a promotion in the batting order is imminent. "Definitely. If not No. 3, then No. 4, but definitely in the top five. His temperament is something that stands out. He is cool, he is calm. Doesn't panic. He is not scared. And he has got a very practical batting technique. Very low backlift; there's no backlift unless he is hitting a shot. Also, he has got huge leadership qualities. He is a leader and a performer.

"For the last three years he has been a guaranteed performer. Today, he ran out of partners," his coach Lal observed.

Bengal aren't throwing in the towel yet.

That's not in Lal's nature. For that though, early wickets on the fourth day would be es-Spinners should come into play more

and Bengal have been playing an extra spinner in Pradipta Pramanik in this game. "The pitch has become so slow that once a batsman gets set, it looks like it's almost

impossible to get him out. You need quality red-ball spinners (on this surface)," Lal said. Shahbaz would do the restrictive job from one end. From Bengal's perspective, Pramanik, young and raw, needs to punch above his weight.

Also, Bengal missed Wriddhiman Saha both in front of the wicket and behind the stumps.

The wicketkeeper-batsman refused to play for his state team this term after fallouts with the state association. "Of course, he (Saha) would have brought in more experience. He is a great cricketer. But he chose not to play for Bengal and that's his decision," Lal said. "I don't support it, but it's his decision and I respect it.

Brief scores: MP 341 all out and 163/2 in 63 overs (Rajat Patidar 63 not out) vs Bengal 273 all out in 89.2 overs (Shahbaz Ahmed 116, Manoj Tiwary 102; Puneet Datey 3/48, Kumar Kartikeya 3/61, Saransh Jain 3/63)

## Mumbai in total command, take first-innings lead vs UP

#### **PRESSTRUST OF INDIA** JUNE 16

MUMBAI PRODUCED an incisive bowling display to bundle out Uttar Pradesh for a paltry 180 and take the crucial first-innings lead on

the third day of their Ranji Trophy semifinal, here on Thursday. Resuming at the overnight score of 25 for

two, UP batters could add just 155 runs as Tushar Deshpande (3/34), off-spinner Tanush Kotian (3/35) and Mohit Avasthi (3/39) shared nine wickets between them for Mumbai. Dhawal Kulkarni (1/25) also chipped in with a scalp. Skipper Prithvi Shaw made 64 off 71 balls with the help of 12 boundaries as Mumbai finished the day at 133 for one in their second innings, taking an overall lead of 346 runs. Mumbai had posted 393 in their first essay, courtesy hundreds by Yashasvi Jaiswal and Hardik Tamore.

UP lost wickets regularly after resumption with the 41-time Ranji Trophy champions dominating from the start.

The first UP batter to be dismissed on the day was skipper Karan Sharma (27), who became Avasthi's first victim.

Opener Madhav Kaushik (38) and Rinku Singh (16) tried to rally the innings, but managed to forge only a 32-run stand for the fifth wicket before the former was dismissed by Kotian. After that, the UP batters made a beeline to the pavilion. Rinku, Dhruv Jorel (2) and Saurabh Kumar (0) fell in quick succession. Kotian trapped Rinku in front of the wickets, while Awasthi accounted for the two other dismissals.

Coming onto bat at no. 8, Shivam Mavi (48) showed some late resistance, but it was too little and too late. Mavi hit four boundaries and two sixes in his blazing 55-ball knock.

Deshpande then swung into action and ripped apart the tail.

But the day belonged to Kotian, who broke Mavi's resistance as UP conceded a massive 213-run first innings lead.

There was more agony in store for UP as Shaw (64) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (35 not out) made an aggressive start by adding 66 runs for the opening wicket in Mumbai's second

**Brief Scores:** Mumbai 393 & 1331/1 (P Shaw 64, Y Jaiswal 35\*, A Jaffer 32\*) vs UP 180 all out (M Kaushik 38, S Mavi 48; T Deshpande 3/34, M Avasthi 3/39, T Koitan 3/35)

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