



## Rising prices drive wholesale inflation to record high of 15.1%

**AANCHAL MAGAZINE**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 17

THE INFLATION rate based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) surged to a record high of 15.1 per cent in April, with the rise in prices of vegetables, fruits, milk, manufacturing, fuel and power, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Tuesday.

This is the highest WPI print in the 2011-12 series. Annual WPI inflation — inflation at the producer level — has remained in double digits for 13 months in a row, consistently edging upwards.

According to data released last week, inflation at the retail level also surged to an eight-year high of 7.79 per cent in April, with expectations now rising for another repo rate hike by the RBI in June of as much as 40 basis points.

The heatwave this summer has led to a spike in prices of perishables such as fruits, vegetables and milk, which along with a spike in tea prices pushed up primary food inflation.

Inflation for manufactured products rose to 10.85 per cent in April mainly contributed by basic metals, chemicals and chemical products, textiles, ma-

EXPLAINED

**The big worry**

MUCH OF the inflation spike is being seen as a result of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. But the big worry for policy-makers is the trend of retail inflation converging towards WPI-based inflation — in deviation from the usual trend of wholesale price inflation collapsing in the direction of retail price rise.

chinery and equipment, and electrical equipment. Fuel inflation rose to 38.66 per cent, led by high inflation in major categories of petrol, diesel, LPG and aviation turbine fuel. Crude petroleum and natural gas recorded inflation of 69.07 per cent in April.

The core-WPI inflation — the non-food, non-fuel component — rose to a four-month high of 11.1 per cent in April, with producers forced to pass on the input price pressures. Inflation in food articles was 8.35 per cent as prices of vegetables (23.24 per cent), wheat (10.70 per cent),

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



## MARITIME MIGHT

Indigenously built *Udaygiri*, a frontline warship of the Navy, being launched at Mazagon Docks in Mumbai, on Tuesday. *Pradip Das*

## Weak market debut for LIC, lists at 8% discount

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
MUMBAI, MAY 17

DISAPPOINTING INVESTORS on listing day, shares of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), which mobilised around Rs 20,557 crore through the country's biggest initial public offering (IPO) recently, plunged nearly 8 per cent in its market debut on Tuesday.

LIC, India's biggest insurer and domestic financial institution, started trading at Rs 867.20 — at a discount of 8.62 per cent — on the BSE as against the issue price of Rs 949 per share. The share closed the day at Rs 875.45, a discount of 7.75 per cent, even as the volatile stock markets staged a rally, with the Sensex jumping nearly 1,345 points, or 2.54 per cent.

LIC now has a market value of around Rs 5.53 lakh crore and is India's fifth biggest company in terms of market capitalisation after Reliance Industries, TCS,



DIPAM secy Tuhin Kanta Pandey, LIC chairperson M R Kumar. *Ganesh Shirsekar*

EXPLAINED

**LOW-KEY LISTING FOR LIC: WHAT ARE THE LONG-TERM PROSPECTS? PAGE 5**

HDFC Bank and Infosys.

"We were not expecting it to pick up as the markets were jittery... expect it to pick up. I am sure a lot of policy-holders who had missed out in the IPO will pick up LIC from the market now. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## SC says ED can question TMC MP, his wife in Kolkata

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 17

IN A relief to TMC Lok Sabha MP Abhishek Banerjee, the Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Enforcement Directorate (ED), to question Banerjee and his wife in Kolkata, and not in Delhi.

The ED wants to question them in connection with a case of money laundering arising out of a coal scam.

"It shall be open to the Directorate of Enforcement to require attendance of the petitioners in its office at Kolkata by giving at least 24 hours' notice,"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## DECLINES TO STAY GYANVAPI PROCEEDINGS

# Secure Shivling claim site, allow namaz: SC

Plea in Varanasi clearly seeks to change religious character: Masjid committee

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN & LALMANI VERMA**  
NEW DELHI, VARANASI, MAY 17

DECLINING TO stay proceedings before a Varanasi court on matters related to the Kashi Vishwanath temple-Gyanvapi mosque complex, the Supreme Court Tuesday asked the Varanasi district magistrate to secure the area where a Shivling was claimed to have been found during a videographic survey of the mosque area without impeding or restricting the rights of Muslims to access and offer namaz at the mosque.

The Bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and PS Narasimha, hearing an appeal by the Committee of Management of Anjuman Intezamia Masjid, Varanasi, said there is lack of clarity on whether the trial court, in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



The Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi. *Anand Singh*

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

**WE ASK THE WRONG QUESTION**

By FAHAD ZUBERI

**CAUTION, CONSTITUTION**

Any attempt to change character of Gyanvapi mosque violates law of the land

PAGE 6

## Survey official removed, two more days to submit report

**LALMANI VERMA**  
VARANASI, MAY 17

THE VARANASI court on Tuesday removed the Advocate Commissioner it had appointed initially to oversee the videographic survey of the Gyanvapi mosque complex, stating that he had been "highly irresponsible" in executing the work.

The court also extended the deadline for submission of the survey report by two days to May 19.

The removal of Advocate Commissioner Ajay Kumar Mishra came on an application filed by Vishal Singh, the Special Advocate Commissioner. Singh

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Needle moves within BJP: New claim brings Kashi out of cold, raises heat on 1991 law

**LIZ MATHEW**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 17

WHEN THE Supreme Court ruled in favour of the Ram temple in Ayodhya on November 9, 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called it a "day to forget any bitterness one may have". The

same day, responding to a question on whether the RSS would now take up the issue of the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi and the Shahi Idgah in Mathura, its chief Mohan Bhagwat said: "Because of a historical back-drop, the Sangh got associated with this movement (Ayodhya)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**WORLD**

**MARIUPOL FALLS AS OVER 250 UKRAINE FIGHTERS SURRENDER**

**GOTABAYA DEFEATS CENSURE MOTION AS PARLIAMENT GETS NEW DY SPEAKER, P12**

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Kashmiri pandits protest, India's fertility rate, and Tripura gets a new CM

Why Kashmiri Pandits are protesting in the valley, why India's overall fertility rate has gone down, and why the BJP decide to change the Chief Minister in Tripura.

THE MANY ARGUMENTS FOR, AND AGAINST, ABORTION RIGHTS

As the Supreme Court of America reviews the constitutional legality of abortion, activists fear that women's reproductive rights may be scaled back across the US, resulting in a cascading effect around the world. Most countries allow abortion in certain circumstances but interpretation of laws and availability of access varies.

ACTOR SIDDHARTH INTERVIEW

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## FROM PAGE ONE

### Official removed

was appointed by the court last Thursday for the survey following allegations of bias levelled by the mosque committee against Mishra.

In his application to Civil Judge (Senior Division) Ravi Kumar Diwakar, Vishal Singh alleged that Mishra and Assistant Advocate Commissioner Ajay Pratap Singh, who was also appointed last week, were not cooperating in the survey — and that a private cameraman with Mishra was “giving bytes” to the media.

“Special Advocate Commissioner Vishal Singh has given this application seeking clarity on the situation... It is clear that the private cameraman of Advocate Commissioner Ajay Kumar Mishra constantly gave bytes to the media, which is completely against judicial conduct,” the court said in its order.

The order stated that the court has removed Mishra with “immediate effect”, and that Assistant Advocate Commissioner Ajay Pratap Singh has been directed not to do anything independently, and work under Vishal Singh.

It stated that Vishal Singh will file a report on work done by the commission after May 12, when he was appointed.

Earlier, Mishra and Ajay Pratap Singh apprised the court that they were fully cooperating in the survey. But Vishal Singh submitted that Mishra’s “personal cameraman” was giving “wrong statements” to the media — and hence was kept out of the commission’s work on Monday.

In its order, the court stated that when a lawyer is appointed as advocate commissioner and executes the functions of a commission, he is in the position of a public servant and expected to execute the work with honesty, in an unbiased manner, and not make any irresponsible statement in public.

Speaking to reporters about his application on Ajay Kumar Mishra, Vishal Singh said: “The impartiality of the commission was being questioned. Action has happened so that no question is raised on its fairness.” The survey report will be filed in two days, he said.

Mishra, however, told reporters that he was “paying the price for honesty” and claimed that he had not done anything to hamper the commission’s work.

Mishra was appointed by the Varanasi court on April 8 to carry out the survey of the disputed site, “prepare videography of the action” and submit a report. Subsequently, the mosque committee had filed an application in the court, accusing him of being “biased”.

Meanwhile, three of the five women petitioners in the case filed an application before the Varanasi court seeking measurement of the Shivaling, which is claimed to have been found during the videographic survey of the mosque area.

They also appealed for the sur-

vey to cover more area, and removal of debris and walls from the area.

Hearing the application filed by Rekha Pathak, Manju Vyas and Sita Sahu, the court asked for objections, if any, to be submitted by Wednesday when the case is likely to be heard.

### Needle moves

as an organisation. It is an exception. Now we will again be associated with human development and this movement will not remain of concern to us.”

Both the BJP and the RSS leadership gave strict directives to their units across the country to avoid any triumphalism over the verdict.

That needle is now moving. The legal process that has been set into motion in Varanasi and the hearing in Mathura, along with the Supreme Court’s intervention, have stirred the political pot.

Senior BJP leaders, including some office-bearers, told The Indian Express that “new developments” have triggered fresh debate within that could also include a relook at the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act 1991.

That Act freezes the status quo on places of worship as of August 15, 1947, and the Supreme Court, in its Ayodhya verdict, linked it to “an essential feature of our secular values”.

On Monday as news broke that lawyers representing the petitioners claimed a Shivaling was found during videography of the Gyanvapi mosque, UP Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, a former VHP leader, was quick to say: “No matter how much you hide the truth, one day it will come to the fore, because Satya hi Shiv hai, (truth is Shiva), Baba ki Jai, Har Har Mahadev!”

This was echoed by senior party leader and Rajya Sabha MP Vinay Sahasrabudhe: “Satya hi Shiv hai, Shiv hi Sundar hai #Gyanvapi”. The Muslim petitioners have contested this, saying this is a fountain.

A senior BJP leader said that the finding of a Shivaling in the Gyanvapi mosque makes “restoration” of puja “imminent”.

He acknowledged that this would be a “direct challenge” to the Places of Worship Act. “The finding of Shivaling in the mosque changes everything,” said the leader. “If it’s proved that it’s a Shivaling, not a stone fountainhead as the caretakers of the mosque claim, no force in the world can stop the next steps. Then the game is over. Restoration of puja becomes imminent because idols or deities cannot stay without puja.”

“For Hindus across the world, Kashi is more important than Ayodhya,” said another party leader.

But doesn’t this challenge the post-Ayodhya understanding in the party? No, said the first leader, arguing that the VHP had negotiated an agreement with the BJP that “of the innumerable temples

## Secure Shivling, allow namaz: SC on Gyanvapi

its May 16 order, had directed only protection of the Shivaling or had also granted the other reliefs sought — to restrict to 20 the number of Muslims who can enter the mosque and offer namaz, and to stop the use of the wazu khana for ablution.

Asking Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared for the State of Uttar Pradesh, to clarify this, the bench said “in order to obviate any dispute on the meaning and content of the order of the trial judge, the operation and ambit of the order dated May 16, 2022 shall stand restricted to the extent that the District Magistrate, Varanasi, shall ensure that the area where the Shivaling is reported to have been found, as indicated in the order, shall be duly protected”.

Issuing notice and posting the matter for May 19, the bench, however, clarified that this “shall not in any manner restrain or impede the access of Muslims to the mosque or the use of the mosque for the purpose of performing namaz and religious observances”. The mosque committee said what was claimed to have been found was not a Shivaling but part of a fountain. It repeatedly sought a stay on proceedings before the Varanasi court, but the bench declined to do it and said “We have to balance it out. We will say DM has to ensure the area is protected without affecting the right of Muslims to enter and worship”.

In Varanasi, District Government Counsel (Civil) Mahendra Prasad Pandey filed an application in the court, seeking the shifting of water pipelines from the area that was

sealed by the administration following the order Monday. The objective of the application is that the faithful can get water for wazu before offering namaz. The court will hear the application Wednesday.

In his application, DGC Pandey said entry of people has been restricted in the sealed area. He said the sealed premises is a three-foot deep man-made pond and around it there are pipelines and taps which the faithful use for wazu. “It appears essential to shift the pipelines outside the sealed area for wazu.” He said there’s fish in the pond and sealing the area poses a threat to the fish and necessitates their relocation.

Hearing a petition by five Hindu women seeking access to pray at “a shrine behind the western wall of the mosque complex”, the Varanasi court, on April 8, appointed Advocate Commissioner Ajay Kumar Mishra to carry out an inspection of the site, “prepare videography of the action” and submit a report. The mosque committee challenged this before the Allahabad High Court which dismissed the plea on April 21. The committee then approached the Supreme Court.

Appearing for the committee, senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi told the bench: “Very, very clearly, the prayers (in the suit) categorically speak about changing the religious character of this particular structure which presently is a mosque.”

He said the committee had filed an application challenging the maintainability of the suit stating that it is barred in light

of the Places of Worship Act, 1991, which forbids changing the religious character of any place of worship after August 15, 1947. The application, he said, was not decided and is still pending.

Ahmadi said even before the report of the survey commission was submitted, the plaintiff filed an application “that during the course of the inspection, he noticed the Shivaling somewhere near a pond”.

“Proceedings of the commission are bound to be confidential... Unfortunately, trial court entertains the application and directs sealing of the area on May 16... What is happening is that during the course of the commission proceedings and the oral say of plaintiff, as to what according to him what he saw, the status quo is sought to be altered, this particular area is sought to be earmarked, the extent of prayer in mosque is sought to be restricted to only 20, and it is also ordered that this area should be altered... The application is allowed,” he said.

Justice Chandrachud said the matter before the bench was not in respect of the May 16 order.

Ahmadi said his argument is that “right from inspection order, all orders are non-est. This is clearly in the teeth of your judgment in the Ayodhya judgment. Your lordships interpreted Sections 3 and 4 of Places of Worship Act and categorically say you can’t tinker with any place of worship which has been existing and where worship is being performed as on August 15, 1947.”

The bench suggested that it will ask the trial court to first hear the committee’s application challenging the maintainability.

Ahmadi, however, pressed for a stay, saying the orders are bereft of jurisdiction — interdicted by the Act of Parliament and also by the Supreme Court’s Ayodhya judgement. In a prior suit where an identical prayer was sought for a survey by the Archaeological Survey of India, the High Court interdicted it, he said.

Referring to the May 16 trial court order, Justice Chandrachud told the Solicitor General that it seems to indicate that all prayers sought for by the plaintiffs had been allowed. The bench said clarity was needed on this. Mehta said he would take instructions on the position.

Told that advocate Hari Shankar Jain, the counsel for the plaintiff, had taken ill, the bench said it would issue notice and, in the interim, direct protection of the Shivaling while not restricting the access of Muslims to the complex. The court sought to know “where exactly is the Shivaling found”. Mehta said it will be known only when the report is filed.

Ahmadi said he “objects to the manner in which the suit is being proceeded with... Till the date of the moving of the suit, the status quo was as it stood earlier. Now today, by passing these orders, you are effectively changing the status quo by restricting movement around a particular area. This is a fountain... the head of the fountain, according to them... is a Shivaling”.

August 2022, amidst a terminal rate of 5.5 per cent to be reached by mid-2023,” Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA, said.

“With the source of inflation being global supply issues and not exuberant domestic demand, we maintain our view that over-tightening will douse the fledgling recovery without having a commensurate impact on the origins of inflationary pressures,” she said.

India Ratings expects monetary tightening to continue and expects repo rate to increase by another 75 basis points and CRR by 50 basis points in FY23.

On May 4, after an unscheduled meeting of its Monetary Policy Committee, the RBI raised the repo rate by 40 basis points to 4.40 per cent and the CRR by 50 basis points to 4.50 per cent. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said this was aimed at reining in elevated inflation amid global turbulence in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war.

### Weak LIC debut

I don’t see why it should be tepid for too long,” LIC Chairman M R Kumar said while speaking to reporters after the listing ceremony.

While LIC’s IPO had received good response from policy-holders, foreign investors were not very enthusiastic about the offer. “That has been due to global sentiment which has really tested Indian investors. The way to look at it is, without FPIs, could any other issue have managed this? We saw six times (subscription) from policy-holders. That is huge,” Kumar said.

According to the BSE, the total quantity traded stood at 27.55 lakh shares with a delivery quantity percentage of 47.05 per cent. Total quantity traded at the NSE stood at 487.92 lakh shares with a delivery quantity percentage of 39.18 per cent. Total turnover (BSE and NSE) on the first day stood at Rs 4,591.10 crore.

LIC policy-holders and retail investors got the shares at a price of Rs 889 and Rs 904 per share respectively. The IPO closed on May 9 and shares were allocated to bidders on May 12. The government sold over 22.13 crore shares or 3.5 per cent stake in LIC through the IPO at a price band of Rs 902-949 per share.

The retail investors and eligible employees of LIC were offered a discount of Rs 45 per equity share over the issue price, while policy-holders got a discount of Rs 60 per share.

The share sale fetched the government around Rs 20,557 crore. The offer, which closed with nearly three times subscription, was predominately lapped up by retail and institutional buyers, but foreign investor participation remained muted.

Last month, LIC had reduced its IPO size to 3.5 per cent from 5 per cent decided earlier due to the prevailing market conditions. Even after the reduced size of over Rs 20,557 crore, LIC IPO is the biggest IPO ever in the country.

### TMC MP, wife

a bench of Justices U U Lalit, S Ravindra Bhat and Sudanshu Dhulia ordered.

The bench stayed the “effect and operation” of Delhi High Court’s order, which had refused to quash the summons issued to them to appear before the agency in Delhi.

The bench, however, imposed conditions on the state to provide police security for the interrogators and to ensure that there is no obstruction or interference in the interrogation.

The court ordered that notices will be issued to the Kolkata Police Commissioner, and state Chief Secretary so that “adequate police protection is afforded to the persons seeking to examine or interrogate the petitioners”.

Appearing for the State, Advocate Suhaan Mukerji, “assured” the court that “complete assistance shall be rendered by the State machinery so that effective interrogation or examination can be undertaken”.

Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, who appeared for ED, opposed the suggestion to question the duo in Kolkata. “In a case like this, the offence has taken place in the territory of Delhi, investigation is in Delhi, his address in Delhi, he is very influential — related to the highest machinery to the State,” Raju said.

Banerjee is nephew of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

But the state counsel “further assured” the court that “apprehension” expressed by Raju — “that there may be interference or obstruction in the examination or interrogation — is completely misplaced and every care shall be taken by the State machinery”.

The court also took on record Mukerji’s word that “no coercive action of any kind shall be initiated by police or any state machinery either...” It allowed the agency to approach the vacation bench in case of any obstruction or interference.

Turning down ED’s prayer to interrogate Banerjee in Delhi, the court said if it had named them as accused, it would have allowed this but the agency has not done so till now.

According to the agency, Raju said, “he is a potential accused. It’s a case of illegal mining worth thousands of crores; Rs 168 crore has been shipwrecked off and brought to Delhi... We have evidence against him. His name has surfaced.”

Justice Lalit said: “We are putting the matter in perspective, when you summon for interrogation you have nothing against that person or putting the man in the slot as an accused. It is a general interrogation — it can be as a witness and after interrogation can provide such information that he becomes an accused,” remarked. “As an accused you can procure custody, but when the man is not in the capacity of an accused, can you insist on calling them to your office?”

## Silger firing: A year on, tribals’ demands unresolved, their distrust in govt deepening

**GARGI VERMA**  
SILGER (CHHATTISGARH), MAY 17

UIKE BHEEMA (33) has been waiting for his brother Uike Pandu’s Aadhaar card, watch and other belongings, which he claimed were with the police, since the 22-year-old died in the firing by security forces on protesting tribals in Chhattisgarh’s Mokur near Silger on May 17, 2021.

Government’s outreach initiatives since the bloody confrontation, including paved road, a ration shop, a health centre, and a community hall, have only added to the simmering resentment

among the tribals who say their main demands of removal of the camp and compensation were unmet.

Three tribals had died of bullet wounds on May 17 last year when they were part of a mob protesting against a new CRPF camp at Mokur. Police say those killed were Maoists, a claim vehemently denied by the tribals and the affected families.

Even as a sit-in under the banner of Moolwasi Bachao Manch has been on since the Mokur firing, hundreds of tribals from over 30 villages of three districts — Bijapur, Dantewada and Sukma — gathered at Silger village, 108 km from Sukma and 70 km from the Bijapur district headquarters,

on the first anniversary.

Across the Mokur camp, a green memorial bears five names — Kowasi Wagah, Ursa Bheema and Uika Pandu who died in the firing on May 17 last year, and Punem Somali and Midiyam Masa. Somali, a pregnant woman who had participated in the protest got injured in the stampede after the firing and later succumbed to her injuries. Masa of Tolavarti in Sukma was detained and allegedly killed by security personnel on May 22 last year.

The state government has been trying to placate the tribals without success. Between the camp and the memorial is a ration shop started by the Sukma district administration as part of



Hundreds of tribals from 30 villages of three districts gathered at Silger village on the firing’s first anniversary. Express

its outreach programme. Aadhaar and ration cards were also made at special camps, besides a pri-

mary health centre at Tarrem, 6 km from Silger, was made operational.

Sunil Korsa (28) of Silger village claimed that he owned 6 acres of the 10 acres that house the Mokur camp. “I had met CM Bhupesh Baghel, who promised compensation. However, I have not received a penny,” he said, adding, “I have lost trust in the government. I will not vote for either parties in the next election.”

Those who took part in the firing anniversary protest rally on Tuesday were critical of the central as well as state governments, which was evident from the slogans they were raising.

Ursa Bheema’s daughter Paika said in Gondri, “After my father’s death, my brothers had to drop out of school to work. We have only faced hardships in the last

one year.” Uike Bheema recounted how his younger brother who had gone to take part in the protest, never came back. “He had just started his life. He was not related to Maoists. We didn’t even get his clothes, his Aadhaar card and other belongings,” he said.

For the members of Moolwasi Bachao Manch, the Silger protest is one of the many battlefronts against the security forces. “Everywhere in Bastar region, police and other forces are indulging in killings and other brutalities against tribals. If nothing else works, tribals are framed in fake cases and jailed. The government is not protecting us. Our MLA has not visited us even once during one year of protest. We have to

fight not just for ‘jal, jungle, zameen’ but also for our existence,” Raghu (22), one of the Manch members said.

The Manch also organised an exhibition of photographs and news articles covering “police brutalities” over the years. A small booklet in Gondri, released by the Manch, encapsulates protests by the tribals in the last four years. A dispensary was set up for common ailments commandeered by a local nursing student.

Konta MLA Kawasi Lakhma under whose constituency the village falls was not available for a comment till the time going to the press. Tribal Affairs Minister Prem Sai Singh Tekam could not be reached for a comment.



# 3 WEST BENGAL

## BRIEFLY

### Governor calls chief secy over Suwendu row

**Kolkata:** West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday asked the state's chief secretary to make himself available at Raj Bhavan on May 23, holding that a report submitted by him on alleged trespass of Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari's office in Nandigram by police indicates a worrisome scenario of criminal investigation. "CS @chief\_west to make himself available at Raj Bhavan on May 23 at 11 A.M. as report today and earlier indicate alarming scenario of criminal investigation," the Governor said. **PTI**

### HC allows LeT man to access proceedings

**Kolkata:** The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday ruled that Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist Sk Abdul Nayeem, who has chosen to personally argue his appeal against the death sentence awarded to him by a district sessions court, will access the proceedings through video linkage from the correctional home where he is kept. It directed that Nayeem will be produced physically under proper security arrangements only on the dates he advances oral arguments. **PTI**

## ADMIN REVIEW MEET IN PASCHIM MEDINIPUR

# Ensure no riots during RSS chief's visit, CM tells police

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, MAY 17**

CHIEF MINISTER Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday directed police to ensure that no riots break out during Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat's visit to Paschim Medinipur district from May 17 to 20. Presiding over an administrative review meeting in the district, the CM also alleged that 'miscreants' from neighbouring Jharkhand and Bihar were coming to West Bengal with firearms and committing crimes.

"The RSS chief will be staying at Keshiary from May 17 to 20. Give him protection and ensure that no riots take place. Send him sweets and fruits on behalf of the administration. He should feel welcome. Keep a good watch. The MLAs should also keep watch," Banerjee told the officer-in-charge of Keshiary police station who was present at the meeting.

Bhagwat is scheduled to camp in Paschim Medinipur's Keshiary for four days where he will take part in a RSS training camp. The camp will be held for three weeks.

"Bihar has illegal arms manufacturing units. Miscreants from Bihar and Jharkhand are entering West Bengal with weapons. They are coming through trains. They conceal their weapons under vegetables to hoodwink the police. The GRP



CM Mamata Banerjee arrives for the administrative review meeting in Paschim Medinipur district on Tuesday. CMO

is not putting a check to this but we have to."

The CM's comment comes days after the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) alerted four eastern states of West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha over the possible resurgence of left-wing extremist (LWE) or Maoist activities in their erstwhile strongholds.

Banerjee further said FIRs would now be filed against private hospitals and nursing homes if they refuse to accept the 'Swasthya Sathi' card, which promises benefits under the state government's universal health insurance scheme.

Expressing displeasure over reports on rampant illegal wood smuggling in forest areas of the district, she said, "I have received reports that certain panchayat

members and employees of the local police and forest department are involved in this illegal trade. I am directing the district administration to take strong action against the offenders."

### 'Special funds to pay MGNREGA wages'

Hitting out at the Centre for allegedly not releasing funds resulting in the state being unable to pay salaries to people working under the 100 days' work scheme, Banerjee advised setting up a "crisis management fund".

She said that the funds will be created by taking a portion of the money allocated to some departments. "For the last four months, people are not getting their salary under the 100 days

work scheme. The primary reason is that the Centre has not given us the funds for it. We have not got what we are supposed to get. As a result, poor people are facing a crisis.... In this situation, I will ask the chief secretary to find out a plan," Banerjee said at the review meeting in Kharagpur on Tuesday.

For the time being, a "crisis management fund" will be created with a portion of funds allocated to departments like the Public Works Department, Irrigation, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Panchayat, she said. Non-technical works of these departments would be done through the 100 days scheme. "I don't know when they (central government) will release funds. Let us keep on pursuing that. I have already written to the Centre in this regard," she said.

Banerjee was referring to her letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi last week, seeking his intervention to release funds for MGNREGA and PM Awas Yojana (PMAY) in the state. During the meeting, the chief minister also criticised the PWD for delay in executing a few projects — building two gates and a community hall in the district.

She asked officials to drop PWD from the projects and instead employ engineers of the Howrah Improvement Trust and the Hooghly River Bridge Commissioner (HRBC) to complete the works.

**WITH PTI INPUTS**

## HC directs CBI to question MoS School Education 'over appointment of daughter'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, MAY 17**

THE CALCUTTA High Court on Tuesday directed CBI to interrogate Minister of State for School Education Paresch Chandra Adhikari over the alleged appointment of his daughter as a teacher in a government-aided school. The order came on a petition by a candidate who alleged that she was deprived of the job despite having secured higher marks than the minister's daughter in the recruitment examination.

A single bench of Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay directed that the minister must appear before the CBI authorities by Tuesday evening for interrogation over the allegation. Justice Gangopadhyay also urged Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar to remove Adhikari from the post of minister of state for school education.

The petitioner's lawyer, Firdous Shamim, claimed that the candidate, Babita Sarkar, had secured 77 marks in the recruitment examination, while the minister's daughter Ankita got only 61.

"Justice Gangopadhyay directed the minister of state for education to appear before the CBI by Tuesday evening. He also directed a CBI inquiry into irregularities in recruitment of teachers for classes 11 and 12. Our main submission was that petitioner Babita Sarkar, despite securing more marks than the minister's daughter, did not get an appointment letter. The minister's daughter



**MoS School Education Paresch Chandra Adhikari**

ter, Ankita Adhikari, did not feature in the merit list. But all of a sudden her name was included in the merit list and she got the number one position. In the recruitment exam, she got 61 marks while the petitioner received 77 marks. Moreover, the minister's daughter did not appear in the personality test (which takes place after the written exam)," the advocate said.

Speaking to reporters in north Bengal's Jalpaiguri, Adhikari hinted that he is likely to move the division bench of Calcutta High Court on Wednesday. "I am yet to receive a copy of the order. I can't comment till I go through it. I will respond to the allegations in the court," Adhikari said. The minister and his daughter were later seen boarding a train to Kolkata.

Sources said that the CBI had called him thrice but found his phone switched off. Later, they sent him an email and an SMS informing him about the court order and directing him to appear before the agency.

It may be noted that Justice Gangopadhyay had on four earlier occasions ordered CBI inquiries in connection with alleged irregularities in appointment of teaching and non-teaching staff in state government and government-aided schools and had also directed former education minister Partha Chatterjee, who now

holds the Industries and Parliamentary Affairs portfolio, to appear before the agency for questioning.

A division bench had stayed the orders following appeals. A high court-appointed committee headed by a former HC judge had on May 13 submitted a report stating that 381 Group C post appointments in state government/aided schools were illegal and recommended criminal proceedings against five persons, who are former top officials of the state School Service Commission, and current president of West Bengal Board of Secondary Education.

Following Tuesday's court order, TMC state general secretary Kunal Ghosh said law will take its course if there are irregularities in the recruitment process. "If there is something wrong then it should be described as wrong. We have nothing to say on the court order. But we will hope that the sanctity of the judiciary is maintained as it is the prerogative of the chief minister and her government to decide who will remain minister. But law will take its course if there is something wrong," Ghosh said.

BJP state spokesperson Samik Bhattacharya said the entire state government is knee-deep in corruption. "The minister was earlier with the Left Front. He joined the TMC on the condition that his daughter be given a job. This had come out in the media previously. The direction today is a vindication of the earlier reports. This goes to show that the entire state government is knee-deep in corruption," Bhattacharya said.

## NEWS FOLLOW

# SC's order a mixed bag for Abhishek Banerjee & wife in coal scam probe

**SWEETY KUMARI KOLKATA, MAY 17**

THE SUPREME Court's Tuesday order asking the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to question Trinamool Congress (TMC) national general secretary and MP Abhishek Banerjee and his wife Rujira Banerjee in connection with a coal scam case in its Kolkata office rather than in Delhi has clearly come as a relief to the 34-year-old nephew of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

The apex court bench stayed the Delhi High Court's order, which had refused to quash the central agency's summons to get them appear before it in the national capital.

The top court, however, also said that the state shall provide adequate police protection to the ED officials who would interrogate the Banerjee couple in Kolkata, adding that it would not tolerate any kind of "interference or hooliganism" in this regard.

In February 2021, Rujira was questioned by the CBI at their residence in Kolkata for the first time.

Following the Bengal Assembly election results, which saw the Mamata-led TMC's resounding victory for the third consecutive time, Abhishek was quizzed by the ED in Delhi. Recently, when Banerjee was leaving for Delhi in response to one such summons, he had said that he "wouldn't bow down" before the BJP-led central dispensation. Based on a November 2020 FIR registered by the CBI over a multi-core coal pilferage scam related to Eastern Coalfields Limited mines in Kunustoria and Kajora areas in and around Asansol in Bengal, the ED had lodged a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

A local coal operative Anup Majhi alias Lala is alleged to be the prime suspect in this scam. The ED has charged that that Abhishek was an alleged beneficiary of funds obtained from it. He has however denied all such charges.

The controversy surrounding the ED's bid to issue summons to the Banerjee couple asking them to appear for interrogation in its Delhi office has been raging for



TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee outside ED's Delhi office after his questioning in September last year. Express File

more than a year now. They moved the top court, pleading to be quizzed by the ED in Kolkata while questioning how could the agency summon people from anywhere to Delhi.

While justifying its summons to the Banerjee couple, the ED has maintained that it is "very difficult" to interrogate the Banerjee couple in Kolkata, given the influence the TMC supremo's nephew has over the state machinery, which might undermine its probe.

The agency has also alleged "hooliganism" by the TMC workers, charging that they have even heckled its officials while doing their job.

In recent years, the officials of various central agencies have faced massive protests by the TMC supporters in Bengal while making their bids to question or arrest the TMC leaders, including ministers or MLAs and MPs.

In 2019, the TMC government and the BJP-ruled Centre were also locked in an unprecedented stand-off after a team of CBI officials had reached the residence of former Kolkata Police commissioner Rajeev Kumar to hand over a notice to him in connection with their Saradha Ponzi scam probe. The CBI officials were detained by the local police station over their move. Kumar was considered close to CM Banerjee, who even held a dharna against the CBI's action against him.

Reacting to the apex court's order, BJP national vice-president Dilip Ghosh said both Abhishek and his wife must face the inves-

tigation. "The court has given some directions and the investigation will now take place accordingly. But they must face the probe. Why are they running away from it? Abhishek is an MP. He visits Delhi regularly. Then what was his issue in facing the questioning in Delhi?" Ghosh asked.

However, the TMC, which has always raised an accusing finger at the central agencies while calling them the BJP's "tool for unleashing vendetta against political rivals", termed today's development as the Banerjee couple's "moral victory".

TMC state general secretary Kunal Ghosh told *The Indian Express*, "This is a moral victory for Abhishek Banerjee and his wife. Both are residents of Kolkata, the case was filed in Kolkata — so what is the logic in summoning them to Delhi? We believe that these are baseless allegations against them. Still they are cooperating with the central agency. There was an attempt to cause unnecessary harassment to both of them. Abhishek fought it legally and got a positive order."

In September 2021, the Banerjee couple had moved the Delhi High Court challenging the ED's summons to them to appear before it in Delhi, pleading that the case was lodged in Kolkata.

On March 11 this year, the high court dismissed their plea. On March 21-22, both Abhishek and Rujira were summoned by the agency again.

Before leaving for Delhi, Abhishek had said that he will not surrender to the Narendra

## SUMMONS TIMELINE

■ In September 2021, the Banerjee couple moves the Delhi High Court challenging the ED's summons to appear before it in Delhi, saying the case was lodged in Kolkata

■ March 11, 2022: The HC dismisses their plea

■ March 21-22: Both Abhishek and Rujira summoned by ED again

■ March 21: Abhishek questioned by the ED for more than eight hours at its Delhi office

Modi-led BJP government and will continue to fight till the end.

"People against whom there is evidence, those who have been seen taking money wrapped in papers never get summoned or questioned by ED or CBI. Central agencies can't see anything when it involves them (BJP leaders). That is why the probes done by these agencies are often questioned by people. They (BJP) are angry, because they have lost ground in Bengal. The people of Bengal have driven out outsiders," Abhishek had then charged.

In Delhi, on March 21, he was grilled by the ED for more than eight hours.

The TMC leaders have regularly trained their guns on the central agencies such as the CBI and the ED, calling them "compromised" and questioning their neutrality.

In her budget speech in the Assembly recently, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said, "Kesto and Molay (TMC leaders, Anubrata Mondal and Malay Ghatak) are being called by the CBI. Abhishek and his wife were told to go to Delhi, not Kolkata. The central agencies are being used shamelessly. They are doing whatever they are being asked to do by the central government. TMC cannot be stopped by such threats."



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IN THE COURT OF I.R. DISTRICT JUDGE AT HOWRAH MATRIMONIAL SUIT NO. 1303/2018

**SREYA SHEE** wife of Soumya Nandy of 13, Karar Pukur Lane, P.S. - Banra, District. Howrah PIN - 711011


.....Petitioner

**Soumya Nandy** Son of Sri Sunil Nandy of 94/4/1, I.R. Belilius Lane, P.S. & District- Howrah PIN - 711011.

.....Respondent

It is hereby notified that the petitioner has initiated abovementioned suit against the respondent. If any one is willing to contest the suit, he/she may appear in the said suit within within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice and filed objection if any, otherwise the suit shall proceed Ex-parte.

Serastadar  
L.D., District Judge,  
Howrah.



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#### NOTICE OF RECORD DATE

NOTICE is hereby given wherein the Company informs that pursuant to the Order of the National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai Bench (NCLT) sanctioning the Composite Scheme of Arrangement between Coastal Gujarat Power Limited (CGPL) and the Company and their respective shareholders under Sections 230 to 232 read with Section 52 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act 2013, CGPL has been merged with the Company with effect from 28th April 2022.

In view of the above, the ISINs allotted for CGPL at the time of issuance of Non-Convertible Debentures have been transferred by the exchange in the name of the Company. Therefore, pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 the record dates for the purpose of payment of interest and redemption to the holders of Unsecured, rated, listed, taxable, guaranteed, redeemable, non-convertible debentures are as follows:

Sr. No.	ISIN	Security Description	Record date	Payment due date
1.	INE295J08071	The Tata Power Company Limited SR CGPLJL01 8.5% NCD 10JUZ24 FVRS10LAC ACTIVE DEBEN	26 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	Annual interest due on 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
2.	INE295J08055	The Tata Power Company Limited SERIES CGPLJU03 9.15 NCD 14JUZ22 FVRS10LAC ACTIVE DEBEN	30 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	Annual interest and redemption proceeds due on 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
3.	INE295J08063	The Tata Power Company Limited SR CGPLJU01 8.5% NCD 20JL23 FVRS10LAC ACTIVE DEBEN	5 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	Annual interest due on 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
4.	INE295J08014	The Tata Power Company Limited SR CGPLAU01 9.70 NCD 27AG23 FVRS10LAC ACTIVE DEBEN	12 <sup>th</sup> August 2022	Annual interest due on 27 <sup>th</sup> August 2022
5.	INE295J08022	The Tata Power Company Limited SR CGPLAU02 9.90 NCD 27AG28 FVRS10LAC ACTIVE DEBEN	12 <sup>th</sup> August 2022	

For The Tata Power Company Limited  
H. M. Mistry  
Company Secretary

Place: Mumbai  
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Whereas the Authorised Officer of Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited, under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the following borrowers, legal heirs, legal representative(s), successor(s), assign(s) to pay the amounts mentioned against their respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices, within 60 days from the date of the said Notice/s, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. till the date of payment and / or realisation.					
Sr. No	Name of Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) and Legal Representative(s)	Outstanding Dues*	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Description of Immovable Property(ies) / Secured Asset(s)
1	Borrower : Mr. Aviraj Ghosh Co-Borrower : Mrs. Ritina Ghosh. Guarantors : Mr. Dhruvajyoti Chatterjee Ms. Bandana Ghose	Rs. 2,28,388/- due as on 30.11.2021*	20.12.2021	12.05.2022 (Symbolic Possession)	The property being Flat No.: C, admeasuring 780 sq. ft (72.49 sq. mtrs) approx., on the Third floor of Block: 1 in the building known as "Amulya Jyoti" Apartment, constructed upon land admeasuring 18 Decimals more or less, situated at Mouza: Jyangra, Touzi No. 3027, RS Dag No.: 33, RS Khatian No.: 675, CS Dag No.: 29, Premises No.: A/H-1, Rajarhat Road, Jyangra Chowmatha, P.S.: Rajarhat, Kolkata: 700059, alongwith the undivided proportionate share of the land and the construction thereon present and in future (the said property). The said premises is butted and bounded as follows: On the North : Tribani Apartment, On the South : Rajarhat Road, On the East : Rajarhat Road, On the West : Sagar Gramin Bank.
2	Co-Borrowers : Sk. Nijamuddin Sk. Sayma Begum Sk. Sahamuddin Co-Borrowers as well as Legal Heirs of Sk. Golam Gous (Borrower since Deceased) and all other Known and Unknown Legal Heir(s), Legal Representative(s), Successor(s) and Assign(s) of Sk. Golam Gous (Borrower since Deceased)	Rs. 10,47,784/- due as on 30.11.2021*	20.12.2021	12.05.2022 (Symbolic Possession)	The property being Flat no.: A, admeasuring 680 sq. ft (63.20 sq. mtrs) approx., on the Third floor of the building known as "Green Ashyana", constructed upon land admeasuring 03 cottahs 02 chittaks more or less, situated at Mouza: Mondalghanti, JL No.: 6, RS No.: 132, Touzi No.: 10, LR Khatian No.: 635, 474/1, RS / LR Dag No.: 158, within the local limits of Ward No.: 7 of Bidhanagar Municipal Corporation, holding no.: BWC-62/375, Block: D and RGM-13/61/543, Block: D, G, M, Sarani, P.S.: Bagulati, Kolkata: 700052, Dist: N.24 Parganas, alongwith the undivided proportionate share of the land and the construction thereon present and in future (the said property). The said premises is butted and bounded as follows: On the North : Property of Mr. Raju Sarkar, On the South : 16 feet wide Municipal Road, On the East : Property of Farida Bibi, On the West : 16 feet wide Municipal Road.
3	Borrower : Mr. Sandip Rath.	Rs. 32,14,810/- due as on 30.11.2021*	12.01.2022	13.05.2022 (Symbolic Possession)	The property being Flat No.: 4, admeasuring 636 sq. ft (59.10 sq. mtrs) approx., Type: D, on the Ground Floor of Block: 29, in the residential complex known as "Annapurna Housing Complex", constructed upon land admeasuring 33.47 acres more or less, situated at Mouza: Mondalghanti, JL No.: 6, Dag Nos.: 289(P), 345(P), 348(P), 387/504(F), 388(F), 392(F), 400(P), 401(F), 406(F), 406(P), 407(P), 408(F), 409(F), 410 (P) - 412(P), 414(P), 417(P), 422(F), 423(F), 425(F) - 444(F), 445(P), 446(P), 447(F) - 454(F), 453(P), 456(F) - 461(F), 462(P), 483(P). Khatian No.: 1140, VIP Road (now known as Kazi Nazrul Islam Sarani), within the limits of Ward No.: 7 of Bidhanagar Municipal Corporation, P.S.: Bagulati (earlier P.S.: Rajarhat), Kolkata: 700052, Dist.: North 24 Parganas, alongwith the undivided proportionate share of the land and the construction thereon present and in future (the said property). The premises is butted and bounded as follows: On the North : Kendhya Bihar Housing Complex, On the South : Space town Housing Society, On the East : VIP Road, On the West : East Mall Road.
4	Borrower : Mr. Kanchan Deb Co-Borrowers : Mrs. Rituparna Deb	Rs. 22,70,854/- due as on 31.01.2022*	21.02.2022	13.05.2022 (Symbolic Possession)	The property being Flat No.: 4B, admeasuring 960 sq. ft (89.22 sq. mtrs) (s.b.u.) approx., on the North East side of the fourth floor of the building constructed upon land admeasuring 07 cottahs 08 chittaks more or less, situated at Mouza: Nakatala, JL No.: 32, RS No.: 24, CS Dag No.: 128, Touzi No.: 56, within the limits of Kolkata Municipal Corporation Ward No.: 100, Premises No.: 23/10, Nakatala Road, P.S.: Netaji Nagar (Earlier: Patuli), Kolkata: 700047, Dist: South 24 Pgs, alongwith the undivided proportionate share of the land and the construction thereon present and in future (the said property). The premises is butted and bounded as follows : On the North : Playground, On the South : House of Mr. Kaili Sanjay Dutta & others, On the East : 16 feet wide Nakatala Road, On the West : Premises No.: 23/10, Nakatala Road of Mr. Hiral Das.
5	Borrower : Mr. Subrata Ghosh.	Rs. 15,29,324/- due as on 30.04.2021*	05.06.2021	13.05.2022 (Symbolic Possession)	The property being Flat No.: A2, admeasuring 500 sq. ft (s.b.u.) (46.46 sq. mtrs) approx., on the back side of the Ground Floor, in the three storied and partly G + J storied building constructed upon land admeasuring 03 cottahs 15 chittaks more or less, situated at CS Plot No.: 235 (P), Mouza: Nakatala, JL No.: 32, Plot No.: 37A & 37B, within the limits of Kolkata Municipal Corporation Ward No.: 100, being Municipal Premises No.: 255/37, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Road (postal address: 2/37, Nakatala Second Scheme), P.S.: Netaji Nagar (earlier P.S.: Jadavpur), Kolkata: 700047, alongwith the undivided proportionate share of the land and the construction thereon present and in future (the said property).
6	Borrower : Mr. Armit Ray	Rs. 7,45,282/- due as on 30.09.2021*	15.11.2021	16.05.2022 (Symbolic Possession)	The property being flat admeasuring 1078 sq. ft (100.19 sq. mtrs) approx., on the South-West side of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor in Block: D of the residential project known as "Basundhara Apartment", constructed upon land admeasuring 29 cottahs 10 chittaks 25 sq. ft more or less, situated at Mouza: Barhansfatabad, JL No.: 47, CS Dag No.: 498, 500, Khatian No.: 1127, 1033, within the limits of Ward No.: 26 of Rajpur Sonarpur Municipality, Holding No.: 616, Mahamayastala Road, P.S.: Narendrapur (Earlier: Sonarpur), Dist.: South 24 Parganas, alongwith the undivided proportionate share of the land and the construction thereon present and in future (the said property). The premises is butted and bounded as follows : On the North : CS Dag no.: 1291 & 1269, On the South : Municipality Road, On the East : CS Dag no.: 497 & 1292, On the West : CS Dag No.: 502, 511, 512, 499.
7	Borrower : Mrs. Sukla Guha	Rs. 30,51,647/- due as on 30.09.2021*	15.11.2021	16.05.2022 (Symbolic Possession)	The property being Flat No.: 1B, admeasuring 900 sq. ft (83.64 sq. mtrs) approx., on the North East side of the First Floor, in the building constructed upon land admeasuring 03 cottahs 06 chittaks 10 sq. ft more or less, situated at Mouza: Kamdahari, JL No.: 49, Touzi No.: 14, RS Dag No.: 137 (P), RS Khatian No.: 246, within the limits of Ward No.: 112 of Kolkata Municipal Corporation, Municipal Premises No.: 2, Bakshi Pally, postal address: 52, Sonali Park, P.S.: Bansdroni (earlier P.S.: Jadavpur), Kolkata: 700084, alongwith the undivided proportionate share of the land and the construction thereon present and in future (the said property). The premises is butted and bounded as follows : On the North : Property of Plot No.: 51, On the South : Property of Plot No.: 51, On the East : 16 feet wide KMC Road, On the West : Property of Jagesh Bhowmick.

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THIS WORD MEANS

URBAN HEAT ISLAND

Urban patches that are hotter than surrounding areas. What factors cause such differences in temperature?

AROUND MIDNIGHT India time on May 5, NASA's space thermometer ECOSTRESS captured an image covering 12,350 sq km northwest of Delhi and showing a stark difference in nighttime temperatures in urban and rural pockets. Red patches on the image delineated urban heat islands amid significantly cooler rural patches – with a temperature difference of around 20°C.

**URBAN HEAT ISLAND:** This is a localised and temporary phenomenon when certain pockets experience higher temperatures than surrounding areas. The variations are mainly due to heat getting trapped in localities that resemble concrete jungles: Greener rural localities often record cooler temperatures than urban areas.

**WHY GREEN HELPS:** Transpiration is a natural way of heat regulation that involves roots absorbing water from soil, before processing and releasing it in the form of water vapour. As urban areas lack sufficient green cover, heat regulation is either absent or man-made. Also, cities with buildings constructed using glass and concrete, all dark-coloured materials, attract and absorb higher heat content.

On May 15, Najafgarh and Mungeshpur in Delhi recorded maximum temperatures of 49.2°C, while Mayur Vihar (45.4°C), Lodhi Road (45.8°C), Palam (46.1°C), and Ayanagar (46.8°C) were cooler.

**NASA FINDINGS:** ECOSTRESS found

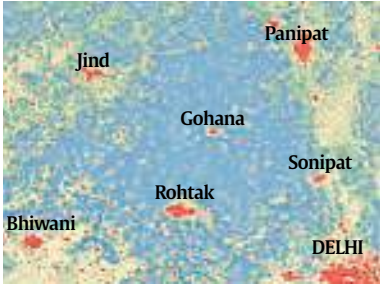


Image from ECOSTRESS shows heat islands around Delhi at midnight (local time) on May 5. NASA/JPL

nighttime temperatures in Delhi and several smaller villages were above 35°C, while the rural fields nearby had cooled to around 15°C. “This data suggests that city dwellers are experiencing considerably higher temperatures than the average temperatures reported for their regions,” NASA said.

**REDUCING HEAT LOAD:** Increasing green cover is one way to cut heat load within urban areas. Other ways of heat mitigation include appropriate choice of construction material, promoting terrace and kitchen gardens, and painting the terrace spaces using light colours to reflect heat.

ANJALI MARAR

# The Buddhist connection of Vadnagar in Gujarat

RITU SHARMA  
AHMEDABAD, MAY 17

SPEAKING IN Lumbini on Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said his birthplace, Vadnagar in Gujarat, was a prominent centre of Buddhist learning centuries ago. “Even now, relics are being discovered there, and work on their protection is ongoing,” he said.

Archaeological finds

The Gujarat archaeology department began excavations in Vadnagar in 2006, when Modi was Chief Minister. In 2014, the work was taken over by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Excavation is ongoing at two sites — Vadnagar-Ambha Ghat, and near Ambaji Kotha lake.

About 20,000 artefacts, some dating to the 2nd century AD, have been unearthed so far. Among these are an elliptical structure, a circular stupa, and a square memorial stupa 130 cm in height and measuring 2m × 2m enclosed within a wall. “It is like a platform which has a chamber in the centre that resembles a *pradakshina* path,” a senior ASI official told *The Indian Express*.

Bowls used by Buddhist monks have been found, along with terracotta sealings inscribed with “*namassaravagaya*” (salutations to The Buddha), and a face-shaped pendant with a *triratna* (triple principle) symbol.

At Taranga, about 30 km from Vadnagar, 64 natural rock shelters modified into dwellings for monks, around 40 ‘votive’ stupas, and a large stupa on a hill have been found. Another six stupas have been found near the Taran-Dharan Mata shrine.

According to the Gujarat Tourism website, “Vadnagar is mentioned often in the Puranas and even in the travelogue of the

great Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang (7th century), as a rich and flourishing town.” Vadnagar was referred to as Chamatkarpur, Anandpur, Snehpur, and Vimalpur at various times in the past, it says.

Modi & Buddhist links

Modi first mentioned Vadnagar’s Buddhist connection in 2014, ahead of the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Gujarat. An article on the Prime Minister’s personal website in English and Mandarin described the “Buddhist heritage in Gujarat”, and mentioned Hiuen Tsang (Xuanzang), who is believed to have visited the state in 641 AD, along with a map of his route to Gujarat from Ujjain.

During his visit to Japan that year, Modi visited two ancient Buddhist temples in Kyoto with then Japanese PM Shinzo Abe.

Push for Vadnagar

The PM’s mention of Vadnagar in Lumbini came ahead of the Vadnagar International Conference in Gandhinagar on May 18, World Museum Day, which will be attended by Union Minister Meenakshi Lekhi and representatives from UNESCO. The Ministry of Culture and the Gujarat government are working to develop Vadnagar as a “landmark heritage destination”.

The push for Vadnagar as a historical and cultural destination began during Modi’s time as CM — the Gujarat government launched the annual Tana-Riri music festival in the town, named after two sisters, both gifted singers who, lore has it, gave up their lives rather than sing in the court of Emperor Akbar. The Kirti Toran of Vadnagar, a pair of 12th century columns supporting an arch, was adopted as the ‘symbol’ of Gujarat.

# Where coal blocks cases stand

The Supreme Court has asked the Enforcement Directorate to file a status report on over 50 cases by July 15. What cases involving coal blocks allocation are the ED and the CBI investigating, and what is their status?

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
NEW DELHI, MAY 17

THE SUPREME Court last week asked the Enforcement Directorate to file by July 15 a status report on the over 50 cases of money laundering it is probing in connection with the coal blocks allocation scam. The directions came in a case where the ED had pleaded that four officers be relieved since their tenure in the agency was complete.

Why has the court sought a report?

The coal scam cases are under strict monitoring of the Supreme Court, which periodically seeks status reports from the CBI and ED, the two agencies probing the cases. According to SC directions, officers associated with the coal blocks cases cannot be transferred without its permission and so agencies approach it whenever an officer has to be relieved.

During the latest hearing, lawyer Prashant Bhushan of NGO Common Cause had raised the issue of cases pending investigation for over a decade. In 2017 too, the SC had expressed concern over delay in investigation and observed that it appeared as if the investigation “would not come to an end”.

Why has there been a delay?

Sources in the CBI and the ED cited the sheer enormity of the case, and alleged that the influence of corporates too delayed court proceedings.

“You have to understand that when the Supreme Court gave the investigations to the CBI in 2012, there were more than 300 preliminary enquiries conducted. Given the limited resources that the agency has, this itself took a few years to complete. Following this, more than 55 FIRs were registered. It was a massive task since records from as far back as 1993 had to be examined. Bureaucrats and officials then involved, had retired and they had to be traced and examined by teams going across the country,” a senior CBI officer said.

Sources said the agency had put 33 officers on the job. “This was a complex case since a lot of angles were involved. There were cases which had (former CBI director) Ranjit Sinha’s shadow over them which the SC asked us to probe. Then many cases came from the CVC after scrutiny. Then there are big corporates involved who hire the best of lawyers and proceedings are delayed,” the



Workers at a coal mine in Jharkhand. Partha Paul/Express Archive

TOTAL RECALL

What the coal blocks cases are about

IN THE early 1990s, the government decided to allocate to private companies coal blocks that were not part of the production plan of the public sector Coal India Ltd and the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL). A list of 143 coal blocks was prepared initially and inflated to 216 later.

At that time, there were no concrete guidelines for allocation of coal blocks as coal mining was largely restricted to PSUs and many geographic locations were seen as unsuitable for profitable mining. The guidelines were periodically revised through 1993, 1998 and 2003.

Between 1993 and 2005, a total of 70 coal mines were allocated. Then between 2006 and 2010, a further 146 blocks were allocated, but some blocks were also de-allocated owing to companies not starting work. The final list stood at 194.

In March 2012, a leaked draft report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) revealed irregularities in the allocation and pegged the loss to the exchequer at Rs 10.76 lakh crore. The CAG’s final report as tabled in

Parliament in August 2012, however, whittled down the loss to Rs 1.8 lakh crore. This was still the biggest scam India had seen.

The CAG argued that the government had the authority to auction the coal blocks but chose not to, and allottees as received a “windfall gain”.

As the Opposition attacked the Manmohan Singh government on corruption, BJP leaders Prakash Javadekar and Hansraj Ahir approached the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) with complaints. The CVC referred them to the CBI, which over the next few months registered over 40 FIRs.

Meanwhile, a Parliamentary Standing Committee report said coal blocks distributed between 1993-2008 were done in unauthorised manner, bringing even the NDA period under the scanner. The Supreme Court took cognisance of the case and directed the CBI to directly report to it, not the government. In 2014, it cancelled allocation of 214 coal blocks.

CBI officer said.

Who were involved in the cases?

Some big names of the political and corporate world got embroiled in the coal blocks allocation controversy, including Congress politician and industrialist Naveen Jindal and Dasari Narayan Rao (now dead), RJD’s Prem Chand Gupta and BJP’s Ajay Sancheti. The CBI even examined former PM Singh at a later stage.

A special CBI court in 2020 convicted Dilip Ray, then Union Minister of State for Coal in the government under Atal Bihari Vajpayee of 1999-04, for his alleged involvement in the coal block allocation scandal. The court observed that Ray “abused his official position”, as his decision of “relaxation of policy without any logical or legal basis amounts to gross abuse of his powers by the minister”.

Last year, a Delhi court sentenced former Coal Secretary H C Gupta to three years imprisonment after convicting him in the Moira-Madhujore coal blocks allocation case. Former bureaucrats K S Kropcha and K C Samria were also handed three-year jail sentences in the case. Gupta has earlier been convicted in two other cases of coal blocks allocation.

The CBI filed its last chargesheet against Gupta in December last year.

What is the status?

Despite the constraints, CBI sources said the agency has done well to take a significant number of cases to their logical conclusion. “In the 12 cases where trial has been completed, conviction has been achieved in 10. Around 45 chargesheets have been filed. Our investigations are almost complete. The only cases pending are the ones in which either prosecution sanction from the Centre has not been received or three-four cases involving investigations in foreign countries,” Special Public Prosecutor in coal scam cases for CBI R S Cheema said.

CBI sources said sanction for prosecution is pending with the government in about seven cases.

Sources said since the ED registers cases only on the basis of CBI FIRs and chargesheets, it has faced the same obstacles as the CBI and its cases have been similarly delayed. The ED has much less manpower than the CBI.

“In another six months, the investigations should be complete,” another CBI officer said.

# India topped air pollution death toll in 2019: report

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS & ESHA ROY  
PUNE, NEW DELHI, MAY 17

AIR POLLUTION was responsible for 16.7 lakh deaths in India in 2019, or 17.8% of all deaths in the country that year. This is the largest number of air-pollution-related deaths of any country, according to a recent report on pollution and health published in *The Lancet Planetary Health*.

Globally, air pollution alone contributes to 66.7 lakh deaths, according to the report, which updates a previous analysis from 2015. Overall, pollution was responsible for an estimated 90 lakh deaths in 2019 (equivalent to one in six deaths worldwide), a number that has remained unchanged since the 2015 analysis. Ambient air pollution was responsible for 45 lakh deaths, and hazardous chemical pollutants for 17 lakh, with 9 lakh deaths attributable to lead pollution.

Pollution in India

The majority of the 16.7 lakh air pollution-related deaths in India – 9.8 lakh – were caused by PM2.5 pollution, and another 6.1 lakh by household air pollution. Although the number of deaths from pollu-

tion sources associated with extreme poverty (such as indoor air pollution and water pollution) has decreased, these reductions are offset by increased deaths attributable to industrial pollution (such as ambient air pollution and chemical pollution), the report noted.

“The World Health Organization (WHO) has substantially tightened its health-based global air quality guidelines, lowering the guideline value for PM2.5 from 10 micrograms per cubic metre to 5. This means that there is hardly any place in India which follows the WHO norms,” Dr SundEEP Salvi, Chair for Chronic Respiratory Diseases of the Global Burden of Diseases study (GBD-19), told *The Indian Express*. He was not associated with the latest report in *The Lancet Planetary Health*.

According to the report, air pollution is most severe in the Indo-Gangetic Plain. This area contains New Delhi and many of the most polluted cities. Burning of biomass in households was the single largest cause of air pollution deaths in India, followed by coal combustion and crop burning.

The number of deaths remains high despite India’s considerable efforts against household air pollution, including through the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana programme. India has developed a National Clean Air Programme, and in 2019 launched a Commission for Air Quality Management in

the National Capital Region. However, India does not have a strong centralised administrative system to drive its air pollution control efforts and consequently improvements in overall air quality have been limited and uneven, the report has said.

Professor Kalpana Balakrishnan, Dean (Research), Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research (Deemed to be University),

Chennai, and one of the authors of the report, stressed the need for a radical shift in the approach to pollution management efforts.

“In India, we need integrated surveillance platforms for health and exposure surveillance. Population exposure surveillance via biological and environmental monitoring can inform risk attributions within health programmes already in place to reduce the burden of maternal and child health as well

as non-communicable diseases. Impacts from lead as shown in the report, that impacts children’s IQ, really drive home the point of irreversible long-term damage for multiple generations. Without surveillance at scale it is impossible to know what worked and what didn’t,” she told *The Indian Express*.

Lead pollution

Dr Salvi too cited the implications of lead pollution. “An estimated 9 lakh people die every year globally due to lead pollution and this number is likely to be an underestimate. Earlier the source of lead pollution was from leaded petrol which was replaced with unleaded petrol. However the other sources of lead exposure include unsound recycling of lead-acid batteries and e-waste without pollution controls, spices that are contaminated with lead, pottery glazed with lead salts and lead in paint and other consumer products,” he said.

“Globally more than 80 crore children (India alone contributes to 27.5 crore children) are estimated to have blood lead concentrations that exceed 5 µg/dL – which was, until 2021, the concentration for intervention established by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This concentration has now been reduced to 3.5 µg/dL,” he said.

# Low-key listing for LIC shares: what are the long-term prospects?

GEORGE MATHEW  
MUMBAI, MAY 17

THE LISTING of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) left lakhs of investors disappointed on the first day of trading on Tuesday. Shares started trading on the Bombay Stock Exchange at Rs 867.20 (a discount of 8.62% on the issue price of Rs 949 per share) and closed at Rs 875.45 (a discount of 7.75%) on a day when the stock markets staged a rally, with the Sensex jumping nearly 1,345 points, or 2.54%. The question before investors: Is LIC a good long-term investment, and will it do well when the market recovers?

Is the LIC share overpriced?

LIC was not expecting a bumper listing. “We were not expecting it to pick up as the markets were jittery... expect it to pick up. I am sure a lot of policyholders who had

missed out in the IPO will pick up LIC from the market now. I don’t see why it should be tepid for too long,” LIC Chairman M R Kumar said.

The offer got better-than-expected subscription figures led by strong demand from retail policyholders, retail investors and LIC employees despite the recent sell-off in the stock markets and exit of foreign portfolio investors (FPIs).

LIC policyholders and retail investors, who got shares at a discounted price of Rs 889 and Rs 904 per share respectively, also saw an erosion in value. “There’s a general perception in the market that LIC should have offered some money on the table for investors on the listing day. They should have at least priced the share at the lower end of the IPO range – Rs 902 per share of the IPO range of Rs 902-949,” an analyst with an investment firm said.

The 8%-plus discount disappointed investors who had expected some premium on

the first day. However, a section of the market remains optimistic. “LIC is a long-term player in the insurance sector and investors should not look at listing gains alone. Any opportunity to add LIC at a price lower than the IPO price should be used to invest more for the long term. There may be a bit of retail selling today due to the current sentiments, but the long-term fundamentals of LIC remain intact,” said Girirajan Murugan, CEO of FundsIndia.

Did weak markets impact the share?

The tepid response is being attributed to weak global markets in the wake of rising inflation, and a hike in interest rates by central banks around the world. “The 8% lower debut of LIC shares is a commentary on the current state of global markets rather than the company itself. In terms of subscription, the LIC IPO was extremely successful given the fact that it was the biggest IPO of India,”

said Mohit Ralhan, Managing Partner, TIW Capital Group.

Also, the domestic market has been hit by sell-offs by foreign FPIs with outflows of around Rs 70,000 crore. With the US Federal Reserve and the RBI set to hike rates further, the market is likely to face further turbulence. Domestic stock markets have been volatile ever since the Russian invasion of Ukraine began in February, and have fallen 8.22% in 2022 so far. For the IPO market, which mobilised a record Rs 1 lakh crore in 2021, 2022 has been muted so far.

Should investors keep LIC shares?

Analysts say LIC is a good long-term investment, the weak debut on Monday notwithstanding. The listing price has fallen in tandem with the fall of insurance sector valuations, maintaining a discount of about 70% to the industry’s average.

“We believe that LIC is a decent invest-

ment opportunity in the short to medium terms, considering its strong market presence, improvement in future profitability due to changes in surplus distribution norms, and strong sector growth outlook. LIC can perform well when we have a bounce in the market and positive performance in the insurance sector,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

The general view is that LIC shares will do well when the market recovers. “Once the dust settles on the market due to the ongoing issues related to the Ukraine-Russia war and the worries on the inflation front, stocks in the insurance sector along with other beaten-down stocks in the banking and NBFC space should see good momentum,” Murugan said.

Ralhan said: “LIC is a typical blue-chip company which is expected to give steady returns over a long period of time and therefore returns over a day is not relevant. It is expected

to remain quite attractive for investors.”

What’s LIC’s position in the insurance sector?

With assets under management of over Rs 40 lakh crore, LIC is the largest financial institution in the country. It is also the largest investor in stock and debt markets in India.

“LIC has a solid business, trusted brand, and market leadership in an underpenetrated insurance market. In FY-21, LIC’s market share was about 75% for individual policies and 81% for group policies. It is the top life insurance company by a wide margin,” Ralhan said.

Kumar said LIC will focus on increasing returns for its policyholders and arrest the market share loss. The insurance industry in India is growing at about 15% annually, and the growth is expected to sustain over a long time given that insurance penetration in India is just 3.2% compared to more than 8% in developed economies and about 5% in China.







The IndianEXPRESS

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RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

CAUTION, CONSTITUTION

Any attempt to change character of Gyanvapi mosque violates law of the land, undermines post-1947 social, political compact

THE SUPREME COURT has done well to instruct the Varanasi District Magistrate that the area in the Kashi Vishwanath temple-Gyanvapi mosque complex where a “Shivling” was found should be protected without impeding the right of Muslims to enter and worship. On Monday, a Varanasi court had ordered that the spot be sealed and that “only 20 Muslims should be allowed to pray at the mosque and they should not be allowed to perform wuzu (ablution)”. The SC’s directive has come in a plea filed by the Committee of Management of Anjuman Intezamia Masjid, Varanasi, challenging a videography survey of the Shringar Gauri Sthal in the complex ordered by the Varanasi court. The Committee has contended that the survey violates the provisions of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act 1991.

The Places of Worship Act was legislated by Parliament at the height of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement. The BJP, which had 120 MPs and was the political face of the movement, opposed the Bill in the House. The Act “prohibits conversion of any place of worship” and seeks “to provide for the maintenance of the religious character of any place of worship as it existed on the 15th day of August, 1947, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto”. It states that the religious character of a place of worship “shall continue to be the same as it existed” on August 15, 1947. The Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case was excluded from the ambit of the Act. Significantly, the Act covered all other sites to which Hindu groups had raised a claim, including in Mathura and Varanasi. A year later, on December 6, the Babri Masjid was destroyed by a mob, an action that the Supreme Court described as a criminal act in its 1919 order that gave the site where the mosque stood to the Hindu petitioners. In its order, the SC made a detailed reference to the Places of Worship Act, 1991. It said that “the State, has by enacting the law, enforced a constitutional commitment and operationalised its constitutional obligations to uphold the equality of all religions and secularism which is a part of the basic features of the Constitution”. The Court concluded that the Places of Worship Act “imposes a non-derogable obligation towards enforcing our commitment to secularism under the Indian Constitution”. And that the Act is a “a legislative instrument designed to protect the secular features of the Indian polity, which is one of the basic features of the Constitution”.

This will now be contested on the ground — a plea similar to Gyanvapi comes up in Mathura on Thursday. As per the Act, any attempt to alter the character of the Gyanvapi mosque is a violation of the letter and spirit of the law of the land. Of course, the BJP has the numbers to amend this Act. But such a move will be nothing short of a challenge to the post-1947 Indian nation-state, where a multitude and different religions have co-existed by respecting each other’s space and rights and embracing an identity defined by Constitutional values rather than claims made on behalf of faith or numerical strength. On Ayodhya, despite calls from within, the Government took a call to wait for the highest court to rule. What it does with the Places of Worship Act and how it responds to the current campaign being fought in courts but framed by majoritarian politics in terms of culture and faith, will shape how a democratic India looks at its history and its future. The stakes couldn’t be higher, all need to tread with caution — and the Constitution.

MEAT OF THE MATTER

NFHS data on diet practices should lead to more informed debate on nutrition, remove blinkers of policymakers

DATA FROM THE recently-released National Health and Family Survey (NFHS-5) confirms the hypothesis of a sizeable section of nutrition scholars. The number of Indians who eat non-vegetarian food has been increasing steadily. More than two-thirds of people in the 15-49 age group eat non-vegetarian food daily, weekly or occasionally — a steady rise compared to NFHS-4 when the figure stood at a little over 70 per cent people. The survey’s latest edition also shows that more people in the country eat meat at least once a week compared to 2015-16. The proportion of Indians who eat eggs too has gone up appreciably. The survey’s data on dietary practices, however, shows a distinct gender skew: The increase in the number of men eating non-vegetarian food is far more pronounced compared to women. All this has significant implications for planning on nutrition-related matters — it is especially salutary for policymakers who obstinately hold on to the stereotype of India being a country of vegetarians.

In India, food practices have been, for long, informed by complex rules of religion and caste. In recent times, these habits have become part of the country’s political discourses in ways that have bred acrimony between social groups and stoked violence against minorities. The myth of the vegetarian nation has also influenced policy matters such as serving eggs in the mid-day meal scheme for children attending government and government-aided schools. Barely a third of the states provide eggs to children under the scheme despite the Hyderabad-based National Institute of Nutrition — it works under the aegis of the Indian Council of Medical Research — certifying that eggs are loaded with more nutrients and easier to procure compared to alternatives such as milk and bananas.

In 2011, the National Sample Survey data revealed the declining protein intake of Indians. This was confirmed, in 2019, by the EAT-Lancet Commission Study on Sustainable Food Systems, which pointed out that Indians consume more simple carbohydrates than proteins as well as less complex carbohydrates, fruits and vegetables. Given that non-vegetarian diets are protein-rich, it wouldn’t be an overstatement to say that restrictions on eating meat and eggs could increase the nutritional deficits of a section of the country’s population — a worrying proposition given India’s poor report card in repeated Global Hunger Index surveys. In fact, the gender disparities in the consumption of non-vegetarian food, highlighted by the NFHS-5, should make policymakers revisit the debates on reducing the protein deficit of the country’s women. Hanging on to facile stereotypes will do more harm than good.

MODESTY PROPOSAL

Burkini allows more women to participate in an activity that they would otherwise be excluded from. That’s how it should be

THE GREAT BURKINI debate is once again set to roil France. The city of Grenoble has decided to allow the garment — as well as long shorts for men and topless bathing for women — in state-run swimming pools “for all men and women to be able to dress as they want”. The move was, predictably, met with a slew of protestations, describing the burkini as a “symbol of Islamic extremism” and “enslavement of women” that is harmful to France’s “Republican values”.

There are echoes here of the arguments made in 2016, when a number of French cities, had banned the burkini. A court overturned the bans citing “violation of fundamental freedoms” but that did little to change the popular perception of the burkini as standing for the failure of Muslim migrants to integrate into secular society.

But it was for precisely the opposite reason that Aheda Zanetti had created the burkini. Hereafter, Muslim women could participate in an activity that they would otherwise be excluded from. Not surprisingly, when it was first introduced in 2002, the burkini became a huge hit — not only with its target consumers, but also other women who are, for various reasons, far more comfortable in the full-body coverage that it offers compared to more conventional swimwear. For those who see a red rag in the burkini — or indeed, other modest garments, such as the burqa and the hijab — surely there’s a lesson here in accommodation.

We ask the wrong question



FAHAD ZUBERI

At Gyanvapi and elsewhere, courts cannot be acting on claims of mythology or those of medieval capture

WHAT WAS BEING searched for (again) since the violent slogan “*Ayodhya to jhanki hai, Kashi Mathura baki hai*” (Ayodhya is a trailer, Varanasi and Mathura are yet to come) was exclaimed, has been found. No, not the shivling that the petitioners of the lawsuit filed in a Varanasi civil court allege to have found in the wuzu khana of the Gyanvapi Mosque. What has been found, or rather, created, is a rupture in the wall that separates the modern constitutional democracy of India from its ancient and medieval polity — the polity characterised by expansionist warfare and legitimised by the divine instead of the values of modernity.

After the blot on our modern history called the demolition of Babri Masjid, what we see unfolding in Varanasi is another legitimisation of an apparent conflict in architectural history which, if we have not already learnt, is an exercise in violent majoritarianism. The courts that entertained the matter and then went ahead in much haste to launch an investigation into what was the building’s “true nature” are to be blamed. Had discretion prevailed, the petition would not have been entertained in the first place. The question should not have been asked.

Architecture is one of the most commonly evident imprints that a civilisation leaves. While manuscripts and fragile objects remain largely inaccessible to the people — confined to the walls of museums and restoration laboratories — architecture is out for everyone to experience. People use historic buildings as inhabited spaces and visit historic sites for heritage tourism. In both cases, architecture is loaded with histories of construction, destruction, appropriation, building, re-building, and more re-building. Every building around us is a physical imprint of the times that it has lived through. It is a physical manifestation — a record — of layers of histories. And a lot of these histories are histories of conflict — a truth that cannot be escaped. To put it simply, the history of architecture is the history of politics also.

Earlier this month, the Varanasi court ordered a video survey of the Gyanvapi Mosque. The implied intention was to find out whether the fundamental claim of the petitioners that the mosque has been built by destroying or

It appears, that prima facie, we — the courts, the prime time shows and the people in general — are debating the wrong question. This is not a question of secularism or that of minority rights, the question is, how will the ‘true nature’ of our conflicted architectural sites be defined, and who has the power to define it. Reading architecture with political philosophy tells us that that depends on what values we adopt in state formation.

appropriating a temple holds water. It appears that prima facie, we — the courts, the prime time shows and the people in general — are debating the wrong question. This is not a question of secularism or that of minority rights, the question is, how will the “true nature” of our conflicted architectural sites be defined, and who has the power to define it. Reading architecture with political philosophy tells us that that depends on what values we adopt in state formation.

Historically, rulers derived legitimacy primarily in two ways. In the case of intra-state matters, the legitimacy for the king to rule came from God in the Abrahamic world and from mythology in the pagan world. In the case of inter-state matters, kings asserted themselves through brute force and violence. The values of pre-modern state formation were divine/mythological and violent/expansionist. It was against these values that those rulers judged the function of architectural sites. The one who possessed the building by conquering the city or by becoming the king through clerical legitimacy decided what a mosque, temple or palace will be appropriated into or whether it will be allowed to exist at all. Since the French Revolution, the struggle of politics has been to find an earthly legitimacy to rule — one free from divinity, unbound to historical practices, and rejecting of violence. This has generated a long history of political thought and modern states were created on the values of modern morality — held by citizens to be self-evident truths, as proclaimed in the American Declaration of Independence.

At this juncture, it is imperative to look at The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991. Much has been written about the legality of the ongoing conflict vis-à-vis this Act. I want to shine a light on an otherwise ignored aspect of this legislation. The Act prohibited the conversion of any place of worship from its religious character as that character existed on the 15th of August, 1947. Basically, the Act said that if a site was a temple on August 15, 1947, it shall remain a temple and so on for all religious sites. We must ask ourselves: Why did an Act passed in 1991, set the date to define the status quo of religious sites to the date of India’s independence? The reason is quite pro-

found, and for a multi-cultural and diverse society such as India, it provides a resolution to the debate around conflicted architecture.

The Act does so in the spirit of a modern nation-state. It means that since we resolved to become a modern nation on August 15, 1947, and realised it on January 26, 1950, we shall cut our ties with the systems of politics that defined our past. On the 15th of August 1947, we resolved to create a break from the past and redefine our values of political legitimacy. From that day onwards, India was to be defined by, and courts were to judge conflicts using the values of a modern state enshrined in the constitution. Not against the values of the systems of politics or mythology that existed before.

This also means that we define the “true nature” of our architectural sites against the values of modernity and not those of mythology or medieval warfare. The philosophical and practical resolution to that, as understood in the Act, is to not entertain mythological claims to historical sites and to not investigate their archaeology for claims of possession. By ordering a survey of the Gyanvapi Mosque, the courts have done exactly the opposite.

By conducting such investigations into religious sites, the courts have, like they did in the case of Babri Masjid, legitimised the values of an anti-modern polity. They have acted against the values that they are supposed to uphold. Courts cannot be acting on claims of mythology or those of medieval capture. They must leave buildings for what they are — complex sediments of history that we decided to resolve by proclaiming a break from the past and giving ourselves modern values.

When we debate whether Gyanvapi Mosque was a temple at some point or not, and the courts order investigations into finding that out, we are all debating the wrong question. Despite precedents that speak otherwise, the higher courts must exclaim the simple yet profound answer to this question — maintain the status quo, don’t define the architecture of today by an arbitrarily chosen slice of its history. Basically, reject such petitions.

*Zuberi is an independent scholar and researcher of architecture and city studies*

THE CHALLENGE OF TOMORROW

Thomas Cup win must be followed, urgently, with work needed to retain title



SHIVANI NAIK

IN SPORT, TOMORROW always comes. And it brings both promises and pressures of a brand new title to fight for. India’s victorious Thomas Cup team will be feted, hailed and will go down in the pages of history as path-breakers. But even these pages must turn, for tomorrow always comes. While the youngsters soak in the adulation, India’s two watch-towers — Prakash Padukone and Pullela Gopichand — have immediately called for building more turrets to bolster India’s badminton citadel.

Padukone waited 21 years for his All-England to find an encore, and Gopichand continues to wonder which of the women or men can actually forge ahead and trap down that one. The duo never had the wealth of depth surrounding them to contest for the Thomas Cup at times when Indonesia, Malaysia, Korea and China throbbed with talent. But the two guiding lights have patiently waited through the years for that next big headline to light up the shuttle world. As coaches running successful academies and guiding young talent — some of whom were part of the team that won on Sunday — the two are wisely calling for urgency to step up efforts to capitalise on this triumph.

Indian hockey waited 41 years for the Olympic medal in 2021. Grand Slam doubles wins have dried up since Leander Paes, Mahesh Bhupathi, Rohan Bopanna and Sania Mirza Malik began wrapping up their careers. Indian shooting has gone two Olympic Games without a medal. Vijender Singh’s

Padukone waited 21 years for his All-England to find an encore, and Gopichand continues to wonder which of the women or men can actually forge ahead and trap down that one. As coaches running successful academies and guiding young talent — some of whom successfully won the world team event on Sunday — the two are wisely calling for urgency to step up efforts to capitalise on this triumph.

bronze from Beijing is still looking for an upgrade. Viswanathan Anand won one World Championship after another, but the second rung wasn’t exactly a step behind. Lovlina Borgohain did step up at Tokyo to follow in MC Mary Kom’s high-top boxing boots and Mirabai Chanu finally revived weightlifting 22 years after Karnam Malleswari. But Sania Mirza, Dipa Karmakar and Sakshi Malik are yet to find equally adept successors. PV Sindhu followed Saina Nehwal alright and went a step better at most events, but both Padukone and Gopichand have spoken of the sparse talent waiting to take up the women’s singles baton.

In men’s badminton, young Priyanshu Rajawat was waiting, swaying in front, to rush out from the wings as the newly minted Thomas Cup champions lined up to hit the winners’ podium. And there is Ravi Kumar, the tall find of the trials, Kiran George and Mithun Manjunath besides the young Cup holders Lakshya Sen and Satwik-Chirag, who will take it upon themselves to defend the Thomas Cup in two years. Still, it merits restating that it was Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy who used the cumulative experience of their careers to propel the Indians towards the Cup. In two years, China and Malaysia who fielded young rookie squads at Bangkok will be in the advanced stages of their regeneration and become stronger contenders.

Nothing firms up resolve like stinging losses. And it was India dishing them out this time, with Prannoy, Srikanth, Satwik and

Chirag channelling their disappointments from defeats to victory. Time never stops, and 2024 will be a stiff title defence — something Padukone and Gopichand have focused the celebrating country’s attention towards.

When Prannoy had the brainwave two months ago that India’s Thomas Cup squad should start seriously training their focus on the tournament in Thailand, and he started stringing feathers for the colourful dream-catcher, his optimism was based on results in the circuit. Srikanth and Sen had medalled at the World’s, with Sen making the All-England final. Satwik and Chirag were ripe for the ambushing of badminton’s superpowers, and also hurting from their narrow losses of the last few months.

But this was the amalgamation of a decade-long journey where these men plugged away at the inconsistencies in their games, effected lakhs of repetitions of that net dribble, chiselled the jump smash angle to get it just right in that one moment when it would be belted down to the floor. Indians watched a week of success. The badminton fraternity will have to start preparing for those years of silent training that will not be streamed live or trend on social media. Doubles coach Mathias Boe, just hours after the triumph, spoke of how India needs to quickly shed the perennial underdog tag and embrace the favourites one. The Thomas Cup was just the start, a giddy, grinning one, but now tomorrow will come.

*shivani.naik@expressindia.com*



MAY 18, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

MISSING CANDIDATES

THREE POLITICAL LEADERS including two poll candidates from their Krishnagar East constituency in West Bengal’s Nadia district remained untraced for the fourth day. Chief Minister Jyoti Basu said that a vigorous search operation was going on and the police were working round the clock to trace the poll candidates, Kashikanta Moitra (Janata) and Gopal Sarkar (Congress J), and Shibu Choudhury another Janata leader. Basu said veteran Janata Party leader PC Sen had received an anonymous call from a person saying that he was speaking from a place from where Moitra was held. The caller said that

unless 500 extremist prisoners were released, Moitra would remain with them till May 19. Basu said that there was no question of releasing any of the extremists.

SINO-INDIAN TALKS

INDIAN AND CHINESE officials began talks at Hyderabad house in Delhi to find ways to resolve outstanding Sino-Indian issues including the border question. After a hour long plenary session, the two delegations divided themselves into four groups. One of them will discuss the tangled border question and the other three will hold talks on other aspects of bilateral relations including

trade, cultural ties and cooperation in science and technology. The delegations have arrived at an understanding that nothing will be disclosed to the media till May 21.

DOST TO VISIT GENEVA

THE AFGHAN PRESIDENT Babrak Karmal is sending his foreign minister Mohammad Dost to Geneva to attend the meeting of UN representatives and Iranian and Pakistani delegations on the Afghanistan issue. Karmal disclosed this to K Natwar Singh, secretary to the External Affairs Ministry, who is in Kabul with a special message from Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.



# 7 THE IDEAS PAGE

## The inflation spiral

Fiscal, monetary expansion that happened during the pandemic has triggered an increase in debt and rise of prices across the world. Global economy needs coordinated policy effort to climb out



PINAKI CHAKRABORTY

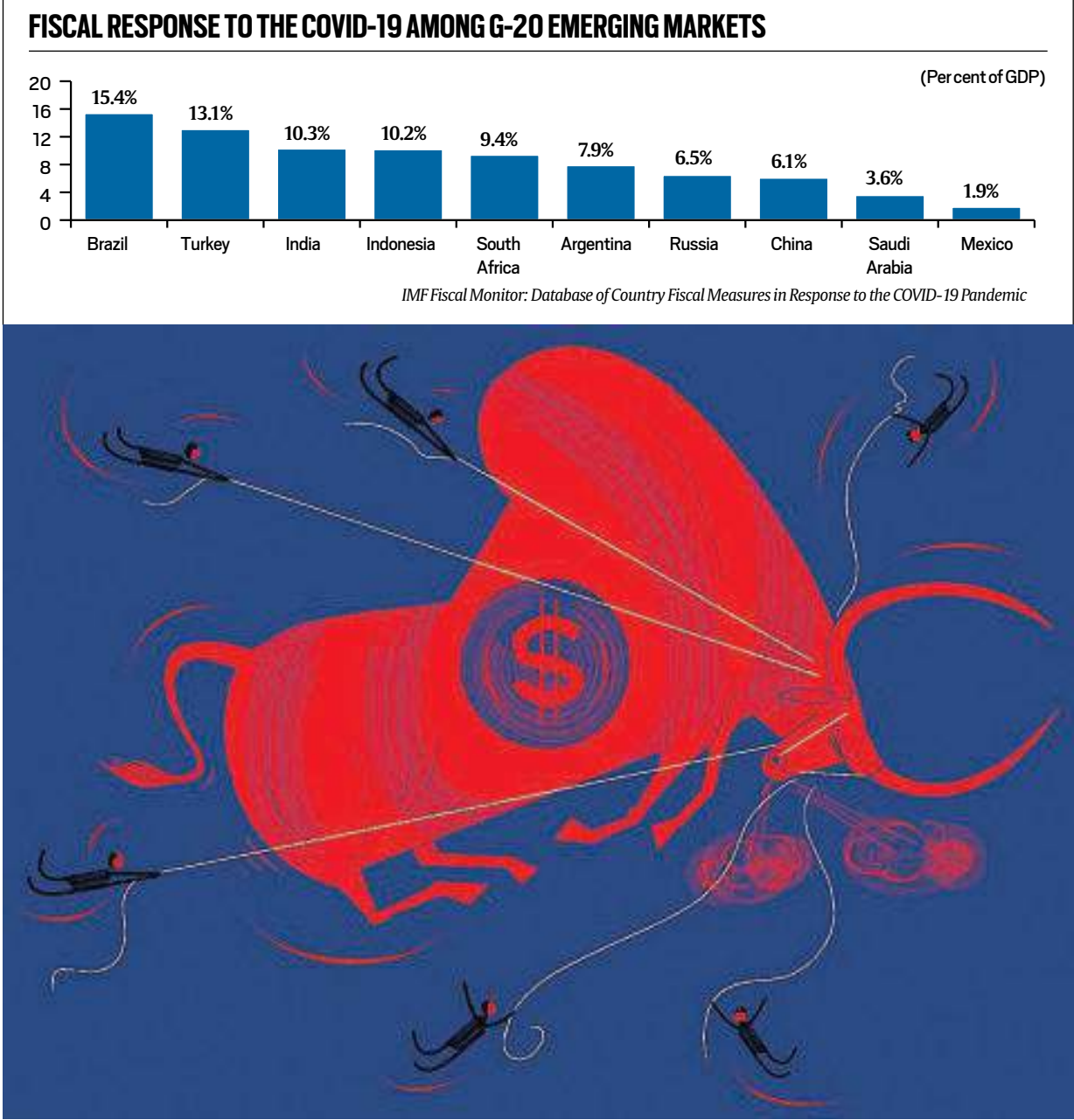
THE GLOBAL MACROECONOMIC situation is showing signs of macro instability reflected in increasing debt, deficits and inflation — global debt has increased sharply during the pandemic, inflation is on the rise, and macro-economic uncertainties have increased due to the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine. The World Economic Outlook, published by the IMF in April, expects global growth to be slower than the forecast made in January, with inflation on the rise.

Apart from the war, inflation today is the inevitable consequence of fiscal and monetary expansion that happened during the pandemic. If we consider, both the revenue foregone and additional expenditure during Covid (as provided by the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department), it was around 15 per cent of GDP for the advanced economies, while in emerging market economies and low-income developing countries it was around 6 and 2.5 per cent respectively. Among the G20 emerging markets, both direct and indirect fiscal support provided by governments varied between 15 and 1.9 per cent. Estimates for Brazil, Turkey, India and Indonesia were above 10 per cent of GDP (see table).

Globally, the total support comprising revenue foregone, expenditure stimulus and liquidity support was estimated to be \$17,000 billion, of which government guarantees accounted for more than \$4,000 billion — roughly one-fourth of the total — the downside fiscal risks of which cannot be ignored. If there is a large default, it can weaken the fiscal balance sheet in the medium term for items that are below the line at the moment.

In the last few weeks, central banks in many countries including India have raised interest rates to deal with rising inflation. This reflects that the monetary stance is gradually moving to inflation management. That certainly does not mean that central banks have given up supporting growth. It is about the shift of focus on policies to the one that is most relevant at the moment for the macro-economy — inflation. Why has the management of inflation become so critical? Some key data on money supply can help provide us with a perspective.

What was the increase in money supply during the last two years to support governments to deal with Covid? Information is sketchy and no direct estimate of monetary financing of the deficits during the pandemic is available. However, a sense of it can be obtained from the limited data that is available from the World Development Indicators on monetary aggregates compiled from the International Financial Statistics of IMF. The growth of the central bank's "claims on central government" provides some idea of the additional increase in money supply due to the government operation during Covid. Even if not a precise estimate, the data on "claims on central government" reflects an increase in money supply due to the central bank's support to the government. It showed a sharp increase among major advanced economies during 2020. In the US, immediately after the global financial crisis in 2010, the growth of central bank's support to the



CR Sasikumar

government was 0.4 per cent. In the year 2020, this support increased to 9 per cent. It was above 9 per cent in the UK, 10.5 per cent in Brazil and 6 per cent in China.

Third, both domestic and external debt stock increased sharply during the pandemic. The international debt statistics published by the IMF for 2022 show that the external debt stock to the export ratio for 123 low-and middle-income countries increased from 101 per cent in 2018 to 123 per cent in 2020. The export to debt service ratio for these countries increased from 14 per cent to 17 per cent during the same period. The share of public sector external debt in total external debt increased from 37 per cent to 39 per cent during this period. During the same period, the increase in South Asia's external debt stock as a percentage of export increased from 110 to 137 per cent, and the increase in debt service to export ratio was from 11 to 16 per cent. For Sri Lanka, the increase was from 258 to 424 per cent with an increase in debt servicing cost to export ratio from 36 to 39 per cent. Among the South Asian countries India's external debt stock to GDP ratio remained stable at around 20 per cent, with a marginal decline in the general government external debt stock share in total external debt stock from 25.75 per cent to 24.68 per cent.

Reduction of debt takes time, but management of inflation can't wait. Options are complex. Going forward, the global economy needs coordinated policy for monetary tightening and fiscal sustainability. There is a need to start fiscal normalisation without creating adverse distributional consequences. For this, countries need to chart out a fiscal normalisation plan to ensure that it is not abrupt and responses are sequenced in a manner that helps bring the economy back on track.

Reduction of debt takes time, but management of inflation can't wait. Options are complex. Going forward, the global economy needs coordinated policy for monetary tightening and fiscal sustainability. There is a need to start fiscal normalisation without creating adverse distributional consequences. For this, countries need to chart out a fiscal normalisation plan to ensure that it is not abrupt and responses are sequenced in a manner that helps bring the economy back on track, enhances fiscal resources for the government for public investment in the social and economic sector and create a framework for sector-specific differentiated responses for a full recovery.

Finally, the money spent by low income developing countries to deal with Covid was far less than the advanced and emerging market economies and most of this spending was on health and emergency response. Rising debt and inflation are only going to compound macro challenges for these countries. There is a need for a quick and efficient resolution of the challenges arising due to the elevated debt levels of low-income countries. One can hope for an equitable, fair and sustained recovery post-Covid only when there is greater international cooperation to ensure more resource flow to the poorer regions of the World.

The writer is former director, NIPFP

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“Given that we import more than 80 percent of our requirement of wheat from India, we believe that the Bangladesh government should take it up with its Indian counterpart to initiate deals at government level for wheat import.” — DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH

## Act of judicial statesmanship

In the sedition law debate, SC has aligned itself with the collective conscience and moral imagination of the nation



ASHWANI KUMAR

THE SUPREME Court's seminal intervention in a batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of section 124A of the Indian Penal Code is a watershed moment in the progressive expansion of human rights jurisprudence.

Rampant abuse of the archaic colonial law in recent times has infringed the citizens' right to liberty and legal due process, compromising in the process, their right to reputation and dignity. Cartoonists, journalists, activists, intellectuals, students and politicians have suffered prolonged incarceration and oppressive criminal trials for their convictions and beliefs. More recently, the slapping of sedition charges against political opponents and others in Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have confirmed that the abuse of the sedition law is no longer an aberration. It has become a norm that has hollowed out the constitutional guarantee of fundamental rights and exposed individuals to the rigour of draconian laws unjustly invoked, outraging national sensitivities as never before.

In this contextual framework, the May 11 order of the Supreme Court is largely viewed as an act of judicial statesmanship. Seizing the opportunity provided by the government's revised affidavit in court seeking time for revisiting the sedition provision, the court, while conceding the government's request for deferring the hearing, issued its much acclaimed interim directions. These have effectively stayed the ongoing prosecutions under the challenged laws, granting liberty to those in custody for offences under Section 124A to apply for bail to the concerned courts. The court also indicated in no uncertain terms its expectation that the central and state governments will not invoke the impugned provision in the future, till after a final decision in the matter.

In what is seen as a first in judicial history, the Supreme Court has virtually rendered redundant the provision of a criminal law without expressly declaring it as unconstitutional. Its directions, although expressed on a "prima-facie" basis, are a clear pointer to what the court's final decision could be, should the occasion arise. In an example of judicial statecraft, the court has shielded individuals against a harsh law without trenching on Parliament's legislative remit or the executive's command over policy decisions. Leaning decisively in favour of the Constitution's libertarian conscience, the Ramana court has risen to the nation's expectation as the constituted guardian of the constitutional principle. Navigating between the "Herculean" and "Sisyphean" conceptions of the judicial role, the court indicated its philosophical preference to "keep a libertarian thumb on the scales of justice", aligning itself with the collective conscience and moral imagination of the nation. It has shown that the highest court is not immune to finer

sensibilities and the "swellings of the heart" when freedom and dignity of individuals is in the balance. The bench of three distinguished judges presided over by the Chief Justice has validated the aphorism attributed to Judge Oliver Wendell Holmes that "judges can be weighty without being heavy".

Since every judgment has a generative power and a "...directive force for future cases of the same or similar nature", it is only to be expected that the apex court will ensure a purposive enforcement of its decisions that affirm the sacrosanctity of human rights, a duty repeatedly recognised in its judgments. (*Baradakanta Misra*, 1974; *Nagaraj*, 2006; *Shayara Banu*, 2017; *Brajendra Singh*, 2016, et al). Exercising plenary jurisdiction, the Supreme Court is expected to see through its suggestions/orders to the government, particularly when these concern the non-negotiable fundamental rights of citizens.

As with the sedition law, it can nudge the government to enact an anti-lynching humanitarian law as suggested by it (*Tehseen Poonawala*, 2018) and a comprehensive law against custodial torture, considering the proven inadequacy of the guidelines issued by it for its elimination (*D K Basu*, 1997).

Even as the nation pursues its quest for a truly libertarian and liberal democracy, the scourge of custodial torture continues unabated. A report by the National Campaign Against Torture has confirmed that 1,731 persons died in custody in 2019 alone. The absence of an anti-custodial torture law, a glaring gap in the architecture of the criminal justice system, is inexplicable considering the command of Article 21, recommendations of the Select Committee of Rajya Sabha (2010), the Law Commission of India (2017) and the Human Rights Commission and the judgments of the Supreme Court (*Puttaswamy*, 2017; *Jeeja Ghosh*, 2016; and *Shabnam*, 2015).

It is expected likewise from the court to intervene suitably and read down the UAPA and other criminal laws that have been repeatedly misused to trample upon the civil liberties and rights of the people. Instances of their misuse are etched indelibly in the conscience of the nation. As an organ of the state, the Supreme Court's suggestive jurisdiction is clearly in accord with its declared law (*Nagaraj*, 2006) that the state (of which the court is an integral constituent), is under a duty not only to protect individual rights but is also obliged to facilitate the same.

This is indeed the moment to seize, as the government reviews the nation's legal structures. The initiatives suggested above are in aid of democracy anchored in the inviolability of human rights and would enhance India's soft power in our engagement with the international community. The court-inspired initiatives would also validate the nation's preeminent role in the shaping of a new world order.

Governments for their part must know that they can stand only when founded upon liberty and justice. For the present, the prime minister has done well in deciding to revisit a law that is anathema in a free country. Hopefully, the nation will be rid of the last vestiges of colonialism that defy the will of the Age, the promise of our national charter and are at best a painful reminder of the injustices inflicted on our people.

The writer is a former Union law minister

## A Mini Bharat

In 100 years, Delhi University has become a microcosm of the country's diversity



ABHISHEK TANDON

FROM 750 students in 1922 to over 6 lakh students from across India in 2022, the University of Delhi (DU) has come a long way. Not only has the university evolved with the nation, but it has also played a crucial role in its evolution. With 90 colleges under its umbrella, DU has played an important role in framing the discourses that guide the nation's growth. Since its inception, the university has cherished the democratic values of free speech and diversity. The atmosphere of free-spirited discussions and camaraderie makes DU a big draw for students across India. Over the years, it has become one of the most sought-after universities in the country.

It is rightly said that a nation is as strong as its institutions. This credo is dear to DU: The university continues to lend support to nation-building by nurturing the finest young minds. It echoes the values of the nation and is a microcosm of our vibrant society: It's a "Mini Bharat" where students from all financial backgrounds and all regions of the country have always received a warm welcome.

DU also has an excellent gender ratio. While the university had just 82 girls in 1930, its constituent colleges now have 3,24,067 women students — more than 50 per cent of the total student population. The number of departments has increased from eight to 86 in the course of its 100-year journey. DU has the largest pool of seats to offer and its re-

search facilities and infrastructure are among the best in India.

It wasn't all hunky-dory from the start. In its initial years, the university shuffled between rented buildings. Additionally, DU witnessed intense competition from other colleges and universities. Post-Independence (and Partition), the university also faced the challenge of accommodating students from the then-West Punjab. Nevertheless, DU expanded and new colleges — including Hansraj College (1948), SGTB Khalsa College (1951), Deshbandhu College (1952), and Kirori Mal College (1954) — were started. Subsequently, in the 1960s, several new women's colleges — Lakshmbai, Kamala Nehru, Gargi, and Janki Devi — were set up under the university.

In 1973, the university got a new South Campus, which became the hub of extraordinary life sciences research — including affordable HIV tests, and genome sequencing of rice, among others — that gave the university global recognition. In the last two decades of the previous century, the university added the Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies, Shaheed Rajguru College of Applied Sciences and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College to its fold. DU's School of Open Learning, established in 1962, provides an excellent opportunity to more than 1,50,000 students every year to enrol themselves in graduation/post-graduation

courses while preparing for competitive exams or working on the side. Today, five DU colleges — Miranda House, Lady Shri Ram College, St Stephen's, Hindu, and Shri Ram College of Commerce — rank amongst the top 10 in the central government's National Institute Ranking Framework.

The university has a rich history of its students participating in the Indian freedom struggle. Revolutionary Chandra Shekhar Azad had found refuge in the students' hostel of Ramjas College when the British had launched a manhunt to nab him. In 1942, DU students took an active part in the Quit India Movement. In fact, Mahatma Gandhi came to the university to seek the support of students. After Independence, evening classes were started in Ramjas College for students who had come from across the newly-chalked out borders. In 1975, when an Emergency was imposed over the country, former Union minister Arun Jaitley, who was then the Delhi University Students Union president, participated in the movement against the order. Along with several other student union leaders, he was also imprisoned. Students and teachers' associations have never feared voicing their concerns at DU. The strong support for freedom of expression keeps the university thriving and reaffirms the idea of "unity in diversity" — a principle fundamental to India. DU caters to

a significant number of students from the northeast region, who in turn bring their unique values and make the varsity more pluralistic. Similarly, students from the southern states add to the diversity of the institution. This assimilation of cultures bridges the gap between regions, unifies the country, and helps students get a cosmopolitan perspective.

In 100 years, DU has created invaluable intellectual, cultural and social capital for a modern nation. Its alumni have excelled in all walks of life — business, politics, films, and sports. As it enters its 101st year, the university has a lot to look forward to — from the introduction of the Central Universities Common Entrance Test to the implementation of the New Education Policy of 2020. In the coming years, the university will be offering solutions to global problems while continuing to contribute to nation-building. In the next 25 years when India completes 100 years of Independence and DU turns 125, the university could be amongst the top-ranking institutions in the world, proving the mettle of the Indian education system and the country's intellectual might.

The writer was a student leader and is currently a faculty member at the University of Delhi and State President of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### CONGRESS INERTIA

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Walk the chintan' (IE, May 17). The one thing that has come out clearly from the chintan shivir of the Congress is that no matter how irrelevant the grand old party becomes, the Gandhis are here to stay. The shivir belied promises of a revamp, and there was just some tinkering here and there, a feedback mechanism and feeble attempts to connect to the electorate through yatras with the destination as blurred as ever. Unless something is done about it, the malaise of the party will continue.

Vipul Pande, Nainital

### UPHAAR LESSONS

THIS RFERS TO the article, 'Capital fire' (IE, May 17). The fire at Delhi's Mundka, which killed 27 persons, is reminiscent of the Uphaar Cinema fire, which took place in June 1997. The victims got together and formed the Association of Victims of Uphaar Fire Tragedy (AVUT). They fought against tremendous odds to get a conviction for a real estate baron. Since that tragedy in 1997, there have been numerous small and big fire incidents across the country with loss of lives and properties but one does not recall more convictions of the owners, regulatory bodies and licencing author-

ities. The authorities can't be expected to admit to their negligence. Bringing them to justice is a hard battle.

I.R Murmu, Delhi

### WELL PLAYED

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, '1983 in Badminton' (IE, May 17). From having only one men's badminton player to represent India in the 2004 Athens Olympics to breaching the Indonesian citadel and winning Thomas Cup, Indian badminton has come a long way. In the last few years barring Lakshya Sen's exploits on World Badminton, our men's badminton players were playing under the huge shadow of Saina Nehwal and PV Sindhu. This victory will help them be at par with their women colleagues.

Bal Govind, Noida

### APPALLING NEGLECT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Douse the fire' (IE, May 17). Friday's inferno that raged through a building in Delhi's Mundka is unlikely to be an exception. Unfortunately, such tragedies keep recurring in our country. A day after the Delhi incident, a blaze broke out at a hospital in Amritsar. Such cases expose criminal neglect in the implementation of fire safety norms.

SS Paul, Nadia





**MUMBAI METROPOLITAN REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
(A Government of Maharashtra Undertaking)  
**Plot No.14 &15, MMRDA New Office Building, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai- 400051 Tel. 26594000, Fax : 26591264**  
E-Mail : [vinay.surve@mailmmrda.maharashtra.gov.in](mailto:vinay.surve@mailmmrda.maharashtra.gov.in) Website : <https://mmrda.maharashtra.gov.in>

**e-TENDER NOTICE (2<sup>nd</sup> CALL)**  
**Name of Work : Appointment of Consultant for Preparation of Detailed Project Report and Project Management Consultancy Services for Construction of Elevated road from Anand Nagar to Saket on Eastern Express Highway in Thane City.**

Cost of Blank Tender Form (Per Each)	Earnest Money Deposit	Contract Period
Rs.3,360/-	Rs.12,75,000/-	03 months for Pre contract phase + 36 months Construction supervision + 60 months Defect Liability Period (DLP)


• Bid documents download : 19/05/2022 (10.00 hrs.) to 13/06/2022 (18.00 hrs.)

• Last date of online submission: 14/06/2022 (18.00 hrs.)

**Note :-** The e-Tender can be downloaded from e-Tendering Portal: <https://etendermmrda.maharashtra.gov.in>. Any additional information, Clarification & help for uploading & downloading the e-tender, may be available by contacting MMRDA's e-tendering service desk at the following id: [etendersupport@mailmmrda.maharashtra.gov.in](mailto:etendersupport@mailmmrda.maharashtra.gov.in) or call on 022-26597445.  
For further information if required, please contact Shri. V. G. Surve, Executive Engineer, on Telephone number 022-26594047.  
**Date : 18/05/2022**  
**Place : Mumbai**

**Sd/-**  
**Chief Engineer,**  
**Engineering Division, MMRDA**

**Chief Engineer,**  
**Engineering Division, MMRDA**



**KRISHNANAGAR BRANCH**  
"Patra Market", M. M. Ghosh Street,  
Krishnanagar 741101, Dist. Nadia, W.B.

**POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property/ies)**  
(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 01/03/2022, calling upon the Borrower M/s. Dream Construction, Partner, Mr. Subhaji Biswas, S/o- Late Ranjan Biswas, Add: 147, Dr. Sachin Sen Road, P.O- Krishnanagar, P.S-Kotwali, Dist. Nadia, West Bengal- 741101 & Partner, Mrs. Shipra Biswas, W/o-Subhaji Biswas, Add: 147, Dr. Sachin Sen Road, P.O- Krishnanagar, P.S-Kotwali, Dist. Nadia, West Bengal- 741103 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.1,44,22,578.00 (Rupees: One Crore Forty Four Lakhs Twenty Two Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Eight Only) as on 28/02/2022 (inclusive of unchanged interest up to 31/01/2022) together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment 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 taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this 13TH Day of May of the year 2022.

The Borrower/ Guarantors/ Mortgagees in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda, Krishnanagar Branch for an amount of Rs.1,02,96,000.00 (Rupees: One Crore Two Lakhs Ninety Six Thousand Only) and further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

Equitable Mortgage of immovable property 1) being Land and single storied residential Building at Mouza-Gobinsararak, J.L. No. 94, KH No (RS – 273 & LR – 5565 & 5566) Dag / Plot No (RS-1552 & LR-1490), as per porcha /WB Govt settlement record LR KH No. 5576 & LR dag No 1490, Category of Land –Bari, Total area of land measuring 2.00 decimals, or 1.21 Cottahs or 872.64 sqft, more or less under located at Chasa Para, Kali Charanlahiri Road, Holding No-58, ward No. 09 under Krishnagar Municipality, P.O-Krishnagar, P.S- kotwali, Dist- Nadia. WB- 741101

Equitable Mortgage of immovable property 2) Land and Triple storied residential Building at Mouza- Radhanagar, J.L. No. 96, KHNo.(RS-17), Dag/Plot No. (RS-72), as per Porcha / WB govt settlement Record LR KH No-758, 759, 760 & LR dag no 178, Category of land-Viti, Total area of landmeasuring 4.125 decimals or 2.49 Cottahs or 1792.80 sq ft. more or less under located at S N Sen Road (Gowala Para), Holding No. 255, ward No. 4, Under Krishnanagr Municipality, P.O- Krishnagar, P.S-Kotwali, Dist-Nadia, WB-741101


1) Butted and bounded by as follow: On the North :Property of Nanda Dulal Mondal. On the South: 6ft wide Passage Road.On the East : Municipal Road / Kali Charan Lahiri Road. On the West: Property of Arup Basak & Others.

2) Butted and bounded by as follow: On the North :Property of Namita Dutta. On the South :Municipal Road / Kali Charan Lahiri Road. On the East :5ft Wide Common Passage. On the West: Property of Apama Karmakar.

**Date: 13.05.2022**  
**Place: Krishnanagar**

Chief Manager / Authorised Officer

Bank of Baroda



**AXIS BANK LTD.**  
A. C. Market Building, 3rd Floor  
1, Shakespear Sarani, Kolkata – 700071

**POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)**

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8 (1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Axis Bank Ltd., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the Borrower (s) / Guarantor (s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice along with contractual rate of interest plus penal interest, charges, costs etc. within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The Borrower (s) / Guarantor (s), having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower (s) / Guarantor (s), in particular and the public, in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules on the date mentioned herein after.

The Borrower (s) / Guarantor (s), in particular, and the public, in general, are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Axis Bank Ltd., for an amount mentioned in the notice along with interest thereon and penal interest, charges, costs etc. from date of demand notice.

The Borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub Section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name & Address of Borrower / Guarantor	Description of the Immovable Property (Secured Assets)	A) Amount Due of Notice date B) Date of Demand Notice C) Date of Possession
1. Mr. Asit Jalani S/o. Atul Krishna Jalani Village - Dakshin Gangadharpur P. O. - Bahirchak P. S. - Patharpur District - South 24 Parganas, Pin- 743399	All that piece and parcel of land measuring an area of about 16 Decimal, situated under Mouza- Dakshin Gangadharpur, J. L. No. 5, Khatian No. 2936, Plot No. 2938, P. S. - Patharpur & District South 24 Parganas, together with the building constructed upon the said land.	A) Rs. 15,26,373.95 only under the Loan A/c No. 91803009453640, due as on 29.01.2022 (this amounts include interest applied till 01.11.2021) and Rs. 2,28,264.45 only under the Loan A/c No. 91803009453679, due as on 29.01.2022 (this amounts include interest applied till 01.11.2021) B) 29.01.2022 C) 13.05.2022
1. Gazi Rice Home 2. Mr. Safuddin Gazi Proprietor of Gazi Rice Home 3. Mr. Nur Siddik Gazi S/o. Sahel Ali Gazi All are at : Village - Aalgoria P. O. - Noagora Barasat North 24 Parganas, Pin- 700125.	ALL THAT piece and parcel of land measuring about 4 Decimal situated under Mouza - Aalgoria, J. L. No. 5, comprised in R. S. Khatian No. 78, L. R. Khatian No. 542, R. S. Plot Nos. 789, 247, P. S.- Barasat, District -North 24 Parganas, within the ambit of Paschim Sikkargram Panchayat, together with the building constructed upon the said land.	A) Rs. 5,59,745.68 due as on 15.02.2022 under loan A/c No. 915030035164362 (this amounts includes interest till 30.11.2021). B) 15.02.2022 C) 13.05.2022
1. Mr. Kamal Krishna Ghosh S/o. Tarani Kumar Ghosh Village - Dhapdhar P. O. - Sonargoria P. S. - Jamalpur District - Burdwan Pin - 713102 2. Mrs. Asima Ghosh Village - Dhapdhar P. O. - Sonargoria P. S. - Jamalpur, Dist- Burdwan, Pin - 713102.	All that piece and parcel of land measuring an area of about 9 Decimal, situated under Mouza - Dhapdhar, J. L. No. 64, Khatian No. 633, Dag No. 138, P. S.- Jamalpur, District – Burdwan, together with the building constructed upon the said land.	A) Rs. 13,46,073.51 under Loan A/c No. 917030079867308 due as on 23.04.2021 (this amounts include interest applied till 01.11.2020) and Rs. 10,330.56 under Loan A/c No. 917030079867337 due as on 23.04.2021 (this amounts include interest applied till 01.11.2020) B) 23.04.2021 C) 13.05.2022
Mr. Sk. Motiari Rahaman S/o. Rustam Ali Sekh Village - Saimulindanga P. O. - Berugram P. S. - Jamalpur District - Purbu Burdwan Pin- 713408	All that piece and parcel of land measuring an area of about 0.10 Acre, situated under Mouza – Berugram, J. L. No. 32, L.R. Khatian No. 1751, Dag No. 967, P. S.- Jamalpur, Dist- Purbu Burdwan, together with the building constructed upon the said land.	A) Rs. 14,29,275.00 (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs of Twenty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Five) only under the Loan A/c No. 91703007495922, due as on 20.09.2021 (this amounts include interest applied till 01.05.2021) and Rs. 56,217.27 (Rupees Fifty Six Thousand Two Hundred Seventeen and Twenty Seven Paise) only under the Loan A/c No. 91703007495935, due as on 20.09.2021 (this amounts include interest applied till 01.05.2021). B) 20.09.2021 C) 13.05.2022
1. Mr. Adhir Kumar Mondal S/o. Atul Chandra Mondal 2. Mr. Gosto Mondal S/o. Adhir Kumar Mondal 3. Mr. Supriyo Mondal S/o. Adhir Kumar Mondal All are at : Village - Dakshin Marjada, P. O. - Hotor P. S. - Magrahat, Landmark - Saora Primary School District - South 24 Parganas Pin - 743610	All that piece and parcel of land measuring an area of about 4.958 Decimal, situated under Mouza- Marjada, J. L. No. 40, L. R. Khatian Nos. 27 and 1386, Plot Nos. 652 and 653, P. S. - Magrahat & District - South 24 Parganas, together with the building constructed upon the said land.	A) Rs. 1,89,999.80 only under the Loan A/c No. 91803006100635 due as on 29.01.2022 (this amounts include interest applied till 01.11.2021) and Rs. 32,19,885.42 only under the Loan A/c No. 91803006100619, due as on 29.01.2022 (this amounts include interest applied till 01.11.2021). B) 29.01.2022 C) 13.05.2022


**Date : 18.05.2022**  
**Place : Kolkata**

Authorised Officer  
Axis Bank Ltd.

**JIGNASA SINHA**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 17

THE OWNER of the four-storey commercial building that caught fire last week in Mundka has been sent to one-day police custody as investigators try to verify whether the documents and licences he had were legitimate. The building owner, Manish Lakra, was arrested two days after the fire killed 27 and was in judicial custody since then. Sources said that the probe has so far suggested that Lakra and his family allegedly obtained fake licences and documents to get a clearance certificate from the MCD in 2016. "We suspect Lakra was using fake or forged documents," said an officer on condition of anonymity.

**"IMPORTANT"**  
Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.



**SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LTD.**

**e-Procurement Tender Notice (Paper Notification)**  
TSSPDCL intends to float tenders for procurement of (a) 11.0 Mtrs/365 Kgs PSOC Poles for Procurement circle (b) Spot Billing Paper Rolls (c) Various scrap materials available at TSSPDCL stores and (d) Survey reported PTR scrap on e-procurement platform.  
For further details of each item above, please visit [www.tssouthernpower.com](http://www.tssouthernpower.com).  
[www.tender.telangana.gov.in](http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in).  
Phone: 040-23431319, 1035, 1033, 1026, 1360  
R.O. No. : 1617-PP/CL/ADVT/11/2022-23 Date: 17-05-2022 **CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&MM)**

**OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (PPP) P.W.D., RAJASTHAN, JAIPUR**  
No.F.7 (735)/PPP/SHA/ADB T-2/1E/HAM-1/2022-23-D-192  
Date: 10.05.2022  
**NIT No.3/2022-22**

**INVITATION OF RFP FOR PROCUREMENT OF INDEPENDENT ENGINEER.**  
On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Rajasthan, Public Works Department, Rajasthan invites RFP for Procurement of Independent Engineer services for Development and Maintenance of Development and Maintenance of (i) Beawar Masuda Goyala Section of SH 26A (Length 66.77 km); (ii) Arain Sarwar Section of SH-7E (Length 44.260 km); (iii) NH-12 Laximpura Dora Dabi Ranaji Ka Gudha Section of SH-115 (Length 49.60 km); (Total length: 160.630 km) under Public Private Partnership (the "PPP") under Design, Build, Operate/Maintain & Transfer (the "DBOT Hybrid Arrangements") Basis. Package No. RSHIP/ADB/T-2/HAM/01. The RFP document can be viewed or downloaded from website and Inps://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://eppp.rajasthan.gov.in & www.pwd.rajasthan.gov.in from 11.05.2022. Any further amendments to the RFP document shall only be made available on above websites as such prospective bidders are advised to visit the above websites for the same.

**UBN No: QWD 2223SLOB01446**

**Sd/-**  
**(V.K. Singh)**  
**Addl. Chief Engineer (PPP)**  
**PWD, Rajasthan, Jaipur**

**ANDHRA PRADESH MEDICAL SERVICES & INFRA-STRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**


**Tender Notice No.2/APMSIDC/2022-23, Dated:13.05.2022**  
APMSIDC invites tenders through e-procurement platform (<https://tender.approcurement.gov.in>) for **Equipment Wing: 1.** Procure and supply of Equipment and other items to various Govt. Hospitals in A.G under different schemes of NHM Funds 2. Procure and supply of medical equipment and fabrication of 432 new vehicles for 104 MMU Services under Family Physician Concept 3. Identification of vender for supply of 2279 Smart phones to all field staff in Dr. YSRACHT 4. Procure and supply of balance items under ECRP II Scheme. 5. Identification of service provider for providing Hemo dialysis in teaching Hospitals under DME (PPP Mode) 6. Identification of service provider for ILL services to all health facilities in A.P 7. Procure and supply of Cancer Care Equipment to GGH Kurnool and KGH Visakhapatnam 8. Procure & supply of Tabs to MLPs under NHM. 9. Provision of Sick Newborn Care Units (11 SNCUs) at CHCs, AH, MCHs and DHs in Andhra Pradesh under PPP Mode  
**Drugs Wing: 1.** T.No.139/APMSIDC/Medicine Wing/2022-23 -Procurement and supply of general Medicines 2. T.No.140/APMSIDC/Medicine Wing/2022-23 Procurement and supply of surgical consumables  
R.O. No. 1076PP/CL/ADVT/11/2021-22 **Sd/- for Managing Director**

**राजस्थान सरकार**  
कार्वाण-निदेशक, पुनर्गत एवं संग्रहण विभाग, राजस्थान, जयपुर।  
अन्वेषण परिसर, यमनवास बाग, जयपुर  
दूरभाष : 0141-2820360 (ईमेल - [dirachraj@gmail.com](mailto:dirachraj@gmail.com))  
क्रमांक: पु.सं./अ.अ./2022/6047 दिनांक: 10/5/2022  
:: ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या- 1/2022-23 अन्तर्गत संशोधन ::  
पुनर्गत एवं संग्रहण विभाग के पत्र क्रमांक: पु.सं./अ.अ./2022/4180 दिनांक: 13.04.22 हाई ई-निविदा सूचना-1/2022-23 जारी की गई है, इस निविदा सूचना अन्तर्गत ई-निविदाएं प्राप्त करने एवं खोलने की तिथियाँ में निम्नानुसार सूचना दिया जाता है:-

NIB No.	UBN No.
AMD2223A0005	AMD2223WSOB00010

विवरण	पूर्व में प्रकाशित तिथि एवं समय	संशोधित तिथि एवं समय
ऑनलाइन निविदा प्रचार शुरुआत करने एवं ऑनलाइन निविदा प्रचार प्रत्युत्तर करने की अनिवार्य तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 11.05.2022 सां. 05.00 बजे तक	दिनांक 25.05.2022 सां. 05.00 बजे तक
निविदाएं खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 12.05.2022 प्रातः 11.00 बजे	दिनांक 26.05.2022 प्रातः 11.00 बजे

**हस्ता./-**  
**अधिकांशी अधिकृत**



**Government of Odisha, O/O THE E.I.C (CIVIL), ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR-751001**  
email: [cworldbankprojects@gmail.com](mailto:cworldbankprojects@gmail.com)  
**ROAD CONNECTIVITY PROJECT OF LEFT WING EXTREMISM AFFECTED AREA (RCPLWEA) INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) Bid Identification No. CE-WBP(O)-02/2022-23 CANCELLATION OF BID**

**File No- CEWP-RCPLWEA-3-56/2020-19095 Dated: 12.05.2022**  
The Chief Engineer, (World Bank Projects), Bhubaneswar, Odisha on behalf of Odisha State Rural Connectivity Project Agency invites the percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of roads under RCPLWEA in the districts of **Malkangiri & Kandhamal** for 4 number of packages with estimated cost as mentioned in IFB totaling to **Rs.3340.80 lakhs** including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with State PWD / CPWD / MES / Railways. 1 no. of work under Phulbani (R&B) Division of Kandhamal District is hereby cancelled due to single bid received, for 1st time tender for the work mentioned at sl.4 vide Bid Identification No. CE-WBP (O)-02/2022-23 dtd. 16-04-2022.  
**Sd/-**  
**Chief Engineer,**  
**World Bank Projects Odisha**  
OIPR- 34003/11/0011/2223

**STATE FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE, POLIPATHAR, JABALPUR (M.P.) WALK IN INTERVIEW**

A walk-in-interview will be held on 26/05/2022 from 11.00 am onwards in the office of the undersigned for the temporary post of Research Associate-01, JRF-08 & Computur Operator 04 post Suitable candidate may attend the interview with original testimonials, Bio-data with one set of self attested copies.  
More details can be obtained from the notice board of the office of the undersigned or log on to institute's website [www.mpsfiro.org](http://www.mpsfiro.org).  
**Registration Time : 10.30 Am To 12.30pm**  
**(for Walk in interview)**  
**Director**



**CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED**  
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Tamil Nadu)  
Admin Building, CMRL Depot, Poonamallee High Road, Koyambedu, Chennai – 600 107, India.

**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER**


Contract Name	Tender for Licensing of commercial space located at Ancillary Building / Independent Building located adjacent to selected Elevated and UG Metro Stations along Corridor-2 of Phase-I and its Extension.
Contract No.	CMRL/BD/ANC-ASB/2022/482/01.
Documents downloaded from	From 18/05/2022 to 17/06/2022 up to 17.00 hrs through e- tendering website <a href="https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app">https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app</a> .
Pre Bid Meeting Date	27/05/2022 on 11.30 hrs at CMRL Office- Admin Building, Koyambedu, Chennai -107.
Due Date of Bid Submission	17/06/2022 up to 17.00 hours (IST)
Date of Bid Opening	18/06/2022 at 17.05 hours (IST)

For complete details, please visit e-procurement website: <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.  
Any Corrigendum/Addendum to this publication, if any, would appear only on above mentioned website and will not be published in newspapers. No manual bids will be accepted.

**Tender inviting Authority:**  
**Chief General Manager (P&BD), Chennai Metro Rail Limited,**  
Admin Building, CMRL Depot, Poonamallee High Road, Koyambedu, Chennai – 600 107 Phone 044- 2379 2000 / [www.chennai-metro-rail.org](http://www.chennai-metro-rail.org).  
E-mail: [krishnan.rm@cmrl.in](mailto:krishnan.rm@cmrl.in)

**Chief General Manager (P&BD)**  
**Chennai Metro Rail Limited**

**DIPR/ 2338 /TENDER/2022**  
**"சென்னை கடத்து கருவிகள் அமைப்பதற்கான சாத்தனம் புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"**



**DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C) DR-IX C/o Pr. CHIEF ENGINEER (Dr.) Project-II JAGRITI SPS, NEAR KARKADOOMA CROSSING, SHAHDARA, DELHI-92**  
E-mail: [eccdirdjib@gmail.com](mailto:eccdirdjib@gmail.com) PHONE: 011-20824111


**NIT No. 02 (2022-23) Re-Invited**

S. No.	Name of work	Tender Amount	Tender ID	Tender Fee	Earnest Money	Last date & time of receipt of tender through e-procurement Solution
1	Construction of new 20 MGD SPS at Nigam Bodi including additional 700 mm dia Rising Main (on DBO basis with 12 years O&M including 2-year DLP) Delhi	Lump Sum 22279_1	2022_DJB_2	Rs. 1500/- Non refundable	Rs. 60,30,000/- (Rs. 20,00,000/- through RTOs and Rs. 40,30,000/- in the form of Bank Guarantee from any scheduled bank)	30.05.2022 at 03:00 PM

The details of the tender can be seen on Web Site <http://delhi.govtprocurement.com>  
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 115 (2022-23)  
**STOP CORONA- 1. Wash Your Hands 2. Wear Mask 3. Maintain Social Distance**

**Sd/-**  
**(R.G. Saraswat)**  
**Executive Engineer (C) Dr-IX**

**Chief General Manager (P&BD)**  
**Chennai Metro Rail Limited**



**OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (P)-4 DELHI JAL BOARD : GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI ROOM NO. 31, B-BUILDING, JHANEWALAN, NEW DELHI-110005**  
Phone:- 09650094325 E-mail id:- [djwaterbody@gmail.com](mailto:djwaterbody@gmail.com)


**PRESS NOT- NO. 03 (2022-23)**

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated Contract Value (ECV) in Amount put to tender	Earnest Money (EMD)	Tender Fee	Date of release of tender in E-Procurement solution & Tender ID No.	Last Date / Time of receipt of tender E-Procurement Solution
01	Creation of lake at Nagarghar STP under E.E. (W.B.)H.	3,83,59,775/-	₹ 7,75,000/-	₹ 1500/-	13.05.2022 2022_DJB_22261_1	06.06.2022 At 03:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>  
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 114 (2022-23)  
**"STOP CORONA, WEAR FACE MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE"**

**Sd/-**  
**Dy. S.E. (WB-I)**

**Chief General Manager (P&BD)**  
**Chennai Metro Rail Limited**



**पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank**

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(Rule 8(1) Appendix-IV (For Immovable Property))

Circle Sasra Centre, Circle Office, Nazrul Sarani, B.S. Road, Dist-Malda, 732101 (WB), E-Mail: [cs8275@pnb.co.in](mailto:cs8275@pnb.co.in)

Whereas, Punjab National Bank/ the Authorised Officer(s) of the Punjab National Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice/s on the dates mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrower/s to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice(s) date of receipt of the said notice(s).

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules. 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 available to redeem the secured assets

The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property(ies) and any dealing with the property(ies) will be subject to the charge of Punjab National Bank for the amounts and interest thereon.

Sl. No.	1) Name of Borrower 2) Name of Branch 3) Account No	Description of the property mortgaged	1)Date of demand notice 2)Date of Possession Notice 3) Outstanding Amount
1.	<b>1)Borrower:</b> Sarkar Enterprise Prop Hari Bandhu Sarkar <b>2)Branch:</b> Gangarampur <b>3)A/c No:</b> 0236250317511	Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building in the Name of Hari Bandhu Sarkar and Ratan Kr. Saha situated at Mouza 2 Indranaraynpur PS Gangarampur, Dist. Dakshin Dinajpur J.L. No.84, Mouza No.1607, Plot No.1387 measuring total area 0.08 acre of land, Classification Bastu in connection with Deed No.01595 dated 28.02.1992. <b>Boundary:</b> North: Ratan Kumar Sarkar South: Black Top Road East: Phani Sarkar West: Passage then Dinabandhu Sarkar	1) 06.01.2022 2) 11.05.2022 3) Rs 18,24,581.45 (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Twenty-Four Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-One and Paise Forty-Five Only) with further charges and interest until payment in full.
2.	<b>1)Borrower:</b> M/s Sanjay Medico Prop Sadhan Kumar Das <b>2)Branch:</b> Gangarampur <b>3)A/c No:</b> 0236250319744, 0236300064008	Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building in the Name of Binapani Das situated at Mouza Rajpukur, J.L. No.84, 2 Previous LR Khatian No.LR 122, corresponding present Khatian No.LR 9404, RS Plot No.1166 & 1167 corresponding LR Plot No.1292 & 1293, measuring total area 1.25 decimal, Classification Bastu Deed No.2185 for the dated 05.05.2011 at PS No.07, PWD Para, Gangarampur, Rajpukur, PO + W.S. Gangarampur, Dist Dakshin Dinajpur, Pin 731324. <b>Boundary:</b> North: Concrete Road South: Sripod Das East: Binapani Das West: Haran Sutradhar	1) 06.01.2022 2) 11.05.2022 3) Rs 14,10,025.72 (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Ten Thousand Eighty-One and Paise Forty-Five Only) with further charges and interest until payment in full.
3.	<b>1)Borrower:</b> M/s Maya Medical Agency Prop Anup Das <b>2)Branch:</b> Gangarampur <b>3)A/c No:</b> 0236250326889	Property No.01 Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building in the Name of Anup Das situated at Mouza Nandampur, PS Gangarampur, Dist Dakshin Dinajpur, J.L.No.52, LR Khatian No.1029, Plot No.LR 549, measuring total area 0.15 acre, Classification Bastu. <b>Boundary:</b> North: Pukur South: Anup Das East: Kamal krishna Das West: Anup Das Property No 2 Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building in the Name of Paneharia Sarkar Das situated at Mouza Nandampur, PS Gangarampur, Dist Dakshin Dinajpur, J.L.No.197, Khatian No.1029, Plot No.LR 58, measuring total area 0.20 acre, Classification Bastu (Ref Deeds for properties mentioned above Deed No. 3584/2009, Deed No. 5537/2012 and Deed No.5487/2010) <b>Boundary:</b> North: Pukur South: Matilal Sarkar East: Anup Das West: Kamal krishna Das	1) 07.01.2022 2) 11.05.2022 3) Rs 33,96,604.95 (Rupees Thirty-Three Lakh Ninety-Six Thousand Six Hundred Four and Paise Ninety-Five Only) with further charges and interest until payment in full.
4.	<b>1)Borrower:</b> Mahalaxmi Tyre Repairing Works Prop Biswanath Ghosh <b>2)Branch:</b> Gangarampur <b>3)A/c No:</b> 0236250301211	Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building in the Name of Biswanath Ghosh under Plot No. CS 321, RS 432, LR 860, Khatian No.Rs 259, LR 2244(Old), LR 6729(New), J.L. No.84, Mouza Rajpukur, Municipality Gangarampur, Ward No. 16, measuring total area 0.80 decimal, Deed No. 2414 of 2005 <b>Boundary:</b> North: Common Land South: Ashok Gupta East: Manas Saha West: Sakhi Saha	1) 04.01.2022 2) 11.05.2022 3) Rs 11,98,701.83 (Rupees Eleven Lakh Ninety-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred One and Paise Eighty-Three Only) with further charges and interest until payment in full.
5.	<b>1)Borrower:</b> Fajilur Rahman Sarkar S/o Paneharia Sarkar <b>2)Branch:</b> Gangarampur <b>3)A/c No:</b> 0236250326933	Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building in the Name of Chhabina Khatun situated at Mouza Fulbari, Ps 2 Gangarampur, Dist Dakshin Dinajpur, J.L.No.197, Khatian No. LR 732, Plot No.90 & 91, measuring total area 0.17 acre, Nature Bastu Deed No. 4122 of 2012 <b>Boundary:</b> North: Property of Samsuddin Sarkar South: Baniya East: Property of Gopinath Bharati West: Basak	1) 04.01.2022 2) 11.05.2022 3) Rs 11,59,954.86 (Rupees Eleven Lakh Fifty-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-Four and Paise Eighty-Six Only) with further charges and interest until payment in full.
6.	<b>1)Borrower:</b> Ashit Kumar Halder S/o Late Ajit Kumar Halder <b>2)Branch:</b> Gangarampur <b>3)A/c No:</b> 18396011000016	Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building in the Name of Ashit Kumar Halder situated at Mouza Rajpukur, Ps 2 Gangarampur, Dist Dakshin Dinajpur, J.L.No.084, Khatian No. 9819, Ward No. 16, Holding No.26/29, Plot No.LR 4519, RS 3518, measuring total area 0.04 acre, Deed No. 2495 of 2006 <b>Boundary:</b> North: Property of Shila Sark	



# Govt & Politics



## IN LIGHTER VEIN

SOME OF the Congress general secretaries and AICC in charge of states met informally on Tuesday to discuss the implementation of the operational decisions of the Udaipur Chintan Shivir. Incidentally, some of them will themselves have to step aside from some positions once the new rules barring a person from holding a post for more than five years come into effect. For instance, Mukul Wasnik in a lighter vein said he will have to resign four times since he had been a general secretary for 23 years now. Of course, he will be given a new role. Randeep Surjewala is a general secretary in charge of Karnataka as also the communication department head. He will have to leave one. The buzz is that Jairam Ramesh could succeed him as the head of the communication department, which will now be expanded. K C Venugopal, too, had been general secretary for over five years now, first as in charge of Karnataka and then in charge of organisation. It is to be seen whether his tenure will be counted from the day he took charge of organisation.

## RED CARPET

WITH INDIA being celebrated as the first-ever country of honour at the Marche du Film at the Cannes Film Festival, the 11-member Indian delegation led by I&B Minister Anurag Thakur walked the red carpet on Tuesday. The delegation also included internationally renowned music composer A R Rahman. However, actor Akshay Kumar had to drop out of the contingent at the last minute as he got tested positive for Covid-19. On the eve of the event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi sent a written note, which said India is the largest film producing country in the world. It has a "lot of stories to be told and the country truly possesses immense potential to become the content hub of the world", the note said. Films and society, the Prime Minister said, "are mirror images of each other".

## THE VACANCY

NAVEEN SRIVASTAVA, who is currently Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, handling the crucial portfolio of China, has been named as the next Indian ambassador to Nepal. Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra, who was till recently the Indian envoy in Kathmandu, took charge on May 1 and the position has been vacant since then. Srivastava, a known China hand, has been the negotiator in the India-China talks in the past two years, as both sides are locked in a standoff. Now, all eyes will be on who becomes the next joint Secretary, heading the East Asia division in the Ministry of External Affairs, which manages the relationship with China, Japan and the Koreans.

## Kin refuse to cremate body, point finger at Cong MLA, brother

**HAMZAKHAN**  
JAIPUR, MAY 17

THREE DAYS after he was shot dead in broad daylight in Nagaur district, salt trader Jaipal Poonia's body awaits cremation, with the family demanding a CBI inquiry and arrest of the accused, including Congress deputy chief whip Mahendra Choudhary and his brother Moti Singh.

Jaipal's uncle Vijay Singh Poonia told The Indian Express: "There are some politicians here who are into illegal salt mining and extortion. Jaipal got into legal salt mining in 2010 and they started threatening him to extort money. Wherever Jaipal went, he had a case lodged against him at the behest of Moti. Their plan was to have Jaipal declared a history-sheeter and get him killed, so that there is no hue and cry over the murder of a criminal."

In the FIR, Sarita says: "MLA Chaudhary and his brother Moti Singh, in connivance with officials, used to earn in lieu of facilitating illegal activities. Money was collected by Mahendra nephew Manoj Choudhary, Choturam

Gurjar, Purnaram Jat, Hanif and others. They also kept a watch on my husband and used to conduct recce." "Since Jaipal was a BJP member, they felt threatened politically, too," Vijay said.

In the FIR, Sarita says that on May 14, after leaving home for a court hearing, Jaipal called her at 3.15pm to tell her that he had been waylaid by Moolchand Saini, Virendra Saini, and two masked men. This was allegedly followed by an attack on Jaipal's vehicle with sticks and gunshots, and he passed away at about 4pm.

Apart from MLA and his brother, Virendra and Moolchand have been named as accused in the case, which was lodged under IPC sections 302 (murder), 147 (rioting), 120B (criminal conspiracy), and sections of the Arms Act. Claiming innocence, MLA Choudhary said, "The victim's family will get justice and I am always ready for a fair probe." The CID (Crime Branch) and Nagaur police have since detained five people in the case. ADG (Crime) Ravi Prakash Meharda said, "Police have uncovered the conspiracy behind the murder. All the accused will be arrested."

## Collegium nod for High Court CJs: 1 transfer, 5 elevations

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the appointment of Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, who is currently Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court, as the new Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court.

The Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana, also recommended the elevation of five judges as Chief Justices of High Courts. Justice Vipin Sanghi who is currently the Acting Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, has been recommended for elevation

as the Chief Justice of Uttarakhand. Bombay HC judge Justice Amjad S Sayed was recommended to be appointed as Himachal Pradesh Chief Justice, and Justice S S Shinde of the Bombay HC has been recommended for elevation as Chief Justice of Gauhati HC. Telangana HC judge, Justice Ujjal Bhuyan has been recommended for elevation as CJ. **ENS**

## India relaxes wheat order, allows export of shipments booked before May 13 ban

**HARIKISHAN SHARMA**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 17

WITH WHEAT trucks and ships stranded at ports after a ban on wheat export, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry announcing some relaxations for traders on Tuesday said that the consignments handed over and registered with Customs on or prior to May 13 — the day India banned the export — shall be allowed to be exported.

"The government has announced some relaxation to its order dated 13th May issued by Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Department of Commerce on restricting wheat exports. It has been decided that wherever wheat consignments have been handed over to Customs for examination and have been registered into their systems on or prior to 13.5.2022, such consignments would be allowed to be exported," the ministry said in a statement.



At the APMC in Gujarat's Jetalpur on Tuesday, Nirmal Harindran

The DGFT also sent a communication to all its regional authorities and Customs Commissionerates informing them about the relaxations.

The government's move came on a day when The Indian Express reported that over 4,000 wheat-laden trucks were stuck in a queue outside Kandla port and four ships, half loaded with wheat and no order to sail, were also stranded at the port.

According to sources, DGFT has given permission to four ships

stranded at the port to export wheat. A quantity of 1,67,211 tonnes was to be loaded on these ships but as soon the ban came into force, the loading was stopped. Till then, only 80,368 tonnes of wheat could be loaded on these ships. These ships will carry wheat to Brazil, Bangladesh, Oman and Indonesia.

According to the Commerce Ministry statement, the government also allowed a wheat shipment headed for Egypt, which was already under loading at the

### LOADING BEGINS AT PORT IN GUJARAT

**Rajkot:** Operations to load wheat on board five vessels berthed at Kandla port resumed late Tuesday after the Directorate General of Foreign Trade cleared the shipments cumulatively weighing more than 2.92 lakh metric tonnes. The five vessels together are to take more than 2.92 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of Indian wheat to Egypt, Bangladesh, Oman, Indonesia and Brazil. **ENS**

Kandla port.

"This followed a request by the Egyptian government to permit the wheat cargo being loaded at the Kandla port...", the statement said, adding that the government decided to permit the full consignment of 61,500 MT and allowed it to sail from Kandla to Egypt. Egypt has agreed to buy 5 lakh tonnes of

wheat from India.

In wake of the Russia-Ukraine war, the demand for Indian wheat has increased overseas. In the current financial year 2022-2023, the government estimates about 45 lakh metric tonnes of wheat to have been contracted for exports. Of this, 14.63 lakh metric tonnes have been exported till April 2022, higher than 2.43 lakh metric tonnes exported in April 2021.

Wheat production in India is expected to be lower than the earlier estimates. In February this year, the government estimated wheat production to reach 111 million tonnes, which was revised to 105-106 million tonnes.

Due to a lower production and a higher demand from the private buyers, the government's procurement of wheat for the PDS is also expected to be much lower this year. The government is expected to procure only 195 lakh metric tonnes, which is less than half of the grain quantity—433 lakh metric tonnes—procured last year.

## Shah reviews Amarnath Yatra details: Rs 5 lakh insurance cover, RFID tags

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 17

AMID HEIGHTENED security measures for this year's Amarnath Yatra, the government will provide each pilgrim an insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh besides a unique Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tag, which was earlier issued for vehicles only.

This is the first time the Yatra will be held since the Centre in 2019 stripped J&K of its special status and divided it into two union territories.

According to a Home ministry statement, J&K Chief Secretary Arvind Mehta shared the details at a meeting chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday.

Sources said Shah held three back-to-back meetings on the security preparedness ahead of the annual pilgrimage set to begin June 30. They said the first meet-



Home Minister Amit Shah with J&K LG Manoj Sinha in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

ing chaired by Shah focused on logistical arrangements for the Yatra and saw discussions on infrastructure, weather, health, transport and telecommunication among other issues.

Besides the Chief Secretary and other officials, LG Manoj Sinha, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla and Intelligence Bureau Director Arvind Kumar were also present.

The second meeting dealt

## US hopes India would rethink move to restrict wheat exports

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW YORK, MAY 17

THE US hopes India will 'reconsider' its decision to ban wheat exports, with Washington 'encouraging' countries not to restrict exports as that will exacerbate food shortages, amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield, during a virtual New York Foreign Press Centre briefing on Monday, said: "We have seen the report of India's decision. We're encouraging countries not to restrict exports because we think any restrictions on exports will exacerbate the food shortages."

The Ambassador added: "But you've — again, India will be one of the countries participating in our meeting at the Security Council, and we hope that they can, as they hear the concerns being raised by other countries, that they would reconsider that position."



At the launch ceremony on Tuesday at Mazagon Dock. Pradip Das

## Udaygiri, Surat: Navy gets twin boost



The INS Udaygiri and INS Surat are shining examples of India's growing indigenous capability. The warships will be among the most technologically advanced missile carriers in the world that will cater to the present as well as future requirements.

**RAJNATH SINGH,**  
DEFENCE MINISTER

**Indigenous warships** inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Mazagon Dock in Mumbai on Tuesday

**Designed in-house** by Navy's Directorate of Naval Design

**Built by** Mumbai-based Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL)



### UDAYGIRI

- Third warship of Project 17A Frigates
- Improved stealth features
- Advanced weapons & sensors
- Platform management systems.



### SURAT

- Next-gen stealth-guided missile destroyer
- Fourth of Project 15B Destroyers
- Makeover of the P15A (Kolkata Class) destroyers

Photo courtesy: Twitter/@rajnathsingh

## ‘Strong Navy key to global power’

**YOGESH NAIK**  
MUMBAI, MAY 17

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh launched two frontline warships of the Navy – Surat and Udaygiri – at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai on Tuesday.

While Surat is the fourth guided missile destroyer of P15B class, Udaygiri is the second stealth frigate of P17A class. Both warships have been designed by the Directorate of Naval Design and built at MDL.

Singh said the two warships will add might to the Navy's arsenal and represent to the world India's strategic strength as well as the power of self-reliance. "INS Udaygiri and INS Surat are the shining examples of India's growing indigenous capability. The warships will be among the most technologically advanced missile carriers in the world, catering to the present as well as future requirements. In times to come, we will not only fulfill our own needs but also meet the shipbuilding requirements of the world."

"We will soon realise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Make in India, Make for the World'," he added.

Singh said that the ever-evolving security scenario in the Indian Ocean and the Indo-Pacific region would demand an even more important role of the Navy in the times to come. "If a country wants to safeguard its national interests, it should project its military prowess in areas far beyond the mainland. To become a regional or global power, it is necessary to develop a strong naval force," he said.

## Yogi's tweet, statue set off talk of Lucknow renaming

**MAULSHREE SETH**  
LUCKNOW, MAY 17

IN HIS FIRST tenure, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath fulfilled two long-pending demands with the renaming of Faizabad district as 'Ayodhya' and Allahabad as 'Prayagraj'. Could Lucknow be next?

Adityanath set off feverish speculation regarding this when, on Monday, welcoming Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Uttar Pradesh capital, he tweeted: "Sheshavatar Bhagwan Laxman ki pawan nagri Lucknow mein aapka swagat aur abhinandan" (Welcome to the holy city of Lord Laxman)."

The theory that 'Lucknow' is a distorted version of what was originally a name inspired by Lord

Ram's brother Laxman is one of several regarding the city's name. However, the BJP has long embraced the Laxman theory, with several of its leaders periodically raising the demand that Lucknow be renamed "Lakshmanpuri".

Besides, Adityanath's tweet indicating the government's intention to project Lucknow as the city of Laxman, if not rename it, came days after Lucknow Mayor Sanyukta Bhatiya unveiled plans by Lucknow Municipal Corporation to set up a 151-feet-tall statue of Laxman along the Gomti river.

During Adityanath's first regime, veteran BJP leader and present Governor of Rajasthan Kalraj Mishra had demanded that Lucknow be renamed Laxmanpuri.

If this done by consensus, he



**Yogi Adityanath has been holding Deepotsava in Ayodhya since coming to power in 2017. Express Archive**

said, it would help people connect with the culture of that era.

While the decision for a statue was taken during the term of the last municipal corporation term, the place of installation

could not be finalised, and it was subsequently put on the backburner following Covid. Polls to elect the next municipal corporation are round the corner.

Bhatiya told *The Indian Express* that the corporation had sent the proposal for location along the Gomti to the government. She said her administration would not just install a grand statue of Laxman but also "restore the glory of Laxmanpuri", as a gateway to Ayodhya, the city of Ram.

"When I became the Mayor of Lucknow, my first desire was to connect the city with its history. Our city was known initially as Laxman as Laxmanpuri but the name slowly got converted to Lucknow. History shows that it was the city of Laxman, whose dedication to his people was no less than that of Ram, for whom a

temple is being built," Bhatiya said, adding that their hope was that the Laxman statue would emerge as a "prerna sthal (inspiration point)", and a must halt for pilgrims going to or returning from Ayodhya.

The Mayor said Rs 15 crore had already been set aside for the statue by the corporation, and it was raising more funds for a grand base. "This base would be kind of a museum on Laxman, showing the history of Laxmanpuri... We plan to conduct the entire project with riverfront development."

SP leader Rajendra Chaudhary said, "It is not surprising that they are now talking about Lucknow as the land of Lakshman as this is in accordance with their agenda. Their agenda does not include future planning for the poor, deprived or unemployed."

### ITAT APPOINTMENTS

## Put info collected on candidates after selection before search panel: SC to govt

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 17

DISAPPROVING OF the government's further verification of candidates already recommended by the Search and Selection Committee (SSC) for appointment to the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), the Supreme Court on Tuesday directed it to place any material it has on the candidates before the SSC itself for a decision on their suitability.

It will be "appropriate", Justices D Y Chandrachud and P S Narasimha said, "if all inputs on candidates, whether in form of Intelligence Bureau inputs or from any other sources, be placed before SSC."

Placing the material before the SSC, the court said, will put the panel in a position to determine "if any modification (to orders already passed) is necessary in view of the subsequent facts".

The bench said even in exceptional situations where material comes to knowledge after the SSC's recommendations, the information must be placed before the panel.

The court was hearing a plea seeking initiation of contempt proceedings against senior government officials for delaying appointments to ITAT.

When, on Tuesday, Attorney General K K Venugopal produced the files as sought by the court, the bench noted they contained "feedback sheets" for candidates recommended by the SSC as members of ITAT.

"Evidently, many of the comments in the 'Feedback' column are of subjective nature without any underlying material... this would substantially detract from the fairness of the process," the bench said. The court will hear the matter next on July 12.



# 10 EXPRESS NETWORK

## Govt in process of integrating e-Shram portal with One Nation One Ration Card scheme: Yadav

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 17

THE E-SHRAM portal of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, which is meant to register workers in the unorganised sector and help them access social security benefits, is being integrated with the One Nation One Ration Card scheme, according to Bhupender Yadav, Minister for Labour and Employment.

"We are in the process of integration of e-Shram with One Nation One Ration Card based on the location data of monthly food grain collection from PDS shops. It is envisaged that a comparison of the location data with permanent address data on e-Shram shall help identify migrant workers within e-Shram," Yadav said.

He was speaking at an IE THINC Migration webinar on migrant workers and the promise of e-Shram. The webinar was part of a series on migration and there have been seven editions in the past.

"The main issue is to ensure that the location of the worker is not a hindrance to accessing social security benefits... E-Shram shall share all relevant data with the state governments in a dynamic way," he said.

At a panel discussion fol-



**Bhupender Yadav**

lowing Yadav's address, Divya Varma, Programme Manager, Centre for Migration and Labour Solutions, Aajeevika Bureau, said that it is not really clear how the e-Shram exercise would be different from its predecessors.

"The Unorganised Workers Social Security Board was initiated in 2008. The Unorganised Worker Identification Number was initiated in 2015. And, all these schemes and cards and platforms sought the same thing... enumerate informal and migrant workers. But nothing really came in the name of social protection for workers through such drives," she said. She also pointed, "It's not backed by statutory legislation..."

On access to e-Shram, she spoke of the digital divide and inadequate information on its benefits.

Panelists also spoke of the need to ensure participation of

employers in the system.

"Private sector is the largest employer of migrant workers, and their involvement would go a long way," said Sanjay Awasthi, India Head of Office, International Organisation for Migration.

Ashif Shaikh, founder and CEO, Jan Sahas, said, "E-shram system tries to create a social registry of unorganized sector workers. Registration is the first step, after that how to reduce vulnerability through security is very important. The role of industry is important and their participation needs to be increased."

Govindraj Ethiraj, journalist, and founder of IndiaSpend, also spoke of the possibility of linking the electoral database with e-Shram to ensure electoral representation. "Why not introduce voting as well? From a technology standpoint, there's nothing that stops us," he said.

## Kerala Congress chief makes unsavoury remarks against Pinarayi again

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
KOCHI, MAY 17

KPCC chief K Sudhakaran on Tuesday once again courted controversy after he allegedly made unsavoury remarks against Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan during an interview.

The ruling CPI(M) condemned the statement and urged the senior Congress leader to withdraw his remarks to an on-line channel during the campaign for the upcoming Thrikkakara Assembly bypoll against Vijayan, else legal action would be initiated against him.

In the interview, Sudhakaran was seen furious over the fact that the Left leaders including the chief minister, ministers and MLAs were camping in Thrikkakara constituency to campaign for the CPI(M) candidate Dr Jo Joseph. The Congress has fielded Uma Thomas, wife of late senior leader and MLA P T Thomas, as the party's candidate. The bypoll was necessitated due to the demise of Thomas.

The video of the interview where Sudhakaran made the alleged unsavoury remarks against the Chief Minister went viral on social media. Left Democratic Front (LDF) convener P Jayarajan demanded action against the KPCC president for his alleged unsavoury remarks against the senior CPI(M) leader.

## 'BRIBE FOR VISA' CASE

# CBI books Karti, searches assets linked to Chidambarams

**DEEPTIMAN TIWARY**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 17

THE CBI on Tuesday conducted searches at various premises linked to former Union minister P Chidambaram and his son Karti Chidambaram – both Congress MPs – in connection with a fresh corruption case against the latter. Sources said the searches were carried out at 10 locations in Chennai, Mumbai, Koppal (Karnataka), Jharsuguda (Orissa), Mansa (Punjab) and Delhi.

The CBI FIR, the sources said, is based on allegations that Karti accepted a bribe of Rs 50 lakh from Vedanta Group to facilitate visas for 300 Chinese nationals of a company working in collaboration with a Vedanta subsidiary for a power project in Punjab. The FIR has arraigned as accused Karti; his alleged associate S Bhaskararaman; M/s Talwandi Sabo Power Ltd, Mansa; Vikas Makharria, a Talwandi Sabo representative; and M/s Bell Tools Ltd, Mumbai.

Though Chidambaram has not been arraigned as accused, the FIR alleged the bribes were paid after Bhaskararaman had a discussion with him about Vedanta's requirements. It also said Chidambaram was on Vedanta's board and his son allegedly took financial favours from a Vedanta subsidiary.

According to the CBI, Talwandi



**CBI team during a raid at Congress MP Karti Chidambaram's residence in Delhi on Tuesday. Abhinav Saha**

Sabo, a subsidiary of Vedanta group, was in the process of setting up a thermal power plant at Mansa and the job was outsourced to a Chinese company, M/s Shandong Electric Power Construction Corp. As the project was running behind schedule, Talwandi Sabo tried to bring more Chinese professionals in order to avoid penal action for delay. So it needed visas over and above the ceiling set by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the CBI alleged in its FIR.

"It has been alleged that in pursuance of the same, the said representative of Mansa-based private company (Talwandi Sabo) submitted a letter to the MHA, seeking approval to re-use the project visas allotted to this company, which was approved within a month...", the CBI said.

The FIR alleged, "S Bhaskararaman, after discussion with P Chidambaram, the then Home Minister, demanded an illegal gratification of Rs 50 lakh for ensuring the above said approval." This bribe was paid to Karti through a Mumbai firm, the CBI claimed.

"The searches at our Punjab facility have been part of a larger CBI investigation. We are extending full cooperation to the authorities and facilitating the due process. We have no further comments," said a spokesperson for Vedanta subsidiary TSPL, which operates the Talwandi Sabo Power Project.

The case is based on a reference the ED sent to the CBI in 2018. The letter claimed it had stumbled upon the evidence during its probe against the Chidambarams in the INX Media case.

## 8 arrested in Rajasthan exam paper leak case

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
JAIPUR, MAY 17

A PAPER for the Rajasthan Police Constable Recruitment Exam has been cancelled after it was leaked and eight persons have been arrested in connection with the case, Rajasthan police said Tuesday.

The paper was leaked shortly before the second shift of the exam began on May 14. As per police, the question paper was allegedly leaked from Diwakar Public Secondary School, located at Jhotwara in Jaipur. Those arrested include Shalu Sharma and her husband Mukesh Sharma. Shalu is the school principal and was the centre superintendent for the exam, while her husband Mukesh Sharma is the school di-

rector.

Additional Director General (Special Operations Group), Ashok Rathore, said that the paper was leaked by some persons at the school. The SOG's Anti-Cheating Cell is investigating the case.

About 1.6 lakh candidates had appeared for the examination in that particular shift and it will be conducted again. A case has also been registered in connection with the paper leak, police said.

In a total of eight shifts between May 13 and May 16, 11.53 lakh candidates had appeared for the examination, while a total of 18.83 lakh had applied for the examination, translating into 61.25 per cent attendance. The examination was held at 470 centres across 32 districts.

## JABALPUR RUNWAY EXCURSION

# DGCA suspends licences of two Alliance Air pilots

**PRANAV MUKUL**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 17

THE DIRECTORATE General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has suspended the licences of two Alliance Air pilots for "jeopardising the safety of the aircraft and its occupants" on a March 12 Delhi-Jabalpur flight that was involved in a runway excursion incident.

An ATR 72-600 aircraft operated by state-owned Alliance Air had overshoot the runway after landing at Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh on March 12. Even as all 55 passengers and five crew

members on board were safe, the airline had de-rostered the pilots then.

A senior DGCA official told The Indian Express: "During the investigation, it was found that at the time of landing, the aircraft floated for a long period and touched down approximately 900 metres after the aiming point. The decision of the 'pilot flying' to continue despite the long float resulted in a long landing and subsequently runway excursion."

"The non-flying pilot (who monitors the various instruments) did not call out for go-around."

## RAM TEMPLE IN AYODHYA

# Sanctum sanctorum to be complete by Dec '23: Misra

**DIVYAA**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 17

CONSTRUCTION OF the superstructure of Ram Temple in Ayodhya will start soon, while the plinth for the sanctum sanctorum is nearing completion, said a statement by the temple construction committee on Tuesday.

Nripendra Misra, chairman of the committee, told *The Indian Express*, "The ground floor garbha griha (sanctum sanctorum) will be complete by December 2023, while the remaining work in the temple will be done by December 2024." It is expected that the temple will be opened to the



**Nripendra Misra, chairman of the temple construction committee**

public by early 2024.

The plinth made with granite stone, work on which started in February this year, is expected to be complete by August. About 17,000 stones will be used to

## ASSAM RAINS



**Villagers waded through a flooded road after rain at a village in Nagaon district on Tuesday. PTI**

# Death toll goes up to 8, Shah assures help from Centre

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
GUWAHATI, MAY 17

AS INCESSANT rain continued for the fifth day in Assam and parts of the Northeast, the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (AS-DMA) on Tuesday said that one person died in Udalguri district, while another went missing in Nagaon. This raises the death toll from the rains to eight. In all, the rains have displaced 4 lakh people. Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke with Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma to take stock of the situation, and assured that the Centre would provide the state with "all possible help".

"NDRF teams have already been deployed. Assured all pos-

sible help from the central government," Shah tweeted.

Sarma directed the state's chief secretary to hold a review meeting with a special focus on the worst-affected districts, including Dima Hasao, where landslides in different locations had disrupted road and rail connectivity.

On Monday, connectivity to district headquarters Haflong was snapped as a major road caved in along the Guwahati-Haflong link. The ASDMA release said that all roads and railways leading to Haflong were blocked since May 15 due to landslides. Surface links to Barak Valley districts, including Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi, and neighbouring states of Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur remained disconnected on Tuesday.

"The massive landslide in

more than 50 locations spreading all over the Lumding-Badarpur hill section has completely disrupted the rail communication of the hilly states like Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram and South Assam with rest of the country since last Saturday," a release from the Northeast Frontier Railways said on Tuesday. It added that inclement weather was affecting restoration efforts.

Meanwhile, the Assam Higher Secondary Education Council suspended higher secondary first year (Class 11) examinations that were to be held till Saturday, until further order. In Dima Hasao district, all examinations till June 1 are suspended until further order due to disruption of surface communication.

## 10 detained, 5 FIRs registered in connection with Neemuch clashes

**IRAM SIDDIQUE**  
BHOPAL, MAY 17

A DAY after clashes broke out in Neemuch city of Madhya Pradesh over a Hanuman idol being placed near a dargah in the Old Kacheri locality, police on Tuesday detained 10 people and registered five FIRs. The police also shifted the Hanuman idol to a temple.

The situation was clam on Tuesday even as Section 144 (CrPc) remained in force. Of the five FIRs, two each were registered at the behest of both communities. Around 2:30pm on Monday, a Hanuman idol was spotted by the members of the minority community near the dargah and they informed the police. Members from both the communities assembled at the site, leading to violence, including arson at a mosque.

Police are scanning the footage of CCTV cameras to identify those who indulged in the violence.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Neemach Superintendent of Police Suraj Kumar said, "The idol had been respectfully shifted to a temple and a flag march was carried out by the police to placate the prevailing tension. The situation was brought under control on Monday night itself and we have not received any distress call since 10pm yesterday [Monday]."

On Monday afternoon, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Mamta Khede reached the site and the caretaker of the dargah turned up with papers to prove ownership of the land. As the issue remained unresolved, members from both communities were asked to reach the control room for talks.

By late evening, a portion of the mosque was set on fire and stone pelting continued for about 30 minutes. Fire officials controlled the fire, and the police fired tear gas shells to disperse the crowd.

## UTTAR PRADESH

# Man dies in custody, two cops booked for murder, two others shunted out

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
LUCKNOW, MAY 17

A MURDER FIR has been registered against two policemen and a magisterial inquiry has been ordered into the alleged custodial death of a 52-year-old businessman in Hathras. While two more policemen have been suspended, no one has been arrested so far.

According to police, Raj Kumar



**Security beefed up in Dewan Bagh area of Baramulla after the grenade attack on Tuesday. Shuaib Masoodi**

# One killed, three injured as militants hurl grenade at liquor shop in Baramulla

**BASHAARAT MASOOD**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 17

SUSPECTED MILITANTS hurled a grenade at a liquor shop in a high-security zone in north Kashmir's Baramulla, killing an employee of the shop and injuring three of his colleagues.

Police said a militant wearing a burqa threw a grenade inside the shop – that opened only a few days ago – and escaped with his accomplice who was waiting on a motorcycle.

"At about 2010 hours, two terrorists riding a bike stopped near the newly opened wine shop at Dewan Bagh, Baramulla," the police said in a statement. "The pillion rider wearing a burqa walked to the window of the said shop and dropped a grenade inside through a porthole window."

The blast resulted in injury to four employees of the shop. While one of them died in hospital, a critically injured employee was referred to Srinagar

for specialised treatment.

The police said all four employees of the shop are from Jammu region. While the person who was killed was identified as Ranjit Singh of Bakra Rajouri, the injured were identified as Govardhan Singh and Ravi Kumar of Kathua and Govind Singh of Kangra Rajouri. The condition of Govind Singh is said to be critical.

The liquor shop was opened only a few days ago after it was allotted to a Jammu resident. It is located in Baramulla's Dewan Bagh neighbourhood, a high-security zone.

The area houses the offices of DIG Police north Kashmir, SSP Baramulla and the residence of the GoC 19 Infantry Division.

A joint team of J&K Police, Army and paramilitary forces launched a massive hunt to trace the militants responsible for the attack.

In the past, militants have several times targeted liquor shops in the Valley.

taken to the hospital where he died during treatment," said a police officer. Police said that during the preliminary inquiry, they found that the doctors had advised the police team to admit Kumar to the hospital. However, the police team took him back to the police station, the officer said.

SP (Hathras) Bikash Kumar Baidya said that four policemen, including the SHO, have been suspended for negligence of duty.



## 11 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 54,318.47 ▲ 1,344.63 (2.54%) NIFTY: 16,259.30 ▲ 417.00 (2.63%) NIKKEI: 26,659.75 ▲ 112.70 HANG SENG: 20,602.52 ▲ 652.31 FTSE: 7,524.21 ▲ 59.41 DAX: 14,163.09 ▲ 198.71

International market data till 1900 IST

## STATE OF THE ECONOMY REPORT

## Global headwinds pose challenges, inflation risks more accentuated: RBI

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
MUMBAI, MAY 17

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) has said risks stemming from global developments have thwarted recovery momentum, and inflation risks have become more accentuated in recent months. "The Indian economy's recovery remains resilient. The increase in international commodity prices also imparts a net term of trade shock that is widening the trade and current account deficits," the RBI said in its 'State of the economy' report.

"Heightened global risks stemming from weakening growth, elevated inflation, supply disruptions on account of geopolitical spill overs and financial market volatility stemming from synchronised monetary tightening pose near-term challenges," the RBI report said. Headline CPI inflation (year-on-year) rose to 7.8 per cent in April from 7.0 per cent in March.

EXPLAINED  
High inflation rate

HEADLINE CPI inflation (year-on-year) rose to 7.8 per cent in April from 7 per cent in March on account of an acceleration across all major groups.

on account of an acceleration across all major groups.

It said India faces challenges in building from the scars of the pandemic through larger investments in health and productivity of the human capital. With an acceleration in the pace of digitalisation, the footprint of the unicorn ecosystem in India is expanding, reflecting a rapidly changing economy, the report said.

The report said the global growth outlook appears grim as geopolitical tensions linger, com-

modity prices remain elevated and withdrawal of monetary accommodation gathers speed. "Emerging economies face risks of capital outflows and higher commodity prices feeding into inflation prints. Meanwhile, the pandemic continues to impinge on near-term economic prospects," it said. "In order to achieve a higher growth path on a sustainable basis, private investment needs to be encouraged through higher capital expenditure by the government which crowds in private investment. Improving infrastructure, ensuring low and stable inflation and maintaining macroeconomic stability are critical for reviving animal spirits and spurring growth," the report said. The Indian economy consolidated its recovery, with most constituents surpassing pre-pandemic levels of activity. The global economic outlook is overcast with downside risks due to the ongoing geopolitical upheaval and its impact on trade, output and prices, the report said.

## Six applicants for 'on tap' bank licences rejected

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
MUMBAI, MAY 17

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) has rejected six out of 11 applications received by the central bank to set up bank under the guidelines for 'on tap' licensing of universal banks and small finance banks.

The examination of six applications has now been completed as per the procedure laid down under these guidelines. Based on the assessment of the applications, six applicants were not found suitable for granting of in-principle approval to set up banks, the RBI said.

The applicants not found suitable under 'on tap' licensing of universal banks include UAE Exchange and Financial Services Ltd, Repatriates Cooperative



The RBI, Mumbai. File

Finance and Development Bank Limited (REPCO Bank), Chaitanya India Fin Credit Private Ltd and Pankaj Vaish and others.

The applicants not found suitable under 'on tap' licensing of small finance banks are: VSoft Technologies Private Ltd and Calicut City Service Co-operative Bank Ltd. "The remaining applications are under examination," the RBI said.

**Rising fuel prices in India** have led to considerable debate on which government, state or central, should be lowering their taxes

**106** Countries, for which data is available, among which the price in India at \$1.35 per litre is 42nd in rank

**>50** Nations where price is higher than in India

**India's fuel prices** are lower than Hong Kong, Finland, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Greece, France, Portugal and Norway

Source: Bank of Baroda Economics Research/PTI

## 'Petrol in India cheaper than UK, Germany; costlier than US, China'

*Petrol in India is cheaper than in countries like Germany and the UK, but costlier than in China, Brazil, the US, Russia and Pakistan, said a BoB Economics Research report*



## Alibaba, Ant Financial to exit Paytm Mall

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK  
NEW DELHI, MAY 17

PAYTM MALL will buy stake from two of its biggest investors — China's Alibaba and its affiliate Ant Financial — at a significantly lower valuation of nearly Rs 100 crore, compared to the company's peak valuation of over Rs 21,000 crore (or \$3 billion) in 2019.

Alibaba will offload the entirety of its 28.34 per cent stake in Paytm Mall, with its holdings currently valued at around \$3.5 million, while Ant Financials will be exiting with over \$1.8 million after writing off its complete investment in the online marketplace, according to a notice sent by Paytm Mall to all shareholders to hold an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) on May 23 2022.

In a statement, a Paytm Mall spokesperson said: "As part of the shift in the business direction of

**Paytm Mall will buy the stakes at a lower valuation of nearly ₹100 crore, compared to its peak of over ₹21,000 crore in 2019**

the company, PEPL (Paytm Mall's parent company) also sees the exit of early investors Alibaba and Ant Group. Paytm Mall is confident of its new strategy and roadmap..." Other investors in the firm which includes the likes of SoftBank, Elevation Capital (formerly SAIF Partners), and eBay will continue to hold their respective stakes in the firm.

The development comes in the backdrop of Paytm Mall pivoting to join the government-backed Open National Digital Commerce network as its "primary focus".

EXTENDS APR DEADLINE

## Govt asks Infy to fix GST portal glitches

*New Delhi:* As taxpayers face technical glitches on the GST portal, the government on Tuesday extended the due date for April tax payment till May 24 and has directed Infosys for early resolution of the problem.

"The due date for filing FORM GSTR-3B for the month of April 2022 has been extended till 24th May 2022," the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said in a late-night tweet.

Earlier in the day, the CBIC had said that a technical glitch has been reported by Infosys in the generation of April GSTR-2B and auto-population of GSTR-3B on the portal. "Infosys has been directed by Govt for early resolution. Technical team is working to provide GSTR-2B & correct auto-populated GSTR-3B at the earliest," it tweeted. In 2015, Infosys was awarded a Rs 1,380 crore contract to build and maintain the GST system. **PTI**

## INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT, CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY

## 'Like GST Council, need a platform to sort Centre-state issues on land, energy, labour'

NEWLY-ELECTED CII President SANJIV BAJAJ says that as a country, India is primed for growth and investment, and signs of renewed activity are visible across multiple sectors, such as commodities, construction, transportation, real estate. In an interaction with PRANAV MUKUL and ANIL SASI, Bajaj — the Chairman and Managing Director of Bajaj Finserv Ltd, the holding group company for all the financial service businesses of the Bajaj group — flags inflation as a concern and calls for smart regulation by the RBI so the innovation in the financial sector is not hampered. Edited excerpts:



Sanjiv Bajaj via CII

**We are leaving behind a phase that was seen as favourable on account of multiple factors, including the liquidity push by global central banks, low inflation etc, to now enter a more challenging business environment. How does industry view the transition?**

You have to look at it to understand what was the disease and what was the remedy. The disease was the pandemic and the related shocks. The world and the nation going into multiple lockdowns — the disruption in supply chains, the loss of employment especially at the lowest informal end. The disease was a complete chaos in economic activity. The remedy was to provide additional liquidity and backstop to MSMEs not because they're not competitive but because they can't open their shops. The remedy was about cutting interest rates because there was no demand. People who had money were also saving it for hospitalisation, etc. Over the last two years, we, as a country, have come up to speed with vaccination. The situation now is that those early problems are gradually going away. As a country, we are primed for significant growth and investment, and we've started seeing that in some sectors on the private side, commodities, construction, transportation, real estate.

But then the war happened, and that was another disease. So the remedy got pushed out for some more time. We're now starting to see some amount of normalisation; partly because pandemic is in control, partly because a new disease has arisen: inflation. There are two sides to inflation: there is a demand side and a supply side. On the supply side, there

is less that any monetary policy can do about. But on the demand side, it can. So with the interest rates reversing, it will hopefully bring inflation down.

The two main drivers of cost are fuel prices and food prices. Fuel prices, in the last few years, when prices were low, government has taken their taxes up. Our suggestion to them now is that because prices are now high, in a collaborative manner if the Centre and states can work to cut taxes, it will help the pocket of the common man. The cure now is the slow withdrawal as the disease is also coming down. Of course, the war is still an unknown but hopefully it will reach some kind of a balance if not completely sorted out.

**As we move towards a higher interest rate regime, do you see the problem of NPAs coming back again?**

Because of the shutdowns and the pandemic, most people could not work and pay EMIs, that's why the moratorium happened and in the low interest rate regime, lenders started providing for bad debts. As you can see, good quality lenders who provided for that have started writing back now. As things are getting normalised, the cause really to delay EMI payments is going away. There is no reason to believe that companies, which have adequately provided in the last few years for potential losses, will not show better numbers. We're already seeing that for many good quality lenders in Q4. It's a cause and effect issue — as the cause is getting solved, the effect will naturally go away.

**For financial services sector, is**

## No shortage of fertilisers for kharif season: Mandaviya

HARIKISHAN SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, MAY 17

CHEMICAL AND Fertilisers Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said Tuesday there will be no shortage of fertilisers during the ensuing kharif season, adding that India has signed a long-term agreement with Jordan-based companies for supply of fertilisers, including 2.5 lakh metric tonnes of DAP (di-ammonium phosphate).

"I have come back from Jordan after signing a long-term agreement for supply of 30 lakh metric tonnes of rock phosphate of the best grade. Besides, an agreement has also been signed for 2.75 LMT MOP [muriate of potash] and 2.5 LMT of DAP. The agreement is for five years," he told reporters.

## Almas Global to appeal against NCLT order

*New Delhi:* Almas Global Opportunity Fund SPIC (AGOF), part of the consortium that won the bid for Pawan Hans, on Tuesday said it has initiated the process to appeal against an NCLT order with respect to the fund acquiring bankrupt EMC Ltd.

The statement from the Cayman Islands-based fund comes a day after the government decided to put on hold the sale of Pawan Hans as it was legally examining the NCLT order against AGOF.

Almas Global is the biggest shareholder in the consortium — Star9 Mobility Pvt Ltd — that was selected as the winning bidder for Pawan Hans. **PTI**

## REQUIREMENT &amp; STOCK

**354.34 LMT**  
Requirement for kharif 2022, as per govt estimates

**125.5 LMT**  
Opening stock available as on April 19, ~35% of requirement

**254.79 LMT**  
Expected domestic output for kharif season

"Our companies would get an assured supply," the minister said, adding that similar MoUs would be signed with other countries to boost supply of fertilisers.

A high-level delegation led by Mandaviya visited Jordan from May 13-15 "for enhanced cooperation" in the fertiliser sector amid a global fertilizers "crisis". He said the MoUs have been signed with Jordan Phosphate Mining Company for supply of 30 LMT rock phosphate, 2.50 LMT DAP, 1 LMT phosphoric acid for the current year. India has also signed a long-term MoU for 5 years with Jordan for annual supply of 2.75 LMT MOP, which will uniformly rise every year up to 3.25 LMT, he said. "Currently, we receive supply from there but it is not long term."

The delegation visited the JPMC mines and phosphoric acid production facilities set up by Jordan India Fertiliser Company. *Full report on* [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## Musk links progress on deal to proof of spam bot share on Twitter

*San Francisco:* Elon Musk said on Tuesday his \$44-billion offer would not move forward until Twitter Inc shows proof that spam bots account for less than 5 per cent of its total users, hours after suggesting he could seek a lower price for the company.

"My offer was based on Twitter's SEC filings being accurate. Yesterday, Twitter's CEO publicly refused to show proof of <5% (spam accounts). This deal cannot move forward until he does," Musk said in a tweet.

Hours later, Twitter said it was committed to completing the deal at the agreed price and terms "as

promptly as practicable." Its stock pared losses in pre-market trading, but was down about 3 per cent at \$36.31, lower than its price on the day before Musk disclosed his Twitter stake, raising doubts if the Tesla CEO would proceed with his offer of \$54.20 per share. After putting his offer on hold last week pending information on spam accounts, Musk said he suspected they account for at least 20 per cent of users against Twitter's official estimate of 5 per cent. "You can't pay the same price for something that is much worse than they claimed," Musk said. **REUTERS**

MARKETS WATCH  
INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING

## Weak LIC debut due to unfavourable mkt conditions: DIPAM

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
MUMBAI, MAY 17

DEPARTMENT OF Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kant Pandey on Tuesday said the weak listing debut of the country's largest insurer LIC on the bourses was due to unpredictable market conditions.

Investors should hold on to the stock for long-term value, he said. "Nobody can predict the market. We have been saying that it should not be held for a particular day but for more than a day," Pandey told reporters after the listing of shares. Pandey said there was some protection for retail investors and policyholders who got the shares at a discounted price.

On the IPO, he said it was right-sized, considering the capital market environment, with the objective of not crowding out the capital supply. He said the IPO received 73

lakh investor applications from all categories other than anchor investors. It received 10,85 lakh applications from first-time investors, of which, more than 7 lakh got allotment.

As much as 46 per cent of the investors were from the western part of the country, 44 per cent from north and south, 9 per cent from east and north-east saw one per cent participation, he said.

The IPO was the third largest IPO globally in the year till date, he said. LIC Chairman MR Kumar said the response for the shares in the secondary market is going to be higher which will pull the prices up.

"We were not expecting it to pick up as the markets were jittery... expect it to pick up. I am sure a lot of policyholders who had missed out in the IPO will pick up LIC from the market now. I don't see why it should be tepid for too long," he said. *Full report on* [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)



LIC Chairman MR Kumar (right) and DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey during the listing ceremony at BSE, Mumbai, on Tuesday. *Ganesh Shirsekar*

## BRIEFLY

## BSE chairman

*New Delhi:* BSE has appointed SS Mundra chairman.

## Airtel directors

*New Delhi:* Bharti Airtel has appointed ex-cabinet secretary P K Sinha, and ex-PwC India head Shyamal Mukherjee as independent directors.

## Piramal awarded

*New Delhi:* Piramal Group chairman Ajay Piramal has received Commander of the Order of British Empire award. **PTI**

## Amazon case

*Washington:* Two American nationals have pleaded guilty to a multimillion-dollar scheme to manipulate Amazon's Marketplace. **REUTERS**

## Should be able to launch 6G by decade-end: PM

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
NEW DELHI, MAY 17

CALLING FOR India to launch 6G by the end of this decade, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said a task force has already started working on it. Speaking at a programme marking 25 years of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai), he said 5G mobile technology — yet to be commercially launched in the country — will contribute \$450 billion to the economy in the next 15 years.

"5G will contribute \$450 billion to the Indian economy. Not just the speed of the Internet, 5G will also increase the speed of economic development and employment generation. By the end of this decade, we should be able to launch 6G services, and our task force has started working on it," Modi said, adding, "5G technol-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Trai event. *PTI*

ogy will bring a positive change in the country's governance, ease of living, and ease of doing business. Sectors like agriculture, health, education, infrastructure and logistics will also experience growth due to the technology."

The Prime Minister noted that the Centre has tried to respond quickly whenever industry has faced challenges and, wherever needed, has introduced reforms. This, he said, has boosted investor confidence in the telecom sector.

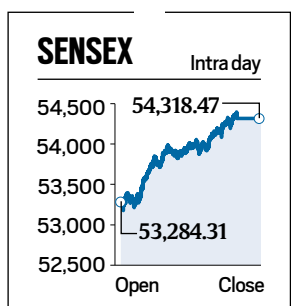
## Sensex rebounds; Re off record lows

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
MUMBAI, MAY 17

AIDED BY strong global cues, domestic stock markets rallied by 2.54 per cent amid strong support retail investors and domestic institutions. The Sensex jumped nearly 1,345 points to 54,318.47 and the NSE Nifty index rose 417 points to 16,259.30 in the rally.

On the other hand, after opening at 77.67, the rupee plunged further to a record intra-day low of 77.79 due to an increase in crude oil prices. However, a strong rally in the domestic share market and RBI intervention helped the rupee to recover and close at 77.48, a net gain of seven paise over its last close of 77.55 on Friday.

After a long gap, the market



has witnessed a strong resilience supported by heavyweights and broader markets, analysts said. "The market was trading at oversold territory and was inspired by optimism in the Asian markets led by Chinese technology stocks," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. *Full report on* [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)





## USA

## FDA CLEARS BOOSTER FOR KIDS AGES 5-11

US regulator Food and Drug Administration's on Tuesday authorised a Covid-19 booster shot for healthy 5-to-11-year-olds, hoping an extra vaccine dose will enhance their protection as infections once again creep upward.



## TOP OF THE WORLD



Iran foreign minister Hossein Amirabdollahian

## IRAN

## Iranian, Saudi foreign ministers to meet in Iraq soon, says MP

**Dubai:** The Iranian and Saudi foreign ministers are expected to meet in Iraq soon, an Iranian lawmaker told the semi-official Fars news agency on Tuesday, a move that would be seen as a step to ease tensions across the Middle East between the regional foes. However, shortly after, Iran's foreign ministry said there has been "no new development" since April in talks between them, Iran's state news agency IRNA reported. Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Saeed Khatibzadeh said: "No new developments have taken place since the last round of talks". "There are many issues on the agenda like how talks will continue and at which level."

REUTERS

## FATE OF SOLDIERS UNCERTAIN, many moved to Russian-held town

## DEFENDERS ARE OUR HEROES, Ukraine says fulfilled combat goal

## ZELENSKY TALKS TO MACRON, discusses defence help from France



A wounded Ukrainian soldier being rescued from the besieged Azovstal steel mill in Mariupol. Reuters

## Mariupol Falls

## Over 250 Ukraine fighters at Azovstal steel plant surrender

NATALIA ZINETS  
MARIUPOL, MAY 17

MORE THAN 250 Ukrainian fighters surrendered to Russian forces at the Azovstal steelworks in Mariupol after weeks of desperate resistance, bringing an end to the most devastating siege of Russia's war in Ukraine and allowing President Vladimir Putin to claim a rare victory in his faltering campaign.

Reuters saw buses leave the steelworks, where defenders had held out in a complex of bunkers and tunnels, in a convoy escorted by Russian armoured vehicles. Five arrived in the Russian-held town of Novozovsk, where Moscow said the wounded would be treated.

What will happen to the fighters was unclear. The Kremlin said Putin had personally guaranteed the prisoners would be treated according to international standards. But a Reuters witness said seven buses carrying Ukrainian fighters from the Azovstal garrison arrived at a former penal

## EXPLAINED Russia's major victory

GAINING FULL control of Mariupol would give Russia an unbroken land bridge to the Crimean Peninsula and deprive Ukraine of a vital port. It could also free up Russian forces for fighting elsewhere in the Donbas, the eastern industrial heartland that the Kremlin is bent on capturing.

colony in the Russian-controlled town of Olenivka near Donetsk.

TASS news agency said a Russian committee planned to question the soldiers, many of them members of the Azov Battalion, as part of an investigation into what Moscow calls "Ukrainian regime crimes".

Russian defence ministry video showed fighters leaving the plant, some carried on

stretchers, others with hands up to be searched by Russian troops.

While both sides spoke of a deal under which all Ukrainian troops would abandon the huge steelworks, many details were not yet public, including how many fighters still remained inside, and whether any form of prisoner swap had been agreed.

Ukraine's Deputy Defence Minister Hanna Malyar told a briefing that Kyiv would not disclose how many fighters were inside the plant until all were safe. "The Mariupol garrison has fulfilled its combat mission," the General Staff of Ukraine's Armed Forces said in a statement.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said: "Ukraine needs Ukrainian heroes alive." Also he spoke to French President Emmanuel Macron, who told him that French arms deliveries to Ukraine would intensify in coming days and that France was ready to respond to additional demands for help. Macron also said Ukraine's European Union application would be examined by EU members at a summit in June.

## Sweden, Finland push forward with NATO bids as Turkey objects

KARL RITTER  
STOCKHOLM, MAY 17

SWEDEN AND Finland on Tuesday pushed ahead with their bids to join NATO even as Turkey insisted it won't let the previously non-aligned Nordic countries into the alliance because of their alleged support for Kurdish militants.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's strongly worded objections caught the two applicants and other NATO members off guard, complicating what was envisioned to be a swift expansion of the alliance.

"Turkey's statements have changed very quickly and hardened in recent days. But I am sure that we will resolve the situation with constructive talks," Finnish President Sauli Niinisto

said during a visit to Stockholm, the Swedish capital.

The Finnish Parliament on Tuesday resoundingly rubber-stamped the government's decision to seek membership in an 188-8 vote, while Sweden's foreign minister signed a formal application letter to be handed over to the alliance's headquarters in Brussels. Swedish Foreign Minister Ann Linde told domestic news agency TT that "a series of diplomatic efforts are underway," but declined further comment.

European officials expressed hope that Turkey's objections to Finnish and Swedish membership in NATO could be overcome. The European Union's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said the two countries would receive strong support "from all member states, because it increases our unity, and it makes us stronger."

## Gotabaya defeats censure motion as Parliament gets new Dy Speaker

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
COLOMBO, MAY 17

SRI LANKAN President Gotabaya Rajapaksa-led government won two important victories in Parliament on Tuesday when its candidate for the slot of Deputy Speaker got elected, while it convincingly defeated an Opposition move to hasten a debate on a censure motion that blamed him for the island nation's worst economic crisis.

A no-confidence motion tabled by the Opposition Tamil National Alliance MP M A Sumanthiran to censure President Rajapaksa was defeated 119-68 in a deeply-divided Parliament.

With the no-confidence motion, the Opposition sought to demonstrate how nationwide calls for President Rajapaksa's resignation is reflected in the country's 225-member legislature.

Hours earlier, the candidate from the ruling SLPP won a key vote when its lawmaker Ajith Rajapaksha was on Tuesday elected Deputy Speaker of the country's Parliament, which met for the first time since the resignation of the former prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and the swearing-in of the new Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.



Police at the entrance to the Sri Lankan Parliament in Colombo. AP

Rajapaksha, 48, from the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna Party (SLPP) was elected following a secret ballot conducted in Parliament. He secured 109 votes and the main Opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya nominee Rohini Kavirathna received 78 votes.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said the Opposition's move to introduce a motion to censure President was a poor parliamentary strategy. "This was not a vote on the Motion of Displeasure against the President. This was a vote to suspend all Parliament proceedings and immediately debate the Motion of Displeasure," Wickremesinghe said in a series of tweets.

## Presidential panel votes to process all US green card applications in six months

LALIT K JHA  
WASHINGTON, MAY 17

A PRESIDENTIAL advisory commission has unanimously voted to recommend President Joe Biden to process all applications for green cards or permanent residency within six months.

To be sent to the White House now for approval, recommendations of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (PACAANHPI) if adopted is likely to bring cheers to the hundreds and thousands of Indian Americans and those waiting, some for even for decades, for a Green Card.

A proposal in this regard was moved by Indian American community leader Ajay Jain Bhutoria during the meeting of the

PACAANHPI, during which all its 25 commissioners unanimously approved it.

To reduce, pending green card backlog, the advisory commission recommended US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to review their processes, systems, policies and establish new internal cycle time goals by streamlining processes, removing redundant steps if any, automating any manual approvals, improving their internal dashboards and reporting system and enhancing policies.

The recommendations aim to reduce the cycle time for processing all forms related to family based green card application, DACA renewals, all other green card applications within six months and issue adjudicate decisions within six months of application received by it.

PTI

## Pak ex-ISI chief holds talks with TTP in Kabul: Report

**Islamabad:** A Pakistani delegation led by a former ISI chief has reportedly held talks in Afghanistan with the representatives of the banned terror group Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) involved in scores of deadly attacks on Pakistani security forces, a media report said on Tuesday.

Members of the group and official sources in Kabul confirmed to the state-owned US radio broadcaster Voice of America

the presence of Peshawar Corps Commander Lt General Faiz Hameed in Kabul on Monday for the talks with the TTP.

However, there was no official confirmation from either side about the development, but reports suggested that it was part of a renewed push by the Afghan-Taliban to broker some kind of a deal with TTP. *The Express Tribune* reported quoting Afghan journalists and sources.

PTI

## With Ukraine's firmer stance, peace talks grind to halt

THE NEW YORK TIMES  
MAY 17

AFTER WEEKS of trying to hammer out a peace deal, negotiators for Russia and Ukraine appear farther apart than at any other point in the nearly three-month-long war, with the peace talks having collapsed in a thicket of public recriminations.

Vladimir Medinsky, the head of President Vladimir V Putin's delegation, speaking in his first

interview with a Western news outlet since the beginning of the war, has claimed that Russia has still not received a response to a draft peace agreement that it submitted to Ukraine on April 15. Rustem Umerov, a top Ukrainian negotiator, responded by saying that Russia was operating with "fakes and lies."

"We are defending ourselves," Umerov said in an interview. "If Russia wants to get out, they can get out to their borders even today. But they are not doing it."



A damaged building in Donbas region. NYT

On Tuesday, both sides further played down the prospects of a deal. Another Ukrainian negotiator, Mykhailo Podolyak, issued a statement saying that the talks were "on pause" and that given Russia's faltering offensive, the Kremlin "will not achieve any goals." And Andrei Rudenko, a Russian deputy foreign minister, told reporters that "Ukraine has practically withdrawn from the negotiating process," the Interfax news agency reported.

The impasse stems primarily from Russia's insistence on maintaining control of large swaths of Ukrainian territory, and Putin's apparent determination to push ahead with his offensive. But another factor is an emboldened Ukraine: Its successes on the battlefield, combined with anger over Russian atrocities, have the Ukrainian public less willing to accept a negotiated peace that would keep a significant amount of land in Russian hands.

## SIX INDIAN FILMS TO BE SCREENED AT FESTIVAL

## Summer of our content: Yes, it's Cannes; red carpet rolls out after 2 yrs



## EXPRESS IN CANNES

SHUBHRA GUPTA  
MAY 17

SEVENTY-FIVE years has a nice, solid ring to it. And after two years of the pandemic, a film festival on the ground feels even more of a celebration. The 75th edition of the Cannes Film Festival opens today with its usual fanfare — red carpet galas at the Palais, stars

sweeping down the Croisette, and film press lining up for much-anticipated goodies.

India is the 'county of honour' at the Marche du Cinema, the film market that runs adjacent to the festival — a giant bee-hive thronged by buyers and sellers and agents. This year, six Indian films will be officially screened there — R Madhavan's "Rocketry : The Nambi Effect", Nikhil Mahajan's "Godavari", Achal Mishra's "Dhuin", Shankar Shrikumar's "Alpha Beta Gamma", Biswajeet Bora's "Boomba Ride", Jayaraj's "Tree Full of Parrots". And Deepika Padukone joins a very select band of 'desis', which has done top jury duty at the festival.

## India's local flavours

In the middle of pre-travel-flurry, Mahajan talks about what "Godavari" means to him. The passing of filmmaker Nishikant Kamath, dear friend and mentor to both Mahajan and his lead actor Jitendra Joshi, has been a great shock. "We couldn't think of a better tribute to Nishikant, but to make this film, which is so closely connected to life and death". The film follows a man who is filled with rage, the kind of "crazy amount of suppressed rage" Mahajan has noticed in his own Maharashtrian middle-class male world and in himself, which no one talks about. It is unusual for an Indian film to have a lead character so determinedly unlikable, and as we begin to know more about him, a



(From left) Ricky Kej, Vani Tripathi, R Madhavan, Prasoon Joshi, Anurag Thakur, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, and Shekhar Kapur. AP

river runs through it. Achal Mishra's sophomore effort 'Dhuin', which comes after his lovely ode-to-a-lost-time 'Gamak

Ghar', is another slice of life in an Indian village, but this one is slender, almost novella-length. Shot during the pandemic, it features a

young man whose sights are set on Mumbai and the movies. Like so many other young men, he wants to become the next Pankaj Tripathi, that son of their soil who is now a star. The film needs a bit more scaffolding, but you can see that it comes from a filmmaker with an unerring eye.

## Some classics, specials

A handful of other Indian films will be screened in other sections. Satyajit Ray's 1970 "Pratidwandi", in which a young Dhritiman Chatterjee plays a disaffected urban Bengali navigating a Calcutta impacted by rising Naxalism, growing joblessness, and accompanying cynicism, is in the Cannes Classics section. Ray's pastoral sagas of the 60s (

Pather Panchali, The Apu trilogy) led to his great city movies in the 70s. One of the highlights of "Pratidwandi", restored by the NFAI, is the feckless character played by Chatterjee, telling an interviewer that one of the most significant markers of their time is the Vietnam war, not the first man landing on the moon. The look on the interlocutor's face is priceless.

Saunak Sen's brilliant documentary "All That Breathes", which premiered early this year at Sundance, is in the Special Screenings section, a rare exception for a festival that insists on world premiers. Anyone who has lived in Delhi, has seen birds literally drop from the skies, and knows what it is like to be suf-

fused by constant greyness. The film marries a strong concern for ecology with an awareness of the racial political atmosphere in the capital, and you can feel that suffocation countered by the concerned, committed young men, who tend to the injured birds.

Another restored classic is G Aravindan's "Thamp", which the Cannes selectors have called the best restored film in the last 15 years, according to Shivendra Durgapur, who runs the Film Heritage Foundation (FHF). He has been working on the film's restoration in association with his partners, and it will be screened at the same theatre, which showed the restored version of "Kalpana", exactly a decade back. I can't wait to be there', he says. Nor can we.



# Blackpool’s Daniels is first publicly gay British footballer in 30 years

Blackpool footballer Jake Daniels became the only publicly male gay football player in Britain when he came out in an interview with Sky Sports. The 17-year-old is the first men’s professional player to come out in the last 30 years while still playing.

**Who is Jake Daniels?**  
Daniels had been playing with Blackpool’s youth and junior teams since the age of seven and recently made his first-team debut in May. He has scored 30 goals for the youth team and lifted the Lancashire FA Pro-Youth Cup. He signed his first professional contract recently.  
But despite being on the way to becoming an accomplished professional footballer, Daniels felt he was leading a life of lies. It was after his first pro contract that he realised that he couldn’t continue to hide his sexuality. “I’ve hated lying my whole life and feeling the need to change to fit in. I want to be a role model myself by doing this,” said Daniels in an open letter on the Blackpool FC website.

**Have there been other male professional footballers who have come out?**  
Yes, there have been. 32 years ago, Justin Fashanu became the first professional football player to come out as gay.

He did so after many years of playing in professional circuits among different clubs. It was prompted largely by his treatment among fellow professionals.  
In 1981 Fashanu became the first black footballer to be signed for 1 million pounds. The transfer happened when Norwich sold him to Brian Clough’s Nottingham Forest.

Crough later wrote in his autobiography about the verbal berating he gave to Fashanu after it was rumoured that he was visiting gay bars. Since Fashanu, only a handful of other men have come out as gay. Recently, Adelaide United player Josh Cavallo announced that he was gay and was mentioned as one of the reasons Daniels had the confidence to come out publicly.

Previously, Premier League footballer Thomas Hitzlsperger, came out in 2013 after retiring from professional football. Hitzlsperger congratulated Daniels for his announcement on Twitter and said, “Well done Jake Daniels. Have a wonderful career! Great to see the support of Blackpool FC and Stonewall UK to make this possible.”

Is it difficult for male footballers to come



Blackpool’s Jake Daniels is 17 years old. Twitter/Blackpool

**out?**  
Active male players under professional contracts rarely ever reveal their sexuality. This is due to various reasons, but one of the biggest can be the social pressures and attacks that follow their announcement.

Daniels, in his interview with Sky Sports, alluded to the same.

“Of course, I am aware that there will be a reaction to this and some of it will be homophobic, maybe in a stadium and on social media,” Daniels said.

He then added, “It’s an easy thing for people to target. The way I see it is that I am playing football and they are shouting stuff at me, but they are paying to watch me play football and I am living my life and making money from it. So, shout what you want, it’s not going to make a difference.”

Cheryl Cooky, a professor of American Studies and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Purdue University, spoke to NPR.com on why gay male athletes don’t reveal their sexuality. She said that there were many reasons for the same, one of them possibly being that broader society changes quicker than the ‘institution of sport or the cultures of sport’.

“For women, historically participating in sport has meant challenging gendered expectations and gendered norms and behaviors,” she said to NPR. “Whereas for men, participating in sport is demonstrating and reaffirming and embodying all of those characteristics we expect of men.”

**How has English football attempted to make their space more inclusive?**

In recent years, English football has attempted to become a more inclusive space for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, queer, questioning and ace (LGBTQ+) people.

The Premier League is currently partnering with Stonewall UK, a charity that focuses on LGBTQ+ representation. The partnership began in 2020 and was geared towards inclusion becoming a key theme in the Premier League’s player care and support programmes.

The focus was mainly on educational resources and programmes for coaches, teachers and leaders in the football community. Blackpool FC said that they worked with Stonewall to provide support to Daniels. Stonewall’s director Liz said to BBC Sport, “Our Rainbow Laces campaign has taught us that, while there is still a way to go, attitudes towards LGBTQ+ people in sport are changing. We are moving towards a world where players can live openly as their true selves, both on and off pitch - and that is something we can all take pride in.”

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

# Referee assaulted, wrestler banned for life in CWG trials

Grappler Satender Malik attacked referee Jagbir Singh after losing 125kg final

ANDREW AMSAN  
NEW DELHI, MAY 17

NO AIR CONDITIONING, an FIR, punches driven through dry walls, and a referee assaulted in public view resulting in a life ban summed up an eventful day at the wrestling trials for the Commonwealth Games at the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex in the Capital on Tuesday. Even as star grapplers Ravi Dahiya, Bajrang Punia and Deepak Punia were in action on the mat, all attention was diverted to the commotion off it.

After Satender Malik lost his 125kg final, the Haryana athlete walked across the mat and allegedly hurled expletives at senior referee Jagbir Singh before hitting him in the face. The incident, which took place right in front of the podium where Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh was seated, forced the WFI to impose a life ban on Satender.

“It happened right in front of me. We will obviously take serious action. Just wait,” said Singh as he stormed out of the hall immediately after the bout.

Within hours of the incident, WFI confirmed that Satender had been handed a life ban as decided by a committee meeting post the incident. “We had a quick committee meeting and it was decided to hand him a life ban. It happened right in front of us and the athlete’s behaviour was clearly unacceptable. We have imposed a life ban on him and hope this will deter other athletes from crossing the line in the future. Such behaviour will not be tolerated,” WFI secretary Vinod Tomar told this paper.

Satender’s final bout against Mohit was going on smoothly until Mohit managed a takedown and pushed his opponent outside the mat with just 18 seconds left on the clock. The officials did not award Mohit points for the takedown that prompted the wrestler to raise a challenge. Until then, referee Jagbir, who was assaulted by Satender, was nowhere in the picture. “I was not even watching this bout but was requested to check the replay as the jury for the bout Satyadev Malik had stepped aside as he was from Satender’s village and felt it could be a conflict of interest,” explained Jagbir.

Jagbir ruled in favour of Mohit and the latter was awarded three points changing the score to 3-3 which was also the final result. Since the last point was scored by Mohit, Satender lost the bout and a chance to board the flight to Birmingham. Incensed by the outcome, he marched toward Jagbir and assaulted him while Tokyo silver medalist Ravi



Wrestler Satender Malik walked across the mat and hit senior referee Jagbir Singh on the face.

**Jagbir ruled in favour of Mohit and the latter was awarded three points changing the score to 3-3 which was also the final result. Since the last point (criteria) was scored by Mohit, Satender lost the bout.**

Dahiya was in action on the first mat. Officials rushed in and defused the situation but the incident became the talking point of the event. “I am a category one senior official. I have seen even Olympic wrestlers gracefully accept decisions but this was shocking. Never in my career have I faced this. I feel deeply hurt that he hurled abuses at me and hit me in front of everyone for just doing my duty,” said a visibly flustered Jagbir. “The (WFI) president has also asked me to file an FIR.”

Tomar later said that an FIR had indeed been registered at IP Estate police station.

**Oppressive conditions**  
The wrestlers and hundreds of fans pres-

## Bajrang vows to get back to his best

*New Delhi:* “You will soon see the Bajrang who ruled the mat in 2018,” assured Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist Bajrang Punia after winning the 65kg trials for the Commonwealth Games while Ravi Dahiya and Deepak Punia also expectedly triumphed in their respective categories, here on Tuesday.

Bajrang booked his berth in the national team with wins over Sujiet (4-0) and Vishal Kalliraman (2-1). Like it happened in the Asian Championship in Mongolia, where he won a silver, Bajrang was largely engaged in standing wrestling against Sujiet, winning points on passivity of his rival. In the final against Vishal, he attempted a few moves but was put on clock himself for lack of action and eventually prevailed. “I have just started competing after a long gap, injury was also there, so certainly there is a bit of hesitancy in going for attacks,” Bajrang said. **PTI**

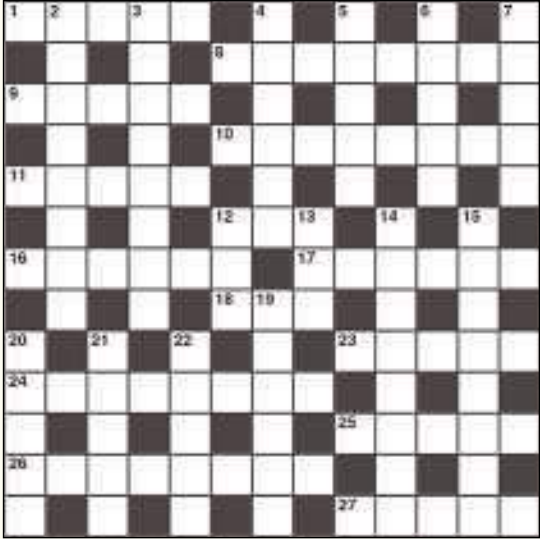
ent at the venue had to bear the intense heat and humidity as the air conditioners were not functioning. Two rows of lights were also turned off to reduce the heat.

Wrestlers could be seen sweating buckets during their bouts and it also affected their performance. “It was very humid and I was sweating profusely. I didn’t play very aggressively because there was a risk of slipping and getting hurt due to all the sweat,” said Bajrang as he cooled down after his final bout.

The officials played the blame game over air conditioning as athletes had no choice but to literally sweat it out.

There was more drama in the wrestling hall as Delhi police cops were called in by stadium officials to inspect damage to walls by Vishal Kalliraman, who narrowly lost the 65kg berth to Olympic bronze medalist Bajrang. Kalliraman, who lost the final 1-2, immediately broke down after his bout. In a fit of rage, he landed punches on the dry walls of the wrestling hall leaving gaping holes. “He didn’t stop there. He went to the basketball hall and kicked the wall there too,” said a stadium security staff member pointing out the damage.

## CROSSWORD 4743



- ACROSS**  
1 Pulled together and tied (5)  
8 Fish cut back severely (8)  
9 Skins reversed to show nap (5)  
10 A girl outwardly competent and very charming (8)  
11 Novelist and explorer (5)  
12 The favourite shows ill humour (3)  
16 It’s said to be polite (6)  
17 One is not keen to show it (6)  
18 Secure a post for Margaret (3)  
23 French and German articles appear below (5)  
24 Food for people or horses (8)  
25 A lighthouse casts it across the vessel (5)  
26 Wet weather is said to be prevalent (8)  
27 Stuffy bar (5)
- DOWN**  
2 A check on the present demand for bread (4,4)  
3 A weather-beaten bird (8)  
4 Go round in improvised glider (6)  
5 Get goals - a lot, it seems (5)  
6 The French doctors are known for their friskiness (5)  
7 He’s riled perhaps but does very little (5)  
12 Go up and down (3)  
13 Label that may be applied to child’s play (3)  
14 He gets fed up with people (8)  
15 Animals involved in the chase appear below (5)  
19 Mission to go wrong and end (6)  
20 Tale of Troy’s ruin (5)  
21 Substantial figure (5)  
22 Rise and buy someone a drink (5)

**Solutions Crossword 4742:** Across: 1 Rugby union, 6 Data, 10 Fibre, 11 Executors, 12 Mandolin, 13 Manor, 15 In tears, 17 Conceal, 19 Firemen, 21 Madeira, 22 Riser, 24 Resolute, 27 Opportune, 28 Tango, 29 Deaf, 30 Persistent. Down: 1 Ruff, 2 Gibraltar, 3 Yield, 4 Needles, 5 Oceanic, 7 Adorn, 8 Australian, 9 Summoned, 14 Dig for gold, 16 Admirers, 18 Existence, 20 Nurture, 21 Masters, 23 Sepia, 25 Lotus, 26 Post.

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## 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.  
Doubt is the father of \_\_\_\_ - Ambrose Bierce (9)

**CVEIO**  
[Shaded squares: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]  
**AIMONN**  
[Shaded squares: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]  
**TINGS**  
[Shaded squares: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]  
**CEEINV**  
[Shaded squares: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]

**SUDOKU 4838**

Difficulty Level 5s  
Instructions  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

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

		2		3		4		
		7	6	8	4	9		
1			8		5			4
				2				
8		1		3				5
		3	4	6	2	5		
		4		9		2		

**SOLUTION SUDOKU 4837**

4	6	9	8	1	2	7	5	3
2	5	7	3	4	9	8	1	6
8	3	1	6	5	7	9	2	4
6	2	4	5	3	8	1	7	9
1	9	3	7	2	6	4	8	5
7	8	5	4	9	1	3	6	2
9	1	6	2	7	3	5	4	8
3	4	8	1	6	5	2	9	7
5	7	2	9	8	4	6	3	1

## DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

### ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

When the Moon alters its position you'll feel as if help has arrived in the nick of time. Look forward to an afternoon free from the normal pressures, and seek help wherever you can. You probably need reassurance with a problem that you've been keeping to yourself.

### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

That merry planet Mercury is trucking along through a sociable sector of your chart. This is about the most friendly influence you could hope to have. In cordial company you will be on top form and everyone will appreciate your gentle wit. You could even persuade someone to do the impossible.

### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Financial affairs intrude on your consciousness this morning. It's a fine time to settle outstanding bills and make additional purchases. It's also a day which favours short trips, meetings and discussions, not to mention friendly gatherings with friends.

### CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Trying to understand yourself more clearly or make yourself more efficient are both worthwhile goals. You should have realised by now that it is no longer good enough to muddle along in the hope that something will turn up. You have to make it happen.

### LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

You are not making things any easier for yourself by digging in your heels or refusing to discuss long-term plans with colleagues and associates. Wouldn't you do better to use a little gentle persuasion? Yes, but you had better check the facts first.

### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

It wouldn't take much for you to let yourself off the hook. All you have to do is realise that other people, not you, must bear much of the criticism for current cock-ups and fiascos. In love, you'll be generous to a fault, but others may not respond as you'd like.

### LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

The current lunar positions are bound to exert a disruptive and upsetting influence. The reason I am saying this now is so that you may prepare the ground by shaping events to your will and interests. Your first duty, though, is to find out what partners want.

### SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

You can teach other people a thing or two about infatuation or obsession. Now that the Sun, the Moon, Uranus and Pluto are so powerfully aligned, you are liable to become fixated by a particular person or idea. You are able, though, to get your way through sheer seductive charm.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

Keep travel plans under scrutiny. You may not need to worry about delays or hold-ups this week, yet, if you do not make your intentions and arrangements crystal clear, other people may set off in an entirely different direction. The secret of success lies in the tiny details.

### CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

It is very important that you use your Capricorn skills to establish your family and domestic affairs on a firm footing. Personal discussions should be free-ranging and include various associated emotional issues. In short, everything is up for grabs.

### AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

The Sun, together with Mercury, is pushing your financial affairs in positive directions. You'll do well to follow your intuition and even act on the basis of the odd significant day-dream or two; it could be a dream which shows you the way forward better than facts.

### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You'll be in for a double-dose of pleasure if you keep to time, and turn up at the right spot. And then everything else should fall into place. You are now in a position to assert yourself and restore your reputation. You should also be able to make a little more cash.



# Where to bowl in IPL? Depends on boundary length

Use of pitches at extreme ends because of limited venues means substantial variation in boundary sizes which players have exploited

ABHISHEK PUROHIT  
MUMBAI, MAY 17

RISHABH PANT was exasperated. Shardul Thakur had been trying to force Kagiso Rabada to hit to the longer boundary, but his slower one had arrived around off-stump, and the South African had swatted him easily over the shorter deep-midwicket rope. From behind the stumps, the Delhi Capitals skipper pushed hard with both hands towards the longer offside, imploring Thakur to shift the line further away from Rabada.

The very next ball, Thakur got it right, pitching the cutter on off and getting it to slant across much wider. In no position to pull now, Rabada ended up slapping it straight to wide long-off on the farther rope. The last threat gone, DC wrapped up a crucial 17-run win over Punjab Kings at DY Patil Stadium on Monday.

The difference between the boundaries on the edges of the 'V' was around 6-7 metres in that game. The gap between the square ropes on either side of the pitch was almost double, at 13 metres.

Five pitches at each ground have been used during this Indian Premier League round-robin stage, and the boundary distances differ the most when pitches at either end of the square are used.

In a highly tactical format where teams try to squeeze out tiny advantages wherever they can, this substantial variation in boundary sizes has a big say in how a T20 game plays out, and often, in determining its outcome. The fundamental approach obviously is for the batting team to target the shorter side and for the fielding team to make that as hard as it can, mainly by bowling towards the longer side.

That is what Anrich Nortje did on Monday, for instance, bowling a short, quick ball into Jonny Bairstow, who's pull could not clear deep backward square leg on the distant boundary. But like with so many innovations in T20, the basic play has given rise to its own variations and responses from both batsmen and bowlers.

## Buttler's precise attack

On April 2 in a game between Rajasthan Royals and Mumbai Indians, the pitch at the other end of the DY Patil square was being used. And MI had got their plans worked out. Their two left-arm pacers, Tymal Mills and



Jos Buttler targetted the leg-side boundary (extreme right pitch) to score 26 against MI's Basil Thampi. *Sportszpics*

Daniel Sams, bowled their four overs each from the Pavilion End, their angle taking the ball away from the right-hander towards the longer off-side. But by then, Buttler had already caused maximum damage.

In the fourth over, he took apart Basil Thampi with a sequence of four, six, six, four and six. Four out of Buttler's five hits were to the shorter boundary, between deep mid-wicket and long-on.

Thampi was so stunned he didn't even try making Buttler hit to the farther side. Buttler rode on that momentum to make a match-winning century.

Still, the boundary differences would keep Buttler wary at the innings break. "I'm a bit nervous as it is hard to tell if it is a good score or not with the short boundary one side," Buttler had said.

## Too predictable

Conversely, batsmen can pre-meditate

their shots if the bowler is constantly bowling wide on the longer side. Rahul Chahar and Harpreet Brar were spinning it away outside off to Mitchell Marsh on Monday, and the Australian eventually cut them for fours to the distant square rope, despite the presence of a sweeper.

Even Jasprit Bumrah couldn't escape punishment against KL Rahul on the easternmost surface at Wankhede Stadium on April 24. Rahul read a wide yorker correctly to slice it to the left of deep point on the longer rope. And when Bumrah put more men in that area, Rahul went to the right of deep point for four more. But then, against someone of Bumrah's class, it took the class of Rahul to breach the longer boundaries.

## One-trick ploy

Andre Russell can bowl a mean short ball when he wants to, and against Gujarat Titans at DY Patil Stadium, he simply kept doing

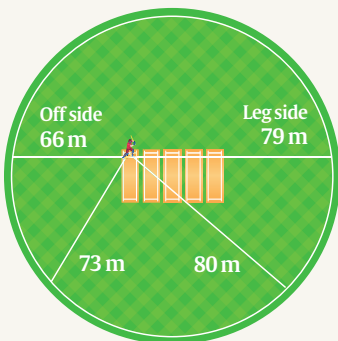
that, angling it into the batsmen's bodies. The easternmost pitch was in use once more, and it was all but impossible for the GT batsmen to clear deep midwicket on the far western side against Russell's bite. They gave three catches to Rinku Singh in that position in that one Russell over alone.

## Bluff and bait

This looks best when it comes off from a spinner, although Arshdeep Singh is a frequent practitioner of the bluff; he'll set a field to protect the longer boundary and then, looking for a miscue, try to induce the batsmen to hit his slower ones to the shorter rope.

Rashid Khan enticed Venkatesh Iyer to slog over the nearer midwicket boundary at DY Patil; the left-hander went for it, but it was a googly, and Venkatesh was caught on the edge of the fence. Ravichandran Ashwin lured a set Tilak Varma to go for the same

## METRES THAT MATTER



■ When the corner pitches on the DY Patil square are used, the longer square boundary is almost 80 metres.

■ Using the corner pitches at each IPL venue, Wankhede and CCI too, means a difference of around 13 metres in the square boundaries.

boundary with a loopy delivery that belonged to Test cricket; the young left-hander took the bait, only to be bowled.

Perhaps the best example of a bluff came during Yuzvendra Chahal's hat-trick against Kolkata Knight Riders at Brabourne Stadium. One square boundary was so far that Buttler had run four runs earlier. Chahal began wide towards that side to a rampaging Shreyas Iyer, but then slipped one fuller and quicker into the pads.

Shreyas was not expecting that line at all, given how tamely he fell leg-before.

Prasidh Krishna was bowling round the stumps at Wankhede, angling it across Liam Livingstone to the longer off-side protected by a fly slip, third man, deep point, sweeper cover, extra cover and mid-off.

Against such a telegraphed line of attack, Livingstone took his stance where the sixth stump would be, happy to leave all three stumps ungarded.

After copping a few boundaries, Krishna did something he should have done much earlier. He ran in and went full and straight. Livingstone couldn't do anything as the yorker crashed into the stumps behind his back.

Stretching T20 tactics to the extreme can be unintentionally entertaining at times.

# Stubbs gets maiden call-up, Parnell back

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JOHANNESBURG, MAY 17

SOUTH AFRICA on Tuesday handed rookie right-handed batter Tristan Stubbs a maiden call-up, while Wayne Parnell made a comeback after five years for the upcoming five-match T20 tour of India starting June 9.

The 16-member contingent will be led by Temba Bavuma as South Africa make a return to international T20 cricket for the first time since the ICC T20 World Cup in late 2021. The 21-year-old Stubbs, who impressed in the past season while playing for the Gbets Warriors in the Cricket South Africa (CSA) T20 Challenge, scored 293 runs in seven innings, at an average of 48.83 and a strike rate of 183.12, including 23 sixes.

He was also part of the South Africa 'A' team to Zimbabwe before he was summoned by the Mumbai Indians for the ongoing Indian Premier League.

Among other notable selections is the return of Anrich Nortje, who has been recovering from a hip injury since December last year and batters, Reeza Hendricks and Heinrich Klaasen.

Nortje has been medically cleared for return and is currently playing for the Delhi Capitals in the IPL.

Parnell also makes a comeback to the T20 set up for the first time since South Africa's tour of England in 2017.

Besides, Keshav Maharaj and number one men's T20I bowler Tabraiz Shamsi, the rest of the South African team consists of IPL players, namely, Quinton de Kock, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Rassie van der Dussen and Marco Jansen.

"This is the Proteas like we have not seen them in a long time. The injection of the IPL players means that we will have a team that's ready to fire on all cylinders immediately and has vast experience of the conditions that we will be playing in," Cricket South Africa Convenor of Selectors, Victor Mpitsang said in a statement.

**Squad for T20s against India:** Temba Bavuma (C), Quinton de Kock, Reeza Hendricks, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Wayne Parnell, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs, Rassie van der Dussen, Marco Jansen.

## BRIEFLY

### Ashmita, Malvika enter main draw

*Bangkok:* Indian shuttlers Ashmita Chaliha and Malvika Bansod entered the women's singles main draw at the Thailand Open Super 500 tournament here on Tuesday. While Ashmita beat USA's Jennie Gai 21-16, 21-18, Malvika defeated fellow Indian Anupama Upadhyaya 21-18, 21-8 in their respective opening round matches. However, it was curtains for Thomas Cup winner Priyanshu Rajawat, Kiran George and Subhankar Dey as they failed to cross the 2nd qualification round. Priyanshu disposed off France's Christo Popov 21-17, 21-16 in his opening qualification round, only to go down 10-21, 24-22, 12-21 to China's Li Shi Feng. Kiran beat Denmark's Victor Svendsen 21-19 13-21 21-13 before losing 17-21 21-14 16-21 to Germany's Kai Schaefer, while Subhankar defeated France's Arnaud Merkle 21-16 17-21, 21-17 but suffered a 14-21, 21-18 7-21 loss to Denmark's Mads Christophersen. **PTI**

### Odisha crowned hockey champions

*Bhopal:* Odisha notched a thrilling 2-0 victory over Karnataka in a closely-fought final to be crowned champions of the 12th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship here on Tuesday. Punam Barla (34') and Ashim Kanchan Barla (59') were the two goal scorers in the summit clash. Both the teams started well as they created several goal-scoring opportunities. However, solid defensive performances from both the sides ensured that the match went into the half time with the scoreline reading 0-0. Punam opened the scoring in the match in the third quarter as Odisha picked up the lead. Ashim then sealed the game with a late goal. Jharkhand beat Haryana 3-2 to finish third. **PTI**

### Nadal ready for Roland Garros

*Madrid:* Rafa Nadal has moved to ease concerns about his injury problems ahead of the French Open, posting a picture of himself training in full flow at his academy in Mallorca with the caption: "See you on Wednesday, Paris." The 13-time Roland Garros champion had said last week that daily training was a challenge and he would take a doctor with him to Paris after a chronic foot injury flared up during his defeat by Denis Shapovalov at the Italian Open. **REUTERS**

# Hyderabad beat Mumbai, live to fight another day

**SYNOPSIS:** Sunrisers stay alive, thanks to partnership batting and Malik's impact bowling.

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY  
MAY 17

TIM DAVID had all but ousted Sunrisers Hyderabad, hitting four sixes in an awful T Natarajan over. The requirement for Mumbai Indians had come down to 19 runs from 13 balls, chasing 194 for victory. Then, on the last ball of the 18th over, David went for a non-existent single, eager to retain strike. He never had a chance. Bhuvneshwar Kumar followed it up with a wicket-maiden and Sunrisers stayed alive, theoretically, winning the game by three runs.

## Partnership batting

Finally, an out-of-form Kane Williamson dropped himself down the order, and promoting Priyam Garg to open the innings augured well for the team. The youngster scored a very handy 42 off 26 balls and in tandem with Rahul Tripathi, gave Sunrisers the impetus they wanted. Winning aside, improving the net run rate was the name of the game for the franchise. And from that perspective, 57/1 in the Powerplay was a rapid beginning.

For Sunrisers to post an imposing total in a do-or-die game, they needed Tripathi to fire. The batsman didn't disappoint.

Intent is the standout feature in his batting and on Tuesday, he was aggressive from the outset. Tripathi targeted Jasprit Bumrah, taking a six and a couple of fours off the bowler's first over. Once spinners were brought on, Garg played the lead and Tripathi didn't mind playing second fiddle for a while. It was excellent partnership batting and a 78-run second-wicket partnership allowed Nicholas Pooran to come in the 10th over and build on a solid foundation.

The left-hander warmed up with back-to-back sixes off Riley Meredith before attacking leg-spinner Mayank Markande. Tripathi, meanwhile, reached a 32-ball half-century and turned his attention to Daniel Sams. A 16-run over made his power-hitting meatier and took the Sunrisers run rate to around 10-and-a-half. Pooran was doing his bit and a 200-plus total was in sight.

On 38, he was given out on review to a catch in the deep, a marginal call. But Sunrisers were still well placed to get past 200. A 76-run third wicket stand was another example of fine partnership batting.

Tripathi departed close on Pooran's heels, scoring 76 off 44 balls and gently tapping the national selectors' door ahead of the Indian team's selection for the home series against South Africa.

But Sunrisers surrendered the advantage at the death to finish on 193/6.



Rahul Tripathi top-scored for SRH with 76 off 44. *Sportszpics*

## IPL TABLE

TEAM	M	W	L	PT	NRR
GT	13	10	3	20	0.391
RR	13	8	5	16	0.304
LSG	13	8	5	16	0.262
DC	13	7	6	14	0.255
RCB	13	7	6	14	-0.323
KKR	13	6	7	12	0.160
PK	13	6	7	12	0.043
SRH	13	6	7	12	-0.230
CSK	13	4	9	8	-0.206
MI	13	3	10	6	-0.577

## Malik's impact

Rohit Sharma came close to his first half-century of this IPL but fell for a 36-ball 48. From Indian cricket's perspective, the knock was a positive.

Some signature shots were back. Going down on one knee and flicking a Natarajan delivery over fine leg was the shot of the match. In the grand scheme of things, the India skipper had a good view of Umran Malik. The Sunrisers quick hit him on the helmet. He also beat him for pace once and a leg-bye was the result. Rohit must have taken note.

Ishan Kishan, too, got some runs under his belt. But he, at times, looked very uncomfortable against Malik's pace before perishing to the fast bowler. Tilak Varma and Daniel Sams were late to react to Malik's bouncers, with Sams going down to an excellent catch from Garg. The speedster returned with 3/23, delivering an impact performance.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Sunrisers Hyderabad: 193/6 in 20 overs (Rahul Tripathi 76, Priyam Garg 42, Nicholas Pooran 38; Ramandeep Singh 3/20) bt **Mumbai Indians:** 190/7 in 20 overs (Rohit Sharma 48, Ishan Kishan 43, Tim David 46; Umran Malik 3/23).

## EXPRESS explained.Live



### Neelkanth Mishra

Part-time Member Economic Advisory Council to PM and Co-Head of Equity Strategy, Asia Pacific and India Equity Strategist, Securities Research, Credit Suisse

In conversation with



### Anil Sasi

National Business Editor  
The Indian Express

In the growth-inflation trade-off, the focus has clearly shifted to reining in prices.

A fortnight ago, the RBI hiked the key policy rate by 40 basis points, the first in four years.

Given the worries about domestic food prices, India has already banned wheat exports.

With the Russia-Ukraine war still unravelling, fuel prices may remain elevated.

Tough measures like more interest rate hikes and liquidity absorption in coming months will kill whatever little demand India is seeing now.

Is stagflation - low growth, high inflation - looming large?

20 MAY 2022

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