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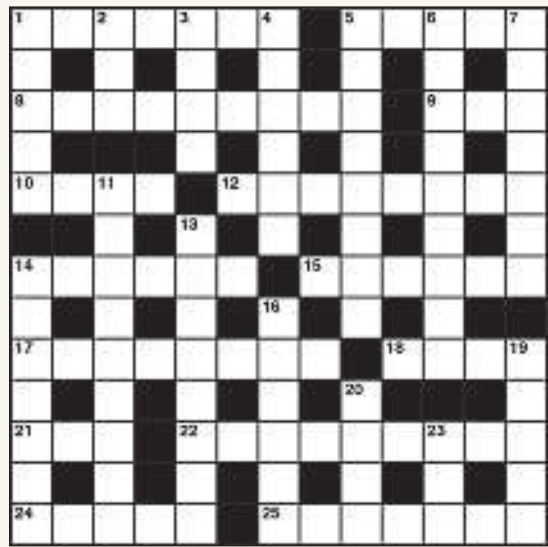
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CROSSWORD 4766



- ACROSS**
- 1 A crime upsets a whole continent (7)
 - 5 Type of brush undergrowth (5)
 - 8 Using such a pencil is (9)
 - 9 The one that is the expert (3)
 - 10 A form of need where there was none (4)
 - 12 Seat breaks with danger to star (8)
 - 14 Bedding for the young (6)
 - 15 Leader of a team that makes the headlines (6)
 - 17 Apprehends about a thousand supporters (8)
 - 18 Plays parts or play's parts (4)
 - 21 A short spell of physical jerks is appropriate (3)
 - 22 Set fire to one outhouse - polished it off (9)
 - 24 Tree of greater age (5)
 - 25 Main plant producing wonder in children (7)
- DOWN**
- 1 Fruit drink very quietly swallowed (5)
 - 2 Old priest taking part in the litany (3)
 - 3 I come up to a matter of trivial importance (4)
 - 4 Disinclined to serve a stew (6)
 - 5 Stays and uses up the money going round the States (8)
 - 6 Article is made practical (9)
 - 7 He can tame a horse - a white horse? (7)
 - 11 Not exactly valued (9)
 - 13 Don't forget about a person in society (8)
 - 14 Accidental loss of ale a keg contains (7)
 - 16 Fumes capable of causing a lot of damage (6)
 - 19 Took the part of another (5)
 - 20 Very keen to rise as a singer (4)
 - 23 Garden tool he carries round (3)

Solutions Crossword 4765: Across: 1 Nautical, 5 Star, 9 Kudos, 10 Rolling, 11 Minnow, 13 Rights, 14 Scarce, 17 Sugar coating, 20 Galatea, 21 Ozama, 22 Sink, 23 Construe. Down: 1 Nike, 2 Undoing, 3 Inspectorate, 4 Arows, 6 Twine, 7 Register, 8 Alterations, 12 Presages, 15 Rancour, 16 Potato, 18 Galen, 19 Mete.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip. It is impossible to _____ and be unhappy - Dr Howard Murphy (4,7)

ELAAR **ETUDPY**

FYILL **AEHRKW**

ANSWER: IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO WALK HAPPILY AND BE UNHAPPY - DR HOWARD MURPHY

DIFFICULTY LEVEL 4s

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

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



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4863



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E-Tender Notice No.	Total No. of Works	Total Estimated Cost
02/2022-23 (2nd Call)	14	Rs. 232.83 Lakh

Sd/-
(Hanumant N. Sanap)
Executive Engineer, PMGSY, MRRDA, Ahmednagar

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER PROJECT, PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, JODHPUR
Tel. 0291-2651700 E-mail: rj_cejod@nic.in
No.CE(P)/PHED/Ju/Ar. Pali/22-23/3321-3364 Date: 20-5-2022

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SALUTE THE SOLDIER

Sepoy NS Rama Mohan Reddy was a courageous and motivated soldier who made supreme sacrifice on 12 Jun 2001 while fighting militants in an encounter near Khanabal (J&K). On this day today, The ROYAL JATS proudly remember him and his supreme sacrifice. The tale of your valor still motivates all of us and the Paltan is proud of you.

Colonel Prakash Prasad, Sena Medal and All Ranks
2 MECH INF [1 JAT (LI)]

12 JUN 2022 LEST WE FORGET

Twenty three years ago, on this very day, the glorious history of Indian Army witnessed one of the greatest victories against the enemy in Drass (Kargil) during 'Op Vijay'. We bow our heads in reverence of those soldiers, who in the true rich traditions of the '2nd Battalion the Rajputana Rifles' made the supreme sacrifice for the motherland while fighting the enemy. It is but for you, that today every member of the '2nd Battalion the Rajputana Rifles' holds his head high.

'MAY THE ALMIGHTY CONFER EVERLASTING PEACE TO YOUR NOBLE SOUL'

 MAJ VIVEK GUPTA, MVC	 SUB SUMER SINGH, SM	 SUB BHANWAR LAL, Vrc
 CHM YASHVIR SINGH, Vrc	 HAV SULTAN SINGH, Vrc	 NK CHAMAN SINGH
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 RFN ASHISH KUMAR	REMEMBERED AND REVERED BY COMMANDING OFFICER AND ALL RANKS	
2nd BATTALION THE RAJPUTANA RIFLES (EVER VICTORIOUS)		
13 JUN		
 NK/CHEF RAM BAHADUR SAHI	 RFN SUJIT THAPA	

On this day 5043612A Nk/Chef Ram Bahadur Sahi and 5049096M Rfn Sujit Thapa of 5/1 Gorkha Rifles made the supreme sacrifice during 'OP RAKSHAK', Jammu and Kashmir in Jun 2003 in a true act of valour and courage. The brave soldiers will always be remembered for their enthusiasm. To these brave hearts we pledge that we shall always be guided by their immortal spirit and make their name proud.

CO AND ALL RANKS, 5/1 GORKHA RIFLES

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DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

- ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**
Although financial pressures and plans are still very much on your mind, you can afford to put a few possible developments off until later. You're so full of good ideas that all you need is extra confidence. And a little more tact.
- TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**
It's time for a fresh start. Emotional and psychological spring-cleaning should encourage you to put the past behind you and face the future with an open heart. You seem to be keeping a secret, and may have to hang on for just a little while longer.
- GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**
You might have to come into the open, so have your story ready and make sure you're capable of making yourself understood. Throughout the day you should find that your self-esteem is restored, and that it's no longer necessary to take refuge in your daydreams.
- CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**
It's quite a good moment to keep yourself to yourself, to have time and space to listen to your imagination and conscience. You may even consider cancelling a social engagement. But before you take any precipitate action, realise that when the time comes, your feelings might have moved on.
- LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**
You may feel as if you are being forced to do something against your will or against your dignity. However, the best advice now is to press ahead and concentrate on making colleagues see your point of view. Gentle persuasion might work better than brute force. In fact, I'm sure it will.
- VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**
You will soon be afforded a splendid chance to travel to somewhere you've never been before. In any event, you'll do yourself a very big favour if you extend and develop all contacts with companions in distant parts and people from different cultures.
- LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**
Problems of a partnership or matrimonial nature ought now to be faced. You should find that once you talk about your concerns, they begin to disappear and your innate sense of well-being returns. An old expense is bugging you, but it's also time to collect a debt.
- SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**
Much as you'd like to be the centre of attention, you still have no choice but to listen to other people, understand their feelings and try to satisfy their desires. Financial choices are now appearing, but there is no need for a final decision just yet.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)**
When dealing with finances and business or property matters, you should make a point of being as clear-headed as you can. Your heart tells you one thing, your wallet another, so seek expert advice. This is not a good time to give people the wrong idea about your intentions, so make sure you're not misunderstood.
- CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**
This looks like a busy day, and it's time to call on your versatile talents. In view of emotional complications, it seems that you'll have to juggle different balls at the same time. It may not be easy, especially if a friend or colleague backs out of a commitment.
- AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**
Favourable planetary alignments are perfectly balanced by challenging ones, which means that you could have the best of both worlds. This should also be an ideal moment to put your plans into practice. Thought and action should go hand in hand, with your heart and your head leading you in the same direction.
- PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**
If you are feeling at all isolated or confused it is because your planetary cycles are now changing and you are being obliged to stand on your own two feet, emotionally speaking. In future you will have to rely more on your own resources and less on support from outside.

Is your opinion yours?

Your opinion should belong to you.
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AUTHORITY CLAIMS NOTICE FIRST SERVED ON MAY 10, FAMILY DENIES

Residence of activist in Prayagraj bulldozed after just a day's notice

Cops say no proof against daughter, student leader Afreen, so far

ASAD REHMAN & MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, JUNE 12

AFTER RUNNING bulldozers in Kanpur and over properties of two accused in Saharanpur, the Uttar Pradesh administration Sunday demolished the house of Mohammad Javed, a political activist and businessman, after serving just a day's notice to vacate the house. The demolition happened in the presence of the Prayagraj District Magistrate Sanjay Khatri and Senior Superintendent of Police Ajay Kumar.

On Saturday, while the Saharanpur administration had bulldozed "illegal construction" on the residences of two accused of Friday's violence, the Kanpur Development Authority demolished a commercial building which the district police alleged belonged to a close relative of the prime accused in the June 3 violence.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



A bulldozer tears down the house of activist Javed Ahmed in Prayagraj on Sunday. Ritesh Shukla

Totally illegal, says ex-CJ of Allahabad High Court; bulldozer cases in limbo

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

THE BULLDOZER brought in by the Uttar Pradesh government in Prayagraj on Sunday to raze the house of Mohammad Javed is part of a familiar playbook: the issue is under substantive challenge in three courts, the Supreme Court, Allahabad High Court and the Madhya Pradesh High Court. And in all three, the cases are in a limbo.

The bulldozing of houses, under the pretext of alleged viola-

tions of the state's municipal and urban planning laws, has been challenged before the courts as a violation of fundamental rights and due process. In many cases, notices are issued but the demolition is timed with a protest and a particular section is targeted giving the subject no time to appeal.

"This is totally illegal. Even if you assume for a moment that the construction was illegal, which by the way is how crores of Indians live, it is impermissible that you demolish a house on a Sunday when the residents are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Prophet remarks India's matter... why should we instigate: Bangladesh

Congratulate India for action taken: Minister

MONOJIT MAJUMDAR
DHAKA, JUNE 12

THE CONTROVERSY around the derogatory references to the Prophet is India's internal matter and the government in Dhaka need not respond to it, Information and Broadcasting Minister of Bangladesh Dr Hasan



Bangladesh I&B Minister Hasan Mahmud. Express

Mahmud said here Saturday. "First of all, this is an external issue (for Bangladesh). This is the

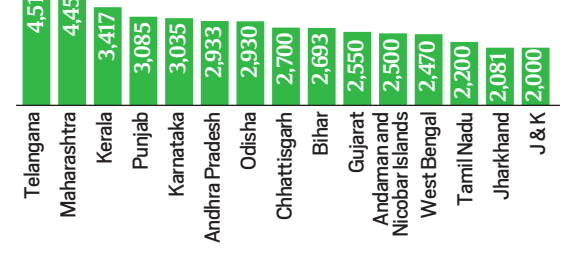
CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

14 of 15 states had asked for higher MSP for paddy than what Centre announced

PRICING PADDY

Except J&K, all states, UTs suggested higher MSP than Centre

MSP announced by the Centre
Paddy Common: ₹2,040/ quintal; Paddy Grade A: ₹2,060/ quintal
Suggested MSP (₹/quintal)



HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

FOURTEEN OF 15 states and Union Territories which suggested a minimum support price for paddy recommended a higher MSP than the one declared by the Union government.

On June 8, the Centre announced the MSP at the rate of Rs 2,040 per quintal for paddy (Common) and Rs 2,060 per quintal for paddy (Grade A) for the kharif marketing season 2022-23.

A report of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), based on which the government announces the MSPs for various crops, shows that all 15 states and UTs had suggested

the paddy MSP in the range of Rs 2,000 per quintal to Rs 4,513 per quintal, on the basis of their production cost projection.

These states and UTs are Andhra Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal.

Out of these, only Jammu and Kashmir suggested a lower paddy MSP than the one declared by the Centre, shows the CACP's 'Price Policy for Kharif Crops Of 2022-23 Season' report.

In fact, the paddy MSP suggested by Jammu and Kashmir (Rs 2,000 per quintal) was the lowest among the 15 states and UTs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



Lanka official says PM wanted Adani to get project; retracts, Gotabaya denies

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

A SENIOR Sri Lanka official claimed before a Lankan parliamentary panel that Prime Minister Narendra Modi allegedly pressured President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to award a power project to the Adani Group, but retracted the statement a day later as the controversy spiralled. Sri Lanka President Rajapaksa "vehemently" denied the allegation.

The retracted claim is related to a 500-megawatt renewable energy project in the island nation's northern Mannar district. The Chairman of Sri Lanka's Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB), MMC Ferdinand, appearing before a parliamentary panel in Colombo Friday, claimed that during his conversation with Rajapaksa, the President had told him that Modi had put pressure on him to award the project to the Adani Group.

Ferdinand, who was addressing the Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE), can be heard saying that Rajapaksa "told me that he was under pressure from Modi". The senior official told the committee that the President had asked him to give the project to the Indian company.

He also told the committee

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

THE WORLD

U.S. SENATORS REACH BIPARTISAN DEAL ON GUN SAFETY

CHINA SAYS U.S. TRYING TO 'HIJACK' SUPPORT IN ASIA

Medals in Tokyo Olympics, Youth Games: Siblings star in Haryana shooting success

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

NAMIT KUMAR
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

WHILE GROWING up, Shiva Narwal wanted to be a kabaddi player. It made sense: his state Haryana has a rich history of producing top athletes in contact sports. But then, his elder brother Manish established himself as a top shooter, breaking the world record to win gold in 50m



Coach Rakesh Singh's 10x Shooting Academy in Ballabgarh, Faridabad, has produced several India shooters

air pistol at the Tokyo Paralympics last year. And their father Dilbaug asked Shiva and his younger sister Shikha to ac-

company Manish to the range.

Their switch to shooting was quick — and, as it turns out, the right call.

Shiva and Shikha are seasoned international shooters now, having won gold at the ISSF Junior World Championship and the ISSF Junior World Cup. Last week, at the Khelo India Youth Games, Shiva won a gold and Shikha a bronze, helping Haryana pocket seven of the 12 medals at stake and placing the state on the top of the tally.

Their father admits to being

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Four militants killed in Kashmir gunfights; death toll touches 100 this year

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, JUNE 12

FOUR MILITANTS — including one involved in the killing of two police personnel — have died in shootouts in south Kashmir and Srinagar, taking the toll this year to 100, police said Sunday.

Adil Ahmad Parray, who was behind the killing of J&K Police's Special Operations Group member Saifullah Qadri on May 24,

was killed on the outskirts of Srinagar city in a "chance encounter" with a small police team. A tweet by J&K police said that Parray, from Ganderbal, had injured a 9-year-old girl — Qadri's daughter — during the attack.

Police said Parray was also involved in the killing of another policeman, Ghulam Hassan Dar, in Sangam.

The three other militants, allegedly affiliated with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

IDEA EXCHANGE
"Nobody can use the police. We don't work by insinuation, persuasion or inclination"
SANJAY PANDEY
MUMBAI POLICE COMMISSIONER
PAGE 10

Net of contention: Courts to decide on pleas by 'mosquito-infested' Taluja inmates this week

SADAF MODAK
MUMBAI, JUNE 12

AT THE Taluja Central Jail, the latest cause of a face-off between jail authorities and prison inmates is mosquitoes. At least 15 prisoners have approached various courts seeking access to mosquito nets citing their apprehensions of contracting malaria and dengue after jail authorities, citing safety concerns, seized the nets being used by inmates last month.

In May, jail authorities conducted a search of belongings of inmates and seized mosquito

nets being used by them. The reason cited by the officials was that the nets have a long string which the prisoners could use to harm themselves or others.

The move caused discord among prisoners who said that there was a mosquito menace in the jail and that the nets were their primary form of protection against diseases. One inmate, Sagar Gorkhe, booked in the Elgaar Parishad case, even approached the Kharghar police alleging that the jail authorities had conducted "theft" by seizing his mosquito net, which cost him Rs 620. A number of inmates have approached trial courts

seeking the nets.

In another hearing recently, undertrial Mubeen Shaikh, booked in an MCOCA case, approached court seeking permission to continue using the mosquito nets. He told the court that its use was allowed until recently.

While calling for a report from the prison, the special judge also asked Shaikh why alternatives like a mosquito coil or repellents were not being used. Shaikh told the court that coils and repellents only worked for a few hours and since he had asthma, he suffered from breathing problems with continued use-

age. Shaikh also told the court that a few years ago, in communication with the court related to a different issue, the then prison superintendent of Taluja had admitted that the prison was a "malaria-prone area".

In 2014, on a report sought by the court, jail authorities had stated that a number of accused had suffered from malaria and claimed that they were given prompt treatment with the help of civic officials of the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation.

Earlier this month, a special court said that it had received 11 applications from inmates

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Question mark on Russia inputs, India evaluates French push at Jaitapur

MIHIR MISHRA & ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

AMID MOUNTING uncertainties over the civil nuclear partnership with Russia in the wake of the Ukraine war, there are indications of fresh progress on the much-delayed deal with French power utility EDF for the supply of six EPR (European Pressurised Water Reactors) nuclear reactors.

The Department of Atomic Energy is actively examining a binding techno-commercial offer submitted by the French state-owned power company to help build six third-generation EPR reactors at Jaitapur in Maharashtra.

A high-level team from EDF was here late last month.

New Delhi had accorded an "in-principle" approval of the site at Jaitapur in Maharashtra for setting up of six reactors of 1650 MWe (megawatt electric) each as part of an umbrella nuclear deal signed with France in September 2008.

However, that proposal has been hanging fire on account of multiple factors, including the slowdown in nuclear projects globally post the Fukushima incident and internal reorganisation at French nuclear utility

IF JAITAPUR takes off, it will be the largest n-power site in the country with a capacity of 9000 MWe. Given the war in Europe, there is also a need to diversify the nuclear cooperation basket. Also, New Delhi is factoring in the patchy French record on deadline management on EPR projects across the world.

Areva (which was subsequently taken over by EDF).

If the Jaitapur deal takes off, it would be the largest nuclear power generating site in the country with a total capacity of 9,900 MWe and one of the biggest-ever export deals for the French side.

Sources said the issue of the techno-commercial offer came up during delegation level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron in May.

At present, Russia is the only country setting up imported

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

OVER 950% SPIKE IN DAILY CASES SINCE MID-MAY

City records 1,803 new Covid-19 cases, two deaths; 111 hospitalised

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JUNE 12

MUMBAI ON Sunday recorded 1,803 new Covid-19 cases, up from 1,745 on Saturday. The city also saw two more Covid-related deaths over the last 24 hours.

According to data from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the city's recovery rate was 97 per cent while the case doubling rate was estimated at 513 days, indicating the sharp increase in daily cases over the last one month. The overall growth rate between June 2 and 11 stood at 0.134 per cent.

The data further showed that from mid-May till Sunday, Mumbai recorded over 950 per cent rise in daily cases. On Friday, Mumbai recorded nearly 2,000 new cases. The test positivity rate (TPR)—the number of positive cases out of the total tests conducted — increased to 11.32 per cent.

Meanwhile, the BMC on



Oxygen has been stored in Thane District Government Hospital as cases increase. Deepak Joshi

Sunday conducted 15,922 Covid tests. Of the total new patients diagnosed with novel coronavirus on Sunday, 111 of them had to be hospitalised. The active cases in Mumbai stood at 10,889.

Till mid-April, the state capital saw cases in double digits. However, even as the number of daily cases is on the rise, BMC officials said there was nothing to worry about as the rate of hospitalisation remains low.

So far, 10.80 lakh people have been discharged post-recovery in Mumbai. Of the total patients recorded on Sunday, 94 per cent are asymptomatic.

BMC raises retaining wall along Poisar river

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JUNE 12

THE BRIHANMUMBAI Municipal Corporation (BMC) has completed construction of a retaining wall along the Poisar River near Dahanukarwadi area. The civic body had earlier demolished slum structures obstructing the smooth flow of Poisar River.

BMC officials said the construction of the retaining wall

The civic body had earlier demolished slum structures obstructing the smooth flow of the River

was completed in a record 15 days' time. "The widening of the river near Dahanukarwadi is expected to provide relief to residents of the nearby areas from

waterlogging. During monsoon, the narrow river used to contribute to flooding in the area," a BMC official said. Every year, the Dahanukarwadi area records flooding during the monsoon season.

Poisar river flows from the hills of Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP), Kranti Nagar in Malad and passes through Dahanukarwadi in Kandivali before emptying into Malad Marve Creek. An official explained that from

Dahanukarwadi, the river diverges into two different streams. In May, the BMC had demolished 29 slums that were raised on the banks of the river, impacting its natural flow. The civic body has also taken up rejuvenation of the Poisar river by widening it and ensuring that raw sewage and industrial waste discharge is stopped. The BMC official said the work of clearing the encroachment along the banks of the river has been underway since 2018.

Raosaheb Patwardhan Park is like an oasis in busy Bandra neighbourhood

SANJANA BHALERAO
MUMBAI, JUNE 12

LOCATED NEAR the famous Linking Road, the Raosaheb Patwardhan Park is one of the oldest open spaces in Bandra. Spread across 15,000 sq m, it has over 109 full-grown trees, most of them indigenous. Located between one of the most popular street shopping markets and a theatre, the park is an oasis amid the concrete high-rises and the cacophony of traffic noises coming from the Linking Road.

The recreation ground was developed in 1994 after years of disuse and encroachment. Since then, it has won an award for good maintenance from the Bombay Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Maintained by Kamala Raheja Park earlier, the garden was handed over to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) in 2017-18. Notably, sporting activities have been banned in the garden for more than 20 years.

In 2017, a signature drive was conducted with more than 400 people supporting the campaign and requesting the civic body to allow sporting ac-



Spread across 15,000 sq m, it has over 109 full-grown trees, most of them indigenous. Express

MUMBAI GREENS

activities in the garden. While sporting activities have not been permitted yet, the paver-block path running around the garden's oval perimeter makes it an ideal spot for leisurely walkers.

As one walks around the garden, most of its visitors can be seen either taking a nap on one of the lawns or chatting over phone

during the afternoon. It is one of the few gardens in the city that is accessible to visitors in the afternoon. The garden witnesses high footfall in the evening — weary shoppers and children flood the garden after dusk. At the farthest corner of the garden is a yoga and meditation centre. When not in use, the space turns into a spot for dance and music sessions.

One of the striking features of the garden is the large lawn in the centre. To the relief of runners and joggers, the lawn has an elevated running path, which helps them to stay away from the occasional walker.

The garden has also been a focal point of a proposed underground parking project. The BMC had proposed to set up an underground parking facility at the Raosaheb Patwardhan Park to ostensibly solve parking hassles on the Linking Road. However, after the residents objected to the possible loss of green cover, the plan never took off. The garden would have lost at least half of its 109 full-grown trees, had the parking project been implemented.

Three held as NCB nets major narcotics haul in multiple operations

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JUNE 12

NCB MUMBAI launched an operation at Mumbai airport and seized 4.8kg charas on Friday. Two persons were arrested in connection with the seizure on Saturday. An official said acting on specific information, a team from NCB Mumbai seized 4.880kg charas at Mumbai on Friday. The seized drugs were concealed in a special cavity made inside a water purifier. The parcel was destined for Australia. During follow up action, the consignor and courier agent were intercepted by NCB, Mumbai.

The sleuths learned during preliminary interrogation that the owner of the courier franchise was also involved in drug trafficking. The courier agent sent the parcel without verifying the identity of the consignor and also shipped it several times on the instructions of the main receiver.

The fake identity was used by the consignor to ship the parcel through the courier. An official said this network has shipped many such parcels in the past. The kingpin had created layers in the delivery network, the NCB said, adding that a case was registered and two persons placed under arrest.

In a related development, the NCB Mumbai launched two operations at Andheri (E), Mumbai, hauling in 490 grams of Methamphetamine on Friday and 435 grams of Amphetamine on Saturday. One person was arrested in connection with the operation. While in one case, the contraband, concealed in voltmeters, was being sent to New Zealand in the second it was meant for Australia and hidden in nut bolts.

During preliminary investigation, one person from Navi Mumbai was apprehended in connection with the seizures. He accepted that he was consignor of both the parcels, an official said.

PM Modi to visit Maharashtra tomorrow; will inaugurate Sant Tukaram Temple

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JUNE 12

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will visit Maharashtra on June 14 when he will inaugurate Saint Tukaram Maharaj Temple in Dehu, Pune.

Sant Tukaram was a Warkari saint and poet, famously known for Abhangam devotional poetry and community-oriented worship through spiritual songs known as kirtans. He lived in Dehu. The temple has been rebuilt in stone masonry with 36 peaks.

The PM will also inaugurate the Jal Bhushan Building and Gallery of Revolutionaries at Raj Bhawan in Mumbai.

Jal Bhushan has been the official residence of the Governor of Maharashtra since 1885. Upon completing its lifespan, it was demolished and a new building was sanctioned in its place. The foundation stone for the new building was laid by the President of India in August 2019. All distinctive features of the old building have been preserved in the newly-constructed building.

In 2016, the then Governor of Maharashtra, Shri Vidyasagar Rao, had found a bunker in Raj Bhawan. It was earlier used by the British as secret storage for arms and ammunition. The bunker was renovated in 2019. The gallery has been developed in the bunker as one of its kind museums to commemorate the contributions of freedom fighters and revolutionaries of Maharashtra.

Later, the PM will participate in 200th-year celebration of Gujarat daily Mumbai Samachar at Bandra Kurla Complex in Mumbai.

PERA CET-2022 IMPORTANT DATES: Last Date of Application: 26th June 2022; PERA CET Test Dates: 30th June, 01st, 02nd, 5th July 2022; Result Declaration: 09th July 2022. MEMBER UNIVERSITIES: mgmu.ac.in, mituniversity.edu.in, vupune.ac.in, sanjayghodawatuniversity.ac.in, sandipuniversity.edu.in, sau.edu.in, sspu.ac.in, dypatiuniversity.edu.in, adypu.edu.in, sbup.edu.in. Apply Online: www.peraindia.in

FLAME UNIVERSITY: Name of the trust / institution: FOUNDATION FOR LIBERAL AND MANAGEMENT EDUCATION SOCIETY. Name of the institution and address: FLAME University, Gat No. 1270, Taluka Mulshi, Village Lavale, Vadzai, Dist. Pune - 412115. For the Academic Year 2022-23 applications are invited for filling Jain religious/linguistic minority seats from the eligible students for the B.A./B.Sc./BBA/BBA (Communications Management)/MBA/MBA (Communications Management)/PGPE/IM.Sc.(Economics), PhD and Hons. courses of FLAME University.

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8 MAHARASHTRA



MUMBAI CONFIDENTIAL

ANGER MANAGEMENT

HOME MINISTER Dilip Walse Patil had for long held an image of being a no-nonsense politician in his earlier roles as a minister and speaker. But with age, many thought he had mellowed down with no instance of him being annoyed at anyone in the workplace being reported in the last two years. But on Tuesday, a number of officials were in for a surprise. During a meeting held in his chamber for supplementary demands, he, visibly upset at officers of the home department and certain police officers for not doing their homework properly, said that the department had become lethargic and needed to pull up its socks. Many of the officers who are new and had never seen Walse Patil in this avatar were shocked and kept discussing about his outburst later on as well.

ADMISSION WORRIES

With the state's ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi government putting a general ban on all transfers till June 30, a number of officers in the government who are expecting to be transferred are worried whether their children will get admission in the places of their new postings. The general administration department in Mantralaya and the establishment wings of various department are flooded with queries on when the transfers would exactly happen – a question to which the departments don't have conclusive answers.

COMPILED BY YOGESH NAIK

Have a comment or suggestion for Mumbai Confidential? Write to mumbai.newsline@expressindia.com with subject line: Mumbai Confidential

NATIONAL HERALD CASE

Cong to protest today in front of ED offices against notices to Sonia, Rahul

YOGESH NAIK
MUMBAI, JUNE 12

THE MAHARASHTRA Pradesh Congress Committee has decided to take out a protest march at the Enforcement Directorate offices in Mumbai and Nagpur against notices issued to party president Sonia Gandhi and MP Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald case, claiming that not a single paisa was misappropriated and no director of the National Herald received any benefits and yet, the harassment continues.

Atul Londhe, chief spokesper-

son of the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee, said the ED notices sent to Sonia and Rahul at the behest of the BJP government at the Centre sent reeks of political vendetta. The demonstration will be part of nationwide protests in front of ED offices, he said, adding that a protest march from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) to ED office will also be held in Mumbai on Monday at 12 noon under the leadership of Congress state president Nana Patole, Legislative Congress Party Leader and Revenue Minister Balasaheb Thorat and Mumbai Congress president Bhai Jagtap.

NETAJI SUBHAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (NSUT)
(Formerly Netaji Subhas Institute of Technology (NSIT))
Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Azad Hind Fauz Marg,
Sector-3, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078

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M.Sc (Physics, Chemistry & Mathematics) 2022-23

NSUT (Main Campus) invites online applications for admission to 2-year M.Sc. Physics, M.Sc. Chemistry & M.Sc. Mathematics programmes. The intake of each programme is 60 (Sixty) seats. For detailed information about Eligibility Criteria, Reservation, Admission Procedure, Tentative Schedule, Application Process etc. please visit University website: www.nsut.ac.in

• Start date for online registration: 14th June 2022
• Last date for submission of completed application form is 30th June 2022.
• All candidates are required to pay a non-refundable registration fee of Rs. 1500/- ONLINE using Credit Card/Debit Card/Net-Banking

Online Application Process:
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क्रमांक: ए.सी.ई./बी.टी./पी.निविदा/2022-23/बी-535 दिनांक: 6/6/22

निविदा सूचना संख्या: 08/2022-23

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से भरतपुर संभाग के अन्तर्गत जिला भरतपुर एवं कौली में चरद योजना 2022-23 के अन्तर्गत एल.आर.एच. एच.एच. एच.डी.आर एवं ग्रामीण सड़क बन्द मस में स्वीकृत कुल 02 सड़क कार्य राशि 3404.75 लाख एवं वेग निवारण के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/केन्द्रीय सरकार के अधिकृत संगठन/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ड्राक एवं दूर संस्कार विभाग/स्वयं इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के विभिन्न सभ्य श्रेणी में संवेदकों से सम्बन्धित हैं, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑन लाइन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

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REOI/ARIAS-1301B/14/2022-APART-ARIAS /154 Dated 10th June 2022

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

Walk-in Interviews will be held from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon in the Office of the ARIAS Society for recruitments of potential candidates for the various positions as mentioned below. Interested Candidates shall be mandatorily required to bring an application form as per the prescribed format along with all the original certificates/documents relating to qualification, experience, age, identity proof, latest salary certificate, two passport size coloured photographs etc. and also a set of self-attested copies of the same. Candidates shall go through the detailed Walk-in-Interview Notice and the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the positions at the website of <http://www.arias.in/career.html>.

Sl.	Name of Positions	No. of Positions	CTP per year (in Lakh)Rs.	Date of Walk-in-Interview
1	Financial Management Executive	1	4.20-6.18	21 st June 2022
2.	Training & Capacity Building Specialist	1	6.60-19.20	22 nd June 2022

State Project Director,
ARIAS Society
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AFTER RS POLLS

Fadnavis too will vote for Sena if I get charge of ED for 48 hours: Raut

VALLABH OZARKAR
MUMBAI, JUNE 12

SHIV SENA spokesperson and Member of Parliament (MP) Sanjay Raut on Sunday criticised the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) after it won three seats in the Rajya Sabha elections, accusing it of indulging in horse trading besides misusing the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and other central agencies.

During the day, while addressing the media, the Sena leader said that if he got control of ED for 48 hours, former CM and BJP leader Devendra



Raut accused independents and small party MLAs of betrayal.

Fadnavis will also vote for Shiv Sena. He also named six independent and small party MLAs and accused them of betraying the Sena and indulging in horse trading.

Besides, in his weekly column Rokhthok in Saamana, the Sena's mouth piece, Raut alleged that crores of rupees have been used in the RS polls, adding that

even central agencies were misused to get votes.

"Rajya Sabha elections were held across the country, including Maharashtra. The fact that the ruling party in Delhi (BJP) is using the central agencies from the backdoor to win such elections has come to the fore again. It was seen in Maharashtra and Haryana earlier. As the Rajya Sabha elections have been over now, the legislative council elections for 11 seats is going to be held in the state soon. Here also, despite not having sufficient votes in hand, the BJP has fielded two extra candidates, which means that they want to start

horse trading in MLC elections too and spoil the atmosphere in Maharashtra," Raut said.

Raut also hit out at the BJP over its former spokesperson Nupur Sharma's objectionable comment on Prophet Mohammad, adding that what she said was an outcome of the hatred the party has spread in the country. "Arab nations have boycotted Indian goods and traders. Because of the venom that the BJP spread in the country, its spokespersons insulted Prophet Mohammad. Therefore, all the Arab nations are now standing against India. It will strengthen Islamic fanatics and

terrorist organisations and threaten the security of the country. Organisations like al Qaeda have already threatened, but the BJP needs all this to win elections. People are divided into Hindus and Muslims by today's government in our country," Raut said.

He also alleged that it is only in states where the BJP government is absent that fingers are pointed at "corruption".

Raut also said that he was surprised to see Fadnavis supporting Sharma by calling her up even as the former CM has left former BJP MLA Pankaja Munde alone (in the MLC elections).

73-year-old dies after car knocks down bike, woman booked

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, JUNE 12

A 73-YEAR-OLD man died after his bike was knocked down by a car in front of the High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL) on the service road of the Katraj-Dehu Road bypass of the Pune-Bengaluru highway in Pashan recently. Police have booked the woman who was driving the car.

Chatusrunji police have identified the deceased as Anil Joshi (73), a resident of Baner Road, who was returning home on his moped from Kothrud around 4 pm on Friday. His bike collided with a car on the service road.

Behind BJP win, a former Shiv Sena loyalist, key Cong strategist

YOGESH NAIK
MUMBAI, JUNE 12

AS THE BJP stunned Maharashtra's ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government by winning the sixth Rajya Sabha seat, a key person in Devendra Fadnavis's team being credited with formulating the strategy for the party is Ashish Kulkarni.

Currently a vice-president in Maharashtra unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Kulkarni started his career with the Shiv Sena before moving to the Congress in 2003 and finally, to his present party – the BJP – a few years back.

At the Sena, he worked under Subhash Desai, who is now the industries minister, and was also considered a trusted aide of party founder Bal Thackeray. BJP's Dhananjay Mahadik defeated Sena's Sanjay Pawar in the RS polls, the results for which were announced on Saturday.

"Our strategy for RS polls was very simple. We gave highest votes – 48 – to Union minister Piyush Goyal and former Maharashtra minister Anil Bonde and second preference of all our MLAs to Mahadik, who was the third candidate. This plan was devised by Kulkarni and finalised by leader of opposition Fadnavis along with BJP's observer Ashwini Vaishnav," said a leader of the party.

Goyal and Bonde got 48 votes, which translate into 4800 marks; the second preference votes were transferred to Mahadik.

"In all, the BJP got votes of 106 members of legislative Assembly (MLAs). Besides the eight independent candidates, they got nine others due to which Mahadik got a total of 4,156 marks," the leader quoted above.

The strategy planned by Kulkarni was fine tuned by



Ashish Kulkarni left the Sena around two decades back as he felt sidelined after Uddhav Thackeray took over the party. Express

Fadnavis; a top BJP functionary said that only Fadnavis and Vaishnav were aware of the plan. "They got the rest of the independent MLAs and those of smaller groups to their side, thanks to Fadnavis's skills," the leader said.

Kulkarni left the Sena around two decades back as he felt sidelined after Uddhav Thackeray took over the party. He also had close association with Narayan Rane, who was also finding it tough to get along with Uddhav.

He moved to the Congress and was given the responsibility of six parliamentary seats in 2009; the party won all of them. He was asked to draw a strategy for state elections the same year which the Congress won as well. His acumen was then recognised by the Gandhi family and he was moved to Delhi to work with Ahmed Patel, then political adviser to the Congress president.

In 2010, Kulkarni was also credited with helping then chief minister Ashok Chavan of the Congress get party candidate Vijay Sawant elected on an MLC ticket, which the latter won with a slender margin.

In 2017, Kulkarni quit the Congress and freelanced for some time before joining the BJP.

HC upholds scrutiny panel's decision to invalidate Sena MLA's caste certificate

OMKARGOKHALE
MUMBAI, JUNE 12

THE AURANGABAD bench of the Bombay High Court on Friday dismissed Shiv Sena MLA Latabai Sonawane's plea to challenge a decision by the Scheduled Tribe (ST) Certificate Committee that dismissed her claim of belonging to Tokre Koli, an ST community.

A division bench of Justice Ramesh D Dhanuka and Justice Sanjay G Mehare on June 10 passed an order in the writ plea filed by the Shiv Sena MLA from Chopda (Jalgaon district) constituency and argued by senior advocate R N Dhorde. The plea took an exception to February 2, 2022 judgement of the panel. While refusing to interfere in the impugned judgement, the court noted that records showed that her father and sister did not belong to the

Tokre Koli caste.

"The petitioner's father's caste in his birth register is shown as 'Koli'. It was a pre-Independence entry. The revenue record in the name of her grandfather shows his caste as 'Hindu'. 'Hindu' is not a caste. Her sisters' caste in the school leaving certificates is also not shown as 'Tokre Koli'. The petitioner has no case that she, her sisters, father or grandfather has ever attempted to correct in their school record," the court observed.

The bench held that Sonawane "failed to prove" that she belongs to Tokre Koli tribe caste and impugned judgment by the committee is "well-reasoned order". "Thus, it is not permissible for this court to interfere with such findings of fact in the writ petition. No interference is thus warranted. For the aforesaid reasons, we dismiss the petition," the bench ruled.

The petitioner was elected as a

corporator for Jalgaon Municipal Corporation on ST reserved seat and her caste certificate was forwarded to the committee for validation. Meanwhile, she contested in the 2019 Legislative Assembly election from the Chopda constituency and was elected. She then resigned from the corporator post. However, her caste claim, registered after her proposal for validation after her election was pending. The committee sought a vigilance report and called Sonawane to submit her explanation to the said report. However, instead of replying she insisted on deciding on her application for withdrawal of the proposal. Since she did not file her reply, the scrutiny committee invalidated her claim on November 4, 2020.

Thereafter, the MLA approached the HC challenging the committee's decision, which ordered her to resubmit a caste certificate granted by a competent authority within seven days and ordered the validation process to be completed within four months.

Sonawane then challenged the HC order before the Supreme Court, which dismissed her special leave petition on December 7, 2021, and directed the committee to decide on the proceedings within four months from the date of order. Meanwhile, the HC also dismissed her plea seeking transfer of validation proceedings before the Nandurbar Committee.

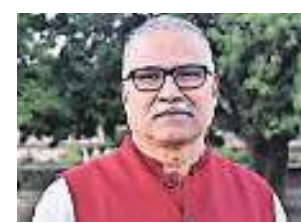
Moreover, former MLA Jagdishchandra Ramesh Valvi filed an objection before the scrutiny committee over her stated caste. The committee, in February 2022, held that there were entries contrary to pre-Independence entries that showed her blood relatives belonging to the Tokre Koli caste and invalidated the caste certificate issued to her.

'A robust grievance redressal system is needed to tackle police excesses'

RECENTLY, MUMBAI Police arrested two boys – aged 19 and 20 – in connection with a rape case. The police allegedly tortured the duo only to later find out that they were not involved in the crime. **Mohamed Thaver** talks to **Dolphy D'Souza**, the Mumbai Project Lead of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), about safeguards against police excesses and the role of civil society groups in building bridges between the citizenry and the police.

Recently, there was a case where two boys were wrongly arrested on rape charges and tortured. Such instances of wrongful arrests and torture have taken place in the past as well. What is the way out of this?

Unfortunately, several sections of the police still have the "danda mentality". They believe that beating up people is the only way of solving crimes. There is a need for a robust system of grievance redressal. In the Dharavi case, the parents of the boys were lucky to get access to the joint commis-

MONDAY
INTERVIEWDOLPHY D'SOUZA
PROJECT LEAD,
CHRI

sioner of police who intervened. But imagine what happens when people do not have access to senior officers. Earlier, police stations had a banner carrying numbers of senior officers whom the police could contact. There are regular DCP visits to police stations as well. But all this is not publicised, which is why people do not know about it. Accessibility to senior officers is a major part of ensuring such grievances are taken care of as in most cases, senior officers do intervene in such cases.

What are the other factors in your opinion that would help police develop a good relationship with citizens?

Earlier, there was a suggestion that 'crime victimisation survey reports' should be prepared. As part of this, citizens who approach police stations will be surveyed on the basis of their experience and the information thus gathered will be collated for the report. This would give senior officers and law makers a realistic picture of what the citizens feel about the force and what are its expectations. Earlier, there were suggestions – both at the Centre and state level – to prepare such reports. Unfortunately, this plan did not see the light of the day.

What role do citizens' groups like yours play in bridging the gap between the police and citizens?

Among the several initiatives undertaken are better access to police station for women and children, especially in cases of domestic violence. Usually, in these cases, women are not confident of approaching the police

as often cops tell them it is "ghar ka mamla (domestic matter)" and advise them to resolve it at home. We talk to these victims and give them the confidence to approach the police.

Police should make use of the network of civil society groups to know about the issues facing the community. For example, during the pandemic, the Malad police, with our help, had reached out to slums in the area and told the women and children that if there are any issues related to sexual violence, they could reach out to the police. Such outreach programmes help.

Maharashtra had fared poorly when it came to implementing the police reforms ordered by the Supreme Court in the Prakash Singh case. What is your take on it?

The police reforms are cosmetic and at variance with what is required. I believe only when there is outcry among the people that there will be transformation of the force from the "ruler's police" to "people's police".

NEWS MAKER

The remaking of Imtiaz Jaleel: From TV journalist to AIMIM firebrand

ZEESHAN SHAIKH
MUMBAI, JUNE 12

HE IS the most well-known face of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) after the Owaisi brothers and has been known to push the envelope and enter uncharted political terrain in his eight-year career political career.

But, on Friday, the AIMIM's Aurangabad MP Imtiaz Jaleel pushed the envelope too far when he said that if BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma, who has been suspended by the party, had to be "hanged" for her

derogatory remarks about the Prophet it should be done from "this very square" in the city.

Jaleel's outburst was a marked departure from the measured words he was known to use while reporting from Maharashtra during his career in broadcast journalism. In 2014, he quit journalism and took the plunge into politics when the AIMIM was looking to expand in Aurangabad. Five years later, a livid Jaleel contemplated quitting the Owaisi-led party, and contesting as an independent, after the party leadership frowned upon his decision to contest the Lok Sabha election.

AIMIM
Aurangabad
MP Imtiaz
Jaleel

However, it did not come to pass and the political firebrand helped the AIMIM win its second Lok Sabha seat, far from its power base of Hyderabad. But what made him leave his job at news channel NDTV and join politics? In an interaction with The Indian Express in 2014 in his house in Aurangabad, Jaleel said he evaluated what he was doing with his life during a

rickety four-hour drive from Bhagwangad in Beed district to Pune after covering a Pankaja Munde rally. He was 46 years old at the time.

"After looking at old women sitting in the sweltering heat of Bhagwangad, waiting for a politician to make an appearance, the inanity of what I was doing hit me. I needed to reevaluate my life and decided to quit my job during my drive back to Pune," he said.

While his family and friends were concerned about his future, Jaleel did not have to remain jobless for long as the AIMIM offered him a seat to contest the

Assembly elections from the Muslim-dominated locality of Aurangabad Central.

"The AIMIM, which was looking to expand into Aurangabad, had sent a team to identify potential candidates. The party that was looking to project a young, educated Muslim face had identified a number of probable candidates. It was actually keen on nominating Imtiaz's elder brother who declined. Imtiaz's relation with the Asaduddin Owaisi in his capacity as a journalist then made Owaisi offer him that seat," said a source.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



RACE FOR RAISINA

AHEAD OF the Presidential polls, activities in the Opposition camp to field a joint consensus candidate are gaining pace. On Sunday, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh flew down to Mumbai to meet NCP supremo Sharad Pawar. The meeting came a day after West Bengal CM and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee announced her plan to hold a meeting of 19 political parties in the capital next week to deliberate on the opportunities that the election for the next occupant of Raisina Hill offers. Sources said the meeting between Singh and Pawar lasted for around 40 minutes. Sources said while the AAP was open to the possibility of supporting Pawar as the joint candidate, it was not averse to further deliberations on the issue.

CAUTION, CONSENSUS

THOUGH CONFIDENT OF the success of its candidate, the BJP seems to be treading cautiously in picking the nominee for Presidential polls. By having 42 per cent votes on its own and 6 per cent from its allies, the BJP leaders say both the BJD and YSRCP will support its candidate. Party leaders admitted that the choice of candidate is crucial in winning the support of friendly parties. So, the BJP now has given the responsibility to party president J P Nadda and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who enjoy warm ties with a number of non-BJP party leaders. Party sources pointed out that whenever the BJP leadership makes an effort to evolve a consensus over some important issue, it takes the help of Singh, who with his old-school political tactics finds his way for it.

DRESSING DOWN

BIHAR'S PRINCIPAL Secretary of the Urban Development and Housing Department, Anand Kishore, drew the ire of the Patna High Court for "not being in proper uniform" before the court. Justice PB Bhanthri reprimanded the bureaucrat for not presenting himself before the HC in a suit and went on to ask if the "babu" was in a cinema hall or a court. In April, the Karnataka HC Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi had similarly reprimanded Tushar Giri Nath, Principal Secretary of the state's Revenue Department, for appearing before the court through virtual conference in a full-sleeved shirt but without a blazer.

'Missing' MLAs

and bitter fights: No papering over cracks in Rajasthan BJP

DEEP MUKHERJEE JAIPUR, JUNE 12

WHEN THE BJP herded its MLAs to the Rajasthan Assembly on the morning of June 10 for the crucial Rajya Sabha elections, its leaders didn't have any inkling that by late night the Congress would be expressing gratitude to one of its legislators.

The BJP's Dholpur MLA Shobhanari Kushwah voted for the state in August 2020 when the stability of the Congress government was in question following the rebellion of former Deputy CM Sachin Pilot, the BJP had issued a whip to all its MLAs to be present in the Assembly for a vote of confidence. But MLAs Gopi Chand Meena, Kailash Chandra Meena, Harendra Ninama, and Gotam Lal left the Assembly and gave the vote a miss. Another instance during the 2020 crisis also exposed the fissures within the state BJP. At the time, Gehlot accused the BJP of trying to topple the government by engaging in "horse-trading". The Opposition party vehemently denied the allegation. But senior BJP MLA and Rajya Lokayukta Kailash Meghwal said, "The conspiracy to topple the government that is going on by ruling parties together with the Opposition parties, I have never seen such a thing." Like on Friday, Gehlot even thanked Meghwal for his statement.

Decks cleared for Kuldeep Bishnoi's Congress exit

SUKHBI SIWAICH CHANDIGARH, JUNE 12

WITH THE All India Congress Committee leadership expelling senior Haryana Congress leader Kuldeep Bishnoi from all party positions - including as a special invitee to the CWC - for cross-voting in the June 10 Rajya Sabha election in favour of the ruling BJP-

IN GUJARAT, SHAH SAYS CONG ONLY TALKED OF REMOVING POVERTY

Modi changed lives of poor, says Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE GANDHINAGAR, JUNE 12

Unlike former Congress Prime Minister Indira Gandhi who got tired of propagating slogans of 'Garibi Hatao' without any result, PM Narendra Modi has brought up a number of schemes to bring up the living standard of poor people in the coun-

Woman who accused Rajasthan minister's son of rape attacked with ink

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

A 23-YEAR-OLD woman, who was allegedly raped by Rajasthan minister Mahesh Joshi's son Rohit Joshi in Delhi and Rajasthan last year, was attacked with ink in Southeast Delhi's Shaheen Bagh on Saturday, said the police on Sunday.

The woman was walking with her mother near the Kalindi Kunj road when two unidentified persons approached her and threw a blue liquid on her face, said the police. She was immediately taken to AIIMS Trauma Centre, they added.

FIR against BJP leader for 'fake' video

Raipur: An FIR has been registered against BJP leader and former IAS officer OP Chaudhary for allegedly circulating a fake video on social media regarding coal theft in a Coal India mine in Chhattisgarh's Korba, police said. The FIR was filed Saturday based on a complaint by Congress leader Madhusudan Das from Bankimnagar, Korba. GARGI VERMA

Cong leaders to march in solidarity as Rahul to appear before ED today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

ALMOST THE entire top leadership of the Congress, the party's two Chief Ministers, Ashok Gehlot and Bhupesh Baghel, and its Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs will converge at the AICC headquarters at around 9 am on Monday, the day Rahul Gandhi is set to appear before the Enforcement Directorate.

The plan is to take out a solidarity march to the ED headquarters, while there will be sit-ins outside the ED offices in state capitals. Rahul Gandhi was summoned by the ED in connection with a money laundering case related to the National Herald newspaper. A letter sent by AICC general secretary in-charge of organis-

'Preventive step': Section 144 clamped in 3 Assam districts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE GUWAHATI, JUNE 12

PROHIBITORY ORDERS under Section 144 of the CrP to prevent public gatherings and protests have been imposed in Assam's Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi districts following a protest in Cachar on Friday over suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma's remarks against the Prophet during a TV debate last month.

On Friday, a protest was held in Cachar district's Sonai. "One rally was already held, and two more were planned for today. However, they did not proceed further because we intervened," said Cachar SP Raman Dhillon. The order from the Cachar district administration said that Section 144 was being imposed "ex-parte" because some people "may indulge in anti-social activities and intimidate" the public.

While there have been no protests in Cachar's neighbouring districts of Karimganj and Hailakandi, the administration has imposed prohibitory orders citing "an apprehension of breach of public peace and tranquillity" in view of the "emerging law and order situation" in the country following Nupur Sharma's remarks.

Hailakandi SP Gaurav Upadhyay said it was a "preventive step" taking into account the protest in Cachar and the rest of the country. Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi make up south Assam's Barak Valley.

Chhattisgarh: 2 days after 10-year-old boy fell into borewell, rescue ops on

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE RAIPUR, JUNE 12

TWO DAYS after a 10-year-old boy fell into a 80-foot deep borewell in Chhattisgarh's Janjgir-Champa district, rescue operations are on and the boy is responding well to the cues, officials said.

Stuck at 62 feet, the boy, who fell into the well on Friday afternoon, is being monitored using cameras. He is eating and responding to cues, officials said.

Several officials from NDRF, SDRF, South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) and private experts along with district machinery are engaged in the operation. A medical team is on stand by, officials said. According to rescue workers, the NDRF team has dug upto 60 feet parallel to the borewell and are planning to build a tunnel to the main pit in order to reach the boy. However, they are worried about the stability of the ground. "As it is a rocky region, there are big rocks that are causing hurdles," an SDRF personnel said.

On Sunday, CM Bhupesh Baghel ordered a robotics expert be deployed in the operation. Experts from three mines of Coal India were also roped in on Sunday morning, officials said.

EC to govt: Limit seats a person can contest to, ban opinion polls & e-polls

Panel renews other long-standing demands, seeks notification on linking Aadhaar

ANISHA DUTTA & RITIKA CHOPRA NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

SOON AFTER taking charge as Chief Election Commissioner, Rajiv Kumar asked the Law Ministry to issue notifications for the linking of Aadhaar with voter IDs, allowing four qualifying dates for eligible people to register as voters, and also renewed the commission's proposals for banning opinion polls and exit polls as well as limiting the seats from which a candidate can contest to just one. The Indian Express has learnt.

"The EC sent six key proposals to the Law Ministry. We have requested the government to notify the rules for linkage of Aadhaar to voter IDs and also for the four cut-off dates for eligible people to register as voters," said an EC official who did not want to be named.

In December 2021, Rajya Sabha passed the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 by voice vote, enabling "the linking of electoral roll data with the Aadhaar ecosystem" as the Opposition walked out in protest. Parties had alleged that the government passed the Bill in haste without adequate discussion.

The EC has also sought powers to deregister political parties, a long-standing demand of the poll panel, and sought the modification of Form 24A to mandate the disclosure of all donations above Rs 2,000 instead of Rs 20,000.

This also comes in the backdrop of the commission's action against 'registered unrecognised political parties' (RUPPs) last month. The EC had announced a clean-up drive initiating "graded action" against more than 2,100 RUPPs for flouting rules, including failure to furnish a contribution report and communicate any change in its name, head office, office bearers and address to the EC.

Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 empowers the commission to register associations and bodies as political parties. However, there is no constitutional or statutory provision that gives power to the EC to deregister parties. "Many political parties get registered, but never contest election. Such parties exist only on paper. The possibility of forming political parties with an eye on availing the benefit of income tax exemption also cannot be ruled out. It would only be logical that the commission which has the power to register political parties is also empowered to deregister in appropriate cases," the EC had noted in 2016 in its handbook of proposed electoral reforms.

Renewing another one of its long-standing demands, the EC has sought an amendment of Section 33(7) of the Representation of People Act, 1951 to restrict the number of seats a candidate can contest from. The Act currently allows a person to contest a general election or a group of by-elections or biennial elections from up to two constituencies. In 2004, too, the EC had proposed an amendment of Section 33(7).

It had also recommended a ban on exit polls and opinion polls and said there should be some restriction on conducting and disseminating the results of opinion polls right from the day of the first notification of an election till the completion of the election in all its phases.

Covid issues: Sonia taken to hospital

New Delhi: Congress president Sonia Gandhi, 75, was rushed to the emergency department of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in Delhi on Sunday "owing to Covid-related issues", party spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said. She is in a stable condition, according to sources at the hospital. She was diagnosed with Covid-19 10 days ago. She was accompanied to the hospital by her daughter, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. Her son Rahul Gandhi was also by her side. Surjewala tweeted that Sonia would be kept at the hospital for observation. ENS

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'FAAA/Stable' rated by CRISIL AND 'MAAA (Stable)' rating by ICRA.

The abovementioned ratings indicate highest degree of safety with regard to timely payment of interest and principal on the instrument.

Table 1		Table 2			
Period (except 24 months)	Cumulative At Maturity	Monthly	Quarterly	Half Yearly	Annual
15 months	6.05%	5.89%	5.92%	5.96%	6.05%
18 months	6.15%	5.98%	6.01%	6.06%	6.15%
22 months	6.30%	6.13%	6.16%	6.20%	6.30%
30 months	6.70%	6.50%	6.54%	6.59%	6.70%
33 months	6.95%	6.74%	6.78%	6.83%	6.95%
44 months	7.35%	7.11%	7.16%	7.22%	7.35%

Particulars	As at 31 March 2021	As at 31 March 2020
- On penal interest charges	237.25	223.15
- On others	6.42	6.22
Income tax matters:		
- Appeals by the Company	0.00	0.32
- Appeals by the Income tax department	0.28	0.24

Summarised Financial Position of the Company (standalone) as appearing in the two latest audited balance sheets:		As at 31 March 2021	As at 31 March 2020
ASSETS			
Financial assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	1,383.63		674.53
Bank balances other than cash and cash equivalents	2.13		4.83
Derivative financial instruments	0.00		17.76
Trade receivables	720.10		867.18
Loans	1,10,089.94		1,13,107.08
Investments	20,169.12		20,158.98
Other financial assets	48.23		349.51
Total financial assets	1,35,852.25		1,35,623.87
Non-financial assets			
Current tax assets (net)	155.07		204.57
Deferred tax assets (net)	919.21		847.61
Property, plant and equipment	972.44		1,016.16
Intangible assets	7.07		0.00
Intangible assets under development	43.99		0.00
Intangible assets	254.76		211.98
Other non-financial assets	134.10		99.38
Total non-financial assets	2,486.64		2,379.70
Total assets	1,38,338.89		1,38,003.57
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY			
Financial liabilities			
Guaranteed financial instruments	137.87		
Payables			
Total outstanding dues of micro enterprises and small enterprises	0.27		0.30
Subordinated debts of creditors other than micro enterprises and small enterprises	676.62		636.76
Other payables			
Total outstanding dues of micro enterprises and small enterprises	191.08		
Total outstanding dues of creditors other than micro enterprises and small enterprises			179.46
debt securities	40,071.71		41,713.77
Borrowings (other than debt securities)	27,092.09		36,923.22
Deposits	25,803.43		21,427.69
Subordinated debts	3,895.61		4,141.75
Other financial liabilities	743.65		669.90
Total financial liabilities	1,01,615.33		1,05,626.34
Non-financial liabilities			
Current tax liabilities (net)	172.78		52.10
Provisions	136.56		78.87
Other non-financial liabilities	475.48		367.03
Total non-financial liabilities	784.82		498.00
Equity			
Equity share capital	120.32		119.99
Other equity	35,818.42		31,693.22
Total assets	35,938.74		31,813.21
Total liabilities and equity	1,38,338.89		1,38,003.57
Contingent Liabilities (Standalone)			
Particulars	As at 31 March 2021	As at 31 March 2020	
Disputed claims against the Company not acknowledged as debts	51.98		44.18
WAT matters under appeal	4.29		4.39
ESI matters under appeal	5.14		5.14
Service tax matters under appeal	1,908.44		1,971.65
- On interest subsidy			

The above text of advertisement has been issued on the authority and in the name of the Board of Directors and has been approved by the Board of Directors at its Meeting held on 20 July 2021 and copy of the same signed by Shri Rajeev Jain, Managing Director, who is authorized by the Board to sign on its behalf, has been delivered to the Reserve Bank of India for registration.

Pune 09 June 2022

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when the Gandhi appeared before the Patiala House court in the National Herald case.

On Sunday, the party held press conferences in several cities, slamming the BJP government for the "vendetta politics". Sachin Pilot was in Lucknow, Vivek Tankha in Raipur, Sanjay Nirupam in Shimla, Ranjeet Ranjan in Chandigarh, Syed Nasseer Hussain in Patna, Pawan Khara in Ahmedabad and Alka Lamba in Dehradun.

Party leaders said the plan to take out a march to the ED would go ahead as scheduled although party chief Sonia Gandhi has been hospitalised due to complications arising out of Covid infection. "The protest will go ahead as planned," a senior leader said. "There is not an iota of illegal activity. Despite this, Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi were served notices by the ED out of political vendetta, with the aim to gain some headlines for a week," party's national spokesperson Pawan Khara told reporters in Ahmedabad.

Senior leader P Chidambaram said, "I speak as a Congress member and an advocate. The ED's summons to Rahul Gandhi under PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) is baseless."

Sl. No.	Name of subsidiary	Address of registered office	Activity
1.	Bajaj Housing Finance Limited	Bajaj Auto Ltd complex, Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune 411035	Housing Finance Business
2.	Bajaj Financial Securities Limited	Bajaj Auto Ltd complex, Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune 411035	Stock broking and depository participant

By order of the Board of Directors for Bajaj Finance Limited

Rajeev Jain, Managing Director
DIN: 01550158



10 IDEA EXCHANGE

NEWSMAKERS IN THE NEWSROOM

SANJAY PANDEY/MUMBAI POLICE COMMISSIONER

‘Nobody can use the police. We don’t work by insinuation, persuasion or inclination’

Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey talks about the need to be responsive towards citizens, political interference in probes, playing by the rulebook and his advocacy of a new Citizens’ Forum Bill. The session was moderated by Special Correspondent Mohamed Thaver



WHY
SANJAY PANDEY

Sanjay Pandey has been in the news ever since he was the unexpected pick of the MVA government for the top job as CP. A no-nonsense officer, he has attempted a makeover of the city police by sharing his personal mobile number with citizens and not towing vehicles. Under him, the police also registered cases against some Opposition leaders, a move that has come under some criticism

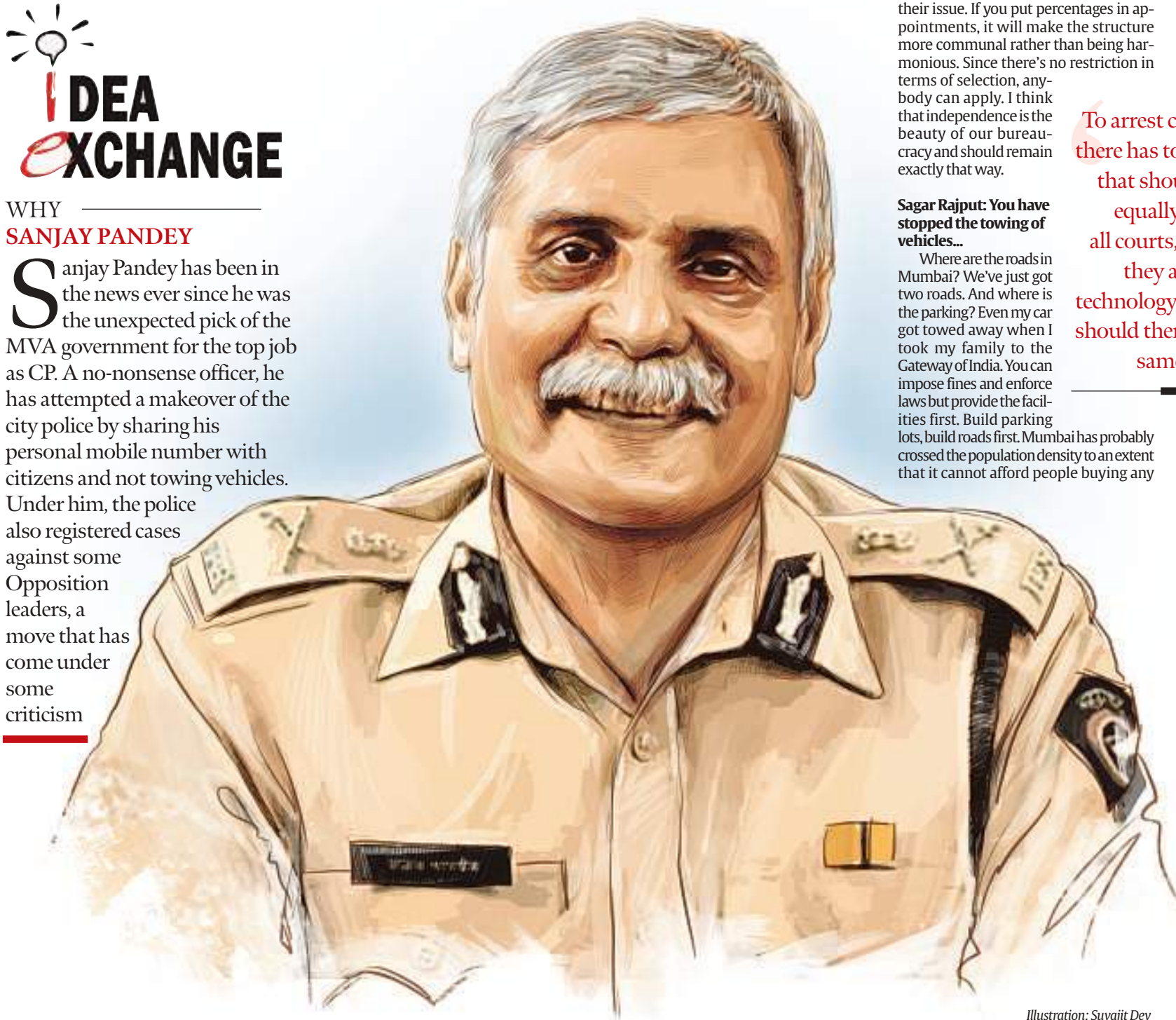


Illustration: Suvajit Dey

Mohamed Thaver: The assumption, whenever a new police commissioner took charge of Mumbai, was that he'd go after traditional offences like street crimes. You have changed that image by connecting with citizens on social media, sharing your mobile number and focussing on issues like harassment by housing society committees and noise pollution. What's the feedback?

As the Commissioner of Police, which is an executive charge, administration is one part of the role. But most of it is directed towards citizens. So, it was a no-brainer that I would follow the role as intended. When I joined as a DGP of Maharashtra, I had shared my number with all 2.25 lakh constables across the state. Now I have shared it with 2.5 crore citizens. Initially, I got hundreds of calls and text messages. Now I receive a minimum of 70 to 75 text messages every day. Footfalls have increased as I have encouraged people to walk into our office after 3 pm. So about 80 people show up every day. And then we have constables as well, 40 to 60 of whom I meet every day. I stay in office till the last person goes. I think our effectiveness down the line, as far as administration goes, has improved.

Mohamed Thaver: In the 90s, Mumbai was seen as the hotbed of the underworld and later, street crime. Is the crime spiral under control?

On my social media, you see talk about traffic, construction, noise pollution and so on. But what you've not seen and heard is our internal talk and briefings, which are basically on crime, from robberies, chain snatchings, motor vehicle thefts to house break-ins. Crime hasn't come down but the control mechanisms are better and each offence is being registered.

Jayprakash Naidu: What about cybercrimes?

Cybercrime is huge because there are no physical boundaries or territoriality involved. The person can be sitting anywhere and start siphoning off money with a fake account. Tracking the criminal means we have to look at jurisdictions of various countries. Then various factors come into play such as extradition treaties and foreign relations. Today, you have to beg Google or Yahoo to get details and IP addresses. For arrests in cybercrime, the world has to come together. There has to be one law that should apply equally across all courts, wherever they are. All technology companies should follow the same law. Otherwise, somebody may make an app in some country and we don't even get the IP address. As far as mobile numbers are there, we can trace them. But many of them are Voice-Over-IP, which comes through proxies.

Sandeep Singh: Local parties allege that Central agencies like ED and CBI are being used to settle political scores. Similarly, the Central party says that the Mumbai Police is being used for the same purpose. The Supreme Court has questioned even the sedition case against Maharashtra MP Navneet Rana. What do you say to such allegations?

I don't think Mumbai Police is being used by anybody. If there was a cognisable case, we have registered one. We do not work by any insinuation, persuasion or inclination. There is a Maharashtra Government circular that no sedition case can be filed without the opinion of the public prosecutor. In this case also, there was a special prosecutor. It was on the basis of his opinion that the sedition case was filed. Now, the courts have said that wherever the circular has been applied, it should be held in abeyance. So, we follow that.

Zeeshan Shaikh: Your work as the DCP of Dharavi rattled many, especially people who are in power now. Have you changed or have they changed their opinion about you?

I don't think I have changed a lot. But people who would have had misgivings about what I was doing in Dharavi, have seen my work. I think people have really seen that we have been following the law and are trying to comply with it.

Yogesh Naik: There was a point when you had quit the IPS. What made you come back despite the fact that you got sidetracked?

When I quit the service, there were administrative issues because of which I wasn't really relieved in the manner that I should have been. There were certain dues such as the house-building advance and that was being charged at a penal rate of interest. That was the point when I withdrew my resignation. In 2006, I had opted for voluntary retirement. That again did not happen for four-and-a-half years. Then I re-joined in 2012 but came under the lens over whether I was a government or a private servant. That was settled in court. I've never objected to postings because I got the same salary. I only objected to the way you cannot overlook seniority.

Shubhangi Khapre: Irrespective of the government in power, there has been an emphasis on police reforms in Maharashtra since the 1960s. Yet, we cannot stop political interference in appointments of officers and their transfers. Your views?

The key question is how you look at the police as an independent body? The fact is it doesn't exist on its own. Every police officer in the country is a government servant. The government comprises elected representatives, who are part of the Parliament or local Assemblies. If you are governing a state or city, would you not have your choices? So, there will be control. Until and unless you have a very seminal change in how the bureaucracy works, I think the idea of an independent police force is utopian and impractical in the current situation. The UPSC is an independent body but it is elected or selected by the government. So, the government has a prerogative.

Shubhangi Khapre: Do you think the former state finance minister Anil Deshmukh, who is facing allegations of wrongfully making transfers or misusing the police force for mobilising funds, is being targeted?

The matter is before the courts and it won't be appropriate for me to talk. As I said, we are government servants and we

have to follow government guidelines.

Sandeep Singh: Do you think more reforms are required?

You're talking about rewriting the Constitution and the bureaucracy is defined by it. There are subjects within the purview of the Centre, State and Concurrent lists. If thought processes change, that is where you should start. Everything else is just semantics. You can tweak something here and there and bring in a neutral person. But ultimately, you remain a government servant and that's exactly what I want to emphasise.

Yogesh Naik: Do you think the attack on NCP chief Sharad Pawar's house was a failure on the part of the Mumbai police?

We had an inquiry and we found out that there weren't any great lapses. Yes, there was an issue with two or three of our people not being there at that time and we have addressed it. We cannot always be 100 per cent.

Mohamed Thaver: Recently, there has been a lot of communal tension due to loudspeakers in mosques. Given the communally charged atmosphere in the country today, do you see things improving or worsening?

People are more informed and aware about the result of any kind of violence or arson. Mumbai has seen it in 1992-93 and 2009. I would credit this knowledge to sharing of information, which has become much easier now. Earlier, we didn't have social media as a connective tissue. It played a very big part as we could send out the right messages, build confidence and bring people together. Also, Mumbai is totally quiet because people have to earn their livelihood and cannot afford to keep fighting. Political parties have their ways and means but citizens have become more educated, informed and can judge for themselves. Everybody wants a peaceful life. That's my basic premise.

Sadaf Modak: The Mumbai riots also revealed the communal bias among policemen. Does that continue?

The police are as communal as the local population. We also draw our people from the local population. We are as communal or 'a-communal' as citizens. But we are a disciplined force. And even during the riots in 1992-93, it was the policemen

who brought them under control. There were just a few aberrations.

Rahul Sabharwal: In the aftermath of communal flare-ups, like the one in Khargone in Madhya Pradesh or Jahangirpuri in Delhi, we've seen the rule of the bulldozer replacing the rule of law in minority-dominated areas. Do you think this sort of punitive action undermines what the policing structure stands for?

This hasn't happened in Mumbai, so to comment on other cities will be totally out of context. The police all across India are governed by the Indian Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code. And they lay down the guidelines for action.

Jayprakash Naidu: Recently, there was a communal incident in the eastern suburbs of Mumbai. How can we prevent such flare-ups from spiralling out of control?

Isolated groups and aberrations always exist in society and they can be controlled. But I must give full credit to both communities who were mature enough to handle the situation in Mankhurd and Malwani. Few people are too overzealous, not driven by any fervour but perhaps just goaded by their own situation. Some people want to be in the news and create a nuisance. Besides, if an incident was intended to mean something, it would not have happened at 3 am but in broad daylight. Just because it happened outside a masjid, we call it communal. Stray incidents can happen anywhere. We have arrested all the instigators and offenders with the help of both communities.

Zeeshan Shaikh: Perhaps the police tend to get blamed in communal incidents because there is poor representation of minorities in the force. Do you think there needs to be a diversity policy?

I am really not a voter of representative policing. Any Indian citizen can join the police force or the bureaucracy, they are open for everybody. If there are certain people who do not want to join, that's

their issue. If you put percentages in appointments, it will make the structure more communal rather than being harmonious. Since there's no restriction in terms of selection, anybody can apply. I think that independence is the beauty of our bureaucracy and should remain exactly that way.

Sagar Rajput: You have stopped the towing of vehicles...

Where are the roads in Mumbai? We've just got two roads. And where is the parking? Even my car got towed away when I took my family to the Gateway of India. You can impose fines and enforce laws but provide the facilities first. Build parking lots, build roads first. Mumbai has probably crossed the population density to an extent that it cannot afford people buying any

To arrest cybercrime, there has to be one law that should apply equally across all courts, wherever they are. All technology companies should then follow the same law

I'm supposed to do the investigation after registering the FIR. Now it is up to the court. A settlement could happen before the court, not before the police. We're talking about public money. And that's the complaint made by a particular bank. Today, it can say the money is not lost but then it should say so before the court. We will be very happy to close the case, don't we already have other work? But as of now, we don't have the right.

Mohamed Thaver: We have seen FIRs being registered against certain people, especially in political cases, but most of them have got court protection against

their arrests. How would you respond to this move?

Some of the cases we are investigating are cheating cases. Courts have very clearly said that an arrest must be based on documents. An arrest is required only for recovery, where the criminal knows where he has kept the stolen property. In cases that we were dealing with, there was no reason to arrest and there was no reason for recovery.

Wherever there is a need, we are doing our job. That's the natural course of an investigation. An arrest is not a punishment, it is just to keep the person away from influencing an investigation. It's unfortunate if we have not been able to lay hands on certain people but it's not by design.

Sandeep Singh: Over the last two years, controversies surrounding Paramvir Singh and Sachin Vaze have tarnished the image of the Mumbai police. How has this affected morale down the line?

These are not happening for the first time. The Mumbai city police has 45,000 personnel and the Maharashtra police strength is about 2.25 lakh. How many people have been in controversies? May be just six? The morale of the police force is not made up of a few individuals. I am a firm believer that the system has been built within the framework of law and has a structure which helps you function and take care of aberrations. As long as the rules of business have not changed and the Constitution remains where it is, I don't see how the general moral fabric of any organisation could be affected.

Jayprakash Naidu: During your online interactions on Facebook, you've talked about the Citizen Forum Bill, which should be placed in Parliament. Why do we need such a legislation?

I am a firm believer that citizens need to be empowered. After much effort we have formed a forum with regional and zonal heads. And now citizens themselves have drafted a Bill that talks about the citizens' rights and the Government's duties vis-à-vis their rights. It's going to the Government as a proposal from the citizens themselves. And it has very clearly defined what the structure of the forum will be, what wards will be represented, how zones and regions will find a place. It includes suggestions on the election process and grievance redressal. In fact, this is not my idea. Earlier, there was a Nagar Raj Bill. Karnataka already has something of this sort.

We are setting up a trust which will fund all the forum's activities. I have proposed looking at funding and educating students from kindergarten to the fifth grade in ethics and moral science. That's my suggestion to the board. The Bill also defines punishment and cognisable offences.

Zeeshan Shaikh: The NYPD has a budget of around \$2.5 billion. London also has a massive budget. Is the Mumbai police adequately funded?

I don't think more policing, infrastructure or investment can bring safety and security to our citizens. The Mumbai police is adequately funded, has the required infrastructure and manpower, which have to be optimised. Gone are the days when you talk about one-to-one policing. In most global cities, you won't see a cop. Now monitoring is technology-enabled; we've gone beyond the camera and are talking about bigger things like Artificial Intelligence (AI), face-mapping and photo-matching. But above all, there should be a fear of law and its enforcement. Then, I won't need these many people on the ground. How many criminals, who have committed two to three crimes, do you think there are? Not more than 3,000. How many policemen do you require for that number?



The Indian EXPRESS

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RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

PURSUIT OF JUSTICE

Chargesheet in Nagaland killings is a key step towards accountability. All sides should ensure sanctity of due process

THE CHARGESHEET FILED by Nagaland police with regard to a botched-up security operation last year in which six civilians were killed is a welcome first step. The chargesheet, which names 30 Indian Army personnel including a Major, is based on a probe by a special investigation team set up by the Nagaland government. The Army had admitted that the killings were a case of mistaken identity and error of judgement — the Court of Inquiry has been completed and is being examined. All stakeholders — the government, state police, Army — must ensure that due process is protected in this sensitive case that had led to massive protests in Nagaland and almost derailed the peace talks between the Centre and the NSCN-IM.

In all, 13 civilians and a security personnel were killed when personnel of 21 Para Special Forces fired at a jeep carrying miners in Oting, Mon district on December 4 last year and in the violence that followed. Six miners were killed in the initial shooting while seven others and a security personnel lost their lives when a mob attacked the security forces later. The firing in Mon took place in the backdrop of the killing of a commanding officer of Assam Rifles, his wife and son, and four security personnel by militants from Manipur Naga People's Front and People's Liberation Army of Manipur in Churachandpur district a few days earlier. The Mon massacre, in the run-up to Assembly elections in Nagaland, gave fresh impetus to civic campaigns for repealing the Armed Forces Special Powers Act. The Centre promised to look at the demand favourably as public protests rocked Nagaland, where a tenuous ceasefire between the NSCN-IM and the Armed Forces has held out for over two decades despite the political deadlock over the demands of the insurgents. On April 1, the Centre withdrew AFSPA from 15 police station areas in seven of Nagaland's 15 districts, a decision that has the potential to influence the narrative on federal relations in the region — according to the Ministry of Home Affairs, militancy in the Northeast has seen a major decline in recent years. It is necessary to nurture this positive spirit and consolidate the gains of hard-won peace in a region that has been wrecked by ethnic strife and militancy.

Action on the SIT report and the chargesheet on the Mon incident should proceed keeping in mind the complex history of the region. It should be insulated from the competing claims of regionalism and nationalism. A closure in this case will help heal the wounds of insurgency and its terrible offshoots including the AFSPA, and enable a conversation on matters of governance such as development, jobs, corruption etc. As for the armed forces, they will have to take the SIT accusation that personnel did "not follow the Standard Operating Procedure and the Rules of Engagement" and resorted to "indiscriminate and disproportionate firing" seriously, pin responsibility and take remedial action. How they respond to the chargesheet will be very significant in the discourse in the region around security and society.

HOME TRUTHS

While corporates, banks are now better-placed to invest and lend, decline in household consumption is a cause for concern

INDIA'S INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT rose 7.1 per cent year-on-year in April. Coming after a 11.4 per cent increase for the whole of 2021-22, it points to a recovery, albeit from the negative growth of the preceding lockdown-impacted fiscal. What's worrying, however, is consumer non-durables production growing by just 0.3 per cent in April, on top of 3.3 per cent for 2021-22. The National Statistical Office's data tallies with what private consumer research firms have also been putting out. NielsenIQ has estimated India's fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector to have registered minus 4.1 per cent year-on-year volume growth in January-March, minus 2.6 per cent in October-December, and 1.4 per cent in July-September. Kantar Worldpanel has reported volume contraction in the country's FMCG market for the last three consecutive quarters. Even the market leader Hindustan Unilever posted a 10.4 per cent sales turnover jump for the January-March quarter, but "with flat underlying volume growth".

The simple takeaway is that the Indian consumer is buying less, although paying more for the same, if not less, volume of groceries and essentials. One reason is inflation. Most market surveys suggest high price increases to have impacted discretionary as well as staple consumption. While consumers are either cutting down on purchases or opting for lower-priced/non-premium/unbranded products, FMCG firms have sought to push sales of smaller packs and even undertake "grammage reductions". In other words, passing on soaring costs — whether of palm oil, wheat or packaging material — not through explicit price hikes, but by decreasing product weight/size for the same price points. There are limitations to such strategies. Individual companies may grow significantly ahead of the market, gaining both value and volume shares. But even they would want the market itself to expand, rather than resorting to "shrinkflation" or consumers "downtrading" and "titrating" volumes.

Inflation should come under control, hopefully sooner than later. Of greater concern is the stress on incomes. Most households in India received little, apart from free grain, as stimulus during the last two years of job and income losses. As a result, they emerged from the pandemic with battered balance sheets. This is in contrast to the previous decade, where household consumption held up even as overall economic growth was dragged down by an over-leveraged corporate sector and bad loans-laden banks. That "twin-balance sheet" problem looks less of a threat. Profit margins of listed companies in 2021-22 were the highest for over a decade, with the non-performing assets ratio of banks moderating to their lowest in six years. Today, corporates and banks are better-positioned to invest and lend, respectively. But the weak balance sheets of households and government constrains their ability to spend — and that's a real problem.

FREEZE FRAME

E P UNNY



Upper House, a question

What has Rajya Sabha achieved that a stand-alone Lok Sabha has not, or would not? This requires debate



MANISH TEWARI

THE OBJECTIVE OF writing this piece is not to make a case for the abolition of the Rajya Sabha, for that would be a fool's errand. It is, rather, to re-articulate a question that was uppermost even in the minds of members of the Constituent Assembly as they deliberated upon draft Article 67 corresponding to Article 80 of the Constitution of India, pertaining to the composition of the Council of States.

Lokanath Misra led the charge against a federal second chamber in the Constituent Assembly stating: "Sir, ... I do not think there is any real need for the second chamber, nor do I think that it will serve any useful purpose. Sir, so far as I have studied the Constitution and the constitutional precedents, it is now admitted almost on all hands that second chambers are out of date. The only argument that is generally advanced in favour of such a chamber is that it will have a sobering effect on the decisions of the Lower House which is more representative of the people and that the people are now restive... Its creation will only result in so much waste of public money and so much waste of time... I do not think that without a second chamber the country will be any the poorer for it, as now we stand."

Elaborating further Misra stated: "From our actual experience we find that such a huge number of people either in the House of the People or in the Council of States does not serve any very useful purpose. And we know that there is real difficulty in finding out so many members who will be qualified and quite interested in such law-making. We see from the proceedings of this very House which consists of more than three hundred members that so few of us take real part in and are really useful to constitution making".

This, perhaps, is the most profound argument even today against enlarging the size of either Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha.

Lokanath Misra was not alone in opposing a federal second chamber. His colleague, Shibban Lal Saksena, was equally emphatic: "I cannot refrain from saying that I am one of those who believe in only one chamber and not two chambers. Here they have provided for two chambers and the worst part of this

that in the Upper Chamber we shall have twelve nominated members; and we passed the other day that even those members, who have been nominated and who will never seek the vote of the people, can become ministers also. I think this is a most undemocratic aspect of our Constitution."

Opposing the motion setting up a bicameral federal legislature, Saksena had earlier argued: "In this motion, we have been asked to vote for two Houses, the Lower House and the Upper House. I wish to point out that our experience has been that the Upper House acts as a clog in the wheel of progress. I think that everywhere in the world the experience about Upper Houses has been the same...." They were not the only ones who had concerns. Other members expressed them too in different contexts during the Constituent Assembly debate on draft Article 67.

Article 1(1) of the Indian Constitution states "India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States." It is, therefore, obvious that the primary responsibility of a Council of States would be to protect the interests of the states vis a vis the Union, especially after the Union Powers Committee, post the announcement of the Partition plan on June 3, 1947, decided that India's constitutional design would be more unitary than federal. There is hardly any empirical evidence that substantiates that the Rajya Sabha has measured upto the task ever since it came into existence on April 3, 1952.

Moreover, from 1952 to 2003, at least there was a veneer of a state focus when it was mandatory that any citizen desirous of contesting a Rajya Sabha election had to be an elector from that particular state. By amending Section 3(1) of the Representation of People's Act 1952 and doing away with the domicile requirement, the NDA/BJP Government removed this fig leaf also in 2003.

From 1952 to 2003, at least there was a veneer of a state focus when it was mandatory that any citizen desirous of contesting a Rajya Sabha election had to be an elector from that particular state. By amending Section 3(1) of the Representation of People's Act 1952 and doing away with the domicile requirement, the NDA/BJP Government removed this fig leaf also in 2003.

ment buried the earlier practice of individuals entering the Rajya Sabha from anywhere based upon rather dodgy but still some form of domicile credentials. Both the amendment and the subsequent judgement require urgent revisiting by the legislature to restore the fundamental character of the Council of States.

Coupled with this is another major inconsistency. Twenty-four states have unicameral legislatures, that is, only one legislative body, and only six states are bicameral. There is no justifiable legal basis for this classification for if size is a determinant for bicameralism then for every Uttar Pradesh or Maharashtra that is two-House in design there is a West Bengal and Tamil Nadu that is not. If the bulk of the states can make do with one House why not the Centre?

However, all this does not still answer the fundamental question: What has Rajya Sabha been able to achieve that a stand-alone Lok Sabha has not, or would not, in the future? This requires a full debate in Parliament, especially the Rajya Sabha, as India enters the 75th year of its independence.

If the only argument for the existence of the Rajya Sabha is that it is a continuous House as opposed to the Lok Sabha that gets mandatorily dissolved every five years, if not sooner, then that can be fixed with a simple amendment to Article 83(2) that should state that "Lok Sabha would remain in existence till the time its successor body/house is not constituted through general elections mandatorily held three months prior to the completion of the five year term of the previous body/House or sooner as the case maybe". Article 83(1) would stand deleted and consequential amendments can be carried out to other parts of the Constitution.

Finally, it would be instructive to keep in mind that the Basic Structure doctrine enunciated by the Supreme Court in *Re: Kesavananda Bharti* holds parliamentary democracy to be basic structure, not bicameralism.

The writer is a lawyer, Congress MP, former I&B Minister. Views are personal



ZAKIA SOMAN

THE SUSPENSION OF one member from the BJP, and the expulsion of another, for incendiary remarks on the Prophet of Islam, is perhaps the first significant step taken by the party in the last eight years to contain the lethal onslaught on the plural fabric of society. India has become religiously polarised with hate speeches and open calls for mass violence against Muslims going unchecked. Indian Muslims, the second largest population of Muslims globally, could be living proof of our vibrant, inclusive democracy. Sadly, their protests did not matter to the government, which acted only when pressured by foreign powers that, incidentally, are not known for their democratic outlook.

The Prime Minister's call for sabka saath, sabka vikas remains meaningless as our nation continues to get divided in the name of mandir-masjid, azaan, hijab, halal, love jihad, gau raksha, Babur and Aurangzeb. Most ordinary Indians would have thought that with the BJP at the Centre there would be a semblance of communal peace. This has not happened.

The unity and integrity of the nation is threatened by the actions of hate-mongers on the streets as well as in TV studios. Forces of hatred have always existed in our society amongst both Hindus and Muslims. The twonation theory had subscribers amongst both communities. Pakistan became a reality for Jinnah and his followers. Those espousing a Hindu Rashtra must take a cue from the recent statement of the RSS chief and stop seeing red in everything Muslim and anywhere Islamic.

We must remember that our independence from the British was hard-won with sac-

FOR SABKA SAATH SABKA VIKAS

PM Modi must use Mann Ki Baat to warn against vigilantism against minorities

rifices from women and men of all faiths. We gave ourselves a Constitution rooted in the universal values of justice, equality, pluralism, freedom and fraternity. The freedom fighters demonstrated a lived nationalism of shared humanity and struggles. We have lived as neighbours despite differences in faith, language and culture. Those arguing for a civilisational state must remember that our civilisation represents vasudhaiva kutumbakam and shared heritage unlike the monochrome universe of the Crusades or Jihads.

This discussion cannot be complete without asking the Muslims what they can do to help restore harmony. Indian Muslims have paid a heavy price for the kind of secularism practised by the Congress party where a bunch of conservative men of religion were pampered at the cost of the well-being of the community. Official data show that the Muslims got poorer and more backward educationally and economically even as the BJP's charge of Muslim appeasement gained traction. Thankfully, today the conservative cleric is no more the spokesperson except perhaps in TV studios. There are several activists, students, lawyers, journalists, fact-checkers and academics who are engaged with community issues in a secular manner. The lack of democratisation and social reform in the community predates the Narendra Modi government. Most Muslims are adopting a democratic line of thinking on sensitive matters such as loud-speakers in mosques and cow slaughter. More and more are asserting the constitutional principles of democracy, diversity, justice and equality. But more democratic-minded per-

sons are required for meaningful dialogues on faith, culture, and democracy.

Clarity on various issues concerning inter-faith harmony can go a long way. Muslim activists can learn a lot from Dalits about building coalitions and democratic alliances with those from other faiths for a just and peaceful co-existence. Issues such as women's equality, caste amongst Muslims, and ideas of blasphemy and apostasy need to be discussed and sorted threadbare. Also, political Islam has to be shunned and a more liberal humane faith must be adopted.

Although the responsibility of preserving the plural social fabric is of every Indian, it is first and foremost the duty of the government to enforce the rule of law and act against hate-mongers. A nationalistic government should be all the more aware of threats to internal security posed by fanatics baying for the blood of fellow Indians. There should be a clear directive from the concerned ministries to book those indulging in polarisation and violence. The Prime Minister must make inter-faith harmony a key topic of his Mann Ki Baat and issue a warning to the vigilantes indulging in hooliganism against minorities.

All of us ordinary Indians engaged in various spheres of work and life need to regain the middle ground for a peaceful and harmonious society. We need to shun hate and extreme posturing on social media and in our individual lives.

The writer is a women's rights activist and founding member of Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan



JUNE 13, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

ANTULAY LOSES TRUST

THE CONGRESS (I) high command is likely to ask A R Antulay to relinquish the chairmanship of the Pratibha Pratishthan following the verdict of a division bench of the Bombay High Court holding him guilty of bartering cement for donations to the pratishthan. Antulay is going to Delhi. The high command may ask former high court judge, R R Bhole or state Chief Secretary P G Gaval to take over the pratishthan chairmanship till the trust is revamped. The judgment of Justices S K Desai and B J Rele has apparently shaken the confidence of the trustees in Antulay.

PRESIDENTIAL POLLS

A STRAIGHT FIGHT between the combined opposition and the ruling party in the presidential election on July 12 became a certainty with both sides hardening their stance on putting up their own candidates. While AICC (I) general secretary G K Moopanar made it clear that there was no question of his party going for a consensus candidate as it had a two-thirds majority, Lok Dal President Charan Singh made an urgent appeal to all opposition parties to discuss their strategy at a meeting on June 15. He sent a formal letter to this effect to the leaders of the Janata Party, BJP, Congress (I), Congress

(S), CPM and CPI.

ISRAEL ATTACKS PLO

ISRAELI FORCES POUNDED Palestinian guerrillas entrenched around Beirut's international airport from land, sea and air but scrupulously respected their ceasefire with the Syrian army. Israeli bombs and Palestinian anti-aircraft fire shook the paralysed city at intervals throughout the day. A Boeing-707 jetliner of Middle East Airlines went up in flames in the airport tarmac and an air freight office was damaged less than 3 km from the most advanced Israeli position in suburban Khaldeh.

A biased benchmark

Environmental Performance Index's approach does little to encourage honest conversation on ecological issues



NAVROZ K DUBASH
AND
SHARACHCHANDRA
LELE

THE 2022 ENVIRONMENTAL Performance Index (EPI) released on World Environment Day (June 5) has triggered much consternation in India, as the country is ranked last (180th). While news reports have religiously, and largely uncritically, reported the finding, and environmentalists might be tempted to take an "I told you so" attitude, the government has issued a fierce rebuttal. How do we make sense of this debate?

Indexes are inherently problematic, especially when applied to something as multi-dimensional and complex as environmental performance. In trying to quantify, aggregate and rank, index makers have to make judgements about what issues count, how they are best measured individually, and how much importance to give to each issue and indicator in aggregating. For example, indicators may focus on current rates of increase or decrease in environmental pressures (flows) — as the EPI does for carbon dioxide emissions and tree cover gains — but understate the accumulated effect (stocks) that relates to actual harm, thereby ignoring past effects. Moreover, when ranking countries, one is essentially applying the same standard across vastly different socio-ecological contexts — this involves difficult choices. For example, the EPI leaves out arsenic in water, which is a major threat in Bangladesh. Arsenic is not counted by the EPI because it is not as widely prevalent as lead, which is included.

We would argue that ranking countries is best done on some specific indicators such as urban air quality or domestic water pollution, for which metrics are relatively well-accepted and universal, and so comparisons are defensible. At best, aggregate indices give a coarse picture: Top 20, middle of pack, or bottom 20, nothing more. Unfortunately, the EPI 2022 produced by Yale and Columbia Universities is far from making even this modest contribution: The index is severely compromised by how it incorporates action on climate change mitigation.

Climate change is a global environmental problem, and because its effects depend on the accumulation of greenhouse gases over time, measuring progress in a given country is challenging. Unlike air quality, where absolute increases or decreases in emissions of air pollutants in that country signal progress, climate change mitigation has to be measured against what it is reasonable and fair to expect from different countries, taking into account their past emissions as well as national contexts. The problem, however, is that there has been an inconclusive 30-year debate on this question; any choice of benchmark involves major ethical choices. Giving climate change a high weight in the index (38 per cent) — itself a questionable decision, given the development needs of poorer countries — means this thorny problem comes to the centre of the EPI.

The Yale-Columbia researchers thus set themselves a near-impossible methodolog-



CR Sasikumar

ical problem to solve, and then proceed to make things worse with a really poor—even biased—choice of benchmarks. Specifically, they rely heavily on the trend of greenhouse gas emissions by a country in the past decade as an indicator of progress. For climate change, 53 per cent of the weight is allocated to these trends, and another 36 per cent to whether the continuation of these trends brings a country close to zero emissions in 2050. They assume that the world must reach net zero emissions by 2050, and so the appropriate benchmark is whether all countries are reducing emissions and reaching zero by 2050. This approach is contrary to widely accepted ethical principles, especially the global political agreement on common-but-differentiated-responsibility (CBDR).

The Yale-Columbia approach ignores the fact that countries have different responsibilities for past accumulations and are at different levels of emissions and energy use. For example, India's energy use and carbon dioxide emissions are about a tenth each of the US's. So, while it is reasonable to expect the US to decrease emissions rapidly, the contribution of a country like India should lie in becoming ever more carbon-efficient with its development, or increasing emissions but at a decreasing rate and as little as possible. The inclusion of indicators on emissions intensity and emissions per capita partly addresses this issue, but these two account for 7 per cent of the weight, versus 89 per cent for indicators derived from current emission trends. This approach is guaranteed to make richer countries look good, because they have accumulated emissions in the past, but these have started declining in the last decade. Meanwhile, poorer countries that have emitted comparatively little in the past, look bad even as they are grappling with addressing poverty while trying to limit emissions. In brief, the methodology is indefensible, blind to ethics, ignorant of a body of

We would argue that ranking countries is best done on some specific indicators such as urban air quality or domestic water pollution, for which metrics are relatively well-accepted and universal, and so comparisons are defensible. At best, aggregate indices give a coarse picture: Top 20, middle of pack, or bottom 20, nothing more. Unfortunately, the EPI 2022 produced by Yale and Columbia Universities is far from making even this modest contribution: The index is severely compromised by how it incorporates action on climate change mitigation.

literature on ecology, and inconsistent with broadly-accepted politics.

This is not to say that India's overall environmental performance is very positive — far from it. But the EPI's flawed and biased approach distracts from a much-needed honest conversation about the environment in India. India's local environmental performance on air, water and forests is deeply problematic. Air quality in India is now the second largest risk factor for public health in India, behind only child and maternal nutrition. Rivers and lakes are increasingly polluted, rivers are drying, groundwater tables are rapidly declining, and gains in tree cover hide declining natural productivity and diversity of forests and grasslands. Solid waste mounts, and pesticide contamination is unabated. Despite these warning signs, we see a continued dilution of or inattention to environmental regulations, notwithstanding grand pronouncements and sporadic gains.

Unfortunately, intellectually weak and ethically suspect efforts such as the EPI 2022 do not add anything useful to the debate, but rather confuse and stifle honest discussion. While indices like these have a limited attention-grabbing purpose, they serve this purpose well only when they are focused, limited to easy-to-measure metrics, and consciously minimise value judgements. The EPI 2022 resoundingly fails this test. And as such, it risks setting back the cause of addressing local environmental problems. Ironically, through choices of biased and skewed benchmarks, it also hurts honest global conversation and much-needed progress on the global climate crisis that it purports to foreground.

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A steady hand

Government has taken steps to tackle inflation. A normal monsoon, and resisting urge to hike GST rates will provide further relief



SACHCHIDANAND
SHUKLA

ALL THAT COULD have possibly triggered higher inflation globally has already occurred — multiple waves of the pandemic, supply disruptions, an overdose of policy stimuli, war, sanctions, energy shocks, geopolitical adversity and weather disruptions. In India, however, there are a few other triggers as well that will have a bearing on the inflationary trajectory, especially on the food side. Two of them relate to policy, while the other revolves around the weather gods.

The first is minimum support prices. Policymakers in India have often acted with alacrity to protect the interests of farmers over the years. The MSP that is fixed by the government for kharif and rabi crops has been one of the key policy instruments. The government has just announced MSP for Kharif crops and it is heartening to see that while the farmers are being compensated for higher cultivation costs, the urge to splurge or overcompensate them has been eschewed with the hike likely to have an impact of around 10 basis points on inflation going forward. The backdrop was dire, given the persistence of negative terms of trade for farmers due to runaway prices of inputs, especially diesel and fertilisers.

Note that in the last 20 years, the weighted average MSP for kharif crops saw double-digit growth four times — in 2007, 2008, 2012 and 2018. The years 2007 and 2008 witnessed an unprecedented rise in agri inflation with the global recession leading to a shortage of farm inputs. The Centre responded with an annual increase of 14 per cent in 2007 in the MSP of 14 kharif crops and by 26 per cent in 2008. Food inflation shot up to 12 per cent in 2007-08 as against 8 per cent in 2006-07 and 4 per cent in 2005-06. The inflationary surge continued in 2009 as a monsoon failure hit agricultural output hard. Global agricultural commodity prices started to rise in 2010 again and the FAO food price index reached an all-time high in July 2012. One of the key reasons for the increase in food prices was the oil price surge and a rise in demand for biofuel production. The global upside in food prices coincided with a 22 per cent increase in MSP for Kharif crops in India. Following the rise in MSP, food inflation in 2012 increased by 14.6 per cent as against 3.6 per cent the preceding year.

Then, in 2018, there was a change in the MSP methodology. For the first time, the MSPs for all 23 kharif and rabi crops were fixed at a margin of at least 50 per cent

higher than the cost of cultivation. The cost of cultivation (A2 + FL) includes the paid-out cost and cost of imputed family labour. Accordingly, the MSP of kharif crops in 2018 saw an annual increase of about 14 per cent. However, despite the significant rise in MSP, food inflation in 2018-19 was muted at 0.3 per cent. This was because farm input costs were under control and the terms of trade for farmers remained positive.

The second trigger relates to the GST council. In the upcoming meeting, there is talk of a rejig of GST slabs and rates with an eye on raising the revenue-neutral rate from around 11.5 per cent, which is far lower than the 15.5 per cent estimated at the time of the launch of GST. This has become more pertinent given that the compensation mechanism will cease to be in effect from July 2022 and state governments will have to look for ways to absorb the revenue shock. However, a GST rate shock to the system is best avoided given the global inflationary backdrop and the fragility of consumer balance sheets.

The third concerns the weather. While the dependence of agricultural output on the quantum of rainfall has reduced, variance in the spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall is emerging as a key risk. A look at 2021 — a normal monsoon year with rainfall at 99 per cent of its long-period average — is instructive. In the first three weeks of June, there was huge surplus rainfall but it slowed down from the fourth week. In the crucial month of July, weekly variation ranged from a minus 46 per cent in week one to a surplus of 14 per cent in week four. The weakness in rainfall continued in August and the cumulative rainfall for the period from June to August was lower by 10 per cent than its long-period average. However, there was huge surplus rainfall in September (35 per cent) at the time of harvesting of kharif crops in certain parts of the country. The late excess rains delayed the crop cycle and led to crop damage in several parts of the country. Likewise, the spatial distribution of rainfall remained uneven in 2021. Thus, even with normal rainfall in 2021, there were several disruptions to the crop cycle and farm cash flows. Moreover, wheat output, estimated to reach a record high of 111 MT as per the 2nd Advance Estimate released in February had to be pared by 4 per cent in the 3rd Advance Estimate due to extreme heat. Private traders estimate a sharper drop in output due to high temperatures.

The government has taken various steps lately to rein in inflation. However, the RBI will have little freedom in case the GST council decides to accord revenue protection to states via higher GST rates or if the monsoon is not in line with expectations. One hopes these events pan out right, like the MSP hike, when most other things have gone wrong.

The writer is Group Chief Economist, Mahindra & Mahindra. Views are personal. He thanks Minakshi Chakraborty, Senior Economist, M&M for her contributions

A poor count

NSS, CMIE are surveys not comparable. Studies should not relate them



ASHISH KUMAR, DAVENDRA VERMA AND PRAVIN SRIVASTAVA

INCOMPLETE DATA OR the absence of data itself sets the ball rolling for economists to bring out their macroeconomic models to estimate sensational, eye-catching results, whether it be Covid-19-related deaths or the impact of the pandemic on the vulnerable population. Some economists have argued that the pandemic has directly impacted informal workers and those employed in smaller establishments by pushing them into poverty. Poverty estimation through the consumption approach has its challenges. Some researchers have been attempting to arrive at poverty estimates based on ancillary data available from the government or from other small sample studies.

Recently, policy advisors and researchers at the IMF and World Bank have also attempted to estimate headcount ratios under various assumptions. The huge differences in the headcount ratios between the two studies only add to the confusion in the already complicated measurement issues of poverty in India.

The IMF has carried out the exercise using adjustments for private final consumption expenditure from the National Accounts Statistics and also using the expenditure incurred by the government under the public distribution system. The World Bank has tried to estimate headcount ratios using CMIE data

from the consumer pyramids household survey from 2015 to 2019, relating it with the NSS consumer expenditure data from 2011 and data from other sources like the National Family Health Survey, the Periodic Labour Force Survey, the Situation assessment of Agriculture Households, and the All India Debt and Investment Survey. This exercise appears not to follow the basic principles of statistics.

In fact, a lot of econometric tweaking has probably been carried out in an effort to relate the divergent data sets of NSS with CMIE. It may be noted that India uses the NSS consumption expenditure survey for the measurement of poverty and the results from it, carried out in 2017, are not available due to quality issues in the data collected.

The World Bank paper appears to be based on unrealistic and unviability assumptions. First, the sample design of the NSS and CMIE surveys are different. The NSS adopts multistage stratified sampling whereas CMIE uses rotational sampling. Further, CPHS households have unequal sampling probabilities as households on the main streets have a higher likelihood of selection. Even the basic definition of the household is different in the two surveys. Unlike the NSS, the CPHS does not conduct a listing exercise and instead uses projections of households and population growth to construct sampling weights. It has been stated by

various scholars that the NSS adequately captures information from the households at the lower end of consumption distribution but inadequately for those at the upper end. However, a lot of doubts have been raised about CMIE data in terms of its representativeness.

Second, NSS collects information on more than 345 unique items to arrive at consumption expenditure estimates whereas CMIE does so through 114 items. While NSS expenditure is based on a recall period of 30 days for food items and others over 365 days, the CPHS consumption expenditure is based on a recall period of the last four months. The attempt to make a comparison by using subgroups of expenditure like food, non-food, and durables may also not be of great help since errors in data collection from the two sources will not necessarily cancel out, but may be additive due to different sets of items.

Third, there is a time difference between the data used from the NSS survey, which is for the year 2011, and the CMIE survey from 2015 to 2019. This lack of comparable years for the development of the model has introduced another error.

Fourth, the change of weights in the CMIE survey at the household level using NFHS and other surveys may not correctly reflect the weighting pattern since the changes in con-

sumption expenditure for a long period can bring out required demographic and other changes.

Truly speaking, the measurement of poverty at the national level does not serve any policy purpose. One has to go down to the state, district, block and village level to identify pockets of poverty to develop and deliver special programmes needed in each case. India already has a measurement of multi-dimensional poverty that gives a better understanding of deprivation. Another initiative is the aspirational districts programme, which is being extended to the block level and provides the direction and location where specific interventions are required.

If at all the World Bank wants to estimate the poverty in India, it should use only the CMIE data which is available from 2015 onwards and measure changes in the poverty ratios, given the structural limitations of the survey. Alternatively, one can wait for the results of the survey that will be undertaken by the National Statistical Office between July 2022 and June 2023. The results are likely to be available a year or so after the completion of the survey.

Kumar is Senior Fellow NITI Aayog, Verma is former DG MOSPI, and Srivastava is former Secretary MOSPI

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TIME FOR AMENDS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Cornering a friend' (IE, June 11). There was a certain inevitability about the criticism of Muslims and Islam by right-wing elements in India provoking a backlash from Islamic countries, considering the rising and largely unchecked tempo of such criticism over the past few years. Now that a red line has been drawn, the government must do everything in its power to stop the minority baiters and allay the fears of Muslim countries, most of who are in our neighbourhood.

Hemant Contractor, Pune

Mahotsav at Brahma Kumari's ceremony, PM Narendra Modi said, "There is a tendency to tarnish the image of India, including at the international level". He urged everyone to tell the "truth about the rumours being spread about India". Ironically, the damaging jolt came from BJP's own stable in the form of insulting remarks against Prophet Mohammed, with the consequent international outrage from the Islamic world upsetting old ties. In an interdependent world all nations have to balance their domestic and global politics.

L R Murmu, Delhi

DOUBLE STANDARDS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Cornering a friend' (IE, June 11). Some needless religious comments by the now-suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma have created a huge furor within and outside the country. Violent agitations in different regions point towards a hard-to-miss orchestration. While a somnambulant opposition will not mind fishing in troubled waters, India's international diplomacy is being severely tested as local pressure is making even friendly foreign countries up the ante against India. BJP is now learning the hard way that divisive politics may lead to electoral gains, but at the cost of international goodwill.

Vijai Pant, Hempur

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Cornering a friend' (IE, June 11). While delivering a keynote address in January this year, during Azadi Ka Amrit

Deepak Singhal, Noida

TOP OF THE WORLD



Prince Charles is said to have called the policy 'appalling'. File

UNITED KINGDOM

Rwanda ruling appealed amid Prince's scoff

OPponents of the British government's plan to deport migrants to Rwanda are preparing for an appeals court hearing Monday amid the political backlash following reports that Prince Charles had privately described the policy as "appalling." A coalition of groups including immigration rights advocates and public employee unions will seek to reverse a lower court ruling allowing the first deportation flight to go ahead on Tuesday. The debate filled Britain's news media over the weekend after the *Times of London* reported that an unidentified person had heard Prince Charles express opposition to the policy "several times" in private conversations. AP

EGYPT

UN-brokered talks on Libya polls resume

LIBYAN OFFICIALS returned to the Egyptian capital Sunday for a third round of talks on constitutional amendments for elections. The North African nation once again finds itself at a political impasse with two rival administrations claiming legitimacy. The talks in Cairo come on the heels of clashes between rival militias that caused residents of the Libyan capital of Tripoli to panic and revived nightmares of previous bouts of fighting. AP

THE KOREAS

Seoul says North fired multiple artillery shots

NORTH KOREA on Sunday fired multiple artillery shots between 8:07 a.m. and 11:03 a.m. local time, South Korea's military said, a day after leader Kim Jong Un vowed to boost the reclusive nation's military power. The Joint Chiefs of Staff said the shots were of a traditional type, with relatively short range and low altitude. The firing comes as Kim on Saturday presented goals to boost the country's military power and defence research, as it concluded The Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea held last week. REUTERS



CHINA TIGHTENS CURBS

Workers set up metal barriers around shops and restaurants in Beijing, Sunday. Officials have called a Covid outbreak linked to a bar in the capital city 'ferocious', with some 166 cases detected since last week. Reuters

Russia 'destroys' Ukraine depot stocked with Western weapons

REUTERS
KYIV, JUNE 12

RUSSIAN FORCES fired cruise missiles to destroy a large depot containing US and European weapons in western Ukraine's Ternopil region, Interfax reported on Sunday, as street fighting raged in the eastern city of Sievierodonetsk.

The governor of the Ternopil region said a rocket attack on the city of Chortkiv fired from the Black Sea had partly destroyed a military facility, injuring 22 people. A local official said there were no weapons stored there.

Reuters could not independently confirm the differing accounts.

Local officials said Russian forces also blew up a bridge linking the embattled Ukrainian city of Sievierodonetsk to another city across the river, cutting off a possible evacuation route for civilians.

Sieverodonetsk has become epicentre of the battle for control over the industrialised Donbas region in the east, made up of Luhansk and Donetsk provinces. Luhansk Governor Serhiy Gaidai said on Sunday that Ukrainian and Russian forces were still fighting street by street in Sievierodonetsk.

Russian forces have taken most of the city but Ukrainian troops remain in control of an industrial area and chemical plant where hundreds of civilians are sheltering, he said.

gaidai said Russians had de-



Ukrainian soldiers in action in Donetsk Region. Reuters

stroyed a bridge over the Siverskiy Donets River linking Sievierodonetsk with its twin city of Lysychansk.

Moscow has repeatedly slammed the United States and other nations for supplying Ukraine with weapons. President Vladimir Putin said earlier this month that Russia would strike new targets if the West supplied longer-range missiles to Ukraine for use in high-precision mobile rocket systems.

Ukrainian leaders have renewed pleas to Western countries in recent days to speed up deliveries of heavy weapons as Russian forces pound the east of the country with artillery.

Meanwhile, a former British soldier was killed fighting for Ukraine in Sievierodonetsk, his family said on social media.

NATO CHIEF: TURKEY'S TERROR CONCERNS ARE 'LEGITIMATE'

Helsinki: NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said Sunday that Turkey has "legitimate concerns" over terrorism and other issues that need to be taken seriously. Turkey has accused Finland and Sweden of supporting Kurdish militants and says it will not back the two Nordic nations joining NATO. Speaking at a news conference in Finland, Stoltenberg said: "These are legitimate concerns. This is about terrorism, it's about weapons exports." AP

French cast their ballots as Macron battles for majority

REUTERS
PARIS, JUNE 12

FRENCH VOTERS cast their ballots on Sunday in the first of two rounds that will decide whether President Emmanuel Macron gets a working majority in parliament or ends up without the support needed to drive through his reform agenda.

Less than two months after re-election, Macron faces a strong challenge from a united left-wing bloc that polls show could deprive the president of an

outright majority. Government insiders expect a relatively poor showing in Sunday's first round for Macron's coalition "Ensemble", with record numbers of voters seen abstaining. Hard-left firebrand Jean-Luc Melenchon's bloc hopes to capitalise on anger over the rising cost of living.

At risk is Macron's ability to pass his reform agenda, including a pension reform he says is essential to restore public finances. His opponents are pushing to cut the pension age and launch a big spending drive.

AFTER RULING BY ISRAELI COURT

Largest Palestinian displacement in decades looms

REUTERS
MASAFER YATTA, JUNE 12

SOME 1,200 Palestinians in the occupied West Bank region of Masafir Yatta face the risk of removal to make way for an army firing zone after a decades-long legal battle that ended last month in Israel's highest court.

The ruling opened the way for one of the largest displacements since Israel captured the territory in the 1967 Middle East war. But residents are refusing to leave, hoping their resilience and inter-

BREAKTHROUGH ENDS YEARS-LONG IMPASSE

US senators reach bipartisan deal on gun safety measures

Reform outline includes significant provision to address 'boyfriend loophole'

EMILY COCHRANE & ANNIE KARNI
WASHINGTON, JUNE 12

SENATE NEGOTIATORS announced on Sunday they had agreed on a bipartisan outline for a narrow set of gun safety measures with sufficient support to move through the evenly divided chamber, a significant step toward ending a yearslong congressional impasse on the issue.

The plan, endorsed by 10 Republicans and 10 Democrats, would include funding for mental health resources, boosting school safety and grants for states to implement so-called red flag laws that allow authorities to confiscate guns from people deemed to be dangerous. It would also expand the nation's background check system to include juvenile records for any prospective gun buyer under the age of 21.

Most notably, it includes a provision to address what is known as the "boyfriend loophole," which would prohibit dating partners — not just spouses — from owning guns if they had been convicted of domestic violence. The framework says that



The plan includes funding for boosting school safety. Reuters

convicted domestic violence abusers and individuals subject to domestic violence restraining orders would be included in criminal background checks.

The gun violence agreement was announced on the sixth anniversary of the mass shooting at Pulse, a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, where a gunman killed 49 people in what was then the deadliest shooting in modern American history.

"Today, we are announcing a common-sense, bipartisan proposal to protect America's children, keep our schools safe and reduce the threat of violence

across our country," the 20 senators said in a joint statement. "Families are scared, and it is our duty to come together and get something done that will help restore their sense of safety and security in their communities."

Negotiators must now translate the broad principles of the framework into legislative text, a far more fraught process, and secure enough support in both chambers for the legislation to become law.

Senator Chuck Schumer of New York, the majority leader, pledged to put the agreement up for a vote once the legislation

'FOOD CRISIS COULD LAST UNTIL 2024'

Desperate for oil, Lanka PM says open to buying more from Russia

KRUTIKA PATHI
COLOMBO, JUNE 12

SRI LANKA may be compelled to buy more oil from Russia as the island nation hunts desperately for fuel amid an unprecedented economic crisis, the newly appointed prime minister said.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said he would first look to other sources, but would be open to buying more crude from Moscow.

Western nations largely have cut off energy imports from Russia in line with sanctions over its war on Ukraine.

In a wide-ranging interview on Saturday, Wickremesinghe also indicated he would be willing to accept more financial help from China, despite his country's mounting debt.

And while he acknowledged that Sri Lanka's current predicament is of "its own making", he said the war in Ukraine is mak-



At a filling station in Colombo. PTI

ing it even worse — and that dire food shortages could continue until 2024. He said Russia had also offered wheat to Sri Lanka.

Wickremesinghe, who is also the finance minister, was speaking one day shy of a month after he took over for a sixth time as PM.

Two weeks ago, the country bought a 90,000-metric-ton shipment of Russian crude to restart its only refinery, the energy minister told reporters.

comment directly on those reports, and said he did not know whether more orders were in the pipeline. But he said Sri Lanka desperately needs fuel, and is currently trying to get oil and coal from the country's traditional suppliers in the Middle East.

"If we can get from any other sources, we will get from there. Otherwise (we) may have to go to Russia again," he said.

Sri Lanka has remained neutral in the Russia-Ukraine war. AP

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Sri Lanka has remained neutral in the Russia-Ukraine war. AP

SHANGRI-LA MEET

US trying to hijack support in Asia: China

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SINGAPORE, JUNE 12

CHINA'S DEFENCE minister accused the United States on Sunday of trying to "hijack" the support of countries in the Asia-Pacific region to turn them against Beijing, saying Washington

is seeking to advance its own interests "under the guise of multilateralism."

Defence Minister Gen. Wei Fenghe lashed out at US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin, rejecting his "smearing accusation" the day before at the Shangri-La Dialogue that China was causing instability with its claim to the self-governing island of Taiwan and its increased military activity in the area.

Austin had stressed the need for multilateral partnerships with nations in the Indo-Pacific, which Wei suggested was an attempt to back China into a corner.

"No country should bully others...," Wei said. "The strategy is an attempt to build an exclusive small group to hijack countries and target one specific country."

Pak soldier killed in gunfight with militants near Afghan border

Islamabad: A Pakistani soldier was killed during an exchange of fire with militants in the tribal district of North Waziristan near the Afghan border, the military said Sunday.

The shootout took place in the Datta Khel area and security forces quickly started a search-and-clearance operation to locate militants who fled, the military said in a statement.

No militant group immediately claimed responsibility. The militant Pakistani Taliban recently extended a cease-fire agreement and are holding talks with Pakistani authorities.

North Waziristan and other tribal districts served as a safe haven for local and foreign militants until 2014, when the military carried out a massive operation to clear the area of militants. But they still attack security forces sporadically. AP

50 YEARS AFTER RESEARCHERS LET HUNDREDS OF BLACK MEN DIE

New York fund apologizes for role in Tuskegee syphilis study

JAY REEVES
ALABAMA, JUNE 12

FOR ALMOST 40 years starting in the 1930s, as government researchers purposely let hundreds of Black men die of syphilis in Alabama so they could study the disease, a foundation in New York covered funeral expenses for the deceased. The payments were vital to survivors of the victims in a time and place ravaged by poverty and racism.

Altruistic as they might sound, the checks — \$100 at most — were no simple act of

charity: They were part of an almost unimaginable scheme. To get the money, widows or other loved ones had to consent to letting doctors slice open the bodies of the dead men for autopsies that would detail the ravages of a disease the victims were told was "bad blood."

Fifty years after the infamous Tuskegee syphilis study was revealed to the public and halted, the organization that made those funeral payments, the Milbank Memorial Fund, publicly apologized Saturday to descendants of the study's victims. The move is rooted in America's

racial reckoning after George Floyd's murder by police in 2020.

"It was wrong. We are ashamed of our role. We are deeply sorry," said the president of the fund, Christopher F. Koller.

The apology and an accompanying monetary donation to a descendants' group, the Voices for Our Fathers Legacy Foundation, were presented during a ceremony in Tuskegee at a gathering of children and other relatives of men who were part of the study.

Ended in 1905 by Elizabeth Milbank Anderson, part of a wealthy and well-con-



President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore with Herman Shaw, a Tuskegee Syphilis Study victim, in 1997. AP File

nected New York family, the fund was one of the nation's first private foundations. With an early focus on child welfare and public health, today it concentrates on health policy at the state level.

Koller said there's no easy way to explain how its leaders in the 1930s decided to make the payments, or to justify what happened. Generations later, some Black people in the United States still fear government health care because of what's called the "Tuskegee effect."

Starting in 1932, government medical workers in rural

Alabama withheld treatment from unsuspecting Black men infected with syphilis so doctors could track the disease and dissect their bodies afterward. About 620 men were studied, and roughly 430 of them had syphilis. Reverby's study said Milbank recorded giving a total of \$20,150 for about 234 autopsies.

Revealed by AP in 1972, the study ended and the men sued, resulting in a \$9 million settlement from which descendants are still seeking the remaining funds, described in court records as "relatively small." AP



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

THIS WORD MEANS

RAMSAY HUNT SYNDROME

Rare disorder Justin Bieber is suffering from. What causes it, how does it manifest itself, and what is the treatment?

POP PERFORMER Justin Bieber said last week that a neurological disorder, called the Ramsay Hunt Syndrome, has temporarily paralysed one side of his face, leading to the recent cancellations of his shows. He posted an Instagram video where he says: "As you can see, this eye is not blinking. I can't smile on this side of my face... So there's full paralysis on this side of my face."

THE CONDITION: Ramsay Hunt Syndrome is rare neurological disease in which a virus, Varicella Zoster, causes inflammation of the nerves involved in facial movements. When the nerves get inflamed, they lose their ability to function, leading to temporary facial palsy or paralysis.

"Ramsay Hunt Syndrome is the viral infection impacting the 7th cranial nerve that is involved in facial movements. The inflammation caused by the Varicella Zoster Virus makes the nerve ineffective," said Dr (Col) J D Mukherji, Principal Director and Head of Neurology, Max Healthcare at Saket, Delhi.

SYMPTOMS: The symptoms include painful, red rash and blisters in and around the ear, and facial paralysis on the same side. Patients also report hearing loss in the impacted ear, apart from ringing sounds.

"You can get a rash on the eardrum, the ear canal and the earlobe. Rashes can also appear inside the mouth, on the tongue. There is hearing loss, vertigo or spinning sensation. It causes weakness of one side of the face and causes difficulty in closing one eye and eating as food falls off from the affected side. There is drooping of the face," said Dr Mukherji.

Initially, the patient may complain of facial weakness and a little difficulty in closing one eye. The disease fully manifests in two to three days. Prompt treatment re-



Bieber posted on Instagram saying he has Ramsay Hunt Syndrome. Reuters

duce chances of severe nerve damage.

TREATMENT: It is treated using anti-viral drugs, steroids and physiotherapy. "Facial exercises are very important. Patients need to protect their eyes. When one eye doesn't close, there is a chance of developing corneal aberration. Patients must use tear drops and use eye protection. They should wear glasses when they go out, and tape the eye that has been impacted when they sleep at night," Dr Mukherji said.

Patients get cured within 15 days to three months of starting the treatment. "Near-complete resolution happens. Even the hearing loss is reversible. Little bit of residual facial palsy may remain. There may be just a little bit of lag in the closure of the eye later on. That's very minor," Dr Mukherji said.

NOT CONTAGIOUS: The disease is not contagious but can lead to chickenpox in those not vaccinated for the disease. Until the blister scabs fall off, patients are advised to avoid contact with vulnerable people.

SAURABH KAPOOR

SIMPLY PUT

BrahMos, 21 and developing

The versatile supersonic cruise missile system was first tested on June 12, 2001. A look at its journey from its conception to development and testing; its capabilities across platforms; and upgrades in the works.

SUSHANT KULKARNI
PUNE, JUNE 12

ON JUNE 12, 2001, the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was first tested from a land-based launcher in Chandipur. In the 21 years since, BrahMos has been upgraded several times, with versions tested on land, air and sea platforms. A look at the 21-year journey of the versatile asset, which recently bagged an export order from the Philippines.

Background and development

Since the early 1980s, the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme, conceived and led by Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, started developing a range of missiles including Prithvi, Agni, Trishul, Akash and Nag, with a wide spectrum of capabilities and ranges.

In the early 1990s, India's strategic leadership felt the need for cruise missiles — guided missiles that traverse the majority of their flight path at almost constant speed and deliver large warheads over long distances with high precision. The need was felt primarily following the use of cruise missiles in the Gulf War.

An Inter-Governmental Agreement was signed with Russia in Moscow in 1998 by Dr Kalam, who headed the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), and N V Mikhailov, Russia's then Deputy Defence Minister. This led to the formation of BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture between DRDO and NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPOM), the Indian side holding 50.5% and the Russians 49.5%.

In 1999, work on development of missiles began in labs of DRDO and NPOM after BrahMos Aerospace received funds from the two governments. The first successful test in 2001 was conducted from a specially designed land-based launcher. The missile system has since reached some key milestones, with the first major export order of \$375 million received from the Philippines Navy this year.

Strategic significance

BrahMos is a two-stage missile with a solid propellant booster engine. Its first stage brings the missile to supersonic speed and then gets separated. The liquid ramjet or the second stage then takes the missile closer to three times the speed of sound in cruise phase. The missile has a very low radar signature, making it stealthy, and can achieve a variety of trajectories. The 'fire and forget' type missile can achieve a cruising altitude of 15 km and a terminal altitude as low as 10 m to hit the target.



BrahMos systems on display during the 2018 Republic Day Parade. File

MILESTONES

2001: Maiden launch from land-based launcher in anti-ship mode from ITR, Chandipur

2002: Launch in land-to-sea configuration from ITR

2003: Maiden launch from Naval warship

2005: Navy receives first batch of BrahMos

2007: BrahMos land system delivered

to Indian Army

2013: Launch from a submerged platform in Bay of Bengal

2017: Cruise missile's maiden launch from Su-30MKI

2020: Su-30MKI equipped with BrahMos inducted in an IAF formation

2022: First mega export order from Philippines Navy

Cruise missiles such as BrahMos, called "standoff range weapons", are fired from a range far enough to allow the attacker to evade defensive counter-fire. These are in the arsenal of most major militaries in the world.

The BrahMos has three times the speed, 2.5 times flight range and higher range compared to subsonic cruise missiles. With missiles made available for export, the platform is also seen as a key asset in defence diplomacy.

An extended range version of the BrahMos air-launched missile was tested from a Sukhoi-30 MKI recently. On January 11, an advanced sea-to-sea variant of BrahMos was tested from the newly commissioned *INS Visakhapatnam*.

The BrahMos is also said to have been involved in a recent controversy. Pakistan claimed that an unarmed Indian missile had landed in its territory on March 9, and the

Ministry of Defence said a technical malfunction had led to accidental firing. While the government, which ordered a high-level court of enquiry, did not officially identify the missile, experts felt its trajectory suggested the signature of BrahMos.

Present and future

Senior DRDO scientists say what makes the missile system unparalleled is its extreme accuracy and versatility. Land-based BrahMos formations along the borders, BrahMos-equipped Sukhoi-30s at bases in Northern theatre and Southern peninsula, and BrahMos-capable ships and submarines deployed in sea together form a triad.

With requirements evolving in multi-dimensional warfare, the BrahMos is undergoing a number of upgrades and work is on to de-

velop versions with higher ranges, manoeuvrability and accuracy.

Versions currently being tested include ranges up to 350 km, as compared to the original's 290 km. Versions with even higher ranges, up to 800 km, and with hypersonic speed are said to be on cards. Efforts are also on to reduce the size and signature of existing versions and augment its capabilities further.

Versions deployed in all three Armed forces are still being tested regularly, and so are versions currently under development.

LAND-BASED: The land-based BrahMos complex has four to six mobile autonomous launchers, each with three missiles on board that can be fired almost simultaneously. Batteries of the land-based systems have been deployed along India's land borders in various theatres.

The upgraded land attack version, with capability of cruising at 2.8 Mach, can hit targets at a range up to 400 km with precision. Advanced versions of higher range and speed up to 5 Mach are said to be under development. The ground systems of BrahMos are described as 'tidy' as they have very few components.

SHIP-BASED: The Navy began inducting BrahMos on its frontline warships from 2005. These have the capability to hit sea-based targets beyond the radar horizon. The Naval version has been successful in sea-to-sea and sea-to-land modes. The BrahMos can be launched as a single unit or in a salvo of up to eight missiles, separated by 2.5-second intervals. These can target a group of frigates with modern missile defence systems.

AIR-LAUNCHED: On November 22, 2017, BrahMos was successfully flight-tested for the first time from a Sukhoi-30MKI against a sea-based target in the Bay of Bengal. It has since been successfully tested multiple times.

BrahMos-equipped Sukhoi-30s, which have a range of 1,500 km at a stretch without mid-air refuelling, are considered key strategic deterrence for adversaries both along land borders and in the strategically important Indian Ocean Region. The IAF is said to be integrating BrahMos with 40 Sukhoi-30 fighter jets across the various bases.

SUBMARINE-LAUNCHED: This version can be launched from around 50 m below the water surface. The canister-stored missile is launched vertically from the pressure hull of the submarine, and uses different settings for underwater and out-of-the-water flights. This version was successfully tested first in March 2013 from a submerged platform off the coast of Visakhapatnam.

Extra chromosome in 1 in 500 men, disease risk higher: study

AROUND ONE in 500 men could be carrying an extra X or Y chromosome, most of them unaware, according to researchers at the universities of Cambridge and Exeter. This puts them at increased risk of diseases such as type 2 diabetes, atherosclerosis and thrombosis, the researchers report in a study published in *Genetics in Medicine*.

They analysed genetic data collected on over 200,000 men aged 40-70 from UK Biobank, a biomedical and anonymised database on half a million UK participants. They found 356 men who carried either an extra X chromosome or an extra Y chromosome.

Sex chromosomes determine our biological sex. Men typically have one X and one Y chromosome, while women have two Xs. However, some men also have XXY or XYY.

In the study, the researchers identified 213 men with an extra X chromosome and 143 men with an extra Y chromosome. As the participants in UK Biobank tend to be 'healthier' than the general population, this suggests that around one in 500 men may carry an extra

X or Y chromosome, they said.

Only a small minority of these men had a diagnosis of sex chromosome abnormality on their medical records or by self-report: 23% men with XXY and only one of the 143 XYY men (0.7%) had a known diagnosis.

By linking genetic data to routine health records, the team found that men with XXY have much higher chances of reproductive problems, including a three-fold higher risk of delayed puberty and a four-fold higher risk of being childless. These men also had significantly lower blood concentrations of testosterone. Men with XYY appeared to have a normal reproductive function.

Men with either XXY or XYY had higher risks of several other health conditions. They were three times more likely to have type 2 diabetes, six times more likely to develop venous thrombosis, three times as likely to experience pulmonary embolism, and four times more likely to suffer from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

SOURCE: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY



PAPER CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

Why babies must only be breastfed for 6 months

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

IN RECENTLY published guidelines on nutrition, the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences recommended that newborns be given a mixture of ghee and honey, a paste of gold, and several herbs some of which contain psychoactive ingredients. The guidelines recommend just honey and butter with some herbs on the first day of birth, ghee with herbs on the second day, and colostrum (mother's first milk) with ghee and honey only on the third day of birth.

Several doctors have called out these guidelines for contradicting the proven benefits of breastfeeding. Some have noted that feeding newborns honey could lead to a rare but serious infection called botulism.

When should breastfeeding start?

Doctors say breastfeeding should start as

soon as possible, preferably within one hour of birth, and babies should be exclusively breastfed for six months. "It is important that babies start breastfeeding soon after birth; the colostrum is rich in antibodies and protects them from infections. In fact, honey, sugar, salt, nuts, and cow's milk should not be given to a child until age 1," said Dr Nitin Verma, director, Madhukar Rainbow Children's Hospital.

He said consuming honey before that age is linked to botulism, poisoning caused by a bacterial infection that leads to weakness of the muscles of the eye, face, mouth, and throat, which can spread to the torso and legs as well. Although spores of the bacterium are widely present in the environment, contaminated honey is one of the reasons for infant botulism. The World Health Organization, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Mayo Clinic all recommend against honey being given to children below age 1.

Dr Roopali Dewan, professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at Safdarjung Hospital, said:

"Early breastfeeding also increases the quantity of milk expressed by the mother and increases their bonding. In our hospital, our nurses ensure that breastfeeding starts within the labour room. They tell mothers that the children should not consume anything else, not even water, for six months."

Why six months?

"Breast milk contains adequate calories needed for up to six months. Babies can consume only a certain amount of liquids. Say they can consume 800 ml fluids — if you give them 100 ml of water, they miss out on calories contained in 100 ml of milk," Dr Verma said.

Semi-solid food should be introduced after six months. "It is only after six months, when the infant's weight doubles, that breastmilk isn't enough and they need complementary nutrition in the form of semi-solid foods," said Dr Suneela Garg, professor of community medicine at Maulana Azad Medical College.

Dr Verma said, "This sort of messaging

[about honey and herbs] just confuses people, especially those who aren't very educated. It is good to have one clear message that there should be exclusive breastfeeding for six months."

How widely are breastfeeding guidelines followed in India?

"Despite our best efforts, only about 56% to 60% of women breastfeed their children. Some aren't able to, but some also go for formula milk. But that is not recommended. Bottles are actually a major killer. For bottle feeding, it has to be sterilised for 10 minutes in rolling boiled water after every use. It is not possible to maintain 100% sterilisation all the time and this leads to diarrhoea in children," Dr Garg said.

"It is also difficult to adjust the proportions of the formula. People tend to put say one spoon in one glass of water, but that is actually dilute. The formula box should get over in eight to ten days ideally and it is very expensive. But less feed might lead to malnutrition," she said.

Food safety index: how it is worked out, how the states have performed

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

LAST WEEK, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) released the State Food Safety Index (SFSI) 2021-22. A look at how the index assesses and ranks states, and their performances.

What is the SFSI?

Developed by the FSSAI, the index aims to measure the performance of states and Union Territories on selected "parameters" of food safety. According to the FSSAI, the index is aimed at encouraging states and UTs to "improve their performance and work towards establishing a proper food safety ecosystem in their jurisdiction..."

The SFSI is released annually for a financial year. For instance, the latest SFSI, released on World Food Safety Day, June 7, is for the fiscal 2021-22. This is the fourth edition of the SFSI since its inception in 2018-19.

Which are these food safety parameters?

The SFSI takes into account the perform-

ance of the states on five key parameters, each of which is assigned a different weightage in the assessment.

HUMAN RESOURCES & INSTITUTIONAL DATA: This carries a weightage of 20% and measures the "availability of human resources like number of Food Safety Officers, Designated Officers facility of adjudications and appellate tribunals, functioning of State/ District level Steering Committees, pendency of cases and their monitoring and participation in Central Advisory Committee meetings of the Food Authority".

COMPLIANCE: This carries the highest weightage, 30%. "This is the most important parameter and measures overall coverage of food businesses in licensing & registration commensurate with size and population of the State/UTs, special drives and camps organized, yearly increase, promptness and effectiveness in issue of state licenses/ registrations," the FSSAI says. "Promptness" in attending to consumer grievances, and availability of a help desk and web portals, too, come under this parameter.

FOOD TESTING—INFRASTRUCTURE AND SURVEILLANCE: Weighted at 20%, this

measures the "availability of adequate testing infrastructure with trained manpower in the States/UTs for testing food samples". The FSSAI says, "The States/UTs with NABL accredited labs and adequate manpower in the labs score more in this parameter." It takes into account the "availability and effective utilization" of Mobile Food Testing Labs and registration and utilization of InFoNet (Indian Food Laboratories Network).

TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING: This parameter carries the lowest weightage, at 10%. It measures states' performance on training and capacity building of regulatory staff.

CONSUMER EMPOWERMENT: This carries a weightage of 20%. It evaluates the states and UTs on their performance on various consumer empowering initiatives of FSSAI, such as participation in Food Fortification, Eat Right Campus, BHOG (Blissful Hygienic Offering to God), Hygiene Rating of Restaurants, Clean Street Food Hubs, etc.

Besides, the states' initiatives for creating consumer awareness are also considered under this parameter.

TOP & BOTTOM IN EACH GROUP

RANK	STATE/UT	SCORE
LARGE STATES		
1	Tamil Nadu	82
2	Gujarat	77.5
3	Maharashtra	70
15	Telangana	34.5
16	Bihar	30
17	Andhra	26
SMALL STATES		
1	Goa	56
2	Manipur	44
7	Mizoram	22.5
8	Arunachal	21
UNION TERRITORIES		
1	J&K	68.5
2	Delhi	66
7	Dadra & NH & Daman & Diu	27.5
8	Lakshadweep	16

How is the states and UTs assessed?

The states and Union Territories are not assessed and ranked together. They are segregated into three categories — large states, small states and UTs — and assessed separately within their respective categories, based on their performance on the selected food safety parameters.

"The assessment and evaluation of each category are done by separate teams comprising of outside experts for food testing and food & nutrition professionals in addition to FSSAI officials," the FSSAI says.

These expert teams examine details received from the states and UTs. They also interact with the states/UTs through video-conferencing for verification and confirmation of data.

How have the states and UTs performed this year?

In the category of the 20 large states, Tamil Nadu with an overall score of 82 out of 100 has performed the best and been ranked 1st on SFSI 2021-22, while Andhra Pradesh with an overall score of 26 has been ranked at the bottom — 17th place (some states share a common rank).

Following Tamil Nadu in the rankings of the larger states are Gujarat (rank 2nd with a score 77.5), Maharashtra (3rd with 70), Himachal Pradesh (4th with 65.5) and West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh (sharing 5th with a score of 58.5).

Bihar (rank 16th, score 30), Telangana (rank 15th, score 34.5), Assam (rank 14th, score 35) and Chhattisgarh and Haryana (rank 13th, score 38) join Andhra Pradesh in the bottom 5 among the large states on the SFSI for the large states.

Among the remaining 8 large states, Kerala with a score of 57 has been ranked at 6th, Uttarakhand (score 55) at 7th, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh (both 54.5) at 8th, Karnataka (score 52.5) at 9th, Rajasthan (score 50.5) at 10th, Punjab (score 45) at 11th and Jharkhand (41.5) at 12th.

Among the eight small states, Goa with a score of 56 has been ranked at the top, while Arunachal Pradesh (rank 8th and score 21) is at the bottom.

Among the eight Union Territories, Jammu and Kashmir with a score of 68.5 has been ranked 1st and Lakshadweep (score 16) as the bottom. Delhi with a score of 66 has been ranked at 2nd place.

16 ECONOMY

AT 12.1% AS OF MAY 20, COMPARED TO 6% GROWTH IN THE YEAR-AGO PERIOD

Bank credit offtake ticks up even as interest rates rise: Services lead

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, JUNE 12

CREDIT OFFTAKE in the banking system is showing signs of a pickup at a time when interest rates are on the upswing. The year-on-year bank credit growth rate has crossed the 12 per cent level to 12.1 per cent as of May 20, 2022, as against 6 per cent growth in the same period of last year, according to the latest Reserve Bank data.

In absolute numbers, bank credit has gone up by Rs 13 lakh crore as of May 20 to Rs 120.27 lakh crore, as against Rs 6.08 lakh crore a year ago.

Bank credit to the services sector and personal loan segment has been growing faster than other segments. While credit offtake by the services sector has gone up by over Rs 3 lakh crore, personal loan segment, which includes housing,

vehicle and credit cards, rose by over 3.4 lakh crore.

"Bank credit offtake has gradually improved in the recent months, supported by both resilience of the banking system and progressive normalisation of economic activity," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said while unveiling the monetary policy last week. The RBI has jacked up repo rate by 90 basis points since May this year, making borrowing through the repo-linked lending rate (RLLR) costlier for borrowers. However, credit growth can hit the speed breaker if the economy doesn't improve and the capex plan of the government and industry slows down, said an official of a bank.

This (credit growth) was driven by the low-base effect, shift to bank borrowings due to high capital market rates, sustained rise in retail loans and higher working capital require-

E Positive outlook

AFTER MODEST credit growth in recent years, the outlook for bank credit growth is expected to remain positive due to economic expansion, rise in government and private capital expenditure, rising commodity prices and retail credit push. "The medium-term prospects look promising with diminished corporate stress and a substantial buffer for provisions. CPI inflation too is trending up, which is likely to add to the credit growth," it said.

On the other hand, rising rates could offset this growth to some extent by curbing the demand for credit, CareEdge said. The retail loan segment is expected to do well as compared with the industry and service segments.

The ongoing Russia-Ukraine war is likely to have a limited impact on the credit growth in India. Meanwhile, any subsequent Covid-19 variants, if severe, could lead to lockdowns and cause a slowdown in the economy.

With the introduction of the external benchmark lending rate, the rate of transmission will be faster and higher.

In addition to that, the deposits in the banking system have already started moving up from the extremely low levels, and this will again be transmitted to higher MCLR for wholesale lending.

"The sensitivity of interest rate over aggregate demand has increased in a meaningful way. Therefore, a faster and higher transmission of interest rate could become onerous for a section of the borrowers. The situation will aggravate if the real income does not improve," said a report by India Ratings.

On the other hand, deposit growth has remained sluggish at 9.3 per cent (Rs 14.07 lakh crore) as on May 20 this year, as against 9.7 per cent a year ago even as interest rates started moving up.

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MARKET WATCH

TOP-10 VALUED COS LOSE ₹2L CR IN M-CAP

New Delhi: The market capitalisation (m-cap) of the top-10 most valued companies eroded by over Rs 2.29 lakh crore last week, with Life Insurance Corporation taking the biggest hit. The Sensex tumbled 1,465.79 points or 2.63 per cent. PTI

FOR \$264 MN

Tencent buys stake in Flipkart from Binny Bansal

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
BENGALURU, JUNE 12

CHINESE TECHNOLOGY major Tencent has bought a stake worth \$264 million (Rs 2,060 crore) in Walmart-owned Flipkart from co-founder Binny Bansal, through its European subsidiary, according to PTI.

Binny Bansal holds around 1.84 per cent stake in Flipkart after selling part of his stake to Tencent Cloud Europe BV. The transaction was completed on October 26, 2021 and was shared with government authorities at the beginning of the current financial year, the news report stated.

Post the transaction, Tencent's arm holds 0.72 per cent stake in Flipkart, which is valued at around \$264 million, as per the last valuation of \$37.6 billion disclosed by the e-commerce firm in July 2021.

Flipkart had raised \$3.6 billion that time in a funding round led by Singapore's sovereign wealth fund GIC, CPP Investments, SoftBank Vision Fund 2 and Walmart.

A slew of investors like DisruptAD, Qatar Investment Authority, Khazanah Nasional Berhad, Tencent, Willoughby Capital, Antara Capital, Franklin Templeton and Tiger Global also

participated in that round.

Sources said the transaction took place in Singapore but Flipkart informed Indian authorities about it as a responsible entity, and that the transaction does not fall under the purview of 'Press Note 3', which calls for scrutiny of investment that any Indian company gets from countries sharing land borders with India.

While there are several companies operating in India in which Tencent has made investments, the government has banned some gaming apps including PUBG Mobile and PUBG Mobile Lite, which were published by Tencent Group.

E-mail queries sent to Flipkart and Bansal did not elicit any reply, according to the PTI report. FE

PUBLIC NOTICE

That my clients Sh. Santosh Kumar Gupta S/o Lt. Sh. Phool Chand Gupta R/O-3023, Gali No. 12, Hanuman Mandir Walli Gali, Wazirabad, Jangpura, North Delhi-110084 alongwith Smt. Anika Gupta W/o Sh. Santosh Kumar Gupta R/O-3023, Gali No. 12, Wazirabad Village, Hanuman Mandir Walli Gali, Buzar, North Delhi-110084 both are the legal owners of the properties/business. Clients have decided to disown their son, daughter in law and grandchildren i.e.:- 1. Sh. Abhishek Gupta, Shriya Gupta & Grand-Children:- Angel Aggarwal, Yash Aggarwal, Sanvi Aggarwal. My clients have decided that in future their above mentioned Son, Daughter in law and Grandchildren shall not have a share ownership in any of the movable or immovable properties.

SUDHANSHU (Advocate)
Enr. No. D/5682/2020
Ch. No. 578, Westam Wing, Tis Hazar Courts, Delhi

MARKETS WATCH
FOREIGN PORTFOLIO INVESTORS

FPIs step up equity exit, pull out ₹1.8 lakh cr so far in 2022

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

WARY OF the scenario on the global and domestic fronts, foreign investors continued to withdraw from domestic equity markets and pulled out close to Rs 14,000 crore in this month so far.

With this, net outflow by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) from equities reached Rs 1.81 lakh crore so far in 2022, data with depositories showed.

Going forward, the FPIs' selling may continue in the near-term, however, a moderation in sell-off is expected during short to medium-term, Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

"This is because a large part of the changeover like economic slowdown, hawkish monetary policy, supply constraints and high inflation is factored in, in the market prices, which was consolidating over the last 7 months. And for central banks to maintain the aggressive policy in long-term, the inflation must remain high," he added.

According to the data, foreign investors withdrew a net amount of Rs 13,888 crore from equities during June 1-10. FPIs have been incessantly withdrawing money from Indian equities since October 2021.

Nair attributed the latest FPI outflow to anticipation of



The BSE, Mumbai. File

a hawkish Federal Reserve meeting.

"Global markets witnessed selling pressure in anticipation of record high inflation numbers in the US, which could force the Fed to accelerate increasing interest rates. At 8.6 per cent, the US inflation is at a 40-year high. Talks of stagnation and China announcing another round of lockdowns all weighed down on investors, prompting another round of selling," Vijay Singhania, Chairman, TradeSmart, said.

In addition, RBI also increased repo rate by 50 basis points and revised upwards its inflation projection. The central bank expects inflation to remain above 6 per cent for three quarters which will add pressure on bond yields. These factors encouraged foreign investors to continue their walk out of the door, he added.

Apart from equities, FPIs withdrew a net Rs 600 crore from the debt market during the period under review. WITHPTI

Inflation fight: Central banks double down

Major central banks are picking up the pace of interest rate hikes to get on top of surging inflation, as per a Reuters report. The RBI recently raised the repo rate by 50 basis points



Jerome Powell



Shaktikanta Das



Andrew Bailey



Haruhiko Kuroda

US
50-bp hikes: The Federal Reserve is set for half-point rate increases in June, July, and perhaps even beyond as jobs data show no sign the US economy is buckling under high inflation and rising borrowing costs

The Fed is also reducing its \$9 trillion stash of assets accumulated during the pandemic

INDIA
90-bp jump in repo rate to 4.9 per cent in a matter of five weeks, with the hikes set to raise the lending rates in the banking system and impact demand

Inflation likely to rise to 7.5 per cent for Q1FY23 and 6.7 per cent for the full year, sharply up from the 5.7 per cent it had projected in April for the full fiscal

BRITAIN
1% key rate is at the highest since 2009. The Bank of England has raised rates four times since December, including last month's quarter-point move

Another hike is likely on June 16 and markets see rates ending 2022 above 2%. But deteriorating economic outlook is making some cautious

JAPAN
2.1% Japan's core consumer prices in April, exceeding the BOJ's 2% target for the first time in seven years. Still, BOJ officials have repeatedly stressed that such cost-push inflation will prove temporary

The holdout dove: BOJ boss Haruhiko Kuroda says the top priority is to support the economy

EURO ZONE
Record-high 8.1% inflation has turned the dovish European Central Bank into a hawk

Bond buys will end on July 1, rates will rise by 25 bps later that month and again in Sept

Source: Reuters

India's first display fab unit to be in Telangana, worth ₹24,000 crore

Hyderabad: Elest, a subsidiary of gold retailer Rajesh Exports, will be setting up the country's first display fab facility in Telangana with investments worth Rs 24,000 crore.

Telangana IT Minister K T Rama Rao along with Chairman of Rajesh Exports Rajesh Mehta announced setting up of Generation 6 AMOLED Display FAB, an official release said on Sunday. The Telangana government signed an MoU with Karnataka-based Elest for the proposed fabrication unit which will manufacture next generation displays for smartphones,

tablet computers, and laptops. The display fab would be set up under the India Semiconductor Mission programme of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

Rama Rao tweeted: "Historic day for Telangana. Rajesh Exports (Elest), a Fortune-500 company, to setup India's first Display FAB to manufacture the most advanced AMOLED displays, with an investment of Rs 24,000 crore, making it one of the largest investments in high-tech manufacturing sector in India." PTI

'Govt loses challenge to \$111-million award in RIL, Shell dispute'

New Delhi: The government has lost its appeal in the English High Court against a \$111 million arbitration award in favour of Reliance Industries Ltd and Shell in a cost recovery dispute in the western offshore Panna-Mukta and Tapi oil and gas fields.

High Court judge Ross Cranston on June 9, 2022 ruled that the government should have brought its objections over the arbitration tribunal not meeting the required thresholds, when issuing the 2021 award earlier, two sources with knowledge of the matter said.

Rejecting the government's arguments, the court said the objections are barred by an English law principle whereby a party cannot raise matters in new proceedings that could have been raised in earlier proceedings.

While an email sent to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for comments remained unanswered, officials said the government will study the court order and look for appropriate forums for remedy.

A separate email sent to Reliance for comments too remained unanswered. Reliance and Shell-owned BG Exploration & Production India on December 16, 2010, dragged the government to arbitration over cost recovery provisions, profit due to the State and amount of statutory dues including royalty payable. PTI



Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal with WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala at G33 Ministerial Meeting, Geneva. PTI

down the people of the LDCs and developing countries. The rich countries need to introspect! We

need to bow our heads in shame for our inability to respond to the pandemic in time," he said. PTI

Goyal: WTO couldn't respond with alacrity to control Covid

Geneva: India ramped up its supplies of medical products to different countries to deal with the Covid pandemic, but the WTO could not react with alacrity and the members need to bow their heads in "shame" for their inability to respond in time, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Sunday here.

He said that the member countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO) have let down the people of the LDCs (least developed countries) and developing nations. "My country ramped up supplies of medical products to provide medical and health items globally. Unfortunately, the WTO could not respond with alacrity. We have let

BRIEFLY

Power demand

New Delhi: India's power demand this year has jumped by a record 40,000-45,000 MW per day, Power Minister RK Singh said.

E-comm jewellery

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry has come out with draft SOP for facilitating e-commerce jewellery exports through courier route. PTI

Iran currency

Tehran: Iran's currency dropped to its lowest value ever, at 332,000 to the dollar, as talks to revive the nuclear deal with world powers remained deadlocked. AP

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Vishal Dhingra S/O Mr. Darshan Paul Dhingra, R/O Flat.No.4B, GH4, Orchid Garden,Suncity, Sector-54, Gurgaon-122001, have changed my minor daughter's name from Bahaar to Bahar Dhingra.

0040618268-5

I, Potturi Shrayya Pravalika D/O Mr. Gopi Krishna Potturi R/O House No. 59, Second Floor, Ashoka Enclave Part-1, Sector 34, Amarnagar, Faridabad, Haryana-121003 have changed my name from Potturi Shrayya Pravalika to Potturi Shrayya Pravalika for all future purposes.

0040618243-1

I, Bhagwan Singh S/O Nathu Ram R/o-166-D, Pocket-B, Mayur Vihar Phase-2 Delhi-110091 have changed my name to Bhagwan Singh Verma

0070790058-1

I, Pooja Verma D/O Mahesh Kumar Verma, R/O 279, New Colony, Sugar Factory, Biswan, Sitapur Uttar Pradesh- 261201. have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Astha Verma

0070789976-1

I, Nithiya Gulecha, W/O Sumit Kochar R/O 67/A, Kochar Niwas 5th Phase, JTK Extension Behind Rmp Quarters, Kumpevnagar, Mysore, Karnataka-570023. have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Nithiya Kochar

0070789974-1

I, Kamya Chopra D/O Pramod Malhotra, R/O C-10/19 First Floor, Sector 4, Eldeco Estate, Panipat, Haryana- 132103. have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Kamya Malhotra

0070789981-1

I, Imrana Raza S/O Kaisar Raza, R/O House No- 45, Chitarsari, Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh- 222001. have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Imran Raza.

0070789990-1

I, Dharmendra Kumar S/O Shri Jhamman Lal R/O H. No.-29 Sai Enclave, Greater Noida, UP-201009, have changed my name from Dharmendra to Dharmendra Kumar for all future purposes.

0070790080-1

ISHIBU MATHEW C, S/O C K MATHEW AND MY WIFE SHIJI SHIBUBOTH RESIDING AT H.NO E-4, SECOND FLOOR, KH. NO 862, INDRAPRASTH APPARTMENT, SANT NAGAR, BURARI, DELHI- 110 084, WERE CHANGED OUR NAMES FROM SHIBU MATHEW TO SHIBUMATHEW C AND SHIJI CYRIAC TO SHIJI SHIBU RESPECTIVELY FOR ALL FUTURE RECORDS.

0040618206-2

I, Prabir Paul S/O Rishi Pada Pal, House NO1933/A, Pana Mamurpur, Near Dada Mohan Das Mandir, Narela, Delhi-40 have changed my name to Prabir Pal

0050198791-1

I, Nishidha D/o Sunil Kumar Jain R/O-1/5567, Gali-No-16, Balbir Nagar Extn., Shahdara, Delhi-110032 have changed my name to Nishidha Jain.

0070790053-1

I, Maimoona D/O, Abdul Hannan R/O House No-t-80-a Top Floor Galib Road Hazrat Ziauddin New Delhi - 110013 have changed my name to Memuna for all purposes.

0040618297-1

I, Kripa Shankar Yadav S/O, Bachau Prasad R/O J-8/3, Greenarch Gh-10 Sector- techzone-4 Greater Noida West Gautam Budh Nagar UP 201318 have changed my name to Kripa Shanker for all purposes

0040618295-1

PUBLIC NOTICE
A residential Apartment bearing CSP Unit No. 2406, parking No. EW2114, situated in DLF Capital Greens, 15, Shivaji Marg, New Delhi-110015 was purchased from M/s DLF Home Developers Limited by Late Sh. Akhil Jain S/o Late Sh. Sohan Lal Jain R/O T.B. 1 Floor, Prem Shanti Apartment 2, Club Road, Civil Lines, Delhi-110054 who expired on 22.06.2021, leaving legal heirs as Wife Mrs. Neeru Jain, son Ankit Jain and daughter Anshika Jain Ahuja. Accordingly, all above legal heirs relinquish their rights, in the captioned apartment in favour of Neeru Jain & the name Neeru Jain is being noted in DLF's record in respect of the captioned apartment.
If anybody has objection to this, he or she may approach M/s DLF Home Developers Ltd., DLF Centre, Sansad Marg, N.D.-110001 or the undersigned within 10 days from the publication of this notice, failing which it shall be deemed that there are no claims against the said Apartment.
Prashant Neel Advocate
14/16, Purjahi Bagh Extension,
M. 9911992222 New Delhi-110026

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Manishaben Krunalnakum Valand W/o Vala Krunal Suryakant R/O 31, Panchvati Apartment, NR Bhagyodaya Bank, Kasiba Road, Ranip, Ahmedabad-382480 have changed my name to Vala Manishaben Krunal

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Verstappen wins in Azerbaijan, extends lead

ON THE PODIUM

1. Max Verstappen	1:34:05.941
2. Sergio Perez	+20.823 seconds
3. George Russell	+45.995 seconds

REUTERS
BAKU, JUNE 12

MAX VERSTAPPEN rode his luck to an unchallenged first Baku win on Sunday, opening up a commanding championship lead after Ferrari's challenge imploded at the Azerbaijan Formula One Grand Prix.

The Dutchman eased across the line 20.8 seconds clear of Sergio Perez who, ordered not to fight Verstappen, completed a one-two for Red Bull. George Russell kept his record of finishing every race this season in the top five with third for Mercedes.

Ferrari's miserable afternoon ended after 20 of the race's 51 laps. Charles Leclerc, who is leading the team's challenge and had started from pole, pulled into the pits from the lead with his Ferrari spewing smoke to chalk up his second retirement from three races.

His team mate Carlos Sainz had pulled to the side of the track 10 laps earlier with a hydraulic failure. "Today we had incredible pace in the car, we could look after the tyres and chip away at it," said Verstappen, all too familiar with the heartbreak of retiring from the lead, having crashed out while running first in Baku last year. "A tiny bit lucky with the retirement but the car was quick today."

The win was Verstappen's fifth from eight races this year and made him the sixth different Baku winner from six races. He extended his overall championship lead to 21 points over Perez, winner in Monaco two weeks ago, who has moved up to second.

Leclerc, who has won two races this year but none since the third of the season in Australia, slipped to third, 34 points adrift of his Dutch rival. "It hurts, we need to look into it so it doesn't happen again," said Leclerc who left Australia with a 46-point lead over Verstappen. Leclerc had gone into Sunday's race determined to make good on his fourth successive pole after being unable to convert top spot into victory at the last three races.

But he was on the back foot from the off, losing the lead to second-placed starter Perez into the first corner. He did not appear to have the pace to match Perez and was instead busy fending off Verstappen.

But an opportunistic pitstop under a virtual safety car period, triggered by Sainz's failure, allowed him to jump back into first until his car's demise eventually dashed his hopes. Verstappen, meanwhile, had moved past Perez, who was beginning to become the Baku race's first repeat winner.

Seven-times world champion Lewis Hamilton finished fourth but was nursing an aching back, the result of the porpoising, or bouncing, plaguing his Mercedes.

Kevin Magnussen triggered another safety car when his Haas ground to a halt. China's Guanyu Zhou also retired his Alfa Romeo with a technical issue. Both teams use Ferrari power units.

Daniel Ricciardo and Lando Norris engaged in an intra-team McLaren battle, with the under-pressure Australian crossing the line eighth ahead of the Briton.

Canadian Nicholas Latifi picked up two penalties, for a starting grid infringement and ignoring blue flags, and finished last.

Bhuvneshwar's solo act not enough

Four-wicket haul not enough as Klaasen helps SA overhaul modest target to hand hosts second defeat



South Africa bowler Wayne Parnell celebrates the wicket of Hardik Pandya during the second T20I on Sunday. PTI

SANDIP G
JUNE 12

WHEN BHUVNESHWAR Kumar scythed the match open with a probing exhibition of swing and seam bowling in the Powerplay, the game seemed like a low-scoring thriller in the making. Indian hopes lingered after his three-wicket burst had South Africa on the knees in pursuit of a modest score of 148. But they soon went up in smoke and blended with the haze that had enveloped the Barabati Stadium, as South Africa wrapped up the game with 10 balls to spare and four wickets in hand.

After six overs, including the splendid Bhuvneshwar spell that read 3-0-10-3, South Africa were 29/3. That was as good as it got for the hosts in search of a series-levelling win. From then on, the visitors took utter control, first through a steady-a-sinking-ship alliance between skipper Temba Bavuma and Heinrich Klaasen, where their priority was to ward off further damage, and then with a rampaging alliance between Klaasen and David Miller. The first one cost India 64 runs in seven overs, and the second 51 in only 3.4 overs.

The protagonist, this time around, was Klaasen with 81 runs off 46 balls — the tour seems to unearth new heroes for South Africa, and hence is becoming an even more profitable one in a World Cup year. Klaasen comes with a big-hitting reputation, a reason he displaced the scratchy Quinton de Kock for this game. But he had a large box to tick, his ability to play spin bowling in the subcontinent. He accomplished this with panache, cutting

Yuzvendra Chahal and Axar Patel to ribbons. He smeared Chahal for three sixes, each stroke infused with telling power. Patel was meted out a six and a brace of boundaries in the only over he bowled.

Nothing worked for the spin duo — Patel was bereft of both bite and accuracy, the ball barely spun, whereas Chahal had not his trademark fizz. Then all the bowlers, apart from Bhuvneshwar, were unremarkable. Short on skill as well as energy — as if India turned up with just a solitary bowler. Chahal's dip in form has been most worrying, as he is among the regular crew, unlike his largely second-string colleagues.

Disappointing with the willow

But as toothless as India's bowling was, the defeat only exposed the vulnerabilities of their batsmen, most of them contenders rather than regulars in pursuit for permanent slots.

Among the prospects for World Cup spots, only Ishan Kishan is presenting a sturdy case for inclusion. His breezy 34 off 21 balls injected the impetus after a slack start. Kishan stuck to his strengths, slouching and swivelling on the back foot to take full toll of the short balls. Andre Nortje offered those gifts, as Kishan reeled off three sixes, two of them in one over. He lived and died by the same sword, as he spliced a Nortje short ball that had more skid and bounce on a surface that was not as quick as the Kotla one.

His dismissal decelerated India. Iyer's 35-ball stay fluctuated between distress and pity. The sluggish nature of the strip induced numerous mistimed and miscued strokes. A leading edge, comically, soared

over the long-on fence, whereas he had intended to chip Keshav Maharaj's arm ball over long-on. He blindly put faith on one plan — scrape through the seamers' overs and flay the spinners. But the backlog of dot balls would haunt him. At one point, he was 12 off 15 balls, before Tabraiz Shamsi's introduction unshackled him. He would step out and swing the left-arm wrist-spinner for a six and a four. But relentlessly attacking the spinners, or any brand of bowling, is risk-coated. Soon perished Rishabh Pant, slapping his bat with hard hands at a wide ball from Maharaj.

From there, India's batting was at best laborious. With the score at 70/3 in 10 overs, they were trapped in a dilemma whether to attack or defend. Such confusion often instigates chaos. The thinking gets muddled. So Hardik Pandya, deputised as the power-hitter, tried to back away and cut Wayne Parnell from around the stumps. Instead, he saw the ball cut back into him like an errant driver at a U-turn and disarray his leg-stump. The persistent Dwaine

Quiny (Quinton de Kock) came up to me two days back in the team bus and said he injured his wrists. I thought he is a strong character and he will be fine. But yesterday again, he said his hand is not fine. Yesterday morning, we came to training and the coach told me I might play."

Heinrich Klaasen SOUTH AFRICA 'KEEPER-BATSMAN

Pretorius put Iyer out of his misery while Nortje and Wayne Parnell strangled the home side with aggression and smarts. Nortje was not at full pelt, barely strumming the high notes of pace he is capable of, but still harried and harassed them. Parnell mixed his angles and pace while occasionally purchasing seam movement.

Master at work

But the real destroyer was Kagiso Rabada, who struck a delightful rhythm. At his powerful peak, he is pure music. Rhythmic synchronisation of limbs, leading to a ballistic load-up and lissome release. He worked over Rituraj Gaikwad like a master would a novice — four balls that alternated between shorter and hard lengths, before slipping in a fuller ball in the fifth-sixth stump channel.

The deception was devious — the ball was full, but not drivable, there was width, but not enough for Gaikwad to free his arms and drive. The youngster has exceptionally good hands, but not good enough to save him from being Rabada's 50th snare in T20 Internationals. By now, Gaikwad might have had a taste of high-level, high-art bowling at the international level.

In the end, Dinesh Karthik had to turbocharge his team to a competent total with a typically (and intentionally) frantic 30 off 21 balls. That barely sufficed in the end.

BRIEF SCORES: India 148/6 (Shreyas Iyer 40, Dinesh Karthik 30 not out, Ishan Kishan 34; Anrich Nortje 2/36, Kagiso Rabada 1/15) lost to South Africa 149/6 in 18.2 overs (Heinrich Klaasen 81, Temba Bavuma 35; Bhuvneshwar Kumar 4/13)

Centurions Root, Pope lead Eng's strong response

REUTERS
NOTTINGHAM, JUNE 12

JOE ROOT scored his fastest test century while Ollie Pope struck a superb 145, as England launched a stirring fightback to reach 473-5 at the close of play on the third day of the second Test against New Zealand on Sunday.

Resuming on 90-1 in the morning after the touring side had posted a massive first-innings total of 553, England excelled on a good batting wicket at a sunny Trent Bridge to trail by 80 when stumps were drawn.

Root was unbeaten on 163 with Ben Foakes not out on 24 after being handed a lifeline. Pope, dropped early in his innings on Saturday, looked in sublime form for most of the day to notch his second test ton as the hosts made New Zealand toil with former captain Root joining in the fun after opener Alex Lees fell for 67.

Root arrived having hit an unbeaten 115 to guide England to a five-wicket win in the first test but endured nervy moments early on and was lucky to survive after flashing at a ball from Tim Southee who also dropped him at slip.

But the 31-year-old regained his composure to bring up his half-century off 56 deliveries, before frustrating New Zealand who struggled to contain the batters as they took their team past the 300-run mark in the 75th over.

A reverse sweep off Michael Bracewell took Root to 97 before an edge for a four off Daryl Mitchell two overs later completed his 27th test century and fourth at this venue, with the knock coming off only 116 balls.

It was Root's fourth century in five tests, coming after he reached 10,000 runs in the format in the last match, and a flick off the pads for four took him to 150 as he put New Zealand to the sword. Earlier, it did not take long after lunch for Pope to score his century — his first since 2020 and first on home soil — as he cut Matt Henry for four before pushing him through cover for two to draw loud cheers.

Pope fell early in the final session as he top-edged one to Matt Henry off Trent Boulton, who then removed Jonny Bairstow for eight after a review showed he edged the ball to the keeper, leaving England at 344-4. Skipper Ben Stokes' blitz had New Zealand in a spot of bother but he perished for 46 attempting one too many sixes, as Bracewell claimed an important first wicket on his debut.

BRIEF SCORES: New Zealand 553 (Mitchell 190, Blundell 106) vs England 473/5 (Root 163*, Pope 145, Lees 67). England trail by 80 runs



England's Joe Root celebrates reaching his century on Sunday. Reuters

BIRMINGHAM BOUND

How Sakshi, Sindhu's Oly medals inspired Jaismine to step into the ring

NIHAL KOSHI
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

A BRONZE in the repechage for wrestler Sakshi Malik and silver for shuttler PV Sindhu saved India the blushes at the Rio Olympics six years ago. Boxer Jaismine Lamboria is also thankful to them for reducing the bias against women in sport. Jaismine is from Bhiwani, known as the country's 'mini Cuba' because of its boxing clubs. Yet, it took a lot of convincing for her grandfather Chandrabhan, an army man and a wrestler with the final word in the family, to allow Jaismine to take up boxing. Both her uncles were boxers but age-old notions of patriarchy remained within the family.

Minutes after Jaismine got the better of World Championship bronze medalist Parveen Hooda in the 60kg category to book a Commonwealth Games berth, her uncle Sandeep recalled how the two medals in Rio brought about a change of heart in Bhiwani.

"I told him we have to move with the times. Women are bringing glory to the country. We have to allow our girls to step into a boxing ring. Those medals in Rio made a difference. Jaismine is the first girl from our family to take up a sport," Sandeep, a former youth champion pugilist, said.

Sandeep and his older brother Parvinder, a 2006 CWG boxer, groomed

Jaismine once the go-ahead was given. They went all-out and launched their own boxing academy called Lamboria in Bhiwani where Jaismine was enrolled in the first batch. At the CWG trials at the IG Stadium, Jaismine's uncles were understandably the most vocal during her bouts. The medals displayed in the family's trophy cabinet, and the snatches of conversation she heard between Sandeep and Parvinder about their days in the ring, piqued her interest in boxing. When Mary Kom won the historic bronze at the London Olympics, Jaismine was hooked. "As I am from Bhiwani, I always heard stories about Vijender Singh and then there was Mary Kom's medal. Before that, because my uncles were into boxing, I had watched video clips of them in bouts. There was so much boxing talk around me when I was growing up. I guess I had to become a boxer only," Jaismine said.

Her father Jaiveer is a home guard, her mother Joginder a housewife, one older sister is a physiotherapist and the other is still studying. "When I was in Class X, I told my mother about my interest in boxing. She told me she would tell my uncles," Jaismine said.

Sandeep remembers asking Jaismine back then if she was serious about boxing. "She was very shy, but on that day she sounded determined. I told her and her mother that I would get her into boxing,"



Pugilist Jaismine Lamboria, who qualified for next month's CWG, with her uncles — Sandeep (left) and Parvinder — both former boxers. Express

Sandeep recounted. Just a week into training and Jaismine was thrown in at the deep end. There was another boxer Sandeep had coached for over a year. He pitted the two against each other. Jaismine was a clear

winner. "She beat up the other boxer. I knew we had a special talent because she was a natural. We only needed to guide her well," Sandeep said.

Jaismine missed out on a medal at last

I told him we have to move with the times. Women are bringing glory to the country. We have to allow our girls to step into a boxing ring. Those medals in Rio made a difference. Jaismine is the first girl from our family to take up a sport."

SANDEEP LAMBORIA
CWG-BOUND BOXER JAISMINA'S UNCLE

month's World Boxing Championships where her opponent in the final of the CWG trials, Parveen Hooda, bagged a bronze in 63kg. Saturday's 60kg contest between the two evenly matched boxers was a busy affair. Both have a good reach and are equally tall at 5ft 9in. Jaismine was smarting from returning without a medal from the Worlds in Turkey. She also made a crucial change — made sure her blows landed with greater force instead of producing light punches and taking a full step back immediately. Chief national coach Bhaskar Bhatt said the change in strategy paid off.

"Today, Jaismine was at her best. The way she swayed, and landed side punches had been heartening. Technically Jaismine was much stronger today. Earlier her punches were not being 'released' fully even though she had the power. The punch needs to have an effect in terms of the

judges seeing the impact. Earlier, she was using a lot of touch punches, but today her opponent felt the full force. It is important for scoring. Her straight punches are landing on the target now," Bhatt observed.

At the World Championships, Jaismine lost to USA's Rashida Ellis, who went on to win gold. "When she received a couple of body punches from the USA boxer, she forgot what her strategy should be. But now she is becoming more mature in the ring," Bhatt said about the bout in Turkey.

"Greater aggression" would have helped her progress at the World Championships; that's how Jaismine analysed her game in Turkey, about what went wrong.

A bronze medal winner in the Asian Youth Boxing Championships and a silver medalist in Boxam International Championship in Spain, she went through a tough time last year after contracting Covid. "I had a lot of problems. For five to six months, I could not train properly. My Haemoglobin had dropped. It was a difficult period for me. But a year on, I am feeling fine and have no fitness issues," Jaismine said.

Sandeep considers a CWG berth just a small milestone in a long journey that lies ahead. "She is driven, has the talent and is from a boxing family. Our duty is to make sure the next generation reaches greater heights in the ring."

Aishwarya only behind Anju

Triple jump her pet event but leaps 6.73m in long jump at the JN Stadium

ANDREW AMSAN
CHENNAI, JUNE 12

LONG JUMPER Aishwarya Babu may have recorded an impressive leap of 6.73m, the best on Indian soil since 2005, on Sunday but it still isn't her pet event. In fact, coming into the competition, the 24-year-old triple jump specialist hardly practised for the long jump, her "B event", as her coach likes to put it.

"Not really training specifically for the long jump. Obviously, something must be working because she is jumping 6.73m in the long jump," says coach Sri Aiyappa who has trained 2010 Asian Game heptathlon bronze medallist and wife Pramila Aiyappa.

Aishwarya's attempt, which came in the qualification round, also helped her breach the Commonwealth Games entry mark of 6.50m. Her leap makes her the second-best all-time Indian jumper after the legendary Anju Bobby George who holds the national mark of 6.83m, set in 2004. Anju, India's lone World Championships medallist, still has four other jumps (2001- 6.74m, 2002- 6.74 m, 2003 - 6.70m, 2005- 6.75m) better than Aishwarya's 6.73m.

Although Aishwarya did not aim for Anju's national mark, her jump has made her reassess her targets. "She will break Anju's record," says coach Sri Aiyappa.

Aishwarya was spotted by Pramila during a Railways trial two years ago. "Her speed down the runway is something. Her two biggest traits are her speed and explosive ability. In fact, if you see her, you will ask 'she jumps 6.73m?' She's half Anju's size," says Aiyappa. "She almost flies off the runway."

Unexpected leap

Aishwarya will be back on field at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai on Monday for her pet event, the triple jump, where she has already achieved the qualification mark for the Birmingham CWG. Aishwarya is now second in the triple jump India season-best list with 13.94m and has reached the top of the corresponding long jump charts overtaking Ancy Joseph (6.55m).

Sunday's leap not only took everyone present at the venue by surprise but Aishwarya's coach himself. She had never measured distances close to this mark even during practice.

"She was jumping 6.40 in practice (her previous best was 6.52m at the Open Nationals in 2021). So, I knew she had it in her. But this jump was surprising. The main thing now is for her to do well in both the finals here and go home with two national records," says Aiyappa confidently.

Even though long-jump is still her "B" event, they are not shutting the door on it.



Aishwarya Babu will be back to compete on Monday in her pet triple jump event.

"Right now, she is training for the triple jump but she has done great in the long jump. So, there is a pattern and we will follow it. But if she continues to do exceedingly well in long jump, we might change our plan altogether. To be honest, we never gave long jump a serious thought until today. But today's jump has changed everything," says Aiyappa.

At the finals, Aishwarya will face tough competition from Joseph and the prodigious Shaili, Singh who is recovering from an injury. It will also be a sort of battle of mates as Shaili's coach Bobby George is a close friend of Aiyappa's.

"We know each other really well. We were roommates back in the day. So, this battle is kind of personal (laughs). After Aishwarya breaks the national record, I will go talk to him," Aiyappa says in a lighter vein.

Yarraj stumbles

Hurdles sensation Jyothi Yarraj, favourite to win the race in Chennai, stumbled on a hurdle midway and finished last in the finals. Jyothi, who has rewritten her national mark three times in less than a month, broke down after her race.

Even though she has already made the cut for CWG, she wanted to register for a good timing at the event. Coach James Hillier had to console the young athlete as she picked up her spikes and walked off the track, hanging her head. The smile returned a bit later though when one of the reporters asked if she would be visiting home soon.

"Yes, I missed my brother's wedding recently. But he's proud of what I have achieved," she said.

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