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IN BRIEF



Modi, Xi may meet amid busy diplomatic calendar

NEW DELHI
S. Jaishankar is expected to attend the G-20 Foreign Ministers' meeting in Bali this week. The meeting comes ahead of two summits: the G-20 summit in November, and the SCO Heads of State Council in Uzbekistan in September where PM Narendra Modi will come face-to-face with Chinese President Xi Jinping for the first time since the 2020 LAC stand-off.

NEWS PAGE 12

Minister derided Statute, says Kerala Opposition

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
A video clip showing Kerala Culture Minister Saji Cherian allegedly speaking "disparagingly" about the Constitution has landed the LDF government in a fix.

STATES PAGE 5

BRAHMASTRA 2023
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OPPORTUNITIES PAGE 5

Raipur police stranded as U.P. team whisks away TV anchor

Rohit Ranjan is wanted in connection with a fake video of Rahul Gandhi

THE HINDU BUREAU
GHAZIABAD/NEW DELHI/RAIPUR

A team of the Chhattisgarh Police reached Ghaziabad on Tuesday morning to arrest television news anchor Rohit Ranjan for the telecast of allegedly misleading video on a statement by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

However, in a dramatic turn of events, the Raipur team was allegedly obstructed by the Uttar Pradesh Police, who took Mr. Ranjan along with them for questioning in connection with a first information report (FIR) lodged in Gautam Buddha Nagar on the same misleading video by Zee News.

Till late evening, Mr. Ranjan was being interrogated by the Gautam Buddha Nagar police and had not been produced in court. The Chhattisgarh Police said they would seek legal remedies to secure his custody.

'Deliberate interference'

The incident snowballed into a political row with the Congress charging the Uttar Pradesh government with deliberate interference in an ongoing investigation to



High drama: Personnel of the Ghaziabad and Chhattisgarh Police end up on the opposite side of each other at the house of Zee News anchor Rohit Ranjan in Ghaziabad. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

shield an accused. It charged that this was the second time, after the Delhi and Punjab Police ended up in a stalemate over the arrest of BJP leader Tajinder Bagga, that a police force reporting to a BJP government has obstructed the arrest of an accused by the police of a non-BJP-ruled State.

Udayan Dehar, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Raipur, who was leading the team, said when they reached Mr. Ranjan's residence in the Indirapuram

area of Ghaziabad with non-bailable warrants issued by a Chief Judicial Magistrate court in Raipur, the journalist did not cooperate and called up the police from the local police station. "The police officials stopped us from taking him into custody despite us showing them the warrant and our identity cards. They took Mr. Ranjan away in a private vehicle. When we objected, we were pushed back. When we reached the Indirapuram police station, he had already

been shifted," Mr. Dehar said.

Police sources said Mr. Ranjan was first taken to the Sector 20 police station of Noida, and from there he was taken to an undisclosed location. Mr. Dehar further said it was not right to take away an accused against whom non-bailable warrants had been issued for questioning, and that the Chhattisgarh Police would approach the court.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Centre to soften punitive steps in environment cases

Ministry points to suggestions to 'decriminalise' provisions

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The Union Environment Ministry proposes to soften the provisions of the Environment Protection Act (EPA) by replacing a clause that provides for imprisoning violators with one that only requires them to pay a fine. This, however, does not apply to violations that cause grave injury or loss of life. The proposed fines, in lieu of imprisonment, are five to 500 times greater than those currently levied.

The Act currently says that violators will be punishable with imprisonment up to five years or a fine up to ₹1 lakh, or both. Were violations to continue, an additional fine of up to ₹5,000

daily during which such failure or contravention continues after the conviction would be levied. There is also a provision for jail terms to extend to seven years.

The Environment Ministry, in a note this week laying out the rationale governing the amendments, said that it had received "suggestions" to decriminalise existing provisions of the EPA to weed out "fear of imprisonment for simple violations".

The two major changes proposed are appointing an "adjudication officer" who will decide on the penalty in cases of environmental violations such as reports not being submitted or information not provided when demanded. "However, in case

of serious violations which lead to grievous injury or loss of life, they shall be covered under the provision of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 read with Section 24 of the EP Act," the document says.

Funds collected as penalties would be accrued in an "Environmental Protection Fund". In case of contraventions of the Act, the penalties could extend to anywhere from ₹5 lakh to ₹5 crore, it says. The Ministry has sought comments from the public on its proposals until July 21. The removal of prison terms also applies to the Air Act, which is the cornerstone legislation for dealing with air pollution, and the Water Act, which deals with violations to water bodies.

Blow to U.K. PM as two Ministers quit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

In a huge blow to embattled British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, two of his senior Cabinet colleagues, including Chancellor Rishi Sunak, resigned on Tuesday, as they expressed their loss of confidence in his leadership

amidst a spate of scandals.

The 42-year-old British Indian Minister posted his resignation letter on Twitter soon after another Cabinet colleague, U.K. Health Secretary Sajid Javid, resigned.

The ministerial exits will come as a big blow to Mr.

Johnson's leadership and follow a day of high political drama since a former civil servant spoke out about Downing Street's handling of groping allegations against recently suspended MP Chris Pincher.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

by Mercedes-Benz

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CM V&K

A ND-NDE

'Take prompt action against encroachments'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Unauthorised religious structures and jhuggis should be stopped from mushrooming in the city, Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena directed officials.

Presiding over a meeting on the decongestion of 77 traffic corridors in the Capital on Monday, the L-G said encroachments should be nipped in the bud.

Continuous action against unauthorised parking and removal of encroachments on these corridors were also planned.

According to sources, Mr. Saxena issued strict instructions to all stakeholder agencies, including the Public Works Department, Forest and Home Departments, among others, to finish all pending tasks related to the decongestion of the traffic corridors to ensure that the city's traffic flow can be improved within three months.

Sources said the L-G expressed concern on being informed that most of the pending work since 2019 was related to the removal of electric poles and power transformers.

Will approach court, do whatever it takes to conduct civic polls: CM

BJP says AAP shying away from real issues, wasting time on 'baseless allegations'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday said the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will do "whatever it takes" to ensure that the civic polls are held in the city.

'Scared of polls'

"The BJP is terrified of contesting elections against AAP. They have deferred the MCD elections fearing defeat. We know the BJP will not let the MCD elections take place. We will have to take up this matter in the court of law," Mr. Kejriwal said during a discussion in the Delhi Assembly on Tuesday.

He also accused the BJP-led Union government of causing administrative delays to "create problems" for the Delhi government.

"I was invited to Singapore to explain the 'Delhi model' to the world but these people have thrown my file into some lost corner. I think this is the first instance in the country when the Prime Minister is himself placing hurdles in clearing a foreign trip of a Chief Minister," Mr. Kejriwal said.



Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal speaking in the Delhi Assembly on the second day of the monsoon session. •PTI

While commenting on the incidents of violence in Udaipur and Jammu, the Chief Minister said, "Until now, we have known the BJP to be a party of gangsters, thugs and liars. But now, terrorists also seem to have been added to their ranks."

Mr. Kejriwal said the BJP is issuing threats to convert Delhi into "a full Union Territory".

Censure motion

The Delhi Assembly on Tuesday also passed a censure motion against a letter issued by the BJP-ruled Centre to the Delhi govern-

ment seeking permission to demolish 53 temples in the city.

In a related development, Deputy Speaker of the Delhi Assembly Rakhi Birla said the Services Department was refusing to answer questions, put up by the MLAs on the matter of vacancies and appointments, under the garb of "a Central government order".

Terming it "an insult" to the MLAs and the institution of the Delhi Vidhan Sabha, Ms. Birla announced the formation of a three-member committee consisting of three MLAs - Rajesh Gupta, Somnath Bharti and Atishi -

to prepare and submit a report on the matter within two days.

'Baseless allegations'

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri alleged that the Delhi government was "scared to discuss the problems of the people" in the ongoing monsoon session. He added that the censure motion had been moved on "baseless allegations".

"The AAP government is running away from discussing the basic problems of the people," the LoP said.

He added, "The Opposition wants to discuss electricity, water, public transport, unemployment and corruption in Delhi, but the AAP has no answer to these problems, so it is wasting the time of the House on baseless allegations."

"It is a stain on the AAP government that in the name of redevelopment of Chandni Chowk, an ancient Hanuman temple has been demolished. The government should apologise for it," Mr. Bidhuri said.

People do not stay in slums out of choice: HC

Orders relocation of 5 slum dwellers

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has directed relocation of five slum dwellers who were shifted from Shahid Basti jhuggi in Nabi Karim to the Lahori Gate side at the time of expansion of the New Delhi railway station.

Justice C. Hari Shankar asked the five slum dwellers to present themselves before the officer concerned of the Indian Railways with all documents in their possession to demonstrate that they have been residing in Shahid Basti jhuggi since the 1980s.

"Rarely is it that jhuggi dwellers can claim to permanently establish themselves at any particular site. They are often uprooted from the place where they dwell, shifted, perforce and often against their will, elsewhere," Justice Shankar observed.

Last-ditch effort

"Hounded by poverty and penury, they have no option but to comply," Justice Shankar said, adding, "Slum dwellers do not stay in slums out of choice. Their choice of residence is a last-ditch effort at securing for

themselves what the Constitution regards as an inalienable adjunct to the right to life under Article 21, viz. the right to shelter and a roof over their heads".

The High Court's remarks came while dealing with a petition filed by five slum dwellers in 2008 against their eviction from the Lahori Gate side of the railway land due to the continuing expansion and modernisation of the New Delhi railway station.

To expand the railway station, the jhuggis situated on Lahori Gate side were demolished on June 14, 2008.

The dwellers contended that under the Policy for Relocation of Slum Dwellers of the Ministry of Urban Development, their eviction could not have been undertaken without a prior survey.

The Railways argued that the relocation policy envisaged relocation only of residents of jhuggis which had been set up on or before November 30, 1998. The present jhuggi dwellers having admittedly been set up only in 2003, the Railways contended that they could not be regarded as entitled to relocation.

DU English teachers fear job loss

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Over 450 English teachers at Delhi University have signed a petition highlighting that the new Under Graduate Curriculum Framework (UGCF) released by the university will reduce the workload of English teachers, leading to job losses.

The teachers said if the university does not restore their workload, ad hoc teachers of the English department might become jobless. The petition also sought intervention by the Delhi University Teachers' Association in the matter.

Rudrashish Chakraborty, former academic council member and associate professor in the English department at Kirori Mal College, said the UCGF has removed English as a course from two segments: the Ability Enhancement Compulsory Course taught to UG students and the compulsory English Language Core papers in B.A./B.Com. programmes.

The petition states that the English department has been singled out with a massive reduction, almost in the range of one-third of its existing workload.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE SRINAGAR KASHMIR
Tel:0194-2474234 Fax: 2482032 email: kashflor@rediffmail.com

Subject :- Extension No.01

In view of no response, the last date for submission of bids invited vide this office e-Tender Notice No.17 of 2022 dated.07.06.2022 for Outsourcing of entry Ticketing system of Padshahibagh Park Bijbehara Anantnag is hereby extended as per the details given below :-

1. Period of downloading of bidding document	02.07.2022 from 01.00 PM to 14.07.2022 up to 02:00 PM
2. Bid submission Start Date	02.07.2022 from 02:00 PM
3. Bid submission End Date	14.07.2022 up to 02:00 PM
4. Date & time of Opening of Tenders (Online)	16.07.2022 at 02:00 PM

Other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid Tender Notice.

Sd/-
Accounts Officer
(Member Secretary)
DIPK-5432/22

Teenager apprehended for raping 12-year-old

Victim had been complaining of stomach ache for two months

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 16-year-old boy has been apprehended for raping a 12-year-old girl in November last year in north Delhi, the police said on Tuesday.

According to the police, the girl's parents took her to a doctor after she complained of stomach ache. Medical tests were conducted and the doctor revealed that the girl was pregnant.

An FIR was then filed and the

accused was apprehended on Monday.

DCP (North) Sagar Singh Kalsi said for the last two months, the girl had been feeling low because of constant stomach ache and her health had started deteriorating. After it was found that the girl was impregnated, her mother reported the matter to the local police.

The victim's mother told the police that the accused is her nephew and had raped her daughter. She added that the incident

took place in November last year when the accused had come to Delhi to attend a relative's marriage and stayed in the victim's house, Mr. Kalsi said.

The accused is from Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh. The police said an FIR under Section 367 (punishment for rape) of the IPC and six relevant provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act has been registered based on the mother's statement.

Special session in city for civil services aspirants

Seminar scheduled for Sunday morning

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Hindu's Future India Club (FIC) in association with Dr. Lakshmaiah IAS Study Circle, B 20, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi, will conduct a seminar on anthropology optional in civils/UPSC at Old Rajinder Nagar on July 10 at 11 a.m.

Apart from Delhi, more such seminars, aimed at sensitising civil services aspirants about the career opportunities they can explore post preparation for the UPSC examination, have been planned in Vijaywada, Tirupathi and Guntur.

These seminars will help the students to get an overview of anthropology. Students will also get to



know why it is the best optional subject for any aspirant irrespective of their educational background.

The seminar will also shed light on the key factors that make anthropology a better and more balanced optional subject as compared to others.

There will also be a discussion in the seminar on ways to score maximum marks in the subject and its usefulness in the personality test.

ENTERPRISE CONNECT A Business Initiative

ONGC CMD Dr Alka Mittal conferred with 'Inspiring CEO of India' Award at ET CEO Conclave 2022

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) CMD and Director (HR) Dr Alka Mittal was conferred with the 'Inspiring CEO of India' Award from the Hon'ble Union Minister of State for the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Ministry of Labour and Employment Rameswar Teli. The award was given at the second edition of The Economic Times CEO Conclave held on 30 June 2022. Based on the theme "Stalwarts in Excellence: Redefining the Future", the conclave honored CMD Dr Mittal for her "endeavors and success mantra" among top CEOs in the country. In her acceptance address after receiving the award, CMD Dr Mittal said, "We must remember that it is our People that gives us the opportunity to stand at these prestigious stages. Without the consistent efforts of our Energy Soldiers, as an organization, we could not have achieved these stellar heights." Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Rameswar Teli said, "ONGC is an excellent example of how the nation can source natural resources when everyone earlier doubted its possibility."

NTPC recognized as one of the 'Most Preferred Workplaces of 2022'

NTPC has been recognized as one of the "Most Preferred Workplaces of 2022" in the premier edition of "Most Preferred Workplaces 2022" organized by Team Marksmen. The esteemed award was received by Shri Dillip Kumar Patel, Director (HR), Shri Munish Jauhari, RED (West-1), and Shri Anil Kumar Jadhav GM HR at a function held in Mumbai on 1st July, 2022. This unique industry-led initiative has been informed and driven by insights drawn from an industry-wide, in-depth research and survey conducted by Team Marksmen. This award showcases and celebrates organizations which have managed to maximize employee wellbeing, engagement and productivity alongside organizational performance. It highlights organizations which have particularly succeeded in their holistic reorientation of the business landscape, and have also seen them create an employee experience that is meaningful, collaborative, and inspiring, simply by putting the needs of employees first and adopting people practices aligned

strategically to business and creating a caring, learning and engaging workplace. Organizations have been appraised on the parameters of Employee Centricity, Organizational Purpose, Intrapreneurial Ecosystem, Work Flexibility, Diversity and Equality, Growth and Rewards, Social Cohesion

PNC Infratech Ltd Receives 'Award of Excellence' from Government of India

PNC Infratech Limited received 'Award of Excellence' from Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India in recognition of setting a world record of laying highest quantity of Dense Bitumen Macadam (42,666 MT) continuously in 100 hours over 50 km single lane at Package 29 of Delhi Vadodara Expressway Project of National Highways Authority of India. The above award and a certificate presented to Mr. Yogesh Kumar Jain, Managing Director of Company during the 'National Highways Excellence Awards 2021 Ceremony' under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' held on 28 June 2022 in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi by the Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha Shri Om Birla ji in the presence of Hon'ble Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari ji, Hon'ble Minister of State, (RT&H) and Civil Aviation, Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.) and top dignitaries and officials of the Ministry and NHAI.

Two weeks workshop held in collaboration with IEEE & ACM on Growing Role of Machine Learning in cyber security

The National Level Two Weeks Workshop entitled "Growing Role of Machine Learning in Cyber Security" in collaboration with IEEE and ACM Society was successfully valedicted and celebrated on June 24th, 2022 at JUIT, Wagnaghat. This workshop was organized by Dr. Monika Bharti, Assistant Professor, CSE/IT, Dr. Pankaj Dhiman, Assistant Professor, CSE/IT, Dr. Amit Kumar Jakhar, Assistant Professor, CSE/IT, as the coordinators and Dr. Himanshu Jindal, Assistant Professor, CSE/IT, Mr. Ravi Raina, Mr. Mohan Sharma, Mr. Ashok Kishitwal as coordinating team members. During the valediction, all the coordinators, team members have been honored and appreciated for their endless efforts; managing the workshop session's on-time. The Workshop has focused on the topics like Introduction

to Machine Learning & Its Lifecycle, Decision Tree Classifier, Role of ML in Cyber Security Applications, Role of Cognitive Warfare, Role of Cyber Security in Social Networking, Cyber-Security Forensic Analysis using Mininet Network Emulator, Ransomware Attack and security protocol, Support Vector Machine, Logistic Regression, Secure Machine Learning, Clustering & Classification, Ensemble Modelling, Time Series based Analysis, Exploratory Analysis. Hands-on experience on configuring and troubleshooting various attacks and resolving common issues which helped in preparing software engineers of today for securing Cyberspace with the help of Machine Learning. This program has also delivered the knowledge and skills required for configuring and analyzing the attacks by hackers.

Sh. N L Sharma, CMD, SJVN awarded Swachhta Pakhwada Awards-2022

Sh. Nand Lal Sharma, Chairman & Managing Director, SJVN today received First Prize in Swachhta Pakhwada Award 2022. Sh. Alok Kumar, Secretary (Power), Government of India, presented the awards to the winning PSUs in a ceremony held in New Delhi. SJVN has bagged first position while second and third positions have been bagged by NTPC & Powergrid respectively. On this occasion, Smt. Geeta Kapur Director (Personnel), SJVN was also present. Sh. Nand Lal Sharma informed that Swachhta Pakhwada Awards are conferred by Ministry of Power, GoI in recognition of the outstanding contribution of the Public Sector Undertakings to Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. The PSUs under MoP are evaluated on various parameters for the activities carried out during Swachhta Pakhwada celebrated from 16-31st May every year. SJVN has been awarded with Swachh Survekshan Awards- First & Second Prize in the years 2018 and 2019 respectively for implementing various initiatives during Swachhta Pakhwada. This year, SJVN had formulated a comprehensive Swachhta Pakhwada Action Plan to undertake various activities in all its project locations & offices across India. This included public awareness campaigns through motivational speeches, nukkad natak & competitions, special drive to encourage use of eco-friendly material, plantation drives, installation of dustbins in public places, distribution of sanitization & personal hygiene materials in local communities etc.

HARYANA SHEHRI VIKAS PRADHIKARAN
Offers an Exclusive e-Auction of Commercial Properties in HSNP Happiness and Food Street in Gurugram, Faridabad & Panchkula

On 10th July 2022

Sr. No.	Sector/ Urban Estate	No. of Plots
1	12-A, Gurugram-I	50
2	16, Faridabad	7
3	5, Panchkula	29

The e-auction of the New Sectors in Urban Estate Tauru and Gharaunda which was earlier scheduled for 10th July 2022 has been rescheduled to 15th July 2022. The bidders who have already registered for this e-auction need not to register afresh.

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For any queries email us at eauctionquery.hsvp@gmail.com

Registration will close one day before the scheduled date of e-auction, at 5 pm. e-Auction Portal: <https://hsvp.org.in> e-Auction will start at 10:00 AM. The competent authority can withdraw any site from e-auction without any notice.

Reserve Price are fixed by HSNP above base price and same will not be disclosed.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice

The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/ PS, Northern Railway, Delhi division, New Delhi invites e-tender for the following work:

1	Name of work with its location	Installation & operation of Network of Speakers to be used for Passenger Announcement System (PAS) along with advertisement rights outside station in Circulating Area in parking areas at New Delhi, Delhi Jn., Hazrat Nizamuddin, Anand Vihar Terminal, Gurgaon, Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Delhi Cantt., Delhi Shahdara, Kurukshetra, Kamal, Panipat, Sonapat, Meerut City, Meerut Cantt., Muzaffarnagar, Ghaziabad and Sahibabad railway stations over Delhi Division" for the period of five years under Unsolicited Proposals policy
2	IREPS E-tender Notice Number	PUBLICITYUNSLICITED01-22
3	Details of Stations	New Delhi, Delhi Jn., Hazrat Nizamuddin, Anand Vihar Terminal, Gurgaon, Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Delhi Cantt., Delhi Shahdara, Kurukshetra, Kamal, Panipat, Sonapat, Meerut City, Meerut Cantt., Muzaffarnagar, Ghaziabad and Sahibabad
4	Date of Tender Opening	28.07.2022 up to 1500 hrs
5	Approximate cost of work	As per NIT on ireps.gov.in
6	Cost of Tender document including 18 % GST	As per NIT on ireps.gov.in
7	Earnest Money Deposit	www.ireps.gov.in
8	Website particulars where complete details of tender document can be seen	https://ireps.gov.in/

No. 7PUB/ NR-DL10COMM(PUB)/12/2022 Dated: 01.07.2022 1660/22

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PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
SEE SECTION U/S 82 Cr. P.c.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Mukesh Arora@Amit Kumar S/o Sh. M.R. Arora, R/o H.No. 2B/15, 2nd Floor , Ramesh Nagar, Kirti Nagar, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 293/2022 u/s 419/420/406/120-B IPC at P.S. Lajpat Nagar, Delhi, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Mukesh Arora@Amit Kumar** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Mukesh Arora@Amit Kumar** has absconded (or is concealing himself) to avoid the service of the said warrant. Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Mukesh Arora@Amit Kumar** of case FIR No. 293/2022 u/s 419/420/406/120-B IPC at P.S. Lajpat Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 17.08.2022.

By Order
Mr. Rishabh Tanwar
Metropolitan Magistrate (09)
Room No. 514, 5th Floor,
South East District
Saket Courts, New Delhi

DP/234/SE/2022-(Court Matter)

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Regd. Office PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number : U40109PB010SG033813
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact number 9646117606)

TENDER ENQUIRY NO.31/MM-/TGP-106(IV)/O&M/GHTP/2022
Dy. Chief Engineer, Mechanical Mtc, Circle-I/GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites E-tender for the work of Reconditioning of Boiler Feed Pumps Cartridge (Type-FK6D30) including supply of required spares of BFPs installed at of 2x210 MW & 2x250 MW GHTP Lehra Mohabbat Stage-I & II as per detail in tender specifications. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 04/07/2022 from 16.00 PM onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> only.

GHTP-34/22 76155/12/972/2021/15467

Information and Public Relations Department
Government of Jharkhand,
Suchana Bhawan, Ranchi.

(Very Short Tender)

Sealed Tender are invited from eligible reputed qualified firms/companies with sound Technical and Financial capabilities for Design, Development, Hosting and Maintenance of Online e-Application with regard to Mukhya Mantri Patrakar Vima Yojana and relevant online process related to aforesaid scheme.

1. The following table provides a quick overview of the key activities and some important information about this TENDER:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Details
1.1	Tender Reference No.	1136
1.2	Tender issuing Authority	Information & Public Relations Department, Government of Jharkhand, Suchana Bhawan, Ranchi.
1.3	Name of the Project	Design, Development, Hosting and Maintenance of Online e - Application with regard to Mukhya Mantri Patrakar Vima Yojana and relevant online process related to aforesaid scheme.
1.4	Date of issue of tender document	05.07.2022
1.5	Date of Pre-Bid Meeting	08.07.2022
1.6	Last date and time of submission of TENDER document	12.07.2022 till 12:00PM
1.7	Date of opening of Bids/ TENDER	12.07.2022 at 03:00PM
1.8	Date of Presentation	On Same Day
1.9	Validation of TENDER	Proposal must remain valid for 90 days after the submission Date.
1.10	EMD	The bidders are required to submit the EMD in the form of a demand draft of Rs.1,00,000/- (One Lakh only) in favor of Information & Public Relations Department, Payable at Ranchi.
1.11	Address of communication / submission of proposal	Information & Public Relations Department, Government of Jharkhand, Suchana Bhawan, Ranchi, Tel: 0651-2281522, 0651-2282458

The Terms & Conditions and detailed copy of the Tender document should be obtained from departmental notice board or may also be downloaded from our website www.prdjharkhand.in.

PR 273007 IPRD(22-23).D Director

Timings
DELHI

WEDNESDAY, JUL. 06
RISE 05:30 SET 19:23
RISE 11:43 SET 00:00

THURSDAY, JUL. 07
RISE 05:30 SET 19:23
RISE 12:40 SET 00:04

FRIDAY, JUL. 08
RISE 05:30 SET 19:23
RISE 13:41 SET 00:35

Delhi Weather max min

Delhi City	38	29
Safdarjang	38	29
Palam	38	28

Delhi Palam Today
36°C The weather will be very warm and humid with uneasy afternoon. Chances of light rain or thundershower. Night will be comfortable.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
33°C A warm and humid weather to continue. Night will be comfortable. Spell of light rain and thundershower is likely.

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INTERVIEW | ANIT THAPA

'GTA poll marks the beginning of practical politics in Darjeeling hills'

Peace is not enough, people want prosperity now, says the soon-to-be chairperson of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration

Bharatiya Gorkha Prajatantrik Morcha (BGPM) chief Anit Thapa has won the elections to the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA). The elections to the GTA, the regional autonomous body of the Darjeeling hills, which comprise Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts, were held after a period of 10 years, and the BGPM, won 27 of the 45 seats. In an interview with Shiv Sahay Singh, the 49-year-old politician says that along with the support of the West Bengal government, he can usher in development in the Darjeeling Hills. Excerpts:

Your campaign for the GTA poll was on the promise of peace and development. You must be happy that it worked out.

Peace is not enough for the people of the Darjeeling hills. It has been five years since the 2017 (100-day strike and violent agitation for Gorkhaland) agitation

and we have been able to maintain peace. People of the hills want prosperity now.

The GTA elections and the mandate of the people in our favour herald the beginning of practical politics in the Darjeeling hills.

What are the challenges before the GTA?

There are a lot of challenges before the GTA. Everything has collapsed in the hills; there is no panchayat system in Darjeeling. But nothing is impossible. With the support of the West Bengal government, we will be able to make a difference in the lives of the people. The GTA is under the State government and we will have to work together.

You have been at the helm of affairs at the GTA in the past. How is it different this time?

This time, I have the mandate of the people. Last time, the West Bengal government had appointed me



I want everyone to be part of the GTA. This is important for the unity of the hills

for restoring peace in the hills. On this occasion, with the support of the people behind me, I can bargain with the State government as far as the interests of the

people of the hills are concerned.

Were you confident that your party would secure victory, contesting only 35 of the 45 seats in the GTA?

I was confident because my opponents were making only false promises. In their campaigns, they were saying that they don't like the GTA. If they don't like the GTA or are not in favour of the GTA, then why should they seek votes from the people in the GTA polls? Ajay Edwards (chief of the Hamro Party) has the same line — that they don't want to work with the State government. Bimal Gurung (founder of

the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha) had also taken the same line in the past. For the past three to four decades, this has been the history of leadership in the hills, be it [in] the time of Subhas Ghising (founder of the Gorkha National Liberation Front) or Bimal Gurung.

They would just shout at the government and get the votes of the people. This ploy has been used to fool the people of the hills. The people of the hills have suffered not because of the State government or the Centre; they have suffered just because of hills' leaders.

Will the TMC Sabhasads (members of the GTA) be

included in the GTA Board?

I want everyone to be part of the GTA. This is important for the unity of the hills. As the chairperson, I want all the Sabhasads of the hills together.

What do you want to say to parties who did not contest?

In fact, all the parties contested. Whether it was the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) or others. They had all fielded Independents. There was a tacit understanding between parties like the GJM and the Hamro Party. So it cannot be said that these parties really stayed away from the polls.

Shortlisted IAF Airmen left in the lurch

Candidates feel cheated, move Delhi High Court seeking completion of recruitment process

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

Over a year after the Indian Air Force (IAF) announced the names of aspirants shortlisted for the position of Airmen, the recruitment process has allegedly been scrapped to make way for the Agnipath scheme, much to the dismay of hapless candidates who have been waiting for their joining letters.

"I have been cheated. After going through the written examination and then clearing medical, they have cancelled the whole recruitment process without any intimation. I feel like crying," said Sachin Maheshwari whose name figured in the provisional select list (PSL) published by the IAF on May 31 last year.

Mr. Maheshwari, a resident of Budaun in Uttar Pradesh, narrated that he had to undergo a costly nose sur-

gery and also bring his weight down from 108 kg to 70 kg just to clear the medical test. At a press conference held on June 19, 2022, Air Marshal Suraj Kumar Jha said that all pending recruitment process in the Air Force stood cancelled and future recruitments will be done only through the Agniveer route.

On June 29, the IAF said on Twitter that it has received 2,01,648 applications for Agniveer, registration for which closed on Tuesday.

Another aspirant Aman Verma, a resident of Jaspur town in Uttarakhand, said the IAF used to regularly update its website about the delay in announcing the enrolment list. However, after the Agnipath scheme was announced, the link to the site stopped working. "After clearing the written and medical tests, I stopped



further studies. Now I have no other option but to apply under the Agnipath scheme," Mr. Verma said.

Subham Kadian from Rohatak in Haryana said he has wasted three years of his life because of the protracted recruitment process. "I was hopeful that once selected into the Air Force, I would continue to pursue my graduation through online learning and then later apply for officer's position," Mr. Kadian said. "However, under this Agnipath scheme, I cannot pursue an officer's position

or anything else. And after four years, I will become overage. I am undecided whether or not to apply for Agnipath scheme," Mr. Kadian added.

On Tuesday, 20 other candidates who had appeared in all the phases of recruitment — online test, a physical fitness test, a group discussion, adaptability tests and medical examination — and qualified in all of them approached the Delhi High Court seeking a direction to the IAF to complete the recruitment process by publishing the enrolment list.

The High Court has posted the petition for hearing after two weeks after it was informed by the Centre's counsel that the Supreme Court is already seized of a similar petition. As per the petition before the High Court, the notification for the recruitment of Airmen position was is-

sued by IAF in December 2019. The written test was to be conducted in March 2020 but it got delayed to November 2020 due to COVID-19.

The physical test took place in January 2021 and the medical test in February 2021. The Provisional Selection List (PSL) was published on May 31, 2021. Since then, the date for announcement of the enrolment list, has kept getting pushed.

The petition stated that various successive statements were posted by IAF on their official website stating that there is a delay in declaration of result on account of COVID and administrative reasons.

The latest statement released on May 31, 2022, states, "Due to administrative reasons, the enrolment of airmen for Intake 02/21 and declaration of result for STAR 01/2021 online examination are delayed."

Waiting time



Cold comfort: Pilgrims on their way back to the base camp at Baltal in Srinagar on Tuesday as the Amarnath Yatra was temporarily suspended due to bad weather. ■ ANI

ED questions Mumbai ex-CP in NSE case



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Former Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey appeared before the Enforcement Directorate in Delhi on Tuesday for questioning in a money laundering case linked to the alleged National Stock Exchange (NSE) co-location scam.

The agency recorded his statement under criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, officials said.

The 1986-batch Indian Police Service officer retired from service on June 30. Before his four-month stint as the Mumbai Commissioner of Police, he served as acting Maharashtra Director General of Police.

Mr. Pandey's questioning by the ED is related to the functioning and activities of a company called iSec Securities Pvt. Ltd, one firm amongst a few others that conducted a security audit of the NSE around the time the co-location irregularities are alleged to have taken place. The company was incorporated by Mr. Pandey in March 2001 and he quit as its director in May 2006. His son and mother later took charge of the company.

The police officer, who studied at IIT-Kanpur and Harvard University, is understood to have established the company after he resigned from service.

Uddhav ready for poll battle, asks cadre to be prepared

Only aim to uproot those who betrayed party: Sena chief

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

Appealing to the party organisation to get ready for the upcoming elections, Shiv Sena president and former Chief Minister of Maharashtra Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday said the only aim now was to uproot those who betrayed the party. "Don't bother about the ongoing political games. I am capable of handling that. You concentrate on elections. We have to win those elections at any cost. You have the responsibility to flare up the anger against these traitors. Let any election come, they (Eknath Shinde group) will have to be uprooted," Mr. Thackeray said.

He was addressing a programme of the party's women's wing at the Sena Bhavan here.

Referring to the rebellion, Mr. Thackeray said the real



Uddhav Thackeray.

plan was to finish off the Sena. "The plan is to make one Shiv Sainik fight another. They don't only want to break it, but want to finish it off and this bearded man (Eknath Shinde) is the face. Even he doesn't know that he is throttled and not under control. Yesterday, his mike was snatched. He won't even know what will be snatched next," Mr. Thackeray said.

Commenting on the Maha Vikas Aghadi partners (the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party), Mr. Thackeray

said, "Those who were against us for 30 years have stood behind us but on those we decided to rely backstabbed us."

Recalling Mr. Shinde's speech in the Assembly on Monday, the Sena chief taunted that his auto's brake failure had led to the opening of many secrets. "Deputy CM was asking to stop, but an auto with failed brake was running too fast," he said.

Replying to the taunt, Mr. Shinde later tweeted, "Auto's speed was much more than the Mercedes' because this is a government of common man."

Meanwhile, in what could spell more trouble for the Shiv Sena, the party's Lok Sabha member Rahul Shewale on Tuesday wrote to Mr. Thackeray asking him to vote for the NDA's Presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu.

HC stays bail granted to Sajjan Kumar in 1984 riots case

He may hamper evidence if released, submitted SIT

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has stayed an order granting bail to former Congress leader Sajjan Kumar in a case of rioting and murder arising from the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

Justice Yogesh Khanna gave the direction on a petition by the Special Investigating Team (SIT) that challenged the April 27 order of the trial court granting bail to Mr. Kumar in a case lodged at Saraswati Vihar police station here.

The SIT submitted that Mr. Kumar was involved in a heinous offence and some important witnesses were yet to be examined and if he is released, it may hamper the evidence.

Mr. Kumar is already serving a life term in another murder case arising from the riots that took place after the assassination of then



Sajjan Kumar

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Woman filed affidavit

The SIT, in its plea, said this case was registered at Saraswati Vihar police station in 1991 based on an affidavit filed by a woman in September 1985 before Justice Ranganath Misra Commission of Inquiry. "In her affidavit, the

woman had narrated the November 1, 1984, incident of killing and burning of her husband and son and she had also clearly stated the name of accused Sajjan Kumar as a person who instigated the mob," the plea said.

The plea said after the probe, the riots cell of Delhi Police had sent the case as untraced which was accepted by the magistrate on July 8, 1994. However, the complainant was neither produced before the court by the investigating officer nor the court summoned her to clarify her position before passing the order, the plea added. The SIT added that the woman's statement was also recorded in another FIR lodged at Punjabi Bagh police station, however, the judicial record of that FIR has been destroyed by the weeding out process.

OPS moves HC with plea to stall AIADMK's meet

'Suit has been filed for party's welfare'

MOHAMED IMRANULLAH S.
CHENNAI

AIADMK leader O. Panneerselvam has filed a civil suit in the Madras High Court with a plea to stall the party's general council meeting, scheduled for July 11.

He claimed that the suit had been filed only for the welfare of the party, and that by no stretch of imagination could it be construed as being against the party's interests.

Justice Krishnan Ramasamy on Tuesday accepted a request for an early hearing of the suit, and directed the

Registry to list it, along with another suit filed by general council member P. Vairamuthu, who had also sought a similar relief, on Wednesday.

Mr. Panneerselvam said the July 11 meeting was convened illegally and in contravention of the party bylaws. He accused former CM Edappadi K. Palaniswami and his supporters of having "surreptitiously manoeuvred" things to their advantage to execute their "sinister plot to amend the basic structure of the party".

Palaniswami files supplementary application in Supreme Court

'Panneerselvam has brought AIADMK party to a standstill'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami has filed a supplementary application, saying the "vexatious and prejudicial acts" of his party colleague O. Panneerselvam has brought the AIADMK to a "standstill".

The case is coming up for hearing before a Vacation Bench of Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and Krishna Murari. Mr. Palaniswami challenged a Madras High Court Division Bench order restraining the AIADMK general

council [held on June 23] from taking any decision which may pave the way for a "single leadership" of the party. In his additional application which, he said, brought to light subsequent facts concerning the case, Mr. Palaniswami, represented by advocate Balaji Srinivasan, blamed Mr. Panneerselvam for "disrupting" the general council meeting on June 23 when the issue of single leadership was raised by the cadre.

The application said Mr. Panneerselvam approached

the police, asking them not to permit the meeting, and when this failed, he initiated court proceedings "so that the meeting will not go ahead and the party cadre will not be able to express their intention"

"This situation spilt over to even the political functions of the party. In the by-polls to the local bodies, the AIADMK was unable to set up its candidates, as the second respondent (Panneerselvam) did not cooperate with the functioning of the party," the application said.

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Hearing on Mathura mosque-temple dispute resumes

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

In the ongoing Shahi Idgah Mosque-Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Temple civil dispute in Mathura, a civil court in the district on Tuesday resumed the hearing in one of the several suits filed in the matter.

On Tuesday, the Civil Judge (Senior Division) took up for hearing in the suit filed by Advo-

cate Mahendra Pratap Singh which laid claim to the land where the mosque is built as part of the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Temple.

During the hearing, Mr. Singh argued that their suit should be heard first and that the court should appoint a commissioner to conduct a survey of the mosque whereas the Shahi Idgah Mosque Management Commit-

tee argued that the court should first hear their application under Order VII Rule 11 of the Civil Code Procedure, challenging the maintainability of the Hindu side's suit.

Advocate Tanveer Ahmed, secretary of the mosque management committee and its lawyer, told *The Hindu*, "We cited several Supreme Court and High Court judgments to argue that

the court should first decide on the maintainability of the suit before moving ahead."

Most recently, the Supreme Court had, in the Gyanvapi Mosque-Kashi Vishwanath Temple civil dispute, ruled that the court concerned should first hear the matter on the maintainability of the plaintiffs' suit before going ahead with it.

However, Mr. Singh said he re-

lied on a district court ruling from May 30, that had ordered the Civil Judge to hear his suit on a "day-to-day" basis. Mr. Ahmed said this order had clearly specified that the hearing should be conducted as per law and "as per law, the maintainability should be decided first".

The Mathura court has now posted the matter for hearing on July 7.

Razorpay handed over donor data without telling us, says Alt News

'Information shared in response to police notice'

ABHINAV LAKSHMAN
NEW DELHI

Razorpay payments gateway "handed over Alt News donor data to the police" without informing them or without even a preliminary investigation of any violation, the fact-checking website said in a statement on Tuesday. This prompted several of its donors to raise concerns on social media about the privacy of their data.

This came a day after it was revealed that the payments gateway had blocked donations to Alt News on their platform for a day upon receiving "certain preliminary reports" from law enforcement authorities.

All donors are required to mandatorily share their Permanent Account Number (PAN), address, phone number, email, and Indian citizenship status before donating.

Responding to Alt News, Razorpay said while they "strive to ensure transactions on the platforms are safe", they are also "fully abiding and compliant" with Indian laws and while continuing "to hold the highest standard of data security, defend our customers at all times". The payments gateway

said they had shared the information sought by the police during its probe against Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair in response to a notice under Section 91 of the Code of Criminal Procedure as it is mandated to.

The payments gateway "temporarily deactivated" the website's account for around a day "as a safety precaution, while the investigation was ongoing" and restored it on Monday evening after "clarity on the issue from the authorities", a spokesperson had said.

'Exploring alternatives' On Tuesday afternoon, Alt News said, "It has not been specified by them as to what this 'clarity' is. However, if Razorpay had indeed found that we had violated their terms of services, they wouldn't have re-enabled our account."

Alt News said they are still looking for other gateways to shift to and will be accepting donations through Razorpay till that time. It also reiterated that "only Indian bank accounts" can donate to Alt News and foreign credit cards "were never enabled in the Razorpay backend".

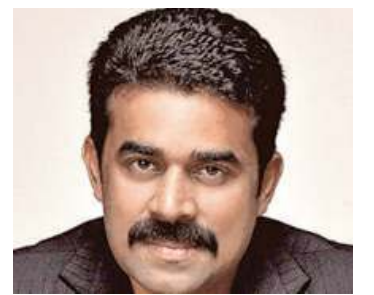
SC to hear pleas against advance bail for actor Vijay Babu

An actor has accused him of rape; case to come up today

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to urgently hear the appeals of State of Kerala and an aspiring Malayalam actress who has accused actor-producer Vijay Babu of raping her, against the interim anticipatory bail granted to him in the case. A Vacation Bench led by Justice Indira Banerjee scheduled the hearing for July 6.

In an oral mentioning, senior advocate Jaideep Gupta, for Kerala, and advocate Raghen Basant, for the 25-year-old woman, said Mr. Babu "bragged" on social media about how he had successfully evaded the process of law by flying to Dubai and Georgia and even pu-



Vijay Babu

bly revealed the identity of the woman, which was a criminal offence by itself.

Despite this, a Single Judge of the Kerala High Court had granted him anticipatory bail.

"He revealed my identity and threatened me. He has immense clout in the Malayalam industry," Mr. Basant submitted during the oral mentioning for an urgent hearing.

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Sameer Srivastava (Advocate)
D-80, LGF, Saket, New Delhi-17

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IN BRIEF

Former Uduma MLA
P. Raghavan dead

KASARAGOD
Former Uduma MLA P. Raghavan, 77, passed away at his house at Bedakam, Kasaragod on Tuesday. He was under treatment for age-related ailments. Mr. Raghavan was a member of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) Kasaragod district secretariat for 37 years. He was elected MLA from Uduma in 1991 and 1996. He shaped the cooperative movement in Kasaragod.

ACB searches Karnataka
MLA's houses, office

BENGALURU
The Anti-Corruption Bureau did simultaneous searches on five places, including houses and offices belonging to B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, Congress MLA from Chamaraipet, on Tuesday. The searches were carried out based on Enforcement Directorate report on disproportionate assets. Some documents were recovered, sources said. Supporters of Mr. Khan gathered in front of his house and staged a protest.

'T.N. Cabinet waiting for an Eknath Shinde'

BJP State president draws parallels between the families of Bal Thackeray and Karunanidhi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

BJP Tamil Nadu president K. Annamalai said on Tuesday that the Tamil Nadu Cabinet was waiting for the emergence of an Eknath Shinde (rebel Shiv Sena leader and Maharashtra Chief Minister).

Drawing parallels between Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray's family and DMK patriarch M. Karunanidhi's family, Mr. Annamalai said the first sons of both leaders failed in films, the second sons were estranged from the families, the third sons [Uddhav Thackeray and M.K. Stalin respectively] had the opportunity to be the Chief Ministers, while the grandsons [Aaditya Thackeray and Udhayanidhi Stalin] had political ambitions.

"Just like how an Eknath Shinde came up in the Shiv Sena [and ousted Mr. Uddhav Thackeray with the BJP's support], the Tamil Nadu Cabinet is waiting for an Eknath Shinde to emerge," he said, addressing party workers at Valluvar Kottam in Chennai after a day-long fast against the DMK's alleged failure to fulfil its election promises.



BJP State president K. Annamalai and party workers observing a fast in Chennai on Tuesday. ■ R. RAGU

net is waiting for an Eknath Shinde to emerge," he said, addressing party workers at Valluvar Kottam in Chennai after a day-long fast against the DMK's alleged failure to fulfil its election promises.

505 poll promises

Mr. Annamalai said party workers would undertake a one-year padayatra from January 1, 2023, if the DMK go-

vernment does not fulfil its 505 election promises by the year-end.

"You made 505 promises. Even after 15 months in government, you have not fulfilled them, including the one to halve the number of Tasmac [liquor] shops. If you don't fulfil the promises by December 31 this year, we will begin a padayatra on January 1, 2023 from the Vive-

kananda Rock Memorial in Kanniyakumari, and it will culminate in Gopalapuram [Karunanidhi's residence]," Mr. Annamalai said.

He urged party workers to sacrifice personal and professional lives for one year to bring in a political change and ensure 25 BJP MPs were elected from Tamil Nadu to be part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "next government". He would participate in the padayatra as an ordinary worker of the party. "We will go to all 77,000 polling booths in the State. We will go to all the villages in small teams. Only after enlightening the people there in villages about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's welfare measures, will we leave from there," he said.

While Mr. Stalin claimed that property tax won't be hiked, it was hiked by more than 150%, the promise of petrol-diesel price cut was only

partially fulfilled, with petrol price alone cut by ₹3 a litre even after the Modi government brought the petrol price down by ₹14.50 a litre and diesel price by ₹17 a litre since November 2021, he added.

"Even a State like Uttar Pradesh that is considered backward has cut the fuel price by ₹12, while the DMK which is tom-tomming that Tamil Nadu is a developed State, refuses to bring it down," he said.

According to him, the DMK was indulging in gimmicks by presenting an agriculture budget while not helping farmers. While Mr. Stalin claimed that his government would create 2 lakh jobs, nothing was done.

"But Mr. Modi has set a target of creating 10 lakh jobs in the Central government by December 31, 2024, though this was not part of our election promise," he said.

CM Shinde stays schemes of previous govt. for this fiscal

They will be presented to the new guardian Ministers to take a decision



Eknath Shinde.

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Days after the new Maharashtra government decided to cancel the earlier government's decision to shift Metro car shed from the Aarey forest, it has now decided to stay all the administrative approvals in the ongoing fiscal under the District Planning and Development Council (DPDC) until the new guardian Ministers for each district are appointed.

Planning committees

A circular issued by the State Planning Department on Monday said that the district-level planning committees need to be reassembled with new members and special invitees.

"In this background, under the provisions of Section 12 of the Maharashtra District Planning Committee (Constitution and Functions) Act, 1998, all the administrative approvals to various developmental works for year 2022-23 from April 1, 2022, have been stayed," it said.

The circular added that following the appointment of new district guardian Ministers, the list of works given the administrative approval will be presented to them and based on his approval, the decision of whether to continue the said work or not would be taken.

On Monday, after win-

ning the trust vote in the Assembly, both Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis had said that the new government will not stop any developmental work undertaken by the previous government.

During his speech, Mr. Shinde had said that the Shiv Sena worker has not benefited despite party president Uddhav Thackeray becoming the Chief Minister and he will ensure that ground level worker benefits from the present government. The works allotted under the DPDC are usually proposed by the workers and the leaders of the ruling party for the benefit of their constituencies, voters and target areas where the ruling party hopes to expand in future.

Yet to finalise Cabinet

As the new government is yet to finalise its Cabinet Ministers, the stay is likely to extend by at least two weeks.

The new government has already overturned the previous government's decision of shifting Metro-3 carshed out of Aarey and has decided to restart the Jalyukta Shiwari scheme - a pet scheme initiated by the then CM and now Dy. CM Mr. Fadnis.

Minister derided Statute, says Kerala Oppn.

Congress, BJP demand his resignation



Saji Cherian

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A video clip showing Kerala Culture Minister Saji Cherian allegedly speaking "disparagingly" about the Constitution has landed the Left Democratic Front government in the State in a fix.

In the video, Mr. Cherian is seen describing the Constitution as "British-crafted and anti-working class".

He is heard saying the Constitution "condones exploitation" and is written in a way that helps to "plunder" the people of the country.

Mr. Cherian was speaking

at a CPI(M) programme at Mallappally in Pathanamthitta on Sunday. The video clip surfaced on social media on Tuesday. The controversial speech has stirring up a political storm in Kerala.

The Congress and the BJP have demanded the Minister's resignation. Congress workers marched to his office in Alappuzha. Bharatiya Janatha Yuva Morcha work-

ers burned Mr. Cherian's effigy in front of the Secretariat.

However, the government dug its heels in on the issue. Mr. Cherian told the Assembly that the media had misinterpreted his words. His speech was not broadcast in its entirety. "I had only remarked that social justice remained a distant dream for most Indians despite 75 years of Constitutionally guaranteed freedoms," he said.

A BJP delegation led by former Mizoram Governor Kumanam Rajasekharan met Governor Arif Mohammad Khan.

Mr. Khan later told presspersons that the Raj Bhavan was monitoring the situation. He said the Chief Minister was cognisant of the

development.

Both the Congress and the BJP have warned that they would agitate against the government until Mr. Cherian quits office.

CPI(M) Polit Bureau member M.A. Baidy said Mr. Cherian had dwelt on the current political situation wherein right wing forces were chipping away at the secular and democratic foundations of the Constitution. The controversial remark could be of significant legal and political consequence to Mr. Cherian.

Some sensed a faint echo, in the current furore, of the stormy political controversy that caused Kerala Congress leader and former Minister R. Balakrishna Pillai's resignation from the Congress government in 1985.

Call for in-house probe into 'threat' to HC judge

Advocates' body to write to CJJ

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Advocates' Association, Bengaluru on Tuesday demanded an in-house investigation into the issue of a "threat" posed to Justice H.P. Sandesh for questioning the functioning of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB).

Pointing out that the remarks made by Justice Sandesh on July 4 gives an indication that another judge of the High Court tried to "influence" him in the matter of the ACB, the association said that such an interference by another judge is unacceptable in the functioning of the judicial system.

AAB president Vivek Subba Reddy said the association would write a letter to the Chief Justice of India to conduct an in-house investigation to unearth the persons behind the "threat".

Justice Sandesh had disclosed the "threat" aspect during the hearing on a petition filed by P.S. Mahesh, a deputy tahsildar, who is an accused in the ₹5 lakh bribery case involving J. Manjunath, an IAS officer and the then Deputy Commissioner of Bengaluru urban district.

He had questioned the action of the ACB as no action was initiated against Manjunath.

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Udyogamandal Sd/-
06.07.2022 Deputy General Manager(HR) IR

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COMMON RECRUITMENT PROCESS FOR RECRUITMENT OF CLERKS IN PARTICIPATING BANKS (CRP CLERKS-XII for Vacancies of 2023-24)

The online examination (Preliminary and Main) for the next Common Recruitment Process for selection of personnel for Clerical cadre Posts in the Participating Banks is tentatively scheduled in September 2022 & October 2022.

The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

Activity	Tentative Dates
On-line registration including Edit/Modification of Application by candidates	01.07.2022 to 21.07.2022
Payment of Application Fees/Intimation Charges (Online)	01.07.2022 to 21.07.2022
Download of call letters for Pre-Exam Training*	August 2022
Conduct of Pre-Exam Training*	August 2022
Download of call letters for Online examination - Preliminary	August 2022
Online Examination - Preliminary	September 2022
Result of Online exam - Preliminary	September/October 2022
Download of Call Letter for Online exam - Main	September/October 2022
Online Examination - Main	October 2022
Provisional Allotment	April 2023

* In case it is possible and safe to hold PET

Candidates are advised to regularly keep in touch with the authorised IBPS website www.ibps.in for details and updates.

Before registering online candidates are advised to read the detailed notification carefully and follow the instructions mentioned therein.

Mumbai Date: 01.07.2022 Director

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Eligibility Conditions:
PROFESSOR- Ph.D with 10 years experience in the relevant discipline or equivalent industry experience.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR- Ph.D with 8 years experience in the relevant field.
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR- Post Graduate in relevant discipline. Ph.D candidates will be preferred.

Walk-in interview
between 10:00 am - 4:00 pm on
Saturday, 09th July, 2022 at
Hotel HILTON
124/1, J.N. Salai, Guindy, Chennai-600032

Director HR
GALGOTIAS UNIVERSITY
www.galgotiasuniversity.edu.in
E-mail: recruitments@galgotiasuniversity.edu.in
Plot No. 2, Yamuna Expressway, Distt Gautam Buddh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.
Phone No.: 0120-4806860



Convenient lies

The BJP should not feed the fake news ecosystem to score political points

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's comments about SFI activists, where he forgave those who had vandalised his office in his Lok Sabha constituency, Wayanad in Kerala, were an act of sagacity that is rare. In a disturbing, but recurring sign of the toxicity that pervades the country's public space, his comments were presented by a TV channel as condoning the Islamist bigots in Udaipur who ruthlessly killed a man they suspected of supporting blasphemy. The channel and the anchor in question issued an apology, but only after the malicious act blew up as an indefensible scandal. BJP leader and former Union Minister – for Information and Broadcasting, no less – Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, and some other party leaders who shared the same doctored video on social media did not feel any compulsion to retract their endorsement of the fake news. The doctored video clip, flagged 'out of context' by Twitter, remains on their timelines. Mr. Gandhi could be seen and heard as saying that it was children who did that, and while it was a mistake, the issue could be put to rest. The malicious misrepresentation of these words by the news channel and the BJP leaders is an extremely irresponsible act in a country that is deeply polarised. The Congress wrote to BJP President J.P. Nadda to take action against these leaders for spreading fake news, and get the doctored video removed. The BJP has not responded.

The police in Chhattisgarh, a State that is under Congress rule, have registered an FIR on the fake news video and complaints have been filed in other States as well. A police team from the State was prevented by the police in Uttar Pradesh – a BJP-ruled State – from taking the accused TV anchor into custody, adding yet another layer to the controversy. The BJP claims to be a party with a strong leadership that is serious about internal discipline. If its leaders are not expected to talk out of line from the official position of the party, the question that begs an answer is whether Mr. Rathore is acting in accordance with it. If his position is not the BJP's position, the party must immediately clarify that and consider action against Mr. Rathore and other leaders who are brazenly spreading misinformation that could ignite more violence. The fact is that communally provocative statements are an easy route to popularity in the BJP ecosystem, and the party is either helpless or has no capacity to contain the malaise. By scripting an outright lie, the channel and the anchor further exposed the deep crisis of journalism in the country; as the ruling party at the Centre, the BJP must distance itself from Mr. Rathore's act.

A matter of import

Spectre of wider trade and current account deficits is dragging the rupee down

India's monthly merchandise trade deficit hit a fresh record of \$25.6 billion in June as per preliminary estimates released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry on Monday. This is the third occasion in seven months and the second month in a row that the trade deficit has widened to all-time highs. In June, the value of outbound shipments grew 16.8%, marginally slower than the 20.6% growth recorded in May, to about \$38 billion – reflecting the third successive month of moderation. Worryingly, four of India's top 10 export items – engineering goods, cotton yarn, drugs and pharma and plastic products – contracted from a year ago. Petroleum exports were up 98% from June 2021, but about \$0.7 billion lower than May 2022. Even as exports growth slid, imports surged by over 51% to \$63.6 billion in June, crossing the \$60 billion mark for the fourth month in a row. Coal imports, up almost 242% year-on-year, and petroleum inflows, up 94.2%, drove nearly three-fourths of this surge. And although gold imports, which had soared nearly eight-fold in May to touch 107 tonnes, moderated from over \$6 billion that month to \$2.6 billion in June, they were still 169% higher than a year ago and significantly over April's imports of \$1.7 billion. The trade deficit for Q1 adds up to a record \$70.25 billion, over two times higher than a year ago.

The tangible slowdown in exports, due to weaker global demand, is unlikely to change much soon, with recessions or sharp growth slowdowns expected in several developed markets. Domestic demand for imports of oil, fertilizers, coal and even gold – a safe haven for investors amid tumultuous financial markets – is largely inelastic, and elevated global prices for these will continue to escalate the import bill through this year. The weakening rupee, which tumbled further to 79.37 vis-à-vis the U.S. dollar on Tuesday, will raise import costs further. Analysts expect the rupee to scale the 82 to a dollar mark by the October to December quarter before recovering and the current account deficit to more than double to around 3% of GDP this year from 1.2% in 2021-22. Robust forex reserves notwithstanding, the persistent outflows of foreign capital from the financial markets have triggered concerns about the balance of payments situation. Last week, the Government imposed a windfall tax on crude oil production that could help bridge concerns about the fiscal deficit. It also placed restrictions on petroleum products' exports and acknowledged that gold imports were hurting the current account by raising customs duties to 15% from 10.75%. This may end up hurting petroleum exports further while import duties may not dent India's unparalleled appetite for the yellow metal as much as hoped. Coal imports, on the other hand, are expected to keep hitting record highs as the monsoon will affect domestic output. Policy makers may have little room to manoeuvre out of this vicious cycle, but missteps must be avoided and domestic inefficiencies hurting exports reviewed urgently.

Indian aviation needs a strong and steady tailwind

Policymakers ought to recognise the country's untapped potential and work towards dismantling the many hurdles



G.R. GOPINATH

Around four decades ago, India had two television channels – Doordarshan One and Doordarshan Two. A programming highlight was a popular R.K. Laxman cartoon. On channel one, there was programming on Indira Gandhi and when a viewer got bored, he switched to the other channel, which had programming on Sanjay Gandhi, her second son and a politician who mattered then. There were only two car companies, manufacturing the Ambassador and the Fiat Premier Padmini; two motorcycle and two scooter companies, that made the Enfield India and Ideal Jawa bikes, and the Bajaj and Lambretta scooters, respectively; one telephone company, two airlines, Air India and Indian Airlines, and a bunch of crumbling public sector airports.

Then came some change. Thanks to the far-sighted reforms ushered in by P.V. Narasimha Rao, who was ably assisted by Manmohan Singh, and carried forward during the Rajiv Gandhi and Atal Bihari Vajpayee eras and also subsequent governments, India now has over 500 television channels, more than 20 automobile and 15 two-wheeler manufacturers, a revolution and proliferation in the cellphone sector (but now in danger of becoming a duopoly), and a plethora of pharmaceutical companies. The country is a pioneer and world leader in vaccine production and a mighty nation in software and financial services, which are the envy of the rest of the world for innovation and being low cost. But there is also a twist to this tale. There are a number of airline companies, but they are struggling.

The reforms that opened up the aviation sector in 1991 and ended the licence raj and the monopoly of Indian Airlines and Air India changed the sector. A slew of private sector airlines were given the licence to fly, but two, Jet Airways and Sahara, survived, resulting in cartelisation. There was change again when the concept of low

cost airlines in India took shape in 2003 which overcame the cost barrier. There was an explosion in demand and the common man could think of flying. Along with this came a liberalisation of various other sectors that propelled India to the front; it was a vibrant and an emerging economic power and a leader among developing economies.

Barriers and some data

Sadly, while all other sectors have grown by leaps and bounds, Indian aviation has become 'the sick man of India'. The growth of aviation has been affected by choking regulations, tough entry barriers for new entrants, high fuel prices on account of sky high taxes, and inefficient public sector airports that are paving the way for monopoly airports that are extortionist in the absence of robust competition. Frequent and knee-jerk changes only point to the absence of a long-term visionary strategic policy not just for airlines but also for the entire gamut of sectors in aviation.

The number of Indians who buy air tickets in a year is 140 million (the figure for 2019) before COVID-19 struck and ravaged the economy. They are not 140 million different individuals as it seems. That number comprises 35 million to 40 million frequent flyers who form the bulk of ticket buyers. It translates to less than 4% of the population who can afford air travel, placing India just alongside some poorer African countries, in terms of the per capita consumption of air tickets. Brazil, Malaysia, Indonesia and China are way ahead of India.

Hard numbers across the world for the pre-COVID-19 year 2019 provide context to the story. Ireland, not the biggest of economies, had 28 million domestic air passengers or tickets sold against a population of five million. In Europe, it was 1,146 million passengers for a population of 447 million; in the United States, it was 927 million passengers for a population of 325 million. Let us leave the most developed economies. Here is more data: Brazil 119 million passengers/population 215 million; Malaysia 63 million passengers/population approximately 33 million; Indonesia 116 million passengers/population nearly 280 million, and China, 660 million



M.A. SRIRAM

passengers/1.4 billion people. In contrast, India, with 1.25 billion people, had 140 million domestic passengers. And, finally, some more numbers: Ethiopia five million passengers/population nearly 120 million and Egypt, 13.2 million passengers/ population 100 million.

A Eureka moment

I founded a helicopter company in 1995, but in 2002 I envisioned a new vibrant India that had unleashed consumer aspirations in its citizens in the wake of a flood of reforms in the economy in China. The explosion of television channels that spurred consumer demand through advertisement unshackled the entrepreneurial 'animal spirits' that had been long dormant in India.

Let me give you an example. In 2002, while transiting at Luton airport (one of the six major international airports serving the London Metropolitan area) on my way to the United States for an aviation conference, I saw an advertisement that hit me like lightning – 13 million passengers per annum flew through this tiny airport. To make this more relatable, that was the number of passengers who passed through nearly 40 airports in India that were operational then. Later, on a domestic flight in Phoenix in Midwest U.S., the passenger in the seat next to me was a heavily tattooed burly man in shorts and bunions who was travelling with his family. As we chatted, I learnt that he was a carpenter visiting the Grand Canyon. It was a journey that was my Eureka moment. I decided that India was ready for a revolution and launched a low cost airline on a wing and a prayer, and invested with hope and optimism – the invisible fuel of any economy.

It was a crazy idea but the environment seemed conducive under the National Democratic Alliance government led by Atal Bihari Vaj-

payee. Entrepreneurs break the status quo, smash cartels and create new markets. There are the examples of Bill Gates, Steve Jobs and even India's N.R. Narayana Murthy who founded Infosys (with other professionals) with an initial capital investment of ₹10,000. Today, one has the newer examples of Byju or PayTm. Naresh Goyal was a humble travel agent who put together some funds and built a world class airline, Jet Airways. Capital will eventually find entrepreneurs who have revolutionary ideas just as river coursing through land finds the sea. As we have seen many times, a mighty war chest need not guarantee the success of a game-changing venture.

The 'Start-up India' initiative is a laudable initiative by the government of the day and the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. It is by and large the driving force in hi-tech companies and disrupting many conventional businesses. But the point is that this force must spread to other areas. Aviation is integral to equitable economic growth, for a country to be globally competitive and to change the situation in swathes of India that are struggling with poverty and unemployment. Passenger airlines and air cargo overcome geography and connect remote areas are alienated from the mainstream. They can drive investment deep into the country, giving people access to markets. More importantly, they boost tourism, which is the largest employment generator in the unorganised sector.

With mega airports controlling air and ground space, it is almost impossible to connect rural and small towns from the large metros. Despite the regional airport development plan, 'Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) initiative, there is not much regional connectivity. And where slots are made available with difficulty, there is the barrier of prohibitive costs.

Carry out these reforms

India's air cargo growth is also languishing. Hong Kong airport alone handles more cargo than all of India's over 100 airports put together. Air cargo integrated with road, rail and port infrastructure is the backbone of a growing economy. It is critical to understand that for passenger airlines to grow, there have to be reforms in all areas of

aviation, i.e., air cargo, airports, aviation fuel taxes (State and central, which in India are among the highest in the world) and Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO). They are in a dismal state in India. For example, there are labyrinthine taxes, customs, other duties and tortuous rules to be overcome to bring in parts, to facilitate repair and overhaul, and to re-export them or for use in aircraft here. This is a huge deterrent. Airlines find it easier to send their aircraft to major MROs abroad (Dubai, Singapore or Germany), some of which employ Indian technicians. Similarly, the charter business has remained stagnant. It is ironic that when there are thousands of pilots and technicians unemployed in India, airlines have to look for foreign pilots and engineers, pushing up costs in the process.

Trough and crest

And, finally, there is India's Aircraft Act, 1934 and Aircraft Rules, 1937. Though there are frequent modifications under the above overarching mother Act and Rules, India has not kept pace with modern technology in aerospace, increasing costs to the industry and ultimately affecting passenger growth. Regulators are not popular in any country. India's statutory regulatory authority, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, needs to be modernised, well-staffed, motivated and incentivised. There need to be aviation professionals in charge rather than the ubiquitous bureaucrat from the Indian Administrative Service. There needs to be a comprehensive overhaul and deep reforms.

But despite the setbacks and deterrents, there is a silver lining. India may not possess all. But it has an inexhaustible market and largely untapped potential. That is what gives many of us hope. Policymakers need to be asked only one question: What should the Government do to make the common Indian fly high? How does one increase the figure of 4% who fly now to 50% in the next two decades?

The answer will guide the aviation road map we aspire for.

Captain G.R. Gopinath (retired) is a farmer and entrepreneur, the founder of Air Deccan

Handcuffing, a judicial tap, and the long arm of the law

The Supreme Court's directives on handcuffing must be observed, but issues that affect police reform cannot be ignored



R.K. VIJ

Recently, the Karnataka High Court passed a verdict on handcuffing, which is significant. In *Suprit Ishwar Divate vs The State of Karnataka*, while awarding two lakh rupees as compensation for handcuffing an accused, without recording the reasons in the police case diary, it gave liberty to the state to recover the amount from the delinquent police officer.

Principles of handcuffing

The High Court held that an accused, in normal circumstances, need not be handcuffed on arrest. It is only under exceptional circumstances (such as the possibility of escape and/or the possibility of causing harm to himself or others), that handcuffing an accused can be resorted to. Further, when there is such handcuffing, the arresting officer must record the reasons, which then would have to stand judicial/court scrutiny. The petitioner in this case was a law student against whom five criminal cases had been filed for offences under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 for the dishonour of cheques. He had been arrested in furtherance of a non-bailable warrant issued by a magistrate.

There can be three occasions when a person can be (legally) handcuffed, i.e., an accused on his arrest and before he is produced before the magistrate; an under-trial prisoner during transit from jail to the court and back; and a convict being transported from jail to the court and back. The law with regard to handcuffing was settled in 1980 when the Supreme Court of India, in *Prem Shankar Shukla vs Delhi Administration*, held that 'the only circumstance which validates incapacitation by irons – an extreme measure – is that otherwise there is no other reasonable way of preventing his escape'. It said that where an arrestee or a convict can be prevented from escape by increasing security, such an increase is to be a norm rather than handcuffing.

On compensation

The Court mandated that in case of handcuffing, the reasons for this have to be recorded in writing and it is the duty of the court to make inquiries with the person arrested as to whether he had been handcuffed or not and then approve or reject the reasons. The Supreme Court passed similar directives in another case with regard to under-trial prisoners. Thus, irrespective of whether the person to be handcuffed is an accused or an under-trial prisoner or a convict, the principles governing handcuffing remain the same. However, if such a person is under the judicial custody of the court, the court's permission is required for handcuff-



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

ing except under emergent circumstances.

The next point is about who should pay compensation. It is an established principle that the relief of monetary compensation for an 'established infringement of the fundamental right guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution is a remedy available in public law, which is based on the strict liability for contravention of the guaranteed basic and indefeasible rights of the citizens'. The constitutional courts are empowered to grant such relief 'against the state or its servants in the purported exercise of their powers'. So, who should pay such compensation?

In *State of Maharashtra vs Ravikant S. Patil* (1991), when there were allegations of handcuffing and the parading of an under-trial prisoner of murder on the streets, the Bombay High Court held the Inspector of Police responsible for violation of Article 21, ordering him to pay ₹10,000 as compensation. However, the Supreme Court (though it upheld the judgment of the High Court directing compensation) held that the police officer was not personally liable as he had acted in his official capacity.

The top court modified the order to that extent and directed the state (and not the police inspector) to pay the compensation. Therefore, the judgment of the Karnataka High Court (discussed above) as far as payment of compensation by the police officer is concerned, does not appear to be in sync with the ratio of the Supreme Court judgment. The police officer might have failed to implement the court's directives, but he was not acting in his personal capacity.

Possible solutions

However, the High Court rightly said that it is the state's responsibility to equip all police stations with adequate and necessary police personnel to discharge their obligations. Therefore, in absence of the required infrastructure, the blame of non-compliance cannot be shifted only to the police officer.

It is undisputed that a police station or a reserve police line is often unable to provide sufficient escort to jail authorities in the transportation of under-trial prisoners to court, the reasons being a lack of manpower or urgent law-and-order duties. It may also become difficult at times to predict the conduct of an arrestee on the spot.

A National Crime Records Bureau publication (Ministry of Home Affairs) on 'Crime in India-2020' shows that 810 cases of prisoner escape from police custody (against 931) were reported in the year 2020. No less than 117 cases were registered against negligent

police officers as well. These numbers may not be very high, but are sufficient to substantiate the fact that the use of handcuffs is generally done to prevent escape and not to dehumanise criminals.

Nonetheless, if any malice is found behind the use of handcuffs, it needs to be dealt with strongly by the department. Similarly, there cannot be a justifiable excuse for not mentioning the reasons for handcuffing in the case diary.

The Supreme Court, in the Ravikant S. Patil (supra) case, had rightly said that the authorities concerned may, if they think it necessary, hold an inquiry and then decide on action against the police inspector. Therefore, the right approach would be to initiate disciplinary action against the errant officer under service conduct rules, rather than to order the payment of compensation.

It would also be appropriate for State governments to review the mobility of the police, the requirement of additional manpower and technical gadgets (such as body cameras, as recommended by the Karnataka High Court) periodically, and exempt at least the police department from the ban on recruitment. *Per contra*, the enforcement agencies and lower courts are duty bound to implement, in letter and spirit, the Supreme Court's directives on handcuffing.

R.K. Vij is a former Special Director General of Police of Chhattisgarh. The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Doctored video chain

The former Union Minister in question – and, ironically, for Information and Broadcasting – Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore cannot behave as if he is unaware of the consequences emerging from the very act of sharing fake videos in today's digital age. He ought to have

stopped himself and even instructed his colleagues to do the same thing. A Minister who was responsible for handling information should have set impeccable standards for weeding out misinformation. By not initiating any action against the BJP leaders, what kind of a message does the

ruling party want to send? A. VENKATASUBRAMANIAN, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu

Governor's conduct

Going by the manner in which some Governors conduct themselves, one really wonders whether they have been planted in these States to act with an agenda. The developments

in Maharashtra, where all norms were cast aside, shows that Governors act more as members of the ruling party than as a constitutional head.

THARCIUS S. FERNANDO, Chennai

Centre Court at 100

The picture that celebrated the 100th anniversary of

Centre Court ('Sport' page – 'Galaxy of stars', July 4) was riveting. Wimbledon only conjures up the image of prestigious tennis. Of all the memorable images of Centre Court, it is perhaps Jana Novotna's breakdown, where she cried on the shoulder of the Duchess of Kent after she lost to Steffi Graf in the 1993 Wimbledon

final, that can count as the best. With the Centre Court being the most storied venue in tennis, commemorating 100 years of its existence is akin to commemorating the game itself.

R. SIVAKUMAR, Chennai

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Helping Sri Lanka more meaningfully

Interventions which aid recovery and include relief with dignity should be the basis of any future assistance



S.C.C. ELANKOVAN

The economic crisis in Sri Lanka has significantly reduced incomes, reduced the availability and affordability of food and thus increased the risk of food insecurity, particularly of the most vulnerable households.

Lower income groups and war-affected families in the north and east have little or no cash reserves, and limited access to resources such as land. The problem is more acute among women-headed households, people with disabilities, former combatants, the working class, marginalised caste groups and plantation workers who, due to multiple historical injustices such as discrimination and statelessness, have been systematically denied access to resources. These groups, who have been exposed to immediate shocks amid long-term stresses, will bear the brunt of the economic crisis as food stocks deplete and production costs soar. The depreciating Sri Lankan rupee and the lack of foreign exchange have made it enormously difficult for the island to import even the most basic essentials, including food and medicines. As a consequence, the cost of staple food items such as rice, bread and daal have increased by over 50% in the last six months alone.

Indian assistance

India has emerged as the foremost partner for Sri Lanka at this time. It has provided assistance of about \$3.5 billion this year to manage the shock caused by this economic catastrophe, compounded by the government's incompetence, mismanagement and corruption. As Sri Lankans receive food aid from Tamil Nadu with gratitude, some questions about the transparency and impartiality of the government's distribution of the same have already arisen.

Meanwhile, there is a need for more thoughtful assistance to the people, especially the poor, who will only be worse off in the coming months. Some also fear that they might be left out of the government's recovery efforts, led by an Interna-



A cargo ship carrying essential supplies from India. ■ REUTERS

tional Monetary Fund programme that will likely prescribe austerity. In this context, the Indian government and the people of Tamil Nadu could go beyond relief and explore supporting an employment guarantee scheme, drawing from the experiences of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, for a dignified and sustainable recovery of the economy.

Social safety nets provided by the Sri Lankan state are either inadequate or ineffective. There is no functional public distribution system. The maximum monthly household cash transfer (LKR 4,000, or about ₹900) provided through Samurdihi, the government's poverty alleviation programme, is grossly insufficient.

A work guarantee scheme assuring working people of 100 to 120 days of work annually could provide relief. Compensation for this labour could be made 70% in kind, such as rice partly procured in Sri Lanka, along with wheat, daal, and other pulses not available locally, and kerosene. The remaining 30% could be paid in cash to the worker. The food component combined with cash will ensure that families are protected from inflation. This will support their emotional, physical and nutritional well-being in a dignified way. 'Work' could include strengthening agricultural infrastructure by repairing embankments, channels, and drainage. It could include providing care for children, the elderly and patients. This would be especially helpful for working women and those with old and terminally ill family members looking for a career. Internships or on-the-job traineeships could even involve and be funded by the private sector in India through Corporate So-

cial Responsibility projects.

The United Nations estimates that 50 lakh people, or about 20% of Sri Lanka's poorest, are at highest risk. Aid from India could target this group. By reaching 10 lakh families, or approximately 15% of Sri Lanka's households, this aid could reduce market demand for food and help control demand-driven inflation, thus retaining food prices within reasonable limits for other sections of the population as well.

To facilitate the cash part of the aid, the Indian government could buy LKR in exchange for its value in INR thus allowing the Sri Lankan government to use the INR earned to procure more Indian medical supplies or food. Aid could be mobilised from Tamil Nadu and other States and NGOs to reduce the cost to the Central government.

Increasing food production

Resolving this crisis will also require interventions to increase domestic food production. Agriculture production fell by almost 50% due to an ill-conceived ban on chemical fertilizers in 2021. India has provided a credit facility to import fertilizer, which is timely support to incentivise farmers to resume cultivation. But more needs to be done to assist small farmers to re-engage, increase and maximise cultivation. Any increase in production will necessarily have a deflationary impact on prices, which could stabilise the prices of food and contribute to improving the broader economic climate.

Earmarking funds for specific purposes, including for provision of cheap credit to small farmers and sharing expertise in good agricultural practices, repairing, remobilising

and deploying farm equipment previously gifted by the Indian government, and the management of these schemes will ensure that the benefit of assistance reaches producers directly. In addition, devising insurance schemes will give farmers an incentive to cultivate without fear of losses in the event of drought or floods. Importantly, the Indian government should ensure that the implementation of these programmes is equitable and impartial, especially in the context of the grievances of the Tamil-speaking minorities who have suffered historic exclusion.

India has been generous in helping Sri Lanka. Apart from the \$3.5 billion extended so far, more was promised during the Indian Foreign Secretary's recent visit. Tamil Nadu, which contributed rice and other essential items, is now preparing to send 4,500 MT of rice and other relief material. Food relief can only soften the hardship in what will be many difficult years to recovery unless the Sri Lankan state mends its ways.

Presently credit lines are being used for fuel, for servicing the needs of private vehicles, while fishermen have inadequate supplies of kerosene for their fishing boats and are consequently near starvation. Professor Amal Kumara of the University of Moratuwa in Sri Lanka points out that while 76% of fuel is consumed for passenger travel, 51% is taken up by cars, pickups and SUVs. In comparison, the Sri Lanka Transport Board Buses consume only 17%.

At the end of the war, the Indian housing programme provided significant humanitarian and socio-economic benefits to devastated people in the Northeast and to hill country communities. With 50,000 houses built over five years, people had houses to live in and also livelihoods. A strategic intervention such as this, which aids recovery and includes relief with dignity, should be the basis of any future assistance. The housing programme earned goodwill for India. A programme guaranteeing employment and supporting production will be a meaningful follow-up to that. Such an intervention will also be in India's interest.

S.C.C. Elankovan is a social worker and political activist based mostly in Jaffna, and attached to the SJV Chevvanayakam Memorial Trust

The way to control tuberculosis

Three major deficiencies of the Revised National TB Control Programme need correction



T. JACOB JOHN & SUSHIL MATHEW JOHN

Tuberculosis is the worst among endemic diseases, killing 1.5 million people every year (WHO). TB affects adults in their most productive years and therefore impoverishes the family and the nation. In India, the TB capital of the world, the disease kills some 1,400 persons every day. These are gross estimates, for our health management system has no method to count the exact numbers.

In the 1950s and '60s, India was the global leader in research in epidemiology, transmission and domiciliary treatment of TB. The National TB Control Programme of 1962 was a district-based one with public-private participation. However, upscaling the model proved unsuccessful and the programme failed to control TB. With that we lost self-confidence and began doing what we were told to do by the WHO under the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP). WHO experts, without factoring in the differences between the TB epidemiology of poor and rich countries, used a theoretical construct of TB control to design RNTCP. By 2018, India realised that light at the end of the tunnel was still elusive.

Flaws in the programme

There are obvious flaws in the RNTCP. First, for a programme that is heavily funded by the government, there is no prescribed method of monitoring the trajectory of TB control. Contrast this with the National AIDS Control Programme. Before the National AIDS Control Organization was established, the Indian Council of Medical Research-managed AIDS Control Task Force had a unique method of monitoring the control trajectory, popularly called 'sentinel surveillance'. Through it, we have data on infection prevalence that can be compared across years, starting from 1986 to date. There was pressure from WHO experts to abandon it, but credit must be given to Dr. Sriram P Tripathy, the then Director General of ICMR, for politely but firmly refusing to oblige.

Recently India confronted the WHO's estimates on COVID-19 deaths in India. That the government could publicly stand up to WHO was a good sign. We must now boldly point out the flaws of the WHO-designed RNTCP and design our own comprehensive strategy.

Second, the assumption that treating pulmonary TB patients alone would control TB was epidemiologically fallacious in India.

The theoretical principle is 'source reduction'. If one patient is the proximate source of infection and disease to another in the community, early diagnosis and treatment would work as source reduction. India is a high-burden country. Large proportions of adults carry TB infection in the lung in a dormant condition for life (latent TB). Some among them deteriorate and develop overt TB disease (reactivation TB). HIV infection, diabetes, undernutrition, lung damage due to pollution, tobacco smoking, fall in immune functions due to chronic diseases, alcoholism, etc. accelerate reactivation TB.

Third, RNTCP has failed to elicit people's partnership in TB control. In India's AIDS Control Programme, public education was given high priority. Red ribbon clubs in schools and colleges are its legacy. Without people's informed participation, stigma and delay in seeking help will continue.

Realising that TB was not under control, WHO called for another programme revision through a World Health Assembly Resolution in 2014 to eliminate TB by 2035. Emboldened by the promise of an effective strategy, the Prime Minister announced in 2018 that India would eliminate TB by 2025.

Controlling TB

Epidemiologically, human mastery over microbes includes control, elimination and eradication. Control refers to the reduction of disease burden through specific interventions to a pre-determined level in a pre-stated time period. Evidence will have to show that reduction was due to those interventions and not due to a 'secular trend'. Diseases that have social determinants tend to decline over time with better housing, nutrition, education and income – this is what a 'secular trend' is. Globally, by this 'secular trend', the burden of TB had been falling by 1% or 1.5% per year.

Elimination refers to achieving zero frequency of new cases. As we have a huge backlog of latent TB, we cannot eliminate TB, but we must aim for a high level of control (lowering from 200 per lakh per year to 50 per lakh per year) and document it with measurement. That will do justice to the Prime Minister's vision. High control is achievable as we have major assets by way of the RNTCP. Trained State and District TB officers are already on the job and we have an extensive network of TB clinics and an army of community and field workers. Once the deficiencies listed above are corrected, we can control TB.

T. Jacob John is Chairman, Rotary Club of Vellore TB Control Society, and Sushil Mathew John is Professor of Community Health, Christian Medical College, Vellore

STATE OF PLAY

The rush to overhaul education

The Andhra Pradesh government's hurried education reforms are a cause for worry

P. SUJATHA VARMA

The 2022-23 academic year is likely to be a turbulent one for school education in Andhra Pradesh. The YSR Congress Party government is keen on rolling out radical reforms at an accelerated pace. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has been saying that a child who walks into a government school should walk out as a global citizen and face the competitive world with confidence. To give shape to his vision, the School Education Department is focused on conceptual learning instead of rote learning. Emphasis is being laid not on evaluating the students on a three-hour examination but on their classroom participation, projects, communication skills, leadership skills and extra-curricular activities. The Department has been tasked with implementing a slew of government initiatives in sync with the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, this academic year, starting July 5.

Besides the annual exercise of printing and supplying textbooks, officials are burning the midnight oil to complete training teachers in English; expedite the process of mapping Classes 3-5 in primary schools in the government sector to high schools located nearby; re-apportion teaching staff; implement Section 12(1)(C) of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, which mandates private, unaided schools to reserve 25% of seats in entry-level classes for children belonging to weaker sections; and bring select schools under the CBSE syllabus.

Educationalists say there is too much to do and too little time. They have raised serious concerns about the "incoherence" of the initiatives. They worry that no homework was done before these initiatives were introduced and that the reforms lack sound footing.

The Chief Minister's English medium project was set aside by the High Court and the matter is sub-judice in the Supreme Court. Undeterred, the State has embarked on training teachers in English and has started printing textbooks with lessons in both English and Telugu to facilitate

the smooth transition of children to English as a medium of instruction. It also has plans to shift from the State Board to the CBSE in phases.

There is also confusion about the school restructuring programme. The proposal is to categorise educational institutions into satellite foundational schools comprising pre-primary 1 and pre-primary 2, foundation schools comprising Classes 1 and 2, foundation plus schools with Classes 1 to 5, pre-high schools with Classes 1 to 8, high schools with Classes 3 to 10, and high school plus with Classes 3 to 12. Sceptics argue that merging primary classes with high schools would violate the 'neighbourhood school system' endorsed by the RTE Act and result in a higher school dropout rate, especially of girls in remote tribal areas.

The earlier deadline of June 30 for completing the school-mapping exercise has been pushed to July 31. People worry that there will be confusion if the merger exercise is carried out even as students attend classes in their old schools. Clarity also eludes the proposed re-apportionment of the teaching staff, the long-pending transfers, and promotions of teachers.

Two Government Orders which were issued recently, to re-apportion teaching staff and to transfer the municipal schools to the administrative and supervisory control of the Department of School Education, have fuelled protests across the State. Teachers are demanding the repeal of these orders saying they will be overburdened and the quality of education will suffer. Given the formidable challenges, it may take a few years at least for the government to achieve its lofty educational goals. Its race against time is ill-advised; instead, it would serve everyone well if the process was gradual with all these concerns addressed.

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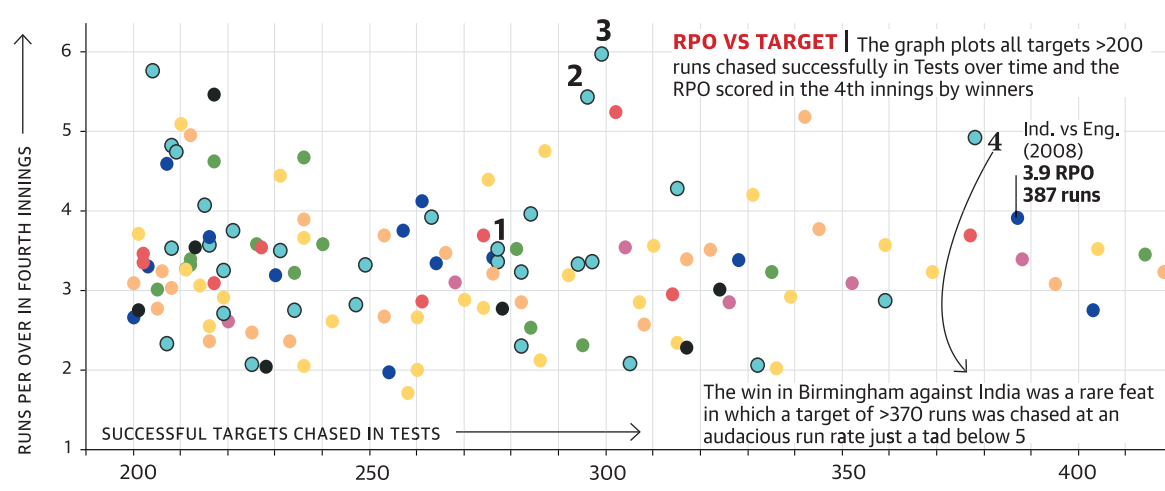
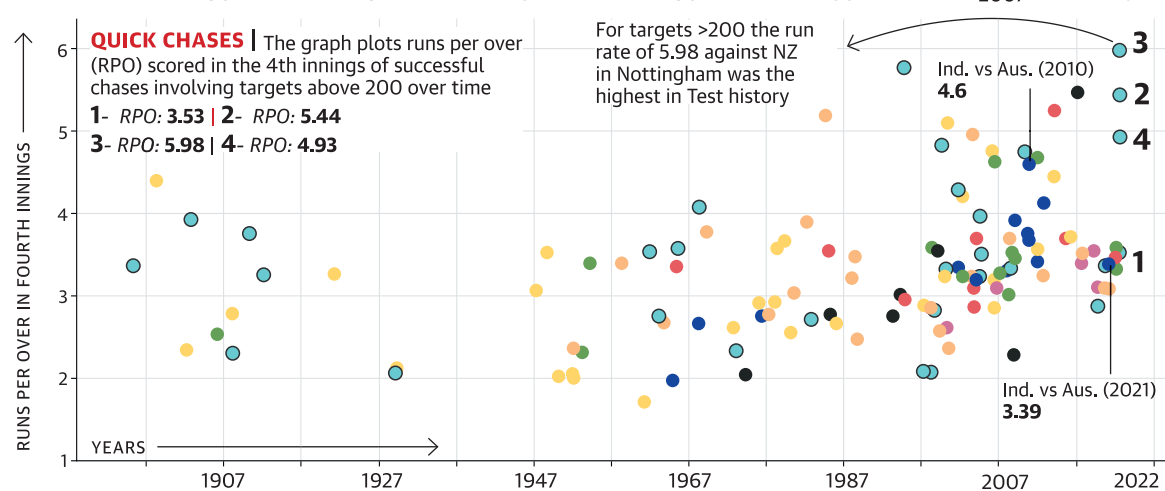
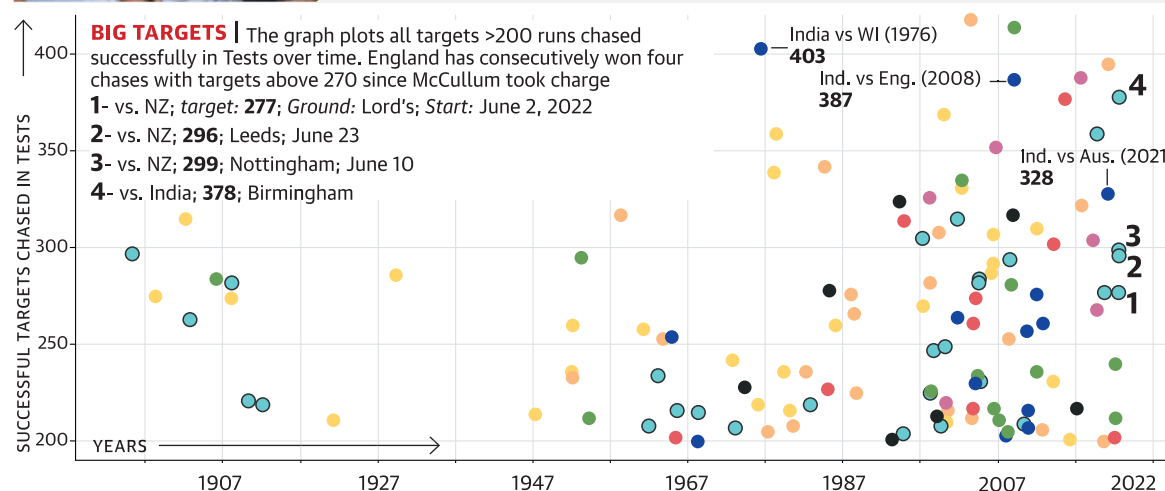
poothuri.varma@thehindu.co.in

DATA POINT



Bazball blitzkrieg

England's aggressive brand of cricket, under their new coach Brendon McCullum, is off to a rollicking start. After decimating New Zealand at home, Bazball, the style of play named after the English coach, claimed its latest victim on Tuesday. Chasing 378 runs, its highest-ever in history, England denied India a series win. Importantly, England completed the chase under 77 overs at a run-rate of 4.93. Two of its chases against New Zealand too came at rates not commonly associated with Test cricket – above 5.4 runs per over. By Vignesh Radhakrishnan



The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 6, 1972

Kakuei Tanaka Japan's new PM

Tokyo, July 5: Mr. Kakuei Tanaka, 54-year-old building contractor with practically no formal education, was to-day picked by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party to guide the destinies of the world's third largest economic power at least for the next three years. As had been expected, Mr. Tanaka triumphed over his closest rival, the Foreign Minister, Mr. Takeo Fukuda, with a comfortable margin in the elections held to choose a successor to the outgoing Prime Minister, Mr. Sato, at the 27th extraordinary convention of the party this morning. Although there were four contenders for the post of party president – and automatically Japan's Premiership – the race was really between Mr. Tanaka and Mr. Fukuda as the other two candidates, the former Foreign Ministers, Mr. Masayoshi Ohira and Mr. Takeo Miki, were given little chance of winning. None of the candidates got the necessary majority of 239 votes on the first ballot. Mr. Tanaka captured 156 votes and Mr. Fukuda was a close second with 150 while Mr. Ohira made a surprisingly good show garnering 101 votes and Mr. Miki got 59. Under the party's procedures if no one candidate secures a clear majority on the first ballot the top two contenders vie for this post in the second ballot. In to-day's case the outcome of such a second ballot was not hard to predict in view of an electoral alliance which Mr. Tanaka had forged earlier with Mr. Ohira and Mr. Miki under which factions led by the latter two had agreed to vote for Mr. Tanaka in case of a second ballot.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 6, 1922

Karachi Port Trust

The Port Trust have appointed a Committee to report on the subject of increasing the number of Indians in the higher grade of service and or the question of representation of Indian Commercial interests on the Trust Board. Apropos Government resolution sanctioning the Port Trust to raise a loan of 25 lakhs of rupees the Board has resolved that further extensions of port facilities will be required on the completion of the Sukkur Barrage and that the development scheme now under consideration should no longer be delayed. They disagree with the Bombay Government's view that the prosperity of Karachi Fort depends mainly on the wheat export trade and point out that it lies in the expansion of its general trade, while wheat export can only be regarded as a means of supplementing port revenue.

Text & Context

NEWS IN NUMBERS



Accessible for all

20 The number of airports equipped with ambulifts to help flyers with disabilities or reduced mobility in boarding an aircraft under the Centre's Accessible India campaign, according to the Disability Affairs Department. These airports include Vijayawada, Kanpur, Port Blair, Jodhpur, Belgaum, Silchar, Jharsuguda, Rajkot and Hubli. The initiative has been taken to facilitate passengers in wheelchairs and on stretchers. 35 international airports and 55 domestic airports are now accessible to people with mobility issues. **PTI**

Coal output rises

61 In percentage, the growth in coal output in India in the April-June quarter to 42.40 lakh metric tonnes (MT) from 26.40 lakh MT in the same period a year ago, according to State-owned power giant NTPC. The three operational coal mines — Pakri-Barwadih (Jharkhand), Dulanga (Odisha) and Talaipalli (Chhattisgarh) have contributed to achieving this coal production output, the NTPC statement said. The production of coal during June 2022 almost doubled to 15.55 lakh MT from 7.73 lakh MT in the same month a year ago. **PTI**

Vaccination coverage

91 The percentage of India's adult population fully vaccinated against COVID-19, according to Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya. The total number of vaccine doses administered in the country crossed 198 crore. More than 10 lakh vaccine doses were administered till 7 pm on Monday. So far, 60.57 lakh precaution doses have been administered to those in the 18-59 age group, the Ministry said. Over 3.69 crore children in the 12-14 age group and more than 6.05 crore adolescents in the 15-18 age group have been given the first dose. **PTI**

Sydney floods

50,000 The number of people affected by the floods that hit Sydney as hundreds of homes have been inundated in and around Australia's largest city, according to officials. Emergency response teams made 100 rescues overnight of people trapped in cars on flooded roads or in inundated homes in the Sydney area, State Emergency Service manager Ashley Sullivan said. Days of torrential rain have caused dams to overflow and waterways to break their banks. **AP**

Re-building Ukraine

750 In \$ billion, the estimated cost required for the reconstruction of Ukraine, according to President Volodymyr Zelensky. Speaking at the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Switzerland, the Ukrainian President and a long line of government Ministers described the massive destruction and towering needs since Russia attacked Ukraine on February 24. In a video message, Zelensky said that the reconstruction of Ukraine was not the task of a single nation, but the task of the whole democratic world. **AFP**

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

The relentless march of FPIs to the exit gate

Why are Foreign Portfolio Investors exiting the Indian market? How has the Russia-Ukraine war contributed to this?

THE GIST

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have been on a selling spree in India. June 2022 witnessed the worst sell-off since March 2020 — when India announced a nationwide lockdown — at ₹50,000 crore.

Post-pandemic, recovery in the Indian economy has been uneven. As the industry is grappling with this challenge, came Russia's invasion of Ukraine which led to a rise in global prices. Add to this mix the U.S. Federal Reserve raising the benchmark interest rate starting March this year. All of these have made Indian assets 'risky'.

When FPIs sell their holdings and repatriate funds back to their home markets, the local currency takes a beating. With a weaker rupee, we have to shell out more funds to import the same unit of goods.

K. BHARAT KUMAR

The story so far: Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have been on a selling spree in India. June 2022 witnessed the worst sell-off since March 2020 — when India announced a nationwide lockdown — at ₹50,000 crore. This comes on the back of May's sell-off figures of about ₹44,000 crore. June was also the ninth on the trot that FPIs had sold net of their assets — ie, sold more than they had purchased. Their selling actions have triggered a significant decline in benchmark indices, resulting in a drop in market capitalisation of companies.

What are FPIs?

Foreign portfolio investors are those that invest funds in markets outside of their home turf. Their investments typically include equities, bonds and mutual funds. They are generally not active shareholders and do not exert any control over the companies whose shares they hold. The passive nature of their investment also allows them to enter or exit a stock at will and with ease.

What factors spur FPI moves?

Promise of attractive returns on the back of economic growth draws investors including FPIs into a country's markets. For example, as per data from the National Securities Depositories Ltd. (NSDL), FPIs brought in about ₹3,682 crore in 2022. This grew to ₹1.79 lakh crore in 2010. This correlates with the concurrent expansion of economic output in that period, despite the 2008 global financial crisis which saw FPI sell-offs in that time-frame in the country. The year 2017 saw FPI inflows exceed ₹2 lakh crore.

Likewise, FPIs withdrew ₹1.18 lakh crore in March 2020 alone — the month when India announced a nationwide lockdown,

triggering concerns around economic growth. In tandem, benchmark stock index Sensex fell from 42,270 in February 2020 to 25,630 in March 2020.

FPIs also show keenness to invest in bonds when there is a favourable differential between the real interest rates on offer in the country they aim to invest in, and other markets, but more specifically, compared with the largest economy in the world, the U.S.

Why have FPIs been selling India holdings?

FPIs sold assets worth about ₹50,000 crore in June 2022. This is the second highest sell-off in a month since 1993, after March 2020.

Post-pandemic, recovery in the Indian economy has been uneven. The second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021 devastated lives and livelihoods. The economy stuttered again when a third, albeit less severe, wave saw the spread of the Omicron variant early this year. Add to this the return of pent-up demand in economies worldwide as the pandemic subsided. The pace of recovery caught suppliers off guard, contributing to supply-side shortages.

As the industry was grappling with this challenge, came Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Sunflower and wheat supplies, to name just two commodities, from these two nations were impacted, leading to a rise in global prices for these crops. As supplies in general tightened across the globe, commodity prices too rose and overall inflation accelerated. India witnessed a quickening pace in price rise that stayed above the Reserve Bank's upper comfort level of 6% for five months running, touching 7.8% in April, before receding to a slightly less aggressive 7.04% in the subsequent month.

Industrial production has seen a bumpy

ride without giving confidence of a full and final recovery from the pandemic. For example, the S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) slid to 53.9 in June — the lowest level in nine months — from 54.6 in the previous month. Experts attribute this to inflation pressures, which also dampened business confidence sentiment to a 27-month low in June, as per survey-based findings. Consumption expenditure too has remained weak in the subcontinent.

With each of these factors contributing to a decline in confidence of robust economic performance, FPIs have been exiting market investments over these past months. Add to the mix the U.S. Federal Reserve raising the benchmark interest rate starting March this year. On June 15, the Fed announced the most aggressive interest rate increase in almost 30 years, raising the benchmark borrowing rate by 0.75 percentage points in its battle against surging inflation. The key rate range had gone up from 0-0.25% in March to 0.75-1% in May.

When the differential between the interest rates in the U.S. and other markets narrow, and if such an occurrence is accompanied by the strengthening of the dollar, then the ability of investors to realise healthy returns is impacted. For returns are measured not only by the value appreciation of assets but also by exchange rate changes. If the dollar strengthens against the rupee, then an investor is able to realise fewer dollars for a given quantum of rupee assets liquidated. Further, if inflation quickens in the overseas market where the investor has placed funds in, then real returns are even further impacted.

They then tend to exit assets seen as 'risky' such as in emerging markets like India, Brazil or South Africa. And indeed, the rupee has been depreciating against the



dollar, which has seen a general strengthening against several other currencies. The rupee touched its record low of 79.33 against the greenback on Tuesday.

What impact does an FPI sell-off have?

When FPIs sell their holdings and repatriate funds back to their home markets, the local currency takes a beating. After all, they sell rupees in exchange for their home market currency. As supply of the rupee in the market rises, its value declines. In this instance, the rupee has been seeing all-time lows recently. About a year ago, it was trading in the region of 73 to a U.S. dollar; it is now flirting with the 78 level. With a weaker rupee, we have to shell out more funds to import the same unit of goods. The most telling impact is on the cost of our crude oil imports that contribute to 85% of our oil needs.

EXPLAINER

The status of China's Belt and Road Initiative in South Asia

What has been the progress of the BRI so far? What have been the roadblocks and challenges?

DIKSHA MUNJAL

The story so far: At the recently concluded summit of G-7 leaders in Germany, U.S. President Joe Biden and his allies unveiled their \$600 billion plan called the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Intelligence which is being seen as a counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), valued at a trillion U.S. dollars by some experts. Therefore, there is a need to re-visit the various projects under the BRI in different South Asian countries.

What is China's Belt and Road Initiative?

In 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping, during his visits to Kazakhstan and Indonesia, expressed his vision to build a Silk Road Economic Belt and a 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, to break the "bottleneck" in Asian connectivity. This vision led to the birth of the BRI. The initiative envisioned a Chinese-led investment of over \$1 trillion in partner countries by 2025. More than 60 countries have now joined BRI agreements with China, with infrastructure projects under the initiative being planned or under construction in Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America.

To finance BRI projects, China offers huge loans at commercial interest rates that countries have to pay within a fixed number of years. The west has accused China of debt-trapping by extending "predatory loans" that force countries to cede key assets to China. However, research indicates that low and middle-income countries are often the ones to approach China after not being able to secure loans from elsewhere. In recent years, the BRI seems to have



A view of the Hambantota port • FILE PHOTO

experienced a slowing down as annual Chinese lending to countries under the initiative slimmed from its peak of \$125 billion in 2015 to around \$50 to \$55 billion in 2021.

What have been the BRI's investments in Pakistan?

On his 2015 visit to Pakistan, Mr. Xi and then Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif unveiled the BRI's flagship project and its biggest one in a single country — the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Over time, China pledged \$62 billion in low-interest loans and financing from Chinese state-owned banks and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), up from an initial \$46 billion pledge. The CPEC envisioned multiple projects involving energy, transport and communication systems.

At the centre of the CPEC was the \$700 million development of the city of Gwadar into a smart port city that would become the "Singapore of Pakistan". Gwadar is strategically important as it is an hour's drive from Iran and less than 320 km from Oman. According to the master plan for Gwadar's development under BRI, approved in 2020, it would

increase the city's GDP to \$30 billion by 2050 and create over a million jobs. However, multiple reports have shown that shipping activities at the Gwadar Port is almost negligible so far, with only some trade to Afghanistan.

Additionally, Gwadar residents have also protested against the large security force deployed to protect Chinese nationals involved in projects after they became the target of multiple deadly attacks by Baloch nationalists. In late 2021, thousands of Gwadar residents staged a sit-in protest against the lack of promised basic amenities in Gwadar and Chinese deep-sea trawlers reducing fishing opportunities for locals. Other major projects are the orange line metro, coal power plants to tackle energy shortages and the Main Line 1 rail project from Peshawar to Karachi. While coal plants set up and managed by Chinese firms did help improve the power situation in Pakistan, former Prime Minister Imran Khan sought renegotiation of payments to China in 2020 alleging that Chinese companies had overcharged the country by \$3 billion. In May this year, Chinese power firms operating in Pakistan threatened to close down if the latter did not pay dues worth 300 billion in Pakistani rupees (approximately \$1.5 billion).

What about Sri Lanka?

In Sri Lanka, multiple infrastructure projects that were being financed by China came under the fold of the BRI after it was launched in 2013.

The island nation in the last couple of years has witnessed competition between India and China in port terminal and energy projects. In 2021, Colombo ejected India and Japan out of a deal to develop the East Container Terminal at

the Colombo port and got China to take up the project. It then awarded the project for the Western Side of the Terminal to the Adani Group.

Some BRI projects in Sri Lanka have been described as white elephants — such as the Hambantota port, a deep seaport on the world's busiest east-west shipping lane, which was meant to spur industrial activity. The port had always been secondary to the busy Colombo port until the latter ran out of capacity. The Sri Lankan government took \$1.4 billion in Chinese loans for the port's expansion. Unable to service the huge loan and incurring \$300 million in losses due to delays, the government handed Hambantota port to a Chinese state-owned company on a 99-year lease in 2017. Other key projects under BRI include the development of the Colombo International Container Terminal, the Central Expressway and the Hambantota International Airport among others.

Are there projects in Afghanistan?

Afghanistan has not comprehensively been brought into the BRI, despite a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) being signed with China in 2016. China had promised investments worth \$100 million in Afghanistan which is small in comparison to what it shelled out in other South Asian countries. The projects have not materialised so far and uncertainties have deepened after the Taliban takeover last year.

How have projects from India and China progressed in Maldives?

Situated in the middle of the Indian Ocean, Maldives comprises two hundred islands, and both India and China have strategic interests there. One of the most prominent BRI projects undertaken in

the Maldives is the two km long China-Maldives Friendship Bridge — a \$200 million four lane bridge.

Most of China's investment in the Maldives happened under former President Abdullah Yameen, seen as pro-China. Over the years, opposition protests grew against the large borrowing from China and Mr. Yameen was defeated in 2018. The Maldives' current regime of President Ibrahim Solih has tried to distance itself from the BRI, focusing more on its 'India First' policy. India has also in recent years sought greater ties with the Maldives under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Neighbourhood First' policy.

What about Bangladesh?

Bangladesh, which joined the BRI in 2016, has been promised the second-highest investment (about \$40 billion) in South Asia after Pakistan. Multiple studies, including research by the Council on Foreign Relations, show that Bangladesh has been able to benefit from the BRI while maintaining diplomatic and strategic ties with both India and China. It has managed to not upset India by getting India to build infrastructure projects similar to BRI in the country. In 2016, when the Chinese government promised Dhaka BRI investment worth around \$40 billion, India followed up in 2017 by extending a \$5 billion line of credit and economic assistance. BRI projects include China-Bangladesh Friendship Bridges, special economic zones, the \$689.35 million-Karnaphuli River tunnel project, upgradation of the Chittagong port, and a rail line between the port and China's Yunnan province. However, multiple projects have been delayed owing to the slow release of funds by China.

THE GIST

In 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping, during his visits to Kazakhstan and Indonesia, expressed his vision to build a Silk Road Economic Belt (SERB) and a 21st Century Maritime Silk Road (MSR), to break the "bottleneck" in Asian connectivity. Thus, the Belt and Road initiative was born.

The biggest project under BRI is in Pakistan, the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Over time, China pledged \$62 billion in low-interest loans and financing from Chinese state-owned banks and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

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FROM PAGE ONE

Raipur police stranded; U.P. team detains anchor

He said senior police officials in Ghaziabad could not be reached, but they had lodged a complaint via e-mail. Nipun Agrawal, Superintendent of Police (City), Ghaziabad, said Mr. Ranjan was wanted by the Gautam Buddha Nagar police and they had only facilitated the process.

Ranjiv Singh, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Noida told *The Hindu* that Mr. Ranjan had been detained in connection with an FIR lodged on Tuesday morning against two producers by the Zee management under Section 505 (2) (statements creating or promoting enmity between different classes). He confirmed it was for the same alleged doctored video for which the Chhattisgarh Police were seeking Mr. Ranjan's custody. "Mr. Ranjan's name has also cropped up during interrogation and his organisation has given a complaint seeking an investigation of his role," Mr. Singh said.

Mr. Singh said that after the interrogation, it would be decided whether he needed to be arrested and presented in court. "The duration of the interrogation depends on the gravity of charges. In this case, there are many things that need to be corroborated," Mr. Singh said. He said they were answerable to the State government. "The U.P. Police followed the law and it was a mere coincidence that the two teams reached at the

same time for the same case," he said.

Reacting to the development, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said the U.P. Police had "deliberately interfered" with an ongoing investigation to "shield an accused". "They have deployed state machinery, without cause or explanation, to hide an individual accused of serious offences from a legitimate investigation. What is it that their political masters are afraid of being uncovered through an investigation," Mr. Ramesh asked.

Describing it as an act of wilful contempt of the court's warrant by the U.P. Police and their political masters, Mr. Ramesh said this was also the second time this was happening – the BJP deploying the police force to shield repeat offenders from legitimate investigation and inquiry. "What is this nexus that the BJP is afraid of being exposed? Why doesn't the BJP want purveyors of fake news and false reportage, which can cause serious civil unrest, to be held to account," he questioned.

In Raipur, Additional SP (Raipur City) Tarkeshwar Patel said, "We had an arrest warrant from the honourable court and we had gone to the accused Rohit Ranjan's house to execute it and had taken him into custody. But the local police did not cooperate with our team there and instead obstructed the process of arrest."

Blow to U.K. PM as two Ministers quit

"The public rightly expect government to be conducted properly, competently and seriously," Mr. Sunak tweeted. "I recognise this may be last ministerial job, but I believe these standards are worth fighting for and that is why I am resigning," he said. It came soon after Mr. Johnson said he "bitterly regrets" giving Mr. Pincher a government role as Deputy Chief Whip after being made aware of a misconduct complaint against him. "In hindsight it was the wrong thing to do and I apologise to eve-

ryone who has been badly affected by it. I just want to make absolutely clear that there's no place in this government for anybody who is predatory or abuses their position of power," he said.

Mr. Javid, a 52-year-old British citizen of Pakistani origin, in his resignation letter said, "We [Conservative party] may not have always been popular, but we have been competent in acting in the national interest. Sadly, in the current circumstances, the public are concluding that we are now neither."

Two SpiceJet flights trigger safety scare

There have been multiple safety scares involving the airline

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

A SpiceJet flight from Delhi to Dubai was diverted to Karachi on Tuesday morning after a snag resulted in an indicator displaying a drop in fuel levels. In the evening, another SpiceJet aircraft from Kandla to Mumbai developed a crack on the outer windshield.

The Dubai-bound Boeing 737 left New Delhi at 7.40 a.m. but made a precautionary landing in Karachi two hours later after the pilots observed a drop in fuel in the left tank.

After the flight landed, the post-flight inspection did not reveal a leak, and the indicator reading turned out to be a false alarm, an airline source said after inspection.

The passengers were safely disembarked, and a replacement aircraft sent to Karachi to enable passengers to complete their journey, an airline spokesperson said. A PTI report said the replacement aircraft left for Dubai from Karachi on Tuesday night, ending a wait of nearly 11 hours for the 138 stranded passengers.

In the second instance, the Kandla-Mumbai Q400 flight was at 23,000-ft altitude when the windshield's outer pane cracked, officials said. The pilots then con-

ducted priority landing at the Mumbai airport, they said. The two incidents are the latest in a spate of safety scares involving SpiceJet, which include smoke inside the passenger cabin last week, and pressurisation issues in an incident last month which can lead to drop in oxygen levels and hypoxia among passengers.

Another incident on May 1 resulted in at least two passengers being admitted to the ICU owing to head and spine injuries. This was after the airline's Boeing 737-800 aircraft with 189 passengers encountered turbulence while flying from Mumbai to Durgapur. The DGCA inquiry found that one of the overhead bins had a broken lock and galley (food compartment) items were strewn across on the floor.

There have also been serious questions about the airline's training practices. It was only in April that the DGCA barred 90 pilots of the airline to fly the Boeing 737 MAX 8 after it found that the airline continued to train them on a simulator with a faulty stick shaker. Later, the DGCA imposed a fine of ₹10 lakh on the airline for the lapse.

Aviation safety expert Amit Singh blames the organisational culture at SpiceJet. "The airline forces its pilots to fly despite defects, and those pilots are not allowed to speak up and when they do, they are punished." He warns of a repeat of a Kingfisher Airlines-like debacle.

Probe BJP's 'terror links', says Congress

Rajasthan Congress chief Dotasra writes to NIA to investigate Attari's connection with ruling party

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Stepping up its attack on alleged terror links of members of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Rajasthan Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasra on Tuesday wrote to the chief of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to investigate the 'fact' that both Udaipur killer Riyaz Attari and arrested Lashkar-e-Taiba militant from Jammu, Talib Hussain Shah, were members of the BJP.

Separately, the Youth Congress put up hoardings with the photos of Riyaz Attari and Hussain with BJP leaders on a few arterial roads of Lutyens Delhi. "Is this nationalism or terrorism of the BJP," read the posters.

At a press conference at the Congress headquarters, chairman of the media and publicity department Pawan Khara shared Mr. Dotasra's letter in which the Rajasthan Congress chief raised the is-



The Youth Congress installing a poster claiming the Udaipur accused, Riyaz, to be a BJP member on Tuesday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

sue of the BJP's involvement in the Udaipur incident.

'Attari is BJP member'

"As per media reports, Riyaz Attari was an active member of the BJP. The kind of politics that the BJP is indulging across the country, it is natural to suspect that the BJP may have had some involvement with this [Udaipur killing] incident," Mr. Dotasra wrote in his letter.

Man wraps food in paper with Hindu gods; arrested

Police invoke Sections 153A and 295A

ANUJ KUMAR
GHAZIABAD

The Uttar Pradesh police have arrested an eatery owner for allegedly wrapping food items in old newspapers with images of Hindu gods and goddesses. The family of the accused has, however, denied the charge.

"We had received complaints from locals that Talib Hussain was wrapping chicken and other non-vegetarian food items in newspapers with photos of Hindu gods and goddesses," said Sambhal Circle Officer Jitendra Kumar. "As it is a sensitive matter and can hurt the religious feeling of a community, we lodged an FIR under relevant sections and sent a team to investigate and collect evidence. The team found newspapers with images of gods being used to pack food items."

Attacked police

On why Section 307 of IPC has been invoked in the FIR, Mr. Kumar told *The Hindu*

that Hussain attacked the police team with a knife when it entered the premises.

Apart from the attempt to murder, the Sambhal police have also invoked Sections 153A and 295A of the IPC against Mr. Hussain. "It is a serious matter. People should be sensitive towards each other's faith," added Mr. Kumar.

A member of Hussain's family told local media that the complaint was lodged at the instigation of Hindutva groups.

"We have been running the shop for the last 20 years, and packing food in old newspapers is a usual practice," Hussain's lawyer Danish described the charges as baseless.

Vijay Sharma, district president of the Congress, said Hussain and his restaurant are fairly popular in the city. "It is highly unlikely that a person like him would attack a police team," he said.

Filmmaker booked for alleged insult to deity

Police say content promoted enmity between groups

ARNABJIT SUR
NEW DELHI/GURUGRAM

The Delhi Police's Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations (IFSO) unit has lodged a case against documentary filmmaker Leena Manimekalai for allegedly posting a "derogatory" image of a Hindu deity on her Twitter handle and "promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion".

The police said Ms. Manimekalai, while sharing the news about the launch of her new documentary film *Kaali*, wrote on June 2: "Super thrilled to share the launch of my recent film - today at @AgakhanMuseum as part of its 'Rhythms of Canada'."

A senior police officer said the content promoted enmity between different groups on the grounds of religion, race and so on and was prejudicial to the main-

tenance of harmony and was likely to disturb public tranquillity. "Such types of posts are likely to cause hindrance in the normalcy process after the disturbances in certain parts of India," the officer said.

Previous arrest

The Congress leader cited the 2017 arrest of BJP IT Cell member Dhruv Saxena along with 10 accomplices by the Madhya Pradesh Anti-Terrorism Squad on charges of spying for Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence Directorate and the 2019 arrest of Bajrang Dal leader from Madhya Pradesh, Balram Singh, in a terror-funding case.

He also referred to the 2017 sentencing of Assam BJP leader Niranjana Hojai to life imprisonment by an NIA court for participating in a

₹1,000-crore scam to divert government funds to support a militant group.

'BJP-terrorists link'

"One after the other, whether it is Riyaz Attari in Udaipur, whether it is Talib Hussain Shah in Kashmir, and I have given you five more examples. One after the other, you see there is a clear-clear link between these terrorists and the ruling BJP," said Mr. Khara.

He added, "We still don't have answers on why was Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Davinder Singh allowed to go scot free? Why did the Hon'ble LG Mr. Manoj Sinha write in that suspension order, in the removal order, dismissal order that it is in national interest that he may not be investigated further, why? Whose interest was this, was being served here? These are answers that the country now demands".



Leena Manimekalai

teen different groups on grounds of religion and deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs, has been registered.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (Headquarters) Aman Yadav said the complaint was forwarded to the Cyber Cell of the Gurugram Police for action.

Trinamool stand

Meanwhile, the Trinamool Congress distanced itself from the remarks made by MP Mahua Moitra on Goddess Kali.

The comments and her views expressed on Goddess Kali have been made in her personal capacity and are not endorsed by the party in any form, the party said in a statement on social media.

(With inputs from Shiv Sahay Singh in Kolkata)

ED searches 44 places linked to Vivo

The action is based on a complaint registered at Kalkaji police station in Delhi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday searched 44 locations, including the premises linked to Chinese phone manufacturer Vivo, across 20 States in a case involving Himachal Pradesh-based Grand Prospect International Communication Private Ltd. (GPICPL) that was being run by some Chinese nationals. Among the suspects are three chartered accountants.

"Vivo is cooperating with the authorities to provide them with all required information. As a responsible corporate, we are committed to be fully compliant with laws," said Vivo India's spokesperson.

The ED suspects that a large number of paper/shell companies had been floated to launder funds. Investigations are also under way to determine if money was sent abroad on various pretexts in violation of any law. The agency's probe is based on an FIR registered at Kalkaji police station in Delhi on December 5, 2021, following a complaint from the Deputy Registrar of Companies (RoC), Delhi and Haryana.

The FIR alleged that certain Chinese shareholders of GPICPL were projecting it to be a subsidiary of Vivo and had used forged documents and falsified addresses. During an inquiry, the RoC zeroed in on three Chinese "deep cover resident agents"

and also came across evidence indicating that the company's two Chinese shareholders – Zhengshen Ou and Zhang Jie – had used forged documents and declared false addresses to various authorities.

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs directed further inquiry into the affairs of the company under the Companies Act. As it turned out, the company was incorporated by Zhengshen Ou and Zhang Jie, both Chinese nationals, in December 2014 with the Himachal Pradesh RoC, showing its registered office in Solan.

Several other documents and applications submitted for getting the director-identification numbers were cer-

tified allegedly by chartered accountants Jagmohan Chodha and Ankita Uniyal. Both the professionals have been accused of vetting the documents and filing e-forms despite the knowledge that false information was being submitted to the government agencies.

A Xiaomi spokesperson had then said: "We believe our royalty payments and statements to the bank are all legit and truthful. These royalty payments that Xiaomi India made were for the in-licensed technologies and IPs used in our Indian version products...we are committed to working closely with government authorities to clarify any misunderstandings."

Webinar for entrepreneurs in investment management

It aims to help businessmen get guidance from experts

STAFF REPORTER
CHENNAI

CFA Institute and *The Hindu BusinessLine* will organise a webinar on "How to become a successful entrepreneur in the investment management industry" which will be held on July 8 at 4 p.m.

The panelists for the webinar include Gajendra Kothari, managing director and CEO, Etica Wealth (P) Ltd, Meera Siva, director, Shelter Venture Fund, Sandeep



Gupta, co-founder and chief business officer, BHIVE Investech and Arati Porwal, di-

rector, Society Relations, CFA Institute. The webinar aims to help entrepreneurs get insight and guidance from experts and provide a roadmap for them. It will be moderated by Parvatha Vardhini C, Editor - BL Portfolio, *BusinessLine*. To register for the webinar visit:

https://bit.ly/3aiMOEH or scan the QR Code.

'Courts give alternative resolution'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Indian courts have promoted alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanism and arbitration-friendly approach, as seen in the Amazon-Future group case, Law Minister Kiren Rijju said on Tuesday.

He made these comments at Arbitrating Indo-United Kingdom Commercial Disputes, an international conference on arbitration held in London. CJI N.V. Ramana was also part of the conference.

U.P. asks Russian actors to perform Ramleela

Pechnikov played role of Lord Ram

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

After a gap of two years, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has invited a Russian troupe from Moscow to perform in this year's Ramleela celebrations in Ayodhya. The performance of Ramleela by the Russian actors will take place during October 22-28, when the Deepotsav festival will be celebrated in Ayodhya.

The visit of the Ramleela troupe is special as it will take place after the pandemic as well as in the backdrop of the Ukraine crisis, which is redefining the India-Russia relationship both at the levels of the governments and people-to-people ties.

Lavkush Dwivedi, Director, Ayodhya Research Institute, which comes under the U.P. Government's Department of Culture, has written to 'Disha: India-Russia Friendship Society of Moscow', inviting the actors to perform in Ayodhya.

Moscow's Ramleela

The Ramleela of Moscow goes back to the 1960s, when Gennady Mikhailovich Pechnikov performed the role of Lord Ram. "Our all-Russian team of performers began Ramleela presentation in 2018 in memory of 'Russian Ram', Pechnikov, who was a guru for many of us who were interested in Indian culture and history," Rameshwar Singh, Disha's director, said.

Pechnikov was a legen-

'SC remarks in Nupur case unfortunate'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Fifteen retired judges, 77 former bureaucrats and 25 former officers of the armed forces have issued an open statement against the "unfortunate and unprecedented" comments made by a Supreme Court Bench of Justices Surya Kant and J.B. Pardiwala while hearing a plea filed by former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma, who is facing criminal action following her alleged televised remarks on Prophet Muhammad.

Refusing to entertain her plea to club the multiple first information reports (FIR) registered against her in various States, the Vacation Bench had made scathing oral remarks about Ms. Sharma, including that she was "single-handedly responsible" for the violent protests which followed.

The open statement said the remarks from the Bench had "sent shockwaves in the country and outside". "By no stretch these observations, which are not part of the judicial order, can be sanctified on the plank of judicial propriety and fairness. Such outrageous transgressions are without parallel in the annals of judiciary," the statement said. The observations made had "no connect jurisprudentially with the issue raised in the petition". The statement goes so far as to say that the court's observations could be perceived as a "virtual exoneration of the dastardliest beheading at Udaipur in broad daylight".

"In the annals of judiciary, the unfortunate comments have no parallel and are indelible scar on justice system of the largest democracy. Urgent rectification steps are called for as these have potentially serious consequences on democratic values and security of the country," the statement said.

She, by approaching the top court to club the FIRs registered, had only sought to exercise her fundamental right against double jeopardy under Article 20(2) of the Constitution.



Mikhailovich Pechnikov

dary performer, and for many years, he was the only European stage personality capable of playing Lord Ram on stage.

"That is why we dedicate our Ramleela to the memory of 'Russian Ram', Gennady Pechnikov," said Mr. Singh, who along with his wife Nadezda will bring the Ramleela to Ayodhya. The Russian Ramleela was adapted to the European artistic traditions and is presented in a unique classical style. The cast features at least 15 actors, including one who plays the role of Lord Hanuman.

Disha's Ramleela in memory of Pechnikov was presented for the first time at Ayodhya's 2018 Deepotsav, which was followed by a performance at the 2019 Prayagraj Mahakumbh Mela.

This year's Deepotsav is expected to be decorated with one million earthen lamps, *shobha yatras*, and Ramleela performances by troupes from India and abroad.

Murmu meets NDA lawmakers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

Presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu visited Patna on Tuesday and interacted with lawmakers of the National Democratic Alliance, including Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, and sought their support.

Earlier, Mr. Murmu, Deputy Chief Ministers Trakishore Prasad and Renu Devi, State BJP chief Sanjay Jaiswal, former Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, Union Ministers Nityanand Rai and Pashupati Kumar Paras and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) leader Chirag Paswan welcomed Ms. Murmu at the Patna airport.

"It is my pleasure that a tribal woman is set to become President of India and I've full faith that Ms. Murmu will win the election with a thumping majority," Mr. Kumar said.

Casinos more important than people for govt., says Congress

Party slams withdrawal of GST exemptions on various food items

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Imposing 1.5% goods and services tax (GST) on diamonds while levying 5% on essential commodities such as flour, rice and curd showed the priorities of the Narendra Modi government, the Congress said on Tuesday.

"GST on Health Insurance: 18%. GST on Hospital Room: 5%. GST on Diamonds: 1.5%. 'Gabbar Singh Tax' is a painful reminder of who the PM cares for. A single, low GST rate will reduce compliance costs, prevent govt. from playing favourites & ease burden on poor & middle class families," former Congress president Rahul Gandhi tweeted.

Addressing a press conference, party spokesperson



RAHUL GANDHI, Congress leader

Gourav Vallabh said that exemptions had been withdrawn for pre-packed and pre-labelled foodgrains, fish, paneer, lassi, honey, jagery, wheat flour, butter-milk, meat and fish that are not frozen and puffed rice (*muri*). They will now be taxed at 5%.

Similarly, hotel rooms with tariff up to ₹1,000 a day will now be taxed at 12%.

Rates have been increased to 18% from 12% on products such as printing, writing or drawing ink, knives with cutting blades, spoons, forks, paper knives, pencil sharpeners and LED lamps.

"On the other hand, the Group of Ministers had finalised a uniform tax 28% GST on casinos, horse racing, and lottery. This decision was asked to be reviewed,

and the GoM has been given a 15-day period to review its decision," Mr. Vallabh said.

"What is more important for the government - casinos or the common person? Why were taxes raised across the board with no review of the decision to remove tax exemptions," he asked.

The GST, which was planned as a progressive tax structure, had been so badly mishandled that rationalising it would be a long and painful process, the spokesperson said.

Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh tweeted, "People were already hassled by Modi-made inflation. After July 18, they will be further troubled by GST-induced inflation...where have the good days gone?"

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention at the recently concluded national executive meeting of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Hyderabad, suggesting that the party reach out to the marginalised and "non-elite" sections of minority communities, was not just about the Pasmanda community among Muslims. It was also to explore ways to reach out to Christian communities in States such as Kerala and Goa, even by deploying BJP leaders from Northeast India.

A senior party leader present at the meeting said "the big takeaway from the national executive meet was not just about how to expand the party in geographical areas where the BJP had currently meagre presence but also among communities that have considered the party untouchable till now".

As reported by *The Hindu* earlier, it was during the BJP's discussion over the party's byelection wins in Azamgarh and Rampur in Uttar Pradesh (areas with significant minority populations) that the issue came up.

"The Prime Minister made an intervention during U.P. unit chief Swatantra Dev Singh's presentation, that there was a need for exploring new social equations within minority communities, the need to look at communities not as monoliths but with different interests and different positions within the social and economic hierarchies of these communities. That issues on which the elites or different ethnicities of a particular community respond are different from what the other ethnicities and poor and marginalised within these communities respond to," a senior party leader said, ex-



The PM said there was a need to look at communities not as monoliths.

plaining the remarks.

Mr. Modi likened the move to the way social equations and political support have been mobilised within Hindu communities so far. For example, the U.P. BJP appointing a Muslim Minister hailing from the non-Syed category - a clear move to delink the backward sections of minority communities from the concerns and voter mobilisation capacities of the elite in these

communities.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's intervention during the political resolution was on how certain Assamese Muslim communities were supportive of the BJP compared with the Bengali-speaking ones. Mr. Sarma's speech also underlined that the party had won seats in Muslim-majority areas during the municipal polls, though not yet in the Assembly or Lok Sabha elections, pointing to fact that the issues being voted on in local body polls were different.

Resetting the narrative
Nalin Mehta, political scientist and author of *The New BJP*, said, "By reaching out to Pasmanda Muslims now, Prime Minister Modi is trying to open a new conversation focused on the narrative of empowerment *vis-a-vis*

marginalised groups while simultaneously trying to bypass existing elite community representatives. This planned outreach signifies an attempt to reset the BJP's narrative on Muslims and seems to be modelled in many ways on Modi's earlier political push with the Backward Classes among Hindus."

The party's expansion in the Christian-majority areas of Northeast India was also flagged by Mr. Modi, who said the BJP had won seats even in areas where there was a "100% Christian population". "These leaders, he said, should travel to States like Goa and Kerala to speak about the party," a senior party leader shared.

The outreach to Christians is also not a new thing; Mr. Modi had spoken of it in 2016 as well.

Most pertinent, it was the late Manohar Parrikar who had, for the first time in 2012, made inroads into the Christian community in Goa on a strong anti-corruption plank to be elected Chief Minister there.

During the 2013 Assembly election in Karnataka, a couple of BJP MLAs belonging to the Christian community were despatched to speak to community leaders in Mangaluru, but they did not get much response in the polarised coastal belt of the State.

The raising of the issue of reaching out to sections of the minority communities, and basically not treating them as monolithic entities, would be interesting if it had not been mooted at a time when huge protests erupted over the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the bulldozing of the properties of minority community members for alleged acts of violent protest. This raises a cloud of doubt over just how much success the move will garner.

Panel suggests increasing tenure of House committees

Calls for a dedicated hour in RS to discuss their reports

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

There should be a dedicated hour during the Rajya Sabha proceedings to discuss the "import and implications" of the reports finalised by Parliamentary Standing Committees, a panel headed by former General Secretary and adviser P.P.K. Ramacharyulu has recommended.

The panel was instituted by Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu in January. The panel, in its extensive report that studied the working of the Rajya Sabha secretariat and other procedural issues, has made 130 recommendations. The report was presented to Mr. Naidu on Tuesday.

According to a press note by the Rajya Sabha secretariat, the committee suggested that the tenure of the Parliamentary committees should be increased from the present one year to two years.

Field visits
Their field visits should also be increased from the present two visits for a maximum of 10 days in a year to three visits and 15 days.

"Given the efforts that go into preparation of reports by the DRSCs and their import and implications, a Committee Hour has been recommended for consideration to discuss select major reports in the Parliament for

wider amplification of the content of the reports," the committee recommended.

More accessible
The panel said that these reports should be made more accessible to the stakeholders and general public.

This is the first-ever comprehensive study of the Rajya Sabha secretariat. The study has suggested streamlining of the secretarial work, including disposing of 75% of the issues by lower and middle level in a 10-layer hierarchy that exists in the secretariat at present. The Rajya Sabha secretariat, which started in 1952 with 200 officers and staff, has 1,700 personnel at present.

Twitter moves court over blocking orders by govt.

Comply with laws, says Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Alleging "disproportionate use of power", Twitter has moved the Karnataka High Court, seeking review and relief from "overbroad and arbitrary" content blocking orders from the government.

Last month, the Ministry of Electronics and IT had written to Twitter granting it the last opportunity to comply with a series of "Blocking Orders", while also setting out serious consequences of non-compliance, including initiating criminal proceedings against the firm's chief compliance officer.

A source privy to the development said that due to the seriousness of these

threats, the microblogging platform had chosen to challenge several of the 'Blocking Orders' issued under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

Noting that in several cases there are demands for entire accounts to be blocked, the source said these orders are being challenged on the basis that they are procedurally and substantially deficient of the Section 69A requirements, demonstrate excessive use of powers and are disproportionate.

Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar in a tweet said all platforms have the right to approach court but they have unambiguous obligation to comply with laws.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY. e-Tender Notice
Tender No: T.No.45/2022-23/SE/Q. NABARD RIDF XXV - CWSS to Kunnathoor, Poruvazhy, Sooranadu North panchayaths in Kunnathoor Taluk and Thazhava, Thodiyoor, Kulasekharapuram panchayaths in Karunagappally Taluk- Construction of 44 MLD WTP, filter house unit, supply and laying Clear water transmission main, supply and laying 900mm DIK9 CWPM, supply erection and commissioning of transformer, Clear water pumpset etc. and allied works at Ambuvila in Kunnathoor grama panchayath. EMD : Rs. 50000. Tender fee : Rs. 15000+2700 (18% GST-IT will be paid by the contractor on reverse charge basis while filing his returns). Last Date for submitting Tender : 27-07-2022 02:00:pm. Phone : 0474 2745293 Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in Superintending Engineer
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in KWA-JB-GL-6-471-2022-23 PH Circle, Kollam

INDIAN NATIONAL SCIENCE ACADEMY (INSA)
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, India
Website: www.insaindia.res.in

Advertisement

In order to facilitate the interaction with distinguished overseas scientists with their Indian counterparts, the Academy has established following six chairs named after:

1. Professor PC Ray
2. Dr. Vikram Sarabhai
3. Professor DS Kothari
4. Professor AS Paintal
5. Dr. BP Pal and;
6. Dr. V Ramalingaswami

Nominations are invited in the above chairs will be governed by the following broad guidelines:

- a) **Duration:** Maximum period up to two weeks
- b) **Visit Period:** Calendar Year (between January 1 - December 31), 2023.
- c) **Mode of Selection:** The selection will be made by a special committee constituted by President INSA.
- d) **No. of Scientists to be Selected:** Six
- e) **Age:** Upper age limit will be 75 years.
- f) **Travel:** Academy will cover the travel expenses: **International** - Business Class (maximum return fare: USD 4000+) in addition to **internal air travel** by economy class and local transportation. Host institute will book air tickets following Government of India Guidelines.
- g) **Accommodation:** Accommodation will be arranged in an Institute guest house where they are visiting. In the absence of guest house accommodation, the hotel accommodation @ Rs. 7,500/- per day (maximum) will be provided by the Academy. In addition, the overseas scientists will be paid per Diem @ Rs. 2000/-
- h) INSA Chair Awardee is expected to deliver at least three lectures in any educational institutes preferably less endowed institutions including remote areas.
- i) Awardee should be requested to send a brief scientific report on their visit to India which may be published in the INSA News / Proceedings of the Academy.
- j) **Last Date to send Nominations:** Kindly send complete proposal to INSA on email (intademy@insa.nic.in) by 31-08-2022, 6 pm. Proposal to invite and other details may be downloaded from INSA website: https://insaindia.res.in/insa_chairs.php.

RFP for Appointment of Insurance Broker

NSIC Venture Capital Fund Limited (NVCFCL) is a wholly owned Subsidiary of The National Small Industries Corporation Limited, a Mini-Ratna Corporation of the Government of India under Ministry of MSME. Self-Reliant India (SRI) Fund, the first scheme of NVCFCL, has been structured in the form of a Fund of Funds for MSMEs, and has been registered with SEBI as a Category II Alternative Investment Fund.

NVCFCL, vide its RFP No. NVCFCL/2022-RFP-IB/02 dated the 1st July, 2022, invites proposals from IRDA registered Insurance Brokers for appointment as Insurance Broker for the Self Reliant India (SRI) Fund. Reputed Insurance Brokers, qualifying conditions prescribed in the RFP, may submit their proposals latest by 1400 hrs on 22nd July, 2022. The RFP can be downloaded from the website of NVCFCL (www.nvcfcl.co.in).

S/d
OSD, NVCFCL
Tel.: 011-26924510, Email: osd@nvcfcl.co.in

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS - TIRUPATI
Marketing Department e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

e-Tenders are invited for supply of "1,20,000 Kgs of Cashew Splits" through e-tenders-cum-e-reverse tendering" for a period of 01 month to the Marketing Department, T.T.Devasthanams. For Tender Notice and tender details log on to the web site <http://www.tirumala.org> and <https://tender.approvement.gov.in>. For further details contact Phone Numbers:0877-2264079, 2264555, Fax.No.0877-2264554.

Rec.No.PR4/13944/Adv.No.116/PRO/2022, Dated:05-07-2022 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS TIRUPATI
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-tender is invited for Printing on Outsource and supply of "9 Titles of Books". For Tender Notice & Details - e-tenders: log on the web site <http://www.tirumala.org> and <https://tender.ap.eprocurement.gov.in>. For further details contact:0877-2264292, 9963955585.

Rec.No.PR4/13944/Adv.No.115/PRO/2022, Dated:05-07-2022 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Byatarayanapura Division, No.2152/20, Defence Colony, BWSSB Tank Road, Sahakaranagara, BBMP Office, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru - 560 092.
No: EE/BTP/BBMP/E-PMT/10/2022-23 Date: 04.07.2022

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

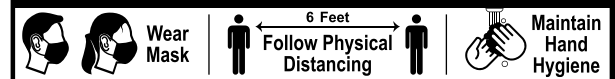
The Executive Engineer, Byatarayanapura Division, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Amount Put to Tender (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (₹. in Lakhs)
1.	Package No. 01 (Consists of 5 works)	1000.00	15.00
2.	Package No. 02 (Consists of 5 works)	1000.00	15.00
3.	Package No. 03 (Consists of 5 works)	1100.00	15.00
4.	Package No. 04 (Consists of 3 works)	900.00	13.50
5.	Package No. 05 (Consists of 3 works)	1000.00	15.00
6.	Package No. 06 (Consists of 14 works)	1500.00	15.00
7.	Package No. 07 (Consists of 7 works)	1000.00	15.00

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 26.07.2022 upto 4:00 pm. (2) Pre bid meeting will be held on 19.07.2022 at 4:00 pm in the Office of the Executive Engineer, (Byatarayanapura Division). (3) Date of Opening of Bids on 27.07.2022 after 11:00 am. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or the website: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Byatarayanapura Division

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19. NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.



BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (South), Lakes Division, Room No. 308, 3rd Floor, New Building, BBMP, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002
No.: EE-South/Lakes/Tend-01/2022-23 Date: 05.07.2022

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Short Term Tender Notification - Two Cover Tender) Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the works mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Estimate Cost of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Providing water body fencing and other works in Mesthrupalya Lake.	200.00	3,00,000/-
2	Providing Chain Link Fencing, inlet arrangements and other allied works at Gowdanapalya Lakes in Ward No. 182, Padmanabhanagar	325.00	4,87,500/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Bid documents can be downloaded from 13.07.2022 from the website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>. (2) Pre bid meeting will be held on 20.07.2022 at 3:00 p.m. at the office of the Executive Engineer (South), Lakes, BBMP. (3) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 4:00 p.m. on 27.07.2022. (4) Technical bids will be opened on the website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> in the office of the Executive Engineer (South), Lakes, BBMP on 29.07.2022 at 4:30 p.m. Further details may be obtained from the above office, during office hours or website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South), Lakes, BBMP



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PWD CIRCLE BHILWARA
No.2176 :- SHORT TERM Notice Inviting Bid 03/2022-23
Date: 29.06.2022

Bids for Building works are invited from interested bidders upto 6.00 PM 12.07.2022 (Tuesday). Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state. The approximate value of the procurement is 1056.44 Lacs. (Total of 3 bid)

UBN No.-PWD223WSOB03110, PWD223WSOB03111 PWD223WSOB03112

(R.L.Khatik)
Superintending Engineer
PWD Circle Bhilwara
DIPRC/8887

भारत सरकार Government of India अंतरिक्ष विभाग Department of Space

रिक्ति परिपत्र/ VACANCY CIRCULAR
निदेशक, भारतीय अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आई.आई.एस.टी.) (अंतरिक्ष विभाग, भारत सरकार के अंतर्गत एक स्वायत्त निकाय), वलियमला, तिरुवनंतपुरम, केरल के पद हेतु भर्ती/ RECRUITMENT FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR, INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SPACE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (IIST),VALIAMALA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA (AN AUTONOMOUS BODY UNDER DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)

विज्ञान सं./Advertisement No.E.28011/1/2015-V(III),Vol.II दिनांक/dated: 06/07/2022

भारतीय अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आई.आई.एस.टी.) में स्तर-16 में निदेशक के पद पर की तत्काल आमेलन आधार पर भर्ती जाना है। One post of the Director in the Indian Institute of Space Science & Technology (IIST), in Level-16 is to be filled on immediate absorption basis.

अर्हता, अनुभव, आयु, आवेदन प्रपत्र आदि जैसे अन्य विवरण के लिए 'वृत्ति' लिंक के तहत इसरो वेबसाइट www.isro.gov.in देखें। For other details like Qualification, Experience, Age, Application form etc., log on to ISRO website www.isro.gov.in under the link "Careers"

आवेदन प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि 05/08/2022 है। The last date for receipt of applications is 05/08/2022

सुद्धि/अनुशेष, यदि कोई होगा, तो उसका प्रकाशन मात्र उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर ही किया जाएगा। Corrigendum/Addendum, if any will be published in the above website only.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Zone, Lakes Division, Room No.309, 3rd Floor, New Building, BBMP, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002
No:EE-Bommanahalli/Lakes/Tend-01/2022-23 Date: 05-07-2022

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Two Cover Tender) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Zone, Lakes Division, invites tenders on item rate basis from the registered Contractors of BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations for the works detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	(1) Improvements to Pathway, Fencing and Other Works in Akshayanagara Lake. (2) Providing Water Body Fencing, Security Room and Other Works in Gubbala Lake. (3) Providing Outer Body Fencing, Improvements to Walkway and Other Works in Dorekere Lake. (4) Providing Outer Body Fencing, Improvements to Walkway and Other Works in Basapura Lake-2. (5) Providing Inlet, Outlet arrangements, Outer Body Fencing, Pathway Improvements and Other Works in Kammanahalli Meenakshi Lake (6) Providing Water Body Fencing, Pathway Improvements and Other Works in Yelenahalli Lake. (7) Providing Water Body Fencing, Security Room cum Toilet Block and Other Works in Doddakallasandra Lake. (8) Providing Water Body Fencing, balance Outer Body Fencing and Other Works in Konappana Agrahara lake. (9) Walkway Improvements, Security Room and Other Works in Subramanyapura Lake. (10) Providing Fencing to Kembathahalli Lake. (11) Improvements to Parappana Agrahara Lake. (Package-1)	1260.00
2	(1) Developmental Works in Beretana Agrahara Lake (Chowdeshwari Layout). (2) Developmental Works in Konanakunte Lake. (Package-3)	1200.00

EMD (Rs. in Lakhs) : Rs. 15.00 Lakhs each for works at Sl.No. 1 to 2 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Procurement and Rs. 14.00 Lakhs in the form of BG)

Calendar of Events: 1) Bid Document may be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Portal Website: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 14-07-2022. 2) Pre Bid Meeting will be held on 21-07-2022 at 15.00 Hrs. at Office of the Executive Engineer (Bommanahalli), Lakes, BBMP. 3) Tenders must be Submitted Online through e-Procurement Portal on or before 16.00 Hrs. on 30-07-2022. 4) Technical Bid will be Opened on 01-08-2022 at 16.30 Hrs. at the Office of the Executive Engineer (Bommanahalli), Lakes, BBMP. Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Bommanahalli), Lakes Division, BBMP.



Heavy rain in Mumbai; roads waterlogged

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

As heavy rain lashed Mumbai and parts of coastal Maharashtra, the State's newly sworn-in Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Tuesday rushed to the Disaster Management Cell of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and took stock. He directed National Disaster Response Force teams to relocate the people to safe locations in the areas of Konkan where heavy to very heavy rainfall is expected. Mr. Shinde said that around 3,500 people in different parts of the State had been relocated to safer areas following heavy downpour.

The India Meteorological Department has issued an orange alert in Mumbai for the next three or four days. On Tuesday, several areas of Mumbai such as Sion and Chunarbhathi witnessed water-logging. Central Railway said that its services on were running with delays but trains were not held up anywhere.

Centre asks States to boost paddy sowing

There has been a 27% fall in the sown area to 43.45 lakh hectares till July 1 this season, show data

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre has asked the State governments to take steps to increase the sowing of paddy in the wake of reports that the sown area has shrunk.

At a conference of State Food Ministers on food and nutrition security of India here on Tuesday, Union Minister of Food and Public Distribution Piyush Goyal said the international demand for rice and wheat had increased, and asked the States to increase the sowing of paddy in this kharif season.

The Centre's data say that paddy has been sown on 43.45 lakh hectares till July 1, which is 27.05% less than the 59.56 lakh hectares during the corresponding period of 2021. "We request the States to increase the sowing of rice," Mr. Goyal said. He added that when wheat sowing began in October during the rabi season, the States should increase the sowing as demand for wheat had increased globally.



Arresting a slide: Worker transplanting paddy saplings at Kallepully in Palakkad, Kerala. •K.K. MUSTAFAH

Meanwhile, the Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat governments urged the Centre not to supply wheat in place of rice. Gujarat Food Minister Nareshbhai Patel and Uttar Pradesh's Minister of State for Food & Civil Supplies Satish Chandra Sharma urged the Centre to reconsider the decision to replace wheat with rice. "In areas like Saurashtra, people prefer wheat to rice. The Centre has as-

sured us they will consider replacing rice with ragi and other millets," Mr. Patel told *The Hindu*. Kerala Food Minister G.R. Anil said the State had requested increased rice allocation.

The meeting discussed nutritional safety, particularly on fortified rice. Mr. Anil said though Kerala was ready to distribute fortified rice through its public distribution outlets, the State pre-

ferred indigenous varieties of rice which naturally contained nutrients. "We have asked the government to consider such varieties of rice rather than going for fortified rice," he added.

Mr. Goyal pulled up the States for not submitting their food Bills to the Centre. He said some States had submitted Bills since 2004 and said all Bills must be cleared by August 15. States such as Bihar, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh cited delays in audit clearance. Mr. Goyal offered them assistance in taking up the matter with the Comptroller and Auditor-General. He criticised States such as Telangana, West Bengal and Rajasthan which did not send Ministers to the conference.

NFSA ranking
Odisha secured the first rank for the implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA). Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh stood second and third, respectively, in the index prepared by the Centre, which was re-

leased by Mr. Goyal. Among the special category States, Tripura secured the first rank. Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim stood at the second and third positions.

Mr. Goyal said the ranking would lead to a healthy competition among the States. The Centre would launch a similar ranking for procurement too. "The Index denotes only the efficiency of TPDS operations, it does not reflect the level of hunger, if any, or malnutrition, or both, in a particular State or Union Territory," the index report said.

The findings showed that most States fared well in digitisation, Aadhaar seeding, and e-POS installation. "However, States and Union Territories can improve their performance in a few areas. Exercises such as conducting and documenting social audits thoroughly and operationalising functions of State food commissions across States and Union Territories will further bolster the true spirit of the Act," the report added.

More time to respond to Centre's policy on disabled

Draft calls for more preventive steps

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

After several stakeholders demanded more time for a response, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD) has extended the time for the public to submit comments on the draft national policy for persons with disabilities, which was published last month, by a week, with officials saying it could be extended further.

On Tuesday, the Department of the Union Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry said in a tweet that the last date for sending in comments on the draft policy had been extended from July 9 to 15 "in view of the representations received from various stakeholders/organisations".

The draft calls for expanding the disabilities prevention programme of the Health Ministry from "traditional causes" to other causes, including malnourishment and medical negligence. The policy also

advocates for making vehicles more accessible for the disabled, saying the "Ministry of Road Transport and Highways will issue necessary guidelines for making modification in the personal vehicles being used by persons with disabilities as per requirement."

According to activists who raised the demand and officials, the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre is working on a sign language translation of the policy in video form. A department official said the video would be released by July-end.

A.S. Narayanan, president of the National Association for the Deaf, said he had written to the Secretary of the department, Anjali Bhawra, on June 20 asking for the policy to be translated into a sign language video. "We would like to bring to your attention that deaf people from organisations are struggling to fully read and understand it," the letter said.

Modi, Xi may meet amid busy diplomatic calendar

They are expected at SCO meet in Uzbekistan in September

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is expected to attend the G-20 Foreign Ministers' meeting in Bali this week, along with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, as Ministers of the world's largest economies are hosted by Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi.

The meeting on July 7 and 8 comes ahead of two summits: the G-20 summit in November this year, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Heads of State Council in Uzbekistan in September where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will come face-to-face with Chinese President Xi Jinping for the first time since the April 2020 stand-off at the Line of Actual Control.

Pakistan's new Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is also expected to attend the SCO Council meeting on September 15 and 16.

India to host two events
Diplomatic sources told *The Hindu* that both summits will be held in person for the first time since the COVID pandemic and Mr. Modi has already been invited to both. India will host the SCO meet and the G-20 Summit in 2023, making Mr. Modi's



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Brazil in 2019. •PTI

presence more important.

Mr. Jaishankar will also attend the SCO Foreign Ministers' meeting in Tashkent on July 28 and 29, which will set up the SCO Heads of State Council meeting due to be held in the historic city of Samarkand on September 15 and 16 this year, where Mr. Modi is invited along with Russian President Putin, Chinese President Xi, Pakistani Prime Minister Sharif and heads of Central Asian States.

A high-level meeting on Afghanistan will also be held in Tashkent on July 27 and 28, where NSA Ajit Doval or Mr. Jaishankar will attend, the first time India will speak at the forum after reopening the Indian Mission in Kabul under the Taliban regime last month.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto is also expected to attend the SCO meetings. While Mr. Modi and Mr. Xi have not spoken

or met directly since the LAC stand-off and the Galwan killings, they have attended multilateral events in virtual format in the past two years. Prior to that, the two leaders had met 18 times, many of those on the sidelines of SCO, G-20 and BRICS summits.

Announcing Mr. Jaishankar's visit to Bali on Thursday, the Ministry of External Affairs said he will hold several bilateral meetings with his counterparts from other G-20 members-states and invited countries but officials declined to confirm whether a separate bilateral meeting will be held with the Chinese Foreign Minister.

This is the first time both Ministers will see each other since Mr. Wang's visit to Delhi in March this year. In Washington, the U.S. state department announced that Mr. Blinken would meet Mr. Wang on the sidelines of the G-20 meeting.

Navy eyes govt. route to buy carrier-based jets

Pact with France or U.S. likely as India's indigenous aircraft carrier gets ready for commissioning

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The Navy is looking for an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) with either France or the U.S. to procure new fighter jets to operate from its aircraft carriers, as the country's first indigenous aircraft carrier *Vikrant* is all set to be commissioned next month coinciding with 75 years of Independence, naval officials said on Tuesday.

The Navy also has a Russian-origin carrier, *INS Vikramaditya*, in service.

"There has been an operational demo by Dassault Rafale and Boeing F-18. Trials are done. Because the Navy

required aircraft which can take off from its carriers...The report is yet to come in on the op-demo. Once that comes in, we will do a staff evaluation. Preferably it will be an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) case. That is the recommendation from the Navy," said Commodore Pankaj Chauhan, in-charge of Air Acquisition at the Naval Headquarters.

Elaborating, Vice Chief of the Naval Staff Vice-Admiral S.N. Ghormade said the trials of Rafale and F-18 Super Hornet had been done to prove their capability to operate from aircraft carriers.

"Our aim is indigenisa-



The indigenous aircraft carrier *Vikrant* at the Cochin Port after its successful maiden sea voyage. •THULASI KAKKAT

tion. We have a twin-engine deck-based fighter plan but it will take some time," he said, referring to the new indigenous jet under development, adding in the interim they are looking for an aircraft

from among the two to meet their requirements.

"The report is yet to come in on the operational demonstration," he stated on the selection process. In 2017, the Navy floated the Re-

quest for Information (RFI) to procure 57 twin-engine carrier fighter which is now set to be downsized to 26, including a few twin-seater trainer variants. A final decision on the number would be taken soon, officials said.

Vikrant, constructed by Cochin Shipyards Ltd, was set to go for the final round of sea trials this weekend, officials said.

After that it would be handed over to the Navy, which would conduct the aviation trials that would go on for over a year. The carrier is set to be commissioned in early August for which the dates are being worked out.

Father, daughter fly in same fighter formation of IAF

Air Commodore Sanjay Sharma and Flying Officer Ananya Sharma create history with the rare feat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Air Commodore Sanjay Sharma, a seasoned fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force (IAF), and his daughter, Flying Officer Ananya Sharma, commissioned as a fighter pilot in December 2021, created history in the annals of the Indian Air Force by flying in the same fighter formation. On May 30, 2022, they flew in the same formation of Hawk-132 Advanced Jet Trainers (AJT) at the Air Force Station,

Bidar. "Flying Officer Sharma is currently undergoing her training before she graduates onto faster and more superior fighter aircraft of the IAF. There has not been any previous instance in the IAF where a father and his daughter were part of the same fighter formation for a mission," an IAF officer said.

"It was the mission where Air Cmde. Sanjay and Fg. Offr. Ananya were more than just a father and daughter. They were



Air Commodore Sanjay Sharma with Flying Officer Ananya Sharma. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

comrades, who had full faith in each other as fellow wingmen would," the officer

noted. Air Commodore Sanjay Sharma was commissioned in the fighter

stream of the IAF in 1989 and has had an extensive experience in fighter operations, having commanded a MiG-21 squadron as well as a frontline fighter station.

Having grown up in the IAF, Ms. Ananya Sharma could not imagine being part of any other profession, he said, adding that as the first women fighter pilots of the IAF entered service in 2016, Ananya saw that her lifelong dream could now take off.

THE CROSSWORD+ 13601
(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site @ <https://qrqo.page.link/jjpTn>

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

- 18 Hates German examinations (7)
 - 21 Claim eagle is flying around top of lamp-post (6)
 - 23 Bachelor gets tea endlessly around university for bread (8)
 - 25 Pascal dislikes gifts (8)
 - 27 Not flat? Odd?! (6)
 - 29 No, racists can manufacture some flaky pastry (9)
 - 30 Animals present in new estate (4)
- Down**
- 1 Degeneration of macula around beginning of October after commencement of genetic disease (8)
 - 2 Extended play by in-charge is heroic (4)
 - 3 That chap with setter follows Supreme Court plan (6)
 - 4 European representative by mistake losing third letter for ruler (7)
 - 5 Friendly and competent to carry mineral (8)
 - 6 Expensive honey (4)
 - 9 Metro venue contains store of delightful things (5)
 - 13 Lie idly after commencement of bright fire (5)
 - 15 Papa, after evicting Turkish leader from Mediterranean island, gets pancake (5)
 - 17 Old founder of Pennsylvania on eastern steam ship shows receptivity (8)
 - 19 Wrongly treated, holding end of coat and torn (8)
 - 20 Lab yams can be of poor quality (7)
 - 22 At first, let yellow reporter imitate chant in song (5)
 - 24 Girls carrying midget making pig-like noises (6)
 - 26 In absence of Nina, son-in-law may become unhurried (4)
 - 28 Watched journalist holding yesterday's edition at first (4)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13600

D	I	S	T	A	F	F	G	E	L	A	T	I	N
R	A	E	R	U	A	A	E						
O	G	L	E	S	A	R	T	E	M	I	S	I	A
P	T	O	G	S	E	E	T						
S	T	A	G	P	A	R	T	I	B	A	R	G	E
Y	T	A	A	R	A	N	D	I	N				
D	I	V	A	N	O	R	M	A	N	D	I		
I	N	S	O	L	E	N	T	A					
D	I	N	O	L	E	N	T	A					
I	R	A	T	E	C	H	A	R	A	B	A	N	C
S	C	M	L	C	S	T	A	N	C				
A	T	T	H	E	M	O	S	T	I	L	I		
R	O	M	N	E	A	O	H						
M	A	N	A	T	E	E	O	Y	E	N	N	E	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Model of right conduct

The concept of dharma is subtle and deep, and though it may not be possible to define it specifically, it is intuitive and embedded in human consciousness. All sacred texts reflect various aspects of dharma in different contexts and the Ramayana is full of instances that illustrate how dharma has to be the way of life for all, pointed out Sri B. Damodhara Dikshitar in a discourse.

It is held that the Vedas came down as the Ramayana when the Supreme Lord incarnated as Rama, the very embodiment of dharma. In the Ayodhya Kanda, when Rama is told of the cancellation of the Pattachishkekam and of His 14-year period of exile in the forest, Rama's conversations with Kaikeyi, Kausalya, Lakshmana, Sita and others reflect the various nuances of dharma and its practice in human life. Rama leaves the entire kingdom and all the comforts that went with it without a second thought. He tells Kaikeyi that He is a sage at heart and does not hanker after material possessions. He never compromises in His commitment to dharma. He faces the ups and downs of forest life with equanimity. He has controlled his senses. For the sake of his father, he renounces all and has no regrets on this count.

Lakshmana is angry and wants to imprison Dasaratha, Kaikeyi, and if necessary Bharata and anyone who stood in the way of Rama's crowning. Though he is on edge to do all this, he seeks Rama's permission. Is this not testimony to the fact that he respects Rama and wants to follow His word? His behaviour at this juncture reflects the inherent sense of dharma in all of us that binds the child to the parent, the disciple to the preceptor, the subjects to the king, etc. Rama gently pacifies Lakshmana and tells him that it is their prime duty to abide by their parents' bidding.

Police arrest suspect in July 4 firing

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HIGHLAND PARK

The suspected gunman who opened fire on a July 4 parade in a wealthy Chicago suburb planned the attack for weeks and wore women's clothing to aid his escape, the police said on Tuesday.

Robert Crimo, 21, who lived in Highwood, just north of Highland Park, where the shooting occurred, was arrested on Monday after six persons were killed and more than 30 wounded during an Independence Day parade.

Police spokesman Christopher Covelli said no motive had been established for the attack, in which the gunman fired dozens of semi-automatic rounds from a rooftop into the crowd of paradegoers.

"We do believe Crimo pre-planned this attack for several weeks," Mr. Covelli said.

"We have no information to suggest at this point it was racially motivated."

"Crimo was dressed in women's clothing and investigators believe he did this to conceal his facial tattoos and his identity and help him during the escape with the other people who were fleeing the chaos," he said. Mr. Covelli said Crimo went to his mother's nearby home after the shooting and borrowed her car. He was captured about eight hours later after a brief chase.

In another July 4 shooting, two police officers were wounded when they came under fire during a fireworks show in Philadelphia.

U.S. President Joe Biden voiced shock and vowed to keep fighting "the epidemic of gun violence." "I'm not going to give up," he said.

Sweden, Finland sign protocol to join NATO, await ratification

They can now participate in NATO meetings, have greater access to intelligence

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRUSSELS

NATO's 30 allies signed an accession protocol for Finland and Sweden on Tuesday to allow them to join the nuclear-armed alliance once allied Parliaments ratify the decision, the most significant expansion of the alliance since the mid-1990s. Separately, the bloc's Deputy Secretary General Mircea Geoana said that NATO has no current plans to send troops to Sweden and Finland.

"We don't plan to have an additional presence in either country, they have formidable national forces. They're capable of defending themselves," Mr. Geoana said in a telephone interview.

In Brussels, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, alongside the Foreign



Welcoming to fold: NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg, centre, with the Foreign Ministers of Sweden, Finland in Brussels. ■ REUTERS

Ministers of Finland and Sweden, said: "This is truly an historic moment". "With 32 nations around the table, we will be even stronger," he added.

The protocol means Helsinki and Stockholm can participate in NATO meetings and have greater access to intelligence but will not be

protected by the NATO defence clause that an attack on one ally is an attack against all until ratification. That is likely to take up to a year.

"Thank you for your support! Now the process of ratification by each of the allies begins," Swedish Foreign Minister Ann Linde said on

Twitter. "Look forward to working together in ensuring our collective security."

Turkey's warning

However, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned on last Thursday at a NATO summit in Madrid that said Finland and Sweden must first keep the promises made to Turkey in a deal or ratification will not be sent to the Turkish Parliament.

Mr. Erdogan and his Finnish and Swedish counterparts had agreed on a series of security measures to allow the two Nordic countries to overcome the Turkish.

According to the memorandum, Finland and Sweden pledged not to support the Kurdish militant PKK and YPG groups or the network of U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gulen.

China backs Pak. in opposing G20 meetings in Kashmir

It's 'aimed at highlighting the nationalist identity of the BJP'

ANANTH KRISHNAN
BEIJING

China's state media and officials have lent support to Pakistan's opposition to India hosting any G20-related meetings in Jammu and Kashmir next year.

Those statements came even as the Chinese government has hailed the completion of its first major hydro-power project under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on the Jhelum river on the border of Punjab and the western part of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), what Pakistan calls "AJK". The dam was built by China Three Gorges Corporation.

"India's objective in doing so is clearly to force the international community to recognise India's control and even 'sovereignty' over Jammu Kashmir.... Involving Jammu Kashmir in such an important international conference could also be claimed as a diplomatic victory for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of India and is supposed to bring a boost to its domestic support," said a commentary on Tuesday in the Communist Party-run *Global Times*, by Qian Feng, director of the research department at the National Strategy Institute at



China had called the G20 a premier forum for economic and financial cooperation.

Tsinghua University in Beijing.

Holding G20-related meetings there – the main summit in 2023 is expected to be held in New Delhi – as well as the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019 were "operations aimed at highlighting the nationalist identity of the BJP, as a representative of Hindu interests", he said.

The comments underlined the Chinese views on the Kashmir issue that have only got sharper in recent times, particularly since 2019. Beijing said in that year that it opposed the reorganisation and subsequently raised the issue at the UN. The remarks also bring to the fore an increasingly close China-Pakistan

tandem – coinciding with CPEC projects in PoK – on Kashmir, an issue that Beijing had largely been reluctant to wade into over the past two decades.

'Avoid unilateral moves'

The Chinese Foreign Ministry on June 30 said "parties concerned need to avoid unilateral moves that may complicate" the dispute. "The G20 is the premier forum for international economic and financial cooperation. We call on all major economies to focus on steady recovery of the world economy, avoid politicising relevant cooperation and make positive contribution to improving global economic governance," spokesperson Zhao Lijian said.

Asked about China's opposition to G20 meetings in Kashmir on the one hand and its continuing projects there on the other, Mr. Zhao said, "What you mentioned are two matters completely different in nature. China has undertaken some projects in Pakistan to help it grow its economy and improve people's livelihood. These projects are in Pakistan-occupied areas of Kashmir.... This does not affect China's position on the Kashmir issue."

'Manila-Beijing ties are about more than conflict'

Outreach comes before Wang Yi visit

REUTERS
MANILA

Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Tuesday said he wanted ties with Beijing to be about more than a South China Sea dispute, and stressed the need for multilateral engagement in dealing with conflicts.

"We have our relationship not only on one dimension," Mr. Marcos told a news conference ahead of a visit by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Mr. Marcos said he would try to "find ways to work to resolve the conflicts that we have," so ties could normal-



Ferdinand Marcos Jr

ise after years of maritime disputes.

Mr. Marcos has a balancing act in boosting business with China while maintaining close relations with defence ally the United States.

Sloviansk in Donbas sees 'massive shelling'

Russia targets cities held by Ukraine

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KYIV

Russian forces are pounding Sloviansk with "massive" shelling, its mayor said on Tuesday, as the eastern Ukrainian city becomes Moscow's next target in its campaign in the Donbas region.

"Sloviansk! Massive shelling of the city. The centre, the north. Everyone, take shelter," Vadim Lyakh wrote on Facebook.

Ukrainian authorities have on several occasions urged Sloviansk residents to leave the region as the front-line approaches the city following Russia's capture of

Severodonetsk and Lysychansk in the neighbouring region of Lugansk.

Russian bombardment has killed at least six persons and injured another 19 since Sunday in the city with a pre-war population of around 1,00,000.

Sloviansk and regional administrative centre Kratochivsk remain under Ukrainian control and are Russia's next goals in its campaign to conquer the eastern Donbas region.

In 2014, pro-Moscow separatists briefly took control of Sloviansk in their conflict with the authorities in Kyiv.

Blinken to hold talks with Wang Yi

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken will hold a rare meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of a regional conference in Bali this week, the State Department said on Tuesday.

Mr. Wang and Mr. Blinken

will meet on the sidelines of a Group of 20 ministerial meeting on the Indonesian resort island, the State Department said, amid high tensions on a range of issues including Taiwan.

The meeting comes as U.S. President Joe Biden voices hope for a new conversation in the coming

weeks with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The State Department said that Mr. Blinken will also hold talks with his Indonesian counterpart and then travel Saturday to Thailand for a visit that was cancelled last year after an outbreak of COVID in the top U.S. diplomat's delegation.

Woman mathematician from Ukraine wins Fields Medal

Maryna Viazovska says war has profoundly changed her life

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BERLIN

Ukrainian mathematician Maryna Viazovska was named on Tuesday as one of four recipients of the prestigious Fields Medal, which is often described as the Nobel Prize in mathematics.

The International Mathematical Union said Ms. Viazovska, who holds the chair in number theory at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne, was being honoured for her work on the densest packing of identical spheres in eight dimensions.

Ms. Viazovska said Russia's attack on Ukraine in February had profoundly changed her life and those of all Ukrainians.

Small respite

"When the war started I could not think about anything else, including mathematics," she said, adding



Maryna Viazovska

that teaching has offered some respite, however.

"When I'm in front of class, I have to forget about everything else because I have to be very focused," Ms. Viazovska said. "This made me forget about the fear and pain inside myself."

The other winners were French mathematician Hugo Duminil-Copin of the University of Geneva; Korean-American mathematician June Huh of Princeton; and British mathematician James

Maynard of the University of Oxford.

The Fields Medal is awarded every four years to mathematicians under age 40. The recipients are normally announced at the International Congress of Mathematicians, which was originally due to be held in Russia this year but moved to Helsinki instead.

"The ongoing barbaric war that Russia still continues to wage against Ukraine clearly shows that no other alternative was feasible," the president of the International Mathematical Union, Carlos E. Kenig, said.

Ms. Viazovska recently dedicated one of her lectures to Yulia Zdanovska, a young Ukrainian mathematician and computer scientist from Kharkiv who was killed in a Russian missile attack.

"When someone like her dies, it's like the future dies," Ms. Viazovska said.

Cafes in Iran's Qom closed over veil issue

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

Authorities in Iran have closed three coffee shops in the central city of Qom because female customers were not wearing their headscarves, local media reported on Monday.

"Three coffee shops were closed in Qom due to numerous violations, including women's lack of veils and other issues," said a statement by the Revolutionary Guards. "The owners of the cafes were summoned by the police before legal action was taken," the statement added.

Qom, a city revered by Shiites as the site where they believe the twelfth imam of Shiite Islam will return, is located 150 kilometres south of the capital Tehran.

Since the Islamic revolution of 1979, Iranian law has required all women to cover their bodies with loose clothing and veil their heads in public.

Sri Lanka bankrupt, crisis may last until 2023: PM

'Food, fuel, medicine will be scarce'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka is bankrupt and the acute pain of its unprecedented economic crisis will linger until at least the end of next year, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe told parliament on Tuesday.

The island nation's 22 million people have endured months of galloping inflation and lengthy power cuts after the government ran out of foreign currency to import vital goods.

Mr. Wickremesinghe said the once-prosperous country will go into deep recession this year and acute

shortages of food, fuel and medicine will continue.

He said Sri Lanka's ongoing bailout talks with the International Monetary Fund depended on finalising a debt restructuring plan with creditors by August.

"We are now participating in the negotiations as a bankrupt country," Mr. Wickremesinghe said.

Mr. Wickremesinghe said the IMF expects Sri Lanka's economy to shrink by 7% this year, even worse than the dire forecasts issued by the country's central bank.

The Prime Minister also said that inflation could climb above 60%.

SECUNDERABAD CANTONMENT BOARD
(Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India)
Court Compound, S.P. Road, Secunderabad - 500 003,
Phone No. 040-27808604, E-mail ID: ceo.scb2009@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE
APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANT FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR PREPARATION OF FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR ECONOMICALLY VIABLE PROJECTS FOR LANDS BELONGING TO SECUNDERABAD CANTONMENT BOARD AND PREPARATION OF DPR, SECUNDERABAD, TELANGANA.

1. Online tenders are invited from interested firms / agencies for "Appointment of Consultant for Consultancy services for preparation of feasibility study for economically viable projects for lands belonging to Secunderabad Cantonment Board and preparation of DPR, Secunderabad, Telangana".

Description of tender	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Cost of tender form (Inclusive of GST) (In Rs.)
Appointment of Consultant for Consultancy services for preparation of feasibility study for economically viable projects for lands belonging to Secunderabad Cantonment Board and preparation of DPR, Secunderabad, Telangana	8,00,000/- (Rupees Eight Lakhs only)	11,800/- (Rupees Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred only) (including GST @ 18%)

2. DURATION OF CONTRACT – 120 days. 3. NO MANUAL BID WILL BE ACCEPTED. 4. SCHEDULE OF DATES FOR e-TENDERING:

CRITICAL DATE SHEET		
Sr. No.	Activity	Date
(a)	Publication date	06/07/2022
(b)	Document Download start date	06/07/2022
(c)	Bid submission start date	06/07/2022
(d)	Bid submission end date	26/07/2022
(e)	Pre-qualification bid opening date	27/07/2022
(f)	Technical bid opening date	29/07/2022
(g)	Financial bid opening date	30/07/2022

No. SCB/EB/RFP/Consultancy Assignments/2022/1781
Office of the Cantonment Board, Secunderabad,
Dated: 05-07-2022.

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer,
Secunderabad Cantonment Board

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FRIDAY, 8 JULY 2022
MMA MANAGEMENT CENTER

GUEST OF HONOUR DR SUJATHA NARAYAN SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND REGION LEADER, INDIA REGION WABTEC CORPORATION	CHIEF GUEST CK RANGANATHAN PRESIDENT, AIMA & CMD, CAVINKARE	GUEST OF HONOUR DR ADRIAN HAACK DIRECTOR, INDIA OFFICE KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG
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MARKET WATCH

	05-07-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	53,134	-0.19
US Dollar	79.33	-0.48
Gold	52,050	0.003
Brent oil	102.11	-10.05

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	678.75	-3.25
Apollo Hosp	3817.40	47.30
Asian Paints	2766.60	-23.70
Axis Bank	648.50	-5.85
Bajaj Auto	3682.75	3.00
Bajaj Finserv	11524.70	136.40
Bajaj Finance	5661.10	30.80
Bharti Airtel	684.45	2.55
BPCIL	313.10	-3.25
Britannia Ind	3656.60	-43.85
Cipla	937.40	6.75
Coal India	182.45	0.40
Divis Lab	3610.05	-29.50
Dr Reddys Lab	4394.20	39.75
Eicher Motors	2805.60	9.20
Grasim Ind	1349.75	-1.05
HCL Tech	982.15	-2.45
HDFC	2202.90	-13.95
HDFC Bank	1352.60	-3.05
HDFC Life	564.85	-9.45
Hero MotoCorp	2737.25	-23.20
Hindalco	345.25	4.75
Hind Unilever	2401.50	26.30
ICICI Bank	719.45	-0.65
IndusInd Bank	824.05	-7.95
Infosys	1475.95	-12.05
ITC	286.90	-5.00
JSW Steel	552.65	1.15
Kotak Bank	1663.05	-7.85
L&T	1564.90	-16.80
M&M	1081.95	-9.25
Maruti Suzuki	8348.70	-94.65
Nestle India Ltd.	17985.00	-9.55
NTPC	140.85	-0.55
ONGC	127.40	1.40
PowerGrid Corp	214.15	3.45
Reliance Ind	2433.25	19.55
SBI Life	1111.00	-6.65
State Bank	472.15	-1.30
Three Cement	19565.75	273.35
Sun Pharma	835.80	6.40
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	729.05	-1.10
Tata Motors	412.00	3.55
Tata Steel	860.15	5.60
TCS	3216.30	-18.75
Tech Mahindra	1003.20	3.25
Titan	1954.25	-8.25
UltraTech Cement	5729.95	20.90
UPL	656.40	1.90
Wipro	413.60	-6.70

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 05

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	79.17	79.49
Euro	81.49	81.82
British Pound	94.98	95.37
Japanese Yen (100)	58.13	58.36
Chinese Yuan	11.81	11.86
Swiss Franc	81.99	82.33
Singapore Dollar	56.42	56.65
Canadian Dollar	61.18	61.43
Malaysian Ringgit	17.90	17.99
Australian Dollar	53.72	53.95

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



Britannia investors nix ₹5,000-cr. board plan

NEW DELHI Britannia Industries' shareholders voted against a resolution to authorise the board to make investments, give loans and provide guarantees of up to ₹5,000 crore in the annual general meeting concluded last week. PTI

Hyundai India's Director Production Mani quits

CHENNAI Hyundai Motor India on Tuesday announced that its Director (Production) S. Ganesh Mani had quit his post to pursue newer opportunities. HMI shared a mutually enriching relation with Mr. Mani over the last seven years and his valuable contributions had significantly added to HMI's operational excellence at its Sriperumbudur plant, the company said in a statement.

PMI pegs services growth at 11-year high

Inflation weighs down business confidence, with just 9% firms foreseeing growth one year later

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India's services firms saw growth in new business and output accelerate to a 11-year high in June, as per the survey-based S&P Global India Services Purchasing Managers Index (PMI). The index rose to 59.2 last month, from 58.9 in May, signalling a strengthening in demand across the services sector, which had borne the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With input costs continuing to rise, firms also raised selling prices at the fastest rate since July 2017 as they sought to transfer part of their additional cost burdens to customers, with the sharpest increases in prices being witnessed in transport, information and communication services.



Demand rebound: Consumers are seen spending on contact intensive services that were avoided earlier. *M. PERIASAMY

Higher food, petrol, retail and staff costs were cited by respondents as the reason for raising output prices, with 'unrelenting' inflation concerns dampening overall confidence levels. Only 9% of firms expect

"Activity growth in India's service sector moved up a gear... reaching its strongest in over 11 years and surpassing that seen in manufacturing for the third month running," said Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at S&P Global.

"Demand for services improved to the greatest extent since February 2011, supporting a robust economic expansion for the sector over the first quarter of 2022-23 and setting the scene for another substantial upturn in output next month," she said. "Consumer services posted the strongest increases in both output and new orders in June, but growth rates quickened across the board," Ms. De Lima added.

ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar said the jump in the

services PMI corroborated the rating agency's view that the sector would lead the growth recovery this year.

Pivot to services

"Middle-to-high income households are likely to prioritise spending on contact intensive services, that were avoided during the pandemic, at the cost of consumer durables. This is likely to result in a slower improvement in capacity utilisation levels, modestly delaying the private sector's capex plans amidst the global headwinds and elevated commodity prices," Ms. Nayar said.

Private sector jobs rose in June, following a fractional decline in May, with both manufacturing and services recording slight increases in employment levels.

'Work needed to prune GST-exempt services'

GoM vetting rate rationalisation: Bajaj

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A lot of work still needs to be done to prune GST-exempted items, especially in the services sector, Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said.

Addressing a CII interactive session, Mr. Bajaj said efforts are on to remove the 'rough edges' in Goods and Services Tax (GST) over the next two-three years.

On rationalisation of GST rates, the Revenue Secretary said a Group of Ministers is looking into it.

"We will have to wait for some time," he said.

Exemptions still remain, a large number on the services side, Mr. Bajaj said, adding 'work needs to be done to prune it'. On representations that 5% GST on non-

China said to plan \$75-bn infra fund

REUTERS
BEIJING

China will set up a state infrastructure investment fund worth 500 billion yuan (\$74.69 billion) to spur infrastructure spending and revive a flagging economy, two people with knowledge of the matter told Reuters on Tuesday.

China's economy has started a slow recovery from the supply shocks caused by extensive lockdowns since the second quarter, although headwinds to growth persist, including from a still subdued property market, soft consumer spending and fear of any recurring waves of infections.

The fund is expected to be set up in the third quarter, the sources said.



Tarun Bajaj

ICU hospital rooms above ₹5,000 is against affordable healthcare, he said the percentage of rooms in hospitals which charge more than ₹5,000 is 'minuscule.'

The Revenue Secretary said the 28% slab in GST contributes 16% to the gross GST revenue, while the major chunk of 65% comes from the 18% slab.

PV retail sales continued to see strong demand in June: FADA

Poor sentiment, high costs hit two wheelers, says Gulati

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Passenger vehicles (PVs) continued to see strong retail demand in June, with sales of commercial vehicles also seeing growth for the first time since the start of the pandemic, according to dealers' association FADA.

However, two-wheeler sales continued to remain under pressure due to poor market sentiment, high cost of ownership and inflationary pressures. As per data from the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA), passenger vehicle registrations rose 40.2% to 2,60,683 units in June, compared with a year earlier.

The figures reflect a 27%



increase over sales seen in June 2019. Two-wheeler sales grew 20.2% to 11,19,096 units. However, compared with June 2019, sales were 16.4% lower.

"The PV segment continued to see robust growth," FADA President Vinkesh Gulati said in a statement. "An increase in wholesales

Rupee falls to 79.33 after June trade deficit widens

Shortfall hit a record high of \$25.63 bn

REUTERS
MUMBAI

The Indian rupee fell to a record low against the U.S. dollar on Tuesday as concerns of a wider current account deficit (CAD) came to the forefront after the country's trade deficit hit an all-time high in June.

Data late on Monday showed India's June trade deficit widened to a record high of \$25.63 billion, following a rise in crude oil and coal imports, from \$9.61 billion a year earlier.

Analysts and economists expect the country's CAD to widen to about 3.2% of the GDP in fiscal 2023, from 1.2% in fiscal 2022.

The rupee fell by 38 paise to its lifetime closing low of 79.33. It had closed at 78.95

Analysts are expecting CAD to widen to 3.2% of GDP in fiscal 2023 from 1.2% in FY22

on Monday. "We expect India's widening current account deficit (CAD) to remain an ongoing drag for INR, with limited offsets from India's FDI and overseas investment inflows, exacerbated by ongoing FPI (foreign portfolio investor) outflows," said Sonal Varma, economist at Nomura.

"We expect USD/INR to reach 82 by Q3 2022 and 81 by Q4 2022. One risk to our view is the RBI's USD selling intervention, which could slow the pace of INR depreciation," she added.

Govt. extends duty relief on cotton import

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE

The government has extended the import duty exemption for cotton to October 31.

In a notification dated July 4, the Ministry of Finance said the import duty exemption that was given for cotton till September 30 has been extended to October 31.

Industry sources said the trade and industry had contracted 17 lakh-18 lakh bales of cotton from other countries so far this season. With container shortage, only about 15 lakh bales would reach India by September. The balance would land only later and hence, it was essential to have the duty exemption extended till October.

Truecaller aims to widen India 'success'

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

Driven by success for its 'Truecaller for Business' offering in India, the Stockholm-based caller identification platform Truecaller plans to double down on newer markets such as South Africa, Egypt and Israel to grow the service, a top company official said.

"India is our biggest market, powered by over 220 million users," said Priyam Bose, Global Head, GTM, Truecaller for Business, India. "However, we are also scaling across other focus international markets such as South Africa, Egypt, Israel and parts of Southeast Asia," he added.

CG Power tags key areas for advanced products

'Working on sector-specific approach'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd. (CG), a subsidiary of Tube Investments of India Ltd., has identified several key focus sectors to offer 'world-class and technologically-advanced products'.

The company has been identifying areas of synergy with Tube Investments and the rest of the Murugappa Group to take 'the pillars of growth much higher in the next three to five years', said chairman Vellayan Subbiah in the 85th annual report.

The company has identified electric vehicles, fast-moving electrical goods,



Vellayan Subbiah

railways, steel, agriculture, pharma, defence, cement and renewable energy as growth drivers.

"CG aims to build sector-focused approach and teams, and has begun its work in this direction," Mr. Subbiah said.

Yes Bank loans rose 14% by June end

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Yes Bank on Tuesday said its loans and advances increased by 14% to ₹1,86,598 crore at the end of June from ₹1,63,654 crore at end-June 2021.

Gross retail disbursements during the quarter more than doubled to ₹11,431 crore compared with ₹5,006 crore by June 30, 2021, Yes Bank said in a regulatory filing.

Deposits of the bank rose by 18.3% to ₹1,93,241 crore as of June 30, 2022, from ₹1,63,295 crore at the end of June 2021. Deposits, however, were down by 2% from ₹1,97,192 crore as of March 31, 2022.

SIA eyes pre-COVID level of flights by Oct. 31

Airline plans more services to Japan

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

Singapore Airlines (SIA) on Tuesday announced that it will return to pre-pandemic level of flights to India by October 31 as part of its strategy to boost flights globally in response to a surge in travel demand.

The plan to ramp up capacity includes progressively operating 17 weekly services to Chennai, up from the current 10 flights per week. Flights to Kochi would go up to 14 times weekly, up from the current seven flights per week. Bengaluru would see 16 flights per week, up from the current seven flights per week.



Singapore Airlines

Pre-pandemic, the airline operated to seven destinations in India with a total of 96 flights a week.

SIA would also increase services to Japanese cities such as Tokyo and Osaka, and add more flights to Los Angeles and Paris as it plans to take its total capacity to 81% of pre-pandemic levels by the end of the year.

Access Health to hire 18,000 people: Jain

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Access Healthcare, a leading provider of end-to-end healthcare revenue cycle and IT services, plans to hire more than 18,000 people in the next 12 months.

"We are currently hiring at the rate of 1,500 people monthly and investing significantly in technology and automation in our hiring and training processes," Vardhman Jain, Vice Chairman, said. "Over the next few months, we will be adding capacities across locations to support our growth efforts. Our focus will stretch beyond metropolitan cities," he added.

SPORT

Indian women share honours with China

Vandana cancels out Zheng's goal as the team secures a second successive draw

WORLD CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AMSTELVEEN

India was held to a 1-1 draw, this time by China, in a Group B match of the FIH women's hockey World Cup on Tuesday.

Jiali Zheng gave China the lead in the 26th minute before Vandana Katariya equalised for India in the 45th minute.

India had drawn 1-1 against Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist England in its tournament opener.

The Indians had a better share of possession in the first two quarters and had more chances, but couldn't translate it into goals.

China, on the other hand, waited for counter-attacks to breach the Indian defence.

In the ninth minute, Nav-



Denied: China's Qiuxia thwarts India's Lalremliami's attempt to score. *AFP

neet Kaur had the first shot at goal after combining well with Vandana, but her effort was saved by China goalkeeper Liu Ping.

In the 23rd minute, India came close to scoring but the goalpost came to China's rescue. Off the resultant re-

bound, Jyotika seemed to have found the net but the goal was disallowed after a referral.

India secured its first penalty corner soon after that, but failed to capitalise on it.

China took the lead against the run of play through Jiali

Zheng, who shot past Savita Punia after receiving a pass from Xindan Zhang.

Two minutes later, India earned another penalty corner but Monika's attempt was saved by Ping as China went into the half-time break with a slender 1-0 lead.

In the 42nd minute, India got back-to-back penalty corners but wasted both.

Seconds from the end of the third quarter, Vandana deflected home Gurjit's flick as India drew level from a perfectly executed penalty corner.

The fourth quarter was dominated by India as it went on the offensive in search of the winner, but failed to find the back of the net.

India will play New Zealand in its final group match on Thursday.

BATC admits to umpiring error in Sindhu's ABC semifinal

She lost the match when she was in the lead

BADMINTON

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

Badminton Asia Technical Committee (BATC) chairperson Chih Shen Chen conveyed to the double Olympics medallist P.V. Sindhu that after its investigation it was found to be a human error on part of the umpire in the semifinals of the last ABC badminton championship.

Finished with bronze Sindhu was leading 21-13, 14-11 in the match and the 26-year-old from Hyderabad lost 21-13, 19-21, 16-21 to finish with a bronze.

"The umpire told me you're taking a lot of time



Sindhu. *FILE PHOTO

but the opponent wasn't ready at that point," Sindhu had said after the match then.

"But the umpire suddenly gave her the point and it was really unfair. I think that was one of the reasons why I lost. I mean that is my feel-

ing because was 14-11 and could have become 15-11.

"Instead it became 14-12 and she took continuous points. Maybe I would have won the match and played in the final," she had said after the loss.

The letter to Sindhu said that it was an error on the part of the umpire in implementation of Laws of Badminton.

"Unfortunately, at this stage, there is no rectification. However, we have taken necessary steps to avoid recurrence of this human error," it is informed.

"We sincerely regret the inconvenience caused. We feel it is part of sport and that it is accepted in that spirit," the official concluded.

Van Aert wins stage four, extends lead

TOUR DE FRANCE

REUTERS
CALAIS

Belgium's Wout van Aert extended his overall lead in the Tour de France when he finished off some sterling team work to win the fourth stage on Tuesday.

Leaves rivals gasping The Jumbo Visma rider left all his rivals gasping for air on the final hill of the 171.5-km ride from Dunkirk after his team's brutal acceleration blew apart the peloton.

Belgian Jasper Philippen took second place with France's Christophe Laporte finishing third, eight seconds behind according to provisional timings.

Root and Bairstow pull off a record chase

Their 269-run stand helps England easily achieve the target of 378 and draw the series 2-2

INDIA IN ENG

REUTERS BIRMINGHAM
England rode on unbeaten hundreds from Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow to pull off its highest successful chase, coasting to a series-levelling seven-wicket victory in the rearranged fifth Test against India at Edgbaston on Tuesday.

Chasing 378 for victory, England went into the final day needing 119 runs with seven wickets in hand.

Masterly innings

Root went on to smash a masterly 142 not out, his 28th Test century, forging a mammoth 269-run partnership for the unbroken fourth wicket with Bairstow.

Root's elegant hundred was studded with 19 fours and a six.

Bairstow's unbeaten 114, which included 15 fours and a six, was his second hundred of the match as England triumphed with two sessions to spare.

England's previous highest successful run chase came in 2019 when they reached a 359-run target in an Ashes test against Australia on the back of Stokes' brilliant unbeaten century.

It was a tremendous turnaround by England which conceded a significant first-innings lead of 132.

Root and Bairstow showed the kind of sustained aggression which is quickly becoming the hallmark of this England test team since Brendon McCullum took over as the head coach and Ben Stokes assumed captaincy. Root grew so much in con-



Unstoppable: Root and Bairstow were hardly troubled by the Indian bowlers as England won at a canter. • GETTY IMAGES



fidence that he treated Shradul Thakur like a spinner, stepping out against the seamer and then playing an audacious reverse-scoop against him that sailed over for a six. Bairstow brought up his fourth hundred in five innings with a tight single before hitting Mohammed Siraj for three successive boundaries.

Team India fined
India was on Tuesday fined 40% of their match fee and penalised two ICC World Test Championship points

for maintaining a slow over-rate by ICC match referee David Boon. He imposed the sanction after India was ruled to be two overs short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration.

- Root's elegant 142 not out was studded with 19 fours and a six
- Bairstow's unbeaten 114, which included 15 fours and a six, was his second hundred of the match

SCOREBOARD

Team	W	L	D	Series	Pts.	%	Penalty overs
Australia	6	0	3	3	84	77.78	0
South Africa	5	2	0	3	60	71.43	0
Pakistan	3	2	2	3	44	52.38	0
India	6	4	2	4	75	52.08	-5
West Indies	4	3	2	4	54	50.00	-2
Sri Lanka	3	3	1	4	40	47.62	0
England	5	7	4	4	64	33.33	-12
New Zealand	2	6	1	4	28	25.93	0
Bangladesh	1	8	1	5	16	13.33	0

AT THE END OF ENGLAND-INDIA SERIES ON JULY 5, 2022

We let the game slip away: Bumrah

Batters' repeated failures in third innings a concern for Dravid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BIRMINGHAM
India captain Jasprit Bumrah on Tuesday blamed his side's defeat in the fifth Test to the batting failure in the second innings, saying the team let the match slip away after dominating a major part of it.

"That's the beauty of Test cricket, even if you have three good days. We fell short with the bat yesterday and that is where we let the opposition in," Bumrah said. "But England played really well. We have drawn the series. Both teams played very good cricket and it was a fair result."

Bumrah said he thoroughly enjoyed the captaincy responsibility, adding that it was a pleasure to lead the national team.

Coach Rahul Dravid said the repeated failures of the batters in the third innings of a Test was a matter of concern.

Asked about the reason, Dravid said, "There is so much of cricket that we aren't having any time to reflect. In two days, we will be talking to you about something entirely different." He was referring to the T20I series starting on July 7.

"We have to reflect why we aren't able to bat well in the third innings of a Test and why we aren't able to take 10 wickets in the fourth innings," he said.

Dropping Ashwin

About R. Ashwin's absence, Dravid said: "It's not easy to leave someone like Ash out in a Test, but when we looked at the wicket on the first day, it had a pretty even covering of grass. We felt



Faces say it all: The Indian players would be rueing how they lost the plot from a dominant position. • AP

ICC World Test Championship standings 2021-23

Team	W	L	D	Series	Pts.	%	Penalty overs
Australia	6	0	3	3	84	77.78	0
South Africa	5	2	0	3	60	71.43	0
Pakistan	3	2	2	3	44	52.38	0
India	6	4	2	4	75	52.08	-5
West Indies	4	3	2	4	54	50.00	-2
Sri Lanka	3	3	1	4	40	47.62	0
England	5	7	4	4	64	33.33	-12
New Zealand	2	6	1	4	28	25.93	0
Bangladesh	1	8	1	5	16	13.33	0

that there was enough in it for the fast bowlers."

Dravid smiled when asked about 'Bazball'. "I don't know what it is. The cricket they played for four Tests, chasing like this in the fourth innings, doesn't happen often in this country," he said.

England skipper Ben Stokes said his team was trying to rewrite the way Test cricket is being played in the country.

"We are trying to rewrite how Test cricket is played in England. We want to give

some new life to Test cricket. Inspiring the next generation is what we want to do. We want to bring in new fans and want to leave a mark on Test cricket," he said.

Jonny Bairstow, who smashed centuries in both innings, said he just wanted to put the pressure back on the opposition.

"It is great fun at the moment. I have gone back to the basics. The last few years have been tough on me but the last few months have been fantastic."

Warwickshire to probe racial abuse charge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BIRMINGHAM

An investigation has been launched into allegations of racist abuse aimed at Indian fans during the fourth day of the fifth Test between India and England at Edgbaston, the ECB and Warwickshire County Cricket Club said.

Several Indian fans took to Twitter to report the racist behaviour they endured during play on Monday. They claimed that some British fans hurled racial taunts at them.

Former Yorkshire cricketer Azeem Rafiq retweeted some of the social media posts describing the racist behaviour.

The official Edgbaston Twitter account responded to Rafiq's tweet saying: "We're incredibly sorry to read this and do not condone this behaviour in any way. We'll be investigating this ASAP."

Root and Bairstow were brilliant, but India lost it on the fourth day



BETWEEN WICKETS
SURESH MENON

Players know this better than anybody else: cricket is a game of failures. Even the great Don Bradman, who averaged 99.94 in a career of 52 Tests and 80 innings, made just 42 scores over 50. This means he 'failed' about half the time.

Yet, how you fail is important. Often you fail in the same manner in which you succeed, and while England have been given a lot of credit for their 'Bazball' style, the fact is that India, especially on the fourth day of the Edgbaston Test moved away from their own patented, older and successful 'Shazball' cricket.

The first is the entertaining style under England's new coach Brendon McCullum (nicknamed 'Baz'), and the second is the style inculcated by former coach Ravi Shastri. Partly this involves pressing home the advantage ruthlessly.

On the fourth day, India looked flat, unkempt and threw wickets away when both runs and batting time were important. From 190 for four, they lost six wickets for 55 to bring England back into the game; an England whose captain had decided to bowl first because they could chase anything in the fourth innings.

England were magnificent. Joe Root's century must rate as one of the finest, full of grace and power and mischief. And with Jonny Bairstow in such stunning form, they deserved to win. It might have been gracious of Bumrah to say that it had been a tough series and the 2-2 result was the fairest.

Yet one can't shake off the feeling that India reneged on Shazball, and a captain leading for the first time was placed in a difficult position. Gone was the aggression and command of the Virat Kohli years - although the then captain did go over the top often - and the team is left with more questions than answers.

To their credit, India, leading 2-1 in the series, did not pack their bats, batting hoping to merely draw at Edgbaston. Most Indian teams of the past would have done that on



Juxtaposition: England have been credited for their 'Bazball' style, but India moved away from their successful 'Shazball' cricket. • GETTY IMAGES

the bird-in-hand theory. India went for a 3-1 series win, arguing that if it didn't pan out, it would not be the end of the world.

For that is the nature of Bazball or Shazball cricket - aggression by itself does not guarantee success, sometimes you lose in search of a win. Sometimes an element of uncertainty enters the picture. And

you are not sure whether to keep attacking or hold back and let the other team do the running.

When India were in the dumps in the first innings, the two left-handers Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja swung into action with the former playing the kind of shots that give respectability to the T20 approach. But this was not

merely hitting and hoping. Pant has a sound defence; he also has a wonderful eye and strong arms that do not worry about fielders on the fence because he knows he can clear them.

In this phase, England seemed bereft of ideas, their skipper confused and their fielding compounded the problem with overthrows. When England were chasing and the Yorkshiremen Joe Root and Bairstow were on top, it was India who looked ragged and out of it.

Clearly neither team has quite mastered this Bazball/Shazball business. Under pressure, both teams floundered in unfamiliar territory. In India's case, there was more than one captain on the field, in England's not even that!

In their second innings, India lost a chance to put the game beyond England. They lost the plot and suddenly looked like a team with not enough batsmen and playing at least one bowler short.

On the fifth morning, the drooping shoulder syndrome so familiar in the past, came to haunt India again. However well Root and Bairstow batted, they were up

against some poor bowling and a team that had given up.

In the absence of Rohit Sharma and K.L. Rahul, the batting struggled. The talented Shubman Gill can expect a talking-to from his coach as can Shreyas Iyer. Hanuma Vihari may have played his last Test; he looked out of place at No.3.

Elephant in the room

And India will have to deal with the elephant in the room - Virat Kohli. Their next Test is in December, but will Kohli do what Cheteshwar Pujara did and play enough first class cricket in the meantime to rediscover his touch and form? A defeat leaves a team with the kind of questions that remain hidden in the euphoria of a victory. And that is not a bad thing.

Both Bazball and Shazball come with a warning: be prepared for the occasional failure. Nothing symbolises this better than the batting of Rishabh Pant. He can win a game off his own bat - or flop spectacularly. The trick, when you fail again, as the playwright Samuel Beckett pointed out, is, "fail better".

Djokovic comes out guns blazing after staring down the barrel at one stage

The Serb loses the first two sets before scripting a remarkable turnaround against Sinner; Sania-Pavic duo moves into the semifinals



REUTERS LONDON

Just when Novak Djokovic's bad year looked like hitting another low, he salvaged his bid for a fourth successive Wimbledon title by coming back from two sets down to beat Italian Jannik Sinner on Tuesday.

The Serbian top seed was in big trouble against the inspired 20-year-old after being outplayed for two sets, but stormed back to win 5-7, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

In the end there was an air of inevitability about the outcome as the battle-hardened 35-year-old seized control to reach his 43rd Grand Slam semifinal and his 11th at Wim-



Superman! Djokovic showed yet again why he's more dangerous when he's down. • REUTERS

bledon. The Serb also extended an unbeaten run at Wimbledon that goes back to 2017 and now stands at 26 matches. Djokovic has not

added to his 20 Major titles this year after being deported before the Australian Open following a COVID-19 standoff and losing to Rafael

Nadal in the quarterfinals of the French Open. He, however, kept alive the prospect of facing the second-seeded Spaniard in Sunday's final

with a superb comeback, the seventh time in his career he has won after losing the first two sets. When Djokovic produced a miraculous back-

THE RESULTS

Quarterfinals: Men: 1-Djokovic (Srb) bt 10-Sinner (Ita) 5-7, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2; 9-Norrie (GBR) bt Goffin (Bel) 3-6, 7-5, 2-6, 6-3, 7-5.
Women: Maria (Ger) bt Niemeier (Ger) 4-6, 6-2, 7-5; 3-Jabeur (Tun) bt Bouzkova (Cze) 3-6, 6-1, 6-1.
On Monday: Fourth round: Men: 2-Nadal (Esp) bt 21-van de Zandschulp (Ned) 6-4, 6-2, 7-6(6).
Mixed doubles (quarterfinals): 6-Sania (Ind) & Pavic (Cro) bt 4-Dabrowski (Can) & 4-Peers (Aus) 6-4, 3-6, 7-5.

hand winner on the slide to earn a break in the seventh game of the fifth set, ending on his belly in a Superman posture, Sinner knew that he was facing mission impossible. Djokovic will meet Cameron Norrie, who reached his first Slam semifinal with a 3-6, 7-5, 2-6, 6-3, 7-5 win over David Goffin.

On Monday, Rafael Nadal swept into the quarterfinals with a 6-4, 6-2, 7-6(6) win over Dutch 21st seed Botić van de Zandschulp. The Spaniard, chasing a rare calendar Grand Slam, has got into the groove after a slow start at The Championships.

In the women's section, World No. 2 Ons Jabeur bat-

led back from a set down to beat Marie Bouzkova 3-6, 6-1, 6-1 and set up a semifinal clash against unseeded Tatjana Maria. The 34-year-old German, a mother of two, advanced to her first semifinal at a Grand Slam with a 4-6, 6-2, 7-5 win over Jule Niemeier.

Sixth-seeded Sania Mirza and her Croatian partner Mate Pavic advanced to the mixed doubles semifinals with a hard-fought 6-4, 3-6, 7-5 win over fourth seeds Gabriela Dabrowski and John Peers. This is Sania's best mixed doubles performance at the All England Club. She had made it to the quarterfinals in 2011, 2013 and 2015.

NZ cricketers sign equal pay deal

REUTERS WELLINGTON

New Zealand Cricket and the players' association signed a five-year deal on Tuesday that will see its women's players at both international and domestic level receive the same match fees as men across all formats and competitions.

"This is the most important agreement in our sport, as it binds NZC, the major associations, and our players at the hip, and sets the foundation to fund, grow and develop cricket," said NZC Chief Executive David White.

"It's a massive step forward and will be a huge drawcard for young women and girls," said White Ferns captain Sophie Devine.

LIVE TELECAST

TNPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 3.15 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.

Wimbledon: SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 3.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Christophe Galtier named new PSG coach

PARIS
Christophe Galtier has been named on Tuesday the new coach of Qatari-owned French champion Paris Saint-Germain. The 55-year-old Frenchman quit as coach of Nice in June and replaces Mauricio Pochettino, who was released from his duties earlier on Tuesday. Galtier is PSG's seventh coach since the Qataris bought the club 11 years ago and will be expected to finally lift the Champions League trophy.

Sumit Nagal loses early

BRAUNSCHWEIG (GERMANY)
Sumit Nagal was beaten 7-6(4), 6-3 by Oleksii Krut'kykh of Ukraine in the first round of the €134,920 Challenger tennis on Tuesday.

Other results: \$25,000 ITF men, Getxo, Spain: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Alejandro Garcia & Alex Martinez (Esp) bt Sean Hess (Arg) & Adil Kalyanpur 2-6, 7-6(4), [10-3].
\$15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Singles (first round): Aziz Ouakaa (Tun) bt Niki Poonacha 7-5, 7-5.

DELHI LOCALS

MPS club enters last four
Man of the match Sumit Goli scored a 20-ball 59 and Karanveer Premi picked up three wickets as MPS Club beat Noida Wonders Club by four runs to enter the semifinals of the 3rd Brahm Singh Gurjar tournament.

The scores: MPSC 175 in 19 overs (Sumit Goli 59, Akhil Choudhary 2/16) bt Noida Wonders 171/5 in 20 overs (Shivam Sharma 57 n.o., Harsh Tyagi 39, Karanveer Premi 3/45).

All-round show by Lakshya

Lakshya top-scored with 61 runs and took three wickets as RG Cricket Academy beat Avtar Cricket Academy by 76 runs in the 4th Vijay Saini tournament.

MRV Academy lifts title

Man of the match Dherya Dutta's 82 runs and two wickets saw MRV Academy beat Bal Bhawan Academy by 73 runs to lift the 1st Sanjay Dobhal memorial tournament. Aryan Bhardwaj was named best batsman, Sourav Rajbhar best bowler and Dewansh Bisht best all-rounder of the tournament.

The scores: MRVA 296/5 in 35 overs (Dherya Dutta 82, Lakshya Sharma 50, Sagar Chamoli 40) bt BBA 223 in 32 overs (Vaidik Nagvanishi 86, Devansh Bisht 3/45).

Angelo Mathews cleared to play

Sri Lanka calls up uncapped Theekshana and Wellalage

AUS IN SRI LANKA

AGENCE-FRANCE PRESSE
GALLE
Uncapped spinners Maheesh Theekshana and Dinuth Wellalage were on Tuesday drafted into Sri Lanka's Covid-hit squad for the second Test against Australia.

Left-arm spinner Praveen Jayawickrama tested positive for coronavirus after former captain Angelo Mathews had to pull out on the third day of the opening Test with Covid.

Mathews has recovered from the virus and was cleared to play the second Test starting Friday in Galle,

'Not knowing final opponent helped'

Alfiya says the exposure was enriching as she got a taste of fighting with experienced boxers

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

For someone who got inspired after watching the movie on Mary Kom and whose background resembles World champion Nikhat Zareen, World youth champion Alfiya Pathan is delighted to have begun her journey in elite international boxing with a bang.

Alfiya – who stunned two home boxers, including 2016 World champion Lazzat Kungebayeva in the final, on her way to win the gold medal in the +81kg category on her senior international debut at the Elorda Cup in Kazakhstan – is eager to make her mark. Looking back at her experience in Nur-Sultan, Alfiya – who was one of the rookie boxers from the National Centre of Excellence (NCOE), Rohtak, to be fielded for exposure – admitted that not knowing much about her final opponent helped her.

"Since my opponents (in



Take that: Alfiya, left, says she has worked on her weak areas and improved her performance. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the semifinals and final) were from the host country, there was some pressure. I did not know that my opponent in the final was a world champion. It helped me in a way," Alfiya told *The Hindu*

after her return on Tuesday.

"The exposure was enriching as I got a taste of fighting with experienced boxers."

Beating the odds is one of Alfiya's traits from child-

hood. With her family's support, especially her father Akram Khan Pathan, and childhood coach Ganesh Purohit, the Nagpur-based girl took to boxing despite her orthodox background. She

went on to claim gold medals at the 2019 Asian junior championships and the 2021 World youth championships.

The setback

Alfiya said a setback made her work harder. "After winning the World title, I lost in the National youth championships in Sonepat. I worked on my weak areas and improved my performance to bounce back and win a better medal now."

Chief National women's coach Bhaskar Bhatt, who was the National youth team's head coach when Alfiya won her World youth title, hopes to see the 19-year-old as a better boxer.

"Alfiya is a confident, focused and self-motivated boxer. She loves to box aggressively and dominate her bouts. She will get better with experience," said Bhatt.

Alfiya looked forward to working with Bhatt again and improving her game at the National camp.

Court slams AFI for arbitrary selection

Gives time till Wednesday morning to 'revisit the issues that arise'

ATHLETICS

UTHRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday came down heavily on the Athletics Federation of India regarding its team selection for the Commonwealth Games, giving it time till Wednesday morning to 'revisit the issues that arise'.

Justice Yashwant Varma, hearing high jumper Tejaswin Shankar's petition challenging his exclusion from the squad despite meeting the qualifying mark, told the AFI to not pick and choose selection rules arbitrarily.

The AFI has been asked to report to the judge at 10.15 am with its reply on the

same. "The court heard the case at length today and went through all the selected names and their achievements threadbare. There are quite a few who have been included despite not achieving the qualifying mark set by AFI itself.

"There are others who did not participate in the Inter-State meet. The court was firm that the AFI cannot pick and choose application of its rules," Tejaswin's counsel Malak Bhatt told *The Hindu*.

Willingness

The judge, Bhatt added, directed the AFI to either inform its willingness to do it or else "I will be forced to

pass it as part of the court order that everyone who has not qualified should be removed, and you include all these five additional names that have."

Asked about the AFI's contention that they had sought spots from the Indian Olympic Association for the six additional names, Bhatt said the court refused to be drawn into that.

"The court was of the view that it was between the organisers and the IOA and did not have a bearing on the merits of this case, which was about following the AFI's own selection norms," he added.

The court, while allowing the AFI to exercise discre-

tion in selection, was however clear that the discretion did not extend to applying the rules.

"They should include all who qualified and then they can use their discretion to stick to the quota. They cannot be selective with the rules," Bhatt explained.

Among those not qualified are discus thrower Seema Punia and shot-putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor besides javelin thrower Shilpa Rani.

Quartermiler Amoj Jacob is also out with injury.

Those ignored include, besides Tejaswin, long jumper Jeswin Aldrin and marathoners Srinu Bugatha and Anish Thapa.

Towa is Gokulam Kerala coach

Former Cameroonian player takes over from Annese

I-LEAGUE

SPORTS REPORTER
KOZHIKODE

Richard Towa is the new coach at Gokulam Kerala. The Cameroonian takes over from the hugely successful Italian Vincenzo Alberto Annese, who led the club to back-to-back titles at the I-League.

The 52-year-old UEFA Pro license holder from Germany is a former Cameroonian player and featured in 13 internationals. After his stint as a player in the second division of the Bundesliga, he coached various clubs in Germany.

He was the Cameroon Under-23 coach for three years.



Richard Towa. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

For the last couple of years, he has been coaching different top division clubs in Cameroon.

"It is an honour to be part of Gokulam Kerala FC," To-

wa said. "The club is a champion club in Indian football and I want to make sure the winning streak of the club continues further. This is a new challenge and I believe we can win more trophies together."

"The coach is experienced and his strength lies in nurturing youngsters," said Gokulam's president V.C. Praveen.

"For Gokulam Kerala FC the motto is to develop talents and at the same time win all the titles. We hope that more youngsters will get a chance in the top flight and we also need a hat-trick of wins in I-League. So we believe Richard Towa is the apt profile for that."

Prannoy regains his place in top 20



H.S. Prannoy... resurgent. *AFP

BADMINTON

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Star Indian shuttler H.S. Prannoy on Tuesday regained his place in the world's top 20, riding on his consistent show in the international circuit this season.

The 29-year-old from Kerala, who had played a pivotal role in India's monumental Thomas Cup win in May, improved two places to 19 in the men's singles rankings.

Prannoy, who had

reached a career-best ranking of eight in 2018, has been one of the most consistent male shuttlers in the circuit with a series of quarterfinals and semifinals appearance this season.

He is now the third highest ranked Indian male shuttler in the world after Lakshya Sen (10th) and K. Srikanth (11th).

Two-time Olympic medalist P.V. Sindhu maintained her seventh spot in the latest chart, while Saina Nehwal also stayed static on 24th.

Treesa and Gayatri duo bows out

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KUALA LUMPUR

India's Commonwealth Games-bound women's doubles duo of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand made a first round exit from the Malaysia Masters badminton tournament, losing to local pair of Pearly Tan and Thinaah Muralitharan here on Tuesday.

The Indian pair was outplayed by the Malaysians 14-21, 14-21 in the opening round match that lasted just 33 minutes.

The combination of Ashwini Bhat and Shikha Gautam lost 7-21, 10-21 to Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirata of Japan while Pooja Dandu and Arathi Sara went down to Bulgaria's Gabriela Stoeva and Stefani Stoeva 17-21, 17-21.

In the women's singles, Malvika Bansod also suffered a 10-21, 17-21 defeat against host country's Goh Jin Wei to exit from the Super 500 tournament.

CAF set to launch Super League next year

African Cup of Nations, set to be held in Ivory Coast, postponed to 2024

FOOTBALL

ASSOCIATED PRESS
CAPE TOWN

The next African Cup of Nations will again clash with the European season and likely give rise to more club vs. country friction and disgruntlement over the release of players after organisers decided to postpone it until January 2024.

The decision was announced Sunday by the Confederation of African Football and was prompted by the weather in host nation Ivory Coast, CAF said.

The tournament was due to take place in June and July 2023 – a slot chosen to coincide with the European leagues' summer break – but Ivory Coast experiences heavy rain at that time of year and that threatened to badly affect Africa's showpiece tournament.

CAF said it had received a report from a technical group that staging the African Cup in mid-year in Ivory



Pushed back: Senegal's players celebrate after claiming the Africa Cup of Nations earlier this year. *REUTERS

Coast would have "adverse" effects.

It's been a familiar problem for CAF, which had made a long-term commitment to move the African Cup from its traditional January-February slot to the middle of the year.

Problematic weather

But a decision in 2014 to stage three straight African Cups in Central and West Africa undermined that because of the problematic mid-year weather in that

part of the continent.

This year's tournament in Cameroon was also due to be played in June and July but had to be moved back to the January-February slot because of Cameroon's monsoon season.

The next African Cup after Ivory Coast is in Guinea, another West African country, and may well throw up the same problem.

European clubs have consistently complained about being forced to release some of their biggest stars for the

African Cup, sometimes for more than a month, right when they face the crucial run-in to their league seasons. The African Cup also comes around every two years and not every four like other major international soccer tournaments.

Ahead of Cameroon's African Cup, some clubs threatened to block their players going, although Africa's biggest names like Senegal's Sadio Mané, Egypt's Mohamed Salah and Algeria's Riyad Mahrez did play.

CAF also announced on Sunday that its executive committee had given the go-ahead for a new African club Super League to be played from 2023, crucially with the backing of FIFA.

The new Super League will have total prize money of \$100 million, CAF President Patrice Motsepe said.

"We have been inundated with investors and sponsors, who are anxious to partner with us on the CAF Super League," Motsepe added.

TENNIS ROUND-UP

Prakaash Saran stuns second seed Saksham

GURUGRAM: Wild card entrant Prakaash Saran defeated second seed Saksham Bikram Shah of Nepal 7-6(4), 6-1 in the boys' pre-quarterfinals of the Asian under-14 tennis tournament at the Tennis Project, Baliawan, on Tuesday. Prakaash will next play fifth seed Praneeth Doragari who eased past Tanussh Gureja for the loss of one game. In the girls' section, Diya Chaudhary beat fourth seed Hirwa Rangani 7-5, 6-2 in the pre-quarterfinals. She will play Saanvi Reddy who beat eighth seed Manvi Gupta 6-3, 6-1.

The results (pre-quarterfinals): Boys: Om

Verma bt Chandra Kopparapu 6-0, 6-0; Shashank Sai Prasad bt Kanishk Dhingra 6-3, 6-3; Tavish Pahwa bt Amrit Dhankar 6-4, 6-3; Mohd. Shees bt Mrigank Rawat 6-3, 6-1; Kushagra Arora bt Ayan Dahiya 6-0, 6-4; Rudra Batham bt Aarav Dhekal 6-2, 6-2; Praneeth Doragari bt Tanush Gureja 6-1, 6-0; Prakaash Saran bt Saksham Bikram Shah (Nep) 7-6(4), 6-1.

Farid bt Rujula Dubey 6-4, 6-2.

Svarmanyu in last eight

CHANDIGARH: Svarmanyu Singh fought his way past Parmarth Kaushik 6-2, 6-7(5), 6-0 in the under-18 boys' pre-quarterfinals of the AITA Championship series junior tennis at the CLTA Complex on Tuesday. **The results (pre-quarterfinals):** Boys: Svarmanyu Singh bt Parmarth Kaushik 6-2, 6-7(5), 6-0; Arnab Bisnoi bt Gagneesh Chugh 6-0, 6-1; Bhicky Sagolshem bt Arnab Chaudhary 6-1, 6-0; Daksh Gupta bt Daksh Rajpurohit 2-6, 6-1, 6-1; Aaradhya Dwivedi bt Arnab Jain 6-4, 6-4; Anirudh Sangra bt Yashasvi Balhara 6-1, 6-4; Keshav Dangi bt Abhinav

Sangra 6-2, 6-4; Yagna Patel bt Devansh Parajuli 6-2, 6-1.

Girls: Riya Kaushik bt Krithika Sharma 6-0, 6-1; Rubani Kkaur Sidhu bt Akshita Vashisht 6-2, 6-0; Bhumi Kakkar bt Ananya Dogra 6-2, 6-0; Rhosyn William bt Poonam K 6-3, 6-2; Vanya Arora bt Khawaisht Yadav 6-0, 6-1; Ananya Chaudhary bbt Sharyana R 6-0, 6-2; Saanvi Garg bt Vanshika Mehta 6-1, 6-0; Radha Sadra bt Harshita Sharma 6-0, 6-0.

Kavya in quarterfinals

JHAJJAR: Lucky loser Kavya Khirwar beat qualifier Harnoor Kaur Sidhu 6-0, 6-1 to reach the quarterfinals of the ₹1,00,000 AITA women's ranking tennis tournament at the Joygaon

Academy on Tuesday. In the quarterfinals, Kavya will play seventh seed Shrutu Gupta, who beat Sanjami Arora 6-2, 6-4. Another lucky loser, Joell Nichole knocked out sixth seed Ritu Ohlyan 6-3, 6-3 to set up a quarterfinal against second seed Shefali Arora.

The results: Second round: Sonal Patil bt Abhilasha Bista 6-2, 6-0; Hannah Nagpal bt Sanjivani Kutwal 6-3, 6-1; Kavya Khirwar bt Harnoor Kaur Sidhu 6-0, 6-1; Shrutu Gupta bt Sanjami Arora 6-2, 6-4; Uboveja bt Medhavi Singh 6-4, 6-1; Hitakmya Singh Narwal bt Gia Alana Pereira 6-1, 6-2; Joell Nichole bt Ritu Ohlyan 6-3, 6-3; Shefali Arora bt Kanupriya Rajawat 6-1 (conceded).