

# The Indian EXPRESS

JOURNALISM OF COURAGE  
SINCE 1932

THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2022, MUMBAI, LATE CITY, 18 PAGES

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**BUSINESS AS USUAL**  
By UNNY

Once the FLOOD issue ends, let us furnish...

**WORLD**



**NATO INVITES FINLAND, SWEDEN TO JOIN THE ALLIANCE**  
PAGE 14

**Vencobb**

APCC and VENCORB recommended today's Eggs and Broiler Chicken rates

**Ex Farm Broiler Chicken Rate\***  
₹ 108 per kilo  
Retail Sale Rate\*  
Live  
₹ 136 per kilo  
Dressed (with skin)\*  
₹ 168 per kilo  
Retail Rate Per Dozen of Eggs  
₹ 72 per Dozen

**31-MONTH MVA RULE ENDS,**  
CM says 'betrayed' by own

**THANKS PEOPLE FOR**  
peace 'when riots elsewhere'

**DON'T COME IN WAY OF**  
rebels, he tells Sainiks

**NIA TO PROBE**  
**One of two who killed tailor in Udaipur has Pakistan links: DGP**  
Accused visited Dawat-e-Islami office in Pakistan, say police

## Uddhav resigns ahead of floor test, BJP set to return with Sena rebels

Numbers not on his side, bows out in public address via Facebook

**ZEESHAN SHAIKH, VALLABH OZARKAR & SADAF MODAK**  
MUMBAI, JUNE 29

OUTNUMBERED AFTER a rebellion in his own party and realising he will not be able to prove majority on the floor of the Assembly, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray resigned Wednesday night, shortly after the Supreme Court declined to stay a floor test called Thursday by Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari.

His resignation as CM and MLC, which he announced in a Facebook address to the public, brought to an end the 31-month-old rule of the MVA and set the stage for the return of a



**Uddhav Thackeray after submitting his resignation on Wednesday.** Ganesh Shirsekar

## Uddhav fate sealed after SC declined to stay Governor floor test direction

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN G**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

SEALING THE fate of Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and his ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi coalition, the Supreme Court Wednesday

declined to stay the floor test that Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari had asked Uddhav to take Thursday to prove his majority.

Shortly after the Supreme Court decision, Uddhav resigned as Chief Minister, bringing to an end the MVA rule.

**EXPLAINED**  
**E** Sena future tense

THERE'S A big question mark on the future of the Sena and the Thackerays. The Sena split at the top appears to be complete but it remains to be seen how it plays out on the ground, now and in the foreseeable future.

**As workers celebrate, BJP meets to decide on action plan**



**Devendra Fadnavis and Chandrakant Patil during a party meeting.** PTI

**SHUBHANGI KHAPRE & YOGESH NAIK**  
MUMBAI, JUNE 29

THE BJP is set to stake claim for formation of the new government in Maharashtra, as Uddhav Thackeray announced his resignation as the chief minister during a Facebook live address on Wednesday night.

**HAMZA KHAN & DEEPTIMAN TIWARY**  
JAIPUR, NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

A DAY after Kanhaiya Lal, a tailor in Udaipur, was hacked to death by two men, Mohammad Riyaz and Ghouse Mohammad, for allegedly sharing remarks made by BJP's Nupur Sharma on the Prophet, Rajasthan Minister of State for Home Rajendra Singh Yadav said Wednesday that Ghouse Mohammad had been to Karachi in 2014 and been making phone calls to Pakistan



**Kanhaiya Lal's wife Yashoda in Udaipur.** PTI

"for the last 2-3 years". Director General of Police M.L. Lather said Ghouse had gone to visit the office of Dawat-e-Islami in Karachi. The DeL is a Sunni

**At least 12 states say continue GST compensation, no decision taken**

**AANCHAL MAGAZINE**  
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 29

AT LEAST A dozen states demanded that compensation for losses due to implementation of the Goods and Services Tax be extended at the GST Council on Wednesday, but the two-day

meeting concluded without any decision on the issue. States were guaranteed compensation for five years till June 2022 at a compounded rate of 14 per cent (with 2015-16 as the base year) to make up for any losses due to the new tax regime that rolled out in July 2017.

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# MVA GOVT FALLS 5

## Rebel Sena MLAs land in Goa, Shinde to discuss next move

MAYURA JANWALKAR PANAJI, JUNE 29

THE GROUP of rebel Shiv Sena MLAs, headed by Eknath Shinde, arrived in Goa amid heavy security cover, minutes after Uddhav Thackeray announced his resignation as Chief Minister of Maharashtra Wednesday evening.

After camping in Guwahati for days, the Shinde faction, which brought down the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra, arrived on a special Spice Jet flight at Dabolim airport in South Goa.

After hopping from one BJP-ruled state to another over the past nine days, the rebel MLAs flew in closer to Mumbai ahead of a floor test that was scheduled on Thursday. However, Thackeray's resignation meant there would be no floor test.

The MLAs were expected to leave for Mumbai on Thursday morning by a chartered flight but sources said the plan may change now since there will be no floor test.

The sources said Shinde will hold a meeting with the MLAs and strategise the next move.

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant met the breakaway legislators at the hotel late Wednesday night, the sources said. The Shinde faction is expected to align with the BJP in the next government formation in Maharashtra.

Shinde and the other rebel MLAs reached the Taj Resort and Convention Centre in Dona Paula, where they were scheduled to spend the night, around



Outside the Goa airport on Wednesday night. Express



Eknath Shinde offers prayers at Kamakhya temple in Guwahati on Wednesday. PTI

11.15 pm amid heavy security cover. Sources said at least 80 rooms were booked for the Shinde camp.

Ahead of their arrival, security measures were tightened outside the five-star hotel.

Goa Director General of Police Jaspal Singh and other senior police officers reviewed the security arrangements Wednesday evening.

As tourist families milled around the hotel lobby, sources said armed po-

lice officers kept vigil. Outside, there was heavy barricading.

The Goa Police had also strengthened its checks at its northern state border at Patraveji. Goa shares a border with Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra. Shiv Sena MLA from Sindhudurg Vaibhav Naik has stayed on with Thackeray while senior Shiv Sena leader and MLA from Sawantwadi Deepak Kesarkar is among the rebels.

Hours before the rebel group arrived, Shailendra Velingkar, Goa Shiv Sena leader and chief of Parshuram Gomantak Sena, reached the hotel. He was, however, asked to leave the hotel premises by the police and hotel security.

Goa Shiv Sena leader Jitesh Kamat earlier targeted the BJP government in Goa for deploying the state's security apparatus to provide protection to the Shinde-led rebel faction.

He said the BJP in Goa had protected "traitors" from Maharashtra at the cost of the taxpayer.

## Courts have failed to check treachery committed on democracy: Congress

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

WITH UDDHAV Thackeray resigning as Chief Minister of Maharashtra, capping over a week-long political crisis, the Congress, which was a constituent of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government, on Wednesday said it was a sad day for the state and India and argued that courts have failed to check the "treachery" committed on democracy.

"A sad day for democracy in Maharashtra and India. People's mandate is again run over by the bulldozer of allurements-inducement-intimidation and crass political corruption," AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala said.

Recalling the fall of Congress and opposition governments in several states and formation of governments by the BJP in some states despite not having numbers on its own, he said, "The conclusions are clear. Right of voters to choose a government has been trampled by political corruption (and) Tenth Schedule of Constitution - Anti Defection Law - is a dead letter now, observed in violation."

Targeting the judiciary, he said the courts have failed to check the treachery committed on democracy.

"Salute to the MVA and its leaders for fighting the principled fight - for truth, for righteousness, for harmony, for progress and for the Constitution. Time to pause and think for every fellow Indian - Is this the India of our

dreams? If not, let's reclaim our country," he said in a Twitter post.

"The CPI(M) too hit out at the BJP. "The big black blot on India's democracy grows larger. Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and now Maharashtra. Gross and brazen misuse of state machinery, central agencies and massive money power accumulated through loot of national assets to capture governments," said CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury.

"At least now after this Maharashtra episode, the Supreme Court must hear challenges against election bonds. These bonds are legalisation of political corruption. The 21st tranche opens on July 1. The BJP has cornered the bulk of past tranches of Rs 10,000 crore."

## BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED

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Particulars to be furnished as per the Non-Banking Financial Companies Miscellaneous Non-Banking Companies (Advertisement) Rules, 1977 as amended. A. Name of the Company: BAJAJ FINANCE LTD. B. Date of Incorporation: 25th March, 1987 C. Profits/Dividends: Profits of the Company before and after making provisions for tax, for the three financial years immediately preceding the date of the advertisement and the depositor(s) should submit a specific written request as to reach the Company at least 3 (three) business days prior to maturity date of the Deposit.

# EXPRESS Careers

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PATNA (An Institute under Ministry of Education, Govt. of India) ASHOK RAJPATH, PATNA - 800 005 (BIHAR) Walk-in-Interview for the post of Executive Engineer (on Contract)...

INDIAN PORT RAIL & ROPEWAY CORPORATION LIMITED (A JV Company under Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Govt. of India) 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Nirman Bhavan, Mumbai Port Trust Building, M.P. Road, Mazgaon (E), Mumbai - 400010. Advertisement No. IPRC/LMUMHR/REC/04/2022

IDBI BANK Advertisement No. 4 / 2022-23 Advertisement for Appointment of Head - Learning & Development on Contract Basis

STATE TRANSPORT CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD., (Reg. No. 20282 Dated 11-05-1953) 1st Floor, Maharashtra Vahtuk Bhavan, Dr. Ananadras Nair Marg, Mumbai Central (E), Mumbai - 400 008

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Former ATS chief Vivek Phansalkar is new Mumbai Police commissioner

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JUNE 29

VIVEK PHANSALKAR, a 1989-batch IPS officer, was appointed the police commissioner of Mumbai on Wednesday. Phansalkar will succeed Sanjay Pandey, whose tenure ends on Thursday. IPS officer Archana Tyagi has been given additional charge as the Maharashtra State Police Housing DG, a post that was held by Phansalkar. Phansalkar will take over as the chief of the over 40,000-strong force



Vivek Phansalkar

at a time when the state is going through political turmoil.

As per the order issued by the state Home Department, in light of Pandey's retirement on June 30, Phansalkar was appointed the new Mumbai police commissioner. Phansalkar has, in the

past, served as the police commissioner of Thane, chief of Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) and joint commissioner of traffic and administration in Mumbai city. Phansalkar's first posting was as additional superintendent of police, Akola. He also served as superintendent of police in Wardha and Parbhani before getting his first posting in a city commissionerate as deputy commissioner of police in Nashik.

He is likely to take charge as the Mumbai police commissioner on Thursday.

KURLA BUILDING COLLAPSE

Flat owners booked, contractor who put up labourers on rent arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JUNE 29

THE NEHRU Nagar police early Wednesday registered a case of culpable homicide not amounting to murder against the flat owners, who had rented out their apartments in the building that collapsed in Mumbai's Kurla (East), despite being aware that the building was dilapidated and could collapse any time.

The four storey-building in Naik Nagar cooperative housing society collapsed on Monday night, killing 19 people. The police booked flat owners Rajni Rathod, Kishor Chavan, Balkrishna Rathod and others under sections 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide) of IPC.

Contractor Dilip Vishwas, who had put up daily wage labourers on rent in the building, was also arrested on



Debris being cleared at the building collapse site on Wednesday. Ganesh Shirsekar

Wednesday. He was produced before a magistrate court, which remanded him to police custody.

The building was one of the four buildings in the housing society, all deemed dilapidated by the BMC.

Rescue operations by the fire brigade and the National Disaster Response Force had ended late Tuesday while search operations continued. Of the 33 people found so far, while 19 died, 10

were discharged from hospitals after treatment and four are being treated.

A resident said that all occupants were aware that the building was dilapidated and were even asked by the chairman of the society to vacate by June 30. "Vishwas, who put up the labourers, was paying Rs 12,000 rent for one flat... 10 to 12 labourers lived in the flat. In all, around 35 labourers were staying," a resident said.

COURT ASKS CONG LEADER WHETHER HE SOUGHT SANCTION FOR PROSECUTION OF LEADERS

Mumbai: A SPECIAL court in Mumbai on Tuesday sought to know whether the Congress member, who has approached the court seeking a corruption probe against BJP leaders in connection with the rebel Sena MLAs, has applied for sanction under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

Lawyer and member of the Mumbai Regional Congress Committee, Madhu Holmagi, had sought directions from the court for a probe under Prevention of Corruption Act. The court, which hears cases against MLAs and MPs, is yet to hear and admit the plea. On Tuesday, it sought to know whether sanction for prosecution was applied for under the Act.

"On perusal of the application, it is seen that the application is not accompanied by a sanction order. It is not the case of the complainant (Holmagi) that he has applied for sanction under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. Therefore, it is necessary to hear the complainant on the aspect of sanction to prosecute the public servants under the Act. Hence, the matter is kept for hearing on the aspect of sanction under the Act," the court said, posting the case for a hearing on July 15. Holmagi's plea had sought registration of an FIR under the Act against public representatives including former CM Devendra Fadnis and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman among others. ENS

WR EXTENDS TRIPS OF WEEKLY SUMMER SPECIAL TRAINS

Table with 6 columns: TRAIN NO., FROM, TO, DAY OF SERVICE, NOTIFIED UP TO, EXTENDED UP TO. Lists train numbers and routes like Mumbai Central to Kanpur Anwarganj.

For detailed information regarding Timings, Halts and Composition, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

The booking of extended trips of Train No. 09185, 09039, 09067, 09013, 09045, and 09117 will open from 30th June, 2022 at PRS counters and IRCTC website. Above trains will run as Special Train on Special Fare.



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WESTERN RAILWAY CAMC of IP based Intercom Telephones

The following details of the NIT for publication. Tender No.: WR-MMCTOSnT (STMA)-2-2022 dated: 29.06.2022 Department: Signal & Telecomm. Executive: Sr. DSTE(Co.) BCT. Name of Work: Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (CAMC) of IP based Intercom Telephones in Zonal office at Churchgate & Divisional office at Mumbai Central for two years of Mumbai Division, Western Railway. Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 405920/- Particular office where E-tender open: Senior Divisional Signal & Telecomm Engineer(CO), 2nd Floor, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Mumbai Central, Mumbai-400 008. Bid Security: Rs. 8200/- Validity of Offers: 60 Days, from the date of opening. Type of E-Tender: Open E-Tender. Time & Date for closure for submission of E-Tender Documents: At 15.00 hrs. on 26.07.2022. Time & Date for opening of E-Tender: After 15.30 hrs. on 26.07.2022. The tender can be viewed at web site http://www.ireps.gov.in

Advertisement for IWAGE (Initiative for what works to advance women and girls in the economy) featuring 'The Indian Express' and 'thinc GENDER' with a 30th June 5.00 PM Zoom event.

BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED

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Table 1: Cumulative rates of interest for depositors other than Senior Citizens and for Senior Citizens.

Table 2: Cumulative rates of interest for depositors other than Senior Citizens and for Senior Citizens.

Table with columns: NAME, ADDRESS, OCCUPATION. Lists directors and officers like Shri Sanjay Bajaj, Shri Rajeev Jain, etc.

F. Summarised Financial Position of the Company (standalone) as appearing in the two latest audited balance sheets:

Financial statement table with columns: As at 31 March 2021, As at 31 March 2022. Includes rows for Assets, Liabilities, and Equity.

Table with columns: Particulars, As at 31 March 2021, As at 31 March 2022. Shows financial metrics like Total assets, Liabilities, etc.

Table with columns: Sr. No., Name of subsidiary, Address of registered office, Activity. Lists various subsidiaries like Bajaj Housing Finance Limited, Bajaj Financial Securities Limited, etc.

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, 25 June 2022

HOW TO VISIT: Applications can be made online by visiting www.bajajfinserv.in/visit or Bajaj Finance branches or any of our affiliated partner websites or apps or offices.

Keynote Speaker

Giriraj Singh

Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj

Women's Collectives: Change-makers from the ground up

That women can drive result-oriented missions was proven by the success of our ASHA workers, who have won the WHO's Global Health Leader award for their frontline stewardship of COVID-19 management. In fact, India has proven that women's collectives can change the social, economic and cultural indices of a nation. Our self-help groups and women cooperative-led movements have led to their financial inclusion, economic stakeholdership and restoration of land rights.

These are the perfect examples of the trickle-down effect. By harnessing the collective power of their members, such groups can achieve positive impacts that would be harder or impossible to achieve through interventions that focus on individuals. To understand the transformative power of women collectives, join us as we delve into these topics and more.

Panelists list including Nita Kejrewal, Chetna Sinha, Anjini Kochar, Bijal Brahmhatt, Madhu Krishna, Hasina Kharbhii, Aniruddha Brahmachari with their respective titles and organizations.

CHOPPER CRASH

Among those who died, a 27-year-old geologist who got married a year ago

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, JUNE 29

SATYAMBAD PATHRA, a 27-year-old geologist from Odisha, was one of the four persons who died in the Pawan Hans helicopter mishap on Tuesday.

Pathra, who hailed from a small town called Bhuban in Odisha, worked in ONGC and lived in Mumbai. "He got married only a year ago... he lived with his wife here. But she was not in Mumbai at the time of the accident as she was visiting family in her hometown," shared one of his friends.

Pathra's brother and cousins arrived in Mumbai on Wednesday, said the friend, adding that they have gone to Cooper Hospital, where his body has been kept after the post-mortem.

IE Thinc session today, to focus on women's collectives

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

THAT WOMEN can drive a result-oriented mission was proven by the success of India's ASHA workers, who have won the WHO's Global Health Leader award for their frontline stewardship of COVID-19 management.

In communities around the world, women are seizing their own destiny through self-help groups (SHGs), mothers' and adolescent girls' groups and cooperatives.

This edition will feature a keynote address by Giriraj Singh, Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, who will focus on how the DAY-NRLM mission,



the third edition of the IE Thinc Gender series, "Women Collectives: Change makers from the ground up." It will focus on self-starter women's collectives that are bringing about a change and forcing a redrawing of policies, entrepreneurship collectives that have set up brands of their own as well as micro-financing collectives that have powered their independence.

This edition will feature a keynote address by Giriraj Singh, Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, who will focus on how the DAY-NRLM mission,

Top Mumbai colleges declare first merit list for degree admissions, cut-offs drop

PALLAVISMART MUMBAI, JUNE 29

THE FIRST merit list for degree admissions was declared by most city colleges on Wednesday, adhering to the admission schedule issued by Mumbai University earlier.

At St Xavier's College, for Bachelor of Arts (BA) course, the first merit list cut-off score is 92 per cent, down from 98 per cent last year. In case of BSc (biological) and BSc (non-biological), the cut-off scores are 82.33 per cent and 82.17 per cent respectively, down from 92 per cent for both last year.

Swara Bhasker receives death threat

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA MUMBAI, JUNE 29

ACTOR SWARA Bhasker has received a death threat through an anonymous letter following which

among others. At Ruia College, the first merit list cut-off score for BA has dropped to 89.33 per cent from 96.2 per cent last year. At R A Podar College, the most sought after college for Commerce, the traditional BCom cut-off has dropped to 92.33 from 96.6 per cent last year.

The situation is no different at other sought after colleges in the city such as D G Ruparel College, Ramnarain Ruia College, Wilson College and R A Podar College,

Mumbai police have launched an investigation, an official said on Wednesday. The letter was sent to the actor's residence located in Versova, he said. After receiving the letter, Bhasker approached the Versova

results without an exam. It will be important to see what is their overall result, which may decide cut-off scores of future merit lists," she said.

The overall pass percentage of HSC exam this year was 94.22 per cent, a significant decline from last year's 99.63 per cent. There was a decline even in the number of candidates who scored 90 per cent and above, as it fell from 91,420 last year to 10,040 this year.

While there are a few colleges which have left a certain amount of seats reserved for students from other boards, who will be joining admissions at a later stage, most city colleges have opened all seats for admissions.

MUMBAI METRO RAIL CORPORATION LIMITED (A JV of Govt. of India and Govt. of Maharashtra) Hallmark Business Plaza, 801 & 803, 8th Floor, Sant Dnyaneshwar Marg, Bandra East, Mumbai - 400 051. Reference: Notice inviting Tender (NIT) published by Mumbai Metro rail Corporation Limited (MMRCL) on 03/06/2022 for the work of "Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 1.5 TPD capacity Bio-methanation plant along with electricity generation from municipal organic wet waste with 1 year operation and maintenance at LT market, D Ward, Mumbai" under NIT No. MML3/Planning/ENV/CER/WTE/22/2022.

2008 Malegaon blast case: Unable to recognise Lt Col Purohit due to lapse of time, claims witness

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, JUNE 29

A WITNESS in the 2008 Malegaon blast case told the court on Wednesday that he was unable to recognise accused Lieutenant Colonel Prasad Purohit due to the lapse of time.

which had initially investigated the blast before the case was transferred to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), had recorded the statement of the witness in 2008.

The witness, who ran a business of arms, told the court that in 2006, he had sold ammunition to Purohit. The witness told the court on Wednesday that Purohit had arms licences as a military man

and based on that, he had sold him ammunition once. The investigating agency had claimed that the witness had said in his statement in 2008 that Purohit had attempted to purchase a weapon from him without a licence in September that year.

While he did not mention this in his examination-in-chief, Special Public Prosecutor Avinash

Rasal cross-examined the witness after the court's permission. The witness told the court that he had stated the fact about the licence in his statement.

The witness, when asked to identify Purohit, said he did not remember due to the lapse of time and due to his illness. He also said he was unable to identify the weapon shown to him. He denied

turn hostile. The letter was written by lawyer Shahid Nadeem, who is representing the victims, stating that the witness was the superior officer of Purohit. The letter stated that the witness turned hostile, and it sought that the NIA should file an application under Section 319 of the Criminal Procedure Code to make the witness an accused in the case.

turn hostile. The letter was written by lawyer Shahid Nadeem, who is representing the victims, stating that the witness was the superior officer of Purohit. The letter stated that the witness turned hostile, and it sought that the NIA should file an application under Section 319 of the Criminal Procedure Code to make the witness an accused in the case.

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BUSINESS POULTRY MEA Mumbai Eggs Association Suggested Selling Rate in Mumbai Rs. 560/- per 100 Eggs. Mobile: 9820057700/ 9820351822/ 7303390009. 0070774871-1

BUSINESS POULTRY "NECC Mumbai Zone suggestive farm-gate egg price for today (30/06/2022) is Rs. 590/- per 100 eggs. (for the information of trade & industry)." 0070789215-1

FRESH Chicken Trading Big Birds 123/- kg., Small Birds 128/- kg. Turbhe Naka, Navi Mumbai. Mobile: 9769468897. 0070792037-1

RECRUITMENT SITUATION VACANT ARGON ARC Welders, Fabrication Supervisor, Autocad Operator required at Ambernath 3 years experience in Chemical, Pharma equipment manufacturing. Reply: rosstec2000@gmail.com 0070792339-2

PERSONAL CHANGE OF NAME I have changed my name from Ashish Kumar Kanyalal Singh to Ashish Kanhaiyalal Singh as per Gazette (X-27136), Dated: 16-10-2014. 0070792495-1

PERSONAL CHANGE OF NAME I have changed my name from Mayuri Ramdas Patil to Samiksha Sunil Bandhane as per Affidavit Dated 8/4/2019. 0070792504-1

SITUATIONS VACANT USHA MITTAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SNDT Women's University Sir, Vithaldas Vidya Vihar, Juhu Tara Road, Santacruz(W), Mumbai - 400 049 INVITES APPLICATION FOR FOLLOWING POST

SITUATIONS VACANT Bhartiya Gramin Punarrachana Sanstha's Mumbai D.Ed. College Unaided (English Medium) Admission Open for Management Quota F.Y.D.I.E.Ed. Faculty wise Available Seats Commerce/M.C.V.C.-2, Science: 10, Arts: 8 Min. 49.50% Mark for open category, Min 44.50% for reservation category in XII Std. 1) Forms Available from 23rd June 2022 2) Submission of Forms 23rd June 2022 to 26th July 2022 3) First Merit List display 18th July, 2022 4) Second Merit List display 27th July, 2022 5) Category-Wise Social Reservation is applicable. SC-2, ST-2, VJNT(A,B,C,D)-2, SBC-2, OBC-2, EWS-2, OPEN-8

SALUTE THE SOLDIER ON THE 18th RAISING DAY OF THE SIXTY THIRD BATTALION, RASHTRIYA RIFLES (BIHAR REGIMENT), WE PAY HOMAGE TO SEP SHAILESH KUMAR, SC, WHO EMBRACED MARTYRDOM TO PROTECT THE NATION AND TO BRING GLORY TO THE REGIMENT Your gallantry will continue to inspire us forever. We, the fraternity of The Bihar Regiment salute you and your families. The Bihar Regiment Association

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (Regd. Office.: PSEB Head Office The Mall, Patiala-147001 CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813; Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact No. 96461-20640) Tender Enquiry No. 1408/O&MPC-2317 Dated: 27.06.2022 Chief Engineer/ O&M (P&P Cell-I), GHPT, Lehra Mohabbat, invites E-tender for the Procurement of Toothed Hammer Rings, Quantity as per NIT. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 27.06.2022 from 17.00 hrs. onwards. NOTE:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in GHP-33-22 15273/Pb

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (Regd. Office.: PSPCL Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001) CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813; Website: www.pspcl.in Mobile No. 96461-07205 E-Tender Enq. No. 387/P-3/EMP-W-12006 dated 24.06.2022 Dy Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2022\_POWER\_87322\_1 for the work of loading of material from transporter's godown/Railway Station, Loading/ unloading, Checking, Counting and stacking of material at O&M stores, Shifting and Restacking of scrap material, preservation of material during storage, transfer of material from one Store Keeper to another Store Keeper and all other activities associated with handling of storage of material at GGSSTP, Roopnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 27.06.2022/ 5.00 PM onwards. NOTE: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in RTP-47/22 15288/Pb

MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, RANCHI. e-Tender e-Procurement Notice इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक- 239 दिनांक- 11.04.2022 द्वारा PR No.- 268254 दिनांक- 13.04.2022 के क्रम संख्या- 03 पर प्रकाशित निविदा की प्रथम पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। Re-Tender Reference No. WRD/MID/RANCHI F2 - 04/2022-23

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# The executioner's strategy

Will to condemn this act must be accompanied by commitment to build a free society. Else, Kanhaiya's executioners win



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

## IN COLD BLOOD

The two men who killed Kanhaiya Lal must face the full force of the law, they must not get the power to spread their poison

THE KILLING OF Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur, captured and flaunted by his killers on video, is a gruesome crime. It has deservedly drawn the strongest condemnation across political and ideological lines in the country. The starkness of the horror permits no ambiguity in the aftermath — the perpetrators of murder as ghastly spectacle must be brought to justice quickly and firmly. In the days ahead, political parties and governments also need to step up to the challenge to keep the calm. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has called for Prime Minister Modi to address the nation and appeal for peace. It is essential that this does not become a bid by the Gehlot government to abdicate its own responsibility, or to pass the buck. It is its primary task to ensure that a firm message is sent out that any attempt to stoke or inflame communal anxieties and tensions will not be brooked in the state, in Udaipur or elsewhere.

Even as there is no room for the politics of one-upmanship, there is hard political work to be done by all parties and players. While the crime has played out in public view, the grisly videos don't tell all, important questions remain. The National Investigation Agency, tasked with investigating terror-related crimes, has been called in, and a thorough probe will be needed to arrive at the answers. Meanwhile, it will be the work of politics to ensure that important distinctions are not blurred and crucial perspective is not lost in a climate in which prime-time TV seems to increasingly take its cue from the fringe and hardliners, and too many of those with a social media account unresistingly give in to the temptation of delivering instant justice on complex issues by playing judge, jury and executioner. The industry of hurt sentiments is quite capable of manufacturing hate and violence, too. It is necessary, in this moment, to remember and to remind that one of Indian democracy's biggest success stories has been that it is home to a Muslim minority which has not been drawn into the Islamic radicalisation story that has been unfolding in troubling ways elsewhere in the world.

As the law follows its course, therefore, politics has to step up to ensure responsibility and restraint after the crime in Udaipur. The two men who walked into the tailor's shop and killed Kanhaiya Lal in cold blood must face the consequences — they must not be given the power to spread their poison.

## PLASTIC SURGERY

Phased ban on plastics is welcome. Challenge will lie in enforcement, bringing in viable substitutes

FROM FRIDAY, SEVERAL common use-and-throw plastic products will cease to be in circulation with the government's rules to prohibit their manufacture and use, issued in August last year, coming into effect. Plastic cutlery items, ice cream and balloon sticks, sweet boxes, invitation cards, cigarette packs, PVC banners measuring under 100 microns and earbuds are some of the items that will no longer be available. Given that the country generates more than 25,000 tonnes of plastic waste every day — more than 40 per cent of it stays uncollected, often choking sewage networks — the need for measures to restrict the use of this non-degradable synthetic material cannot be overstated. The government has also done the right thing in enforcing the ban in phases. The current strictures apply to relatively low utility items. The real challenge will come when the prohibition is extended to polythene bags under 120 microns in December.

In the past five years, more than 20 states have put in place some form of regulation on plastic use. But by all accounts, their implementation has been patchy at best. The poorly-staffed and feebly-empowered state pollution control boards or cash-strapped municipalities tasked with enforcing the bans have generally not been up to the task. Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav has said that his ministry will set up control rooms to monitor the ban. A better way would be to raise awareness amongst people and take all stakeholders into confidence — the success of Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh, to an extent, testifies to this.

Some food vendors, takeaway restaurants and grocery outfits have begun using biodegradable cutlery and cloth or paper bags. The government claims that a large number of plastic units are making the switch to using packaging alternatives such as cotton, jute, paper and crop stubble waste. However, the alternatives sector does not produce at a scale that will enable businesses all over the country to make the environment-friendly transition. There are more than 22,000 plastic manufacturing units in the country. It will be some time before enough numbers are brought under the alternative segment to make a tangible difference to the packaging sector's environmental footprint. Industry experts say that the prices of a lot of the current plastic substitutes burden the retailer and the consumer — a kg of fabric bags, for example, cost Rs 80 more compared to plastic bags. The government would, therefore, do well to hand-hold businesses, especially small outfits already strained by the economic fallout of the pandemic, during the transition period. In the long run, it must join hands with industry bodies to facilitate R&D in viable plastic substitutes.

## WHISPERS IN THE SHELVES

Public libraries have found a new role among aspirational youth. But bibliophiles will miss just browsing

IN INDIA, THE public library has always been a scarce resource. Outside of academic institutions and private clubs, spaces to read and borrow books are few and far between. The country's transition from a low-literacy, relatively poor society to a middle-income, educated one was accompanied by the rise of electronic and digital media, and browsing shelves became passe before ever really having the chance to be in vogue. Yet, as a report in this newspaper found, Delhi's public libraries are still in use, albeit not for the purpose for which they were originally intended.

At Delhi Public Library, Hardayal Municipal Public Library and even Dyal Singh public library — the latter is one of the oldest in India — young aspirants who hope to clear competitive examinations have taken over the reading rooms. For all the sophistication of algorithms and the vast amounts of knowledge on the internet, a quiet place to concentrate still draws aspiring civil servants, doctors, chartered accountants, et al. And given how difficult it is to find space in the big city, it is likely that the libraries will survive as a much-needed public space of calm. Yet, the book lover will see this new avatar of an old building as something of a loss.

The worst-kept secret among bibliophiles is this: In libraries, bookshops and even second-hand book bazaars, the texts talk to each other. Their whispers draw you in, opening up worlds within worlds. And there are few joys greater than the serendipity of picking up an unknown, unheard of (to the reader, at least) volume, of browsing through shelves hoping that a title, blurb or even a cover "speaks to you". No matter how hard they try, the tech giants selling books at a click can never recreate that feeling. And, while a career is of supreme importance, the young people cramming for their exams too are missing out on what their study hall used to be.

THE SAVAGE EXECUTION of Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur will deepen the darkest forebodings about India's future. It is important to name this gruesome act for what it is, without aestheticising it. It was an execution and not a murder. Murders are horrible. But this act was far more sinister. It enacted the logic of execution.

The perpetrators were claiming the right to brutally punish Kanhaiya for speech that he was well within his legal rights to utter. By doing it publicly they were trying to claim the terrifying power of global precedent. There have been beheadings before on putative insults to the Prophet, and we cannot rule out more. The point of the execution was to lay down the clear line, "Say something on the Prophet that we find insulting, and there will be consequences." It was to make clear that the perpetrators mean to enforce their idea of blasphemy, no matter what rational, secular and civilised laws require. The public nature of the act was to also signal that they do not consider this a crime but the enforcement of higher law. Its purpose is to create fear and terror. There is a Chinese proverb. "Kill one, frighten a thousand." This execution worked on this logic of fear and terror.

This act has been unanimously condemned as an act of barbarity, without qualifications, across the political and religious spectrum. There was no immediate violent reaction. But the sense of foreboding comes from what these easy gestures of condemnation, which now come to us as flippantly as the "like" sign on Facebook, will leave unsaid. If we are to move forward, these dark, subterranean currents will have to be confronted squarely.

Talking about these is hazardous, for two reasons. In an already surcharged atmosphere, with a communal majoritarianism suffocating liberty and toleration, there is the justified fear of how particular arguments are used to whip up prejudice against minorities. Second, there is always what the late Paul Brass had presciently identified as the trap of discourse. Using the terms minority and majority, even for analytical purposes, even for progressive ends, often ends up congealing the very identities we are trying to

complicate. So, even with these caveats, here are the fears we need to confront, even as we condemn the incident.

The biggest danger is that the BJP and other parties may succumb to the temptation to use this incident to target and question the existence of minorities. Rajasthan has an election coming up. The conduct of political parties, the perception of arbitrariness in police forces, has created unprecedented communal tensions across the state, which even the Congress is helplessly presiding over. Condemning an incident is not an answer to the endless narrative of revenge and counter revenge and feigned victimhood that will be circulated to use Kanhaiya's execution as an opportunity to polarise. This incident will very quickly allow concerns about authoritarian repression and majoritarian communalism to be overtaken by an obsession with transnational Islamism. It would be naïve to pretend that there is no issue here. We are certainly doing our best to create a society where anyone can light a fire, and create a conflagration. The perpetrators' gruesome execution works as a strategy, because they know we will make a political business out of it.

The psychological impact of seeing a video where someone walks into a tailor's shop, for a quotidian transaction, and executes them, is horrifying. What produces such a sinister method of execution? Can we comfortably treat it as an exception? These will be unasked questions. The short answer is, we don't really know with any confidence. And this situation is compounded by the fact that there is a breakdown of trust.

Faced with a threatening state, we as civil society also fear to fully understand the pos-

sibilities and sources of Islamist radicalisation, and acknowledge that like Hindutva, it could also have an autonomous dynamic, not rooted only in reaction or the threat of subjugation. This vacuum of trust will be filled by our favourite political narrative. In our context, it will strengthen whatever prejudices we were predisposed towards. Even as we condemn the moral horror, our capacity to create a common truth about such incidents will not be any stronger.

The larger narrative in which this incident will come to be embedded — is this a one-off local incident, a political reaction or part of a wider conspiracy for organised violence — requires the state and Centre to cooperate. If this is treated as a terrorist attack, then the NIA and police must speak in one credible voice. It is beyond utopian to imagine that in a situation like this, all political parties and the home minister and chief minister would speak in one credible voice. The partiality of the state in other cases of violence makes this an incredibly hard act to pull off. The strategic silences of the prime minister are always a clear signal that the government intends for the pot to simmer, if not boil.

And finally, there is the ideological gauntlet that Kanhaiya's killers have thrown. Even as we condemn the incident we have to rise to the ideological challenge, that no free society can have a legal prohibition on "offences to religion". What enables this act to wear the imprimatur of punishment rather than crime is that it sees itself as enforcing higher law. Any society where individuals think it is their duty to protect their prophets or their gods is doomed to be unfree, and caught in circles of violence. In a world of billions of people, someone will be tempted to insult; the point is to render those insults banal, marginal and harmless.

The will to condemn this act has to be accompanied by the commitment to build a free society. Otherwise Kanhaiya's executioners win. But it is hard to shake off the feeling that the cumulative weight of our history and prejudices is pulling us into an abyss, with an almost gravitational force.

The writer is contributing editor, The Indian Express

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ADITI NARAYANI PASWAN

## A PRESIDENT FOR NEW INDIA

Droupadi Murmu's nomination is transformational, shows deepening democracy

A POWERFUL PHOTO has been doing the rounds of social media, showing a tribal woman, who has been nominated for the post of the President of India, walking with the mighty men of Indian politics. This poignant picture has inspired many young women from marginalised communities, like me, to dream big. Droupadi Murmu is not just a source of inspiration for us; her life and struggle, determination and success in the face of great odds represent the hope and promise of New India.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Indian democracy has become more representative and inclusive. The BJP represents the New India of prosperity, equality and socio-economic mobility, reflecting the true embodiment of samajik samarasta (social harmony). A tribal woman succeeding a Dalit to the highest constitutional post of the nation is a remarkable testimony to the deepening roots of Indian democracy. Her nomination is transformational in its true sense.

B R Ambedkar's idea of synthesis and the representation of women in politics have become a reality. Born in 1958, Murmu is from the Santhal tribal community in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district. The Santhals are known for their courage. In 1855, they

revolted against the Permanent Settlement of Bengal introduced by Lord Cornwallis in 1793. Murmu, too, has shown great grit and courage in her life, having fought many battles for the empowerment of the marginalised. She was a teacher and joined the BJP in 1997. She was a minister in Odisha and the governor of Jharkhand between 2015 and 2021. Her political efficacy and electoral acumen have helped push the politics of the marginalised from the edges of tokenism to the mainstream. Her nomination for the post of President of India by the BJP signifies the party's sustained efforts to incorporate tribal communities, both politically and culturally.

PM Modi's personal signature on the decision is unmistakable and is in line with his relentless efforts to expand the BJP's social base and achieve the ideals of social cohesion and justice. The party has expanded its electoral base among all social groups and communities, with marginalised groups being accommodated with dignity and pride and not just for the sake of social engineering and tokenism.

Murmu comes from a humble background and has faced much hardship in her life. In a February 2020 interview, she spoke about her political journey: "I started as a

teacher without pay and later worked with social organisations to uplift villagers hailing from the remotest parts of Odisha." She has defied great odds and much cultural stigma to serve the people, battling the many stereotypes generally associated with a career in politics. At an early age, she lost her husband, brother and mother, and in 2009 and 2013 she lost her two sons, leaving her devastated and depressed. At that juncture, she held onto the spiritual path with the Brahma Kumaris, practising yoga and meditation. Doing social service was her life's new life mission. She is a fighter and has become a source of inspiration for many.

Due to the lack of women in positions of power at the local, state and national levels, girls and women don't have many role models. Should Murmu become the First Citizen, it would not only give hope to the marginalised, but also to the many women who are considered second-class citizens. For me, her nomination goes beyond the politics of representation and tokenism. I have a role model now.

The writer is assistant professor, Maitreyi College and founder of DAPSA (Dalit Adivasi Professors and Scholars Association)



## JUNE 30, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

### AFTER VP SINGH

THE CONGRESS (I) high command has decided to put off the knotty problem of finding a successor to the UP Chief Minister VP Singh until after the presidential election on July 12. In view of this, the party on UPCC-(I) president BN Pandey to call a halt to his discussions on a new leader with party legislators. The state party leaders have even been hoping that the new CM will assume office by next week. However, the Congress (I) sources ruled out the possibility of imposing a brief spell of presidential rule in the state. It is said that Singh has agreed to continue as acting chief minister

until a new successor is named.

### PM'S CRITICISM

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi criticised the call for conscience vote given by H R Khanna, Opposition candidate for the Presidency. She was speaking after commissioning a water supply project for Sultanpuri and Mangolpuri resettlement colonies in West Delhi. Mrs Gandhi said it was an insult to the elected representatives of the people to ask them to vote according to their conscience. MPs and MLAs need not be told what they should do. It was an insult to democracy itself, she said with vehemence.

### ISRAEL'S OFFER

ISRAELI ARMED FORCES are "in a position to wipe out terrorist centres in Western Beirut", Defence Minister Ariel Sharon said in Jerusalem. However, the government had decided to grant the Palestine Liberation Organisation a "grace period" and safe conduct, Sharon said. He confirmed that Israel had called on the PLO besieged in Western Beirut to lay down their arms and leave the country. "We are not warmongers. We hope that the terrorists will see sense," Sharon added but Israel had to remain ready to "fight against anybody wanting to torpedo peace efforts".

# Closing the Gulf

UAE is India's closest partner in Arab world and resilience in bilateral ties will withstand recent convulsions. But it will take a sustained public diplomacy effort to undo the damage



NAVDEEP SURI

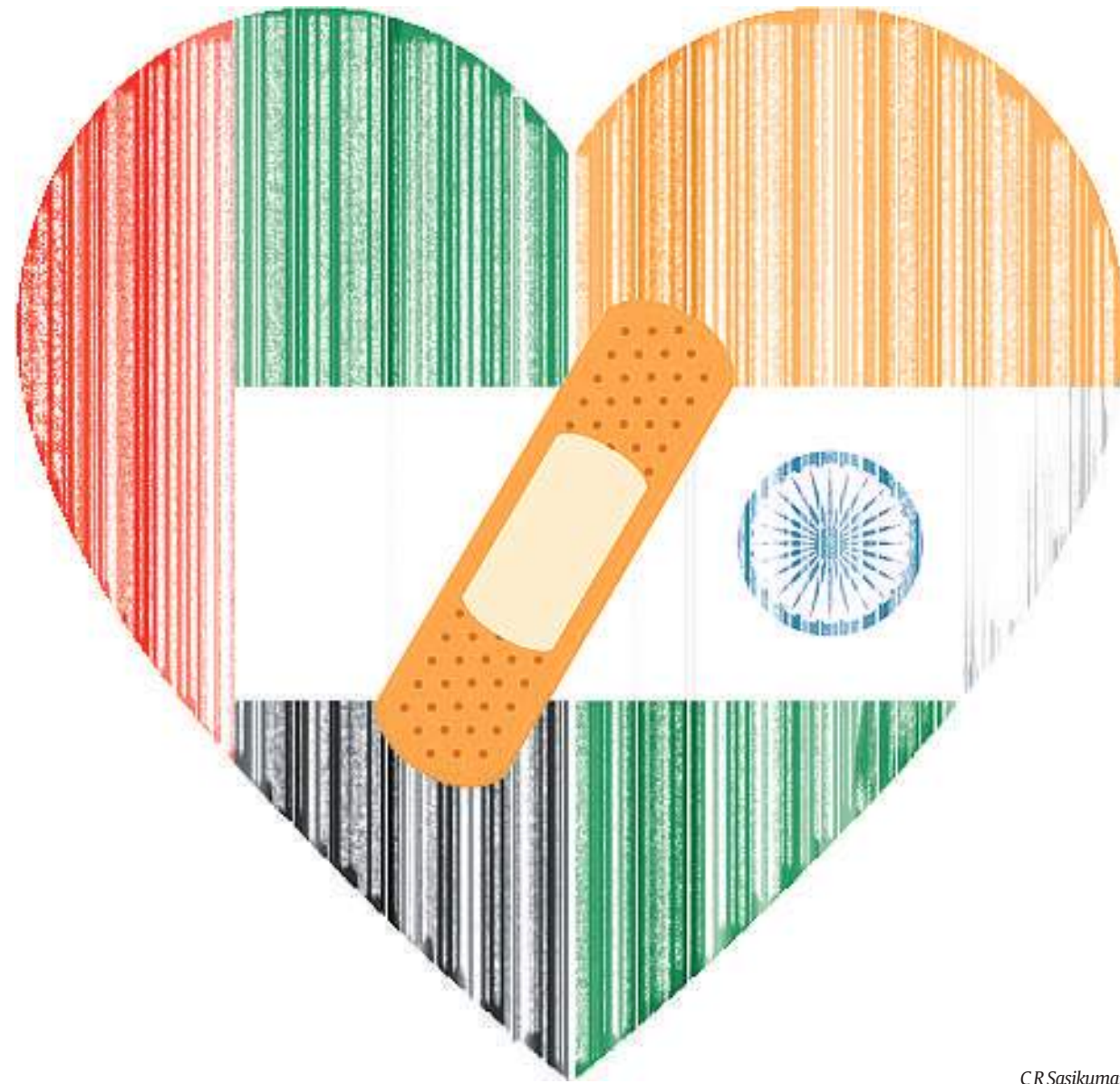
PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA Modi's visit to the UAE on June 28 was his fourth, having visited the country earlier in August 2015, in February 2018 and again in August 2019. Juxtaposed against the fact that no Indian PM had visited the UAE for 34 years since the visit of Indira Gandhi in 1981, the transformation in India's engagement with this Gulf state has been quite extraordinary.

The reason for the latest sojourn, ostensibly, is to offer condolences on the demise of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al Nahyan and to congratulate Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al Nahyan on his elevation to the position of the ruler of Abu Dhabi and President of the UAE. Viewed from the perspective of traditional diplomatic protocol, the visit was not necessary. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu had gone to Abu Dhabi on May 15 to offer the Government of India's condolences to the UAE leadership and in an unusual gesture, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had visited the UAE embassy in New Delhi to sign the condolence book.

But this is a relationship that has moved well beyond the confines of diplomatic protocols. The warmth and personal chemistry between the Prime Minister and Sheikh Mohamed are genuine and palpable. It has been almost three years since their last meeting in Abu Dhabi when PM Modi was bestowed the Order of Zayed, the UAE's highest civilian award. He had also planned to visit the Dubai Expo in January but a rise in Covid-19 cases linked to the Omicron variant had come in the way. This stopover on the way back from the G7 summit in Germany was an opportunity to renew that relationship through a one-on-one meeting with Sheikh Mohamed and an engagement with key members of the royal family including the National Security Advisor and foreign minister.

Meanwhile, a lot has happened on the bilateral front, including a fairly substantive virtual summit with Sheikh Mohamed in February 2022 when both sides signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). The two leaders also issued an ambitious, forward-looking Joint Vision Statement titled, "Advancing the India and UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership: New Frontiers, New Milestones".

CEPA is a significant milestone that was negotiated and finalised in just 88 days and promises to increase bilateral trade from \$ 60 billion to \$ 100 billion in five years. It came into force on May 1 and has already ushered in preferential market access for 97 per cent of tariff lines accounting for 99 per cent of Indian exports to the UAE. It is expected to help Indian exports in areas ranging from gems and jewellery and textiles to footwear and pharmaceuticals, apart from enhanced access for Indian service providers to 11 specific sectors. A high-level business delegation from the UAE led by Minister for Economy Abdulla bin Touq was in India on May 12 to identify trade and investment opportunities, brief Indian business leaders



CR Sasikumar

about the key features of the agreement and advise small and medium enterprises on leveraging its provisions. On the sidelines of the visit, the Dubai-based DP World and India's National Skills Development Council signed an agreement to set up a Skill India Centre in Varanasi to train local youth in logistics, port operations and allied areas so that they can pursue overseas employment.

On the regional front, the rapid normalisation of ties between the UAE and Israel following the Abraham Accords of August 2020 has also opened new avenues of trilateral and multilateral cooperation. Some Israeli tech companies are already establishing a base in Dubai and seeking to marry niche technologies with Emirati capital and Indian scale. The US has announced that President Joe Biden's forthcoming visit to West Asia will see a virtual summit of what it calls the 2I2U, a new grouping that brings together India, Israel, the US and UAE. The foreign ministers of the four countries had held their first virtual meeting in October 2021 during Jaishankar's visit to Tel Aviv, articulating a focus on joint trade, technology, transport and infrastructure projects.

These positive developments must be seen in the backdrop of the turbulence caused by the comments on Prophet Mohammed by Nupur Sharma and Naveen Kumar Jindal. These comments reveal an utter

These comments reveal an utter ignorance of the crucial support that countries like the UAE have given to India in the Islamic world, first by inviting our late External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj as a guest of honour at an OIC foreign ministers meeting in Abu Dhabi and later by standing with us on Jammu and Kashmir following the abrogation of Article 370. Nor do they take into account the fact that the Gulf is our third-largest trading partner, our principal source of hydrocarbons, a major source of foreign investment and home to some 8 million Indians.

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The UAE today is India's closest partner in the Arab world and fortunately, there is enough resilience in bilateral ties to withstand the recent convulsions. But India's image has been dented in the hearts and minds of the average Emiratis and left many Indians living in the Gulf appalled at the wanton injury caused to their interests.

Visuals from the Prime Minister's visit and his very evident personal rapport with the leadership of UAE have sent out a positive message but it will take a sustained public diplomacy effort to undo the damage. In other countries in the Gulf, the task will be that much more difficult.

The writer is Distinguished Fellow at ORF and former ambassador to UAE

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"As Moscow's aggression exacts a fearful toll on the Ukrainian population and on the country's military forces, western leaders must seek ways to intensify the pressure on Mr Putin while continuing to ensure that Nato is not dragged directly into the war."  
— THE GUARDIAN

## Hardik's travels

Patel's political journey highlights blurring of ideological frontiers and shifting of political plates in Gujarat



SHARIK LALIWALA AND CHRISTOPHE JAFFRELOT

AFTER MONTHS of voicing his concerns to the Congress, Hardik Patel has finally left the Grand Old Party and turned towards the BJP. In Gujarat, where political actors routinely and without any discomfort shift allegiances between the BJP and Congress, this is no great news. It is another symptom of the steady erosion of ideological cleavages as well as the hegemony of Hindu nationalism in Indian politics.

Hardik Patel began his journey as a quota activist for Patels in 2015 as a young, vocal anti-BJP figure. In the Gujarat Congress, as the party's working president, he moderated his discourse on the quota question, especially after the introduction of the 10 per cent quota for Patels under the economically weaker sections reservation in 2019, and tried to project himself as a youth icon and a kisan leader. This was an interesting proposition in a land of urban politics where the position of a kisan leader has been vacant for decades.

Over the last few months, Hardik has redefined himself again — as a Hindu nationalist. He has quite enthusiastically supported the building of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, thrown his weight behind the implementation of the CAA-NRC — the amended citizenship laws that take India on the path of a de jure Hindu Rashtra — and spoken on the mistreatment of Hindus and Patel leaders at the hands of the Congress. For a man who had started his public career by praising Bal Thackeray, this new discourse marks a return to the roots.

Moreover, Hardik Patel has shunned the progressive outlook regarding caste in his politics as well as his distrust of crony capitalism. He blamed the Congress for casteism in his resignation letter from the party. In his recent interviews, he has attacked the 1980s strategy of Congress — the amalgamation of Kshatriya, Harijan (Dalit), Adivasi, and Muslim (KHAM) votes under the leadership of Gujarat's first OBC chief minister, Madhavsinh Solanki. And he praised the two major industrialists of Gujarat, Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani.

Patel's trajectory epitomises the blurring of ideological frontiers in Indian politics today and, more than that, the growing opportunism of politicians whom voters cannot now trust easily when they commit themselves to principles and great causes.

While Hardik Patel's shift to the BJP may weaken the Congress in rural Gujarat, the party's attractiveness to Patel voters in that part of the state in 2017 did not result only — nor even mainly — from his influence. Generally seen as the party of Dalits, OBCs, tribals and Muslims since the 1980s, the Congress — which was largely built by

Vallabh Patel in the region — again reached out to Patels after more than 50 years. In the Saurashtra peninsula, the Congress won 2/3rds of the 48 assembly seats in 2017, almost double its tally in 2012. The party even became a spokesperson for rural Patidars in the state as 14 of its 15 Patel MLAs belonged to rural constituencies.

Hardik Patel's shift to the BJP will help the party recover in the rural part of the state — but will it be enough? Rural Patels are still at the receiving end of the economic crisis that is affecting agriculture. As we have highlighted in our writings before, including in Sharik Laliwala's paper on BJP ministers' social profiles in the Studies in Indian Politics, the pro-reservation call by Patels, who had opposed the granting of quota to OBCs in the 1980s, reflects the "jobless growth" trajectory of a highly urban-industrial Gujarat, along with increasing rural poverty. Daily wage rates in rural Gujarat are frozen. In terms of rural poverty, Gujarat ranked ninth out of 17 large states in India in 2011-12, a drop of four ranks from its position in 1993-94. Patels are badly divided along class lines, something that Christophe Jaffrelot and Kalaiyaran A's research showcases: The richest 20 per cent among Patels cornered 61.4 per cent of the community's income in 2011-12, whereas the poorest 20 per cent got only 2.8 per cent, which means that they are increasingly lagging behind the OBCs and even Dalits.

In fact, the mean income of the first quintile of Patels (Rs 6,978) was almost half the mean income of the second quintile of the SCs (Rs 11,411) in 2011-12. And the situation is worse in some parts of the state like Saurashtra, where the water from the Narmada river is yet to reach for irrigation purposes. These trends expose the futility of treating urban and rural Patels in the same way.

The BJP has remained steadfastly behind urban-industrial interests, particularly amongst Patels. For instance, the present CM, Bhupendra Patel, otherwise a novice in Gujarati politics, belongs to an urban constituency, just like the party's old Patel guard — Anandiben Patel, Nitin Patel, Kaushik Patel, Saurabh Patel, et al.

The Congress may not have any Patel face left but it may continue to capitalise on the resentment of the Gujarat peasantry and rekindle its strategy by uniting those who are losing out among the villagers in the state. In parallel, the AAP offensive in Gujarat may cut into the urban vote bank of the BJP — and this is probably one of the reasons why the ruling party needed to capture a Patel rural leader even more urgently this year.

The BJP now gets one. But for Hardik Patel, joining the BJP makes him lose his unique position, especially since today's BJP does not like leaders with their own mass base. This feature can be seen in the selection of Bhupendra Patel as the CM, who was clueless about his appointment till the very last. In fact, in his cabinet, everyone is a first-time minister.

Laliwala is an independent scholar on politics and history of Gujarat; Jaffrelot is senior research fellow at CERIS-Sciences Po/CNRS, Paris, and professor of Indian Politics and Sociology at King's India Institute, London



AMITABH KUNDU

## The extent of poverty

Efforts to estimate numbers from 2011-21 must contend with absence of data

THE NATIONAL Family Health Survey has recorded that infant mortality has gone down only marginally from 40.7 to 35.2 per thousand between 2015-16 and 2019-21. The percentage of anaemic children aged 6 to 59 months, pregnant and nonpregnant women and adult males, on the other hand, have gone up. And yet, the level of poverty turns out as very low or almost negligible in the terminal year. These are no prospects for poverty since their linkages with nutritional indicators are considered tenuous and these can be explained in terms of intra-household distribution, poor dietary habits, improper water/sanitation facilities, etc. Then why is there an uproar about the working papers of the IMF and World Bank, reporting no or low poverty for India in the pandemic year or just before that?

What does the poverty index measure or attempt to capture? Its construction involves complex calculations — to identify a poverty basket of consumption, working out price indices for update of the poverty line and then applying it to the income or consumption of households for determining their poverty status. The computation becomes far more challenging in the absence of data on consumption expenditure as is the case in India and several developing countries. Intending to provide inputs for policy making, researchers have evolved ingenious methods of estimating the data, using past datasets and those that have not been designed to get robust expen-

diture estimates.

One must compliment the researchers who have taken up this challenge and consider these seriously to examine the extent to which these maintain temporal and cross-sectional comparability and, more importantly, what exactly they can convey to policymakers. A nine-member working group set up by the Planning Commission proposed the poverty line at Rs 20 per capita per month in the early Sixties, loosely ensuring the adequacy of minimum requirements. Dandekar and Rath (1970) went into detail about minimum calorie needs, based on the average consumption pattern. During the Eighties and Nineties, it was realised that this linkage is getting blurred due to changes in the consumption pattern, microenvironment for living, etc. Sukhatme argued that the emphasis on calories and nutrition is misplaced as the absorption of nutrients depends on physical health, particularly the presence or absence of gastrointestinal diseases. Water and sanitation facilities were noted as important in determining the poverty line. Minhas's exhaustive work too suggested that calorie/nutrient requirements are largely socially and culturally determined and even biological needs vary within a household. It was accepted that the state, through poverty interventions, cannot and should not try to guarantee adequate nutrition to people. The Tendulkar Committee formally announced delinking of nutritional norms from poverty in 2010.

As the transition was taking place, Lakdawala beseeched Minhas at a seminar "not to remove the pegs on which the whole poverty debate hangs". He thought that poverty has a special punch and force in policy discourse at the national and global levels because people associate it with suffering. If it is reduced to a number that is temporally and cross-sectionally comparable but lacks in the content of misery, it will cease to be an instrument to pressure the government for appropriate welfare policies.

Bhalla, Virmani and Bhasin (2022) in their IMF Working Paper have done a commendable job in developing a method of interpolation and extrapolation of the consumption expenditure of the NSS 2011-12 and building a series up to 2019-20. They use the growth rate of private final consumption expenditure (PFCE) but bring in the distributional changes by allowing household consumption to grow as per the nominal per capita income in each state. Rural-urban price differences are also introduced through separate poverty lines. The method is reasonable except that it assumes the distributions to remain unchanged both within the rural and urban segments in each state over 2014-20. One wonders if they could use other multipliers for updating, for example, the growth rate of income in the economic activity with which the household is associated. Also, the growth rates of different commodities in the PFCE are significantly different and hence

commodity-wise adjustments can be done to give higher weights to the items of consumption by the poor.

The most significant contribution of the study is its bringing in the differential engagement of the state in the provisioning of the essentials to the poor into poverty calculations. This opens up the possibility of changes in the level of state engagement in poverty estimation, including free gas cylinders, etc. However, this must be supplemented by an assessment of the disengagement of the state in social sectors such as education and health.

The paper by Roy and Weide (2022) for the World Bank explores the possibility of using CMIE in poverty calculations after correcting for the unrepresentative character of its panel data by modifying the weightages of households for aggregation. Indeed, the asset position and level of basic amenities are generally higher in CMIE samples than in more robust national sources. Happily, these adjustments carried out to remove the non-convergence of the CMIE data with other macro statistics have resulted in a poverty figure of 12 per cent. People find this more acceptable not because of the methodology but the magnitude. One does not know whether the poverty estimate would be a bit higher had the adjustments been carried out for a few other parameters and also at the state level.

The writer is senior fellow at the World Resources Institute, New Delhi

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### RIGHT STEP

THIS IS REFERS TO the editorial, 'In Ukraine's shadow' (IE, June 29). Mass movements have an inherent limitation, according to Bipan Chandra, because the masses tend to reduce their support as the consequences of long-term action become difficult to bear. This notion can be applied to the current situation created by the Ukraine war, which has dragged on for far too long. The G7 summit held in Germany and the support for Ukraine promised there is a step in the right direction. That Ukraine has managed to hold its ground somewhat against a mighty Russia owes to the fact that the West has ensured it has supplies and logistics support. The courage of the Ukrainians too cannot be denied.

Dewang Ganesh Thosar, Raigad

### BLOW TO AAP

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Signal from Sangrur' (IE, June 29). Simranjit Singh Mann's win in the Sangrur bypoll has many lessons for the AAP and other parties. Mann is still reluctant, though his party has been branded radical. The result will have an adverse effect on the poll prospects of the AAP as Sangrur had been represented twice in the Lok Sabha by CM Bhagwant Mann. The people cannot be taken for granted as the electorate can see through the tricks and rhetorical ploys of political parties.

SS Paul, Nadia

### REGULATION NEEDED

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'NITI report on gig economy: the takeaways' (IE, June 29). The Niti Aayog's Report on the gig economy is timely, as this sector has grown rapidly in the past few years and has reached a size and stature that demands some regulation and formalisation. Its problems of low wages, absence of social security, unregulated working conditions, etc, require attention and in this regard, the Code on Social Security 2020 offers a ray of hope to gig workers. It recognises them and proposes to cover them in social security schemes.

Hemant Contractor, Pune

### LONG ROAD

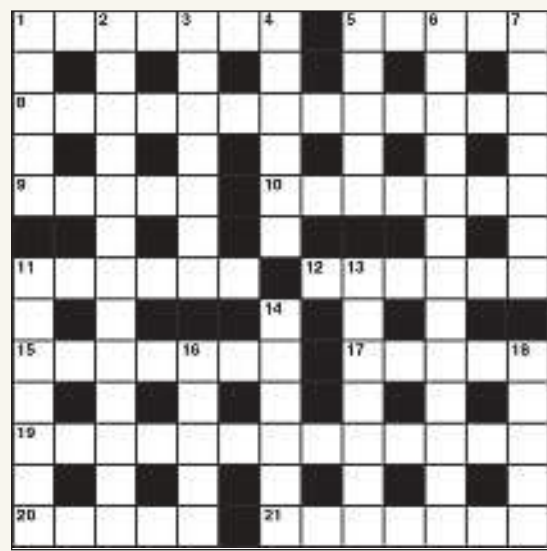
THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Don't look at America' (IE, June 28). The US has neither a dwindling population like Poland nor an overwhelmingly Catholic population nor any Islamic taboos (like Iran does) to provide a reason for overturning the Roe Vs. Wade judgment. The novel coat-hanger protest shows the long road US has to be prepared to trudge like the Irish did in overturning a ban on abortion after Savita Halappanavar's avoidable death in 2012. Indians would do well to guard against any discrete build-up of such regressive opinions since we are not the same country of 1971 when the MTP was passed as an Act.

Raja Bandopadhyaya, Vadodara





## CROSSWORD 4781



- ACROSS**
- Stop in a few bars (7)
  - Good place for a date? (5)
  - Physical training manuals? (8,5)
  - He broke all the commandments (5)
  - Give one the right to name a film for example (7)
  - He is in highest command (6)
  - Is deep perhaps but may be detected (6)
  - Allege the little devil has taken every one (7)
  - Neighbourhood call about nothing unusual (5)
  - What the toucan did was adequate (6,3,4)
  - Legal acts? (5)
  - Thwarts the new mistress who loses her head (7)
- DOWN**
- Rhubarb he bottled in spirit (5)
  - Finds out if beatings are regular (5,3,5)
  - Make a legal charge (7)
  - Made a home for a good man in want (6)
  - Go round in high circles (5)
  - Manages to get round current problems (5,8)
  - Force one to hang about instead of going to work (7)
  - Given instruction in law (7)
  - Joins as senior on board (7)
  - More like the snow I threw out? (6)
  - The regions are as follows (5)
  - Still producing cheerful songs (5)

**Solutions Crossword 4780:** Across: 1.Juicy, 8.Straw hat, 9.Alert, 10.Endanger, 11.Affix, 12.Yea, 16.League, 17.Player, 18.Nee, 23.Sides, 24.Parmesan, 25.White, 26.Reserved, 27.Smelt. Down: 2.Uplifted, 3.Carriage, 4.Stance, 5.Kayak, 6.Thigh, 7.Story, 12.Yen, 13.Ape, 14.Radio ham, 15.Pedestal, 19.Enamel, 20.Sport, 21.Petri.

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## JUMBLLED 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.

Cats don't like \_\_\_ without their \_\_\_. - Roger A. Caras (6,7)

RTAEE      IOUCNN  
 RNST      AEUCGH

SOLUTION: EATER, SNORT, NUNNO, GALCHE

**Difficulty Level 1s**  
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

**SUDOKU 4881**

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

**SOLUTION SUDOKU 4880**

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

# NOTICE BOARD CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY | APPOINTMENTS, MOVEMENTS, CELEBRATION, HONOURS

**UPDATE : (HPCL)**  
**Celebration Of 8th International Day Of Yoga at HPCL**

International Day of Yoga (IDY), is celebrated annually on 21 June every year since its inception in 2015. The 8th edition of IDY was organized in India and across the globe on the theme of 'Yoga for Humanity' which was led by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi from Mysuru Palace, Mysuru in Karnataka. This year's IDY held significance as it marked 75th year of India's independence and hence, Union Ministers and dignitaries joined the celebrations from 75 Iconic Locations of the Country. Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing & Urban Affairs, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri took part in the program from Red fort complex New Delhi. HPCL's Chairman & Managing Director, Director Refineries and Director Finance (addl. Charge Director-HR), led HPCL's observation of IDY by joining the celebrations from HP Housing Colony and performing Common Yoga Protocol along with Hon'ble Prime Minister. The IDY observation is based on a harmonious mass yoga demonstration of a custom-made 45-minute protocol namely, Common Yoga Protocol (CYP). Senior officials from Corporate Headquarters, Marketing Headquarters and locations across the Country also joined the celebrations by performing mass Yoga sessions. This year, the major attraction of the IDY observation was the 'Guardian Ring', whereby the yoga celebrations happened across the world was relayed throughout the Yoga Day. 'The Guardian Ring' underlines 'One Sun, One earth' concept and showcases the unifying power of Yoga.

**UPDATE : (CR)**  
**Central Railway observes International Day of Yoga 2022 on 21.6.2022**

Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, General Manager, Central Railway along with Principal Heads of Departments of Central Railway participated in yoga session at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus Auditorium, Mumbai on the occasion of International Day of Yoga 2022 on 21.6.2022. Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, General Manager said yoga helps us fight stress and diseases. Yoga is not about exercise but to discover the sense of oneness with yourself, the world and nature. Divisional Railway Managers of Bhusaval, and Solapur Divisions were one of the 75 iconic locations which connected with Konark. Similar yoga sessions were organized at major railway stations, workshops, hospitals, lobbies, RPF barracks, etc. Yoga Day related webcards were posted in social media.

**UPDATE : (MTNL)**  
**MTNL celebrated International Yoga Day**

MTNL celebrated 8th International Yoga Day on June 21, 2022, to enhance the awareness about Yoga and its holistic benefits among employees. Employees participated with full spirits and vigour to celebrate the day. Yoga sessions were organized at Telephone House Prabhadevi, where everyone pledged to make it an integral part of their daily life. On this occasion Shri Deepak Mukherjee, ED MTNL Mumbai spoke about the benefits of yoga and also urged all employees to take pledge to make yoga an integral part of their daily life. The event was attended by Shri Bharat Bhushan Chaudhary PGM (D), Shri Manna Lal Meghwal GM(EB&LC), Shri Omprakash Tripathi DGM(Admin), officers and staff of MTNL. Shri Rajesh Erande briefed about importance of yoga. He also mentioned that regular yoga practice lead to the better mental, physical and intellectual health. It brings harmony and peace in everyone's life

**UPDATE : (WR)**  
**WR adopts latest internet protocol technology in communication & IT**

Western Railway is continuously striving to promote the 'Digital India' initiative to transform India into a digitally empowered society. As a part of this endeavour, Western Railway has adopted the latest technology in communication & IT network. In a major breakthrough, WR has become the first Zonal Railways over IR to adopt IPv6, the latest Internet Protocol technology in Communications and IT by migrating from the earlier technology of IPv4. According to a press release issued by Shri Sumit Thakur- Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Rly, the main difference between IPv4 and IPv6 is the address size of IP addresses. The IPv4 is a 32-bit address, whereas IPv6 is a 128-bit hexadecimal address. The latest Internet Protocol technology, IPv6 provides a large address space and it contains a simple header as compared to IPv4. With the IPv6 technology, WR will be in better position to manage network to ensure better reliability of communication and IT networks.

**UPDATE : (WR)**  
**WR - GM presided the zonal railway users consultative committee meeting**

The second meeting of the 34th Zonal Railway Users Consultative Committee (ZRUC) of Western Railway was held on Wednesday, 22nd June, 2022 at Rail Nikunj, Mumbai Central. Shri Prakash Butani, General Manager (In - Charge), Western Railway, who is also the Chairman of the committee, presided over the meeting. According to press release issued by Shri Sumit Thakur - Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, this meeting was attended by 40 members of ZRUC including Dr. Heena Vijay Kumar Gavit - Hon'ble MP of Nandurbar & Shri Piyushbhai Dinkarbhay Desai - Hon'ble MLA of Navsari. A presentation of various achievements, passenger amenities and infrastructural related work undertaken by Western Railway was presented. During the meeting, the members discussed on various rail related issues and provided suggestions for improvement in amenities/ services provided to passengers. GM thanked all the members for giving their valuable suggestions and assured the members for examining their issues and suitable/feasible action shall be taken on their issues raised during the meeting. Shri Butani stated that the suggestions of the ZRUC members holds an important place and helps Western Railway to provide better service to its passengers. During the meeting various Principal Heads of Departments of WR were also present.

**UPDATE : (WR)**  
**WR to augment one AC3 tier coach in Gorakhpur Express**

For the convenience of passengers, Western Railway has decided to augment an AC 3 Tier coach in Train No. 15068/15067 Bandra Terminus - Gorakhpur Express on permanent basis on nominated days. According to a press release issued by Shri Sumit Thakur - Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, an additional AC 3 Tier coach will be attached in Bandra Terminus - Gorakhpur Express on permanent basis Ex Bandra Terminus from 8th July, 2022 and Ex Gorakhpur from 6th July, 2022.

**UPDATE : (WR)**  
**Restoration H. Nizamuddin - Ernakulam Superfast express via vasai road from 6th July**

For the convenience of passengers, Railways has decided to resume the services of H. Nizamuddin - Ernakulam Superfast (Weekly) Express w.e.f 6th July, 2022. According to a press release issued by Shri Sumit Thakur - Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, the details of the train are as under:  
Train No. 22656 H. Nizamuddin - Ernakulam Superfast Express will depart from H. Nizamuddin at 05.00 hrs, every Friday and will reach Ernakulam on the third day at 02.35 hrs as per monsoon timings. This train will run with effect from 8th July, 2022. As per non - monsoon timings, Train No. 22656 H. Nizamuddin - Ernakulam Superfast Express will depart from H. Nizamuddin at 05.00 hrs, every Friday and will reach Ernakulam on the third day at 00.15 hrs. Similarly, Train No. 22655 Ernakulam - H. Nizamuddin Superfast Express will depart from Ernakulam, every Wednesday at 02.15 hrs as per monsoon timings and will reach H. Nizamuddin at 22.40 hrs, the next day. This train will run with effect from 6th July, 2022. As per non - monsoon timings, Train No. 22655 Ernakulam - H. Nizamuddin Superfast Express will depart from Ernakulam, every Wednesday at 05.10 hrs and will reach H. Nizamuddin at 22.40 hrs, the next day. This train comprises of AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, AC 3 Tier coaches, Sleeper Class & General Second Class coaches. Halts over WR: Vasai Road, Dahanu Road, Vapi, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara & Ratlam stations in both directions. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in).

**UPDATE : (WR)**  
**Few WR local train services affected due to block at lower parel**

In connection with the ongoing work of Delisle Road Over Bridge at Lower Parel, a Power and traffic Block of 03.00 hours will be taken on all lines at Lower Parel from 01.35 hrs to 04.35 hrs in the intervening night of 28th/29th June, 2022. According to a press release issued by Shri Sumit Thakur - Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, the details of the local services affected due to this work are as under:-  
1. Andheri - Churchgate slow local departing from Andheri at 04.04 hrs (ADH 90002) will be run upto Dadar and will not halt at Matunga Road & Mahim stations. In reverse direction, it will be run as Dadar - Virar slow local (VR 90017) on DOWN Fast line upto Mahim, hence will avail double halt at Mahim station & not halt at Matunga Road station. Hence, both the above trains will remain partially cancelled between Dadar & Churchgate.  
2. Borivali - Churchgate slow local departing from Borivali at 03.50 hrs will be run upto Bandra. In reverse direction, it will be run as Bandra - Borivali slow local (BVI 90021). Hence, both these trains will remain partially cancelled between Bandra & Churchgate. Passengers are requested to take note of the above arrangements.

**UPDATE : (WR)**  
**Western Railway To Extend Trips Of Bandra Terminus - Gorakhpur Summer Special Train**

Trips of Train No. 09415/09416 Bandra Terminus - Gandhidham SF Special to be cancelled w.e.f 30th June, 2022. For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand, Western Railway has decided to extend the trips of Train No. 05054/05053 Bandra Terminus - Gorakhpur Weekly Summer Special train on Special fare on exiting composition, timings, stoppages, etc. According to a press release issued by Shri Sumit Thakur - Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, details of the train is as under: Train No. 05054/05053 Bandra Terminus - Gorakhpur Weekly Summer Special Train No. 05054 Bandra Terminus - Gorakhpur Special which was earlier notified up to 25th June, 2022 has now been extended up to 30th July, 2022. Similarly, Train No. 05053 Gorakhpur - Bandra Terminus Special which was earlier notified up to 24th June, 2022 has now been extended up to 29th July, 2022. Cancellation of trips of special Train The trips of Train No. 09415/09416 Bandra Terminus - Gandhidham SF Special Train on Special Fare has been cancelled with effect from 30th June, 2022. The booking of extended trips of Train No. 05054 will open from 27th June, 2022 at PRS counters & on IRCTC website. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in).





## Australia in control after Lyon five-for against Sri Lanka

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
GALLE, JUNE 29

NATHAN LYON took his 20th five-wicket haul to bowl Sri Lanka out for 212 before Australia reached 98-3 at stumps Wednesday on the opening day of the first cricket test.

Sri Lankan off spinner Ramesh Mendis dismissed David Warner (25) lbw and had Marnus Labuschagne (13) caught by Asitha Fernando in Australia's innings to finish the day on 2-35. Steven Smith was run out for 6 after a mix-up with Usman Khawaja, who refused to run after calling Smith for a single. Khawaja was batting on 47 with Travis Head on 6 at stumps. Earlier, Lyon returned bowling figures of 5-90 and leg spinner Mitchell Swepson had 3-55 to help Australia bowl Sri Lanka out to a modest score.

On Wednesday Lyon went past former New Zealand great Richard Hadlee's wicket tally of 431 to position himself 12th on the list of highest test wicket takers. "I am not really sure where I stand on that list something I don't really look at," he told reporters. "The top end of the wicket takers across world cricket has some amazing names. To be overtaking a few guys on whatever number it may be it's very special, something I am very proud about." Niroshan Dickwella top scored for Sri Lanka with 58, his 21st test half-century. He added 42 runs for the sixth wicket with Angelo Mathews (39) after Sri Lanka lost five wickets for 97 runs, and 54 runs for the seventh wicket with Mendis (22).

Sri Lanka opted to bat first after winning the toss and resumed its innings after tea at 19:16. Lyon trapped Mendis lbw with just two runs added to the teatime score to end his partnership with Dickwella. Dickwella edged Lyon to wicketkeeper Alex Carey and Lyon had Lasith Embuldeniya (6) as his fifth wicket. Earlier, he dismissed Dimuth Karunaratne (28) and Angelo Mathews (39), both caught by David Warner. Australia's second spinner Mitchell Swepson took two consecutive wickets in the 37th over with identical deliveries.

The leg spinner got the first delivery of the over drifting toward right-handed Dananjaya de Silva's leg stump and the bouncing ball took a fine outside edge for a catch to wicketkeeper Carey. Dinesh Chandimal was dismissed first ball, caught by Warner at second slip.

**Brief Scores: Sri Lanka:** 212 all out in 59 overs (Niroshan Dickwella 58, Angelo Mathews 39; Nathan Lyon 5/90, Mitchell Swepson 3/55) vs **Australia:** 98/3 in 25 overs (Usman Khawaja 47 batting, David Warner 25; Ramesh Mendis 2/35).

## Chopra eyes elusive Diamond before World Championships

Olympic gold medallist will aim to win his first Diamond League event at Stockholm tonight

NIHAL KOSHIE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

THE ANTICIPATION is building around star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra's quest for a medal at the World Championships in Eugene next month. If the first Indian track and field athlete to win gold at the Olympics also becomes World Champion, it will mark the pinnacle of his career and the first time any male has held both the titles simultaneously since Norway's Andreas Thorkildsen way back in 2009. Thorkildsen followed in the footsteps of the legendary Czech Jan Zelezny, a three time Olympic champion who completed the double when he won gold at the Worlds in 2001 after winning the Summer Games title a year earlier.

Chopra has ambitious plans for this year and it includes a tilt at Diamond League glory, a series of one-day events that last just two hours each introduced in 2010 to promote athletics across the world.

The athlete with the most points at the end of the Diamond League cycle held at 12 different venues - men's javelin features in four - and the final at Zurich gets a diamond trophy and \$40,000. But above all the Diamond League Champion gets boasting rights of being the most consistent athlete. Within days of the curtain coming down on the Worlds, Chopra, 24, will be back on the runway in Birmingham to defend his Commonwealth Games gold. His schedule is packed as three days after the end of the CWG, he is to be at Monaco for the Diamond League event.

The principality on the Mediterranean coast is an important stopover for Chopra on the Diamond League calendar and pulling out will diminish his chance of being a Diamond League Champion.

Chopra has said he will decide on travelling to Monaco depending on how his body feels in Birmingham. That call is almost a month away.

On Thursday night, the Diamond League in Stockholm is where Chopra's quest to make the cut for this year's final in Zurich begins. At the Olympic Stadium in the Swedish capital he also gets an opportunity to tick a box. He has never won a Diamond League competi-



Neeraj Chopra will aim for consistency in the Diamond League cycle held at four venues before the final at Zurich. *Twitter*

### CHOPRA IN DIAMOND LEAGUE

Venue	Distance	Pos.	Date
Monaco	78.92m	7 <sup>th</sup>	Jul 2017
Paris	84.67m	5 <sup>th</sup>	Jul 2017
Zurich*	83.80m	7 <sup>th</sup>	Aug 2017
Doha	87.43m	4 <sup>th</sup>	May 2018
Eugene	80.81m	6 <sup>th</sup>	May 2018
Rabat	83.32m	5 <sup>th</sup>	July 2018
Zurich*	85.73m	4 <sup>th</sup>	Aug 2018

\* Diamond League Final

tion in seven previous attempts. He had qualified for the final twice and 7th (83.30 metres) in 2017 and fourth (85.87m) a year later.

After Stockholm, Chopra has lined up Monaco (August 10) and Lausanne (August 26) as his next two Diamond League stops.

Stockholm presents an interesting battle as it will be the first time the current Olympic medalists - Chopra and Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch (silver) and Vitezslav Vesely (bronze) go head to head at the same competition since the Summer Games in Tokyo.

Apart from the two Czechs, Chopra will also have to contend with Grenada's Anderson Peters, the defending world champion. Peters has a season best and personal

best of 93.07 metres but finished behind Chopra at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Turku and Kuortane Games. There will also be the towering presence of Finland's Oliver Helander. The six-foot-four-inch tall 25-year-old beat Chopra to gold at Turku and is a dark horse at the World Championship as his personal best of 89.93 metres makes him a medal contender. Chopra's good friend and the biggest star before the Tokyo Olympics Johannes Vetter is not in the fray. Vetter has participated in only one event this season in Offenburg in May and the big question is around his form going into the World Championships.

Chopra has been throwing smoothly in the two competitions he has entered in so far. At Turku, he won a silver and set a new national record of 89.30 metres. Four days later in slippery conditions at Kuortane he won the gold with 86.69 metres. Chopra had slipped awkwardly but avoided injury.

"Tough conditions with the weather but happy to get my first win of the season here at Kuortane. I'm feeling good and looking forward to kicking off my Diamond League season at @BAUHAUSGALAN on the 30th," Chopra had tweeted after Kuortane.

A maiden victory for Chopra in his first Diamond League event in nearly four years will be a perfect prep up for the World Athletics Championships.

## Djokovic sails through, third seed Ruud bows out

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WIMBLEDON, JUNE 29

YET ANOTHER of the highest-ranked players on the men's tour is out of the tournament at Wimbledon. Novak Djokovic or Rafael Nadal are not among them. Casper Ruud, the runner-up to Nadal at this year's French Open, became the seventh of the top 11-ranked male players to be out of the grass-court Grand Slam for either losing early, injury, illness or being banned. Ruud, who was seeded third but ranked sixth, lost to Ugo Humbert of France 3-6, 6-2, 7-5, 6-4 on Wednesday in the second round.

Djokovic, a six-time Wimbledon champion who is looking for his fourth straight title at the All England Club, beat Thanasi Kokkinakis of Australia 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 to reach the third round. Nadal advanced to the second round on Tuesday. The third-ranked Djokovic, No. 4 Nadal, No. 5 Stefanos Tsitsipas and No. 7 Carlos Alcaraz are the only players in the top 11 remaining in the draw. Top-ranked Daniil Medvedev is out because of a ban on Russians over the war in Ukraine. No. 2 Alexander Zverev is injured. No. 8 Andrey Rublev of Russia is also banned. No. 9 Felix Auger-Aliassime and No. 10 Hubert Hurkacz lost, and No. 11 Matteo Berrettini withdrew after testing positive for COVID-19. In the women's tournament, second-seeded Anett Kontaveit and 2017 Wimbledon champion Garbiñe Muguruza were also eliminated. Kontaveit lost to Juke Niemeier of Germany 6-4, 6-0, while the ninth-seeded Muguruza was beaten by Greet Minnen 6-4, 6-0.

Kontaveit said she had COVID-19 and has struggled to get her energy back.

"I had it a couple, two months ago, I think, or something like that. Then I tried to come back very quickly. I started training. It was low intensity, but I was still training every day. I

think that was where I went wrong," the 26-year-old Estonian said.

### Serena crashes out

Serena Williams began — and ended — her comeback at Wimbledon after 364 days out of singles competition looking very much like someone who hadn't competed in just that long. She missed shots, shook her head, rolled her eyes.

In between, there were moments where Williams played very much like someone whose strokes and will have carried her to 23 Grand Slam titles. She hit blistering serves and strokes, celebrated with arms aloft.

Returning to the site of her last singles match, which she had to stop after less than a set because of an injury on June 29, 2021, and seven of her major championships, the 40-year-old Williams came within two points of victory. But she could not finish the job against an opponent making her Wimbledon debut and bowed out with a 7-5, 1-6, 7-6 (10-7) loss to 115th-ranked Harmony Tan of France. "It's definitely better than last year," Williams said. Asked whether this might have been her last match, Williams replied: "That's a question I can't answer. I don't know... Who knows?"

**Key Results : Second Round : Men's Singles:** 1- Novak Djokovic (Serbia) bt Thanasi Kokkinakis (Australia) 6-1, 6-4, 6-2; Ugo Humbert (France) bt 3-Casper Ruud (Norway) 3-6, 6-2, 7-5, 6-4; David Goffin (Spain) bt 31-Sebastain Baez (Argentina) 6-1, 6-1, 6-4; **Women's Singles:** Juke Niemeier (Germany) bt 2-Anett Kontaveit (Estonia) 6-4, 6-0; Greet Minnen (Belgium) bt 9-Garbiñe Muguruza; 15-Angelique Kerber (Germany) bt Magda Linette (Poland) 6-3, 6-3.



Third seed Casper Ruud lost to Ugo Humbert 3-6, 6-2, 7-5, 6-4. *Reuters*

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