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**ELECTIONS FOR 16 SEATS IN RAJYA SABHA**

## BJP wins in Karnataka, Cong in Rajasthan; delay in Maharashtra, Haryana

Claims, counter claims see rival parties knock on EC doors

**MANOJ CG & LIZ MATHEW**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

UNION FINANCE Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh and party spokesperson Randeep Surjewala were among eight candidates elected to Rajya Sabha Friday from Karnataka and Rajasthan, while counting of votes in Maharashtra and Haryana was delayed with rival parties trading charges.

Although the BJP faced an embarrassment in Rajasthan with one of its MLAs switching sides, its gamble in Karnataka paid off as its third candidate won because of cross-voting by a JD(S) MLA and an independent legislator. The BJP won three of the four seats in Karnataka while the Congress heaved a sigh of relief in party-ruled Rajasthan where all three of its candidates won, overcoming fears of cross-voting and horse trading.

The high-stake battle for 16 seats — 6 in Maharashtra, 4 each in Karnataka and Rajasthan and 2 in Haryana — turned out to be

**WON**  
NIRMALA SITHARAMAN**WON**  
JAIRAM RAMESH**LOST**  
SUBHASH CHANDRA

a nail-biting affair with the Congress and BJP trading charges, even approaching the Election Commission.

In Maharashtra, the victory of two of the BJP candidates — Union minister Piyush Goyal and former state minister Anil Bonde — is certain. The same is the case with Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut, NCP's Praful Patel and Congress's Imran Pratapgarhi. The contest is for the sixth seat — the BJP has fielded former MP Dhananjay Mahadik and the Shiv Sena candidate is Sanjay Pawar.

For the ruling BJP and the Opposition, every seat in Rajya Sabha counts. The tally of the ruling BJP, which crossed the 100

mark in Rajya Sabha in April for the first time, is expected to come down to 92. The BJP is expected to win two seats in Maharashtra and at least one in Haryana. The party's strength can go up again when the President nominates fresh members as seven seats are vacant and nominated members can join any party in the Rajya Sabha within six months.

In Rajasthan, despite fears of cross-voting which prompted the Congress to sequester its

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**MORE REPORTS**  
PAGE 4**REMARKS AGAINST THE PROPHET**

## 1 killed in Ranchi as protests erupt across country

Violence in Prayagraj, 136 arrested in UP; police station attacked in Howrah

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
JUNE 10

ONE PERSON died of a bullet injury in Jharkhand's Ranchi, where the police fired in the air to disperse a crowd pelting stones, as protests erupted across several towns and cities across the country on Friday against derogatory references to the Prophet made by former BJP

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**CURBS ON INTERNET**

- Internet services suspended in parts of Jharkhand
- Don't go for TV debates which seek to ridicule Islam: AIMPLB
- We should stop demonstrating: Delhi Shahi Imam

REPORTS, PAGE 8



During a protest in Kolkata on Friday. Partha Paul

**PROTESTERS BLOCK ROADS**

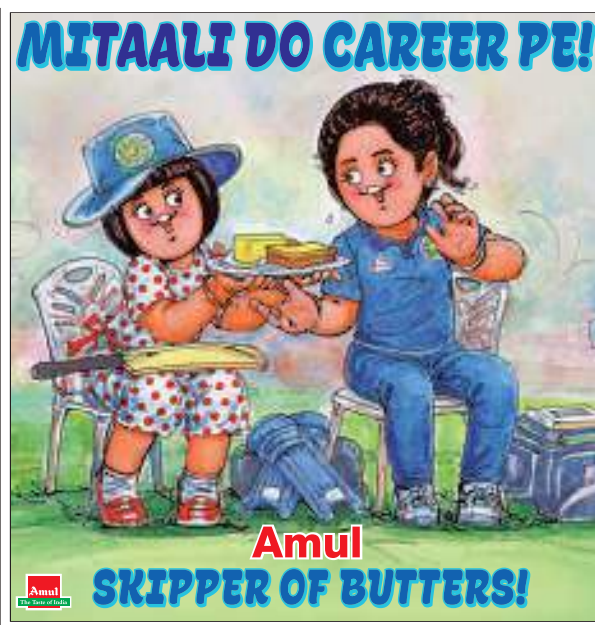
## Internet suspended in rural areas of Howrah

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
KOLKATA, JUNE 10

UNREST ERUPTED at several places in Howrah district for the second consecutive day on

Friday with protesters clashing with policemen, setting kiosks, two-wheelers and several vehicles on fire. In Uleberia and Panchla areas, local BJP party offices were also set on fire

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



## Industrial production growth at 8-month high of 7.1% in April

**AANCHAL MAGAZINE**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

FACTORY OUTPUT grew to an eight-month high of 7.1 per cent in April, despite a high base, powered mainly by higher electricity and mining output, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

On a sequential basis, industrial production recorded a decline of 9.2 per cent, with a contraction of 8.8 per cent in manufacturing output and 19.7 per cent contraction in mining output, the data showed.

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) had grown 2.2 per cent in March 2022. Compared with pre-Covid levels of April 2019, industrial output recorded a growth of 6.8 per cent and com-

**EXPLAINED**  
**E** But concerns persist

THERE ARE concerns over the durability of the industrial sector recovery, amidst surging inflation and an inclement external situation. The IIP is projected to surge further in May on the back of a favourable base linked to the second Covid wave.

pared with February 2020 level, it grew by just 0.7 per cent.

While there are continuing question marks over the durability of the industrial sector

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**BUSINESS AS USUAL**

By UNNNY

**THE EDITORIAL PAGE****GURU AGAINST SHISHYA**BY APARNA POPAT  
PAGE 6**EXPLAINED****SIMPLY PUT**  
**ENVIRONMENT INDEX AND INDIA**  
PAGE 5

## In new policy, UP removes 60-yr age bar for release of life-term inmates

**MANISH SAHU**  
LUCKNOW, JUNE 10

MAKING AN amendment to its prison policy, the Uttar Pradesh government has decided to consider the premature release of life-term prisoners even below 60 years of age.

Under the new policy, the state government would consider the release of an inmate sentenced to life imprisonment for an offence like murder only after he has completed a jail

term of 16 years without remission or 20 years with remission.

The UP Director General, Prison, Anand Kumar, said the new policy would benefit a large number of convicts facing life term and that it would help decongest crowded jails across the state.

The state government's previous prison policy had stipulated that prisoners facing life term must attain the age of 60 years before they could be considered for premature release. This was changed by the govern-

ment last month.

The convicted prisoners in UP are kept in central jails located in Prayagraj, Varanasi, Fatehgarh, Etawah, Bareilly and Agra. The district jails in the state, numbering 63, are also used to house convicted prisoners, said a senior jail official. The inmates with good records inside the prisons are sent to Model Jail in Lucknow. A woman central jail has also been opened in Bareilly.

Currently, there are around 1.14 lakh inmates in UP prisons

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**WORLD****GEN MUSHARRAF CRITICAL IN UAE: EX-MINISTER****U.S. CAPITOL RIOT PANEL BLAMES TRUMP FOR 'ATTEMPTED COUP'**  
PAGE 12

## Should present history in true form... who can stop us: Shah



Amit Shah at the book launch on Friday. Prem Nath Pandey

**LIZ MATHEW**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

URGING AUTHORS to focus on the stories of Indian kings who kept out foreign invaders, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Friday that "history cannot be created by the government" but "is built on actual incidents that took place" — and called for initiatives to present history in its "true form".

Lamenting that many battles fought by Indian kings against invaders have been forgotten, Shah said that those battles, such as the ones waged by Ahom kings in Assam and Chhatrapati Shivaji-led Marathas, ensured that India reached where it has now.

Shah said that now, no one can stop the process of writing about these battles for the next generation. "It's a fact that some have distorted history. They have written whatever they had to. But who can stop us...nobody can stop us. History is not created by governments but built on true events," the senior BJP leader said while releasing the book, *Maharajas: A Thousand Year War for Dharma*, authored by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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# 3 WEST BENGAL

## Class 12 results announced, 88.44 pass percentage a record

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, JUNE 10

THE WEST BENGAL Council of Higher Secondary Education (WBCHSE) on Friday announced results for the higher secondary (Class 12) examination with a record 88.44 per cent of candidates clearing the exams.

A total of 7,44,655 students were enrolled this year, out of which 7,20,862 (96.8 per cent) appeared in the exam, while a total of 6,36,875 students (88.44 per cent) cleared the exam. The pass percentage among the male students is 90.19 while 86.58 per cent among the females. A total of 4,97,809 students scored 60 per cent and above marks.

This year, a record 272 students featured on the top-10 merit list, out of which 144 are males and 128 females.

However, just like the Class 10 board (Madhyamik) exam results, students from other districts outperformed their counterparts in Kolkata. Out of 272 students featured on the top-10 merit list, only 10 are from Kolkata. Adisha Debsarma from Dinahata Soni Debi Jain High School in Chooch Behar district in north Bengal topped the exam, scoring 498 out of the total 500 marks (99.6 per cent).

Sayandip Samanta from Jalchak Nateswari Netaji Vidyayatan in West Midnapore district stood second with 497 marks (99.4 per cent). However, the third position was claimed by four students who scored 496 marks (99.2 per cent) each. They are Rohin Sen from Patha Bhavan in Kolkata, Soham Das from Hooghly Collegiate School in Hooghly district, Avik Das from Katwa Kashiram Das Institution



A total of 7,44,655 students were enrolled this year, out of which 7,20,862 (96.8 per cent) appeared in the examinations. A total of 6,36,875 students (88.44 per cent) cleared the exam. Express

in East Burdwan district and Parichaya Pari from Jalchak Nateswari Netaji Vidyayatan in West Midnapore district.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee congratulated the successful students, their parents and teachers. "Congratulations to our successful students and rank-holders of Higher Secondary examination! Girls and boys of our districts have shown exemplary performance, while city students, too, make us proud. Kudos to the guardians, teachers, and schools. Results have been announced by the Council quickly. Next year's schedule is also declared. Those who have fared below expectations must resolve to try better in future," she said in a tweet. Districts which recorded above 90 per cent pass percentage are East Midnapore, West Midnapore, Jhargram, Purulia, Kalimpong, South 24 Parganas and Bankura. The pass percentage among the students belonging to minority communities is 85.59, while 88.35 per cent among the students belonging to

SC/ST communities.

WBCHSE president Chiranjib Bhattacharya announced the Class 12 state board results at a press conference. "The HS results have been declared in just 44 days after concluding the exam. In 2023, the HS exam will be held between March 14 and 27. The exams will be held on the full syllabus at external exam centres and not at home venues as was the case this year," said Bhattacharya.

This year, the exams were held from April 2 to 27 at the home centres due to the Covid-19 situation. In 2020, the Higher Secondary examinations could not be held due to the Covid 19 pandemic and marks were awarded based on the students' previous academic performance. Similarly, in 2021, the exam could not be held due to the pandemic and all enrolled students were declared successful.

The heads of the Higher Secondary Institutions can collect HS mark sheets, certificates and other relevant documents from their respective distribution camps starting at 11 am on June 20.

## Students rejoice, say made the most of online classes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, JUNE 10

THE WEST Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education on Friday declared the Higher Secondary examination results with 272 students featuring on the top-10 merit list by overcoming all hurdles coming their way with sheer determination and dedication.

Adisha Debsarma, a student of Dinahata Soni Debi Jain High School, topped the examination securing 99.6 per cent. Debsarama is from Cooch Behar district. Her father is a primary school teacher and her mother is employed with the health department. In her conversation with the Indian Express on how the Covid-19 pandemic might have been a hurdle in her education, she said, "No, not really. I made most use of the online education, but if I had the chance to learn all that physically, I might have scored better. But, in the given situation, the school tried its best."

Sayandip Samanta from West Midnapore secured the second position with 497 marks. Sayandip was a student of Jalchak Nateswari Netaji Vidyayatan. Though he missed the top rank by only one mark, Sayandip did bag himself a glorious 99.4%.

This year, four students —

Rohin Sen, Soham Das, Avik Das, and Parichaya Pari — are sharing the third position, each scoring 496 out of 500 (99.2%). Rohin and Parichaya are students of Patha Bhavan (Kolkata) and Jalchak Nateswari Netaji Vidyayatan (West Midnapore), respectively.

Avik Das, a student of Katwa Kashiram Das Institution and son of a primary school headmaster and a homemaker from East Burdwan, said, "My preparation mostly involved self-study as the school remained closed for most of the time. Now, my result is out. I'd like to pursue the medical field."

"The papers were moderately difficult this time. I mostly followed the textbooks and revised them several times," said Soham Das of Hooghly Collegiate School.

Soham, whose father is a high school assistant teacher of geography and his mother a primary school teacher of Bengali, aims to pursue mechanical engineering at IIT Delhi.

Somnath Pal of Bankura, a student of Bankura Goenka Vidyatan, stood fifth in the examination. The son of an ailing father and his mother, a "bidi" factory worker, scored a magnificent 494 out of 500 (98.9%). "I want to become a teacher. My parents work very hard to continue my education. I am happy with the result," said Pal.

## Cop shoots self dead after killing woman, injuring two in Kolkata

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, JUNE 10

A POLICE constable allegedly went on a shooting spree, killing a woman and injuring two others before shooting himself dead with his service rifle in a broad daylight near the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in central Kolkata's crowded Park Circus area on Friday, police said.

"Two persons, a woman and the policeman, died and two others suffered bullet injuries in the incident," confirmed Additional Commissioner of Police Praveen Tripathi.

The incident took place under the jurisdiction of Karaya police station around 2:30 pm a few hundred metres away from the Seven-Point Crossing where thousands of people had gathered to protest against the alleged inflammatory remarks made by suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma, said police.

The on-duty constable — identified as Chodup Lepcha of the Fifth Battalion of the Kolkata Armed Police — fired around 10-15 rounds from his Self-Loading Rifle (SLR) when a bullet hit the woman and she fell off the motorbike she was riding as a pillion and died on the spot due to excessive bleeding, said police.

The constable then shot himself in the neck after firing a few more rounds, they added. The rifle was found lying beside his body. The woman and the constable were rushed to National Medical College and Hospital where doctors proclaimed them dead upon arrival, said police. However, both injured — identified as Mohammad Bashir Alam and Mohammad Sarfaraz — were undergoing treatment at



Police at the spot in Park Circus, Kolkata, on Friday. Partha Paul

SSKM Hospital and is out of danger, said police.

Police identified the woman as Rima Singh (28) from Dasnagar in Howrah, an art student who was to get married soon. Police said the woman happened to be passing through the area when a bullet struck her. "The bullet pierced her spine," said an eyewitness.

Police said Lepcha was on leave and had joined duty outside the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Park Circus on Friday only.

"He started firing indiscriminately and walked along Lower Range to AJC Bose Road-Beckbagan crossing. The incident had no connection with the protest at Seven-Point Crossing," the officer said.

"We will investigate every aspect of the incident. He (the constable) had recently joined the Kolkata Police. Why he killed himself and opened fire on others will be probed. We will find out whether he was suffering from depression," said Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal.

According to eyewitnesses, the constable was screaming in the middle of the road, but people thought it was a prank with

a fake rifle until his screams became high-pitched and he opened fire.

Arafat Mollah, a local resident, said, "I was feeding a goat when I saw the policeman firing indiscriminately. I ran for cover in a garage."

"The whole episode lasted for around five minutes," said a visibly shaken Bablu Sheikh, who claimed to have witnessed the incident.

Collin Street resident Mohammad Bashir Alam was on his way to the office in Newtown, along Lower Range Road, on a bike. As he approached Lower Range No. 13, he heard gunshots. "A bullet hit him, too, but he kept riding for about a kilometre. As he reached Seven Point Crossing in Park Circus, policemen at the intersection spotted him with the bullet injury and he was rushed to National Medical College Hospital. After initial treatment, he was shifted to SSKM Hospital's Trauma Care Centre. According to hospital sources, Bashir is out of danger," said a police officer.

—WITHPTIINPUTS

### MONSOON SESSION BEGINS

## Day 1: House adjourned after obituary references

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA, JUNE 10

THE MONSOON Session of the West Bengal assembly was adjourned on the first day on Friday after obituary references to eminent personalities who have passed away, including Bollywood singer KK.

Making the obituary references, Speaker Biman Banerjee read out accounts of their lives and work.

The opposition BJP boycotted the proceedings in protest against the suspension of its five MLAs, including Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari. "The way the BJP MLAs were suspended is unethical and unconstitutional. That is why we decided to boycott the House today," said the party's chief whip Manoj Tigga, who is among those suspended on the last day of the Budget Session on February 28.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Partha Chatterjee al-

leged that the BJP has no respect for democratic and constitutional norms.

"I appealed to the opposition to come to the House, but they decided to boycott. This is unprecedented. We too have been in opposition but never behaved this way," he said.

The session is likely to continue till June 17.

Several bills of the Education Department are likely to be tabled during the session. Among them is a bill to replace Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee as the chancellor of state-run universities.

An amendment bill to remove Dhankhar as the 'Visitor' of private universities in the state and appoint Education Minister Bratya Basu in his place is also expected to be tabled during the session.

Meanwhile, the TMC has asked its MLAs to ensure "100 per cent attendance" in the ongoing session of the West Bengal Assembly.

## Commodore P R Hari takes charge as CMD of GRSE

Kolkata: Commodore P R Hari, IN (Retd), took over as the Chairman & Managing Director of Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) Ltd on Friday, said GRSE sources.

He has a vast experience of over 32 years in warship operations, maintenance, design and shipbuilding. He has been in charge of Production Planning of all the new construction ships built at the Shipyard since 2016 and assumed charge as Director (Personnel) Ltd of the Company on October 21, 2019, and headed the Human Resources, Corporate Planning and Technical functions of GRSE including ERP and Yard Modernisation, said sources.

Commodore Hari served for over 28 years in the Indian Navy, where he served in senior appointments onboard warships and at Naval Repair Organisations. He also held important Staff Appointments and also steered the Indigenous Aircraft Carrier project as Warship Production Superintendent, Kochi, said sources. **ENS**

### CATTLE SMUGGLING CASE

## Anubrata Mondal's bodyguard sent to CBI custody for eight days

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, JUNE 10

SAIGAL HOSSAIN, the bodyguard of TMC Birbhum district president Anubrata Mondal has been remanded in CBI custody for eight days.

CBI arrested Saigal on Thursday night after nearly five hours of interrogation in the alleged cattle smuggling case. On Friday, Saigal was produced before a special CBI court in Asansol, which remanded him to CBI custody for eight days.

According to CBI sources, the central agency has received information about six flats, including three in Newtown, owned by Saigal. Besides, a large amount of cash and gold were recovered from his flats, said sources. According to CBI officials, there were inconsistencies in almost all his statements and he failed to justify the source

of his income and wealth. Saigal is a constable with the state police and has been posted as a bodyguard of Mondal since 2012. The CBI has also been questioning Mondal in the case.

According to the officials, Saigal used to speak with Enamul Haque, the prime accused in the alleged cattle smuggling case, regularly, and they had exchanged several calls.

In April, Hossain lost his three-year-old daughter in a car accident.

The opposition had then called it a ploy to eliminate Hossain and his family.

After registering an FIR in September 2020, the CBI has, so far, arrested four persons — BSF Commandant Satish Kumar, Muhammad Enamul Haque, Anarul Sheikh and Gulam Mustafa — in the alleged illegal cattle trade. Mondal's name cropped up during the course of the investigation.

## HC orders transfer of defamation suit against Suvendu to Kolkata

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA, JUNE 10

THE CALCUTTA High Court on Friday ordered the transfer of a defamation suit filed by Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee against Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Assembly Suvendu Adhikari from Diamond Harbour court to City Civil Court in Kolkata.

Banerjee filed the defamation suit before the Diamond Harbour court in South 24 Parganas district, alleging that Adhikari had made "unsavoury remarks" against him in a public meeting before the 2021 West Bengal Assembly elections.

Adhikari moved the high court, seeking transfer of the suit to the court of Chief Judge, City Civil Court here.

Justice Rabindranath Samanta directed that the defamation suit in the court of civil judge (junior division), 2nd Court, Diamond Harbour, be withdrawn and transferred to the court of the chief judge, City Civil Court, Calcutta for disposal. He directed the Diamond Harbour court judge to transmit the case records of the suit to the court of the chief judge, City Civil Court here immediately after receipt of a copy of the order.

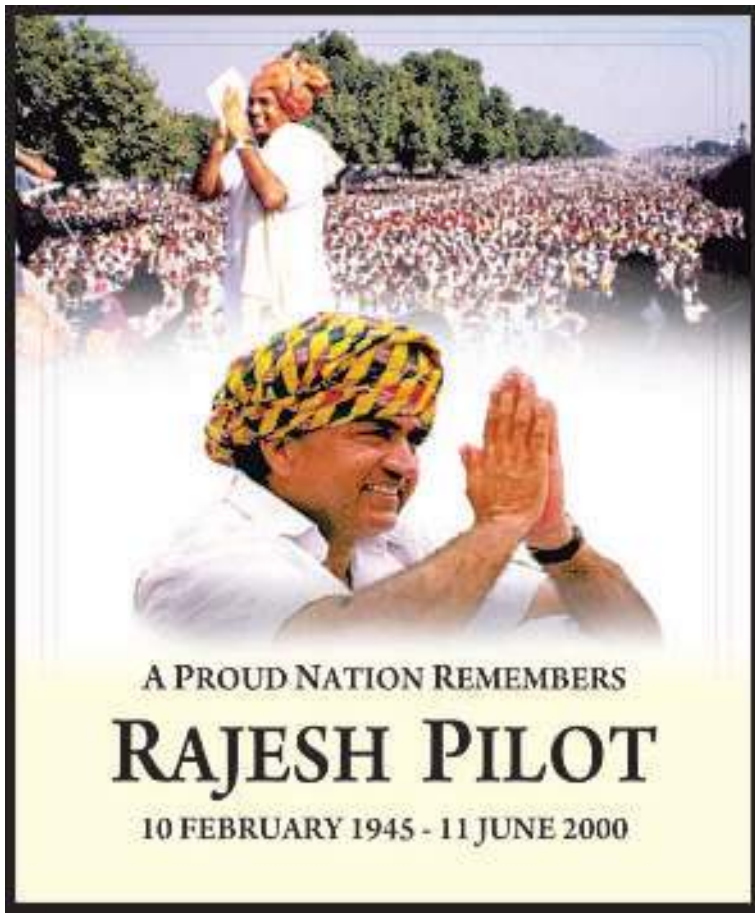
Justice Samanta asked the chief judge of City Civil Court to "make all endeavour" so that the suit is disposed of as expeditiously as possible. It was submitted by the lawyers representing the Nandigram MLA that a similar defamation suit by the Diamond Harbour MP in 2021 was earlier transferred by a bench of the high court from a Burdwan court to the chief judge, City Civil Court here.

## Over 100 new Covid cases after 3 months

Kolkata: West Bengal reported over a hundred new Covid-19 cases on Friday after three months, Health Department officials said. The state recorded 107 new cases in the last 24 hours, taking the tally to 20,20,034, they said.

The state's daily Covid-19 tally had crossed the century mark for the last time on March 11 when it reported 106 cases.

The new cases were detected after testing 7,689 samples — a positivity rate of 1.39 per cent, it said. **PTI**



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**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**

**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

Lot No.	Name of the Branch Name of the Account Name & addresses of the Borrower/ Guarantors Account	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/ Owner's Name (mortgagers of property/ies)	A) Dt. Of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFESI Act 2002 B) Outstanding Amount as on 31.03.2019 C) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFESI Act 2002 D) Nature of Possession Symbolic/Physical/ Constructive	A) Reserve Price (In ₹.) B) EMD (last date of deposit of EMD) C) Bid Increase Amount	Date/ Time of E-Auction Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors
1.	<b>PNB- Zonal Sastra Kolkata.</b> Parent Branch: PNB LCB, Park Street Branch, Kolkata a) <b>M/s Diamond Timber Industries</b> , 11/12, L G Estate, Survey No 329, Sihar, District: Bhavnagar, Gujrat 364240 b) <b>M/s Diamond Timber Industries</b> , Corporate Office: 46C Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, Kolkata-700016 c) <b>Mr. Prakash Kumar More</b> , 46C Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, Kolkata-700016 d) <b>M/s Mayur Ply Industries Pvt Ltd</b> , 46C Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, Kolkata-700016	All the piece and parcel of Land ,Building and Plant & Machinery located at plot no 9, 11, 12 & 13, R.S no- 326, 329, Behind Garibshahpur Dargah, Bhavnagar- Rajkot Road, Tal: Sihar, Dist- Bhavnagar, in the name <b>M/s Diamond Timber Industries</b> . Plant and Machinery situated at plot no 9,11,12, & 13 behind Garibshahpur Dargah, Taluka Sihar, Dist Bhavnagar of <b>M/s Diamond Timber Industries</b> .	<b>A) 24.05.2018</b> <b>B) ₹ 44,91,68,209.50</b> as on 31.03.2019 + further interest w.e.r 01.04.2019 (as per demand notice) <b>C) 10.01.2019</b> <b>D) Symbolic Possession</b>	<b>A) ₹ 894 Lakh</b> <b>B) ₹ 89.40 Lakh (29.06.2022)</b> <b>C) ₹ 5 Lakh</b>  <b>A) ₹ 289 Lakh</b> <b>B) ₹ 28.89 Lakh (29.06.2022)</b> <b>C) ₹ 2 Lakh</b>	<b>30.06.2022 11.00 am to 3.30 pm</b> <b>Not Known</b>

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions:

- The properties are being sold on 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS' and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"
- The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
- If the borrower pays the amount due to the bank in full before the date of sale, auction is liable to be stopped.
- In the event of any dispute arising as to the amount bid, or as to the bidder, the lot shall at once be again put up to auction.
- The highest bidder shall be declared to be the purchaser of any lot provided always that he is legally qualified to bid and provided further that the amount bid by him is not less than the reserve price. It shall be in the discretion of the 'Authorised Officer' to decline acceptance of the highest bid when the price offered appears so clearly inadequate as to make it inadvisable to do so.
- For reason recorded, it shall be in the discretion of the 'Authorised Officer' to adjourn/discontinue the auction.
- The person declared to be the purchaser shall pay immediately after such declaration, a deposit of twenty-five percent of the amount of purchase money to the 'Authorised Officer' and, in default of such deposit, the property shall forthwith be put up again and resold.
- The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com> on 30.06.2022 @ 11.00AM to 03.30PM

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer [www.ibapi.in](http://www.ibapi.in), [www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com)

Place : Kolkata Date : 11.06.2022 Authorized Officer, Punjab National Bank, Secured Creditor



# Govt & Politics

## Counting on hold in Haryana, Maharashtra

**VARINDER BHATIA**  
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 10

BJP CANDIDATE Krishan Lal Panwar looked all set to enter the Rajya Sabha from Haryana even as uncertainty prevailed over the second seat as the counting of votes was put on hold Friday after the saffron party nominee and the Independent candidate backed by the JJP urged the Election Commission to cancel the votes of two Congress MLAs.

Panwar and Independent candidate Kartikeya Sharma shot off a missive to the EC, alleging Congress MLAs Kiran Choudhary and B B Batra showed their ballot papers to unauthorised persons after marking them and that the episodes were "duly captured" by the camera installed for the purpose of election. The charge was denied by Returning Officer RK Nandal who said that he did not find any "breach of privacy/secretary of ballot paper" by the two MLAs.

Congress candidate Ajay Maken, however, urged the chief election commissioner to declare the results, terming the allegations levelled by the BJP and the Independent candidate as "false and frivolous". Maken claimed

there was no breach of secrecy or privacy by the two legislators of his party. He accused the BJP of trying to defeat the process of free and fair election and demanded that the Election Commission declare the poll results immediately.

A BJP and a Congress delegation separately met EC officials in the evening in Delhi.

Earlier, of the total 90 members of the Assembly, 89 cast their votes, at the end of the polling, which began at 9 am. Independent legislator Balraj Kundu abstained from voting. Objections against the votes Batra and Choudhary were raised in the first hour itself.

While the BJP fielded former minister Krishan Lal Panwar, former Union minister Ajay Maken is the Congress nominee. Media baron Kartikeya Sharma entered the fray as an Independent backed by the JJP and BJP.

While the BJP with 40 MLAs in the 90-member Haryana Assembly has nine more than the 31 first preference votes required for a straight win, the fight is for the second seat. The Congress has 31 members in the state Assembly, just enough to help its candidate win a seat.

**FULL REPORT ON**  
**www.indianexpress.com**

## Code of conduct violated: BJP, MVA

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
MUMBAI, JUNE 10

THE COUNTING for the six Rajya Sabha seats in Maharashtra was abruptly stopped on Friday after both the BJP and the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) objected to votes cast by each other, alleging violation of code of conduct rules.

The BJP urged the Election Commission of India (ECI) to declare the votes cast by Jitendra Awadh (NCP), Yashomati Thakur (Congress) and Suhas Kande (Shiv Sena) as invalid. The MVA, on the other hand, also moved the poll body seeking that the votes cast by BJP's Sudhir Mungantiwar and Independent MLA Ravi Rana be declared invalid.

The BJP claimed that Awadh, Thakur and Kande had shown their ballot paper to party leaders instead of polling agents, which was against the poll procedure. It also pointed that these candidates had tried to hand over their ballot paper to their party leaders present at the venue, violating rules.

Following this, the MVA made similar charges against



**Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray arrives at the Legislative Assembly on Friday. ANI**

Mungantiwar and Ravi Rana for allegedly displaying their ballot papers to non-polling agents.

Seven candidates are in the fray for six seats — Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut and Sanjay Pawar, NCP's Praful Patel, Congress' Imran Pratapgadi and BJP's Phiyush Goyal, Anil Bonde and Dhananjay Mahadik. The BJP, single largest party with 106 seats in the Assembly, had forced an election after it decided to field Mahadik from Kolhapur as its third candidate. A BJP leader said, "When Awadh, Thakur and Kande violated rules, we raised an alarm and

brought it to the notice of the election observer... But Congress and Sena's objections to Mungantiwar and Rana was an afterthought to settle political scores."

However, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut, tweeted, "The BJP tried to intimidate members with ED threat. When they failed to do so and realised members voted for MVA, they are using this new tactic to get three members' votes invalid."

An officer said, "We have provided the video recording on the entire election process to the EC. After receiving its nod, counting will start."

## In Karnataka, BJP bags three seats, Cong one amid cross-voting

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
BENGALURU, JUNE 10

THE RULING BJP in Karnataka bagged three of four Rajya Sabha seats for which elections were held on Friday after the Opposition, the Congress and the Janata Dal (Secular), failed to forge an alliance and on account of cross-voting by two JDS legislators.

While the BJP's primary candidates — Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and film star Sjaggesh — were elected comfortably, along with the Congress party's sitting Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh, the BJP's third candidate Lahar Singh Siroya, a BJP treasurer, won the fourth seat after winning the highest number of votes among three candidates.

Congress' Mansoor Ali Khan, son of former Congress Rajya Sabha member K Rahman Khan, and the JDS party's Kupendra Reddy, a former Rajya Sabha MP and a real estate businessman, couldn't make it through. In a field where a candidate required a minimum of 45 votes to win, the

Congress with 70 MLAs fielded two candidates. Sitting MP Jairam Ramesh got 46 first preference votes and Mansoor Ali Khan 25.

The one additional vote in the Congress kitty is reported to have come due to a cross-vote by the JDS MLA Srinivasa Gowda from Kolar in favour of the second Congress candidate.

The BJP which has 121 MLAs assigned 46 first preference votes for Nirmala Sitharaman and 44 votes for the Kannada film actor Jaggesh. The remaining 31 votes were allocated to Lahar Singh, a close associate of former CM Yediyurappa, the third BJP candidate in the fray.

While Sitharaman and Jaggesh garnered their assigned, Lahar Singh got 33 first preference votes reportedly on account of an Independent MLA H Nagesh and a JDS MLA Srinivas SR from Gubbi in Tumkur voting in favour of the third BJP candidate.

The cross-voting by the JDS candidates left party candidate Kupendra Reddy with only 30 votes leading to the victory of Lahar Singh.

## In Rajasthan, BJP suspends MLA for cross-voting

**HAMZA KHAN**  
JAIPUR, JUNE 10

DHOLPUR BJP MLA Shobharani Kushwah was on Friday suspended from the party's primary membership for cross voting in favour of a Congress candidate in the Rajya Sabha polls.

She has been issued a notice seeking a response within seven days, asking why she shouldn't be expelled for indiscipline.

Meanwhile, the Congress successfully elected all three of its candidates to the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan — Randeep Surjewala, Mukul Wasnik and Pramod Tiwari — while staving off a competition from BJP-backed media baron Subhash Chandra, who contested as an independent. BJP veteran Ghanshyam Tiwari was also elected to the Upper House from Rajasthan.

While Kushwah faces the risk of being expelled from the BJP, over five years ago, it was her husband whose Assembly membership was terminated and he was jailed, leading to Shobharani's election. Now, her cross voting is being linked to her husband's imprisonment.

## Enforcement Directorate issues fresh summons to Sonia

**New Delhi:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued fresh summons to Congress president Sonia Gandhi to appear before the agency on June 23 in connection with a money laundering

case related to the National Herald newspaper.

Sources said she was supposed to appear on June 8 but she asked for more time on account of Covid and now she has

been asked to appear on June 23. A few days ago, ED issued fresh summons to Congress Lok Sabha MP Rahul Gandhi, asking him to appear before the agency on June 13. **ENS**

## With focus on kids, govt curbs misleading ads

**HARIKISHAN SHARMA**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

AN ADVERTISEMENT for junk foods, including chips, carbonated beverages and such other snacks and drinks shall not be advertised during a programme meant for children or on a channel meant exclusively for children, say new guidelines notified by the Centre to curb misleading advertisements.

The guidelines for

Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements for Misleading Advertisements, 2022, had been notified by the Department of Consumer Affairs on Thursday and have come into effect.

While the guidelines provide for regulation of bait, free claims and children-targeted advertisements, it prohibits surrogate advertisements.

The guidelines state: "An advertisement of any goods, product or service that addresses or

targets children shall not – (a) be such as to develop negative body image in children; (b) give any impression that such goods, products or services are better than the natural or traditional food that children may be consuming."

The guidelines, which have been finalised in consultation with the central ministries concerned, say: "Any advertisement that offers promotional gifts to persuade children to buy goods, product or service without ne-

cessity or promotes illogical consumerism shall be discouraged."

The guidelines, issued under Consumer Protection Act, 2019, also bars Indian citizens living abroad from endorsing such advertisements that have been barred for Indian professionals living in the country.

Endorsers are required to disclose their material connection with the endorsed product or service, the guidelines say, besides specifying "duties" of manufacturer, service provider,

advertiser and advertising agency.

"No surrogate advertisement or indirect advertisement shall be made for goods or services whose advertising is otherwise prohibited or restricted by law, by circumventing such prohibition or restriction and portraying it to be an advertisement for other goods or services, the advertising of which is not prohibited or restricted by law," states para 6 (1) of the guidelines.

## SALUTE THE SOLDIER

**11 JUNE**  
On this day 5035748R Rfn Indra Bahadur Tamang of 5/1 Gorkha Rifles made the supreme sacrifice during 'OP CACTUS LILY-1971' Eastern Sector in JN 1971 in a true act of valour and courage. The brave soldier will always be remembered for his enthusiasm. To this brave heart we pledge that we shall always be guided by his immortal spirit and make his name proud.

**CO AND ALL RANKS, 5/1 GORKHA RIFLES**

**RFN INDRABAHADUR TAMANG**

**S. E. RAILWAY TENDER**  
E-Tender Notice No.: **M\_NMP\_Welder\_Helper/KGP**, Dated: **09.06.2022**. For and on behalf of the President of India, Divisional Mechanical Engineer/NMP, Kharagpur, invites e-Tender for the following work. **Brief Description of Name of Work with its Location:** Hiring of Welder & Helper at Wagon Depot / NMP for a period of 02 (Two) years. **Approximate Cost of Work:** ₹ 2,42,41,263.30; **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,71,200.00; **Date & Time for Closing of e-Tender:** 30.06.2022 at 16:00 hrs. **Website Particulars & Details:** **www.reps.gov.in**. Bidding **Start Date:** 16.06.2022. **PR-203**

AXIS BANK		AXIS BANK LTD. A. C. Market Building, 4thFloor, 1, Shakespeare 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 <b>Authorised Officer of the Axis Bank Ltd.</b> , 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 hereafter.					
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 <b>Axis Bank Ltd.</b> , 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.					
Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower / Guarantor	Description of the Immovable Property (Secured Assets)	A) Amount Due as of Notice Date B) Date of Demand Notice C) Date of Possession		
1.	<b>1. Mrs. Soma Santra</b> W/o. & Legal heir of- Late Panchanan Santra <b>2. Mrs. Shrabani Santra</b> D/o. & Legal heir of- Late Panchanan Santra <b>Both are at :</b> Village - Danrai P. O. - Amarshi, P. S. - Pataspur District - Purba Medinipur, Pin - 721454.	All that piece and parcel of land admeasuring an area of about 4 Decimal, situated under Mouza – Brjalajpur, J. L. No. 132, Khatian No. 636, Dag No. 511, P. S. - Pataspur District - Purba Medinipur, together with the building constructed upon the said land.	<b>A) Rs. 25,41,407.97</b> only under the Loan A/c. No. 918030041004328, due as on 29.03.2022 (this amounts include interest applied till 31.10.2021) <b>B) 29.03.2022</b> <b>C) 06.06.2022</b>		
2.	<b>1. M/s. Loknath Textiles</b> 219/1, Station Road East, New Barrackpore Ward No. 3, P. O. - New Barrackpore District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 700131 <b>2. Mr. Sajal Sarkar</b> <b>Proprietor of - M/s. Loknath Textiles</b> S/o. Parnimal Sarkar 136/1373, Madhumita Sarani New Barrackpore, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 700131.	All that piece and parcel of bastu land measuring about 1 Cottah, 4 Chittaks and 41 Sq. ft. along with pacca residential building measuring about 570 Sq. ft. standing thereon situated at Mouza - Aharampur, J. L. No. 35, R. S. Nos. 97 and 98, R. S. Khatian Nos. 50 & 51, Touzi No. 169, R. S. Dag No. 371, P. S. - Gholia, A. D. S. R - Barrackpore, District - North 24 Parganas, Municipal Holding No. 136 and 137/3 under Municipal Ward No. 4 (Old) and 14 (new) within the limits of New Barrackpore Municipality. <b>Boundaries :</b> North - 6' feet wide common passage, South - Land of Swapan Roy, East - 20 feet wide Madhumita Sarani, West - Land of Plot 'C' / Land of others.	<b>A) Rs. 31,03,235.65</b> (Rupees Thirty One Lakhs Three Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Five and Sixty Five Paise) under Loan A/c. No. 916030074878377 due as on 30.11.2019 (this amount includes interest applied till 31.10.2019) <b>B) 30.11.2019</b> <b>C) 07.06.2022 (Physical Possession)</b>		
3.	<b>1. Mrs. Baljit Niyogi</b> W/o. Abhijit Niyogi, 253, Block-B, Ground Floor, Lake Town, P. O. & P. S. - Lake Town District - Kolkata, Pin - 700089 <b>Also at :</b> Patipukur Township, Ground Floor Block No. A, 919, Lake Town, P. O. & P. S. - Lake Town, Ward No. 30, Kolkata - 700089 <b>Also at :</b> P-681, Block - A, Lake Town, South Dum Dum, North 24 Parganas, Pin - 700089.	All that complete finished self-contained residential flat on the North-East side on the ground floor of the G-3 storied building having super built up area 830 Sq. ft. more or less consisting of 2 bed rooms. Dining cum drawing room, kitchen, verandah and toilet, together with undivided impartible proportionate share of land on the 3 Cottahs 11 Chittaks 44 Sq. ft. lying and situated at Patipukur Township of the Government being Plot No. 681, Block No. A, Sub Division - Barrackpore, North 24 Parganas, P. S. - Lake Town, ADSRO- Bidhanagar (Salt Lake City) being known, numbered and distinguished as Premises/Holding No. 470/54, at present 919, Lake Town, within the limits of South Dum Dum Municipality in Ward No. 22, at present Ward No. 30, Kolkata - 700089.	<b>A) Rs. 98,242.00</b> (Rupees Nine Lakhs Eighty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Forty Two) only under Loan A/c. No. LTR031902629200 due as on 07.07.2021 (this amounts includes interest applied till 07.07.2021). <b>B) 07.07.2021</b> <b>C) 08.06.2022 (Physical Possession)</b>		
4.	<b>1. Mrs. Baljit Niyogi</b> W/o. Abhijit Niyogi, 253, Block-B, Ground Floor, Lake Town, P. O. & P. S. - Lake Town District - Kolkata, Pin - 700089 <b>Also at :</b> Patipukur Township, Ground Floor Block No. A, 919, Lake Town, P. O. & P. S. - Lake Town, Ward No. 30, Kolkata - 700089 <b>Also at :</b> P-681, Block - A, Lake Town, South Dum Dum, North 24 Parganas, Pin - 700089.	All that complete finished self-contained residential flat on the North-East side on the ground floor of the G-3 storied building having super built up area 830 Sq. ft. more or less consisting of 2 bed rooms. Dining cum drawing room, kitchen, verandah and toilet, together with undivided impartible proportionate share of land on the 3 Cottahs 11 Chittaks 44 Sq. ft. lying and situated at Patipukur Township of the Government being Plot No. 681, Block No. A, Sub Division - Barrackpore, North 24 Parganas, P. S. - Lake Town, ADSRO- Bidhanagar (Salt Lake City) being known, numbered and distinguished as Premises/Holding No. 470/54, at present 919, Lake Town, within the limits of South Dum Dum Municipality in Ward No. 22, at present Ward No. 30, Kolkata - 700089.	<b>A) Rs. 8,62,828.00</b> (Rupees Eight Lakhs Sixty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Eight) only under Loan A/c. No. LPR031902042634 due as on 21.05.2021 (this amounts includes interest applied till 21.05.2021). <b>B) 21.05.2021</b> <b>C) 08.06.2022 (Physical Possession)</b>		
5.	<b>1. Mr. Haripada Rana, S/o. Manoranjan Rana</b> <b>2. Mr. Gaurhari Rana, S/o. Manoranjan Rana</b> <b>3. Mr. Manoranjan Rana, S/o. Late Sudhir Rana</b> <b>4. Mrs. Gita Rana, W/o. Manoranjan Rana</b> <b>All are at -</b> Village - Dibakarpur P. O. - Baraghuni, P. S. - Chandipur District - Purba Medinipur, Pin - 721656.	All that piece and parcel of land admeasuring an area of about 17 Decimal, approx., situated under Mouza - Dibakarpur, J. L. No. 104, Survey No. 1706, Khatian No. 1198, Plot No. 1256, P. S. - Chandipur District - Purba Medinipur, together with the building constructed upon the said land.	<b>A) Rs. 37,20,844.93</b> only under the Loan A/c. No. 917030045996577, due as on 18.02.2022 (this amounts include interest applied till 09-09-2021). <b>B) 28.02.2022</b> <b>C) 09.06.2022</b>		
6.	<b>1. Mr. Manoranjan Maity, S/o. Ahinchin Maity</b> Village & P. O. - Basudeb Beriya P. S. - Contai, Purba Medinipur, Pin - 721444 <b>2. Mr. Rajib Maity, S/o. Manoranjan Maity</b> Village & P. O. - Basudeb Beriya P. S. - Contai, Purba Medinipur, Pin - 721444.	All that piece and parcel of land admeasuring an area of about 10 Decimal, approx., situated under Mouza - Basudeberia, J. L. No. 428, Khatian No. 869, Plot No. 2690, P. S. - Contai & District - Purba Medinipur, together with the building constructed upon the said land.	<b>A) Rs. 8,83,358.70</b> only under Loan A/c. No. 912030034143529 due as on 25.02.2022 (this amounts include interest applied till 01.06.2021). <b>B) 25.02.2022</b> <b>C) 09.06.2022</b>		
7.	<b>1. Mr. Asit Gharami</b> S/o. Amulya Gharami Village + P. O. - Ghatapala P. S. - Bagdah Near Bayara Bazar District - North 24 Parganas Pin - 743251	All that piece and parcel of land admeasuring an area of about 1 Decimal, situated under Mouza - Ghatapala, J. L. No. 12, Khatian No. 1370, Plot No. 2090, P. S. - Bagdah & District - North 24 Parganas, together with the building constructed over the said land. <b>Boundaries :</b> North - Property of Jogesh Biswas, South - Property of Brinda Ghosh, East - 3 feet wide passage, West - 3 feet wide passage.	<b>A) Rs. 11,66,442.00</b> only under the Loan A/c. No. 917030045996577, due as on 18.02.2022 (this amounts include interest applied till 30.04.2021) and <b>Rs. 42,594.93</b> only under the Loan A/c. No. 917030045996551, due as on 18.02.2022 (this amounts include interest applied till 01.11.2021). <b>B) 18.02.2022</b> <b>C) 09.06.2022</b>		
Date : 11.06.2022 Place : Kolkata		Authorised Officer Axis Bank Ltd.			

**लद्दाख केंद्र शासित प्रशासन / THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH**  
**लद्दाख स्वायत्त पहाड़ी विकास परिषद, लेह/**  
**LADAKH AUTONOMOUS HILL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL LEH**  
**सचिव का कार्यालय / OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**  
**लेह स्वायत्त पहाड़ी विकास-अधीनस्थ सेवा भर्ती बोर्ड, LEH AUTONOMOUS HILL DEVELOPMENT-UNSUBSIDIZED SERVICE RECRUITMENT BOARD**  
F.No.DE&CCL/SSRB/Tender/1714-17

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
**NIT NO.: 01-LAHD-SSRB-2022 DATED: 11.06.2022**

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, Ut Ladakh tenders are invited from eligible, reputed and qualified IT Firms with sound Technical and financial capabilities for Implementation and maintenance of Computer Based System for conducting Recruitment/examination of LAHD-SSRB.

Name of Item	Specification	Period of contract
Online examination (Computer Based Test); Conduct and Processing of Examinations of LAHD-SSRB	As per RFP	Three Years (can be extended)

The RFP document can be downloaded from the website of Leh District at <https://leh.nic.in/> and LAHD-SSRB at <https://www.lahdssrb.in/> as per schedule of dates given below:

i)	Date of issue of Tender Notice	11.06.2022
ii)	Date of publishing of Tender	13.06.2022 (04.00 PM)
iii)	Last date for pre Bid Queries	18.06.2022 (04.00 PM)
iv)	Pre-Bid Meeting (link will be provided to the interested bidders)	24.06.2022
v)	Last date and time for bid submission	08.07.2022 (04.00 PM)
vi)	Date of opening of Technical bid	11.07.2022
vii)	Date of opening of Financial bid	To be communicated later, to the technically qualified bidders.

Sd/-  
सचिव, लेह स्वायत्त पहाड़ी विकास-अधीनस्थ सेवा भर्ती बोर्ड, Secretary, LAHD-SSRB/  
उप निदेशक/Deputy Director,  
जिला सेक्टर एवं परामर्श केंद्र लेह/District Employment & Counselling Centre Leh

**KERALA WATER AUTHORITY - e-TENDER NOTICE**  
Tender No: 15/SE/PHCK/2022-2023 JJM 2021-22- WSS TO ATHIRAMPUZHA PANCHAYATH- SUPPLYING AND LAYING DISTRIBUTION LINES AND PROVIDING FHTCs PHASE 2-EAST SIDE OF RAILWAY LINE. EMD: ₹ 1,00,000/- Tender fee : ₹ 7,500/- +gst18%- It will be paid by the contractor on reverse charge basis while filing his returns. Last Date for submitting Tender : 23.06.2022, 03:00pm. Phone : 0481 - 2562745.  
**Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.tenders.kerala.gov.in** Sd/-  
KWA-JB-GL-6-349-2022-23 Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Kottayam

**Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Ltd**  
Shankarseth Road, Swargate, Pune-411 037

**E-tender Notice**

PMPML are inviting the bids for 'Appointment of Operator for Undertaking Installation and Maintenance Contract of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) based Access Control (Boom Barrier) and Monitoring System on BRT Corridors.' The dates regard, the tender are as follows.

**Tender Sale : 11/06/2022 to 01/07/2022 2:30PM**  
**Tender Submission Date : 11/06/2022 to 01/07/2022 2:30PM**  
**Pre Bid Meeting : 16/06/2022 At 03:00 PM**  
**Tender Opening Date : 04/07/2022 2:30PM**

The Bid documents are available for purchase & submission on web site of **www.mahatenders.gov.in**

Sd/-  
Chairman & Managing Director  
**Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Ltd.**  
Tender No. : 01-BT-2022  
Date : 11/06/2022

**Online Tender Notice No: 07 of 2022-23**  
**Sports Authority of Gujarat**  
**Block No.14/3rd Floor, Dr.Jivraj Mehta Bhavan,**  
**Gandhinagar**  
**(TENDER ID-530591)**

Secretary, Sports Authority of Gujarat, Gandhinagar, Block no. 14, 3rd floor, Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhavan, Sector-10, Gandhinagar invite Selection of Project Management Consultant (PMC) For providing Design Consultancy Services and Project Management Services for Development of Libraries at various places for Sports Authority Gujarat. • The Last date of Submission of proposed will be dt-28/06/2022 18:00 hrs.  
• The tender may be download from the website <https://syncad.nprocure.com>  
• For any further information contact to PIU Branch in the office of Secretary, Sports Authority of Gujarat, Block no. 14, 3rd floor, Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhavan, Gandhinagarin office hour, or may contact on Ph- 07923254409  
Detail tender documents are available on above mention Tender id  
**INF/571/22-23**

## GOLD SMUGGLING CASE Congress protests across Kerala, demands Pinarayi resignation

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JUNE 10

THE CONGRESS-LED opposition in Kerala held protest marches to various district headquarters across the state demanding the resignation of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan following allegations by a woman accused in the gold smuggling case that he had carried a bag of currency to the UAE in 2016.

The protest marches turned violent in Kottayam, Kollam, Kannur and Kochi where agitators clashed with the police. The marches were taken out to the offices of the district collectors in various districts.

Addressing the march in Kochi, Opposition leader V D Satheesan said Vijayan is in a panic over the allegation by Swapna Suresh, one of the accused in the case, that the Chief Minister had taken currency to Dubai with the help of a diplomat. "If the allegation is baseless, why can't Vijayan take legal action against Suresh? Instead, the government is threatening the woman who had given a statement in court. Her allegations are very serious..." said Satheesan.

On Thursday, Suresh had alleged that she was under immense pressure to retract her statement and that her life was under threat. She also named a former journalist, Shaj Kiran, as having approached her claiming to be a representative of political higher-ups in the state government before asking her to withdraw her statement.

### "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.



EVERYDAY HEALTH

## INDIA'S FIRST COVID-19 VACCINE FOR ANIMALS: WHY THE NEED WAS FELT

ANONNA DUTT  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

THE AGRICULTURE Ministry on Thursday unveiled India's first Covid-19 vaccine for animals. Developed by the Hisar-based National Research Centre on Equines, the vaccine, called Ancovax, can protect animals against the Delta and Omicron variants of SARS-CoV-2.

**HOW IT WORKS:** Ancovax can be used in dogs, lions, leopards, mice, and rabbits. It is an inactivated vaccine developed using an infectious part of the Delta variant. In addition, it uses Alhydrogel as an adjuvant to boost the immune response.

This is the first Covid-19 vaccine for animals developed in India. There were reports from Russia last year that that country, too, had developed a vaccine against animals such as dogs, cats, minks, and foxes.

**THE NEED:** There have been reports of Covid-19 infection in several animals, including dogs and cats. "The vaccine can protect animals in the zoo. It can also prevent transmission from companion animals to the humans," said Dr Jyoti Misri, senior scientist, Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

The risk of animals spreading the infection to humans is considered low, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The aim of the vaccine is to protect endangered animals such as lions and tigers. India reported at least nine Covid infections

in Asiatic lions in Chennai zoo last year, with one of the lioness likely to have died of it. This prompted closure of tiger reserves for tourism. Other than that, a study by the Indian Veterinary Research Institute found at least three natural Covid infections in wild Asiatic lions, and a dead leopard cub was found dead and then tested positive for Covid-19.

"There have been a few cases reported in wildlife across the world, some from the zoo, and some in pets. However, percentage-wise, it is very low. The animals develop similar symptoms to humans – cough, cold, fever, and lung lesions. However, since the disease is zoonotic [it can be transmitted from animals to humans], a vaccine would help. However, which vaccine we use has to be carefully decided," said Dr AB Shrivastav, former director, School of Wildlife Forensic and Health, Jabalpur.

**WHY TYPE MATTERS:** While declining to comment on this vaccine specifically, Dr Shrivastav said a killed vaccine for wild animals is always better than a live-attenuated vaccine (where a weakened live virus is used).

"We avoid live vaccine in wild animals. This is because a live vaccine might have been attenuated for one particular species, but it can still cause disease in another. Some 15 or 20 years back, a rabies vaccine developed for dogs was given to wolves in Africa and unfortunately the entire pack died. A killed virus vaccine will not harm the animals," he said.

## THIS WORD MEANS

### CHELONOIDIS PHANTASTICUS

A giant tortoise species believed extinct for more than a century. Now, a surviving member has been identified.

A GIANT tortoise, found alive in 2019, has been confirmed to belong a Galápagos species long believed extinct. Named Fernanda after her Fernandina Island home, the tortoise is the first of her species, *Chelonoidis phantasticus*, to be identified in more than a century. Researchers has reported the confirmation in a paper in *Nature Communications Biology*.

Chelonoidis phantasticus means "fantastic giant tortoise". Commonly called the Fernandina Island Galápagos giant tortoise, the species was so far known only from a single individual, collected in 1906.

When Fernanda was discovered in 2019, many ecologists doubted that she was actually a native phantasticus tortoise. She differed in appearance from the male historical specimen, although scientists speculated that her stunted growth may have distorted her features, Princeton University said in a press release.

Although Fernanda was found on Fernandina Island itself, and although tortoises can't swim from one island to another, they can be carried from one Galápagos island to another during major storms. There are also historical records of seafarers moving the tortoises between islands.

"Like many people, my initial suspicion was that this was not a native tortoise of Fernandina Island," Princeton University quoted researcher Stephen Gaughran, a postdoctoral research fellow in ecology and



Fernanda at the Galápagos National Park's Giant Tortoise Breeding Center. Galápagos Conservancy via Princeton University

evolutionary biology at Princeton.

To determine Fernanda's species definitively, Gaughran sequenced her complete genome and compared it to the genome he was able to recover from the specimen collected in 1906. He also compared those two genomes to samples from the other 13 species of Galápagos tortoises – 12 living, one extinct. He showed that the two known Fernandina tortoises are indeed members of the same species.

"We saw – honestly, to my surprise – that Fernanda was very similar to the one that they found on that island more than 100 years ago, and both of those were very different from all of the other islands' tortoises," Gaughran was quoted as saying.

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# The battle for IPL media rights: Reliance vs Disney-Star, no Amazon

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY  
KOLKATA, JUNE 10

AHEAD OF Sunday's e-auction for the Indian Premier League (IPL) media rights – linear and digital – Amazon has pulled out of the race. BCCI sources said Google didn't submit its technical bid either, choosing to opt out.

Amazon's departure nips in the bud a straight fight between the world's two richest persons – its owner Jeff Bezos and Mukesh Ambani representing Viacom 18/Reliance. But the auction, likely to fetch the BCCI over Rs 45,000 crore, will still be intense. Disney-Star, the incumbent media rights holder, will be there, and according to sources, its battle with Viacom 18/Reliance could be the highlight of the auction. Former Star India executive Uday Shankar is on Viacom 18's side this time.

**Why has Amazon pulled out?**

Amazon, which livestreams the English

Premier League, initially showed keen interest for the IPL digital media rights too. Gaining an edge over its rival Netflix Inc was an incentive. Amazon hasn't officially commented on the pullout, but it is learnt that following internal deliberations it decided not to pay over the odds for just online streaming rights. "Amazon has a great balance sheet but as a standalone, digital-only bidder, it would've had a challenge recouping such a big investment on streaming," Mihir Shah, vice-president and India head at Media Partners Asia, was quoted as saying by *Bloomberg*.

**What is the base price?**

For the 2023-2027 cycle, the BCCI has set the base price at Rs 32,890 crore. According to a top BCCI official, expectations are that the highest bid would go past Rs 45,000 crore. A BCCI insider said auction dynamics don't follow the simple profit-and-loss logic. It's about market share dominance and how much the companies are willing to fork out.

It is learnt that 11 companies had purchased the invitation to tender (ITT) documents but only seven, including Disney-Star, Viacom 18/Reliance, Sony and Zee have submitted the technical bids. The deadline for technical evaluation was 6 pm on Friday.

Some of the bidders, however, have expressed their displeasure over a sharp increase in the base price.

**What explains the BCCI's confidence?**

According to a BCCI official, the IPL as a product is "unrivaled": No other content attracts as many eyeballs. Chennai Super Kings chief executive Kasi Viswanathan agreed. "This year, maybe, was an aberration in the sense that you still didn't have home and away games. This was a reason for a dip in viewership. But if you look at the competitive cricket that is played in the IPL, everybody knows that this is the best T20 league in the world. And that probably is the reason why its media rights are so much in demand,"

Viswanathan told *The Indian Express*.

**What's at stake in bagging digital rights?**

Unlike last term, composite bids have been done away with. A company can separately put in bids for all three buckets. These include one for linear rights and two separate ones of digital rights, divided this way for the first time. The two digital rights buckets include one for all matches, and one for non-exclusive rights for 18 games every season, including the tournament opener and play-offs. This can attract companies that are willing to get a small share of the pie, fetching the Board big money in the process.

The addition of two new teams has raised the number of matches to 74, and contributed to the base price reaching almost twice the winning bid of 2017. The new teams have brought in new fans. For example, Gujarat Titans, the defending champions, can play in front of 100,000 fans. This is expected to rapidly increase TV/online viewership also. Two



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## SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

# Environment index and India

India has questioned its bottom ranking among 180 nations on the Environmental Performance Index. Who calculates this index, and how? What issues has India flagged? How real are the environmental concerns?

### HOW INDIA IS RANKED vs OTHERS, AND ON WHICH COUNTS



India ranks 151 on waste (and 121 on solid waste) management. *File*

#### TOP 8

Country	Rank	Score	10-yr change
Denmark	1	77.90	14.90
UK	2	77.70	23.00
Finland	3	76.50	21.00
Malta	4	75.20	25.40
Sweden	5	72.70	15.80
Luxembourg	6	72.30	13.50
Slovenia	7	67.30	8.60
Austria	8	66.50	7.20

#### BOTTOM 8

Country	Rank	Score	10-yr change
Haiti	173	26.10	2.40
Liberia	174	24.90	-4.00
Papua New Guinea	175	24.80	0.20
Pakistan	176	24.60	1.40
Bangladesh	177	23.10	-1.90
Vietnam	178	20.10	-0.60
Myanmar	179	19.40	-3.80
India	180	18.90	-0.60

Source: Environmental Performance Index 2022

#### INDIA: KEY INDICATORS

Country	Rank	Score	10-yr change
Ecosystem vitality	178	19.30	-2.10
Biodiversity	179	5.80	-0.50
Species protection	175	0.30	NA
Tree cover loss	75	17.20	-7.80
Wetland loss	60	62.00	-38.00
Pesticide management	47	45.30	NA
Health	178	12.50	2.90
Air Quality	179	7.80	NA
PM2.5	174	NA	-5.10
Household solid fuels	129	18.60	7.10
Sanitation & drinking water	139	19.50	9.6
Lead	174	20.6	4.3
Waste management	151	12.90	0.60
Climate policy	165	21.70	-0.90
Carbon dioxide growth rate	136	17.60	-5.70
Black carbon growth rate	1	100.0	44.7
Projected GHG emissions, 2050	171	0.00	NA
GHG per capita	53	66.80	-6.20

tors. "It is not like comparing apples to apples but apples to oranges," said an official.

The Ministry said the shifting of weightage on many indicators has resulted in India's low ranking. For example, for black carbon growth, India's score actually improved from 32 in 2020 to 100 (the top score) in 2022, but the weightage of this indicator has been reduced to 0.0038 in 2022 from 0.018 in 2020.

The government has objected to calculations of greenhouse gas projections for 2050, which ties into countries' net zero goals. India has set a net zero target for 2070, unlike developed nations that have set 2050.

**What is the objection with the projection?**

The government said the projection for greenhouse gas emissions has been computed based on the average rate of change in emission of the last 10 years rather than modelling that takes into account a longer period, extent of renewable energy capacity and use, addi-

tional carbon sinks, energy efficiency etc. It said crucial carbon sinks that mitigate GHG, such as forests and wetlands, have not been taken into account. India's low emissions trajectory, unlike high historical trajectories of developed countries, has been ignored, it said.

The government has objected to the low weightage given to per-capita GHG emissions (2.6%). "No indicator talks about the renewable energy, energy efficiency and process optimization," it said.

Among other objections raised: the index emphasises the extent of protected areas rather than the quality of protection that they afford; the computation of biodiversity indices does not factor in management effectiveness evaluation of protected areas the index computes the extent of ecosystems but not their condition or productivity; indicators such as agro biodiversity, soil health, food loss and waste are not included even though they are important for developing countries with large

agrarian populations.

**Do environmental scientists agree with the report?**

Dr Navroz Dubash of the Centre for Policy Research, among the authors of the latest report of the International Report on Climate Change (IPCC), said the climate change parameter of the EPI report is "highly problematic".

"Of course weightages are the agency's discretion, but giving climate change such a high weightage is problematic. The EPI 2022 makes an assumption that every country has to reach net-zero by 2050 – whereas the understanding is that developing countries will need more time. GHG emissions will continue to grow in poorer countries for a time, unlike many developed countries which have peaked. We can't be expected to forgo energy for development. The EPI 2022 is neither ethically correct nor reflects the political reality. Moreover, the methodology that EPI has used for its 2050 projections, using last decade's emissions, is extremely crude," Dubash said.

In developing countries, of which many like India have low emissions trajectories, the contribution is not that emissions reduce but to "avoid locking into higher emissions trajectories". "That is what is expected of developing countries, but this methodology doesn't allow for that and the government is correct in pointing this out," he said. He said the EPI assumes every country is in the same position economically, developmentally and environmentally.

IFT Delhi professor and air pollution expert Dr Sagnik Dey said the low weightage given to per-capita GHG emissions automatically reduces the ranks of countries like India and China. "Even if air pollution declines steadily, in countries like India and China, by virtue of their large populations the overall figure of the health burden or DALY for instance, will always be high and therefore will always fall in the bottom of the pile, if per-capita GHG emissions are given lower weightage."

**So, how seriously should the findings be taken?**

Dr Dey cautioned that despite the inconsistencies, the government should not ignore the fact that India was at 168th rank in 2020 and has never been in the top 150 countries since the index was started.

Dr Dubash said that despite issues with the EPI, India does have severe local environmental issues, which have been highlighted in the report and need to be addressed.

Dr Ravi Chellam, Coordinator, Biodiversity Collective, said: "Much smaller and poorer countries have done better. I don't think we should get carried away by only the rank. If other countries perform poorer, India's rank will improve. It is vital to focus on sustainable developmental pathways we need to immediately adopt."



The newly built temple in Dehu, Maharashtra. *Rajesh Stephen*

Chief Minister performing the *mahapuja*.

The pilgrimage is being resumed after a gap of two years.

**Significance of visit**

This will be Modi's first visit to the temple. Traditionally, the Warkari sect has been courted by all political parties. Various influential leaders of the sect had taken a stance on various issues but steered away from politics directly. Former President Prathibha Patil had visited the temple in 2009, and Modi would be the first PM to visit the temple in the current years.

Modi's visit comes ahead of elections to various local bodies this year. Ever since the NCP-Shiv-Sena-BJP came to power, the BJP has been trying to get back. Of the three bypolls held since 2019, BJP has won just one while the ruling alliance have won two.

The newly created Dehu Nagar Panchayat is ruled by the NCP.



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THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2022

# THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

A ROBOT MAY NOT INJURE A HUMAN BEING, OR  
THROUGH INACTION, ALLOW A HUMAN BEING TO  
COME TO HARM.— ISAAC ASIMOV

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## CORNERING A FRIEND

Nupur Sharma episode is also putting pressure on and shrinking room for India's allies abroad. Delhi must be mindful of this

INDIA LEARNT THIS week that its domestic politics does not exist in a silo separate and disconnected from its relations with the international community. On visits abroad, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has talked up this country as a plural, diverse and democratic nation, as if the open minority-baiting by his party men and women did not exist. Not only have the remarks against the Prophet by two BJP leaders — one has been expelled and the other suspended by the party subsequently — made it difficult to sweep under the carpet the incivilities in the politics of the ruling party at the Centre, the fallout is also bringing home to Delhi that they can create problems for some of its best friends in the world, to the detriment of those friendships. What someone says in a television studio in India can fast turn into a political hot potato in another country, putting governments well disposed towards India on the defensive in their home turfs. Pakistan, of course, may need no excuse to have a go at India. But it was hoped that the United Arab Emirates, with whom India has excellent ties, would not follow its brother Islamic nations in upping the ante on the issue. That it did, one day after several other countries had expressed their condemnation, says a lot about how this incident has put pressure on governments around the world. Only in 2018, the UAE rulers had granted permission for the building of a Hindu temple in Sharjah, and its construction is proceeding apace. Iran, among the earliest to condemn the controversial remarks, did not cancel the visit by its foreign minister, Amir Abdollahian, but the differing readouts from both sides showed how important it was for the visiting functionary to signal to constituencies back home that the issue had come up in discussions, as much as Delhi tried to play it down.

If looking the other way as outrage swept the Gulf countries was not an option for authoritarian regimes in the UAE, Oman and other friendly nations, the political pressures in a democracy, even a small one like Maldives, can well be imagined. Indeed, Maldives, where protests against India are banned by presidential decree, tried at first to stave off the Opposition's attempts to force the issue. Like the UAE, the pro-India Solih government issued a statement much after many other countries, after it became clear that not doing so would carry significant political risk. Former president Abdulla Yameen, whose pronounced tilt towards Beijing had given India cause for worry during his term in office, hopes to make a comeback in the presidential election next year on the back of an anti-India campaign.

The more headline sections of the BJP are making a case for standing up to the censure coming in from India's allies and friends abroad. Meanwhile, at home, the protests that erupted in several cities on Friday run the risk of leading domestic politics into the polarisation trap. After this episode, the responsibility of sobriety and restraint and course correction rests on the BJP government, of course. India is going to be watched by other countries, even and especially by its friends. But the larger imperative of keeping the calm also devolves on non-BJP groups and parties.

## SCORING POINTS

TDP vs YSRCP in Andhra Pradesh over Class 10 results is a good face-off. It has pointers for other states, other parties

THE CLASS 10 examination results have triggered a war of words in Andhra Pradesh (AP) with the Opposition blaming the government for over two lakh students failing in the boards: The pass percentage of 67.26, coming in the wake of the pandemic, is the lowest in the last 20 years. On Thursday, TDP general secretary and son of former chief minister Chandrababu Naidu, Nara Lokesh Naidu, upped the ante and reached out to students and parents over Zoom, but was interrupted by ruling party (YSRCP) leaders, who accused the TDP of politicising school examinations and students. The TDP shut out the YSRCP voices and continued with the video conference. But the TDP initiative as well as the YSRCP challenge mark a good moment in public political discussion, in which issues such as school education usually take a backseat, if they figure at all. School education is far too serious a matter to be left to the bureaucracy; it ought to feature more in the agenda of political parties.

That the YSRCP, which has been sweeping elections at all levels in AP since the state was bifurcated in 2014, felt it necessary to intervene in the discussion over exam results, however, could also point to the traction the issue of education has traditionally had in Andhra society. In fact, education has been something of a possible gamechanger in elections in some of the southern states for some years now. If the socialisation of educational institutions polarised Kerala in the late 1950s, leading to a mass movement and the undemocratic dismissal of the CPI government in 1959, the AIADMK under MGR enhanced its pro-poor image and cemented its electoral appeal by introducing a mid-day meal scheme in Tamil Nadu in the early 1980s. In recent months, the DMK in Tamil Nadu has found in NEET, the entrance exam for medical and pre-medical courses, an issue to corner both the BJP and AIADMK. Elsewhere, Nitish Kumar in Bihar and Arvind Kejriwal in Delhi have cultivated constituencies by focusing on school students and their parents. Free schooling and bicycles for girl students have allowed Nitish Kumar to carve a niche in a polity defined primarily by caste whereas Kejriwal has made the work done by his government in schools a calling card as AAP seeks to expand beyond Delhi.

Hopefully, other political parties will take a cue from TDP, YSRCP, DMK, JD(U), AAP, and bring education to the forefront of political debate. It would be a necessary departure from the polarising talk on identity and religion that mostly dominates it.

## THE SWEATY FINGER

Japanese scientists have invented a robotic digit with living skin. The dystopias of science fiction writers are set to come home

IT IS, IN essence, just a set of mechanical joints, wrapped in collagen, human dermal fibroblasts and epidermal keratinocytes. Yet, the "slightly sweaty" finger developed by Japanese scientists — the first robotic digit with living skin — is a breakthrough that makes the utopias and dystopias of speculative fiction straddle the edge of prophecy. The small pink digit is a likely precursor to humanoid androids. Coupled with advances in AI and machine learning, it points to the question: What does the future hold for humanity's relationship with the machine-people it is on the path to creating?

Advocates for the machine-people argue that the more human-like they are, the more easily they can be useful as nurses, crossing guards, and for dangerous jobs. Making machines seem sentient is particularly important to traverse the "uncanny valley", especially to have them perform tasks that require human interaction. Simply put, the uncanny valley is the odd, unsettling feeling when machines and audio-visual simulations closely resemble humans. But there's a reason that tools that look like us make humans uneasy.

Imagine an almost-sentient nurse. Just because its mind works through a code, does it not have personhood? Making it work without rights or payment will amount to slavery. Then there's the justifiable fear that futurists have raised for the better part of a century — the machines, as they become more human-like (in their behaviour as much as their look) are likely to take over. When it comes to the ruthless exercise of power, they will learn from the best — their creators. Finally, those who believe this pessimism in based on the unfounded suspicion of technology would do well to remember that social media began with the promise of "connecting people" in the ether, and is now, sometimes, a threat to democracy. A sweaty finger could be much more dangerous than an algorithm.



APARNA POPAT

WE USUALLY ASSUME the sporting arena to be a safe space. We ask our kids to go out and play. For me, that's about enjoyment, as much as winning. But when young athletes are sexually harassed, basic safety becomes a big concern. It's just not fair that a person with experience can take the fun out of sport for them.

What happened in US gymnastics with Simone Biles and other top gymnasts shook me to the core. That it had been so obvious, and was reported but ignored, and that the US gymnasts are now suing the FBI is so unreal. They took on the US gymnastics establishment and went to the Senate. In other cases in America, athletes have taken on the bigwigs as well. That's possible in systems such as the one in America. But in the final analysis, what gets affected is women's sport. On the one hand, we are encouraging more girls to go out and become sportswomen. On the other hand, instances like the one involving the alleged harassment of a young cyclist by a national coach can make parents reconsider their daughters' participation in sport.

What has changed now is that athletes have more of a voice. They are more aware and there's greater conversation about women in sport. Avenues are now available — even if these are anonymous — to voice their concerns. Earlier, the process itself was a deterrent. But the underlying set of conditions that make harassment possible have not gone away: Trainees shift out of their homes when still young, there's homesickness and performance pressure, extensive travel for training and competitions — all of this makes them vulnerable.

While we encourage girls to participate in sport, we must remember that their dignity is more important than everything

Young women enter sports with hope, sense of fun — those destroying that must be held to account

What is unique to sport is the age group of the victims — they are dependent on those in the system and around them. They are almost always very young. How will they even know what is to be done? The power differential between them and those around them is key.



ABBAS MOMIN

IN THE 2008 blockbuster *Iron Man* — the movie that kickstarted the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) — there is a scene where Robert Downey Jr's character, Tony Stark, is abducted by a vaguely middle eastern-looking terrorist group and they're making a hostage video. In the scene, lead terrorist Raza played by Pakistani-American actor Faran Tahir is giving threats to the camera in Urdu. While he's doing so, the English subtitles at the bottom of the screen are completely at odds with what he is saying and to top it all, the movie refers to the language spoken as "Arabic". I distinctly remember bursting into laughter during this scene with a packed multiplex audience in Bangalore, most of whom, of course, understood Urdu due to its closeness to Hindi. Clearly, linguistic accuracy and representation were not the highest priority for the studio back then.

Fourteen years later, as I sat down with a huge grin on my face to watch the first episode of *Ms Marvel*, the same studio's web series with a Pakistani Muslim teenager as the lead, I couldn't help but marvel (pun fully intended) at how much things had changed.

For me, this show is critic-proof. I have been unabashedly in love with the character of Kamala Khan (who later becomes the feisty superhero Ms Marvel) since she was created by writer G Willow Wilson and artists Adrian Alphona and Jamie McKelvie in the pages of a comic book back in 2013. A huge part in seeing Kamala come to life was also played by comic book editor Sana Amanat, herself a Pakistani-American. Amanat also serves as an executive pro-

## A SUPERHERO LIKE US

'Ms Marvel' is a break from South Asian representation in western films and TV shows

ducer on the show.

Representation matters only when it is authentic. Though there have been sporadic bursts of South Asian representation in Hollywood films and TV shows in the past, a huge chunk of them suffered from being seen through the lens of western, most often white, filmmakers and creative teams. These stories and characterisations rarely went beyond the "exotic" tag associated with Indian/Pakistani costumes and jewellery and collapsed under a muddle of cliches.

And then of course there's the sour topic of the portrayal of Muslims and Islam in Hollywood and pop culture at large. One only needs to dial back the clock a little over a decade to see examples of TV shows like *24* and *Homeland* and films like *American Sniper* that almost built their identity around the harmful "cold-blooded Islamic terrorist" stereotype, sometimes going as far as to insinuate that even common, everyday Muslims with families had been brainwashed into believing an extremist ideology.

This is why it filled my heart with joy to see how colourful, ebullient, funny and positive *Ms Marvel* is. Iman Vellani, who plays the titular character of Kamala is a star in the making. Her face and personality light up a room. The first episode deals with a simple storyline of Kamala trying to convince her parents to let her attend "Avenger Con", a superhero convention, dressed as her favourite superhero Captain Marvel. Her mother thinks the superhero costumes are too skimpy and will lead her to do "haram" activities. Throw in a mysterious amulet inherited from Kamala's

lowed. You just can't cross the line.

In my time as an athlete, we just heard stories, nothing was verified or validated. But after hearing about the recent cases, I would encourage all parents of athletes to have a conversation with their daughters and encourage them to speak up if they feel uncomfortable. My constant dilemma is whether this means drawing the child's attention to something that's not there right now. Should we let it be? Will we be taking the fun out of the game for her by sowing this seed of possible doubt in her head and colouring her perception, when all we want is for her to enjoy sports? It's a hard conversation to have and a tough call to make.

Most of these instances happen during travel or at hostels or in camps where a parent isn't even at hand to gauge what's happening with the child. It breaks my heart that it's our beloved sport that exposes girls to this danger. Of course, sexual harassment is a larger crisis. #MeToo, casting couch revelations at the highest levels of administration and among corporates — women (and men) today face this scourge everywhere.

Sport is, by and large, an unorganised sector. The punishment for such offenders needs to be discussed. Dismissal of the offending coach, physiotherapist or official is what the institutions usually do, even where more legal action is necessary. But legal costs can be debilitating in case the latter course of action is adopted. A speedy resolution of such cases is imperative.

What is most important is to remember that the victims are often minors. There must be clear repercussions for the guilty.

The writer is a former national badminton champion



## JUNE 11, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

### ANTULAY LOSES CASE

AN APPEAL FILED by the former Chief Minister, A.R. Antulay, and the state of Maharashtra against the judgement of Justice B. Lentin in the cement case was dismissed by a division bench of the Bombay High Court comprising Justice S.K. Desai and Justice B.J. Rele. Justice Rele's indictment was even stronger than Justice Lentin's judgement last January. Justice Desai was no less strong. He said that "the manner of allocating cement revealed, indicated and illustrated an assorted spectacle of unreasoned arbitrariness and capricious discretion resulting in unprincipled favouritism which remains unexplained and appears to be unjustified." The bench upheld that nexus and quid pro quo had been established between allotments of cement to

certain big builders and the donations made by them to the trust floated by Antulay, and ruled that both the former chief minister and the state had acted in an illegal, arbitrary and capricious manner "while distributing cement from the Mantralaya".

### FALKLANDS WAR

BRITISH PLANS FOR an assault on the main Argentine garrison at Port Stanley, the Falklands capital, received a setback when Argentine planes crippled two British landing ships in the first low-level air strike for 10 days. Two bombs hit the 4,470 tonne fleet auxiliary, Sir Galahad. One exploded astern, rocking the vessel as thick black smoke billowed high above Fitzroy settlement, about

23 km south-west of Port Stanley, British reporters in the Falklands said.

### ISRAEL PERSISTS

CONTINUOUS WAVES OF Israeli fighter-bombers pounded Palestinian and Syrian positions in Beirut and scattered leaflets warning that Israeli troops planned to seize the Lebanese capital within hours. Israeli land, sea and air forces continued to hammer at targets in and around Beirut long after the US President Ronald Reagan had called on Prime Minister Menachem Begin to order an immediate cease-fire in the five-day-old offensive. The state-run Lebanese television said Palestinians stopped the Israeli tanks at Khalde, 12 km south of Beirut international airport.

The writer is a podcast producer and stand-up comedian



Kolkata





7 THE IDEAS PAGE

My grandmother’s house

Summer vacations in Hyderabad connected me to my beloved grandmother, my family’s journey, my roots. Those memories continue to shape who I am



OPENING ARGUMENT  
BY MENAKA GURUSWAMY

AMMAMMA, MY MATERNAL grandmother, had a row of jasmine plants in her home in Hyderabad. One of my earliest memories is of sleeping outdoors with Ammamma in the summer. I would wake up in the early morning to the scent of jasmine flowers, “malle puvvu” as we call them in Telugu. The monsoon rains would arrive by early June, bringing down the temperature and leaving the jasmine flowers flecked with tiny water droplets. The beds would now be shifted back into the house and I would wake up and run outside to watch the aftereffects of the rain on the grass and plants outside, while Ammamma would be in her pantry warming up milk for me.

My grandmother lived by herself in this large old home, where she and my grandfather had raised their three children. All three eventually flew away to live in other towns and countries. But I would head back every year from a sizzling Delhi to spend the summer in Hyderabad. As an only child, with few cousins of my age in the city, my summer playmate was the old house itself. I spent my days making up games, cycling all over, and reading Tarzan comics. I would play tennis against the side of the house — I was Martina Navratilova winning Wimbledon, or John McEnroe throwing a tantrum with the referee. I always beat the wall and developed a good forehand in the process. In the evenings, we would sit on the veranda where she would make me do exercises to improve my handwriting. Eat neatly and write neatly, she insisted.

My grandfather, a well-known criminal lawyer, built this large rambling home in the heart of the city, close to the high court. He had set up his office in one part and his home in the other — as many lawyers do. I never met him, for he passed away before I was born. My grandmother maintained her independence by living in her own home even after he passed away, refusing all requests from her loving children to move in with them.

At 1:00 pm exactly, I was expected to be at the table for lunch, where Ammamma and I sat at the same dining table that my mother ate at as a child. Black-and-white pictures of stern-looking ancestors watched over us. Over the summer, I would be fed a series of Hyderabad delights: Shikampur — little kebabs made of keema, channa dal, coriander and dahi. Ammamma also made a fine yakhni pulao and that quintessential Hyderabad dish, muttlaa kebab. Everything was served along with the ubiquitous rasam that went with all foods. Life couldn’t get better than this!

One summer evening, her best friend Kamar Ahmed sent over a tray of badam ki jaali for me. Named for the old-style jaali architecture, badam ki jaali is an iconic Hyderabad sweet. Ammamma and Kamar aunty had been best friends since primary school at Mehbooba Girls School on Abids Road. Kamar called Ammamma “Sharu”, short for Sharada. Their long friendship spanned girlhood, marriage, the birth of children and grandchildren. They watched as



C R Sasikumar

India became independent, Operation Polo brought Hyderabad into the Republic and the city eventually became the capital of the newly-reorganised State of Andhra Pradesh.

Ammamma knew that those we love came with their own surprises. She adored me — her granddaughter who preferred t-shirts and shorts to dresses. She took me for my preferred short haircuts and indulged my love for the Bruce Lee films that played at Amravati, the local theatre. Those summer vacations connected me to my beloved grandmother, my family’s history, my hometown, and my roots. Their teachings contributed to who I am.

My summers eventually changed. Ammamma’s home is now a commercial building on a busy street. Andhra Pradesh was divided into Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, and the high court where my grandfather practised law is now the Telangana High

Ammamma’s passing represented the end of one phase of my life. A life which children have with their grandparents, where we learn of the journeys that they have made — of migration, of their friendships and the evolution of our country across generations.

Court. In the summer of 1992, I went away to college to study law in Bangalore. Ammamma came to drop me off at the college hostel. She would die battling leukaemia in my second year of law school.

Ammamma’s passing represented the end of one phase of my life. A life which children have with their grandparents, where we learn of the journeys that they have made — of migration, of their friendships and the evolution of our country across generations. Those summer breaks of my childhood today have been replaced by the summer breaks of the courts, when we lawyers reflect on the year that passed and the court term ahead. We rest and recuperate. Importantly, today’s summers always remind me of those of my childhood — for we are our memories.

The writer is a Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“The normal cooperation project between China and Cambodia, which aims to ‘strengthen Cambodia’s naval capacity...’ has been discredited, blocked and sabotaged by the US, becoming another typical case of Washington’s ‘coercive diplomacy’.” — GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

Building on common ground

Indo-Pacific Economic Framework presents opportunities, and also tough policy choices, like on data and taxation



KARTHIK NACHIAPPAN

The official launch of the Biden Administration’s Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), the US’s de facto foreign economic policy for Asia, has been lauded and welcomed. Countries like India that hew close to the United States have ostensibly breathed a sigh of relief after months of waiting for the administration to deliver a regional economic strategy to accompany its security focus. IPEF proponents, which now include the US and a dozen Asian countries, extol its purpose and potential, particularly given some doubts over whether the US administration could sustain its focus in Asia as war broke out in Europe. Besides Ukraine, the IPEF’s importance also owes to China’s patent economic footprint across Asia that could be checked by an alternative economic paradigm that emphasises openness, flexibility, and integration. Can the IPEF deliver on its promise? What drives its logic? And can the framework yield gains for the United States, India, and other signatories?

The IPEF is not a trade or investment agreement between 13 signatories. It’s a framework or a starting point for these Indo-Pacific countries to regulate trade and commerce across four key pillars: Digital economy, supply chains, clean energy, and governance. The IPEF’s focus on these pillars reflects the Biden administration’s desire to address constraints left by Covid-19 globally, namely inflation and supply chain shocks, and devise new standards to advance Biden’s domestic economic agenda, specifically climate change, tax evasion, worker rights, and retaining America’s technological primacy.

Globally, the IPEF signifies the first multilateral attempt to boost supply chain resilience to ease global inflationary pressures and mitigate effects of future disruptions, particularly key raw materials, critical minerals, and semiconductors. The IPEF also represents an effort to negotiate “high-standard” rules between like-minded countries to govern the digital economy, particularly data flows, propel climate mitigation through carbon removal purchasing commitments, and tilting power in the global economy toward workers through equitable global tax, anti-money laundering and anti-bribery provisions.

The IPEF, in a nutshell, internationalises Biden’s economic agenda to protect and prolong America’s economic leadership across Asia while chipping away at China’s ascendance through compelling signatories to negotiate domestic standards that comport with Washington’s vision. Biden wants to play the long game — introduce a 21st century economic arrangement that reinforces a domestic growth agenda embracing labour rights, productivity, and using market incentives and fiscal spending to reduce inequal-

ity, deter environmental damage, foster digital openness and connectivity, and expand tax compliance.

Yet, the merits of Biden’s economic agenda to uphold American primacy could dent how other signatories regulate their domestic economies. IPEF commitments and standards that other signatories like India have to accede to, while negotiating broad commitments and internalising them domestically as standards, will likely facilitate US MNCs’ access to Asian economies at the expense of domestic preferences. The IPEF’s pillars — climate, digital, supply chains, and governance reforms — could clash with and supersede these countries’ policy preferences on such issues.

For instance, the US’ preference to allow free and open data flows under the digital economy pillar will constrict India’s ability to regulate data for domestic purposes. India’s long delayed data protection legislation favours government regulation and handling of data despite recent concessions made to share this burden with foreign and domestic firms. Should US officials push for a liberal data flows standard, it will create a difficult choice for Indian officials given their inability to settle prevailing data governance quandaries. Nor are Indian officials generally open to syncing their tax policies to mesh with the Biden push for a global tax standard amongst US partners to mitigate tax avoidance and evasion despite calls that the measure would generate additional financial resources for developing countries. Qualms aside, the IPEF remains attractive for India given its flexibility and open nature, allowing Delhi to demonstrate its political commitment to the United States to jointly shape the rules governing the Indo-Pacific’s economic future even as competitors lurk.

That said, tough policy choices, like the one on data and taxation, must be made by Indian officials while negotiating the terms of the IPEF accession without sufficient carrots from the US to draw in and sustain countries like India. The IPEF does not grant market access to the United States or include tariff reduction provisions, ostensibly due to the perils of trade politics in Washington. Instead, the IPEF empowers the Biden administration to shape rules across several critical pillars that will condition America’s economic engagement in the Indo-Pacific amid competing economic paradigms, notably the Chinese through the BRI and Europe through a bevy of digital policies and standards.

What’s clear is that the IPEF represents both a mirage and aspiration. Collectively, it represents a leap into an unknown that has to be negotiated amongst partners that share interests and some values. And individually, it will generate fierce regulatory battles amongst bureaucrats and regulators in each country to ascertain which commitments advance and which hurt domestic interests. Washington should hope that the conditions for the former trump the latter when the negotiations begin.

The writer is Research Fellow at the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SAFETY FIRST

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Foul play’ (IE, June 10). If we truly want to address the issue of abuse of young athletes by their coaches, we need to look critically and realistically at the different risks young athletes face in different sporting contexts. I believe two things are needed: parents should be provided tools and resources to educate themselves and their children about grooming and assault by predatory coaches; and simple and expedient mechanisms. The Sports Authority of India has rightly initiated firm steps aimed at protecting female athletes from falling prey to sexual harassment at the hands of their coaches.

SSP Paul, Nadia

TEAM WORK

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Two missions for change’ (IE, June 10). The Supreme Court in its landmark judgment *Maneka Gandhi v/s Union of India* ruled that “life” under Article 21 meant more than a mere “animal existence”. It would include the right to live with human dignity and all other aspects which made life meaningful and complete, covering within its ambit, the right to good health, clean environment and water. The Jal Jeevan and Swachh Bharat mission through collective efforts have made the realisation of the aforementioned rights and ideals possible.

Aditi Pangarkar, Kothrud

PATH BREAKER

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Mithali,

superstar’ (IE, June 9). A big difference between Mithali Raj and Sachin Tendulkar with whom she is generally compared with respect to a long tenure studied with record-breaking performances, is that she began, struggled and flourished in her career when women’s cricket was at its lowest ebb and lacked mass appeal in India. Her sterling batting and proactive captaincy helped attract public attention when she and her team started registering wins and breaking records in world cricket. Her self-belief was remarkable. When once asked who her favourite male cricketer was, she retorted, “Why don’t you ask Virat Kohli which female cricketer is his favourite?” She is leaving a legacy of which she should be proud. The nation is.

Y G Chouksey, Pune

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Mithali, superstar’ (IE, June 9). Women’s cricket has come of age, and Indian Women’s cricket has gone miles ahead of International teams as they are trying hard to emulate their men counterparts in achieving records. Just like Sachin Tendulkar, Mithali Raj became the highest run-scorer. It is a great victory. This record follows after Jhulan Goswami became the world’s highest ODI wicket-taker. Shantha Rangaswamy and Diana Edulji also made a break in women’s cricket as batswoman and bowler respectively. Indian women’s cricket is coming under the BCCI and we can expect more laurels coming our way in the days to come. She is an icon of Indian cricket.

Krishnan Ramanathan, Ghaziabad



K M SEETHI

Beyond damage control

India must do everything to protect its ties with nations in Islamic world

INDIA’S DIPLOMATIC DILEMMA over the outrage from the Muslim countries — in the wake of remarks on the Prophet by two BJP leaders, one of whom has been expelled and the other suspended — is unprecedented, but not quite unexpected. This is the culmination of a series of incidents in the country in the last decade when Muslims were targeted and accused of fomenting violence and fanaticism — in the name of love jihad or food and dress. Hate speeches and mob lynching were other traits of this communal frenzy. Yet, the country has not witnessed widespread communal violence or anti-Muslim outrage in the recent past, save a few cases during the anti-CAA agitation.

What apparently infuriated the regimes in the Muslim world, this time, was the text and context of the anti-Islamic slur. Representatives of the BJP made disgraceful references to the Prophet, which the regimes in these Muslim countries, irrespective of the sects in Islam (as the Saudi and Iranian responses clearly indicated), could not cope with. The context was equally important: The comments came from two responsible ruling party officials in the country’s capital. That’s why they attracted attention. Yet, the agencies to monitor such sensitive issues remained calm until Qatar and Kuwait stepped in by summoning the Indian envoys to protest. In response to the outrage, the BJP acted swiftly by suspending Nupur Sharma and expelling Naveen Jindal, both Delhi-based party functionaries. Later, the party also issued a notification reminding its rank and file to be cautious in public remarks on religious issues.

Meanwhile, social media platforms in India and the Gulf are abuzz with disparaging trolls and there are sickening calls for the boycott of Indian goods. There are also calls on social media for the boycott of Arab goods and services in India. But everyone knows that these are impulsive responses. We have seen such responses in the context of tensions with China. There was never any “exodus” of Chinese goods from India though there was a high-voltage campaign for several months against these goods and some Chinese apps were banned.

Campaigners (including a few GCC regimes) demand that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should tender an apology for all that happened. But New Delhi’s stance is categorical and legitimate insofar as the Union government has nothing to do with such unsolicited comments. More importantly, the ruling party did what it was expected to do. Though belatedly, a case was also registered for hurting the sentiments of Muslims. The Gulf regimes have apparently understood the message behind these measures.

Even as the South Block’s engagements with the Muslim countries continue — with damage-control exercises at different levels — there are countermoves to browbeat the Islamic world. Obviously, the ruling party is aware of the implications of this move for the upcoming elections in some states, besides the 2024 general elections. Hence, the party is likely to follow a carrot and stick policy on crucial political issues.

The Modi government knows that its foreign policy strategy — which includes strategic bargaining with regional and international actors — would fetch reasonable dividends. The response to its Ukraine war strategy has convinced South Block that it has adequate manoeuvrability in global affairs. Countries in West Asia and North Africa (WANA) region do not have a fixed position vis-à-vis India. Delhi has vibrant economic and strategic ties with almost all regimes in the region, irrespective of the brand of Islam or their relative ideological depth. That’s precisely the reason these countries are unwilling to join the Islamabad-led chorus or go beyond passing resolutions. India’s signing of a free trade agreement (FTA) with the UAE and the ongoing negotiations for a wider FTA with the GCC could be an eye-opener for the country’s detractors.

Much has been said and written about India’s energy dependence and trade inter-

dependence across the countries in WANA. As much as 40 per cent of oil and an equal share of gas requirements are met through India’s strategic cooperation with the Gulf regimes. India and the WANA regimes know that there is a mutuality of interests in these transactions which cannot be substituted by any other segments of the world system. Equally important is the role of the more than eight million-strong Indian diaspora in the WANA region. The “Gulf remittance” is an important part of the Indian economy, as important as the Indian investment in the GCC and GCC investment in India.

India’s External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar, has said that the Indian diaspora is “a unique living bridge between India and the world and should be valued accordingly”. He also said that “from time to time, their interests and well-being are a subject of our conversation.” New Delhi should not stop engaging the countries, especially the ones in the WANA region, that host a significant number of them. Therefore, South Block must go beyond a mere damage-control exercise.

The writer, an ICSSR Senior Fellow in Diaspora Studies, is the Director, Inter University Centre for Social Science Research and Extension (IUCSSRE), Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala







# EXPRESS NETWORK

President Kovind reaches Himachal on a two-day visit

**ENS & PTI**  
SHIMLA/NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

PRESIDENT RAM Nath Kovind on Friday arrived at Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh on a two-day visit to the state.

Security has been tightened in view of the President's visit with paragliding, flying of drones and hot air balloons being prohibited in Lahaul-Spiti and Kullu districts on June 11 when he is scheduled to visit Atal Tunnel Rohtang.

The President will preside over the sixth convocation of the central university in Dharamshala in Kangra district in the evening. He will visit Atal Tunnel Rohtang, which connects Kullu and Lahaul-Spiti districts, on Saturday. The prestigious tunnel was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 3, 2020.

**Army Chief Gen Pande in HP, Uttarakhand**

Army Chief General Manoj Pande reviewed the operational preparedness along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand on Friday. This is his maiden visit to the central sector of the India-China border.

The Army said in a statement that Pande is on a three-day visit to the forward areas on the LAC in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. "This is the maiden visit of the Army Chief to this sector," since he took over in May.

During his visits to the posts, Pande was briefed by the local commanders about the prevailing situation along the borders, and he held a "first-hand assessment of the operational preparedness in forward areas". The Army said that Pande "emphasised the need for vigil and alertness along the borders" and expressed satisfaction "on the rapid improvement of defensive posture and operational readiness of formation". He also appreciated the absorption of "modern technology in undertaking persistent surveillance."

**CHHATTISGARH**

## 10-yr-old boy falls into borewell; rescue ops on

**GARGI VERMA**  
RAIPUR, JUNE 9

RESCUE ATTEMPTS were on in Chhattisgarh's Janjgir after a 10-year-old boy fell into a borewell allegedly while playing behind his house.

According to sources, Lala Sahu, a resident of Pihard village in Janjgir-Champa district, had got a borewell dug behind his house. On Friday afternoon, his son Rahul allegedly fell into it.

The district collector and Superintendent of Police, along with other officials, were pres-

## SC rejects pleas seeking another round of counselling for NEET-PG

Says govt decision not arbitrary, but in interest of medical education, public health

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

THE SUPREME COURT on Friday dismissed petitions seeking another round of counselling for vacant seats in the NEET-PG All India Quota, pointing out that eight to nine rounds had already been held and the Centre's decision to not hold another round of counselling is not arbitrary, but in the interest of medical education and public health.

A bench of Justices M R Shah and Aniruddha Bose said most of the 1,456 vacant seats are in non-clinical courses and that

"students cannot still pray for admissions for those seats remaining vacant after approximately one year of the academic session and remaining vacant after 8 or 9 rounds of counselling".

Referring to the decisions of the apex court in two earlier matters that raised similar prayers, the bench said applying the law laid down by the court in those decisions to the facts of this case, the Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) and the Union of India "have to adhere to the time schedule for completing the admission process".

It added that "the current ad-

mission of NEET-2021 is already behind schedule and even after conducting 8-9 rounds of counselling, some seats of mainly non-technical courses remain vacant. Thereafter, when a conscious decision is taken by the Centre and the medical council not to conduct a further special stray round of counselling, it cannot be said that the same is arbitrary".

"The decision is in the interest of medical education and public health. There cannot be any compromise with the merit and the quality of medical education that will ultimately affect public health," the bench said, dismissing the petitions.

Opposing the prayer for another round of counselling, the Centre had on Thursday told the Supreme Court that nine rounds of counselling had already taken place and that a large chunk of vacancies was a consequence of candidates not taking up non-clinical seats.

Additional Solicitor General Balbir Singh, appearing for the Centre and the MCC, said seats remaining vacant was a "structural issue" as many candidates who opted for non-clinical, paramedical or teaching seats ended up not taking admission. "There are some seats in private medical colleges too where fee is very high," he added.



## HEAVY RAINS WREAK HAVOC IN PUNE

Heavy rains led to traffic snarls, uprooting of trees, wall collapse and water-logging in Maharashtra's Pune on Friday. *Ashish Kale*

Cong reaches out to AAP, Opp parties over presidential candidate

**New Delhi:** Keen on the Opposition coming together to field a candidate in the coming presidential election against the ruling NDA's nominee, the Congress has begun reaching out to various opposition parties. Apart from being in talks with its allies, the Congress has also reached out to the Aam Aadmi Party. Sources said Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, the Congress's point person for holding talks with parties in the Opposition, has spoken to AAP's Rajya Sabha leader Sanjay Singh. Sources said the AAP, too, is in favour of fielding a candidate against the ruling NDA's nominee. **ENS**

## NHRC issues notices to Ministry, SAI over woman cyclist's charges

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

THE NATIONAL Human Rights Commission has sought a "detailed report" from the Union Sports Ministry and Sports Authority of India on allegations of "inappropriate behaviour" levelled by a woman cyclist against the national sprint team chief coach during a camp in Slovenia.

The Commission which took suo motu cognisance of media reports dated June 7, 8, and 9 of the developments said that if what has been reported is true, it amounts to violation of the victim sportsperson's human rights.

Issuing notice to the Secretary, Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and the Director General, SAI, the Commission sought their responses in four weeks.

The "detailed report", it said, should include the status of phys-

ical and mental health of the victim, action, if any, taken against the responsible officer including the coach concerned.

An NHRC release on Friday said: "It is strange to know that instead of reining in the coach, the Sports Authority of India reportedly chose to bring the victim back to India thereby depriving her of training overseas for which she had been selected. The Right to Dignity of the victim has purported to have been violated..." The Commission said "if the allegations mentioned in the news reports are true and no action is taken by the authorities with regard to such incidents, other female sports persons will not only feel unsafe but will be reluctant to complain against perpetrators..."

"The subject also falls under ambit of the Sexual Harassment of Women at work place (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act of 2013..." , the release said.

## Fear in Karnataka town after 4 die due to contaminated water

**KIRAN PARASHAR**  
BENGALURU, JUNE 10

"EVERY TIME we pick up a tumbler to drink water, we feel scared. We fear whether we are really drinking water or poison," says Mohammed Hafizullah, a resident of Raichur, a town in Karnataka where four people have died and hundreds have undergone treatment since last week due to consumption of contaminated water.

Raichur town, with a population of about 2.5 lakh people, is situated in a border district of north Karnataka. Since last week, the town has been facing a water contamination problem, with many still in hospital after suffering from diarrhoea and vomiting.

According to the locals, all 35 wards of Raichur town get drinking water from Rampuru reservoir. Locals allege that unfiltered water was supplied to the city, leading to health problems.

Raichur District Deputy Commissioner Chandrashekhar Nayaka I told *The Indian Express* that the filtration units were not cleaned for some time and it had

led to the water contamination. "Now, we are supplying water by chlorinating it from overhead tank (OHT) and we are also checking pipelines to see if there are any problems," he added.

Sixteen-year-old Rajeshwari's mother Mallamma, 40, was one of the four people who died. "My mother died last week after drinking contaminated water. She used to work in the Roti Kendra and my father is a coolie worker. A lot of residents here fell sick and suffered from diarrhoea and vomiting," says Rajeshwari, an Indiranagar resident. "She passed away due to complications. The doctors indicated that it could have been due to the polluted water."

Samreena, 22, who works in a private firm in Raichur, fell ill when she returned to her hometown. "I came home on Sunday and the next morning, I started vomiting and had diarrhoea. I got admitted as my grandmother was already admitted for the same reason," she said.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) Director Dr Basavaraj V Peerapur said that 33 patients were under treat-

ment there, including nine children. "Patients came to us complaining of diarrhoea, vomiting, dehydration and acute renal infection. We are giving them high fluids and in severe cases, some of them have undergone dialysis. This might be due to a bacteria or viral infection," he said.

Asked about the water supply for the hospital, Basavaraj said, "We have a reverse osmosis plant in the hospital and all the patients here use the same. There are filters on every floor and we have instructed the patients to use the same."

Raichur District Deputy Commissioner Chandrashekhar Nayaka I told *The Indian Express* that the filtration unit was not cleaned for some time and it had led to the water contamination. "There are three sources for bulk water supply and we are looking at all the levels," he said. "The automated water filtration unit which was unveiled a couple of years ago is yet to be handed over to the town municipality as there are some technical issues but the old filtration units are being used. As it was not cleaned for some time, it led to an incident like this."

## Protest grows in Kerala against SC directive on ESZs

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JUNE 10

PROTEST IS mounting in the hilly regions of Kerala against the Supreme Court direction last week that every protected forest tract and wildlife sanctuary must have an eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of one kilometre from its boundaries.

Idukki district observed a dawn-to-dusk hartal on Friday, called by the ruling CPI(M), seeking the Union government's intervention on the Supreme Court directive. The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) has also called for a hartal on June 16 in the district, which had witnessed a series of protests in 2013-14 against the recommendations of the Kasturirangan committee report on the Western Ghats.

In Wayanad district, various political parties, farmers' outfits and trade bodies have charted out protests in the coming weeks. The CPI(M) and Congress are conducting separate protest marches in Wayanad on Friday.

Political parties and farmers' outfits in Kerala have been demanding that all human settlements be exempted from the ESZ. The new directive has come at a time when hilly regions in the state have been witnessing an unprecedented spurt in wildlife attacks.

Last Friday, a three-judge bench of the apex court directed all states to leave a mandatory eco-sensitive zone of one kilometre from the boundaries of national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and other protected forest land. The court was considering a public interest litigation for the protection of forest lands in the

Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu. Later, the scope of the petition was enlarged to protect such natural resources throughout the country.

Kerala forest minister A K Saseendran said the state wanted all human settlements to be excluded from the purview of the ESZ.

"In Kerala, there are 24 wildlife sanctuaries. The Supreme Court order came at a time when we have already submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change our proposals on the ESZ of 20 sanctuaries, completely excluding the human habitats from the buffer zone. If the court directive is implemented, it would impact farmers in the state's hilly regions. Besides, we have to start the process of demarcating the ESZ once again," he said.

After a high-level meeting, Saseendran said the state government would move a review petition in the Supreme Court. The state would explore a suggestion in the apex court order, which said "the minimum width of the ESZ may be diluted in overwhelming public interest but for that purpose the State or Union Territory concerned shall approach the Central Empowered Committee and Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change".

Kerala Independent Farmers' Association (KIFA) chairman Alex Ozhukayil said the court verdict would have far-reaching consequences. "The total extent of the wildlife sanctuaries in Kerala is eight lakh acres. If one km of ESZs is demarcated from their boundaries, around 4 lakh acres of human settlements, including farmlands, would come within that purview. This would be a matter of sheer survival of lakhs of people," he said.

## Protests after lawyer kills self in Rajasthan; SDM, SHO booked

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
JAIPUR, JUNE 10

PROTESTS WERE held in several districts in Rajasthan on Friday by advocates' organisations following the alleged suicide of a 40-year-old lawyer in Sikar district's Khandela on Thursday.

According to the police, a sub divisional officer (SDO), along with the SHO of the local police station have been booked for abetment to suicide.

"Advocate Hansraj Mawaliya poured petrol on himself on Thursday before he self-immolated. After setting himself on fire Mawaliya entered the chamber of Khandela SDO Rakesh Kumar and tried to touch him. The SDO somehow managed to free himself but sustained burn injuries in the process. Mawaliya was taken to Jaipur but was subsequently declared dead. He had sustained around 70 per cent burn injuries," said Ratan Lal Bhargava, additional superintendent of police, Nim Ka Thana, Sikar.

According to the police, in a detailed suicide note, Mawaliya accused SDO Kumar of demanding bribes in revenue-related case hearing matters and accused Ghasi Ram, the SHO of Khandela police station of harassment.

"Based on complaints submitted by lawyers, we have registered an FIR against SDO Kumar and SHO Ram under section 306 (abetment of suicide) of the IPC. An FIR was also registered on the complaint of the SDO against Mawaliya for offences including those under section 307 (attempt to murder) of the IPC. Mawaliya, while himself on fire, had tried to drag the SDO too," said Additional SP Bhargava.

The death of Mawaliya resulted in massive protests by lawyers in several districts. In Jaipur, angry lawyers blocked roads and boycotted work.

## Bishnoi gang hired Maharashtra shooters to kill Moosewala: police

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

THE DELHI Police said on Friday that Siddhesh Hiranman Kamble alias Saurav alias Mahakal, who was arrested in Pune earlier this week, had introduced two Maharashtra-based shooters to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, which police say carried out the murder of Punjabi singer-politician Sidhu Moosewala.

According to police, Kamble told them that he introduced the shooters to Bishnoi's aide, Vikram Brar, after which they were hired for Rs 3 lakh each, and that he also got Rs 50,000 for the introduction.

Special CP (Special Cell) H S Dhaliwal told the media in Delhi that police gathered vital information against four of the eight men who allegedly shot Moosewala. "Mahakal was interrogated and he told police that he had introduced two Maharashtra-based shooters, Santosh Jadhav and Navnath Suryavanshi, to Brar," he said.

"Brar is currently in Canada. He was earlier working with the gangster Anandpal of Rajasthan, but after Anandpal was killed in



**Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann met Canadian High Commissioner Cameron Mackay in Chandigarh on Friday. The CM sought support of the Canada government for nabbing gangsters allegedly operating from Canadian soil. PTI**

an encounter, he joined Bishnoi's gang. More than two dozen cases are registered against Brar," a senior police officer said.

Dhaliwal said Maharashtra Police is already probing the role of Brar in connection with a threat letter delivered to actor Salman Khan and his father, writer Salim Khan.

Police said Mahakal also revealed that Brar had taken the

letter to Salim Khan. "Bishnoi had issued the letter to Salman Khan and his father Salim Khan. Three people from his gang had come from Jalore, Rajasthan, to Mumbai to drop off the letter and had met accused Mahakal," an officer said.

Dhaliwal had earlier said that Bishnoi, who is currently in Tihar Jail, was the mastermind behind Moosewala's murder on May 29.

**RUPSA CHAKRABORTY**  
MUMBAI, JUNE 10

OF THE 3,081 new Covid-19 cases witnessed across Maharashtra on Friday, 1,956 infections were from Mumbai alone.

For the first time since January 23, Mumbai recorded Covid-19 cases as high as 1,956 on Friday. This is a 15 per cent surge, as the city had reported 1,702 cases a day before. The test positivity rate (TPR) – the number of positive cases out of the total tests conducted – reached 12.74 per cent in the city on Friday.

As the BMC had increased testing numbers to 17,145 on Tuesday, TPR had dropped to 7.2 per cent with 1,242 new cases being recorded. The next day,



**A vaccination camp in Navi Mumbai on Friday. Narendra Vaskar**

19,185 tests were conducted and 1,765 new infections were de-

tected. The TPR was then 9.1 per cent and the daily caseload had

surged by 42 per cent. On Thursday, testing numbers dipped to 17,648, with Mumbai recording 1,702 new cases with a TPR of 9.64 per cent.

The TPR climbed to 12.74 per cent on Friday, as testing figures further dipped to 15,346.

Between December 21-27, 2021 – the week before the third wave started in Mumbai – a whopping 2,45,538 tests were conducted in the city. An average of over 35,000 tests were conducted daily. Of these, 4,263 cases were detected with a TPR of 1.7 per cent. In a sharp contrast, the current TPR is hovering between 9-13 per cent.

Health experts are concerned that low testing can lead to under-reporting of Covid-19 cases in Mumbai. Soumitra Ghosh from School of Health Systems Studies, TISS, said, "In any pan-

dem, testing holds the priority in surveillance and containment measures. Low testing can later overwhelm the health infrastructure."

Despite repeated attempts, Sanjeev Kumar, BMC additional commissioner, was not available for comments.

However, as the severity of the infection is less, health experts overruled as blip the speculation about the advent of a fourth wave. Dr Ishwar Gilada, an expert in infectious diseases, said, "The only noticeable change has been the possibility of BA.4 and BA.5 sub-variants of Omicron driving the surge, coupled with low vaccination. So long as the demand for oxygen and hospital beds do not increase and deaths are not reported, there is no cause for concern."



10

REVIEWS

CINEMA & MUSIC

In The News Today



TWO RIVAL TV channels, one which chases TRPs to the exclusion of all else, the other that veers towards credibility and caution. Intrepid reporters who work hard and party harder. Me Too scandals in Bollywood. Electoral bonds. Power-hungry politicians. And a dark organisation mining big data, which threatens to invade the privacy of billions of ordinary Indians. *The Broken News*, directed by Vinay Waikul, seems to have been cobbled together from headlines we have been living with for a while.

But just in case the web series is deemed 'too real', lots of highly-dramatised elements are bunged in, which keep the series sliding into *filmi* territory. *The Broken News* comes off more like a crime thriller than what it promises at the outset — an exploration of how TV news is shaping everyday discourse in the country, and how news is not just broken on TV, news TV itself is broken.

Josh 24/7 is headed by Dipankar Sanyal (Jaideep Ahlawat), a supremely arrogant editor-anchor who is convinced that he runs the country; does his character remind you of someone? At the helm of Awaaz Bharati is Amina Qureshi (Sonali Bendre Behl), who is capable of making tough choices. Star reporter Radha Bhargava (Shriya Pilgaonkar) is after the truth all the time, even when she is conflicted personally and professionally. And then there is newbie Anuj Sharma (Taaruk Raina), who shuns integrity on the path to progress. Ahlawat is wholly convincing, managing

THE BROKEN NEWS

**Director:** Vinay Waikul  
**Cast:** Jaideep Ahlawat, Sonali Bendre Behl, Shriya Pilgaonkar, Taaruk Raina  
**Streaming on:** Zee5

to leap over writing glitches with ease. And it is good to see Bendre back. Pilgaonkar's conscientious reporter is too similar to her lawyer in *Guilty Minds*: how about building in difference? Back-stabbing, stealing stories, stormy edit meetings where prima donnas throw tantrums, sycophantic yes-men, are all part of the game, as we see how news is constructed. Some of it has a bit of a sting to it, especially the segment which features a sleazy Bollywood star (Sharad Kapoor) who has been a serial abuser of young aspirants, and who does feel the burn when faced by accusations from victims who have kept quiet for years.

But much of it is a stretch, especially for those who know the news business. Colourful informants at the beck and call of reporters, brave employees calling out their bosses, owners of channels declaring to their staff: I own this channel, so you will do as I say. Really? And this line, from one character to another: 'tum team ki moral compass ho'. Who says stuff like this? Others are made to talk about ethics and morality as if those things have never been said before. Maybe the team needs to spend time on a news floor to see how much drudge work goes into a 24-hour cycle: it's not all thundering anchors and their cowering guests, and 'breaking news'.

And, of course, none of it touches upon the real hot button subjects of bigotry and polarisation. It's fiction, isn't it?

SG

Point Taken

PRETTY MANOKAMNA Tripathi is a perfect candidate for a 'good match'. She also markets condoms. Straight away, that is a problem. How can a good Indian girl do such a 'ganda kaam' (dirty work)? By making a 'parivarik' (family) comedy out of it, that's what. Calling a condom a 'chhatra' (umbrella) is an old joke, but it is turned into a perky element in *Janhit Mein Jaari*, which uses humour well enough up to a point, to make its point — that it's no sin to talk up protection during sex.

To that end, we have a solid ensemble. Manokamna (Bharuccha) desires a paying job. The one she gets offered, by a good-natured distributor (Kala) of said condoms, has no strings attached, except a loyal lovelorn best friend (Tripathi). Along the way she acquires, at some speed, a boyfriend-who-turns-into-a-husband (Dhaka), a domineering father-in-law (Raaz), a grandpa-in-law (Anand), and a companionable clutch of sisters-in-law. There's the usual righteous uproar, and the fallout thereof, which we know in advance.

What makes this film, at least its first half, such good fun is the writing. It's light and funny, and the characters do their job well, as we see the Bollywood small town (clearly, Chanderi in MP is the new 'It' town) in the throes of a 'sasur-bahu' saga. Manokamna's parents' home is dubbed Condom Niwas, the father-in-law goes blue in the face when he discovers the true nature of his kamaau bahu's (earning daughter-in-law) job, the husband is more a dutiful son than a supportive husband, and barbs fly thick and fast.



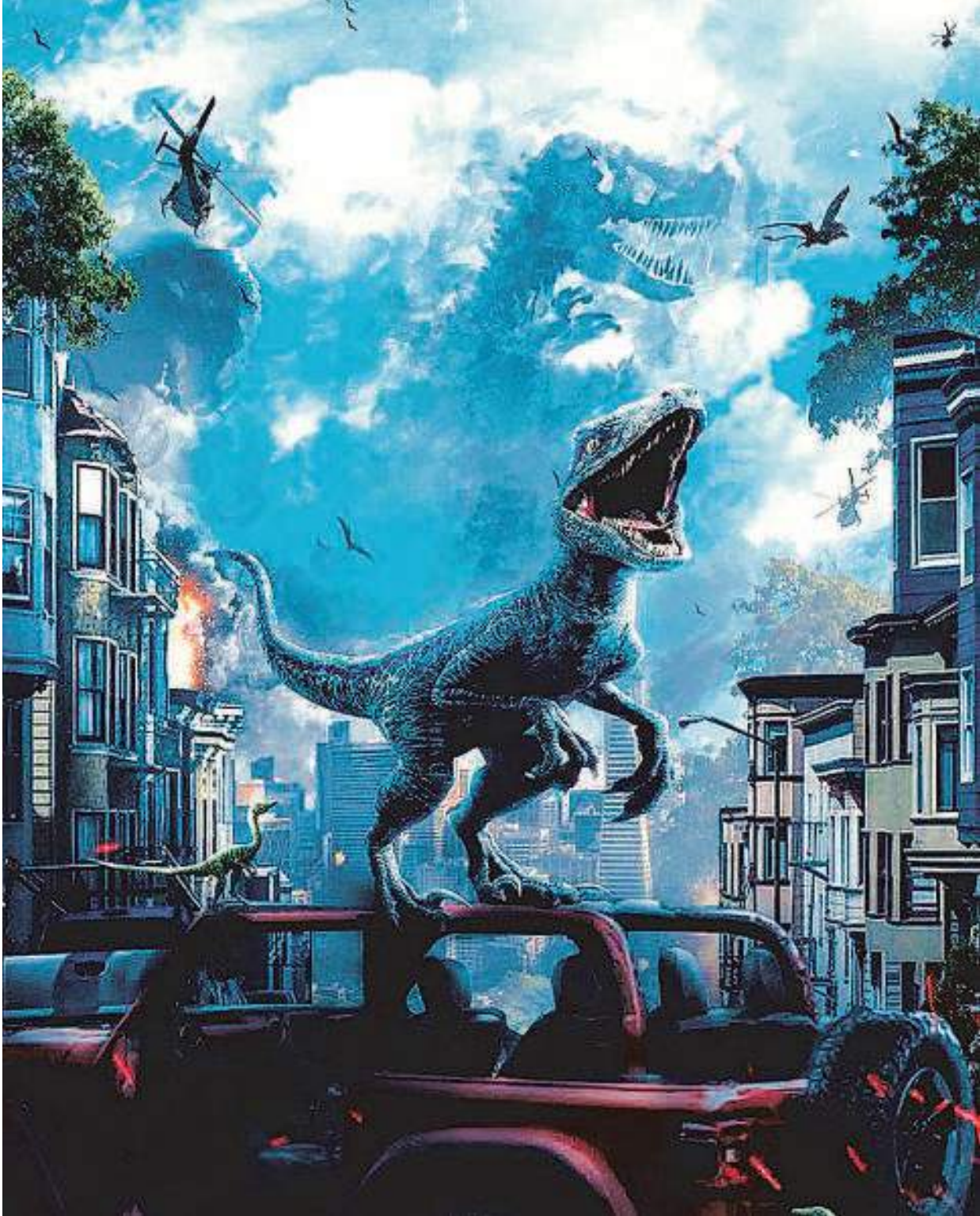
JANHIT MEIN JAARI ★★½

**Director:** Jai Basantu Singh  
**Cast:** Nushratt Bharuccha, Anud Singh Dhaka, Paritosh Tripathi, Vijay Raaz, Brijendra Kala, Tinnu Anand, Ishitjyak Khan, Sapna Sand

Post-interval, the film becomes preachy. Condoms are not just for pleasure, says Manokamna to the groups of ladies she goes about addressing, they are also instruments that keep women from unwanted abortions, which in turn prevent untimely tragic deaths. That's not to say that this is not a valid argument, but it takes a brave-for-Bollywood, let-us-have-some-fun-with-sex flick, and turns it into a lecture.

If only we could get more of that fun, still considered taboo: the most hilarious part of the film is two women chatting about having it on. Films grown up enough to feature condoms also mean that they need to be grown up enough to talk about the act, right? *Darr ke aage jeet hai*.

SG



This is The Way it Ends

SHUBHRA GUPTA

SO, AFTER nearly thirty years, here comes the last installment of a world we had never seen before. In 1993, Steven Spielberg's *Jurassic Park* introduced us to the different sizes and shapes of the dinosaurs we would become familiar with. It was a film perfectly tailored for wide-eyed wonderment. It staggered our imagination. The adventures that followed, with their increasing levels of sophisticated computer graphics, never really matched up to that shock and awe we felt when we first set eyes on those unbelievably gigantic creatures which once roamed the earth.

In the new film, which will wrap one of the most lucrative franchises Hollywood has fashioned, dinosaurs are no longer confined to an island. They live alongside humans. But not everything, as they say, is hunky-dory. Just like not all humans are alike, dinosaurs also come with built-in characteristics. Cruel carnivores, gentle long-necked herbivores, chirpy infants, and the Dominion specials, the ones built as targeted missiles: once they lock on to you, you are as good as dead.

No effort has been spared in making this one's canvas bigger, but that doesn't make the film necessarily better. We are reunited with the OG trio, Laura Dern, Sam Neill, Jeff Goldblum, all looking remarkably in good nick, and even more capable of managing stuff when the sxxx hits the fan. The bright-eyed Dern takes the amiable Neill into joining her

search of a new kind of predatory locust which destroys everything except crops grown by an evil corporation. On a secret plant in which nestles the corporation's headquarters, far far away from prying eyes, is the very sleek Goldblum: is he enemy or ally?

There's also *Jurassic World* couple Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard as guardians of a very special little girl (Isabella Sermon). The bad guys want her, as well as a young dinosaur, who lives with its watchful mother in the forest nearby. Will this bunch, which includes a feisty pilot (DeWanda Wise) be able to save the girl and the young creature, and in so doing, the planet? Of course, dum-dum: of what use is a story spilling over with the fearsome Giganotosaurus if it's not about humanity itself?

Sadly, except for the occasional flash, Dominion is a stodge, too-constructed affair. And it is not even madly original. Some parts remind you of Spielberg's *Raiders Of The Lost Ark*. A sequence in which dinosaurs are being auctioned to the highest bidder feels like a *Star Wars* film clone, with all kinds of squiggly-squaggly critters and humans scattered about. There's also a very Bond/Bourne vibe when Pratt goes careering through the lanes of a warm-toned Mediterranean town, with killer dinosaurs on his trail. These dinos are new, or at least that murderous trait of theirs is, but

the chase is so generic it makes your teeth ache.

The raptors try and make up for it. A climactic dino-on-dino fight, featuring the 'two largest predators in existence', has some moments, especially when the humans on the run are frozen with fear as the rapacious snout-and-teeth hover inches off their faces. We stop breathing too. But how long can the braying beasts hold our attention? Even when it comes to facing down the blank-faced villain (Campbell Scott), busy inserting his fingers into precious animal and human genomes for pelf and profit, it feels like we've seen similar stuff before.

The film leaves us with the same message as its 2018 edition, that the only way out of our troubles is to co-exist. Which is all

well and good. Seeing a little girl pet a baby dino in a pastoral, urban, sanitised park-type setting, you can't help wonder: once this dino grows up, will he devour humans? You can't change the nature of the beast, can you? And if you do, aren't you interfering with the natural order of things? If 'Dominion' had been less scattershot, it may have seen this final messaging as a contradiction. And what would Michael Crichton, the author of the futuristic thrillers on which the franchise is based, think about this enterprise? Like us, not very much, I'd wager.

JURASSIC WORLD DOMINION ★★

**Director:** Colin Trevorrow  
**Cast:** Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, Sam Neill, DeWanda Wise, Mamoudou Athie, BD Wong, Isabella Sermon

STREAMING WATCH LIST



IRMA VEP

DISNEY+HOTSTAR Olivier Assayas and actor Alicia Vikander have come together for a television adaptation of the French filmmaker's 1996 movie *Irma Vep*. Mira (Alicia Vikander) is an American movie star disillusioned by her career and a recent breakup. She comes to France to star as 'Irma Vep' in a remake of the French silent film classic, *Les Vampires*. Set against the backdrop of a lurid crime thriller, Mira struggles as the distinctions between herself and the character she plays begin to blur and merge. *Irma Vep* reveals to us the uncertain ground that lies at the border of fiction and reality, artifice and authenticity, art and life. A new episode of the show drops every Tuesday at 7.30 am.



MONEYBOYS

MUBI Taiwanese-Austrian director CB Yi's debut feature *Moneyboys* is a drama about male prostitution that was screened in the Un Certain Regard section of the Cannes Film Festival last year. The movie explores a gay Chinese hustler's struggle to cope with the disapproval of his family in South China. The film follows the story of Fei (Kai Ko), who moves from a rural area to the city to support his family as a hustler. While the family takes his earnings, they can't come to terms with his sexuality.



HUSTLE

NETFLIX When a down-on-his-luck basketball scout finds a potential superstar in Spain, he sets out to prove they both have what it takes to make it in the NBA. In this Jeremiah Zagat-directed sports drama, Adam Sandler delivers an impressive performance as an NBA scout. It is a typical underdog movie that's engaging, especially for the basketball lovers.



SHINING VALE

LIONSGATE PLAY Every family has its demons, but for this particular family, it may just be real. Pat Phelps (Courteney Cox) moves from a cramped Brooklyn apartment to an old mansion in Connecticut with her husband Terry (Greg Kinnear), in a last-ditch effort to save her marriage after her affair. The 'Phelps' try to save their marriage even as they deal with their disconnected teenage kids and live in a house haunted by spirits. — COMPILED BY ALAKA SAHANI

Where Every Street Has a Story to Tell

SHUBHRA GUPTA

LIKE MANY experimental films, *Ghode Ko Jalebi Khilane Le Ja Riya Hoon* is hard to reduce to a single descriptive. Anamika Haksar's nearly two-hour tour of Shahjahanabad is a mix of documentary, ethnography, magical realism, surrealism, fantasy, folk tale, animation, with a bit of burlesque thrown in.

The film takes you deep inside old Delhi, and lets you wander, sometimes leading you by the hand down its crazily crowded *gallis*, sometimes pausing, leaving you to observe. And sometimes you feel the characters want to turn around and look at you looking at them.

It comes off as an interesting choice, designed to expand our vision. But I wasn't riveted all the way, simply because not all the film's moving parts exert equal power. *Ghode Ko Jalebi...* stretches and flattens its conceits as it goes along, and the wandering turns into meandering.

Meet the quartet, the minstrels of 'Dilli Chhe' — a pickpocket (Ravindra Sahu) who doubles up as a trumpeter in a local band, a

sweetmeat seller (Raghubir Yadav), a labour leader (K Gopalan), and a tourist guide (Lokesh Jain), who organises heritage walks. Of the four, we may have conceivably met or bumped into the spotless-white-chikan-kurta-clad walk organiser, who can lead you down the sanitised parts of Chandni Chowk, Parathe Wali Gali, and tourist-friendly eateries.

The 'jeb-katra', in stark contrast, can show you parts of the same place which you do not want to see, or find hard to handle — a hole in the wall *thali* place that gives you a plate for ten rupees, people who share shattering personal stories with such matter-of-factness that leaves your average white tourist uncomfortable (and that includes us, the average Indian city dweller, as deracinated and as unaware of these histories as that foreigner), dead bodies lying by the side of the road — the living sniff glue to get by, the dead wait for the municipal cart to take their bodies away.

These sights of squalor and sadness do not feel designed, and that is where the film has weight. You can smell and see the filth. In these parts, the film is cocking a snook at those who romanticise the grunge, or try to get an 'expe-



rience' out of the miseries of the people who live and work in this part of the national capital, which seems sometimes to exist only in memory. I'd rather save polar bears, says one of the group being shown the sights. I don't want to hear these stories, says the foreign tourist. Haksar wants us to both see and hear, and bear witness. These are actual subaltern histories, and they are not put up for a show: the character who tosses off the term 'subaltern' in the movie is also one of us, deaf and

blind to reality. You wait for the line to land, but it dissipates, just like the character.

It took Haksar seven years of documenting conversations with pickpockets, beggars, street vendors, daily wage labourers, sanitation workers, folk singers, to be able to capture old Delhi from the inside. There is occasional use of animation — a flag flapping against the face of a goddess, snakes crawling across a landscape, an abusive employer reduced to a midget, captured in a glass jar. At

one point, the screen splits laterally into two, reminding you of that other experimentalist Kamal Swaroop's films.

The most intriguing thing about the film is its title. If you smile with pleasure at the very specific wry, dry humour that used to be prevalent in the Hindustani-Urdu speaking North, not just Purani Dilli, it will immediately brand you as someone who either belongs to, or understands the many religious and cultural identities jostling amongst the residents who share their *chhats* (terraces) and walls, the fruits of their kitchens, their comings and goings. '*Kahaan mini Pakistan mein ghoomte rehte ho*', asks a bystander of the walking tour guide nastily, and you know how far we have left that syncretic India behind.

A *ghoda* (horse) eats *ghaas* (grass), not *jalebi*, and anyone who says that they are taking their horse to feed it *jalebis* is having you on, basically telling you he doesn't have the time of day for you. Maybe, on the way back, once the horse and his master are done with their business, they may stop off, listen to your *qissa*, give you a ride, share a moment. The title is droll, celebrating a *tehzeeb* which has nearly vanished. You wish there was more of it in the film — the sort of sharp drollery that doesn't mask or hide anything the filmmaker wishes to show, but buttresses it.



# ECONOMY

SENSEX: 54,303.44 ▼ 1,016.84 (-1.84%) NIFTY: 16,201.80 ▼ 276.30 (-1.68%) NIKKEI: 27,824.29 ▼ 422.24 HANG SENG: 21,806.18 ▼ 62.87 FTSE: 7,383.18 ▼ 93.03 DAX: 14,029.28 ▼ 169.52

International market data till 1900 IST

## SECTOR WATCH INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

### US, Germany ease Covid test norms for flyers but some caveats stay put



Logan Airport, Boston. The US will lift its requirement that international air travellers take a Covid test within a day before boarding their flights. AP

PRANAV MUKUL  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

EVEN AS Covid caseload is once again on a rise in India, countries are easing requirements for international travel into their jurisdictions. Friday, the German Embassy in New Delhi updated its travel advisory to say that all Covid-19 restrictions for entry into Germany will preliminarily be lifted effective June 11, 12pm CET. "From that date, travel from India to Germany will be permitted for all travel purposes (including tourism and visits). For entry into Germany no proof of vaccination, recovery or testing is required any longer," the advisory noted.

However, it added that "some venues in Germany may require proof of vaccination for access". Last month, the country had announced acceptance of its recognition of Covaxin for travel to Germany starting June 1.

Separately, as per a report by Associated Press, the Biden administration is lifting its requirement that international air travellers to the US take a Covid test within a day before boarding their flights, easing one of the last remaining government mandates meant to

contain the spread of the coronavirus. The report said, citing a senior administration official, that the mandate will expire Sunday at 12:01am EDT, adding that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention determined it is no longer necessary.

These decisions have come at a time when the number of Covid-19 positive cases are rising. India reported a total of 7,584 new Covid infections in the 24 hours preceding Friday evening, taking the total number of cases in the country to 4,32,05,106, according to the Union Health Ministry. Delhi alone on Friday recorded 655 fresh Covid cases and two more deaths, making it the second consecutive day when daily cases were in excess of 600.

Over the last few months, several other countries have also eased requirements for travel into their jurisdictions. Effective May 2, Switzerland lifted nearly all its entry restrictions that it had introduced to curb Covid spread. Similarly, effective May 1, Thailand had removed RT-PCR testing requirements for international travellers, while introducing two different entry schemes for vaccinated and unvaccinated travellers.

## SENSEX DIVES 1.8% AS FOREIGN PORTFOLIO INVESTORS EXIT

# Inflation, rate hike worries pull down markets; Rupee dives to record low

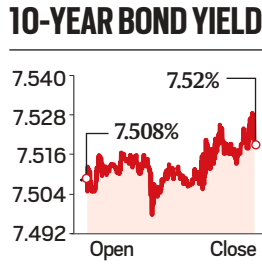
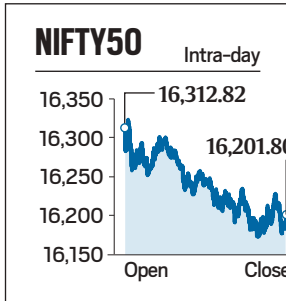
ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, JUNE 10

THE RUPEE on Friday tumbled 11 paise to close at a lifetime low of 77.83 against the US dollar as rising crude oil prices earlier in the day and unabated foreign capital outflows soured sentiment.

A sell-off in equity markets, rising US bond yields and stronger greenback overseas also weighed on the domestic unit which fell to a low of 77.87 in intra-day trading, forex traders said.

Domestic stock markets plunged by 1.84 per cent as rising inflation worries and Covid cases hit sentiment. The Sensex lost 1,017 points to 54,303.44 and the NSE Nifty Index fell 276 points to 16,201.80 in the bear rally, led by foreign investors. Foreign investors pulled out Rs 3,973 crore from the market on Friday. On the other hand, benchmark 10-year government bonds rose by 2 basis points to 7.52 per cent.

The rise in crude prices towards three-month highs owing to supply tightness is further ac-



centuating inflation concerns and inflicting damage on the global economy, already strained by the monetary policy tightening path of the major central banks and the Russia-Ukraine crisis, said Sugandha Sachdeva, vice president, Religare Broking Ltd.

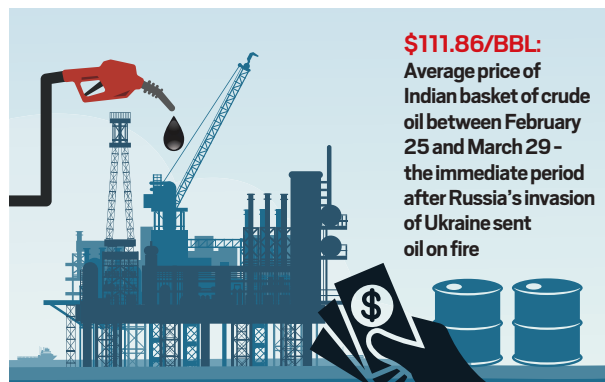
Besides, the World Bank has slashed its global growth forecast to 2.9 per cent as against its previous estimate of 4.1 per cent in January. Meanwhile, rising inflation fears gripped the domestic stock market leading to heavy sell-off ahead of the release of US inflation data and Federal Reserve policy meet next week. The inflation data will be crucial to sense

the quantum of a rate hike. European Central Bank in its policy meeting signalled to start rate hike from next month and a large change in September.

Moreover, the number of Covid cases rapidly rising in India may prove to be a dampener. The RBI policy announced this week put the focus on normalisation of liquidity and withdrawal of accommodative policy, which may have a negative impact on the markets, Thomas said. Meanwhile, Fitch Ratings revised up its outlook on India to stable from negative while affirming BBB- rating. Full report on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## 'Indian crude oil basket hits 10-yr high; petrol, diesel unchanged'

The Indian crude hit a decade high of \$121 a barrel, but retail prices of petrol and diesel continue to remain frozen, as per Oil Ministry data



State-owned fuel retailers Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) are supposed to adjust petrol and diesel prices daily in line with the cost, but they have been since November 2021 moderating pump rates

**85% SHARE OF INDIA'S DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTS TO MEET ITS OIL NEEDS, DUE TO WHICH LOCAL PUMP RATES ARE BENCHMARKED AGAINST INTERNATIONAL PRICES**

**\$103.44/bbl:** Average price between March 30 and April 27

International oil prices held near a 13-week high on Thursday, underpinned by robust demand from key buyers like the US

**Inflation control:** Sources said local pump rates are benchmarked to around \$85 crude price but oil firms haven't changed rates as they aid the government in trying to control inflation, which already is ruling at an almost 8-year high of 7.8%

Source: Oil Ministry/PTI

**GOLD**  
₹50,793

**RUPEE**  
77.83/USD

**OIL**  
\$121.28

**SILVER**  
₹60,914

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of June 9

## After 2 years, Fitch raises India outlook to 'stable'

BANIKINKAR PATTANAYAK  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

FITCH RATINGS on Friday revised up its outlook for India's long-term foreign currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR) to 'stable' from 'negative' after a gap of two years. However, it has retained its sovereign rating for India at the lowest investment grade of 'BBB-' for 16 years now.

The agency's improved outlook follows its assessment that downside risks to medium-term growth have diminished due to the nation's "rapid economic recovery and easing financial sector weaknesses", despite near-term headwinds from the global commodity price shock. With this, Fitch joins its peers S&P and Moody's in assigning similar ratings and outlook for India.

However, the rating agency trimmed its FY23 India growth forecast to 7.8 per cent from 8.5 per cent announced in March, stating that elevated inflationary pressure dampened growth momentum. This estimate will still be way above the agency's 3.4 per cent median growth projection for similar-rated peers. FE

## At 8.6%, US price rise hits 40-yr high in May

Wall St tumbles 2% intra-day

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON, JUNE 10

US CONSUMER prices accelerated in May as gasoline prices hit a record high and the cost of food soared, leading to the largest annual increase in nearly 40-1/2 years, suggesting that the Federal Reserve could continue with its 50 basis points interest rate hikes through September to combat inflation.

In the 12 months through May, the CPI increased 8.6 per cent. That was the largest year-on-year increase since December 1981 and followed a 8.3 per cent advance in April.

The inflation report was published ahead of an anticipated

second 50 basis points rate hike from the US Federal Reserve next Wednesday.

US stock indices slid on Friday as consumer prices rose more than expected in May, dashing hopes that inflation is peaking and fanning worries about more aggressive steps by the Federal Reserve to tame it.

At 2:53 pm ET, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 677.90 points, or 2.1 per cent, at 31,594.89, the S&P 500 was down 94.88 points, or 2.36 per cent, at 3,922.94, and the Nasdaq Composite was down 347.03 points, or 2.95 per cent, at 11,407.20. Benchmark 10-year yields reached 3.152 per cent, the highest since May 9.

Meanwhile, Brent fell \$1.1, or 0.9 per cent, to \$121.95 a barrel at 2:29 pm EDT. US West Texas Intermediate crude fell \$0.9, or 0.7 per cent, to \$120.61 a barrel.

# CERT-In may float portal for cybersecurity incidents

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

## MEETING HELD

The meeting took place after CERT-In's cybersecurity norms were met with pushback by stakeholders

THE COUNTRY'S cybersecurity agency is expected to soon come out with a fresh set of clarification on its recent cybersecurity directive, people in the know said. During a meeting with a select group of stakeholders Friday, the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is learnt to have assured clarifications on the six-hour timeline to report cybersecurity incidents, know-your-customer norms, and storage of customer logs, among others.

The rules will kick in from June 27. The meeting took place after CERT-In's cybersecurity norms were met with widespread pushback by a range of industry stakeholders. It was attended by Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrashekhar, CERT-In chief Sanjay Bahl, and representatives from industry bodies like Internet and Mobile Association of India, Confederation of Indian Industry, US-India Business Council, US-India Strategic Partnership Forum, American Chamber of Commerce, FICCI, BSA|The Software Alliance, ITI Council, and Cellular Operators Association of India. Digital rights groups like Access Now also participated.

One of the most contentious issues between the government and stakeholders was the requirement to report cybersecurity incidents within six hours, which the industry believes is too short

and stringent. During Friday's meeting, stakeholders, it is learnt, were told that MeitY or CERT-In will not offer any relaxations in terms of the required reporting timelines. Instead, the agency may come up with a prescribed format for reporting cybersecurity incidents. "CERT-In may also come up with a specific portal for reporting such incidents so that entities have clarity on how much information they have to share with the agency," a source said.

In a clarification on the six-hour reporting timeline to make it seem less burdensome, Bahl told stakeholders that they are only required to intimate the agency within six hours after discovering such an incident. "CERT-In only expects you to drop in an email within six hours alerting us about a cybersecurity incident," he is learnt to have said. A formal clarification is expected soon on this, sources said.

While a large part of the meeting was centred around reporting timelines, which also led to CERT-In's assurance to issue clarifications, the topic of some virtual private network (VPN) pulling out of India did not draw such assurances, sources said. The rules re-

quire VPNs to save an extensive amount of user information for five years. "We want VPNs to store data for five years because sometimes it takes a very long time for cyber incidents to be investigated," Bahl is learnt to have clarified at the meeting. VPN providers like Surfshark and ExpressVPN have shut down their India servers in response to the norms. Queries sent to the IT Ministry remained unanswered until the time of going to press.

CERT-In, it is learnt, may also soon issue a clarification on how entities can come up with an effective KYC process. The rules require that crypto exchanges and wallets must maintain KYC details and records of financial transactions for five years. Industry stakeholders at the meeting pointed out that it was difficult to validate identity of users under current processes, sources said. "A discussion on Aadhaar as a KYC document came up during the meeting and the ministry will mull on some KYC models that can be effective," a person said.

During the meeting, which lasted over an hour, the agency also tried to assuage privacy concerns and told stakeholders that it will not ask for user logs that contain personal identifiable information of individuals, instead it will only need incident-specific logs. Small companies and startups could be given a leeway as they may need more time than bigger corporations to adjust to the rules, it is learnt.

Full report on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## BRIEFLY

### RBI, SFBs

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday advised small finance banks (SFBs) to continue to evolve in tune with the differentiated banking licence given to them with proportionate growth in their capital base. It said, "In the meeting held today, the emphasis on according due importance to these themes for sustainable growth of SFBs, particularly their business model and governance, was reiterated after taking stock of the developments in the sector." ENS

### Forex kitty falls

Mumbai: After rising the last two weeks, forex reserves fell \$306 million to \$601.057 billion in the week ended June 3, as per RBI data. PTI

### UK, tech cos

London: UK's Competition and Markets Authority plans to probe market dominance of Apple and Google's mobile browsers, and Apple's curbs on cloud gaming via its app store. It will also act against Google's app store payment practices. REUTERS

### CIDCO project

New Delhi: Maharashtra's City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) said all 3,070 structures in the Navi Mumbai International Airport project area have been evicted, with rehabilitation of over 5,000 families from these villages near completion, and that the 1,160 hectare site has been handed over to the concessionaire. ENS

## REGULATOR IRDAI EXTENDS PROCEDURE TO LIFE INSURERS

# 'Use & file': New life insurance products sans nod

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, JUNE 10

INSURANCE WATCHDOG Irda on Friday extended the 'use and file' procedure for most life insurance products, thereby allowing insurers to launch new products without the regulator's prior approval.

However, the 'use and file' system will not be allowed in individual savings, individual pensions and annuity schemes.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) had earlier extended similar relaxations to health insurance products as well as general insurance covers.

Irdai said it has extended the

**EXPLAINED**  
Tailor-made insurance products

THE 'USE and file' method is expected to help insurers design customised insurance products for the embedded insurance space much faster, thereby manufacturing niche products for various customer segments.

'use and file' procedure for most of the life insurance products in its continuous endeavour towards the reform agenda taken

up towards having a fully insured India.

"This means now the life insurance companies can also launch these products without prior approval of Irdai," the regulator added.

Earlier when the industry was in its nascent stage, it was mandatory for insurance companies to take prior approval of Irdai before launching any life insurance product.

However, with the maturity attained by the industry, it is envisaged that necessary relaxations may be allowed, Irdai said.

"This move will enable life insurers to launch most of the products (except individual savings, individual pensions and annuity) in a timely manner ac-

cording to the dynamic needs of the market," it said.

According to Irdai, the relaxation will result in improving ease of doing business for insurance companies as well as lead to expansion of the choices available to policyholders.

"The life insurance industry is expected to use this opportunity to respond faster to the emerging market needs, in terms of designing and pricing of insurance products resulting in more choices for the policyholders, which will further help in increasing the insurance penetration in India," it said.

The life insurers are expected to have a board-approved product management and pricing policy, Irdai added.

## FM: Divestment for CPSE efficiency

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said the principle of the government's disinvestment programme is not to shut down any unit or company but to make them more efficient and professionally driven.

Highlighting that public sector enterprises which were privatised between 1994 and 2004 are being driven by professionally run boards, the Minister said these companies have only improved. Addressing the iconic week celebrations of DIPAM as part of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', Sitharaman said privatisation of CPSEs is intended at ensuring that these companies are run efficiently and cost effectively. WITHPTI



Nirmala Sitharaman PTI file

## LIC fall: Govt 'concerned'

New Delhi: The government on Friday said it was "very concerned" about the sharp decline in the LIC stock after the insurer's listing, and said its management will look into all aspects of the fall, said DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey. FE

## 'Meta probing Sandberg's use of company resources'

REUTERS  
BENGALURU, JUNE 10

LAWYERS ARE investigating Meta Platforms Inc's outgoing operations chief Sheryl Sandberg's use of company resources over several years, the Wall Street Journal reported on Friday, citing people familiar with the matter.

Several employees have been interviewed in connection with the investigation by Facebook-parent Meta, the WSJ reported, adding that the probe has been underway since at least last fall.

Meta and Sandberg did not immediately respond to Reuters' requests for comment.

Among the activities being



Sheryl Sandberg Reuters file

scrutinised is the work of Meta employees to support Sandberg's foundation, Lean In, and towards writing and promotion of her second book, "Option B: Facing Adversity, Building Resilience, and Finding Joy", the report added.

GEETA NAIR  
PUNE, JUNE 10

CALLING STARTUPS manufacturing electric two-wheelers "upstarts", Bajaj Auto managing director Rajiv Bajaj blamed them for the recent fire incidents and said they had no business to be in the space.

Speaking at the inauguration of an electric two-wheeler plant of Chetak Technology, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bajaj Auto, at Akurdi in Pune, Bajaj said there are at the most 10 large ICE (internal combustion engine) manufacturers in India, but in electric vehicles (EVs), there is one new company every day.

"You call them startups. I call them upstarts. I am amazed that people with no R&D, no engineering, no real purchase function in the engineering sense, nothing more than just half an assembly facility, are importing stuff that has not been really validated for the marketplace and are putting it out," he said on Friday, the birth anniversary of Bajaj Auto's late chairman Rahul Bajaj, who cre-



RAJIV BAJAJ MD, Bajaj Auto File

ated the Chetak brand 50 years ago. He blamed the current environment for promoting the rush of new players, and said there are only two types of EVs in the market — those which have caught fire and those which are going to catch fire.

Bajaj also said relevant authorities have deliberately diluted the norms for EVs. He said under the guise of low-speed vehicles, one could bring any junk from anywhere and put it on the roads so such incidents were to be expected and so the people concerned should reflect on it, he said. FE

## May PV wholesales slow, under 2018 levels

New Delhi: With the semiconductor shortage easing a bit, the wholesale despatches of passenger vehicles (PVs) in May improved over the same month in 2019, which was a non-Covid year. However, sales were still lower than the level achieved in 2018 when the segment was witnessing a handsome growth.

The two-wheeler wholesale despatches last month were not only far off from the volumes achieved three years ago, they were even below the figures attained nine years back. Wholesale despatches of PVs rose 10.61 per cent to 2,51,052 units in May from 2,26,975 in the same month in 2019, data from Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) on Friday showed. FE



TOPOF THE  
WORLD

Anthony Albanese and Jacinda Ardern in Sydney, Friday. Reuters

## SYDNEY

## New Zealand, Aus 'in lockstep' on Pacific

AUSTRALIA AND New Zealand vowed on Friday to take their ties to "a new level" through greater collaboration on climate and regional security. Australian PM Anthony Albanese said the two countries shared concerns about the Pacific as China pushes to expand its influence in the region. "We're in lockstep on the Pacific," Albanese told reporters in Sydney. Ardern, the first foreign leader to visit Australia since its election, said: "... we are very eager to work alongside our Pacific partners on this significant threat." **REUTERS**

## PAKISTAN

## Pak announces Rs 1,523 bn for defence

PAKISTAN ON Friday announced to allocate Rs 1,523 billion for defence, an increase of over 11 per cent than last year, as Finance Minister Miftah Ismail presented a Rs 9,502 billion annual budget in Parliament for the 2022-23 fiscal. The total current expenditure for the next year would be Rs 8,694 billion, which is 15.5 per cent higher than last year's budgeted figure. The powerful Pakistan Army, which has ruled the coup-prone country for more than half of its nearly 75 years of existence, has hitherto wielded considerable power in the matters of security and foreign policy. **PTI**

## SYRIA

## Israel strikes halt flights to Damascus

SYRIA HALTED flights to and from Damascus International Airport on Friday, the transport ministry said, a few hours after Israeli air strikes hit south of the capital. A Syrian military official quoted by the state news agency said Syrian air defences intercepted the Israeli missiles, downing most of them, but that the early morning attack caused one civilian injury and some material damage. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on Friday the Israeli bombing had damaged the runway after targeting "warehouses of Iranian militias" near the airport. **REUTERS**

## Russia defends death sentences in Donetsk, Ukraine says attempt to force talks on West

## AGENCIES

BAKH MUT (UKRAINE), LONDON, JUNE 10

UKRAINE AND the West denounced a pro-Moscow court that sentenced two British citizens and a Moroccan to death for fighting for Ukraine, calling the proceedings a sham and a violation of the rules of war.

The court in the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic in Ukraine found the three fighters guilty of seeking the violent overthrow of power, an offense punishable by death in the unrecognized eastern republic. The men were also convicted of mercenary activities and terrorism.

Russian state news agency RIA Novosti reported that the defendants — Aiden Aslin, Shaun Pinner and Brahim Saadoun — will face a firing squad. They have a month to appeal.

Ukraine has alleged Russia wants to use the three foreigners as "hostages" to put pressure on the West over peace negotiations. The separatist side argued that the three were "mercenaries" not entitled to the usual protections accorded prisoners of war. They are the first foreign fighters sentenced by Ukraine's Russian-backed rebels.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the three men had committed crimes on the territory of the self-proclaimed state trying to break away from Ukraine.



Britons Aiden Aslin, Shaun Pinner and Moroccan Brahim Saadoun in a courtroom cage in Donetsk. Reuters File

Lavrov said: "At the moment, the trials you mentioned are being held on the basis of the legislation of the Donetsk People's

Republic, because the crimes in question were committed on the DPR's territory." Ukrainian Foreign Ministry

spokesman Oleh Nikolenko, however, condemned the proceedings as legally invalid. He said all foreign citizens fighting as part of Ukraine's armed forces should be considered Ukrainian military personnel and protected as such.

Britain's Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said on Twitter: "They are prisoners of war. This is a sham judgment with absolutely no legitimacy."

Saadoun's father, Taher Saadoun, told the Moroccan online Arab-language newspaper Madar 21 that his son is not a mercenary and that he holds Ukrainian citizenship. Aslin's and Pinner's families have said the two men were long-serving members of the Ukrainian military.

## SHANGRI-LA DIALOGUE

## China warns US on Taiwan: Ready to pay any price, even war

ASSOCIATED PRESS SINGAPORE, JUNE 10

CHINA'S DEFENSE minister complained to his American counterpart on Friday about the latest US arms package for Taiwan and warned of a possible conflict over the self-governing island that China claims as its own territory.

Chinese Defense Minister, General Wei Fenghe told US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin in a meeting in Singapore the sale "seriously undermined China's sovereignty and security interests," according to state broadcaster CCTV's military channel.

The Chinese government and military will "resolutely smash any Taiwan independence plot and resolutely safeguard the reunification of the motherland," Wei said.

In a further readout of the meeting, Defense Ministry spokesperson Col. Wu Qian quoted Wei as saying China would respond to any move toward formal Taiwan independence by "smashing it even at any price, including war."

Austin, according to the US Department of Defense, said the US remains committed to its policy on Taiwan and "reaffirmed the importance of peace and stability across the (Taiwan) Strait, opposition to unilateral changes to status quo, and called on (China) to refrain from destabilising actions toward Taiwan."



General Wei Fenghe after the meeting with Lloyd Austin in Singapore. Reuters

## Let's see: China on UN action over N Korea

United Nations: China's UN envoy has said Beijing does not want to see North Korea carry out a new nuclear test, which is partly why China vetoed a US-led bid to impose new UN sanctions on Pyongyang over renewed ballistic missiles launches.

But Ambassador Zhang Jun warned against making presumptions on how Beijing might react at the UN if North Korea goes ahead with its nuclear test.

"Let's see what will happen, but I think we should not prejudge what will happen with a nuclear test," Zhang said Thursday. **REUTERS**



## JAPAN OPENS FOR TOURISM

A Geisha woman in traditional Japanese 'kimono' walks along a shopping street in Tokyo on Friday. Easing travel restrictions amid waning Covid, Japan has begun accepting applications from tourists, but only those on guided package tours and willing to follow Covid norms. **AP**

## At Americas summit, Biden rolls out plan to tackle migration crisis

Los Angeles: The United States on Friday unveiled a long list of measures to confront the migration crisis as President Joe Biden and fellow leaders prepared to issue a joint declaration thrashed out at a fractious Summit of the Americas.

The White House touted a series of actions, including programs to take in more guest workers and to provide legal pathways for people from poorer countries to work in richer ones.

The Biden administration, faced with a record flow of ille-



Joe Biden at a dinner for visiting leaders. Reuters

gal migrants at its southern border, pledged hundreds of millions of dollars in aid for

Venezuelan migrants across the region, renewed processing of family-based visas for Cubans and Haitians and eased the hiring of Central American workers.

The plan caps a summit hosted by Biden that was designed to reassert US leadership and counter China's growing economic footprint in the region.

However, that message was clouded by a partial boycott by leaders, including Mexico's president, to protest exclusion of Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua from the event. **REUTERS**

## UK to introduce Bill next week to breach Brexit deal

ASSOCIATED PRESS LONDON, JUNE 10

THE BRITISH government said Friday it will introduce a bill next week to override parts of the Brexit trade treaty it signed with the European Union before the UK quit the bloc in 2020. The move will be a major escalation in a festering UK-EU dispute over trade rules for Northern Ireland.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's spokesman, Jamie Davies, said "the bill has been agreed by the relevant cabinet committees and will be intro-



A video of President Trump speaking during a rally on January 6, 2021, being played at the hearing. Reuters

## 2021 U.S. CAPITOL RIOTS

## Democracy in danger: Panel blames Trump for 'coup bid'

ASSOCIATED PRESS WASHINGTON, JUNE 10

THE HOUSE panel investigating the January 6 insurrection at the US Capitol laid the blame firmly on Donald Trump Thursday night, saying the assault was hardly spontaneous but an "attempted coup" and a direct result of the defeated president's effort to overturn the 2020 election.

With a never-before-seen 12-minute video of extremist groups leading the deadly siege and startling testimony from Trump's most inner circle, the 1/6 committee provided gripping detail in contending that Trump's repeated lies about election fraud and his public effort to stop Joe Biden's victory led to the attack and imperiled American democracy.

"Democracy remains in danger," said Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., chairman of the panel, during the hearing, timed for prime time to reach as many Americans as possible.

"Jan. 6 was the culmination of an attempted coup, a brazen attempt, as one rioter put it shortly after Jan. 6, to overthrow the government," Thompson said. "The violence was no accident."

Testimony showed Thursday how Trump desperately clung to his own false claims of election fraud, beckoning supporters to the Capitol on Jan. 6 when Congress would certify the results, despite those around him insisting Biden had won the election.

The former president's daughter, Ivanka Trump, testified to the committee that she

## EXPLAINED

## A damning indictment

THE INDICTMENT outlined against Trump is perhaps the most damning in the US's 246-year history. Many see it portraying Trump as a would-be autocrat willing to do anything to hang onto power. Analysts say the panel's investigation will, however, be just for public record ahead of the midterm elections as Trump seeks another White House run.

respected Barr's view that there was no election fraud. "I accepted what he said."

Others showed leaders of the extremist Oath Keepers and Proud Boys preparing to storm the Capitol to stand up for Trump. One rioter after another told the committee they came to the Capitol because Trump asked them to.

There was an audible gasp in the room when Cheney read an account that said when Trump was told the Capitol mob was chanting for Vice President Mike Pence to be hanged for refusing to block the election results. Trump responded that maybe they were right, that he "deserves it."

## Pak ex-dictator Gen Musharraf critical in UAE: Ex-minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LAHORE, DUBAI, JUNE 10

PAKISTAN'S FORMER military dictator General Pervez Musharraf is critical and on a ventilator support at a hospital in the UAE, his close aide and former information minister Fawad Chaudhry said on Friday.

Gen. Musharraf, 78, ruled Pakistan from 1999 to 2008.

"Musharraf is critical as he is on a ventilator," Chaudhry said.

Chaudhry, who was the information minister in the Imran Khan government, was once a media spokesperson for Musharraf. He said that he spoke to Musharraf's son who confirmed his illness. "I have just spoken to Gen Musharraf's son Bilal in Dubai who confirmed that he (Musharraf) is on ventilator," Chaudhry said.

Reacting to reports, Ifzaal Siddique, the President of the All Pakistan Muslim League (APML) Overseas — founded by Musharraf — said that the former president is little bit ill but fully alert.

"General Pervez Musharraf is at home (a little) bit ill though, but fully alert as usual, please don't listen to fake news. Just pray for his good health, Ameen," Siddique said.

Musharraf, a fugitive in former PM Benazir Bhutto murder case, has been living in Dubai since 2016. **NYT**

## India provides Lanka \$55 mn credit for fertilisers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA COLOMBO, JUNE 10

INDIA HAS provided a USD 55 million Line of Credit to crisis-hit Sri Lanka for the import of fertiliser, in a bid to help the island nation tide over its worst economic hardships, the Indian High Commission said on Friday.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe had recently warned of a food crisis in the island nation due to the ongoing economic crisis.

Sri Lanka had requested a credit facility from India for the importation of urea fertiliser of



The island nation is facing a food crisis. Reuters file

65,000 metric tonnes (MT) in order to cater the immediate requirement of during the Yala cultivation season, the Indian mission said in a statement

Secretary to the Ministry of Finance M Siriwardena signed an agreement with the EXIM Bank of India to obtain a Dollar Credit Line.

## NEW MINISTRIES TO HANDLE CRISIS

Colombo: President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has created two new ministries to handle the economic crisis, officials said. The ministry of 'Technology and Investment Promotion' will promote FDI and private sector investment, and promote economic potential. The other one is 'Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment'. **PTI**

## CHANGE ON THE WAY?

## Australia's baby steps toward severing ties with the Queen

YAN ZHUANG MELBOURNE, JUNE 10

FOR DECADES, many Australians have found it a curious thing that the country's head of state is a queen sitting on a distant English throne. Occasionally, in times of controversy, they have even battled about the idea of cutting Australia's final monarchical ties. But more pressing issues have inevitably prevailed.

Now, change is on the way. Kind of.

Anthony Albanese, the newly elected prime minister, is an

avowed republican. He has appointed the country's first ever "minister for the republic" — a position intended to begin the transition to an Australian head of state. Polling shows that a slim majority of Australians would support a republic if they had to choose yes or no.

But that does not mean that constitutional change on the republican front is anywhere near the top of Albanese's agenda. The new ministerial position — an assistant minister — is a comparatively minor one, and its role will be limited, at least for the near term, mostly to conversa-

tion starter and weather vane.

"I think the republican sentiment," said Ben Wellings, a senior lecturer in international relations at Monash University in Melbourne, "has settled on this passive republicanism — they're pleased that we don't have all those trimmings of monarchy, but at the same time, not motivated enough to really change the current setup, which is like a pale imitation of that."

The new assistant minister position is "a way of testing the waters," he said. "He's got three years" — the time until the next federal election — "to see what



Queen Elizabeth, the longest-ruling British monarch, has been on the throne for more than 70 years. AP

sort of enthusiasm there would be for such a change."

In one small corner, at least — the Australian republican movement — enthusiasm is already high.

The appointment of Matt Thistlethwaite, a longtime Labor politician, as the new assistant minister of the republic "is the biggest breakthrough for the republican movement in 30 years," said Peter FitzSimons, chairman of the main republican organization.

The movement has been waiting years for a spark. It suffered a heavy blow in 1999, with

the failure of a referendum on whether Australia should elect its own head of state. The proposal was defeated in part because of disagreement over whether an Australian head of state should be appointed or elected.

Now, he said, "let the record show we now have a 'minister of the Crown' devoted to removing the Crown."

Thistlethwaite, for his part, describes his role in less stirring terms. It is, he said, "initially one of educating the Australians about our current constitutional arrangement..." **NYT**



## Sindhu, Lakshya bow out of Indonesia Open Super Series



**Jakarta:** Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and rising star Lakshya Sen made quarterfinal exits in their respective singles events, ending India's challenge in the Indonesia Open Super Series 500 tournament here on Friday. Sen was first to be eliminated as the 20-year-old went down fighting and forced a decider against his higher-seeded Chinese Taipei rival Chou Tien Chen 21-16 12-21 21-14. India's last hope then rested on Sindhu but the former world champion went down without a fight to her old foe Ratchanok Intanon 12-21, 10-21 in a match lasting a little over half an

hour. The 27-year-old was at her dominating best and looked at ease with both in attacks and defence and the Indian was never able to fightback and suffered her fifth straight loss against her Thai rival. After pocketing the first game easily, Intanon looked even more furious in the second and raced to a 10-point lead before sealing the issue in 33 minutes to improve her head-to-head against Sindhu to 9-4. Sindhu, who made a semifinal exit in the Thailand Open last month, had earned a hard-fought victory over Gregoria Mariska Tunjung to enter the quarterfinals. **PTI**

### Sable aims at next record mark

**New Delhi :** Buoyed by the success in his maiden Diamond League appearance in Morocco, where he smashed the national record in men's 3000m steeplechase yet again, Avinash Sable is now aiming for a sub-eight minute time. "When I first started competing in steeplechase way back in 2018, I regularly used to clock somewhere around 8.29-30. I never thought I would reach a stage where I could rise to the margin of 8.12 at any point. "That said, I think a sub-eight minute mark is definitely possible, Sable said. **PTI**

### Rosberg barred from paddock

**Baku:** Former world champion Nico Rosberg has not been allowed to enter the Formula One paddock this season because he isn't vaccinated against COVID-19. Rosberg has been working as a commentator and pundit on TV after he won the F1 title in 2016 with Mercedes and retired from racing shortly thereafter. Rules for this season issued by F1's governing body, the FIA, require anyone entering the paddock, where the teams are based, to be fully vaccinated or hold a medical exemption. **PTI**

### Anand loses to Mamedyarov

**Stavanger (Norway):** Indian maestro Viswanathan Anand's campaign at the Norway Chess tournament suffered a setback after losing to Azerbaijan's Shakhriyar Mamedyarov in the ninth round even as Norwegian star Magnus Carlsen shot into sole lead with a win over Frenchman Maxime Vachier-Lagrave. Anand showed impressive form with a victory over Carlsen to lead the standings after the fifth round but was outgunned by Mamedyarov in 22 moves in the Classical match. **PTI**

### India aim consistency

**Antwerp :** Consistency will be high on Indian men's and women's hockey teams' agenda as they resume their respective FIH Pro League campaigns against Belgium on Saturday as pre-cursor to Commonwealth Games. While the Indian men's team is scheduled to play Belgium (June 11 and June 12), followed by games against the Netherlands (June 18 and June 19), the women will play Belgium (June 11 and June 12), Argentina (June 18 and June 19) and the United States (June 21 and June 22). **PTI**

# Javelin's Next Gen: Yashvir eyes elusive 85m mark

Haryana youngster recorded his personal best of 82.13m last month

ANDREW AMSAN  
CHENNAI, JUNE 10

INDIA'S LATEST entrant in the 80m club, javelin thrower Yashvir Singh's father Rai initially didn't want his son to pursue athletics. When Yashvir was around 12, the family moved from Bhiwani to Delhi so that he could be admitted to a private school and progress academically.

"Someone told me that the school produced a lot of CBSE toppers so we sent him there," says Rai. But Yashvir not only failed to make progress but barely cleared his exams. Both Yashvir and his father were convinced it was time to return to what he was good at - sports. "Padai hui nahi, aur sports toh khun mein heen hai. (He couldn't do much in academics but he's got sports in his genes)," says Rai, a former national-level athlete who is now a coach. Yashvir, who breached the 80m mark at the Indian Grand Prix last month, belongs to the new crop of talent. Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra, who is now 24, is at a different level altogether. He breached the 80m-mark when he was just 17 back in 2015.

With Shivpal Singh (his personal best 86.23m) and Davinder Singh (84.57m) having their run-ins with dope suspensions, the focus has shifted to the younger crop - Sahil Silwal, Rohit Yadav, DP Manu and Yashvir. "It is really a great thing for javelin throw in India. You really need good competition to bring out the best in you. Off the field, we all are really good friends but on it, we are fierce competitors," says Yashvir who recorded his personal best of 82.13m just a fortnight ago in Bhubaneswar. Yashvir first came into limelight when he rewrote Neeraj's U-20 Fed Cup meet record last year with a 78.68m throw. He was distraught at missing the 80m back then.

"Breaching the 80m mark was very important to me," Yashvir says as his father shakes his head in disapproval. Coach Rai, who has higher expectations from his son, dismisses 80m as "just a number". "I recently got a call from someone congratulating me for Yashvir's entry into the 80m club. But it's no big deal," says the hard taskmaster. When Yashvir realised that academics weren't his cup of tea, he returned to Jaipur where his Railways employee father is now settled. "I initially played basketball just to get fit and then started off with a bamboo javelin. Once I picked up the technique, I switched to a standard javelin," he says.

### 'Nothing special'

Yashvir and his father don't like to complicate things. The duo believes in a simple



Yashvir Singh has already made the cut for 2022 Commonwealth Games.

### 80 M-PLUS & COUNTING

**DP MANU (82.43M):** The 22-year-old trains under coach Kashinath Naik who has worked with a lot of top throwers like Neeraj, Shivpal and Annu Rani. The Karnataka athlete has challenged the notion that Southern India doesn't produce top throwers.

**YASHVIR SINGH (82.13):** The confident Haryana athlete, 21, took a while to breach the 80m mark after knocking on its doors a couple of times in his career. His next target is the elusive 85m mark.

**ROHIT YADAV (81.83M):** He is the most consistent of the lot, producing three 80m-plus throws so far. The once skinny 21-year-old has spent a lot of time in the gym strengthening his upper body.

**SAHIL SILWAL (80.65M):** Sahil, 22, currently trains under Neeraj Chopra's first coach Jaiveer. Sahil is not a bulky athlete but relies on his natural elasticity to wind up for the big throws.

motto: "hard work yields results".

"There is nothing special in our training. We spend a lot of time training, and eat right. When I was an athlete, I made a lot of mistakes and I just ensure that my son doesn't go down the same road," says Rai.

Yashvir says his father is a touch "harsh" during training and doesn't hold back in giving him an earful when he errs. "Bahut gali padti hai. (He scolds me a lot). But that's only during training and only for practice. Otherwise, he never yells at me for anything. He's a very nice person," he says while exchanging a quick glance with his father sitting next to him.

Rai admits he's a tough taskmaster but feels his son needs a dose from time to time. "I have to do it. I have to correct my son. He couldn't do well in academics and now sports is the only option he has and we can't be lax in any way," Yashvir feels his arm strength and explosive release set him apart from other throwers. "I also have a good run-up, good release angle," he adds. Any weak areas? "None," he replies with a cheeky smile.

"He needs to improve his throwing speed," his father adds quickly.

Having already made the cut for the Commonwealth Games, Yashvir is now targeting a throw close to 85 metres (qualification mark for the World Championships) at the Interstate Meet. "It (85m) isn't a huge thing. We have been training well and I am pretty confident. Maybe I will land that mark here in Chennai itself," he says.

## Chhetri in focus again as India face Afghanistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA, JUNE 10

THE INSPIRATIONAL Sunil Chhetri would look to continue from where he left against Cambodia as India face Afghanistan in their second match of the Asian Cup Qualifiers here on Saturday.

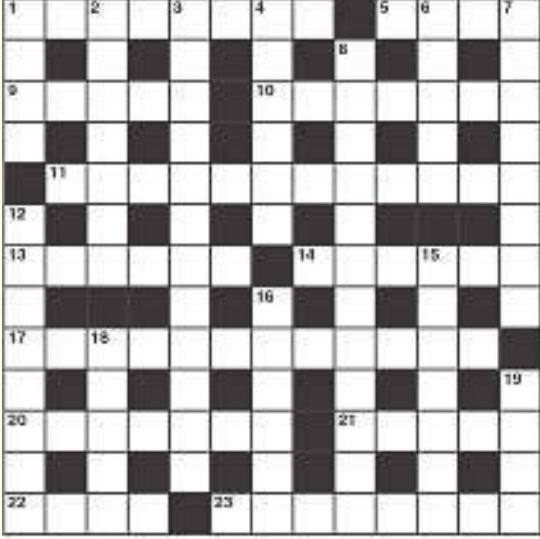
On an evening of missed opportunities, the 37-year-old veteran struck a goal in each half to give Igor Stimac's side all three points, ensuring the group hosts keep ahead of Hong Kong on goal difference after Jom Andersen's team won 2-1 over Afghanistan in the first match on Wednesday. Seeking to make a second successive Asian Cup Finals, the Chhetri-led India would look to bring out their best, especially up front with the likes of Liston Colaco, Manvir Singh, Udanta Singh, Ashique Kuruniyan and Koshan Singh hoping to improve their finishing abilities.

All of them got ample opportunities but failed to make an impact as far as scoring was concerned and it was once again left to the veteran to settle the nerves with his brace that took his international tally to 82 goals, behind Cristiano Ronaldo (117) and Lionel Messi (86). "I'm tired of answering this question," Stimac said when asked about life after Chhetri. "When he's (Sunil) with us, I don't care if others are not scoring. If he's not here, then others will start scoring. Why look for someone else when he's scoring two goals every day?" he asked. From Afghan's point of view it will be a do-or-die match and the physically stronger team would look to make it count against the Indian backbone of Roshan Singh, Sandesh Jhingjan, Anwar Ali and Akash Mishra, who impressed the most in their outing against Cambodia. In such a scenario, the onus would be on the attacking line-up to "kill the contest" by scoring early goals, something that buried Afghanistan against Hong Kong.

The fitness of Roshan has been a concern after their outing against Cambodia and Stimac said they would assess his niggles on the sidelines of their training. "Of course this match will be much more difficult. There's a lot of quality movements against Hong Kong. They kept changing positions and made many crosses into the box.

"We have to be clever and very good at attacking. We have to win more aerial duels. We have to concentrate well, remain composed. I've full confidence of a win," Stimac added. India, who enjoy a 6-1 record on head-to-head from 10 meetings against the 'Lions of Khorasan', however, have not won against them since January 3, 2016 in the SAFF Championships. Since then the Blue Tigers have endured two 1-1 draws in the World Cup Qualifiers, something that was highlighted by Afghanistan coach Anoush Dastgir, who said they are in search of 'revenge' at the Qualifier in India.

### CROSSWORD 4765



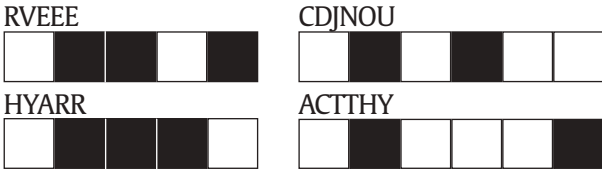
- ACROSS**  
1 Turn out a lunatic marine (8)  
5 Highlight of the Cresta Run (4)  
9 Returning United Kingdom party's prestige (5)  
10 Winding up very rich (7)  
11 They clear some of the main hazards (12)  
13 One is privileged to have them (6)  
14 Rare dismay shown about Conservative leader (6)  
17 Ice cap? (5,7)  
20 A festive drink for the nymph (7)  
21 Sea air adds a little weight to one (5)  
22 Founder of a place of iniquity (4)  
23 Counters chaos to put it into plain English (8)
- DOWN**  
1 Eastern relatives turn up to see victory (4)  
2 Ruin the opening? (7)  
3 Examination panel look first and speak later (12)  
4 New wars or old weapons (6)  
6 Twist in wet coils (5)  
7 Sign in and make an impression (8)  
8 Rows about a hundred changes (12)  
12 Cunningly see and grasp warnings (8)  
15 Sounds like a private bitterness (7)  
16 Starchy food dad is about to turn to (6)  
18 New angle on an ancient physician (5)  
19 Apportion food say? (4)

**Solutions Crossword 4764:** Across: 1 Dreamboat, 8 Affix, 9 Intense, 10 Stream, 11 Chili, 12 Lion's den, 15 Gadarene, 18 Roosts, 20 Realms, 21 Bulldog, 22 Excel, 23 Exonerate. Down: 2 Ranch, 3 Age-old, 4 Bastille, 5 Tartan, 6 Effendi, 7 Examiners, 11 Congereel, 13 Overtun, 14 Advance, 16 Rumble, 17 Collar, 19 Trout.

### 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.

I have an existential map. It has ' \_\_\_\_\_ ' written all over it  
-Steven Wright (3,3,4)



**SOLUTION:** REEVE, HARRY, JOCUND, CHARTY  
-Steven Wright

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



### CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



### MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



### SUDOKU 4862

**Difficulty Level 2s**  
**Instructions**  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

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



### SOLUTION SUDOKU 4861



### DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

**ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
The Moon is about to pose one or two interesting questions, such as what is the best thing to do about a family or domestic dilemma. It's a day to think your problems through rather than resorting to raw emotion or Arien impatience. You don't want to upset anyone, do you?

**TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**  
Money matters occupy your mind today. Splash out, but also get all your papers in order, whether insurance claims, investment plans or fancy profit-making schemes. Traditional entertainments suit the mood best, so resist attempts to persuade you to do something out-of-character.

**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**  
The Moon is raising the prospects of a busy, though happy, home-based weekend. The choice is yours as to whether you spend a restful time with family members or busy yourself on tasks. The guiding principle seems to be that whatever you do benefits others.

**CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**  
When Mercury and Venus speak to each other, they create poetic conditions. Such delicate influences obviously appeal strongly to the subtle Cancerian personality, and may lead you to dream of exotic places or future wealth. Partners may not make much sense, though.

**LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**  
There is every opportunity for you to make the most of yourself socially this weekend. The stars are urging you to take the initiative and get out as much as possible. A little play would be a good thing after a hard-working week. After all, you occasionally do have to look after yourself.

**VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**  
Listen carefully to what other people say, and admit they have the best ideas. This is not to say that you are wrong, only that there are aspects of the current situation that you have failed to consider. And, that's a failure you'll have to remedy as soon as possible.

**LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**  
The Sun is soon to form a very delicate and inspired relationship with Neptune, which means that dreams and thoughts of romance are prominent this weekend. Yet a money muddle may intervene along the way. And, when it does, you'd better take the cautious way out.

**SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**  
There is every sense in which it is right for you to argue your case. It does seem now as if you have the edge over other people when it comes to a sound reason for what it is necessary to do. At least lunar alignments are still supporting you emotionally.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)**  
Mercury and Venus both make significant adjustments in their positions over the current period, the result being that your mood should become much lighter, frivolous and frothy, even. Certain problems will soon be pushed into the background, so don't waste your time.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**  
You are now entering a financial cycle in which partnerships will hold the key. Relationships with women seem to be potentially the most profitable, while luxuries are more desirable than necessities. It's a day to indulge your day-dreams.

**AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**  
The weekend is here at last, bringing all its abundant opportunities for peace and relaxation. With the Moon determined to bring out the lighter side of your character, there is plenty of scope for putting pain and problems to one side. And take advantage of an offer of help.

**PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
Mercury adjusts its position, inaugurating a period during which your mind will be on peak form. You will have no trouble persuading others that your plans, arrangements and ideas are by far and away the best. But, next week it may look very different.



# Not eye-catching, but effective

Van der Dussen's batting may not be attractive, but his grit and determination has taken him a long way

**SANDIPG**  
JUNE 10

AT ONE juncture of South Africa's chase, Rishabh Pant was heard yelling playfully at Avesh Khan: "*Isko strike par rakh, Miller ko mat dena* (keep him on strike, not Miller)." The Indian 'keeper-captain was referring to Rassie van der Dussen, who at that precise moment was in the middle of an ordeal, frozen like a man who had stepped onto Alaska in beach-wear. His timing was awry, the placement off-kilter, and as the required run rate got steeper, Pant's playful instruction to Khan rang true. At the other end, though, there was Miller, in crushing touch.

Van der Dussen had just crawled to 29 off 30; a rate that even in the 50-over game is considered unsatisfactory. But Pant's quip/banter/genuine tactic didn't age well; in the next 15 balls, he plundered 45 runs. As if, in the twitch of a second, he transformed from an Everyman to a Superman, though sweating incessantly in the Kotla heat, each stroke leaving its strain on his face and limbs. No stroke of his stood out, no frame of his celebration would endure, and as the memory of the game wears on, he would be relegated into the role of an accomplice of Miller on a scorching Delhi summer night.

But that perception of anonymity sums up van der Dussen's career. He's the fastest to 1,000 runs in ODIs, boasts an average of 71 in the 50-overs version, has rattled out his 1,008 T20I runs at an average of 42 and a strike rate of 132. Yet, the name van der Dussen strikes no fear in the mind of bowlers or captains, or awe in the eyes of spectators or commentators. To the extent that when he often introduces himself back home, he's promptly asked if he indeed was the former Springbok rugby coach and player Rassie Erasmus.

But he relishes the absence of fanfare. In his teenage years, he was supposed to be the least talented of the four brothers of the Dussen household in Pretoria. His brother Adrian was the boy with the blue chip, but ended up as a



Van der Dussen scored an unbeaten 74 off 46 balls in South Africa's run chase. *PTI*

journalist before switching to digital marketing. The two other brothers could not progress beyond dub level.

But in backyard games, he was the most obdurate of all four to dislodge. The deal among the brothers was that those who got out early were assigned household chores. "I don't think Rassie once made coffee for us because he would just bat forever," brother Nico told *The Stumped*. After matriculation, which he finished a year earlier, he told his father that he wanted to do a post-matriculation, so that he could get some proper cricket coaching. He joined Affies, the alma mater of Faf du Plessis and AB de Villiers, among others, even though he had to take classes. There, Affies coach Deon Cotes told him that his game was not polished enough to play at a professional level. "But he took the advice in the right direction and worked really hard to reach a higher level," the coach had once told this paper.

Then on, he began to train like a maniac. "I tried to live my life in a way that I thought could improve me in terms of my training, in terms of my diet and all the aspects that went into it.

I started reading up on previous players and how they dealt with being professional sportspeople and tried to learn lessons that way. I sort of tried to work it out for myself as I went on," he told *The Stumped* in an interview. To improve his concentration, he strung an obstacle path around his house and tried to trace that path balancing three balls, looking not to drop the ball as long as he could.

Van der Dussen kept tracking up runs in the school circuit and caught the attention of the Titans, his home team. But a profusion of talented top-order batsmen meant they refused a contract and he switched to North West. From there, he was snapped up by Lions. A life-changing moment, as he met coach Geoff Toyana, who repurposed him from an opener to a middle-order batsman.

Of all the attributes, Toyana was most impressed with van der Dussen's calmness in dealing with setbacks. "His mental strength is one of his best attributes. When he got runs a couple of years ago, the national selectors ignored him, but he kept working hard because he knew his opportunity would come. It's all

about what he does behind the scenes. He hits a lot of balls, understands his strengths and weaknesses, and works on those weaknesses. His hunger and work ethic are incredible," Toyana told *The City Press*.

Journeymen cricketer

During the years of snub, he packed off to distant shores to experience different cultures and get exposure to different conditions. This wanderlust took him to Canada and the Netherlands, apart from the Caribbean and the UK. "He does all these without any complaints or fuss. Someone else could have quit, but he is a fighter," Cotes told this paper after his unbeaten 41 in the series-winning chase in the Cape Town Test against India at the start of this year.

The fighting spirit has embodied most of his outings, not least during the Kotla heist on Thursday. In that sense, van der Dussen symbolises the spirit of Temba Bavuma's team. His is a team without superstar batsmen, no one with the towering persona of de Villiers or du Plessis, or Graeme Smith or Dale Steyn. This is a South Africa team sans the machismo that has been the tragic flaw of more gifted Proteas sides, according to coach Paddy Upton. "I think machoiness is a problem in non-Asian countries. Trying to pretend you are too tough. I do think that South Africans generally tend to act more macho than what they actually are and that bites them in pressure moments. As opposed to being real, authentic and having the correct level of acceptance of vulnerability."

It's a bunch that has waddled through failures and copped criticism. Quinton de Kock, whatever he does, feels he is grossly underappreciated as well as misunderstood. Aiden Markram was once considered a T20 misfit; Miller, out of depression, had once thought of quitting the game; Bavuma has eternally worn the flattered-to-deceive millstone around his neck. But this band of the snubbed and rejected can win matches and have a knack of throwing up unseemly matchwinners. Like van der Dussen — in many ways the pin-up hero of this South African side. Under-rated and unassuming, until he starts to sting.

## Amazon withdraw from IPL media rights auction

**SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY**  
JUNE 10

AMAZON HAS pulled out of the Indian Premier League media rights auction race, leaving the field to its rivals — Walt Disney Co., that owns Disney-Star, and Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd. through Viacom18/Reliance. A top BCCI official confirmed the development, as it is learnt that Jeff Bezos' Amazon communicated with the Indian cricket board in this regard early on Friday (India time), ahead of the evaluation of the technical bids. The e-auction is going to be held on Sunday.

Over the last few days, India's cricket and commercial circles were abuzz with a straight fight between the world's two richest men — Bezos and Ambani — for the IPL media rights for the 2023-2027 cycle. Amazon's pull-out nips this in the bud and now it could be a three-way race between Disney-Star, Viacom18/Reliance and Sony. Amazon's investment in India is in excess of \$6 billion. Initially, they showed keen interest in having the digital media rights of the world's most popular cricket league. From that perspective, their eleventh-hour withdrawal came as a surprise. Some reports claim that Amazon's chief executive officer Andy Jassy decided to pull the plug after internal deliberations, but the e-retail & content giant hasn't officially commented on it. Amazon livestreams the English Premier League. Recently, it inked a deal to broadcast Thursday Night Football in the United States at \$1 billion-a-season until 2033. Securing the IPL's digital streaming rights would have made them a big player in cricket broadcasting as well.

No official comment from the company has given rise to speculation, with some sources claiming that they read the writing on the wall, an impending defeat against Ambani's Reliance, while there's another school of thought that Amazon decided against paying over the odds. The BCCI has set the base price for the IPL media rights at Rs 32,890 crore, irking some of the bidders. Sony Pictures Networks India's managing director and CEO NP Singh called the base price "very aggres-

### EXPLAINED A race between Viacom & Disney?

IN 2017, Uday Shankar, as Star's chairman-cum-CEO, had secured the IPL media rights for his erstwhile company for Rs 16,347 crore. Five years down the line, he is in the opposition camp, masterminding strategies for Viacom18/Reliance, which has launched a sports channel, Sports18. Indian conglomerate Reliance and Viacom18 have entered into a strategic partnership with Bodhi Tree, an investment platform, run by media tycoon James Murdoch's Lupa Systems and Shankar. At the same time, there's a feeling that Disney-Star could go for aggressive bidding to retain the media rights. Hotstar reportedly gets 30 per cent of its global revenue from India, with the IPL being the determining factor.

ENS

sive". Still, by a conservative estimate, the BCCI expects the media rights to fetch north of Rs 45,000 crore to its coffers, while some are predicting it to reach even Rs 60,000 crore.

Recouping the money only through digital streaming rights could have been a problem for Amazon. Unlike Disney-Star, Viacom18/Reliance or Sony, the company doesn't have a dedicated sports/TV channel. "Amazon has a great balance sheet but as a standalone, digital-only bidder, it would've had a challenge recouping such a big investment on streaming," Mihir Shah, vice-president and India head at Media Partners Asia, was quoted as saying by *Bloomberg*.

The pull-out, though, is unlikely to be set-back for the BCCI. The IPL's valuation, according to Duff & Phelps, was \$5.9 billion two years ago. Now, with the inclusion of two new teams and more matches, its valuation has risen considerably. Little wonder then that the BCCI is eyeing an unprecedented windfall.

## Mitchell makes a splash with a six into fan's beer glass on Day 1

**REUTERS**  
NOTTINGHAM, JUNE 10

DARYL MITCHELL scored an unbeaten 81, and splashed a six into a spectator's pint of beer, as New Zealand cruised to 318-4 from 87 overs at the end of the opening day of the second test against England at Trent Bridge on Friday. Needing a win to level the three-match series after a stinging five wicket defeat at Lord's last weekend, and without captain and leading batsman Kane Williamson, the Black Caps started by losing the toss and being put in to bat.

The absence of Williamson, in isolation after testing positive for COVID-19 on the eve of the match, proved less of a setback than expected as the visitors reached 108-2 at lunch and 195-4 at tea. They were helped on a day of entertaining cricket by England's fielders missing plenty of chances.

### Dropped chances

Joe Root dropped one catch and Zak Crawley let slip another chance after England, unchanged from the first test, had grabbed back-to-back wickets just before lunch. New Zealand's opening stand was the highest in a test at the ground since 2005 but both openers departed in the space of two balls.

England captain Ben Stokes provided the breakthrough, taking the ball and having Will Young caught for 47 by a diving Crawley at second slip. New Zealand had been 84-0 and it was 84-2 when stand-in captain Tom Latham fell to Matthew Potts off James Anderson at midwicket.

The visitors morning score was still a vast improvement on the 39-6 at lunch on the opening day of the first test at Lord's.

Anderson and Stokes each took a pair of wickets, with the captain's two for 40 coming from 12 overs.

New Zealand were 161-3 when Ben Foakes caught Henry Nicholls (30) behind off Stokes and the Black Caps slipped to 169-4 after the wicket keeper repeated the feat with Devon Conway (46) from an Anderson delivery. Crawley dived across Root in a failed bid to catch Nicholls and Root missed an easier offering from Mitchell when the batsman was on one.

Mitchell, who provided a light-hearted moment when he smashed a six clear into the stands with the ball landing with a splash in someone's beer, ended the day on an unbeaten 149 partnership with Tom Blundell.

England's Barmy Army supporters' club said on Twitter the Black Caps had bought the female fan a replacement pint.

**BRIEF SCORES:** New Zealand 318/4 (D Mitchell 81\*, T Blundell 67\*, W Young 47, D Conway 46; B Stokes 2/40, J Anderson 2/42) vs England

## Knee injury scuppers Mary Kom's CWG farewell plans

**NIHAL KOSHIE**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

THE COMMONWEALTH Games in Birmingham was to be a celebratory farewell parade for six-time world champion Mary Kom. Now the 39-year-old, five months short of her 40th birthday, which is the cut-off age for amateur boxing at major events, could walk into the sunset without a final testimonial tournament podium photo.

Fate had a cruel twist in store for the boxing legend.

At the trials for the CWG, the London Olympics bronze medalist lost her footing early as she swayed away in the first round of the semifinals (48 kg) against two-time Youth Olympics champion Nitu Ghanghas. Mary shrieked as she fell and slowly got back on her feet. But she struggled to move freely, was in pain again and clutched her knee. Had she continued, it would have been foolhardy.

Nitu was declared the winner via referee-steps-contest. The anticipated bout between the 21-year-old upcoming star and a veteran nearly double her age came to a premature end.

Soon Mary limped out of the IG Stadium with support, got into her SUV and left. Mary doesn't need a second CWG medal — she won gold at Gold Coast in 2018 — at the age end of her career. But once she overcame the disappointment of a pre-quarterfinal exit at the Tokyo Olympics, her competitive spirit had been rekindled. She had trained, first in Manipur and then in Delhi, like she had everything to prove. The CWG was a clear target in her mind.

Over a two-decade long career, Mary had always overcome the odds, made comebacks after motherhood and bounced back from injury to win medals at the highest level. She had skipped the World Championship trials to make way for younger boxers. But at nearly 40, her knee let her down when she wanted one final shot at glory in the ring. Just two days ago Mary had posted a weight training video of her on Twitter with the caption: If you want a good result, TRAIN HARDER.

Chhote Lal Yadav, her long-time coach, says there was no hope in her social media post. She had sparred against boxers in higher-weight categories ahead of the trials.

"She would train and spar against those who were in the 54 kg and 57 kg category. She had been working really hard to prepare for the Commonwealth Games trials. She didn't have any injury issues currently. In training, she had shown the hunger to give her best. She trained smartly because she had to be mindful of her age. Mentally too she was positive," Chhote Lal said.

To keep an unwavering focus on training, Mary, a mother of three, took the difficult decision to cut down on family time.

Once her term as Rajya Sabha MP ended recently, she moved to the hostel at the IG Stadium as her training intensified and the



Mary Kom got injured in the first round of the semifinals on Friday. *BFI*

**Nitu will fight Manju Rani in the final on Saturday for a place in the Commonwealth Games squad (in 48kg category)**

CWG trails got closer. "She took the decision to stay away from her children. It was not easy for her," Chhote Lal added.

### Best possible preparations

Among those who were keeping a close eye on the trial bouts was chief national coach Bhaskar Bhatt. Mary, according to Bhatt, was looking good till the injury occurred.

"For the past month and a half, her intensity during training was as high as I have ever seen. But one can't plan for something like an injury. It can happen to anyone. But in Mary's case, age is also a factor. I don't think she has ever had a major knee injury. But at 40, such things can happen even if you train as hard as you want and prepare well," Bhatt said.

It was too early in the bout to make a judgement on who the better boxer was on the day — Mary or Nitu? "Mary has all the experience and she is very smart in the ring. She would have only expended as much energy as was needed. Nitu is a very good boxer too and is the future. It would have been a good bout. But it is unfortunate how it ended" the chief national coach said.

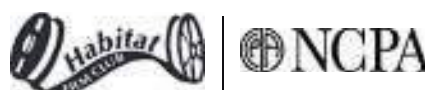
Nitu will fight Manju Rani in the final on Saturday for a place in the Commonwealth Games squad.

As for Mary, there was no official communication on the nature of the injury.

Chhote Lal said a clearer picture would emerge once Mary's injury assessment is complete in a day. "Hopefully, it is not as bad as it looks. I don't know what Mary has in mind (future competition), but this can't be the way she leaves a ring for the last time. Her story deserves a good ending." A final waltz around the ring where she danced all her life on quick feet, not a plume of smoke left behind by a retreating SUV.



In association with



A discussion on



**Reema Kagti, Filmmaker**

*in conversation with*

**Shubhra Gupta, Film Critic, The Indian Express**

**Webinar Discussion**

Date: **20 June 2022** | Time: **5:30 PM**

We recommend that you watch the movie and join us for the discussion.  
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**"your name & email id"** to 56161



**The Indian EXPRESS**  
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