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POCSO CASE Arrest warrant issued against Yediyurappa STATES » PAGE 5





THIRD TERM Pema Khandu sworn in as Arunachal CM NEWS » PAGE 15

ECONOMIC GROWTH **Do coalition** govts. slow down reforms?

Do they make too many policy concessions?

OPINION » PAGE 11



INTO THE SUPER 8 Rutherford, bowlers help WI beat NZ SPORT » PAGE 19

IN BRIEF

Manipur Cabinet panel to oversee rehabilitation

NEW DELHI

The Manipur government on Thursday constituted a Cabinet sub-committee to oversee the rehabilitation and relocation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the State due to the ongoing conflict. » Page 14



Row over new districts created in Rajasthan

JAIPUR

The BJP government's decision to appoint a Cabinet Sub-Committee to review the status of new districts carved out during the previous Congress regime in Rajasthan has led to a political slugfest. Former CM Ashok Gehlot has questioned the move. » Page 4



Union Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh visits the injured in the Mangaf fire incident in Kuwait on Thursday. ANI

NEW DELHI

In the aftermath of the Kuwait building fire that claimed at least 45 Indian lives on Wednesday, the Kuwaiti authorities have assured India of their "full support, including for medical care, early repatriation of mortal remains, and investigation of the incident", Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh said on Thursday, after a meeting with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya in Kuwait city.

Kallol Bhattacherjee

ty Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah has said the authorities have identified the bodies of 45 Indians and three Filipinos, adding that efforts are under way to identify the remaining one body. At least 50 others were injured. DNA tests are be-

ing carried out on the bodies.

According to the Arab

Times, Kuwaiti First Depu-

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14 **TOLL OF KERALITES HITS 23** » PAGE 5

NTA cancels scorecards of 1,563 NEET candidates

Upper Yamuna River Board to resolve Delhi water crisis

The Hindu Bureau

Centre informs SC that these candidates, who were given grace marks, will be allowed to attend a retest on June 23; if not, their original scores without grace marks will be treated as final scores

Krishnadas Rajagopal NEW DELHI

he Supreme Court recorded the Union government's submission on Thursday that the scorecards of 1,563 candidates granted compensatory marks in the undergraduate medical entrance examination

NEET-UG 2024 - will stand cancelled. These candidates can sit for a retest, likely to be held on June 23.

The Union government informed a Vacation Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta that these candidates will now be informed of their actual scores without the compensatory or grace marks. If they decide not to sit for the retest, their original scores without grace marks will be treated as



Fair chance: NEET aspirants protest against the irregularities in the examination at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

their final scores.

The court was hearing petitions challenging the award of grace marks to tive centres. The compensatory marks were awarded to these candidates on

the recommendation of a committee constituted by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

mittee, which held its deliberations between June 10 and June 12.

NEW DELHI The Supreme Court on Appearing for the Un-Thursday gave the reins to ion, advocate Kanu Agrathe Upper Yamuna River wal submitted that this Board to resolve the drinkcommittee was of the opiing water crisis in Delhi, dinion that the grant of comrecting it to hold a meeting on June 14 and decide on pensatory marks to 1,563 students for loss of time amination, their actual marks in the retest will be

taken as their result, and their previous marks from the May 5 test will be discarded, the court noted. Appearing for the NTA, senior advocate Naresh Kaushik apprised the court

> » PAGE 14 **MORE REPORTS** » PAGE 16





GLOBAL ACCLAIM for



the 1,563 candidates using 'Skewed situation' a "normalisation formula", that the retest would likely on the grounds that they When the decision to grant be held on June 23. were not allowed the full grace marks had come unperiod of 3.2 hours to write der a cloud, the NTA formed a subsequent com-**CONTINUED ON** the exam at their respec-

giving Delhi water "at the had led to a skewed situaearliest". tion. Grace marks were li-The court pulled up the mited only to unattempted questions. For the students who opt to take the reex-

Himachal Pradesh government for making an erroneous statement in a June 6 hearing that it had surplus water up to 137 cusecs to

share with Delhi. Meanwhile, Delhi Police began patrolling the Munak canal area along the Haryana border on Thursday to keep a check on the "water tanker mafia" even as Delhi Water Minister Atishi met

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CM YK

M ND-NDE

Court grants a month to vacate mosque premises

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has granted one month's time to the caretaker of a mosque and madrasa at Sarai Kale Khan to vacate its premises, after which it will be demolished by the authorities.

A Vacation Bench of Justice Amit Sharma made it clear that no further extension of time shall be granted for vacating the Faizyab Masjid and the madrasa on its premises at Bhehlolpur Khadar in Sarai Kale Khan near the ISBT bus depot.

Deen Mohammad, the caretaker and authorised representative of the mosque, submitted that he will comply with the order.

The court was hearing a plea that sought to declare illegal the actions of Delhi Police and the Delhi Development Authority, which had threatened to demolish the moscue on June 13

the mosque on June 13. The plea also sought that the authorities grant an appropriate time for the petitioner to avail of legal remedies.

Gig workers brave extreme heat with no help from employers

No health-related assistance from delivery platforms despite several incidents of fainting on the job, heatstroke, employees say; doctors report rising number of patients with heat-induced conditions; companies not even offering surge fee: workers

<u>Alisha Dutta</u> NEW DELHI

Pawan Kumar, a gig worker, has been running on a chock-a-block schedule since the onset of the harsh summer. The 25-year-old fixes air conditioners for an online platform, which gives him at least 10 assignments a day.

Battling the heatwave, he rides his rented bike to various locations across the city, climbs stairs with his heavy equipment bag, sometimes without even being offered a glass of water by his clients.

Mr. Kumar said he has been forced to work under the severe heatwave conditions without any health-related support from the company.

pany. of my colleagues has been "Recently, I was on my third assignment of the day when I fainted. Minutes later, I found myself lying on the floor of the house, with my client sprinkling water of my colleagues has been fainting. The company management did nothing when we raised the concern. They neither ensured our medical check-up nor gave us health supple-

on my face," said Mr. Ku-

mar, adding that he com-

pleted his task despite being

barely able to stand. Later,

he was taken to a local hos-

"Every day, at least one

pital for treatment.



Unforgiving work: Contractual employees are forced to spend hours driving in the hot sun. FILE PHOTO

ments," said Mr. Kumar, adding that they were denied higher surge charges too despite working in such difficult conditions.

A similar scenario An panned out recently when said Rohit Garg, a food delivery a sur partner, collapsed and had tient to be taken to the emergency ward of Safdarjung Hospital for treatment. The 24year-old gig worker's body outd temperature had risen with

sharply. Speaking to *The Hindu*, a doctor said he suffered a heatstroke due to prolonged exposure to high temperature.

Another senior doctor said their hospital has seen a surge in the number of patients suffering from severe diarrhoea, sunburn, and heatstroke. "Most of these patients have been working outdoors for long hours without any access to cooling devices or healthcare supplements to control their body temperatures," he added.

Pankaj Bisht, another food delivery partner, told The Hindu that while his platform boasts of reducing carbon footprint with the help of delivery workers who use bicycles, most workers are not getting any assistance to battle the heat. "Instead of assisting us, members of the management are requesting people on social media to not order during the afternoon hours," he said.

Anil Kumar, who works with a grocery delivery platform, said with the onset of summer, there is a surge in small orders that yield less pay but demand the same amount of physical exertion.

"Online delivery platforms should pay us a higher amount for deliveries in the afternoon during the summer," he added.



A firefighter trying to douse the flames in Chandni Chowk. PTI

Several shops gutted in massive fire in Chandni Chowk; no casualties

<u>The Hindu Bureau</u> NEW DELHI

Several shops were gutted in a massive blaze that broke out in a building in Chandni Chowk on Thursday, destroying property and goods worth crores of rupees, said officials of the Delhi Fire Services (DFS). No casualties were reported so far, officials added.

A call regarding the fire at Marwadi Katra on Nai Sadak was received at 5 p.m., said DFS director Atul Garg. Initially, 14 fire tenders were rushed to the site but later 26 more vehicles were pressed into service to douse the flames, he said.

Senior DFS official Sanjay Tomar said the the cluster of shops lining up the narrow lane made their work difficult. "We have surrounded the area from all four sides to stop the fire from spreading. The area has several old structures that have been turned into shops, which contain combustible material like sarees and other clothes," he said.

Adding that the lanes were "too narrow" for fire tenders to pass through, Mr. Tomar said the DFS was using water bowsers and hydraulic platforms to put out the blaze. "Our first priority is to ensure that nobody gets hurt," he said.











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THE HINDU **States**

NBRIÐF



Dawood's brother Iqbal acquitted in extortion case

A special MCOCA (Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act) court in Thane acquitted Iqbal Kaskar, brother of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim, in an extortion case. In his order on Wednesday, judge Amit M. Shete said Kaskar was given the benefit of doubt and acquitted as the prosecution had failed to prove the charges against him. Kaskar was tried for offences under the stringent Act as well as Indian Penal Code. The special public prosecutor told the court that Kaskar had threatened and extorted ₹3 crore from a builder over a land deal in north Mumbai. Defence counsel contested the case and punched holes in the prosecution's case. PTI

Assam Cong. plans yatra to assess LS poll performance

The Assam unit of the Congress is likely to undertake a programme similar to senior leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra to "fix the errors" that prevented the party from improving upon its performance in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. The party won three Lok Sabha seats -Dhubri, Jorhat, and Nagaon – of the total 14 in the State. It won three seats in 2019 too. "We are planning a vatra from Jonai (northeastern Assam's Dhemaji district) to Sonai (southern Assam's Cachar district) to assess our electoral performance," State Congress president Bhupen Kumar Borah said.

'CM wants govt. to solve water crisis as soon as it can'

<u>The Hindu Bureau</u> NEW DELHI

Delhi Water Minister Atishi on Thursday said Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had instructed her to take measures to curb the ongoing water scarcity issue in Delhi "as soon as possible". The Minister, along with Rajya Sabha member Raghav Chadha, met Mr. Kejriwal in Tihar Jail, where he is lodged in a money laundering case linked to the erstwhile Delhi excise policy.

Briefing the media after the meeting, Ms. Atishi said, "The Chief Minister inquired about issues related to power and water supply, and told me that he was watching news of the water crisis on television while in jail." She added that he directed both leaders to take "all necessary steps" to overcome the issue.

"As of now, over 1,000 tankers of the Delhi Jal Board are supplying water to areas such as unauthorised colonies and slums which have no access to the pipeline network," Ms. Atishi said. 'These tankers make eight to 10 trips to supply water, meaning only four or five million gallons are being used per day," she added.

SC asks Upper Yamuna **River Board to resolve** water crisis in Delhi

Says it does not have the expertise to decide the 'complex and sensitive issue', pulls up Himachal govt. for 'erroneous' statement on surplus water

Krishnadas Rajagopal NEW DELHI

he Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB) to consider and resolve the drinking water crisis in Delhi, saying it does not have the expertise to decide the "complex and sensitive issue" which involves sharing of Yamuna water among States which are signatories to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) dating 20 years back.

A Vacation Bench headed by Justice P.K. Mishra said it did not want to either violate or tinker with the MoU settled among the States by even passing an interim order.

"The issue should be left to be considered by the Upper Yamuna River Board, a body constituted with the agreement of parties in the MoU of May 12, 1994," the Bench observed.

The court said the UYRB had already, in a meeting held on June 5, advised Delhi to apply to the Haryana government, by 5 p.m. on June 14, to supply 150 cu-



The UYRB has been asked to hold a meeting on June 14 and decide on giving water to Delhi "at the earliest". SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

secs of water on "humaniwater and could release it tarian grounds". The Bench also directed

the UYRB to hold a meeting on June 14 and take a decision on the issue of giving Delhi water "at the earliest".

Haryana's stand

However, Haryana, represented by senior advocate Shyam Divan, said it did not have excess or surplus water. The State itself was going through heat wave conditions similar to Delhi. The court also pulled up the Himachal Pradesh government for making an er-

roneous statement in a

June 6 hearing that it had

up to 137 cusecs surplus

from upstream through the Hathni Kund Barrage to enter Delhi via Wazirabad Barrage. "When Haryana re-

quested Himachal Pradesh to inform them about the release of additional 137 cusecs of water, the Jal Shakti Vibhag of Himachal Pradesh wrote back that the 137 cusecs is already flowing uninterruptedly from the territory of Himachal Pradesh to Tajewala [Hathni Kund Barrage]," the order noted. Justice Mishra said the court would have ideally considered contempt action against Himachal Pradesh for making the "incorrect statement".

A day after SC rap, Delhi police begin Munak canal vigil

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

even as Water Minister At-

ishi said the national capi-

tal is facing a 50 million

gallons per day shortfall in

The present crisis, Ms.

Atishi said, cannot be

solved by merely restrain-

The police patrolling

came a day after the Su-

preme Court on Wednes-

day rapped the Delhi go-

prevalence of tanker mafia

and wastage of water in the

national capital, saying

that it would have to "un-

leash" the Union govern-

ment-controlled Delhi Pol-

ice on "these elements" if

the AAP government does

After the apex court's

rap, Lieutenant-Governor

V.K. Saxena instructed Del-

hi Police for greater vigi-

A senior officer said pol-

not act in time.

area.

the

vernment over

water production.

ing the tanker mafia.

and reaches the Haiderpur Delhi Police on Thursday treatment plant. began patrolling the Mu-"Round-the-clock patrolling is being conducted nak canal area along the Haryana border to keep a in six different shifts, with each shift spanning over 8 check on the activities of the 'water tanker mafia' hours with at least 10-12 of-

> ficials," the officer added. Addressing a press conference, the Water Minister said the tanker mafia, whether they were from Haryana or Delhi, needed to be checked. However, she added that the police in both Haryana and Delhi are controlled by BJP governments, and accused the ruling party of doing politics over the matter.

stretch of the canal that en-

ters Delhi from Bawana

'No major leakage'

"There is no large-scale leakage, it's a rumour. Leakages, if any, in the pipelines are repaired within 12 hours," Ms. Atishi said after inspecting a pipeline network supplying water to south Delhi residents as the water crisis in the city worsened.

The Delhi government, she said, was ensuring palance and patrolling in the trolling by Additional District Magistrates and Sub-Divisional Magistrates ice teams from Bawana, across the city so that not Narela, Shahbad Dairy and even a single drop of water Samaypur Badli have startis wasted due to pipeline ed patrolling the 15-km leak.

Priyanka, Akhilesh flay govt. after U.P. Police withdraws letter on 'outsourcing'

<u>Mayank Kumar</u> LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Police on Thursday withdrew a 'letter' going viral on social media related to hiring through 'outsourcing' of ministerial staff (clerks) in the department, prompting the Opposition to lash out at the State government and describe it as an



The BJP should come forward and give a clear answer in this regard," wrote Ms. Vadra on X.

The SP chief criticised the State government's "careless attitude" towards the policing, due to which "the morale of the criminals is high". "The BJP government should answer that when the police have their own recruitment

Row in Rajasthan over 17 new districts created in Cong. tenure

<u>The Hindu Bureau</u> IAIPUR

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government's decision to appoint a Cabinet Sub-Committee to review the present status of 17 new districts and three divisions carved out during the previous Congress regime in Rajasthan has led to a political slugfest here. Vet-

Ex-CM Ashok Gehlot has questioned the move and accused the BJP of acting with 'wrong intentions'

nisation Department late on Wednesday night. The five-member panel's mandate will be to exthe total amine the status of new districts and divisions in the "current perspective" and review their administrative jurisdiction, requirements for smooth functioning, and availability of financial resources.

The Ashok Gehlot government had created 17 new districts and three new divisions in August 2023, based on the recommendations of a high-level committee headed by former civil servant Ram Lubhaya. Three more districts were created in October 2023, ahead of the Assembly election, taking

Three gang rape accused sentenced to 30 years in jail

The Hindu Bureau KOCHI

The Kerala High Court sentenced three persons to 30 years' rigorous imprisonment for the gang rape of a migrant worker at Kalamassery in Ernakulam district in 2015.

A Division Bench issued

Agniveer-like recruitment scheme.

The State police said the letter was 'erroneously' released. "The system of outsourcing of Class IV employees is already in practice. Due to a mistake, the letter issued for ministerial staff instead of Class IV employees has been cancelled. No such case is pending at the police department and government level," Uttar Pradesh Police said in a statement, clarifying that there is no propo-

Akhilesh Yadav and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra called it another move of the BJP-led dispensation to play with the future of youth. PTI

sal to outsource ministerial staff positions.

'Govt. should answer'

Former Congress U.P. incharge Privanka Gandhi Vadra and Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav took umbrage, callpaper leaks one after the other, Agniveer scheme, ing it another move of the BJP-led dispensation to lakhs of posts remaining play with the future of vacant and now outsourcyouth. Mr. Yadav went on ing in police recruitment.

to allege that the BJP may someday even "outsource the government". The explanation given by the state police is beyond comprehension. Crores of youth of the state doned immediately and are angry with the news of the youth of Uttar Pradesh

ment running away from direct permanent appointment?" he posted on X. Mr. Yadav said the youth are already angry due to paper leaks of several U.P. government recruitment exams. "This idea of outsourcing should be aban-

should be given jobs

through a direct recruit-

ment process in a regular,

fair and transparent man-

board, why is the governeran Congress leader and former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has questioned the move and accused the BJP of acting with "wrong intentions". The Cabinet Sub-Committee, whose convener

will be Deputy Chief Minister Prem Chand Bairwa, will have Ministers Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Kanhaiya Lal Choudhary, Suresh Rawat, and Hemant Meena as its members, according to an order issued by the Revenue and Colo-

'Limited facilities'

Though Collectors and Superintendents of Police have been appointed in the newly created districts, they are functioning without proper office buildings and with limited resources.

tricts in the State to 53. 'Waste of resources'

number of dis-

The BJP had raised questions on carving out new districts and termed it a waste of resources. While claim the for creating new districts was made at about 50 places in 24 districts during the last decade, most of the new districts were carved out in the regions where the Congress had re-

gistered victory in the 2018

Assembly elections.

the verdict while disposing of the appeal filed by Aneesh, Manoj, Niyas, and Binish against the judgment of the Ernakulam Additional Sessions Court convicting them in the case. The imprisonment of 30 years was imposed on the second, third and fourth accused.

The prosecution case was that the accused took the victim in their autorickshaw on February 14, 2015, gang-raped her and took her nude photos.

By taking oath in English, Jayant sends a message to his vote bank in the Hindi heartland

NEWS ANALYSIS

Anuj Kumar GHAZIABAD

In the run-up to the Lok Sabha poll, a Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) veteran had told this journalist that Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) chief Chaudhary Jayant Singh's tone and tenor in his speeches suggested that he was only asking farmers to return the favour after the BJP-led Centre conferred the Bharat Ratna on former Prime Minister and his grandfather Chaudhary Charan Singh.

By taking the oath of office and secrecy in English – he was the only one from the Hindi heartland to do so and this promptly became a headline in a prominent Hindi newspaper -Mr. Jayant has again shown that he will continue to tread his own path even if

ally BJP's line of action. Reflecting his commitment to a pan-India responsibility, he didn't chant anti-Muslim rhetoric that was being spewed by the BJP leadership, preferred the use of 'Ram, Ramji' over Jai Shri Ram to greet the electorate and remained steadfast on underlining that the celebration of his grandfather's legacy should reflect in the BJP's commitment towards

it appears in variance with

Different moves

farmers' interests.

Earlier, some of his political decisions had impressed observers of the State's politics.

He had opted to nominate a Dalit MLA to join the Yogi Adityanath-led government in Uttar Pradesh, picked a seasoned party worker to contest from the family stronghold of Baghpat and spent the maximum sum of his MP



ner."

Rashtriya Lok Dal president Chaudhary Jayant Singh. PTI

Local Area Development fund on improving the sports infrastructure in the region.

The die of the 2024 Lok

the biggest gainer

Sabha was cast in such a

way that RLD has emerged as among the BJP allies in U.P. The party has retained the

Baghpat seat for the NDA and wrested the Bijnor seat from Bahujan Samaj Party. It could not win Muzaffarnagar and Kairana for the BIP but the onus of the defeat lies squarely with the ruling party that suffered because of internecine bat-

tles and ill-effects of the '400 paar' slogan.

The buzz is that had the BJP not aligned with the RLD for the general election, it would have suffered more losses in the western belt of this politically-crucial State; and the narrative is that the BJP could not save Muzaffarnagar and Kairana because of its own, but RLD managed to win Baghpat despite former BJP Baghpat MP Satyapal Singh keeping away from campaigning.

Political observers say an electorally weakened BJP in the State has no other option but to serenade Mr. Javant.

BJP leader Ajay Mishra Teni's loss in Lakhimpur Kheri, Union Minister Sanjiv Balyan facing defeat in Muzaffarnagar and State unit president Bhupendra Chaudhary failing to win even his home turf of Moradabad for the BJP are some of the disappointing outcomes for the party.

It reflects in the faith that the BJP's top leadership has shown by appointing Mr. Jayant as the Union Minister of State with independent charge of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. The Ministry is the

brainchild of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Besides, he has been made Minister of State in the Union Education Ministry. These are Ministries where Mr. Jayant could serve the rural and semi-urban youth, his core vote bank, by generating employment, said an ex-RLD MLA. The fact that there is no

BJP Minister from Muzaffarnagar to Agra, from where S.P.S Baghel is Minister of State, shows Mr. Jayant has a big political landmass to furrow.

He once offhandedly told this journalist that there was a reason that his grandfather wrote a book Shishtachar called (Etiquette).

Breaking stereotypes

He has the opportunity to temper the chaudhrahat (lordship) of the lathiwielding Jat farmer that sometimes creates a negative perception among most backward castes in the region.

Those close to him feel that by taking the oath in English, he has sent a message to his vote bank as well as his opponents to break the social stereotypes and come out of ne-

•••

gative mindsets. Old-timers remind the public that the RLD has always benefited when it has joined hands with the BJP and if "Jayant could get something for the farmers on the MSP and makes the government review the Agniveer scheme, the partnership will pay long-term dividends".

However, what Mr. Jayant had said after getting elected to Rajya Sabha in 2022 with the help of Samajwadi Party is equally pertinent. "It is becoming harder and harder for anyone to explain a change in positioning. In earlier times, it could happen. Now, you have no right to forget what you once said," he had told *The Hindu*.

It was the RLD leader who had earlier proposed the idea of an equal opportunities commission or social justice commission, a constitutional body that would look into the repre-

sentation of the backward classes, Dalits and rural youth in the private sector. It echoes with the language that the INDIA bloc spoke throughout its campaign in U.P. The youth had faith that Mr. Jayant would raise his voice for changes in the Agnipath scheme as part of the government.

Muslims 'unhappy'

Meanwhile, Muslim voters who played a crucial role in the nine seats that the RLD holds in the U.P. Assembly are feeling disappointed. The party's two Muslim MLAs have not deserted it after the alliance with the BJP but local SP leaders say that if polls are conducted today, the RLD would be on a sticky wicket. They also said that a bypoll in Meerapur, necessitated by RLD MLA Chandan Chauhan's win from the Bijnor Lok Sabha seat, will be a litmus test for the BJP-RLD alliance.

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YK

States

arrested as POCSO court issues warrant

<u>The Hindu Bureau</u> BENGALURU

The First Fast Track Court (POCSO court) has issued an arrest warrant against former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa in a case registered against him on March 14 under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

The octogenarian is accused of sexually assaulting a 17-year-old girl who had approached him with her mother seeking his help on February 2. On March 14, the Sadashivanagar police in Bengaluru booked Mr. Yediyurappa under POCSO Act after the mother filed a complaint, accusing him of sexually assaulting her mi-

nor daughter. The Criminal Investigation Department (CID),

which is probing the case, had issued notice to the former Chief Minister to ap-

pear for questioning on June 12. Mr. Yediyurappa had responded to the notice, stating that he was in New Delhi and would appear for questioning on June 17. This prompted the CID to move an application seeking an arrest warrant. The court issued a non-bail-

able arrest warrant. With the arrest warrant, the CID will now move to arrest the BJP leader. CID teams have begun looking for him, sources said.

Mr. Yediyurappa, meanwhile, has filed two separate petitions in the Karnataka HC, one seeking anticipatory bail and another seeking stay of the probe and quashing of the complaint.

Yediyurappa may be | No nod to Veena's Kuwait visit; Keralites' toll hits 23

State announces ex gratia of ₹5 lakh each for those killed in fire; Health Minister, authorised by Kerala govt. to lead a delegation to Kuwait, cancels her trip as MEA denies political clearance

The Hindu Bureau THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

he Kerala government on Thursday confirmed that the number of Keralites who died in the fire that ripped through a labour camp in Kuwait had risen to 23.

The government announced an ex gratia payment of ₹5 lakh each for the families of the deceased and ₹1 lakh for the next of kin of those who suffered burns and fall injuries in the disaster.

More compensation The government decided to expedite the process to bring back the bodies of

the victims.



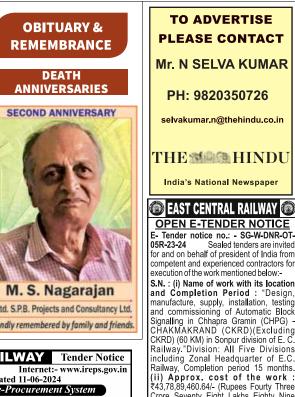
Huge loss: Kerala Health Minister Veena George consoles mother of Akash Sasidharan Nair, one of the victims of Kuwait fire. LEJU KAMAL

The State Cabinet announced that prominent businesspersons from Kerala M.A. Yusuff Ali and Ravi Pillai had informed Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan that they would donate ₹5 lakh and ₹2 lakh each res-

pectively to the families of the deceased in addition to the government's aid, increasing the total compensation to ₹12 lakh. The businesspersons would channel their payments to the bereaved families via

THE MOR HINDU

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the Department of Non-Resident Keralite's Affairs.

State Health Minister Veena George, who was authorised by the Kerala Cabinet to lead a delegation to Kuwait, had to call off her visit as she was denied political clearance by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Talking to reporters at the Cochin International Airport, Ms. George said that the Centre's decision in the face of death, tragedy and tears faced by the Malayali community was "wrong and most unfortunate." She was accompanied by State Mission Director Jeevan Babu. They left the airport shortly thereafter.

Opening of tender : 09/07/2024 up to 12:00

Will strive to take control of State: Sharad Pawar

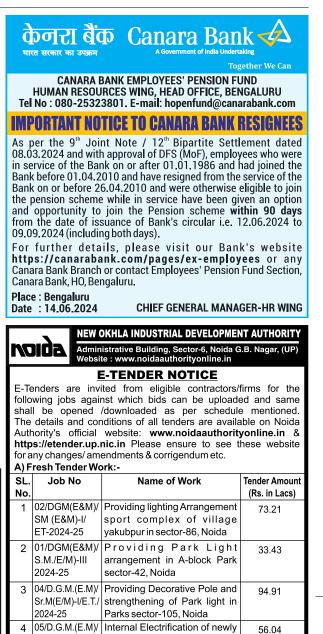
Shoumojit Banerjee PUNE

Nationalist Congress Party (SP) chief Sharad Pawar has begun campaigning for the upcoming Maharashtra Assembly elections. On Thursday, Mr. Pawar, on the last day of his three-day Baramati visit, said he would strive to "take control" of Maharashtra, for which end his party must win the Assembly elections and change the [Mahayuti] government in the next

"Prior to the Lok Sabha election, my partymen used to tell me that people were not speaking openly. I told them not to worry. The people voted for us in large numbers," he said.

four-six months.

At a meeting at Shirshuphal village in Baramati, Mr. Pawar said that while he would try to resolve the issues like farmers' problems put before him, he could not give assurances now as a different government was in place.



Setback for actor Darshan as accused confesses, agrees to become approver

<u>The Hindu Bureau</u> BENGALURU

One of the key accused in the Renukaswamy murder case, in which actor Darshan and his friend Pavithra Gowda have been arresthas reportedly ed, confessed to the crime and is reportedly prepared to become an approver. If this comes through, it will pose a big setback for Darshan, sources said.

Deepak Kumar, presently accused no. 13, has reportedly volunteered to be an approver in the case, the sources said.

Deepak was in the shed,

Bid ID No.: - 2023_DAH1_79892_1

the scene of the crime, when Renukaswamy was

killed, and he later distributed ₹5 lakh each to the four persons who surrendered to the police, confessing to the crime in a bid to protect Darshan, the police claimed. The actor has reportedly

been denying any role in the murder. He has conceded that he went to the shed and left early, but has claimed that he was not involved in the murder. However, Deepak has allegedly told the police that Darshan along with other accused tortured the victim and kicked Renukaswamy

on the private parts, which may have caused his death.

Renukaswamy had sent an obscene photo to Pavithra Gowda on social media, which allegedly prompted Darshan to get Renukaswamy to the shed where he was allegedly tortured and killed.

The police have now separated Deepak from the other accused and are corroborating his statement with the evidence from the autopsy report which mentioned that Renukaswamy's body had multiple injuries and bruises, indicating that he was tortured before being killed.

Dated: **7th June 2024**

DELHI FRIDAY, JUN. 14 RISE 05:24 SET 19:21 RISE 12:24 SET 00:26 SATURDAY, JUN. 15 RISE 05:24 SET 19:21

• U Timings

► RISE 13:16 SET 00:52 SUNDAY, JUN. 16 RISE 05:24 SET 19:21 ► RISE 14:08 SET 01:18 Delhi Weather max min Delhi City 45 29 Safdarjang 45 29 46 32 Palam

Delhi Palam Today 44°C Heat wave to prevail. Morning will be slight warm. The weather will be very hot & uneasy with gusty winds. Night will be slight warm & uneasy.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow **45°C** A dry weather to prevail. Morning will be slight warm. The day will be very hot and uneasy with warm winds Severe heat wave to continue. © Copyright Skymet Weather 2024

Retd. S.P.B. Projects and Consultancy Ltd. Fondly remembered by family and friends NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Tender Notice ail: dycmmcon@ner.railnet.gov.in, Tender Notice No.- 01. Dated 11-06-2024 (43), 633,400.647- (Rupers Pointy Tinee Crore Seventy Eight Lakhs Eighty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Sixty and Sixty Four Paise only) (iii) Bid Security to be deposited. ₹2339500/-, (iv) Last date and time of submission of tender and Consister Charder 2002/2021 uset 1000

Invitation of tenders through e-Procurement System Dy. Chief Material Manager/Construction, North Eastern Railway/Gorakhpu and on behalf of the President of India, invites tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items. Complete description of the iter and other c Sr. Tender arned

conditi	on are available on website www	ireps.gov.i	in	
er No.	Brief Description	Reserved to be	Qty.	Ea M

Sr.M(E/M)-I/E.T./ constructed Community 2024-25 Center at B-Block Sector-108 Noida

The above tenders can be uploaded by **dated 27.06.2024 up to 5.00** PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on **dated** 28.06.2024 at 11.00 AM. B) Re-Tender Work:-

nstruction, and Supply of Robotics and other equipment of Specified Standards thereof as detailed at Volume-II Requirements and Specifications and the Details of the facilities to be developed are given in Volume-III - Lay out, Drawings & Designs for building's including Situation Plan, Building Floor Plans, Section & Facades in this RFP. The MS, HPLPDB now invites bids from eligible Bidder (s) for the following project:

Notice Inviting Bid

RFP for the "Establishment of Centre of Excellence-Dairy Farm-cum-Training Centre" at Village Basal District Una in

Himachal Pradesh on Turnkey basis and on Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Mode and Supply of Robotics

and Other equipment of Specified Standards Thereof Including Comprehensive Maintenance of Robotics, Machinery and

Equipment for Period of Five (05) Years". The scope of work will broadly include the Design, Engineering, Development,

Name of work	Estimated cost In Cr †	Completion period	Operation and Maintenanceperiod
"Establishment of Centre of Excellence- Dairy Farm-cum-Training Centre" at Village Basal District Una in Himachal Pradesh on Turnkey basis and on Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Mode and Supply of Robotics and Other equipment of Specified Standards Thereof Including Comprehensive Maintenance of Robotics, Machinery and Equipment for Period of Five (05) Years".	₹ 40,00,00,000.00 (Indian Rupees- INR Forty-Crores Only) Exclusive of Operation & Maintenance Cost	18 months	60 Months (Post completion period)

Estimated cost is an indicative cost Exclusive of Operation & Maintenance Cost and not binding on HPLPDB, bidders have to do their own due diligence for ascertaining the same.

- 2. The REP document is required to be downloaded from the web-site https://hptenders.gov.in Entire tender process will be carried out online through above mentioned website and the Tenderers need to login to the site through their user ID / password chosen during registration at <u>https://hptenders.gov.in</u>
- 3. The RFP document can also be downloaded from website of the Department of Animal Husbandry Himachal Pradesh https://bit.lv/3F7LeAi
- 4. The Bidding document may be downloaded from the website https://hptenders.gov.in, and the Bidder will pay a sum of ₹ 5,000/- (Indian Rupees-INR Five Thousand Only) + 18% GST as non-refundable cost of the Bidding documents during the submission of the Bid. in the shape of Demand Draft in the name of Director Animal Husbandry, cum Member Secretary Himachal Pradesh Livestock Development Board, Shimla-5,
- The bids are required to be uploaded on the tender site: hptenders gov in within the stipulated time frame as detailed in NIT & 5. tender input form and the Tender Notice dated 7. June 2024 Tenderer is required to upload the tender application along with requisite documents on the tender site. The tender documents
- shall be uploaded under two bid system. One bid containing separately the "Technical Bid" and the second bid "Financial Bid"
- The Bidder shall furnish as part of its Bid, an Earnest Money of ₹ 80,00,000 (Indian Rupees-INR Eighty Lakh Only). Earnest Money shall be paid through or BG-Bank Guarantee or FD Pledged in favour of DAH cum MS as mentioned in Tender document.
- The Bidder shall also be required to submit the Technical Bid in hard bound covers as specified in Clause 3.12 of this document. The Bidder shall be required to submit the Bid in hardbound cover by 11:00 AM, Monday-24-June-2024. Technical Bids of those Bidders who have not submitted their hard copy bid, shall not be considered for opening and evaluation.
- Financial Bid has to be uploaded Only online. Prices are expected to be quoted as the price in Indian rupees in totality for the turnkey project over the BOQ in the Tender Document. Any attempt to disclose the price in Technical Bid will lead to disgualification of the bid.
- The Time followed in this RFP is Indian Standard Time (IST) which is GMT+5:30. The bidders should adhere to this time during bid submission.
- 10. All the images contained in the RFP are merely indicative and may not represent the final requirement of the project
- 11. The specifications and requirements for all the items / structures are representative of standards and automated technological solutions and the bidder may provide better integrated automated solutions for establishing the facility
- 12. The Service Provider/Contractor shall abide by and comply with all the relevant laws and statutory Requirements covered under Contract Labour (regulation & abolition Act 1970), Minimum Wages Act, EPF & MP Act 1952 and any other law if applicable with regard to the labour engaged by him for works, at his own cost and risk.

13. Exclusions: -

- a) Procurement of Animals is not covered under scope of work of current RFP.
- b) Construction of Bio Gas Unit is not covered under scope of work of current RFP.
- Setting up of Dairy processing Plant is not covered under scope of work of current RFP.
- Construction of Guard Room is not covered under the scope of work of current RFP.
- e) Bank Details Himachal Pradesh Livestock & Poultry Development Board-Shimla-5
- Account No: 36591811962
- b. IFSC Code: -SBIN0006785
- Branch: SBI BoileauGanj, Shimla
- d Name of Account Holder: -HP Livestock Dev Board Shimla-5

Availability of tender information: -

Tender information Inquiries and clarifications are required to be addressed the Director, Animal Husbandry-cum-Membe Secretary Himachal Pradesh Livestock & Poultry Development Board, Pashudhan Bhawan Shimla-171005 Phone No. 0177 2830089

- All queries must be sent over email to following e-mail addresses:
- 1. ms-Idb@hp.gov.in
- ceohplpdb@gmail.com

(Signature)

Director, Animal Husbandry-cum-Member Secretary Himachal Pradesh Livestock & Poultry Development Board Pashudhan Bhawan Shimla-171005 Phone No. 0177-2830089 Email: ms-ldb@hp.gov.in

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1	16245004 (e-RA) 08-07-2024	Contact wire 107 Sq. mm/ Joint less Grooved copper contact wire 107 Sq. mm made out of continuous cast copper wire rods etc.	CORE	85.8 MT	₹14,49,010/-	
2	(O.T.)	Un insulated Cadmium copper catenary wire 65 Sq. mm. (19/2.10 mm)	CORE	50.5 MT	₹ 8,37,090/-	
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Never travel on roof and foot boards.						

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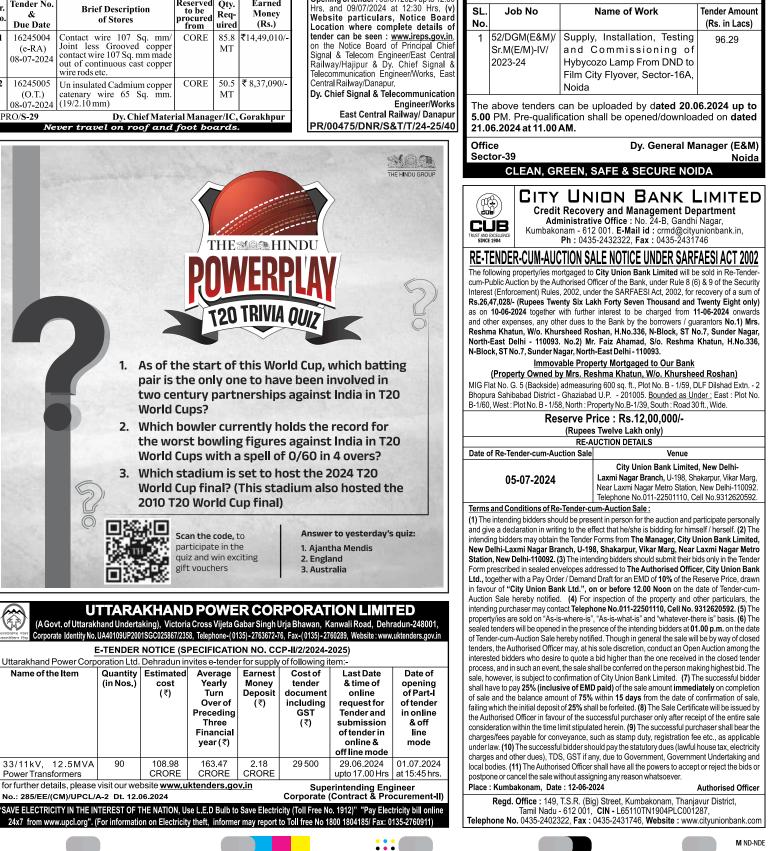
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Name of the Item

33/11kV. 12.5MVA

Power Transformers



CM YK

SPOTLIGHT

n May 5, after a tense 3.2 hours of answering 180 questions, 18-year-old Jind resident Shubham Lohan, expected a near perfect score of 705/ 720, in what would be his second attempt at the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) that qualifies students to study medicine.

Lohan says he attempted the test again this year because he hoped to improve his score for an MBBS in one of the 20 premier All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) that offer nearly 2,000 seats. He quickly calculated his possible score based on the answer key provided by his coaching class. The test is multiple-choice-based, and scores are calculated through a computerised system based on Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) technology.

"I was expecting to get admitted to AIIMS Jodhpur or Rishikesh," he says. But a month later, when Lohan received the mark sheet, he was shocked. "My score was 705 (out of 720), but my rank was inflated by almost four times, to 1,177," he says. "I belong to the General Quota, so I have next to no expectations of bagging a seat in AI-IMS," says Lohan, who has dedicated two years after school towards NEET preparation. He was hoping for a rank of about 300 based on the previous years' records.

Over 2.3 million students like Lohan appeared for NEET. Of these, 67 got full marks, as revealed in the list of top 100 candidates that was attached in the public release. Since this had never happened before, students and their parents were thrown into confusion because even those who scored what would be considered a high mark were pushed down in the ranking system.

Further developments

Two days after the results, the National Testing Agency (NTA) that conducts NEET and a few other centralised entrance exams, revealed through a press statement that "grace marks" were given to 1,563 candidates for "loss of time", when exams began late in some centres. Marks were also given for an error in a Physics concept in the NCERT textbook.

Students began demanding a re-exam. After the results were declared on June 4, public interest litigations (PILs) were filed in the Supreme Court demanding a fair probe. The NTA was compelled to open a probe, but the four-member committee is headed by Pradeep Kumar Singh, the chairperson of NTA, the very agency that has found itself in the eye of a storm.

In its decision on June 13, the SC ordered that the compensatory marks be cancelled and those students be given an option of a re-exam.

India has a little over 60,000 MBBS seats in government medical colleges with fees as low as ₹10 lakh for five years. These limited seats are available to top rankers, this year to over 13 lakh who have qualified. In a private medical college, of which there are another 50,000-odd seats, fees could go up to ₹1 crore or more. The rest of those who clear the exam but don't make it to medical colleges, may choose allied subjects like dentistry, physiotherapy, and veterinary sciences.

Widespread anguish and protests

Over the past week, protests have erupted across the country from Banaras Hindu University in Varanasi to Delhi's Jantar Mantar. Temperatures touching 46 degrees Celsius are not deterring desperate students from organising day-long sitin protests outside the NTA office in Okhla, as well as staging demonstrations outside the Ministry of Education housed in Shastri Bhawan, a stone's throw away from the Indian Parliament. On Wednesday, the protest at Jantar Mantar, organised by student outfits National Students' Union of India (NSUI), saw sloganeering led by "NTA ki taanashahi nahi chalegi (The highhanded approach of NTA won't work)," and "We want re-NEET". A poster forming the backdrop read, "24 lakh students demand exam not scam". The protests in Delhi brought together students from Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and other institutes, uniting left-leaning and RSS-affiliated student outfits like the ABVP. While the All India Students' Association (AISA), along with aspirants and parents, submitted a memorandum to the education ministry, ABVP called for a CBI probe into the matter. Virendra Kumar Verma, 48, who participated in the protest outside NTA says he is crushed to learn about the irregularities in the way the exam was conducted. Originally from Bihar, Verma now works as a daily wager in Dwarka. "It has been our dream to see our daughter become a doctor.... She put in 14 hours a day, for three continuous years. Now, it is disheartening to see the system fail students like us.' His daughter, Kanakpriya, 22, appeared for the test without coaching. Her score improved from 536 in 2022 to 631 in 2024. Kumar added, "I could not afford coaching classes. This is why it took three attempts. We were hoping that she would make it this time because she has worked very hard. We are fighting because the children deserve a retest." Nearly 140 kilometres away from Delhi, 48-year-old Priyavrat Verma in Mirchpur village, Hisar district in Haryana, shows off his son Harsh's NEET score, published in a local newspaper. Harsh, 17, who graduated from a local senior secondary school, scored 645/720 in his first attempt. Priyavrat says he felt his son was assured of a government medical college seat in Haryana, going by last year's college placements. "PGI Rohtak or Kalpana Chawla Government Medical College in Karnal would have been easy for Harsh to get," says Priyavrat, sitting with his wife in their three-room home. As per last year's results, Harsh would have got a rank in the 7,000 range; now, he is at 34,056.

CM YK



A protest over the alleged irregularities in the NEET 2024 results, in New Delhi on June 9; (bottom) a protester at Jantar Mantar. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP; SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

The NEET sheeters

Students from across India are out on the streets protesting the bump up in marks for a few, affecting the lives of many. Maitri Porecha finds that ranks have been impacted by this, leaving several candidates out of the possibility of entering low-cost government medical colleges. Students and parents have written letters to the authorities, with some filing cases in the Supreme Court

Every day in the last year, Harsh would travel over 35 km to attend coaching classes in the neighbouring district of Jind. "The coaching fees is ₹1.65 lakh per annum. I could not afford this after I lost my job, so I pawned off family gold and asked friends for money for my son's coaching. It breaks my heart to see him study so hard for an exam which now stands compromised," Priyavrat says.

NTA's alleged lack of transparency

I could not

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VIRENDRA

Father of a

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KUMAR VERMA

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Since the start of NEET in 2016, every year only one candidate achieved the highest score until 2019. In 2020, two candidates got 720/720, and in 2021, the number of toppers rose to three. In 2022 and 2023, one and two candidates, bagged the full scores, respectively. Of the students who got full marks, six candidates - with one each from Rajasthan and Delhi were from just one centre, Hardayal Public School, in Harvana's Jhajjar district. "We want an analysis of data of the top 50,000 candidates to be put into the public domain to understand which centres the aspirants belong to, and if there is an issue of 'clustering' of toppers in other centres too," says Dr. Krishan Sharma, a veterinarian and parent of an aggrieved candidate from the neighbouring Jind district. Twelve candidates from the top 100 had Haryana as their exam centre; another 11 had exam centres in Maharashtra, and 18 toppers had their exam centres in Rajasthan. Among those who chose exam centres in Rajasthan included candidates whose home states are Himachal Pradesh and Jharkhand. "The probe therefore should not only be limited to one particular exam centre in Jhajjar," says Poonam Sain, another parent. NTA in its official statements have still maintained that the exams were conducted in transparent а manner. "We respect the SC's orders

and are now aligning steps to comply with it," says NTA director general Subodh Singh.

The legal recourse

Three petitions were filed in the Supreme Court, including one by Alakh Pandey, founder of Physicswallah, an ed-tech platform offering online coaching, who had issued a legal notice to NTA on June 7 three days after the results were declared, before moving SC.

Pandey says that while the level of the examination papers was similar to the last five years, 2024 has seen the highest increase in the average marks (323 out of 720). From 2020 to 2023, average marks have hovered between 259 to 279. He wonders whether "there are more issues that exist that we are oblivious of", since "the issue of grace marks was addressed only when we pointed it out". NTA justified awarding grace marks only after questions were raised in the media about the technical impossibility of scoring 718 or 719 marks, as NEET comprises of four subjects -Physics, Chemistry, Botany, and Zoology - with 45 questions on each subject carrying a weightage of four marks per question. "So if a student gets one answer wrong, then they get 716/720. NTA has given grace marks in the most whimsical fashion and not disclosed the original scores of students or the exact grace marks awarded to them," Dr. Krishan said. The NTA responded in a press conference, saying grace marks were along the lines of a 2018 judgment which followed a similar recourse for the Common Law Admission Test (CLAT). Dr. Krishan says that CLAT is an online exam, and grace marks to candidates were given in a measured manner after technical glitches in attempting the exam were observed. "NEET on the other hand is an offline test. If the exam started late in a few centres, the students of those centres should very well be given extra time to finish the test, instead of awarding grace marks in an absurd manner," he says. Dr. Krishnan and a few other parents have written to the additional deputy commissioner of Jind district, Dr. Harish Vashishth, airing their grievances. Another coaching chain, Allen Career Institute has also written to NTA on June 8 demanding a free and fair investigation. "The lack of clarity surrounding NEET 2024 not only jeopardises the aspirations of millions of students, but also potentially undermines the integrity of the future of the medical profession," Nitin Kukreja, CEO of the institute stated in a letter to NTA. Allen has also stated that 26 out of 67 students who were given 720/720 have been the institute's students. "One of these is Jahnvee, a resident of Rajasthan who wrote the exam in the Jhajjar centre," says Dr Manish Jangra, founder, Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA). Her calculated score is 636/720, based on her answer sheet, but she scored 720/720. "On what basis has NTA given grace marks?" says Dr. Jangra.

Unit, have recovered the leaked NEET question paper which they had retrieved as evidence. They are awaiting NTA's response on whether the questions were matching.

The SC has directed the NTA to file its response on the alleged question paper leaks in two weeks. "The arrests and FIR related to the exam leak suggest deeper issues that may not be resolved by simply offering retests to a subset of candidates," says Dr. Jangra.

Added to this, FIRs were registered across States in cases of impersonation. On May 5, as students were dispersing after writing the NEET exam from Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan on KG Marg in Delhi, Sumit Mandoliya, 19, and Krishna Kesharwani, 22, were detained. Ajay Bhardawaj, the Duty-of-Centre Superintendent appointed by NTA to ensure that the exam went smoothly, filed an FIR at the Tilak Marg police station. In it, Bhardawaj stated that Mandoliya and Kesharwani were impersonating the identities of Aksh Astaan and Jai Raj Kaushik, respectively.

DELHI

मोदी जी, क्या 24 लाख छात्रों के भविष्य की कोई कीमत नहीं? NEET परीक्षा की पुनः जांच और रि-एग्जाम की मांग को नजरअंदाज न करें!

#RENEET

Getting the better of the system

As the grace marks questions rages, the Bihar Police have begun to investigate a case of an alleged paper leak; multiple arrests have been made. In Patna, police officials of the Economic Offences

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Senior police officials investigating the case say that through advanced artificial intelligence tools, middlemen who had arranged for the al-



NITIN KUKREJA

CEO, Allen Career Institute

The lack of clarity surrounding NEET 2024 not only jeopardises the aspirations of millions of students, but also potentially undermines the integrity of the future of the medical profession

leged cheating had merged features of the impersonator, also referred to as 'seater,' with the original candidate. "Both impersonators belong to poor families in Varanasi and Rajasthan, are MBBS students, and were promised ₹10-12 lakh to write the exam," say police. They also say that middlemen charged candidates ₹25-30 lakh

to hire impersonators. The impersonators were caught after their biometric scan at the exam centre did not match the Aadhar card biometric data of the candidate whose name had been registered to appear for the exam. After over 48 hours of a cat-and-mouse game, the police caught two middlemen Prabhat and Kishore from their Greater Noida hideout. Similar impersonation FIRs have also been lodged in Ambedkar Nagar and Malviya Nagar police stations.

"The NTA started matching biometrics for the first time this year. The arrested middlemen admitted to operating exam solver gangs since 2015," the police said. "In yet another manner of cheating, at times candidates are asked to leave their OMR sheet blank if they do not know the answers, and those are then filled retrospectively with the help of middlemen at the centre," a Delhi police official said.

While Pandey wants an independent enquiry into NEET 2024, it is the aspirants who are caught in the chaos. Many cannot afford to take another year off to study, several feel defeated because their futures have been boiled down to a rank, and most have lost trust in the system. Everybody asks for #ReNeet.

(With inputs from Ashna Butani)

Friday, June 14, 2024 DELH

*metro*PLUS



provocateur

The acclaimed filmmaker and inveterate actor Anurag Kashyap discusses his spree of 'baddie' roles in Hindi and southern films, the timidity of streaming services, and the need for State support for independent voices

Shilajit Mitra laiit.mitra@thehindu.co.in

t was only a matter of time before someone cast Anurag Kashyap and Gulshan Devaiah in a kitschy crime thriller together. Kashyap, acclaimed director of films like Gangs of Wasseypur and Ugly, has built a lucrative second career as an inveterate actor playing snarly heavies and agents of corruption. And Devaiah, who started his career under Kashyap's wing, has flourished wonderfully on streaming, as the twin successes of Duranga and Dahaad - plus an outlandish cameo in Guns & Gulaabs - showed.

In Bad Cop, premiering on Disney+ Hotstar on June 21 and adapted from the German television series by RTL, Devaiah and Kashyap square off in a tale of cops, criminals, mad twists and some slo-mo-assisted Gun Fu. The series is directed by Aditya Datt (Commando 3) and marks the first fiction offering by Freemantle India.

We ask Kashyap, who also essays the antagonist opposite Vijay Sethupathi in the Tamil film Maharaja, what endears him to

"I love dying," Kashyap says with a grin. "I tell my directors to give me incredible death scenes.(laughs)." His favourite death scene, he adds, is when Quentin Tarantino explodes near the end of his own Django Unchained (2012). "My biggest fantasy is that, at the end of my life, I'll get Amit Trivedi or AR Rahman to compose a song and put together all my death scenes. I don't have a problem playing evil," he says.

The bigger picture

It is all fun and games at the Bad Cop junket, though other issues loom large. Kashyap, in a recent interview, fulminated against India's tendency to 'take credit' for the achievements of independent filmmakers. The swell of national pride that erupted at the Cannes Film Festival last

The best literature, the best art always emerges from a lack of absolute freedom

month with Payal Kapadia and Anasuya Sengupta winning top honours was undercut by the fact earlier raised by Resul Pookutty that their movies were international co-productions, and fell way off the mainstream.

"Any artistic endeavour that is risky and challenging will need support," Kashyap says. "There was a time when some of the strongest cinema in this country emerged out of the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC). Even in recent decades, films like The Lunchbox (2012) and my own That Girl in Yellow Boots (2010) wouldn't have been made without their help. But I don't know how much they do now." There is also the threat, as many

> have indicated, of preferential treatment based on a filmmaker's political views and affiliations. Kashyap, too, has had his fair share of run-ins with the establishment. In 2018-2019, two of his films, Mukkabaaz and Sandh Ki Aankh, were denied shooting incentives under

> > the

Uttar

Bold and creative Gulshan Devaiah and Anurag Kashyap in a still from Bad Cop. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Pradesh Government's film scheme. "My producer suffered losses because of me...because I talk a lot," he says.

The streaming space appears no more liberating, or liberated. Kashyap concedes that a hard-edged, sociopolitically-engaged series like Sacred Games – which he co-directed with Vikramaditva Motwane and Neeraj Ghaywan cannot be made in the current climate.

'The reason Sacred Games happened is because it was greenlit from the US and not India. I had my show Maximum City cancelled at Netflix. Dibakar Banerjee's film (Tees) is stuck. Anyone who is currently in a position of decision-making, their choices are dictated by a lot of external factors. It's not like they have a personal problem."

He adds, "The best literature, the best art always emerges from a lack of absolute freedom. Yes, one does feel restricted as an artiste. At the same time, it is also my responsibility to find my ways to tell my story."

Returning to his acting work, Anurag says that his character in Bad Cop, gangster Kazbe, is worlds apart from the one he essays in Maharaja, his third Tamil film after Imaikkaa Nodigal and a cameo in Leo

"Kazbe is a more demonstrative criminal while my role in Maharaja is quite realistic. Director Nithilan Swaminathan has made an outstanding film. It's like a gritty South Korean revenge movie made in India."

Kashyap has a long-standing equation with Vijay Sethupathi and holds the actor in high esteem. "We worked together in Imaikkaa Nodigal. I was the first one who went to cast him for Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota (2018), but that didn't eventually work out."

Kashyap is also making his Malayalam acting debut in Aashiq Abu's upcoming Rifle Club. The film also features Dileesh Pothan and Soubin Shahir. Another Tamil film One 2 One, is on the cards with Sundar C.

"I have so much fun working in the southern cinemas," Kashyap says. "There are no vanity vans on a Malayalam film set, for instance, no unnecessary expenses or showbaazi (pretence). Everyone is passionate about making great cinema. Unlike in Bollywood, where we make

'projects' and not films.'

Understanding songlines

An immersive digital experience at KNMA of an ancient practice of the Aboriginal Australians



Tools of communication Songlines of Aboriginal Australians depicted at the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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ome 65,000 years ago, the native inhabitants of Australia developed a complex tool of communication songlines, or "dreaming pathways" - not only as a means to map the histories and geographical routes of the tribes criss-crossing the vast country, but to also build pathways of knowledge which contained within them advice on sustainable living, seasonal vegetation, and how to survive in the great Australian outback.

These songlines have been passed down generations orally for many millennia, but in the absence of written text, have become increasingly difficult to preserve

After nine years of hard work, the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA), Delhi, has come up with an immersive digital experience based on a component of the National Museum of become Australia's (NMA) internationally acclaimed exhibition

on aborigine songlines. The show, representing the work of over 100 artists, features several spaces dedicated to visual storytelling of the oral

Australia while running from a shapeshifting sorcerer who seeks to entrap them. The sisters' journey, while mapping the contours of the country, also comes to signify themes of creation and sustenance.

The first few exhibits feature short films narrated by tribal elders. Naji, for instance, depicts how spirit beings awoke the dry, barren land, creating life and water as they travelled through the continent. Footprints captures how a group of young Aboriginal men on the verge of losing their songlines discovers that a neighbouring tribe still remembers some of their cultural songs. An especially immersive section, titled Travelling Kungkarangkalpa, brings to life a version of the Seven Sisters story.

Amazing experience

To view the audiovisual experiment, one must lie flat on the ground and gaze

up at the spherical projection on the In the absence of ceiling, which uses written text, the animations modelled songlines have on paintings from Aboriginal artists. increasingly Another section *difficult to preserve* allows visitors to work

> on a thousand-piece puzzle of ancient artwork. The final exhibit is a "dizzying" experience. It features a dark room that comes alive with

these roles.

STEPOUT

Spectrum of emotions

Bharatanatyam dancer Apeksha Niranjan's performance titled Nayanam can be seen for the first time in Delhi. The recital is a thematic exploration of myriad emotions and expressions conveyed through the eyes as the artist delves deep into the significance of the eyes as the windows to the soul,

portraying their ability to define beauty, communicate emotions and enhance the storytelling aspect of dance. At India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Colony; On June 14; 7pm. Tickets at the venue.



Soulful music

An enchanting Sufi night with Niazi Nizami brothers promises to be a celebration of music, culture and food. The special event brings together the rich traditions of Spanish culinary art and soulful essence of Sufi music to create an unique experience.

At Tapas lounge bar, Jaypee Vasant Continental; On June 15; 8pm onwards; Tickets priced at ₹2,500 per person; For reservation, call 8885556370

Broota, Puneet Kaushik, Reshmi Dey, among others. On display are more than 200 artworks including paintings, drawings, prints, glass blown sculptures, site specific installations, recordings, AI explorations At Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay Complex, India International Centre, 40 Max Mueller Marg; Till June 18; 11am to 7pm

Creative meditation

Curated by Myna Mukherjee, Set Adrift on Memory Bliss is an intergenerational group exhibition featuring the works of SK Sahni, Shobha

traditions - through short films, puzzles and DIY stickers – in a way that celebrates their original identity.

An integral part

"Aboriginal communities involved in this exhibition are integral to it," says Margo Ngawa Neale, emeritus curatorial fellow (First Nations) at the NMA. "We could not proceed without them. They are the owners of the story, the custodians of their parts of the songlines, and have the responsibility to keep them alive and keep their retelling correct," says the Canberra-based curator through an email interview.

The show at KNMA is centred on the Seven Sisters songline - a story of seven sisters who make their way from East to West

projections of the masterfully animated abstractions of the Seven Sisters songline, which whoosh past the viewer and fade away. "NMA has tried to capture this oral tradition by incorporating features of dancing and painting – both of which came long after songlines first originated. The exhibition is abstract for a reason, because the Aboriginals viewed time as cyclical, not linear, and thus we are only able to depict fragments of this tradition," says Divjyot Singh, manager (Partnership and Events), KNMA.

At the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, 145, DLF South Court Mall, Saket; Till June 30; 10.30am to 6.30pm (Mondays closed)

Rising from the **ashes**

NIRAD MOHAPATRA'S 1984 Odiya classic Maya Miriga revived for global audiences

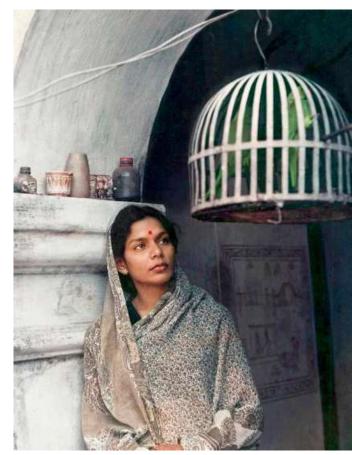
Arpita Chowdhury

ith Shyam Benegal's Manthan (1976) making it to the headlines, thanks to the screening of its restored version at the Cannes Film Festival recently, the idea of lost and re-membered stands at the cross-section of visual retelling of the forgotten. The organisation responsible for its restoration is set to hit the headlines again with the screening of celebrated Odia film director Nirad

CM YK

Mohapatra's classic Maya Miriga (Mirage, 1984) at the Il Cinema Ritrovato festival in Bologna, Italy, from June 22 to 30.

"Even though the film was out of circulation for a long time, it kept popping up in conversations over the years. As it happened, of the hundreds of films teetering on the verge of disappearing and clamouring to be restored, circumstances dictated that Maya Miriga make the list," says Shivendra Singh Dungarpur, director, Film Heritage Foundation.



Revival A still from the Odiya classic Maya Miriga. FILM HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The critically acclaimed film would have never seen the light of today, if the director's son Sandeep Mohapatra had not made earnest efforts to restore it. The work that began in 2021, from one restoration lab to another, came to fruition after three years and is now going to be accessible to connoisseurs of cinema.

New wave cinema

Nirad Mohapatra, alumnus of the Film and Television Institute of India, adhered to Italian Neo-Realism and Indian New Wave schools of filmmaking. It is evident in his cinematic choices in Maya Miriga with amateur actors, real locations, lack of melodrama, realistic attires

Nirad Mohapatra wrote in his blog in October 2012, that he was not inclined towards

focussing on 'individuation', rather he wanted to showcase the overarching narrative and characters who are a part of the story.

The film stands at the crossroad of transition to modernisation while staying connected to one's roots. The director subtly raises the questions of moving ahead and looking back. It is Mohapatra's emotional attachment to the family as against freedom for oneself that provides the mainstay of its conflict, which arises from the social reality of the middle class.

A big joint family living in the semi-urban locality of Puri, Odisha, witnesses muted rebellion as the question of individual ambition and family values bog down the sons and the daughters-in-law. Two couples of the family stand at two extremes.

The eldest son (Tuku) takes on the responsibility of looking after the family and educating his siblings while his wife (Prabha), though submissive,

constantly questions his decisions but only behind closed doors. Prabha fits the archetype of an abiding and nurturing daughter-in-law. However, the glimmer in her eyes dies down slowly as duty takes over dreams.

The second son Tutu aspires for a better quality of life. Post joining the bureaucracy, the couple decides to relocate to Delhi on the suggestion of his wife. While Tuku's wife might be termed as the 'villain' here, however, as the principles of realism hold, it is time and circumstances that pose to be the real harbingers of change for the good or the worse.

Mohapatra uses several symbols to say less and show more. He uses one single Carnatic raga in the film that is sung by a neighbour. Its liminality throughout the film strikes a chord.

Made with a shoestring budget, the film won accolades but got lost. Its revival after so many years shows it is still relevant.

and improvisations.

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सुशासन से समृद्धि

- प्रधानमंत्री जी द्वारा साइबर तहसील परियोजना प्रदेश के सभी 55 जिलों में लागू। नामांतरण, बंटवारा आदि विभिन्न राजस्व प्रकरणों के ऑनलाइन निराकरण की पहल करने वाला मध्यप्रदेश, देश का पहला राज्य
- ध्वनि विस्तारक यंत्रों की अनियंत्रित आवाज का प्रयोग प्रतिबंधित
- खुले में मांस-मछली की बिक्री पर प्रतिबन्ध
- यातायात सुगमता के लिए भोपाल में बीआरटीएस कॉरिडोर हटाने का निर्णय
- जिलों, संभागों, तहसीलों की सीमाओं के पुनर्निर्धारण के लिए पृथक प्रशासनिक इकाई पुनर्गठन आयोग बनाने का निर्णय
- उज्जैन शहर के केडी गेट से इमली तिराहा मार्ग चौड़ीकरण के लिये 23 धार्मिक स्थलों को हटाने के लिये व्यवस्थापकों, पुजारियों और नागरिकों द्वारा सहयोग कर साम्प्रदायिक सौहार्द का उल्लेखनीय उदाहरण प्रस्तुत
- निजी स्कूलों द्वारा कोर्स की किताबें, यूनिफार्म एवं अन्य शिक्षण सामग्री किसी निर्धारित दुकान से खरीदने के लिए पालकों पर अनुचित दबाव डाले जाने के मामले में मुख्यमंत्री द्वारा स्कूलों के खिलाफ सख्त कार्यवाही के निर्देश
- २००० से अधिक पुलिसकर्मियों को मिला पात्रतानुसार उच्च पद
- बालाघाट के कमकोदादर में हुई मुठभेड़ में नक्सलियों को खत्म करने वाले 24 शासकीय पुलिस सेवकों का आउट ऑफ टर्न प्रमोशन
- पुलिसकर्मियों के लिए मुख्यमंत्री आवास योजना के अंतर्गत २५ हजार मकान बनाने का लक्ष्य
- मध्यप्रदेश में आयी अपराधों में कमी, थानों की सीमाओं के पुनर्निर्धारण का कार्य तेजी से जारी
- १०५ वर्ग मीटर तक के आवासीय भ-खंडों के लिए ऑनलाइन आवेदन कर डीम्ड अनज्ञा प्राप्त करने और ३०० वर्ग मीटर तक के आवासीय भ-खंडों

नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं का विस्तार

- प्रदेश के दूरस्थ क्षेत्रों से गंभीर रूप से बीमार/दुर्घटनाग्रस्त लोगों को एयरलिफ्ट कर समय पर उपचार उपलब्ध कराने के लिए सरकार की संवेदनशील पहल के तहत पीएमश्री एयर एम्बुलेंस सेवा का शुभारंभ
- कार्य दक्षता के लिए चिकित्सा शिक्षा विभाग और लोक स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग का विलय
- आयुष्मान भारत योजना में 3 करोड़ 99 लाख से अधिक आयुष्मान कार्ड वितरित। अब तक 38 लाख से अधिक मरीजों का निःशुल्क उपचार
- जिला अस्पताल एवं सिविल अस्पतालों को एक-एक शव-वाहन उपलब्ध कराने का निर्णय
- सागर, शहडोल, नर्मदापुरम, धार, झाबुआ, मंडला, बालाघाट, श्योपुर एवं खजुराहो में नए आयुर्वेदिक महाविद्यालय स्थापित करने का निर्णय
- सिंहस्थ को देखते हुए उज्जैन में नवीन शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय की स्थापना का निर्णय
- चिकित्सा महाविद्यालयों को पीपीपी मोड पर स्थापित करने का निर्णय। मेडिकल कॉलेजों के साथ नए नर्सिंग कॉलेजों की स्थापना के लिए राशि स्वीकृत
- स्वास्थ्य संस्थानों में ४६ हजार ४९१ नये पदों (नियमित/संविदा/आउटसोर्स) के सृजन की स्वीकृति
- स्वास्थ्य सूचकांकों में बेहतर प्रदर्शन के लिये स्वास्थ्य संस्थानों में चिकित्सीय विशेयज्ञों के 607 पदों पर पूर्ति सीधी भर्ती से कराने की मंजूरी



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- पर त्वरित अनुज्ञा प्रदान करने की व्यवस्था लागू
- दो चरणों में राजस्व महाअभियान चलाकर ३० लाख ४८ हजार से अधिक राजस्व प्रकरणों का निराकरण
- प्रदेश के सभी बोरवेलों की जानकारी रखने हेतु शासन द्वारा पोर्टल तैयार। खुले बोरवेलों को बंद करने के लिए अधिकारियों की जिम्मेदारी तय
- सभी संभागों में समीक्षा बैठकों के दौरान बड़े पैमाने पर विकास कार्यों का लोकार्पण एवं शिलान्यास
- शासकीय सेवकों के महंगाई भत्ते में 4 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि से 46% हुआ डीए

समावेशी शिक्षा से संवरता कल

- प्रधानमंत्री उच्चतर शिक्षा अभियान (पीएम उषा) के अंतर्गत ८ विश्वविद्यालयों में अधोसंरचना तथा अन्य विकास कार्यों के लिए ₹400 करोड़ स्वीकृत
- हर जिले में पीएम कॉलेज ऑफ एक्सीलेंस की स्थापना। गुणवत्तापूर्ण शिक्षा की उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करने हेतु ₹485 करोड़ के निवेश से 55 जिलों में पूर्व से संचालित एक महाविद्यालय का पीएम कॉलेज ऑफ एक्सीलेंस में उन्नयन। इन कॉलेजों में 1750 शैक्षणिक एवं 369 तृतीय व चतुर्थ श्रेणी के पद सृजित



सभागीय समाक्षा बठक

- पीएम कॉलेज ऑफ एक्सीलेंस को बहुसंकायी बनाने एवं स्नातकोत्तर कक्षाओं के संचालन हेतु ७ महाविद्यालयों में स्नातक स्तर पर नवीन संकाय एवं ५५ महाविद्यालयों में स्नातक व स्नातकोत्तर स्तर पर संस्कृत, बायोटेक्नोलॉजी, कम्प्यूटर साइंस विषय प्रारंभ
- पीएम कॉलेज ऑफ एक्सीलेंस में सेंटर फॉर रिसर्च इन स्कीम एंड पॉलिसी (CRISP) के माध्यम से 8 रोज़गारोन्मुखी स्किल-आधारित पाठ्यक्रमों का संचालन
- आईआईटी इंदौर के सहयोग से उज्जैन में निर्मित देश के प्रथम शोध-आधारित नवाचार, प्रौद्योगिकी एवं उद्यमिता अनुभवात्मक विद्यार्जन केंद्र (डीप-टेक रिसर्च और डिस्कवरी सैटेलाइट कैंपस) का उद्घाटन
- खरगोन में ₹170 करोड़ से क्रांतिसूर्य टंट्या भील विश्वविद्यालय का उद्घाटन
- ३६९ सर्वसुविधायुक्त सीएम राइज़ विद्यालयों का संचालन
- विश्वविद्यालयों के कुलपति को कुलगुरु कहे जाने का निर्णय
- सागर में रानी अवंतीबाई लोधी विश्वविद्यालय एवं गुना में तात्या टोपे विश्वविद्यालय प्रारंभ
- आचार्य श्री विद्यासागर महाराज के नाम से होगा सागर में आयुर्वेद मेडिकल कॉलेज
- राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति-2020 लागू करने वाला देश का पहला राज्य बना मध्यप्रदेश
- अंतरराष्ट्रीय शिक्षा की गुणवत्ता से जुड़ने के लिए 12 अंतरराष्ट्रीय संस्थानों के साथ एम.ओ.यू.
- विश्वविद्यालयों में छात्र-छात्राओं की अंक सूची एवं उपाधियों को डिजी लॉकर में अपलोड करने की व्यवस्था लागू
- व्यावसायिक शिक्षा एवं सामान्य शिक्षा का एकीकरण कर 35 व्यावसायिक विषयों का पाठ्यक्रम में समावेश
- इंजीनियरिंग-मेडिकल की तर्ज पर नर्सिंग स्टूडेंट की स्टेट लेवल पर परीक्षा का निर्णय, केंद्र के नर्सिंग एक्ट के अनुसार राज्य में आयोग गठित होगा। भविष्य में नर्सिंग संस्थाओं को मान्यता राष्ट्रीय आयोग देगा
- शिक्षा में गुणवत्ता के लिये भोपाल, ग्वालियर, जबलपुर, इंदौर, उज्जैन, रीवा के विश्वविद्यालयों में इन्क्यूबेशन केंद्रों की स्थापना
- पायलट ट्रेनिंग के लिए विश्वविद्यालयों में कोर्स शुरू होगा
- एमपी बोर्ड 12वीं में 75 फीसदी अंक पाने वाले करीब 90 हजार छात्रों को लैपटॉप के लिए दी जायेगी ₹25-25 हजार की राशि
- सागर, खरगोन और गुना में नए विश्वविद्यालयों की स्थापना
- शासकीय महाविद्यालयों में कृषि को एक विषय के रूप में जोड़ा गया

९९ हमारा उद्देश्य है कि सरकार उपलब्ध संसाधनों के साथ जनहितैषी गतिविधियों को प्रभावी तरीके से क्रियान्वित करे। प्रदेश को विकास के पथ पर निरंतर आगे ले जाना और सुशासन को सच्चे स्वरूप में धरातल पर उतारना ही हमारा लक्ष्य है **१९** - **डॉ. मोहन यादव**, मुख्यमंत्री

सशक्त बनती नारी शक्ति

- लाड़ली बहना योजना के अंतर्गत 1 करोड़ 29 लाख बहनों के खातों में जनवरी से अभी तक ₹9 हजार 455 करोड़ से अधिक की सहायता राशि का अंतरण
- लाड़ली लक्ष्मी योजना अंतर्गत दिसंबर 2023 से अभी तक 73 हजार 880 लाड़ली बालिकाओं के खाते में ₹ 34 करोड़ की छात्रवृत्ति का अंतरण
- ४५ लाख ८९ हजार बहनों के खातों में ₹४५० में गैस सिलिंडर की रीफिलिंग के लिए ₹११८ करोड़ का अंतरण

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- प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना अंतर्गत ३ चरणों में अब तक ८८ लाख से अधिक निःशुल्क गैस कनेक्शन दिये
- महिला स्व-सहायता समूहों को दी गयी ₹9 हजार 560 करोड़ से अधिक की सहायता

युवा कल्याण के सतत् प्रयास

- सरकारी नौकरियों के लिए चयनित ११ हजार से अधिक उम्मीदवारों को सौंपे गए नियुक्ति-पत्र
- स्टार्ट-अप्स को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए नई पहल के तहत, प्रदेश के स्टार्ट-अप्स को राष्ट्रीय और अंतरराष्ट्रीय आयोजनों में सहभागिता के लिए ₹50 हजार से लेकर डेढ़ लाख तक वित्तीय सहायता का प्रावधान
- राज्य स्तरीय 'रोज़गार दिवस' के अवसर पर रिकॉर्ड 7 लाख युवाओं को ₹5 हजार करोड़ का स्व-रोज़गार ऋण वितरित
- अग्निवीर योजना में युवाओं का अधिक से अधिक चयन हो, इस उद्देश्य से 360 घंटे प्रशिक्षण देने का लक्ष्य
- मुख्यमंत्री सीखो कमाओ योजना में फरवरी 2024
 में 8 हजार प्रशिक्षणार्थियों को ₹6 करोड़ 60 लाख का स्टाइपेंड वितरित





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अन्नदाता के जीवन में आयी खुशहाली

- प्रधानमंत्री किसान सम्मान निधि एवं मुख्यमंत्री किसान कल्याण योजना अंतर्गत 80 लाख से अधिक किसानों को प्रतिवर्ष ₹12 हजार की सहायता
- फसल बीमा योजना खरीफ–23 के अंतर्गत 25 लाख से ज्यादा किसानों को ₹750 करोड़ से अधिक की राशि के दावों का भुगतान
- श्रीअन्न (मिलेट्स) उत्पादन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए रानी दुर्गावती श्रीअन्न प्रोत्साहन योजना में प्रति क्विंटल ₹ 1000 का विशेष प्रोत्साहन
- रबी विपणन वर्ष 2024-25 में 6 लाख से अधिक किसानों से 48 लाख 35 हजार मीट्रिक टन से अधिक गेहूं का समर्थन मूल्य पर नकद भुगतान कर उपार्जन। प्रति क्विंटल ₹125 बोनस का भुगतान
- किसानों के लिए शून्य प्रतिशत ब्याज दर पर अल्पावधि फसल ऋण योजना लागू रखने का निर्णय
- मुख्यमंत्री सोलर पंप योजना अब प्रधानमंत्री कृषक मित्र सूर्य योजना के नाम से लागू
- सात जिलों (उमरिया, अलीराजपुर, बैतूल, मंडला, खंडवा, सीधी एवं सीहोर) में 71 हजार 345 हेक्टेयर वन क्षेत्र से लघु वनोपज के निर्यात के लिए मिला जैविक प्रमाण-पत्र

गरीब वर्ग को मिला सम्मानजनक जीवन

- इंदौर की हुकुमचंद मिल के 4 हजार 800 श्रमिक परिवारों को ₹224 करोड़ की राशि का भुगतान
- स्वामित्व योजना में 23 लाख 50 हजार लोगों को स्वामित्व अधिकार पत्र वितरित
- श्रमिकों को ई-स्कूटर खरीदने के लिए ₹40 हजार की आर्थिक सहायता का निर्णय
- 'मुख्यमंत्री जनकल्याण (संबल) योजना २.०' के अंतर्गत ३० हजार से अधिक श्रमिक परिवारों को ₹६७० करोड़ से अधिक की अनुग्रह सहायता राशि का अंतरण
- दिव्यांगता और मृत्यु के आधार पर मिलने वाली सहायता राशि को बढ़ाकर ₹4 लाख किया
- विभिन्न श्रेणी के ऊर्जा उपभोक्ताओं के लिये २४ हजार ४२० करोड़ रुपये की सब्सिडी का निर्णय

कमजोर वर्ग के साथ प्रदेश सरकार

- सामाजिक सुरक्षा पेंशन योजनाओं के माध्यम से प्रतिमाह 55 लाख 60 हजार से अधिक हितग्राहियों को पिछले एक वर्ष में लगभग ₹4 हजार करोड़ से अधिक पेंशन राशि का अंतरण
- तेंदूपत्ता संग्राहकों का मानदेय ₹3000 प्रति बोरा से बढ़ाकर ₹4000 हजार किया। लगभग ३५ लाख तेंदूपत्ता संग्राहक लाभान्वित
- पीएम जन-मन योजना अंतर्गत विशेष पिछड़ी जनजाति बहुल जिलों में ₹7300 करोड़ से अधिक की लागत से हो रहे अधोसंरचना के कार्य। कुल ११ लाख से अधिक भाई-बहन लाभान्वित होंगे। साथ ही बैगा, भारिया और सहरिया परिवारों के अविद्युतीकृत घरों तक बिजली पहुंचाने की कार्ययोजना स्वीकृत
- आहार अनुदान योजना अंतर्गत विशेष पिछड़ी जनजातियों की बहनों के खातों में जनवरी से अभी तक ₹148 करोड़ से अधिक की राशि अंतरित

आर्थिक समृद्धि की ओर बढ़ता मध्यप्रदेश



आहार अनुदान योजना

- मध्यप्रदेश के चौतरफा और तेज गति से विकास के लक्ष्य को लेकर चल रही मध्यप्रदेश सरकार की पहली प्राथमिकता अंत्योदय और विकसित मध्यप्रदेश के संकल्प को पूरा करना है। इस दिशा में कदम बढ़ाते हुए प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा वर्ष 2024-25 के लिए ₹ 1 लाख 45 हजार करोड़ से अधिक का लेखानुदान प्रस्तुत
- पिछले ६ माह में जीएसटी अंतर्गत कुल ₹१९०९१ करोड़ का राजस्व प्राप्त ,जो पिछले वर्ष से २८% अधिक है। अप्रैल की जीएसटी राजस्व वृद्धि दर में मध्यप्रदेश देश में प्रथम स्थान पर
- राजस्व वृद्धि के विशेष प्रयासों से ₹4150 करोड़ का अतिरिक्त राजस्व स्क्रूटनी प्रवर्तन, ITC रिवर्सल आदि के माध्यम से प्राप्त हुआ

औद्योगिक निवेश को प्रोत्साहन

 आष्टा (सीहोर) में लगभग ₹60,000 करोड़ के निवेश से पेट्रोकैमिकल कॉम्प्लेक्स तथा इथेन क्रेकर परियोजना की स्थापना का प्रस्ताव

सांस्कृतिक एवं आध्यात्मिक अभ्युदय

- पर्यटकों को हवाई यात्रा की सुविधा उपलब्ध कराने के लिए 'पीएमश्री पर्यटन वायु सेवा' एवं 'पीएमश्री धार्मिक पर्यटन हेली सेवा' का शुभारंभ
- नदी, तालाबों, कुओं, बावड़ियों एवं अन्य जल स्रोतों के संरक्षण एवं इनके पुनर्जीवन के लिये 5 जून विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस से 16 जून गंगा दशहरा तक जल-गंगा संवर्धन अभियान चलाया जा रहा है
- विक्रम सांस्कृतिक पर्व का १ मार्च से ९ अप्रैल, २०२४ तक किया गया आयोजन। इस दौरान कालजयी महानायकों की तेजस्विता पर केन्द्रित भारत के अपने किस्म के पहले संग्रहालय 'वीर भारत न्यास' का शिलान्यास एवं उज्जयिनी गौरव दिवस का आयोजन
- २९ फरवरी, २०२४ को प्रधानमंत्री जी के कर-कमलों से विक्रमोत्सव के अवसर पर विश्व की पहली 'विक्रमादित्य वैदिक घड़ी' का शुभारंभ कर भारतीय काल गणना परंपरा का साक्षात्कार पूरी दुनिया से कराया गया
- पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री भारत रत्न स्व. श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी की स्मृति में ₹२० करोड़ की लागत से बनने वाले अटल स्मारक का भूमिपूजन
- शासकीय कैलेण्डर में विक्रम संवत् अंकित करना प्रारंभ
- मंडला में वीरांगना रानी दुर्गावती की प्रतिमा का अनावरण
- 1450 किमी लंबे श्रीराम वन गमन पथ के निर्माण का निर्णय
- जहाँ-जहाँ भगवान श्रीकृष्ण के चरण पड़े, उन स्थानों को तीर्थ के रूप में विकसित करने का निर्णय
- सिंहस्थ-2028 की तैयारी प्रारंभ, टास्क फोर्स गठित
- इंदौर से उज्जैन एवं ममलेश्वर ज्योतिर्लिंग तथा जबलपुर से चित्रकूट और ग्वालियर से ओरछा एवं पीताम्बरा पीठ के लिए हेलीकॉप्टर सेवाएँ
- वर्ष प्रतिपदा नव सम्वत्सर के शुभारंभ एवं सृष्टि आरंभ दिवस को पूरे प्रदेश में भव्य रूप में मनाने का निर्णय
- मध्यप्रदेश के श्रद्धालुओं की सुविधा के लिए अयोध्या में एक आस्था भवन (धर्मशाला) निर्माण करने का निर्णय
- देवालयों में लगने वाली सामग्री जैसे- भगवान के वस्त्र-आभूषण, श्रृंगार सामग्री, धातु व पत्थर की मूर्तियों के निर्माण को कुटीर उद्योग के अंतर्गत प्रोत्साहित करने स्व-सहायता समूह तथा क्षेत्र के युवाओं को इसके लिए प्रख्यात कलाकारों से प्रशिक्षण उपलब्ध कराने और मंदिरों में इन सामग्रियों के विक्रय के लिए स्टॉल की व्यवस्था करने का निर्णय
- स्वदेश दर्शन योजना २.० के अंतर्गत चित्रकूट के घाट पर अध्यात्म के अनुभव की नवीन परियोजना का भूमिपूजन
- चित्रकूट नगर के प्राकृतिक, ऐतिहासिक और धार्मिक विकास के लिये चित्रकूट विकास प्राधिकरण की स्थापना को स्वीकृति
- यूनेस्को के विश्व हेरिटेज सेंटर द्वारा भारत की अस्थायी सूची में मध्यप्रदेश की 6 धरोहरें सम्मिलित। ग्वालियर किला, धमनार का ऐतिहासिक समूह, भोजपुर का भोजेश्वर महादेव मंदिर, चंबल घाटी के रॉक कला स्थल, खूनी भंडारा बुरहानपुर और रामनगर मंडला का गोंड स्मारक इसमें शामिल हैं
- कूज टूरिज्म को गति देने के लिए मध्यप्रदेश में ओंकारेश्वर स्थित एकात्म धाम (स्टैच्यू ऑफ वननेस) से गुजरात के कावड़िया में स्थित स्टैच्यू ऑफ यूनिटी तक क्रूज संचालित किये जाने का निर्णय

गौ-संरक्षण एवं संवर्धन

- भारतीय नव वर्ष अर्थात इस चैत्र माह से अगले वर्ष तक गौ-वंश रक्षा वर्ष मनाने का निर्णय
- गौशालाओं में गौ-वंश के लिए बेहतर आहार हेतु प्रति गौ-वंश मिलने वाली ₹ 20 की राशि बढाकर ₹40 करने का निर्णय
- चरनोई की भूमि से अतिक्रमण हटाए जाएंगे
- गौशालाओं को भूसा प्रबंधन के लिये आधुनिक मशीनों एवं उपकरणों के लिये अनुदान तथा प्रोत्साहन
- प्रत्येक ५० किलोमीटर पर घायल गायों को इलाज के लिये परिवहन हेतु हाइड्रोलिक कैटल लिफ्टिंग वाहन का टोल व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत प्रबंध का निर्णय
- अधूरी गौशालाओं का निर्माण पूर्ण कर नई गौशालाएं प्रारंभ करने का निर्णय

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान में मध्यप्रदेश बना सिरमौर

- स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण-2023 में देश के सबसे स्वच्छ शहर का पुरस्कार लगातार सातवीं बार इंदौर को मिला
- मध्यप्रदेश, देश का दूसरा स्वच्छतम राज्य और भोपाल स्वच्छतम राजधानी बना
- प्रदेश के 7 शहर वाटर प्लस, ३६१ शहर ओडीएफ डबल प्लस, एक शहर 7-स्टार, एक 5-स्टार, २४ शहर ३-स्टार और १३२ शहर 1-स्टार गार्बेज फ्री श्रेणी में पुरस्कृत









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अन्य उपलब्धियां



- १ एव २ मार्च, २०२४ को उज्जेन में रेजिनल इंडस्ट्री कान्क्लव ऐतिहासिक रूप सफल रही
- कॉन्क्लेव में 283 इकाइयों को 508 हेक्टेयर भूमि के आवंटन-पत्र प्रदान किये। इन इकाइयों द्वारा ₹ 12 हजार 170 करोड़ से अधिक का निवेश से 20 हजार से अधिक लोगों को रोज़गार
- ₹10 हजार करोड़ लागत की 60 से अधिक उद्योग इकाइयों का शुभारंभ हुआ, जिनसे 17 हजार से अधिक रोज़गार सृजित होने की सम्भावना है
- ₹1 लाख करोड़ से अधिक के व्यवसाय और उद्योग निवेश प्रस्ताव मिले
- कॉन्क्लेव में कुल 12 देशों और 650 से अधिक औद्योगिक निवेशकों की भागीदारी हुई, 2100 से अधिक बिजनेस-टू-बिजनेस बैठकें, 4000 से अधिक डेलिगेट्स ने लिया भाग
- उज्जयिनी विक्रम व्यापार मेला एवं ग्वालियर व्यापार मेला-२०२४ में वाहनों के आरटीओ पंजीयन पर ५०% की छूट पर उज्जैन में हुई २३,००० वाहनों की रिकॉर्ड बिक्री
- व्यापार मेले में हस्तशिल्प और हाथकरघा उत्पादों के क्रय-विक्रय के जरिए लोकल को बनाया गया वोकल। ₹2300 करोड़ का हुआ कारोबार

तेज गति से अधोसंरचना विकास

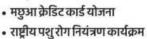
- पार्वती-कालीसिंध-चंबल लिंक परियोजना के लिए मध्यप्रदेश, राजस्थान और केंद्र सरकार के बीच समझौता। 10 जिलों को मिलेगा लाभ
- केन-बेतवा लिंक परियोजना के लिये ₹24 हजार 290 करोड़ से अधिक की राशि स्वीकृत। परियोजना के दौधन बांध के निर्माण हेतु ₹5,137 करोड़ लागत की निविदा स्वीकृति के अंतिम चरणों में। प्रेशराइज्ड पाइप प्रणाली के निर्माण हेतु ₹12 हजार 210 करोड़ लागत की निविदाएं आमंत्रित
- ₹308 करोड़ की लागत से खरगोन जिले में जलूद ऊर्जा संयंत्र का भूमिपूजन
- ग्वालियर-बेंगलुरू, ग्वालियर-अहमदाबाद और ग्वालियर-दिल्ली-अयोध्या विमान सेवा का शुभारंभ
- इंदौर उज्जैन सिक्स लेन परियोजना को स्वीकृति
- इंदौर में ₹350 करोड़ से एलिवेटेड कॉरिडोर का भूमिपूजन। भोपाल, देवास, ग्वालियर, जबलपुर एवं सतना में भी बन रहे हैं एलिवेटेड कॉरिडोर
- ₹10 हजार करोड़ से अधिक की लागत से 724 किमी लम्बी 24 सड़क परियोजनाओं का लोकार्पण एवं शिलान्यास
- माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी के कर-कमलों से ₹२४ हजार ५०० करोड़ की अधोसंरचना परियोजनाओं का लोकार्पण और शिलान्यास
- प्रधानमंत्री जी द्वारा अमृत भारत स्टेशन योजनांतर्गत मध्यप्रदेश के 33 स्टेशनों के पुनर्विकास कार्य का शिलान्यास एवं 133 रेल ओवर ब्रिज एवं अंडरपास का शिलान्यास और लोकार्पण
- प्रदेश को 364 रेल परियोजनाओं की सौगात। प्रदेश की चौथी सेमी-हाई स्पीड वंदे भारत एक्सप्रेस खजुराहो से हजरत निजामुद्दीन ट्रेन मिली
- भोपाल में वंदे भारत ट्रेनों के रख-रखाव और सुविधाओं के लिए लगभग ₹100 करोड़ की लागत से नए कोच कॉम्प्लेक्स का शिलान्यास
- निशातपुरा-संत हिरदाराम नगर रेल खण्ड का लोकार्पण
- राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग परियोजनाओं के निर्माण और सुदृढ़ीकरण के लिए ₹3 हजार 500 करोड़ की राशि स्वीकृत
- जबलपुर में ₹485 करोड़ से अधिक की लागत से मध्यप्रदेश राज्य न्यायिक अकादमी को स्वीकृति
- उज्जैन-जावरा के मध्य 4-लेन ग्रीनफील्ड एक्सेस कंट्रोल्ड हाई-वे निर्माण के लिये ₹5 हजार 17 करोड़ से अधिक की स्वीकृति। इस मार्ग के निर्माण से उज्जैन, इंदौर एवं आस-पास के क्षेत्र मुम्बई-दिल्ली 8 लेन इंडस्ट्रीयल कॉरिडोर (एक्सप्रेस-वे) से जुड़ेंगे
- ₹१५४० करोड़ की लागत से बनने वाले भोपाल मेट्रो के नए ८ स्टेशनों का भूमिपूजन, नगरीय निकायों को विकास कार्यों के लिए ₹१ हजार करोड़ की राशि का अंतरण
- मुख्यमंत्री शहरी क्षेत्र अधोसंरचना (चतुर्थ चरण) निर्माण योजना के लिए ₹१६३० करोड़ से अधिक राशि स्वीकृत
- भोपाल, इंदौर, ग्वालियर, जबलपुर, उज्जैन एवं सागर में प्रधानमंत्री ई-बस सेवा योजना में ५५० से अधिक शहरी ई-बसों के संचालन का निर्णय
- कायाकल्प अभियान के अंतर्गत ₹2500 करोड़ के निवेश से बदल रही है शहरों में सड़कों की सूरत
- प्रदेश के सभी प्रमुख शहरों में PNG पाइपलाइन से गैस कनेक्शन व्यवस्था करने का निर्णय
- देश में सबसे कम समय में बनकर तैयार हुये मध्यप्रदेश के सबसे बड़े राजमाता विजयाराजे सिंधिया एयरपोर्ट (ग्वालियर) का उद्घाटन

- ५०वें खजुराहो नृत्य समारोह के अवसर पर १ हजार ४८४ कथक कलाकारों ने एक साथ कथक नृत्य का बनाया गिनीज़ वर्ल्ड रिकॉर्ड
- ग्वालियर में आयोजित ताल दरबार में प्रदेश के 1300 से अधिक कला साधकों ने वंदे मातरम् की धुन बजाकर गिनीज़ वर्ल्ड रिकॉर्ड में प्रदेश का नाम दर्ज किया
- देश में सर्वाधिक खनिज ब्लॉकों की नीलामी कर पाया प्रथम स्थान
- प्रत्येक जिले में जिला पुलिस बैंड का गठन
- भारत सरकार के गृह मंत्रालय द्वारा देशभर के 10 सर्वश्रेष्ठ थानों में देवास के सिविल लाइन थाने का चयन
- राज्यों की स्टार्टअप रैंकिंग 2022 और राष्ट्रीय स्टार्टअप पुरस्कार 2023 के अंतर्गत मध्यप्रदेश 'लीडर' के रूप में पुरस्कृत
- 'एक जिला-एक उत्पाद' के अंतर्गत बुरहानपुर को केला प्रसंस्करण क्षेत्र में विशेष कार्य के लिए राष्ट्रीय सम्मान
- प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना (शहरी) के क्रियान्वयन में मध्यप्रदेश को बेस्ट परफार्मिंग स्टेट अवॉर्ड की श्रेणी में दूसरा स्थान
- मध्यप्रदेश टूरिज्म बोर्ड देश के बेस्ट टूरिज्म बोर्ड के रूप में सम्मानित
- मध्यप्रदेश टाइगर और चीता स्टेट के बाद बना लेपर्ड स्टेट
- अशोकनगर के चंदेरी के प्राणपुर ग्राम में ₹7 करोड़ से अधिक की लागत के देश के पहले 'क्राफ्ट हैण्डलूम टूरिज्म विलेज' का लोकार्पण
- 'एक जिला-एक उत्पाद' के तहत विभिन्न प्राचीन कलाओं को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए परी बाजार, भोपाल में 'गोलघर स्मारक' का शुभारंभ
- पंडित खुशीलाल शर्मा शासकीय स्वशासी आयुर्वेद महाविद्यालय के चिकित्सालय को एनएबीएच सर्टिफिकेशन

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भारत सरकार की योजनाओं के क्रियान्वयन में लगातार अग्रणी मध्यप्रदेश

- पीएम स्व-निधि योजना
- प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना
- पीएम आवास योजना
- कृषि अवसंरचना निधि
- प्रधानमंत्री मातृ वंदना योजना
- स्वामित्व योजना
- नशामुक्त भारत अभियान



- प्रधानमंत्री आदर्श ग्राम योजना
- राष्ट्रीय आजीविका मिशन

• आयुष्मान भारत योजना

• स्वच्छ भारत मिशन

मध्यप्रदेश शासन







Editorial



Carry it forward

The BJP government should continue development schemes in Odisha

disha's newly sworn-in Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, the first politician from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to occupy the post in the State, will also be making a new record while thwarting a long-standing one. His predecessor, Naveen Patnaik of the Biju Janata Dal, was the Chief Minister for 24 years and 99 days - the second longest tenure for any one in India, after Pawan Kumar Chamling who served 66 days longer in Sikkim. Mr. Majhi is from the Santali tribe and his ascension shows the assiduousness with which the BJP has sought to win the support of the tribal communities in central and east India - also reflected in its endorsement of President Droupadi Murmu when she stood as a candidate. Mr. Majhi has rich experience as a legislator and a political organiser, having begun his political journey as an administrator. He was a village sarpanch in the late 1990s. His ascension marks a breakthrough for the BJP, which successfully projected the image of the BJD being rudderless without Mr. Patnaik as well as his dependence on the bureaucracy having steadily eroded the BID of its second-rung of leadership. As the Achilles heel of the BJD too, this bureaucratic over-dependence was used to not only provide governance and implement policies endorsed by Mr. Patnaik, but also in political outreach. The BJP has steadfastly grown as the alternative to the BJD with the decline of the Congress.

Mr. Majhi's swearing-in ceremony also marked a return to a degree of political bonhomie with the BJD after a bitter and personal campaign targeting Mr. Patnaik's lieutenant, V.K. Pandian, for his Tamil roots. The optics were encouraging and the BJP should focus on bringing continuity to some of the BJD's initiatives in the State that have allowed for faster GDP growth, better delivery of services and welfare measures in the rural areas, and better diversification of an economy that is dependent on agriculture. Yet, for all its successes in reducing poverty and diversifying its economy, Odisha still remains among the poorest States in the country, with an estimated 11.07% of its population below the Multidimensional Poverty Index in 2023, according to NITI-Aayog and only six major States having higher numbers. Mr. Majhi and his colleagues have their task cut out. Odisha rewarded Mr. Patnaik with a long tenure not just for governance but also for bringing peace to a State that has seen communal riots in its tribal regions at a time when his party was in alliance with the BJP. The BJP should not interpret this mandate as one that endorses its ideology of Hindutva and return to those days of communal disharmony. Instead, it must focus on continuing the developmental work in Odisha.

> Singular focus Science is now too vast to be administered by one Minister

s the much talked about strategic and statesman-like address made by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat akin to the recent example of a juvenile justice board in Pune asking a minor offender to write a 300-word essay on road accidents as a part of his bail conditions? But in

this case, who is meant to write the essay? In a brilliant speech (not the first brilliant speech that the RSS chief has made), Mr. Bhagwat has virtually laid out a road map for the new (old) government and prescribed a model code of conduct, something that people expected the Election Commission of India (ECI) to enforce during the 2024 general election. The similarity between the two lies in what remains unsaid. The ECI put the party on notice; the RSS supremo delivered a sermon to 'whomsoever it may concern'. Mr. Bhagwat's message is loud and clear whereas the ECI's was muted and manicured. Both messages have the potential to hit the target without exposing it.

The ECI examined complaints made to it, asked the political parties concerned for an explanation and then issued a mild reprimand either convinced by the merit in the complaint or because it was convulsed by adverse public opinion and wanted to salvage its position. The bitterness in its pill was hidden in a multi-layered coat of saccharine. It could have rejected the complaints, as done in 2019, but it attempted to deliver even-handed justice that might have displeased all. In the process it risked denting its image of impartiality which it perhaps believes has been partially repaired by the efficient conduct of the 2024 general election. Possibly, it is the verdict that may have bailed it out and not just the smooth completion of the process.

Mr. Bhagwat's message, just after the verdict in the general election, is in the nature of a post mortem, needed only when an 'unnatural' cause leads to a mishap. Hence, the admission of a 'mishap' due to something 'unnatural' is implicit in his telling address. The 'mishap' could mean losing majority and the 'unnatural cause' identified by him could be the violation of decorum in the frenzy of election campaigning. For good measure he said this was done by "both sides" – by the party in power and the Opposition – thereby enlarging the scope of his reach and the onus of the breach, à la the ECI.

The key words, their import

The words that stood out in Mr. Bhagwat's speech were 'maryada' and 'ahankar'. He said "Jo vaastavik sevak hai,...woh maryada se chalta hai.



<u>Ashok Lavasa</u> is a former Election Commissioner and a former Finance Secretary of India

Uss maryada ka paalan karke jo chalta hai, woh karm karta hai lekin karmon mein lipt nahi hota. Usme ahankar nahin aata ki maine kiya (A true worker maintains dignity and does not violate the limits set by tradition while working. He does not have the arrogance to claim credit for himself for the work done"). 'Maryada' is an adjective associated with Lord Ram. To the best of my knowledge, Ram is the only Hindu god with whom this attribute is linked as 'maryada' relates to the conduct of a person, and not to his thought. Lord Ram represents the right conduct according to the general perception of duty. Being god, he does what he thinks and vice-versa, and is, therefore, a true amalgam of ideal thought and action. In a mundane sense, that is what the model code of conduct is all about.

The message in the RSS chief's speech

'Ahankar' is borne out of self-belief and is reflected in both deed and thought. It may be impossible for a person to be arrogant in action unless he is arrogant in thought. 'Style is the man' and arrogance will seep out in utterance if it exists in the mind. It is a leak that springs in a wall, creating damp spots even if the wall is strong.

The RSS's website, on a page, "Vision and Mission", uses an effective metaphor: "Great oaks from little acorns grow". Although this refers to the growth of the organisation that boasts of the number of the *shakhas* (branches) of the Sangh crossing 57,000, it equally applies to the *swayamsevaks* (volunteers) who are exhorted to be humble. No acorn should think it is the oak even if an oak is inherent in every acorn.

The dynamics of political contest

The other object lesson in Mr. Bhagwat's message is how to treat one's opponents in a contest. They are opponents only as long as they are in competition (*spardha*). Once the contest is over, they should be treated as people occupying the benches earmarked for those who did not qualify to sit on the Treasury benches. Where you sit depends on where you belong, and belonging is only circumscribed by the law of defection; not defined by commitment to an ideology. Be that as it may, together they constitute Parliament. Therefore, all opposition is subsumed in the House, where all members are honourable constituents.

Mr. Bhagwat has coined an endearing term for the Opposition – '*pratipaksh*', that is those who represent the 'other' side (*pehlu*), which is the essence of any democratic governance. An elected government is expected to treat the Opposition with the respect and the consideration that it deserves as it represents almost two-thirds of those who voted but did not choose the ruling party as it felt that it did not have the right to govern the country. No principle of democratic governance allows those in authority to ignore the will of those who favoured someone else, those who did not or could not vote, and those who do not yet have the right to vote. It is not 272 (the threshold of majority) or 294 (the tally of the BJP and allies, in early June) representatives versus 116 crore Indians. Mr. Bhagwat's plea is for inclusivity and a call for building consensus (*sahmati*), the onus of which lies on those who have the responsibility to govern the country.

India's diversity cannot be wished away

Inclusivity, however, is not about an absence of differences. India has been, is and will continue to be a land of diversity. Caste, community, creed, religion, and regions are a part of this diversity. Just as the burden of building consensus is on the ruling party, the onus of diminishing the divisions in society is on those who are in power. It will always be the responsibility of those in the majority to alleviate the apprehensions of those in the minority. Fear is a two-way transaction – those who are scared and those who cause a scare. A democratically-elected government should never support the latter and sharpen existing divisions or exploit them for narrow political gains.

Communities have survived in our society due to mutual dependence despite differences. The strength of that relationship is the recognition that not only are their customs, rituals and traditions different but that they also understand each other's culture intimately. Diverse communities have been essential components of our society and the age-old bonds of respect and tolerance have existed among them. Harmony and tension are a part of society's composite psyche. The occasional tension, which boils over like overheated milk, has subsided with the sprinkling of a few drops of water by sagacious leaders. We can do without those who try to ignite existing tinderboxes by twisting the truth and snapping the dhaga prem ka (the thread of love) by tampering with technology.

The final exhortation in Mr. Bhagwat's homily is that no superstructure (*shikhar*) can be built on a weak base (*buniyad*), which essentially meant that it is the strength of the foundation on which the stability of the edifice depends, and losing 20% of seats is a sign of the weakening of the base.

The ideology of social peace is still working

n a reaction to the invitation that was extended to the President of the Indian National Congress, Mallikarjun Kharge, to the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Uttar Pradesh Minister Yogendra Upadhyay is reported to have said: "They (the Congress) rejected [the] Ram Mandir invitation. If they do the same this time, then it will show their



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<u>Harbans Mukhia</u>

occasion, was forever highlighted rather than hidden. Yet, the failure of the link has been loud and clear on several occasions. On December 6, 1992, with the demolition of the Babri Masiid, the BJP's top leadership must have imagined that the path to electoral victory now lay clear and unhindered. Assembly elections held in some of the main States in the Hindi belt, in 1993, led in the opposite direction: the BJP lost in Uttar Pradesh to arch rival of the Samajwadi Party Mulayam Singh Yadav (and Bahujan Samaj Party) and had to wait for a decade to return home. The wave of "liberating Ram Lalla" from the precincts of the masjid was feeble. There were electoral losses in Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh too. Its government in Rajasthan survived the debacle, though with a considerably reduced majority, as Chief Minister Bhairon Singh Shekhawat had kept a distance from Mr. Advani's rath yatra and the resultant events of December 6. The formation of the first BJP government in 1998 was not due to the Ram Mandir movement but more the result of infighting within the various constituents of the then ruling coalition. But learning a lesson from it and keeping Lord Ram out of politics would have required a rethink of the communal perspective, which is central to the Sangh Parivar. In 2014, there had to be camouflaging of the communal agenda using the more general slogan of vikas (development).

Indian voter has expressed a repugnance for the politics of hatred, of divide and rule, and the politics of the Prime Minister himself, whose electoral rhetoric this time was indecorous. Where was the grace reflected in person, behaviour and language that one saw in the speeches of Prime Ministers like Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, and Atal Bihari Vajpavee?

he portfolios of many of the newly swornin Ministers of the 18th Lok Sabha signal no significant changes from what they held in the previous regime. The Bharatiya Janata Party continues to retain the 'major' portfolios, from Home to Telecommunications, with the rest distributed among its coalition allies. The 18th Lok Sabha also includes five Ministers of State with independent charge. One of them is Jitendra Singh, whose portfolio spans the Departments of Space (DoS) and Atomic Energy (DAE), the Ministries of Earth Sciences (MoES), Science and Technology (MST), and Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. Each of these ministries or departments by itself is a handful these days. The DoS is grappling with the entry of private sector players in the national space programme as well as managing the development of the maiden human spaceflight mission and new launch vehicles. The MoES is involved in missions to explore the seabed for mineral resources – an enterprise just beginning to feature in multilateral fora – as well as climate adaptation and mitigation. The MST oversees India's three foremost research departments at a time when the world is having to test artificial intelligence, build quantum computers, develop and deploy multi-omics approaches in sectors from agriculture to medicine, and invent advanced energy storage solutions. The DAE has announced plans to rapidly advance nuclear power, which includes starting phase two of its reactors programme and commissioning one facility every year. Just the sheer amount of technical divergence in the offing here, and their evolving interactions with society at large, merits more than a shared Minister of State.

The fields these bodies oversee also suffer many persistent problems. To pick a few: the timelines of fellowship and grant disbursals for young researchers are often farcical; facilities that can support interdisciplinary research are largely localised and inimical to collaboration; cuttingedge research is hamstrung by vacillating regulations; intellectual property rights protection is less than airtight, and translational research is bare and restricted to some sectors. Importantly, the gross domestic expenditure on research and development as a fraction of GDP has been declining since 2008-09. While demands for more money should be preceded by capacity building that can productively absorb these funds, the growth of that capacity has been in fits and starts. Among other things, India sorely needs a separate Minister, ideally of Cabinet rank, for each of its major nodal research bodies to escape their long-standing rut, and have their needs met and problems solved in meaningful fashion during the bumpy rule of a coalition government.

YK

shallow mentality."

The comparison between the invitation to the consecration ceremony of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya on January 22, 2024 and Mr. Modi's oath-taking ceremony on June 9, 2024 shows, if anything, the same mentality that led Mr. Modi to deny, or at least doubt, while on the election trail, his own biological birth, and claim to be of divine origin.

Between an invocation and the election

Media orthodoxy has it that the fixation of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) with Lord Ram is still bringing it huge electoral and political dividends, which has convinced the BJP leadership that this indeed is an inviolable truth. Any amount of empirical evidence to the contrary is dismissed as hypothetical at best, and/or false at worst. The ascendance of the BJP, from a mere two Lok Sabha seats in 1984 to a secular rise to 303 seats in 2019 is proof enough of the link with Lord Ram at its heart. What other proof is required?

The exploitation of Lord Ram for political ambitions was unambiguous in BJP veteran L.K. Advani's famous statement in the middle of the launch of the *rath yatra*, that he was a political and not a religious leader, i.e., aiming at political, and not religious gains. In the timing of the installation of the statue of Lord Ram and the massive fanfare that accompanied it, followed by the consecration of the temple in Ayodhya on January 22 this year, it was clear that the proximity of the 2024 general election was the determinant. The link between the election and the invocation of Lord Ram, whatever the taught history at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

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The Ayodhya result

In the 2024 general election, the defeat of the BJP in Ayodhya itself demonstrates the dysfunctional link between electoral politics and the invocation of Lord Ram. It was no ordinary defeat, for the BJP candidate lost by over 50,000 votes. The BJP's Lallu Singh was a veteran, taking on a Dalit rival, Awadhesh Prasad. And this happened after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Sangh Parivar's investment in the construction of the Ram temple and its location in politics.

The 2024 general election result shows that the

Will Mr. Modi, or the BJP as a party, or the RSS learn a lesson from Lord Ram? The people of India have made their preferred choices clear. It is very unlikely to happen. After the Supreme Court of India's famous judgment of 2019 on the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi dispute, which, among other things, had forcefully upheld the view that no temple, much less a Ram temple lay demolished under the debris of the masjid (a view advanced by several professional historians and archaeologists) and that the demolition of the masjid was a criminal act for which the guilty should be tried in a court of law, one still hears echoes of "undoing the injustice of 500 years" doing the rounds. Never mind what the historians and the Supreme Court have said.

A continuing legacy

In placing constraints on the politics of hatred, which is the hallmark of the Modi government, India's millennia-old civilisation has asserted itself. In doing so, salience is due to the civilisation of our medieval centuries that has given us the legacy of numerous saint-poets, the Bhakti sants, who brought calm to the strained religious divide of rival gods by conceptualising one universal god where their rivalry gets submerged. For, in the midst of considerable bloodshed on the battlefields, between political and denominational factions extending over five and a half centuries, the first genuine communal riot between common people of different faiths of which we have recorded evidence - happened in 1714, seven years after Aurangzeb's death. Clearly, the ideology of social peace was working.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tragedy in Kuwait

A number of us leave our homeland for West Asia to seek a better livelihood. Unfortunately, there can be events that shatter our dreams. The Indian government needs to address the issues reported by Indians working abroad. For example, the Indian Embassy is said to have received over 16,000 complaints from Indians between March 2021 and December 2023, most of which concerned salary delays, harassment, and poor accommodation. It is

imperative that the welfare of Indian citizens working overseas is ensured. Jakir Hussain, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh

While the authorities appear to have pinned the blame on 'greedy real estate developers', the factors for the tragedy go far beyond that. Workers in West Asia undergo a lot of hardships: accommodation in cramped quarters with little to no proper sanitation or safety equipment is one example. In a region (West Asia) that is known for strict law enforcement and onerous documentary requirements, ensuring compliance with building safety laws should not be a problem. The Gulf States must do more to protect the workers who build and run their smart cities with their sweat and toil. **Gregory Fernandes,**

Mumbai

The general election It is preposterous to compare the general election of 2024 to that of 1977 (Editorial page, "An earthquake in 2024, as it was in 1977", June 13). And for the writer to cast aspersions on the fairness of the elections is an insult to the Election Commission of India, which deserves full praise for its smooth conduct. Yes, the electorate gave its verdict and if a party has assumed power, it is only because it was able to get the requisite numbers, with or without outside support. Nobody stopped the Opposition from staking its claim to form a government. The bloc just did not have the numbers. Mud-slinging and

 vicious personal attacks during the campaign were
 equal on both sides. The
 Indian voter is intelligent
 and well informed. Let us
 ull respect his verdict and
 move on
 Sharada Sivaram,
 Ernakulam, Kerala
 ti
 The subaltern classes truly
 deserve commendation for

halting the rampaging NDA

in its tracks. However, the

NDA is only down and not

the functioning of the

yet out. It can still influence

central government and its

agencies to its advantage,

and to the disadvantage of its adversaries. Equally important, the BJP is still flush with money from the Electoral Bond Scheme. Considering the havoc that money power has played in destabilising more than one State government in the last decade, it is still too early to conclude that the NDA government will be eager for a course correction by renouncing its old ways. One can only keep one's fingers crossed and hope for the best. G.G. Menon, Tripunithura, Kerala

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THE HINDU **Opinion**

Do coalition governments slow down the economic reforms agenda?



PARLEY

ntil the 2014 Lok Sabha elections,

when the Bharativa Janata Party (BIP)

K.K. Kailash

is with the Department of Political Science of the Hyderabad University



Sanjay <u>Ruparelia</u> is Associate

Professor of Politics and Public Administration, and holds the Jarislowsky Democracy Chair. at Toronto Metropolitan University. He is also the author of 'Divided We Govern: Coalition Politics in Modern India

won 282 seats and Prime Minister Narendra Modi rode to power, India had had coalition governments for 21 years. Ten years later, the BJP has 240 seats in the Lok Sabha and India once again has a coalition government in power. Fitch had stated that coalition politics and a weakened mandate for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) could make it challenging to pass legislation on the more ambitious parts of the reform agenda. Do coalition governments slow down the economic reforms agenda? K.K. Kailash and Sanjay Ruparelia discuss the question in a conversation

Do coalition governments end up making too many policy concessions?

moderated by Sobhana K. Nair. Edited excerpts:

K.K. Kailash: This question is based on two assumptions which need to be cleared. First, that single-party governments are the natural order of things and multi-party governments are an aberration and will therefore have undesirable consequences. Comparative studies show that this is not necessarily true. Second, that a single-party government behaves as a unitary actor. Once we remove these two assumptions, we will see that differences between coalitions and single-party governments have actually reduce. There will always be competing ideas and interests and as a consequence, we are likely to see policy compromises and bargains in both. The only difference, perhaps, is that in multi-party governments, much of it (compromises) takes place in the public, so in a way they are more transparent. So far, India's experience with coalition governments has not been bad. There have been checks and balances which have helped governments work better as compared to single-party governments.

Sanjay Ruparelia: Economic growth requires reform. We often believe that reform requires decisiveness, and that decisiveness, in turn, requires a single-party majority government. But it is more complicated than that, since the form of government is just one of the many factors influencing economic growth. The process of liberalisation of the economy tentatively began under the Janata Party government and was then taken forward by the Congress under Rajiv Gandhi and the National Front government. The minority government of Narasimha Rao introduced it fully. And then it accelerated under the United Front government and since.

On the question of social policy reforms, earlier coalition governments, despite their rhetorical commitment to a more social



Prime Minister Narendra Modi in conversation with TDP chief N. Chandrababu Naidu and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in New Delhi. AN

democratic agenda, actually had quite a few setbacks. The rights-based welfare paradigm was introduced under the United Progressive Alliance (UPA). If you have to negotiate and bargain and compromise in order to settle on a policy, it is true that there can be multiple veto points that coalition partners can exercise. As Montek Singh Ahluwalia once said, "There is a strong consensus for weak reform". But the fact that parties are engaging in negotiations means that there is less radical change and there is more policy stability that facilitates investments over the longer term. The fewest checks and balances are seen under single-party majority governments. That could lead to rather unpropitious policy decisions. We have seen some of those in the last decade.

How have coalition governments in the past performed on the economic agenda?

KKK: There has actually been a great deal of continuity between governments and their policies, and one has not seen any major reversals. Policy change has been gradual and incremental since 1991. Public bargaining between parties signals that different viewpoints are being heard and accommodated. Coalitions over a period of time have institutionalised certain decision-making mechanisms which accommodate different voices. The V.P. Singh government had six committees to examine the most pressing issues of the time. These evolved and in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, they took the form of 'Group of Ministers', and they continued in the UPA era too.

When it comes to reforms, coalition governments have worked better. In contrast, in a single-party government, there have been decisions, such as the farm laws, which were taken without getting everyone on board. Something like that would not have probably happened in a coalition because there would have been greater dialogue.

SR: Institutions that are meant to facilitate and promote Centre-State relations are more

The more people involved in decision-making, the more likely that the policy will be stable and continue for longer. K.K. KAILASH

activated in coalition governments. That is unsurprising because the allies are often regional parties. You have a more informed policy-making process even if it might be more turbulent.

Dialogues can also get acrimonious in coalition governments. And have there been examples where reforms have been stalled.

SR: Absolutely. The Janata Party government had an ideological commitment to pro-poor, pro-labour policies, but we did see more industrial de-licensing and an increase in agricultural subsidies to relatively well-off communities and castes. The fiscal deficit drove up again. India suffered a recession at the end of that government. But there was also a worldwide recession then. Overall, I don't think there is something inherently worse in coalition governments. Rajiv Gandhi's government had the largest seat majority in the history of independent India. It tried to pursue economic liberalisation. That agenda ground to a halt because of internal checks within the Congress.

KKK: Often we look only at the outcome and not how the decision was arrived at. The more people involved in the decision-making, the more likely that the policy will be stable and continue for longer. The decision-making process is as important as the decision itself.

In the last five years, the debate has sharpened on the State's share in the divisible pool of taxes. Can States expect to get a larger share now that a coalition government is in power?

SR: The role of State governments is higher in a national coalition. It is also ironic that we have to ask this question considering that when Prime Minister Narendra Modi first took power, he pledged to strengthen Indian federalism by embracing a concept of "cooperative federalism". The government also accepted the 14th Finance Commission's recommendations to increase the State governments' share of the divisible pool of taxes. But over the last decade, the Centre's share of revenue increased because of the introduction of special cesses which were not part of the divisible pool. Second, the Planning Commission was abolished. It was a flawed institution, but it did provide an institutional space for negotiation. Niti Aayog is a far more technocratic space and much more beholden to the Centre. In the last decade there has been political centralisation of decision-making right up to the Prime Minister's office. There is also a greater control over social welfare benefits and their packaging as directly coming from the Union government. That is what is fueling a lot of the discontent.

KKK: The division of taxes between the Centre and State is a complex problem. The amount of funds available to the States is also a function of the way in which the economy is functioning. When the economy does well, there will be more to go around, and vice-versa. At the same time, we also need to take into account, for instance, the regional and income disparities between States. And then there is the vertical imbalance between the Centre and the States. Another source of tension is with regard to sharing of taxes under GST. The negotiations went on for 17 years. But when the system was adopted, not all States were on board. The goods that were taxed at a higher rate in the pre-GST regime was put under a lower bracket, so there was a decline in revenue for the States. The number of commodities that were taxed at a higher rate under the pre-GST regime was reduced. I think either the States' voices were either not heard, or the States did not articulate their voices effectively. Overall, the GST architecture does not favour the States.

The NDA is just beginning its term. Do you see their constituents have a similar economic vision?

SR: The BJP needs its allies to have a majority, but all the important ministries remain with the BJP. It is an open question whether the style of decision-making and governance that we have seen in the last 10 years will change substantially or not. As far as the economic outlook of the allies is concerned, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu was the earliest liberaliser. The difference is about the distribution of power and the style of decision-making.

KKK: I don't see any conflict in terms of economic policies as such as parties across the spectrum are sold on economic reforms. The only possible difference would be the pace of decisions. This also depends on how the decisions are taken and the mechanisms that are used. That might give us a clue to whether economic reforms get stalled or economic reforms are taken forward.



To listen to the full interview Scan the code or go to the link www.thehindu.com

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NOTEBOOK

PICTURE OF THE WEEK Sunday horror in Jammu

Chatting with Sunil Chhetri

Chhetri managed to keep the fans and the press happy while helping maintain the sanctity of the athlete-journalist relationship

N. Sudarshan

sports press conference is a contested zone. There are, in essence, two interested parties: the journalist who is forever on the lookout for a headline-worthy quote or a slip-ofthe-tongue statement, and the athlete who is there as the single access point of the team and with the sole aim of controlling the narrative.

Equally, it is a place where relationships are built and mutual respect established. Routine appearances at press meets often convey your journalistic seriousness and rigour, and the player in turn starts looking at you as a constructive critic and not an adversary. Land a few minutes early, there may even be an opportunity for an informal chat.

In the eight-and-a-half years I have spent covering Sunil Chhetri, as leader of the Indian National football team and as talisman of Indian Super League (ISL) side Bengaluru FC (BFC), I have experienced both facets. He was the beating heart of both country and club, and everyone wanted a piece of him. And Chhetri obliged, making blurb-writers happy, but mostly on his own terms, and with due respect to the fourth estate.

On the day of his retirement from international football on June 6, he even wrote a heartfelt letter reflecting this. "There were times when I had to say a lot less than I would have like to, and others where I responded with long monologues," he said. "There were the answers laced with frustration, the ones that were - much to your annoyance - non committal, and then the press conferences that ended in a hurry.

"But through it all, I'd like to believe that I was always honest with you. And that I always chose to have a conversation, even if it risked making headlines for reasons beyond those that I would have liked. Thank you for the love and adulation and thank you for the times when you have been honest in your assessment. Yours isn't an easy job, but a really

important one."

In mid-2021, when tennis star Naomi Osaka opted out of press conferences at the French Open citing the effects of those interactions on her mental health, many commentators were quick to side with the four-time Major champion and label these exchanges as pointless.

Lost in the din was the fact that a media briefing was the last of the democratic spaces where every reporter, big or small, had an equal right to pose a question. Chhetri, through the years, ensured that it remained that way. He answered every question with utmost sincerity, and treated all those assembled with dignity.

Chhetri was not a wordsmith, à la Leander Paes, the Amritraj brothers -Anand and Vijay - and Viswanathan Anand. But when he spoke, he did with emotions. In contrast to the modern-day habit of loading sentences with generic corporate jargon, he dealt in specifics.

This time last year, during the SAFF Championship in Bengaluru, Chhetri was asked when he would be retiring from football. He replied that he would when he is "not able to sprint with Udanta [Singh] or go for headers with Sandesh [Jhingan] or score against Gurpreet [Singh Sandhu]."

The last few years have been tough for his club BFC, the ISL final appearance in March 2023 notwithstanding. But Chhetri has played a leading role in trying to keep his side's chin up. On each of the last two occasions a new coach has been unveiled at BFC following an unsuccessful period, Chhetri has been by his manager's side, putting a comforting arm around, acting as a cushion and helping set a positive narrative.

To many, it may all have seemed like an elaborate show. But what is sometimes lost is that the player is essentially speaking to the fans through us in the media. Chhetri's smartness lay in the fact that he managed to keep two fickle constituencies happy - the fans and the press while helping maintain the sanctity of the athlete-journalist relationship.



The 53-seater bus which plunged into a gorge following a terrorist attack on pilgrims, in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir on June 9, 2024. At least nine people were killed and 33 others suffered injuries in the terror attack on the bus, according to officials. PTI

The Man Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 14, 1974

Minimum pay and regulation of higher incomes proposed

New Delhi, June 12: The Union Government is finalising a resolution on a national wage policy following the approval given to such a move by the Political Affairs Committee of the Cabinet in principle a few days ago. The main objectives of a national wage policy as

conceived by the Union Government are to provide minimum wages not below the poverty line in the interest of health and efficiency of workers and to ensure to the workers and employees a due share in the fruits of growth. There will be rationalisation of inter-occupational, inter-industrial and inter-regional wage differentials so as to reduce disparities in a phased manner. At the same time, there will be a progressive elimination of unjustified wage differentials between the organised and the unorganised sectors.

...(

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 14, 1924 General election in U.S.A.

The Republican platform favours the adherence of the U.S. to the World Court of International Justice, endorses the refusal of the Government to become a member of the League of Nations, advocates the calling of a conference on limitation of land forces and use of submarines and poison gas and favours tariff on imports for the protection of labour. With regard to foreign debts, the platform holds up as model Britain's debt settlement and declares the great nations cannot recognise the principle of repudiation.

YK (

Text&Context

THE

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The increase in palm oil imports in the month of May

in per cent. India's palm oil imports surged to 7.63 lakh tonnes in May this year from 4.39 lakh tonnes in the year-ago period, as the country stocked up the commodity to meet rising domestic demand. PTI <u>The amount released</u> <u>by the IMF to Sri</u> Lanka

3366 in \$ million. The International Monetary Fund disbursed the third tranche from its \$2.9 billion bailout package to Sri Lanka, as it said that Sri Lanka's economy remains vulnerable. PTI The rise in mosquito breeding cases in Delhi homes

in per cent. According to the latest report by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, there are 3.25 lakh cases of mosquito breeding at home in Delhi in 2023, higher than the 1.71 lakh in 2022. PTI Number of Myanmar nationals deported from Manipur

The Manipur government has deported close to 40 Myanmar nationals, including 11 children, to their home country through the integrated check post at Moreh in Tengnoupal district. PTI

The proposed salary of Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk

56 in \$ billion. Tesla shareholders are voting to approve a \$56 billion pay package, one of the largest in U.S. corporate history, for its CEO Elon Musk. REUTERS

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The allegations over NEET-UG, 2024

Why has the Union government told the Supreme Court that it will cancel the score cards of candidates who have been awarded grace marks? How did the National Testing Agency respond to the various charges against the conduct of the exams?

EXPLAINER

Ramya Kannan

The story so far:

n June 13, the Union government submitted to the Supreme Court that the score cards of 1,563 candidates who were given compensatory marks in the common undergraduate medical entrance examination, NEET-UG 2024, held on May 5, will be cancelled. Another test will be held for them, likely on June 23. Results would be out by June 30 and the counselling for seats can begin by July 6. These candidates will be informed of the actual score, without the grace marks, and they can choose to take another test. If they opt not to sit for the re-test, their scores, without the grace marks will be the final score.

What happened?

The court was hearing petitions challenging the award of grace marks to the 1,563 candidates from six NEET centres in the country, using a "normalisation formula", on the grounds that they were not allowed the full period of 3.2 hours to write the exam, due to technical issues. Based on a Court order, the compensatory marks were awarded to these candidates on the recommendation



Exam woes: Several student groups protesting at freedom park against alleged irregularities in NEET-UG 2024, in Bengaluru on June 11. MURALI KUMAR. K

year there has been a litany of charges that go beyond a question paper leak, including the slow distribution of are allowed to wear to the exam hall. All these charges sparked protests from students and political parties across the country. Political parties called for a fair investigation of the charges and called on the government to conduct a fresh NEET exam. Students had the same demand, to re-conduct the test, on the grounds that the question paper leak had facilitated some students scoring full marks, or, giving them an unfair advantage. Experts and students pointed to how the very idea of starting NEET as a common entrance exam to regulate medical admissions in the country and ensure quality-control of the process would be defeated in the light of all the reported violations.

the NEET exam in 2024. This panel's recommendations have now found their way into the court also.

What was the NTA's response?

NTA officials attributed an 'easy paper' to the unusual number of full scores this year. But the NTA still constituted a four-member committee to go into the truth behind the allegations made this year. The panel found that the compensatory marks awarded to the 1,563 students, resulted in a "skewed situation". Grace marks had to be limited to the attempted questions alone, and while the panel did not comment further on how many marks were granted in compensation, it concluded that it would be best to cancel the test for these students alone.

What next?

Students and education experts have already expressed dissatisfaction with the cancellation of the exam only for a few students. Arguing that if the exam can be cancelled for 1,500 students, then that is an admission of error and therefore, they claim that the logical thing would be to cancel the May 5 exam for all candidates and conduct a re-test. It indicates a failure of the system and loss of faith, students complained on social media.

Instead of rendering the pitch even, as a measure of ensuring the quality of

THE GIST

On June 13, the Union government submitted to the Supreme Court that the score cards of 1,563 candidates who were given compensatory marks in the common undergraduate medical entrance examination, NEET-UG 2024, held on May 5, will be cancelled.

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of a committee constituted by the National Testing Agency (NTA), the body which conducts NEET. It was charged that the grant of grace marks was arbitrary and not transparent.

What are charges against NEET 2024?

In NEET, students have to answer 180 questions, (MCQ type), totalling 720 marks. For every right answer, the student will score four marks, with one mark deducted for a wrong answer. Hence, only certain marks can be scored by candidates. It was the grace marks that caused confusion, the NTA admitted.

However, this is not the only charge or case in court against NEET 2024. This

question papers; providing the wrong question paper; wrong OMR sheets; and technical delays.

Post evaluation, there have been complaints about the unusually high number of students (67) who hit the perfect score, 720/720, and about students who scored "statistically impossible" marks, while some cases of cheating by proxy were also unearthed. Other cases pertaining to the question paper leak are still to be heard by the Supreme Court.

In the past, the exam has been dogged by charges of poor organisation and inadequate planning, besides inconsiderate rules on what candidates

In response, the NTA had appointed a four-member committee to go into allegations made against the conduct of

candidates entering the medical profession, the way NEET is being conducted has created several additional layers of privilege. For an exam of its size and scale, where over 23 lakh students take the test in about 4,500 centres across the country, in multiple languages, small issues may crop up.

However, the test has been around for nearly a decade, and it is reasonable to assume that its teething troubles are over. Preventing fraud and application of mind (on the part of the invigilators to give extra time to students who did not have adequate time) should be eminently possible, certainly by the government agencies.

China's 'grey-zone' warfare tactics against Taiwan

What are the coercive measures China has imposed on Taiwan?

Anushka Saxena

The story so far: ince the new Taiwanese president Lai Ching-te has assumed office, all eyes have been on the rocky start to his tenure. While China's belligerent response to Mr. Lai's "pro-independence" and "secessionist" statements was striking, it has now resorted to a sophisticated ploy to respond to Mr. Lai's Democratic Progressive Party (DPP). This is often referred to as 'grey-zone' warfare, which comprises elements that frustrate Taiwan in a sustained manner.

What has China done?

YK

China's preparedness to invade Taiwan and fight a high-intensity war over the island is a much debated subject. Training drills in the People's Liberation Army Eastern Theater Command (PLA ETC) are targeted precisely at demonstrating China's ability to fight and win. However, a more cognitive tool that Beijing is deploying to demonstrate this ability is simulated audiovisuals. On May 24, for example, the PLA ETC Weibo account released a 3D animation video depicting how in an invasion scenario, land-and warship-based ballistic missile launchers would fire tens of missiles at one go, striking areas in Taipei and Kaohsiung.

Moreover, since 2020, the X account of the Taiwanese Ministry of National Defence has turned into a repository of reportage on daily sorties conducted by PLA fighter jets, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), strategic fighters and early warning aircraft. While such sorties do not engage the island's defence forces directly, they exert sustained pressure on them. Further, these UAVs also conduct intelligence work in the areas surrounding the island. The long term presence of such mobilisation induces wear-out within Taiwanese forces, even before there is kinetic combat.

What about ideology? To build a favourable image for itself, Beijing often deploys narratives within Taiwanese territory that thrust ideological choices upon its citizens. For example, sometime on May 25, just under a week after Mr. Lai assumed office, internet users in Taiwan observed a Youtube video of a Chinese citizen operating a drone to drop cardboard boxes on Kinmen island. When investigated by the Kinmen Defence Command on May 26, the boxes unveiled fliers written in simplified Chinese, stating "Both sides of the Taiwan Strait belong to one China, one Chinese nation. Taiwan independence is a dead end. Lai's Taiwan independence is a dead end." Some other fliers warned, "Don't sacrifice your life for Taiwan independence, do you understand?"

The Kinmen Command stated that this was "a typical cognitive warfare tactic" deployed by China, because it initiates public discussions on social media, and garners attention for the Chinese cause.

What are political tactics China uses? In its 'carrots and sticks' approach towards Taiwan, Beijing deploys sticks for the DPP and carrots for its primary opposition party, the Kuomintang (KMT). Well known for its relatively pro-mainland views, the KMT continues to engage with Communist Party (CPC) officials, even as any meaningful communication between the DPP and the CPC has stalled since Ms. Tsai became President of Taiwan in 2016. DPP legislators have often described these engagements as KMT's "collusion" with the CPC. In fact, KMT officials have, in the past, been investigated by the Tsai administration under the 'anti-infiltration law' after their visits to China.

China's 'sticks' against the DPP entail coercive economic measures, which leverage the cross-strait trade and business interdependence to seek concessions. One such example is China's unilateral suspension of preferential tax rates for chemical imports from Taiwan, granted under the only trade agreement to exist between the two sides - the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA). Beijing announced that such a suspension, applicable to 134 items imported from Taiwan, is retaliation against Mr. Lai's propagation of "separatist" sentiments in his inaugural speech, as well as Taipei's own restrictions against imports of over 2,000 goods made in China.

As 'grey-zone' warfare tactics become a subject of deliberation, Mr. Lai will have much to grapple with during his tenure.

Anushka Saxena is a Research Analyst at Takshashila Institution, Bengaluru.

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THE GIST

While China's belligerent response to new Taiwanese president Lai Ching-te's "pro-independence" and "secessionist" statements were striking, it has now resorted to a sophisticated ploy to respond to Mr. Lai's Democratic Progressive Party (DPP).

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China has unilateral suspended preferential tax rates for chemical imports from Taiwan, in retaliation against Mr. Lai's propagation of "separatist" sentiments in his inaugural speech.

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Additionally, to build a favourable image for itself, Beijing often deploys narratives within Taiwanese territory that thrust ideological choices upon its citizens.

Text&Context

BIBLIOGRAPHY



In defiance: Over 500 women hold a sit-in protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) at Jaffrabad, New Delhi on February 23, 2020. FILE PHOTO

Writers speaking truth to power: the democratic value of dissent

Writers have always been the public voice of the truths of a time, while striving for a better future. Contemporary critics and writers keep the spirit of democracy alive; as do the common men and women of a country, leaning on constitutional and democratic values

Nandini Bhatia

he writer has taken on more and more of the intellectual's adversarial attributes in such activities as speaking the truth to power, being a witness to persecution and suffering, and supplying a dissenting voice in conflicts with authority," wrote Edward Said, Palestinian-American philosopher-critic, at the turn of the millennium. With the rise of writers like George Orwell, Hannah Arendt, Noam Chomsky, and if we look closer to home, Romila Thapar, Anand Teltumbde and Arundhati Roy, this "special symbolic role of the writer as an intellectual testifying to a country's or region's experience thereby giving that experience a public identity [is] forever inscribed in the global discursive agenda." Writers have always been the public voice of the truths of a time, while striving for a better future; although it can be a tedious task. Academic Indrajit Roy, in his book Audacious Hope: An Archive of How Democracy is Being Saved in India (2024), revives the lost hope of a people-centric democracy and the dissenting voices that advocate for it. Placing India within historical democratic crises across the world - from radical democratic breakdowns in Chile, Germany, South Africa or Pakistan, to a subtle but significant loss of the democratic spirit in Turkey, Brazil or the U.S. - he offers an optimistic view for India's future, as students, artists, comedians, farmers, women, and other marginalised groups, take a stand against the growing authoritarianism in fields of education,

religion, agriculture, citizenship, art and so on. Some emerge victorious in bringing change or at least in reversing autocratic/ capitalist measures; others, get the ball rolling for future generations and future governments. "Not all battles are fought for victory. Some are fought simply to tell the world that someone was there on the battlefield," Roy quotes the former NDTV news anchor, Ravish Kumar, from his 2019 speech as he accepted the Ramon Magsaysay Award. Either way, "Democracy welcomes, rather than stifles, dissent," he insists.

Cost of speaking up

Roy calls Ravish Kumar an intrepid journalist; the latter, however, has written honestly and elaboratively on the fear

power, that the subjects of Roy's book will be remembered - as virodhi (dissenter) and not krodhi (resentful), as Kumar distinguishes - in history. They could be students from Hyderabad, Allahabad, Manipur, Delhi and many other States, protesting systematic and institutional violence rooted in caste and class discrepancies; or the people from all age-groups, genders, and religious backgrounds, who stood up to fight against the "weaponisation of minorities" as perpetrated by the announcement of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (2019) and the subsequent fear that overwhelmed Assam and other pockets of India. It could also be the humanitarian spirit of the citizens of India as they collected, organised and facilitated the movement of funds and supplies, rebuilding hope in the thick of the COVID-19 pandemic. The decisive victory of the farmers' protests also renews the hope Roy endorses.

rising global power, held back by the social decline from within. In this journey, he writes, "the liberal is on a lonely road". The solution is to stay away from "political association with religion" as Roy calls it – be it in animal rearing, caste sanction or in worship.

'Realistic hope'

All three scholars - Indrajit Roy, Ravish Kumar, and Gurcharan Das - show little faith in the opposition and their lack of promising strategy in dealing with the issues that threaten the democratic fabric of the country. Nonetheless, Roy appeals for a "realistic hope" against a radical one. "It is tempting to conflate hope with utopia," he writes, "...this obsession with perfecting humanity" will not lead us anywhere. As long as we lean on and exercise constitutional values, of which, dissent is one, there is hope. Indian citizens did lean on and exercise their constitutional and democratic values, as is evident from the results of the 2024 general elections. They have kept the "realistic hope" alive by practising 'dissent' in its purest form: by voting, by showing up for their democratic right and their role in sustaining it. At a time like this, one is reminded of The Washington Post slogan: "Democracy Dies in Darkness". Contemporary critics and writers alike keep the spirit of democracy alive; as do the common men and women of a country. The lone candle flame on the cover of Roy's book, enveloped by darkness, spreads light and empowers citizens to pursue it; an undeniable testimony to hope.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

<u>K. Subrahmanian</u>

"Disclose, reveal (R. Ravi, Kochi)" "Both words share the meaning 'to make known to others what was intended to be kept secret, private or confidential'. The secret or confidential matter can be information, or objects hidden from view. Here are a few examples: *Mohan revealed the truth to Sujatha.* In these examples, it is information that is being shared with others. *The mist lifted and revealed the lake.* In these two sentences, objects

previously hidden are being seen. Although both 'disclose' and 'reveal' have more or less the same meaning, they are not always interchangeable. You cannot for example use 'disclose' with supernatural phenomena – god, ghosts, devil, etc. You cannot for example say 'The devil disclosed bimself to hore' but

'The devil disclosed himself to her,' but 'The devil revealed himself to her.'

God revealed the truth to Moses. The word 'reveal' literally means 'remove the veil.' So when you 'reveal' something, you are removing a veil so that people can see the object. 'Disclose' on the other hand means 'not shut,' in other words 'not hidden.' So when you disclose something, you do not hide it, but keep it in the open for inspection."

"Descriptive grammar and prescriptive grammar (A. K. Brinda, Chandigarh)"

"Both deal with the grammar of a language. Descriptive grammar merely lists the rules the native speaker of a language actually uses. Prescriptive grammar, on the other hand, tells (prescribes) what rules the learner should use. The prescriptive grammarian is more interested in the notion of 'correctness. 'Correctness' is not the concern of a descriptive grammarian. He is concerned with facts. The prescriptive grammarian is concerned with value. He sets up a norm based on the writings of distinguished authors and he considers any deviation from the norm 'incorrect.' The sentence 'Each one brought their pen' will be listed by a descriptive grammarian as such sentences are common. A prescriptiv grammarian would consider the sentence wrong and say that 'each' in the sentence should be followed by 'his/her.' 'Each one brought his/her pen.' The prescriptive grammarian's contention would be that 'each should be followed by a singular pronoun. Modern writers use 'their' instead of 'his/her.' Descriptive grammarians list innovations and prescriptive grammarians resist them initially but eventually accept them reluctantly when the innovations are accepted and used by good writers. Both serve a useful role. The role of the descriptivist is to see that the language does not become too rule-bound and that of the prescriptivist is to stoutly resist 'the anything goes' attitude." "He is going to fall, He will fall" "Both are predictions. Both tell us that something will happen in the future. But there is a difference. 'He is going to fall' means that his fall is imminent. *The child was going to fall.* 'He will fall' means that he is likely to fall in the future. The fall is not imminent. You can say 'He will fall unless he is careful.' But you can't say 'He is going to fall unless he is careful.' There is a near certainty about 'going to.' The 'will' construction tells us that something is likely to happen." Published in The Hindu on May 19, 1992.

that entails speaking up, both before and after, and his every day journey from fear to courage, in The Free Voice: On Democracy, Culture and The Nation (2018). Where Kumar addresses the personal cost of nationalism that came with the political shift in 2014 – in matters of religion, love, privacy, etc. - Roy reviews the last decade through the collective spirit of dissent. Each offer a positive as well as a negative spin on the strength-in-numbers argument, where mobs attack and resent, and protesters question and dissent. "The power that resides in the people must not be frittered away. Be a film star's fan, or cricketer's, but never be a politician's fan. Respect him, but don't be so hypnotised by his words that you forget to evaluate his work and hold him to the promises he makes," Kumar writes, as he urges people to remain, first and foremost, (responsible and duty-bound) citizens of the country.

It is in this spirit, and driven by this

On a lonely road

Where does the Indian liberal stand amid all this socio-political spinning? Gurcharan Das may have some answers, as he deliberates on a dozen or so aspects of the Indian identity, misled by the growing demagogues in politics, buried beneath the lethal (and in hindsight, tragic) cocktail of "identity politics, majoritarianism and nationalism". In his latest book, The Dilemma of an Indian Liberal (2024), he goes back and forth between the paradox of maintaining democracy – as a politician's responsibility and a citizen's duty. As an economist, he gives a fair economic hue to his argument, conferring India as a

The author is an independent feature writer. Instagram: @read.dream.repeat

Questions and Answers to the previous

day's daily quiz: 1. The name of the book

Anne Frank is known for. Ans: The Diary of a

2. The hiding place where Anne hid from Nazi

4. The only person in Anne Frank's family who

survived the confinement. Ans: Anne's father,

3. Anne aspired to this profession. Ans:

persecution with her family. Ans: Secret Annex

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Word of the day

Corrigible:

capable of being corrected or set right

Synonyms: sort out, discipline

Usage: It is a corrigible defect.

Pronunciation: bit.ly/corrigiblepro

International Phonetic Alphabet:/kprid3ibəl/

> For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

THE DAILY QUIZ

White is a colour often associated with peace and goodness. A quiz on the colour and what it has meant for cultures throughout history

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

The white colour is said to be achromatic because it has no ____. Fill in the blank with a property that is used to mean the extent to which a colour can be said to be similar to or different from another colour.

QUESTION 2

On electronic screens, when the three primary colours of red, green, and blue are mixed, you get white. This process, in which a new colour is created by bringing together multiple other colours, is called _____

_____. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 3

The earliest cave paintings, from the c

CM YK Palaeolithic era, featured white among a few other colours. Name the carbonate mineral (or rock) with the use of which they were able to obtain this white.

QUESTION 4

Ancient Rome had two words to describe the colour white: _____ and candidus. The former stood for plain white and the latter was for a brighter variety. Fill in the blank. Hint: A famous and popular Harry Potter character has the same first name.

QUESTION 5

Jainism has two branches. The names of the two branches are ______ and Digamber, which in Sanskrit mean "white clad" and "sky clad", respectively. Fill in the blank.



Visual question:

Name this man. As the story goes, he created Russia's flag by reordering the colours of the Dutch flag, which was the first national flag to feature the white colour. PUBLIC DOMAIN

5. The name Anne called her diary. **Ans: Kitty** 6. The location of the Anne Frank House. **Ans: The Netherlands** Visual: This actor played Anne Frank in this 1959 film and this actor won the Academy Award for

the Best Supporting Actress. Ans: Millie Perkins played Anne; Shelley Winters who essayed the role of Petronella van Daan won the award Early Birds: Vasudha A. S.| Mouli Pal| Nyasha|

Young Girl

Journalist

Otto Frank

Abhinav Raj| Prashant Nain

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From Page One

14

NTA cancels scorecards of 1,563 NEET candidates

The results will be declared on June 30. Care will be taken to not disturb the counselling session scheduled on July 6, the NTA added.

The Bench disposed of the pleas on the issue of grace marks. As for the allegations of question paper leaks and other concerns, the court directed the NTA to file its response in two weeks.

Earlier, while hearing another petition filed by 10 candidates, the court had scheduled the next hearing on July 8. One of the petitions was filed by online ed-tech platform Physics Wallah's CEO Alakh Pandey, represented by advocate J. Sai Deepak, who claimed that the NTA's decision to award grace marks was "arbitrary".

Kuwait offers help to repatriate bodies



Family members of a victim, who died in the tragic fire in Kuwait, in Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu. L. BALACHANDAR

An Indian Air Force aircraft is on standby to fly back the mortal remains of the Indians. Kuwait has also ordered the preparation of a military aircraft to help in the repatriation.

Mr. Singh met Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah and other senior Kuwaiti officials, and conveyed India's gratitude for their support. He also visited Mubarak Al Kabeer Hospital and other facilities where the injured Indians are undergoing treatment.

Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al Jaber Al-Sabah has issued a directive to provide financial assistance to the families of the deceased, though the exact amount to be distributed has not been announced yet.

Mr. Singh, accompanied by Joint Secretary Aseem R. Mahajan, reached Kuwait on Thursday, hours after a deadly fire engulfed a multi-storey building housing 196 migrants in the Al Ahmadi governorate in southern Kuwait, shining a spotlight on the poor living conditions of Indian workers in the Gulf region.

In a conversation with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar soon afterwards, the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister promised that the incident would be investigated and that "responsibility will be fixed".

"Urged the early repatriation of the mortal remains of those who lost their lives. He emphasized that those injured were getting the requisite medical attention," Mr. Jaishankar had said about his telephonic conversation with Mr. Al-Yahva

Fresh infiltrators in J&K may have played role in attacks

Security agencies say three or four groups of terrorists on the move in Reasi, Doda and Kathua; since mid-2021, Jammu division hit by 26 terror strikes, pointing to bid to revive militancy

Vijaita Singh NEW DELHI

mid a spate of terror attacks in the past three days in the Jammu region, security agencies suspect that three or four groups of terrorists, some of them who have freshly infiltrated, are on the move in the Reasi, Doda and Kathua areas.

Since June 9, there have been terror strikes at four places in Reasi, Kathua and Doda, where nine pilgrims were killed, a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawan was killed, a civilian was injured and at least seven security personnel were injured. Jammu has remained largely free of militant activities in the last two decades compared to the Kashmir Valley.

A top government source said since mid-2021, at least 26 terror attacks have occurred in the Jammu division, pointing to sustained bids to revive militancy in the region after the special status of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) under Article 370 of the Constitution was read

down on August 5, 2019. On June 11 and 12, two

suspected terrorists were



On alert: Army soldiers near the site of the ongoing encounter between forces and terrorists in Kathua district on Wednesday. PTI

killed in an encounter with the security forces in Kathua and a large quantity of arms and ammunition, dry fruits, medicines, batteries, walkie talkie sets were recovered from them.

Recounting the horror

Recounting the June 11 incident at Saida Sukhal near Kootah Morh in Hira Nagar, close to the Pakistan border, an eyewitness told The Hindu that though two terrorists were killed, there could be more gun-wielding men moving in the area.

"My employee was on way home on a motorcycle when he was stopped by two armed men on June 11

around 7.30 p.m. They asked him for his ID card and pulled his hair. One of the gunmen appeared to be high on drugs, and who could barely stand, asked the other person to kill the employee, but they eventually let him go. Both were carrying weapons and were clean-shaven. But the ones who were killed by the police had a beard, this makes us believe that there were more than two persons," said Dalvir Singh, a

resident. Mr. Singh added that since there had been no rain in the region, the terrorists came out of the forests to fetch water. A police statement after

the incident said that the two terrorists asked for water from a few houses to which villagers grew suspicious and slammed the doors on them and few raised hue and cry. 'Hiding in forest'

The terrorists panicked and fired randomly in the air and also at villagers, leaving one injured.

CRPF soldier laid

to rest in M.P.

The last rites of Kabir Das

was killed following an

area on Tuesday, were

performed with full State

honours on Thursday at his

village in Chhindwara, Madhya

Pradesh. Uikey had succumbed

to his injuries on Wednesday.

Uikey, the CRPF jawan who

encounter with terrorists in

Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua

BHOPAL

"After infiltrating from Pakistan, we suspect they were hiding in the forests. They had food but no water. The two who were killed after being engaged by the police seem to be different from the two terrorists who assaulted my employee," Mr. Singh said.

Manipur govt. forms panel

to oversee rehabilitation of

internally displaced persons

Terrorists planning strikes on forces in Jammu: J&K police

Peerzada Ashiq JAMMU

The Jammu & Kashmir Police have raised an alert for security formations in Rajouri-Poonch belt and Jammu districts to prepare for possible "suicide attacks"

by militants in the next 48 hours. In an internal cable (communication) raised by ing the police in Jammu on Wednesday, the Army in Poonch, the CRPF and the BSF in Jammu, top police officials in the Rajouri-Poonch and Udhampur-Reasi range were asked "to

remain vigilant". "Inputs received from reliable sources (say) that terrorists are planning suicidal attack on security forces, camps, installations, particularly in Sunderbani, Nowshera, Lam-Akhnoor beri. and Domana areas of Rajouri district and Jammu districts in next 48 hours, you are requested to brief the lower formations to remain extra vigilant," reads the communication. The alert comes in the wake of four attacks in the

past five days. Nine civilians, one CRPF jawan and two militants were killed in four terror attacks since Sunday. Two gunfights were reported from Doda district, where two groups

detained 50 persons in connection with attack on pilgrims bus in Kanda area

In Reasi, the police

of militants opened fire on checkpoints at Gandoh and Chattergala area, leavseven personnel injured.

The police have released sketches of four terrorists believed to be active in the upper reaches of Bhaderwah, Thathri and Gandoh. A reward of ₹5 lakh was announced for those who will provide information.

In Reasi, the police detained 50 individuals in connection with the attack on a pilgrims' bus in the Kanda area, which left nine dead. "Significant leads have been uncovered, aiding in the identification and capture of those who may be potentially involved in orchestrating the attack. To ensure a comprehensive probe, search operations have been expanded to encompass the far-flung areas of Arnas and Mahore. These operations aim to uncover further evidence and apprehend terrorists who may be hiding in these remote regions," the police said.

Jarange-Patil ends fast, gives a month to govt. to accept demands

Abhinay Deshpande MUMBAI

Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil on Thursday agreed to end his indefinite strike, six days after he started it, granting the Eknath Shinde-led govern-Manoi Jarange-Pati ment a one-month deadline to accept the community's demands. While ending his fast in Jalna's Antarwali Sarati village, his native home, the activist maintained pressure on the ruling party leaders despite giving a month's deadline and threatened the ruling alliance that they would go ahead with their preparations for the next upcom-



The Manipur government on Thursday constituted a Cabinet sub-committee to oversee the rehabilitation and relocation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the State due to the ongo ing conflict, days after a recent spate of violence in Jiribam district displaced around 1,000 more people from their homes and villages. The ethnic conflict in the State has led to over 220 deaths so far. Over 50,000 people have been internally displaced since the conflict began.



Amarwara bypoll: BJP fields former **Congress MLA**

<u>The Hindu Bureau</u> BHOPAL

The BJP has nominated Kamlesh Shah as its candidate for the Assembly byelection in the Amarwara (ST) constituency in Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara.

The byelection was neessitated after Mr. Shah. a former loyalist of former Chief Minister Kamal Nath and a two-term Amarwara MLA, had quit the Congress and gave up his legislative membership to join the BJP ahead of the Lok Sabha election. On June 10, the Election Commission announced byelections on 13 seats across the country. Mr. Shah was one of many Congress leaders who quit the Opposition partv before the election. BJP candidate Vivek Bunty Sahu won the election by a margin of over 1.13 lakh.

'MoS conveyed his appreciation for the coop eration being extended by all concerned authorities of Kuwait," the Embassy of India announced in a social media post. The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reports that the Kuwaiti Minister assured that they are "doing everything necessary to determine the circumstances and causes of the horrific incident and that justice will take its course with transparency and integrity."

Kuwait's public prosecutor has launched an investigation into the incident, with some reports indicating that the fire was caused by a gas leak from the building's ground floor. The Kuwait Fire Department's head of investigations Colonel Sayed Al-Mousawi said his team had found that inflammable materials were used as partitions between apartments and also between rooms, which had caused the black smoke.

ing Assembly election. On June 8, he started his fresh round of indefinite fast, demanding the implementation of a draft notification that recognises all

responsibility equally im-

portant. "If RG takes the

pinned down in Delhi. We

will have to assess all sides

before taking the call,"

another Congress leader

maintain that Prime Minis-

ter Narendra Modi's go-

vernment is crippled and

can be overturned at any

time, but said that the larg-

er consensus within the

party is not to rush into it

However, the top Con-

gress leader admitted that

it is unlikely that the Cen-

tral agencies will be al-

lowed to function with

ers can't ensure that. The

entire system has been ta-

ken over by the BJP, more

so in the past five years,"

"No, the coalition partn-

greater autonomy.

the leader said.

The Congress leaders

said.

just yet.

blood relatives of Maratha community members as Kunbis, an agrarian group classified as an OBC community. He also called for the framing of a law to identify Kunbis as Marathas, warning that he would field candidates for all 288 Assembly seats in the State election if his demands were not met.

He announced his decision to suspend the fast after Minister Shamburaj Desai and Shiv Sena MP-elect from Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Sandipan Bhumre discussed the issue.

Meanwhile, sporadic violence was reported around Moreh town and in Jiribam district in the last 24 hours, with the Indigenous Tribal Advisory Council of Jiribam and Thousands of children in relief camps in Manipur have had to pause their schooling due to the conflict. REUTERS

Pherzawl reporting that four shops belonging to Hmar tribal people had been burnt down on Wednesday night.

Following this, on Thursday, the burning of a school building near Moreh town was also reported, with sources saying unknown miscreants had set fire to a new building of a Jawahar Navoday Vidyalava there.

According to a press note issued by the government, the sub-committee will be headed by Minister of Works and YAS, K. Govindas Singh, with three other Ministers - Awangbow Newmai, Sapam Rajan Singh, and Kashim Vashum – appointed as members.

Priyanka Gandhi may contest from Wayanad: Cong. leader

Sandeep Phukan Sobhana K. Nair NEW DELHI

The option of Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra contesting the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat cannot be ruled out if her brother and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi vacates it in favour of Rae Bareli, a top party leader said on Thursday.

During his trip to Wayanad, Mr. Gandhi had told the people of the constituency that he faces a dilemma over which of the two seats to choose, given that he won both in the Lok Sabha election. However, he added that his decision would make them happy.

The comment of the top Congress leader, who did not wish to be named, assumes significance against the backdrop of Mr. Gandhi's remarks.

CM YK



Priyanka Gandhi

"Rahul Gandhi had made the decision to contest Rae Bareli two years ago but he didn't let anyone know. Even with regard to vacating one of two seats, the party will announce it," the source said.

Mulling LoP post

On the question of accepting the post of the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the top leader said that Mr. Gandhi would take this decision at the right time, but added that the former Congress chief considers organisational

Sunetra Pawar is NCP's candidate for Rajya Sabha bypoll

position, then the only Shoumojit Banerjee downside is that he will be PUNE

Ending days of suspense, the Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) faction on Thursday announced Sunetra Pawar as its candidate for the Rajya Sabha bypoll, which will be held on June 25.

Ms. Pawar's election to the Upper House is likely to take place unopposed as the ruling coalition - comprising of Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena, the BJP, Mr. Pawar's NCP – has strength of more than 180 MLAs (BJP 103, NCP 40 Shiv sena 38) as compared to the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) which has 69 MLAs in the Assembly.

Ms. Pawar's maiden entry into Parliament is being dubbed a 'backdoor' one by observers after she lost



Sunetra Pawar

spectacularly (by a margin of 1.58 lakh votes) to her sister-in-law Supriya Sule, daughter of the NCP(SP) chief Sharad Pawar in the hotly contested Baramati Lok Sabha constituency.

The loss of Baramati has been a body blow to the Deputy Chief Minister's prestige, given that his son, Parth Pawar had lost the 2019 general election from Maval Lok Sabha seat by a margin of over three lakh votes to the Shiv Sena's Shrirang Barne.

Fact-finding team must probe Rajkot fire, says HC

Mahesh Langa AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat High Court on Thursday slammed the State government and directed it to set up a "factfinding committee" to probe the Rajkot game zone fire incident and the role of officials in allowing the illegal structure to come up which remained functional for years with-

out any licence. During the hearing of suo motu petition, the court hit out at Municipal Commissioners, accusing them of massive negligence in the fire incident.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Sunita Agarwal and Justice Pranav Trivedi instructed the State government to set up the fact-finding committee, with a report due by July 4.

•••

Four forest staff die in Uttarakhand fire

<u>Ishita Mishra</u> NEW DELHI

Four Forest department employees died on their way to douse a forest fire in Almora district of Uttarakhand on Thursday. Four others were severely injured and admit-

ted to hospital. According to the information, a Forest department vehicle caught fire in



APPEAL Master AATIF RAJA ANSARY, son of Monazir Ansary, 3 years admitted in Christian Medical College is suffering from THALASSEMIA MAJOR. This is a type of blood disorder which is life threatening. The best option for him would be to undergo Allogeneic Peripheral Blood Ste Cell Transplant (PBSCT). The estimated cost of PBSCT a his hospital is approximately Rs. 15,00,000/-

Please send donation however small and save the boy. Cheque/D.D./M.O. favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Aatif Raja Ansary Our Account Details: S/B Account No. 20000913487, State Bank of India. RA.Puram, and IFSC Code: SBIN0001855. You can donate through Google Pay No. 9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksbi. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. Act.

Save Poor Lives Registered Public Charitable Trust, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76, Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram. Chennai-600028. Contact No. 044-42044165 & 044-35691848, Mobile 9884607377, Email: savepoorlives@gmail.com Our website: www. savepoorlives.com

Binsar wildlife sanctuary, Almora, around 3.30 p.m. on Thursdav. "Their vehicle caught

fire. Four of them died before they could jump out of the vehicle, while others got injured," said a communique from the State government. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami announced an ex-gratia of ₹10 lakh to the families of the deceased.

Pema Khandu sworn in as CM of Arunachal for the third time

Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein, 10 others also take oath in Itanagar; CM says BJP's poll manifesto will guide the State government for the next five years and adds that the election results reflect the people's trust in the leadership of Modi

five years," he said. "The

will be to set a 100-day tar-

growth," he added.

Council of Ministers

Arunachal Pradesh Gover-

nor K.T. Parnaik adminis-

The Hindu Bureau GUWAHATI

runachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu said in Itanagar on Thursday that the Bharatiya Janata Party's election manifesto will guide the State government for the next five vears.

His Council of Ministers will meet to draw up the road map for development within the first 100 days of taking charge, he added.

Mr. Khandu was sworn in on Thursday as the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh for the third time in succession

"We won 46 of the 60 Assembly seats in Arunachal Pradesh. It reflected the trust the people have in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has been showering his attention on the State and el-



Taking charge: Arunachal Governor K.T. Parnaik administering the oath of office to Pema Khandu in Itanagar on Thursday. ANI

sewhere in the Northeast," he told presspersons after the oath-taking ceremony.

"The mandate means we have to live up to the expectations of the people. We will try to follow our election manifesto to make Arunachal Pradesh more developed over the next

Khandu. Ten others were sworn in as Ministers: Pasang Dorjee Sona, who was the Speaker between 2019 and

tv Chief Minister.

He had served in the

same post in the previous

government headed by Mr.

2024; Biyuram Wahge, the State BJP president; Nyato Dukam; Gabriel Denwang Wangsu; Wanki Lowang; Mama Natung; Dasanglu Pul; Balo Raja; Kento Jini; and Ojing Tasing.

Ms. Pul, the only woman in Mr. Khandu's Council, is the widow of former Chief Minister Kalikho Pul.

first step for the Cabinet Union Ministers Amit Shah, J.P. Nadda, and Kiren get to draw a plan for Rijiju, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, his Tripura counterpart Manik Saha, Nagaland Apart from Mr. Khandu, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, and Sikkim Chief Minister

Prem Singh Tamang were tered the oath of office to among the dignitaries Chowna Mein as the Depupresent.

> **Changing loyalties** Mr. Khandu became the Chief Minister for the first time in 2016 after a power struggle in the then-ruling Congress.

Later, he led 43 MLAs in a switch of loyalties, first to the regional People's Party of Arunachal, and then to the BJP, helping it form the second government in the State without winning an Assembly election.

The BJP had formed a government under almost similar circumstances in 2003 as well.

This time around, the BIP won 10 of its 46 seats in Arunachal Pradesh unopposed. The party also won the

State's two Lok Sabha seats, one of them held by Mr. Rijiju.

Doval reappointed National Security Adviser, Mishra to stay PM's Principal Secretary

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI/AHMEDABAD

The top officials in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) were reappointed on Thursday after Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed office for a third straight term last week.

P.K. Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, was retained for a second term and National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval for a rare third term, while two advisers, Amit Khare and Tarun Kapoor, have been reappointed for a tenure of two years each.

After repeating most of his top ministerial team from his previous term, the Prime Minister has also signalled continuity in governance by repeating Mr. Mishra, an old hand who worked with him in Gujarat and since 2014 when Mr. Modi took over as the Prime Minister.

The Centre's top per-



Status quo: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Principal Secretary P.K. Mishra (left) and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval. FILE PHOTO

sonnel body, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by the PM, approved appointments of Mr. Mishra and Mr. Doval with effect from Thursday and said their tenures would be coterminous with the Prime Minister's term or until further orders, whichever was

As per the ACC notifica-

tion issued by the Depart-

ment of Personnel and

Training, both officials will

earlier.

have Cabinet rank in the table of precedence in the PMO.

In the PMO, Mr. Mishra looks after the Central administration handling personnel matters and administration matters, while Mr. Doval is tasked with national security and foreign affairs.

Mr. Khare deals with subjects related to social sectors, while Mr. Kapoor handles infrastructure-related matters.

Purnea MP

gets bail in

<u>The Hindu Bureau</u>

Pappu Yadav

extortion case

Jake Sullivan, Kurt Campbell expected to visit Delhi next week to discuss key issues

The Hindu Bureau

After two previously cancelled trips to India earlier this year, it appears that U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan is once again scheduled to visit New Delhi, with plans for a trip next week. U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell confirmed on Wednesday that he would also be travelling to India with Mr. Sullivan.

Technology cooperation and the U.S.-India Initiative on Critical Emerging Technology (iCET



Boosting ties: U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell. FILE PHOTO

pete with China's Belt and longer relevant, and that Road Initiative is part of the two countries would the White House's Indoneed to move beyond that Pacific strategy, but has to find new areas of run into trouble over the cooperation. "And I think that's going strife in West Asia, specifically the Israel-Hamas conto be one of the issues that flict and the frictions bet-National Security Advisor ween Israel and Saudi Sullivan will be talking to his Indian counterparts about," he said, adding that the U.S. wanted to take these steps to ensure that the momentum is "unmistakable". "And we are quite bullish on the U.S.-India relationship," Mr. Campbell said. Presumably, the U.S. charge that Indian agents were behind a plot to kill Khalistani separatist and American citizen Gurpatwant Singh Pannun in New York, will also be discussed during Mr. Sullivan's visit. New Delhi has instituted a high-level probe to investigate the matter. Asked by the travelling the general elections. White House press corps, if Responding to a ques-Mr. Biden would raise the issue with Mr. Modi in Italy, Mr. Sullivan did not directly answer the question beyond saying the topic would continue to be discussed "at very senior lesome steps" that are no vels".

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI The government's target

will be to export defence equipment worth over ₹50,000 crore by 2028-2029, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday after assuming charge for the second consecutive term.

He chaired a review meeting on the action plan for the first 100 days of the Ministry under the new government, with a focus on the welfare of ex-servicemen.

"The meeting focused on the welfare of veterans, wherein major issues pertaining to the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare were discussed. He instructed the officers to rededicate themselves to ful-



Target is to achieve self-reliance in

defence manufacturing: Rajnath

Setting goals: Rajnath Singh took charge as Union Defence Minister for the second term, in New Delhi on Thursday, ANI

fil the agenda laid out in security apparatus of the the 100 days' action plan," country, with focus on the Defence Ministry said achieving self-reliance in

our main focus," Mr. Singh said. In this regard, he noted that defence exports had touched a record ₹21,083 crore in financial year 2023-24. "It was his-

toric," he stated. He said the armed forces were being equipped with state-of-the-art weapons and platforms. In line with this, Mr. Singh said he would hold regular review meetings to fast-track the progress of the flagship schemes and the initiatives of the Ministry.

Emphasising the growing salience of the Indian Ocean Region in the defence calculus, Mr. Singh's first visit this term would be to the Eastern Naval Visakhapat-Command, nam, where he would interact with officers and sailors, the Ministry said.

In a relief for Purnea MP Pappu Yadav, the Purnea Chief Judicial Magistrate court granted him bail in an extortion case. A Purnea-based furniture businessman, Raja Ku-

PATNA

mar, had lodged a case of extortion against Mr. Yadav at the Muffasil police station. Based on the complaint, the police had lodged an FIR against him.

Judge Shyamal Kumar granted bail to Mr. Yadav on two bail bonds of ₹10,000. In the court, Mr. Yaday's advocate said the mobile number mentioned in the FIR, from which the alleged extortion call was made, did not belong to his client.

launched in January 2023 are expected to be high on the agenda for the visit. The iCET has been led so far by Mr. Sullivan and Ajit Doval, whose reappointment as National Security Adviser was announced by the government on Thursday.

'We've worked assertively in technology. I'll be with Jake Sullivan in India next week as we advance areas of coordination with India here," Mr. Campbell said on Wednesday, during a discussion at the Stimson Centre, a Washington DCbased think tank.

"I think we feel very good about this [U.S.-India] partnership," he said.

The Hindu approached the U.S. National Security Council (NSC) for the exact date of Mr. Sullivan's visit, but did not get a confirmation of his schedule.

Other topics high in the bilateral agenda is the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), launched on the fringes of the G-20 Summit held in New Delhi last year. The corridor, which was conceived in part to com-

CM YK

Arabia.

Jet engines

The co-production of General Electric's F414 jet engines is also expected to feature in the discussions. The project was announced during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Washington DC in June 2023. Mr. Modi will be meeting U.S. President Joe Biden at the G-7

meeting in Italy on Friday. The two politicians spoke to each other on the phone last week when Mr. Biden called to congratulate Mr. Modi on being reappointed Prime Minister following

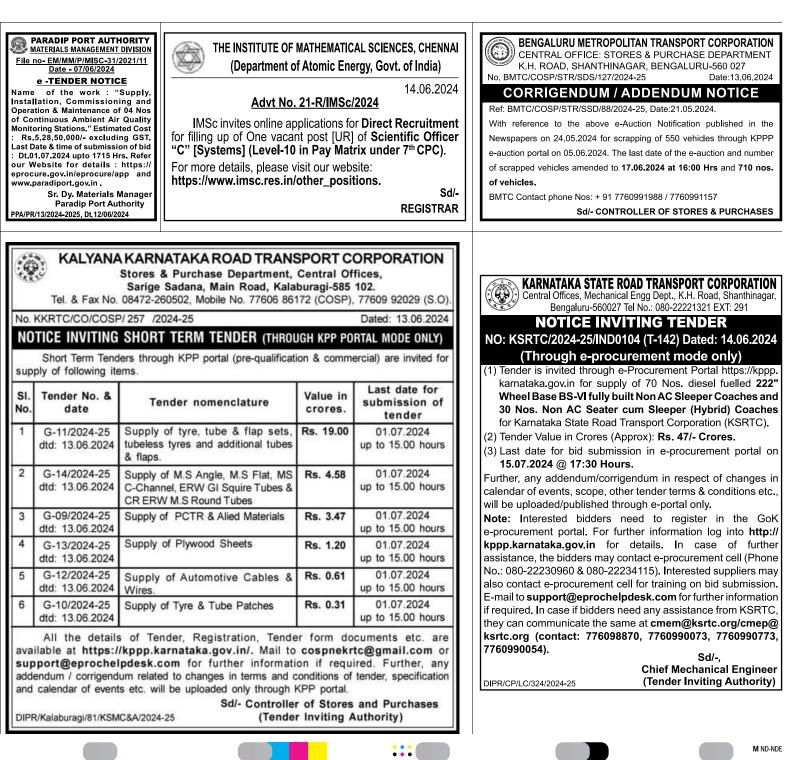
tion from a reporter on U.S. export controls acting as an impediment to technology cooperation, Mr. Campbell admitted that there are certain longstanding "practices and

	NDUM FOR PURCHASE OF POWER AGAINS	2024
	process and activities timeline modifications a MM)/UPCL-15/2024 are as under:-	against tender specification No
Last Date o	f request for purchase of tender document	14/06/2024 upto 11:00 hrs.
Last date a	nd time of submission of e-tender document	14/06/2024 upto 12:00 hrs.
Date and ti	me of opening of tender document(Part-1)	14/06/2024 upto 13:00 hrs.
	me of opening of Initial Price Offer (IPO) & Auction (e-RA).	18/06/2024 at 11:00 hrs.
	erms and conditions shall remain as per MM)/ UPCL-15/2024.	bid document of Tender No

in a statement.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, our aim will be to further strengthen the

defence manufacturing. Armed forces modernisation and the welfare of the soldiers, both serving and retired, will continue to be



THE HINDU

16



All four gates of Jagannath temple in Puri reopened

All four gates of the 12th-century Jagannath temple in Puri were reopened for devotees on Thursday morning in the presence of Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and his Council of Ministers. The previous BJD government had kept three of the four gates shut since the pandemic. Devotees had been facing inconvenience as entry was allowed through only one gate. Opening all the temple gates was a key promise in the BJP's election manifesto. Mr. Majhi said the Odisha government had also decided to set up a ₹500-crore corpus fund for better management, maintenance, and development of the temple. PTI

Court stays release of Shaadi ke Director. Karan aur Johar

The Bombay High Court on Thursday stayed the release of the Hindi film Shaadi ke Director, Karan aur Johar, which was set to be released on Friday. Filmmaker Karan Johar filed a suit in the Bombay High Court on Wednesday against producer IndiaPride Advisory, writer Sanjay Singh, and director Bablu Singh, objecting to the use of his name in the movie. The court restrained the makers from using any promotional material related to the film after finding a prima facie case that the makers used Mr. Johar's name in the movie title without his authorisation and that they had violated a person's fundamental rights.

ED seizes assets worth ₹13 cr. in case involving Chinese man

The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday said it has attached properties worth ₹13.58 crore in a money laundering case involving a Chinese national, who allegedly stayed in India illegally, and his associates. Xue Fei, the Chinese national, and his accomplices had allegedly opened hotels and clubs in the National Capital Region for fellow Chinese citizens, particularly those who entered in the country illegally. The attached assets are in the form of bank balance, fixed deposits, immovable properties, and insurance policies beneficially owned by Ravi Natvarlal Thakkar and others, the agency said.

Vaishnaw directs Railways to prevent unauthorised travel

Railway Minister concerned by reports of unreserved passengers travelling in reserved coaches, asks General Managers to launch special drives involving RPF personnel to curb the menace

<u>S. Vijay Kumar</u> CHENNAI

Minister ailway Ashwini Vaishnaw has expressed concern over the trend of unauthorised persons train velling reserved coaches.

According to railway sources, Mr. Vaishnaw held a video conference with General Managers of all Zonal Railways on Thursday and pointed to the surge in the number of complaints received on the 'RailMadad' application about unreserved passengers travelling in reserved coaches and called for effective measures to curb the same.

Zonal Railways were told to launch special intensive drives involving the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and the Government Railway Police personnel to ensure that only passengers holding confirmed tickets travelled in reserved coaches, the sources said.

The move came a day after The Hindu reported



The Railways Minister has directed officials to penalise those who board reserved coaches without advance booking. FILE PHOTO

how several passengers could not board Train No. 12840 Chennai Central-Howrah Superfast Mail here on Tuesday night after unauthorised persons barged into Sleeper Class coaches and occupied reserved berths.

Southern Railway had contended that the sudden rush was due to festival holiday and arranged travel for some passengers who missed the train by allowing berths under the Emergency Quota.

creasing number of complaints from passengers in reserved coaches were short-listed for intensified action.

Besides the long-distance trains that are prone to complaints of overcrowding in reserved compartments, instructions were given to the Commercial and Security department officials to deploy adequate number of ticket-checking staff and RPF personnel on all trains, the sources said.

If unauthorised persons were found to be travelling in reserved coaches, railway staff were told to impose penalty (excess fare) up to the point of detection and deboard them at the stopping station.

Announcements would be made at originating stations and also en route, advising passengers with season tickets, general or waitlisted tickets not to board reserved coaches.

Among the trains that were found to be prone to unauthorised travel, Train No. 16127 Chennai Egmore-Guruvayur Express topped the list with 68 complaints in May alone.

Instructions were given late on Thursday to Senior Divisional Commercial Managers across the zone to give a daily feedback on the action taken on the issue, such as de-boarding of unauthorised passengers and imposing of penalty.

6 killed as landslides, rain wreak havoc in Sikkim, north Bengal

Moyurie Som SILIGURI

At least six people were killed and 1.500 tourists stranded as massive landslides triggered by incessant rainfall caused devastation in northern Sikkim's Mangan district, officials said on Thursday.

Due to the torrential rain in Sikkim this week, surging water levels in the Teesta river wrought havoc at Kalimpong in north Bengal, flooding the Teesta Bazar area and leading to the

closure of Kalimpong-Darjeeling Road. The situation turned dire on Wednesday night after heavy rainfall led to the inundation of areas like Geil Khola and several roads in Kalimpong's Teesta Bazar connecting Darjeeling and Kalimpong. Roads connecting Siliguri with Darjeeling and Kalimpong are also being moni-

tored closely. A newly constructed bailey bridge at Sangkalang in Sikkim collapsed snapping the link between Mangan with Dzongu and Chungthang. Landslides blocked stretches of roads and several houses were

A house that was damaged during the landslide in northern Sikkim on Thursday. ANI

inundated or damaged, while electricity poles were swept away. "Three persons each

died in Pakshep and Ambhithang villages," Mangan District Magistrate Hem Kumar Chettri said.

He held a meeting with officials to take stock of the situation following incessant rainfall in and around Mangan district since Wednesday and instructed them to carry out rescue and relief work.

Alerts have been sounded to those living in houses along the banks of the swollen Teesta river. Local officials urged residents of affected areas to evacuate houses and move to safer ground.

(With PTI inputs)

screening

of Hamare

SC suspends

Congress to voice the anger of 24 lakh NEET candidates in Parliament: Gaurav Gogoi

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Reiterating its demand for a Supreme Court-monitored probe into allegations of irregularity in conducting the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for undergraduate medical courses, the Congress on Thursday said that the plight and anger of Gaurav Gogo the 24 lakh students who took the exam will "reverberate" in Parliament. The Opposition party also sought the removal of the Director-General of the National Testing Agency (NTA). Congress leader Gauray Gogoi said the INDIA bloc had enough numbers in the Lok Sabha to "bring the government to its knees and make them accountable to the students". "We are waiting for the Parliament session, We will raise the voice of 24 lakh youth of the country inside Parliament. The anger over

'No evidence of **NEET paper leak'**

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday rejected allegations of paper leak in the NEET-UG examination for medical courses, saying there was no evidence to substantiate the claims PTI

Six workers killed in blast at firecracker unit near Nagpur

Snehal Mutha MUMBAI

At least six workers, five of them women, were killed and three critically injured in an explosion at a firecracker manufacturing unit near Nagpur in Maharashtra on Thursday.

The incident took place around 1 p.m. at Chamundi Explosive Private Ltd. at Dhamna village in the Katol Assembly constituency.



Charred remains after the blast at the firecracker factory, in Nagpur on Thursday, ANI

treatment. The bodies

Baarah <u>The Hindu Bureau</u> NEW DELHI

Thursday ordered the public screening of the film Hamare Baarah to be suspended for the time being. The order came in response to a petition filed by

Azhar Basha Tamboli, represented by Fauzia Shakil. Mr. Tamboli approached the top court against the Bombay High

The Supreme Court on



CBI searches 67 places in Odisha in postal job scam

The CBI on Thursday conducted searches at 67 locations in nine districts of Odisha over alleged certificate forgery in postal recruitment. As many as 63 candidates have been booked for forgery in connection with the Gramin Dak Sevak examination. The districts where searches have been conducted are Kalahandi, Nuapada, Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Kandhamal, Kendujhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore and Bhadrak. The search operation involved more than 204 officials, including 122 officers from the CBI, and 82 personnel from other departments. The search teams are striving to uncover the inter-State organised gang responsible for providing these fake certificates.

the NEET exam in the country will also reverberate inside Parliament," Mr. Gogoi said at a press conference.

"The Congress believes that the BJP government's attitude towards the ongoing demand for an inquiry into the NEET exam is irresponsible and insensitive... Ordinary families have been forced to cough up amounts close to ₹30 lakh due to promises given to them by different coachand examination ing centres," he added.

Earlier, party chief Mal-

SCAN TO PLAY

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likarjun Kharge said that in the past 10 years, the Narendra Modi-led government had ruined the future of crores of youth through paper leaks and rigging.

"Grace marks was not the only problem in NEET. There has been rigging, papers have been leaked, corruption has taken place," Mr. Kharge said in a social media post on X.

He claimed that a nexus of exam centres and coaching centres had been created, where the game of "pay money, get paper" was being played out.

25 km from Nagpur, the police said. "The firecrackers that were stored in a nearby unit caught fire, which resulted in the blast. The workers were packing them when the incident took place. Experts have been roped in to ascertain the cause of the incident," Commissioner of Police Ravindra Singhal said to The Hindu.

Mr. Singhal said nine injured persons were initially rushed to two private hospitals in the city. Of them, five women and a man died while undergoing

were shifted to the government hospital for autopsy. A probe is on, he added.

NCP (Sharad Pawar) MLA from KatolAnil Deshmukh visited the site. He said the manager and the owner of the manufacturing unit were absconding, and criticised the company for not having basic safety measures, including an ambulance.

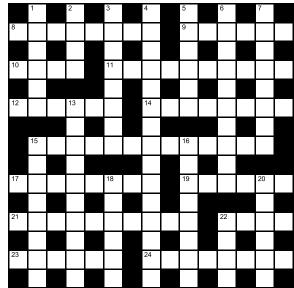
Sanjay Tidke, general manager of the firecracker manufacturing unit, said that compensation would be given to the families of the deceased.

Court's interim decision to recall its earlier injunction order of June 5 against the release of the film.

His petition alleged that "the film's theme, explicit visuals and dialogues are not just hurtful, harmful and defamatory to the sentiments of the Muslim community but would incite hatred against Muslims, breach harmony, public order".

The top court refused to enter into the case's merits as a writ petition challenging the film's release was pending in the High Court.





Across

- Queen mother managed one without slightest sound of 8 laughter (8)
- Conservationists endless avarice and vacuous nitwittedness (6)
- **10** Against some obscurantists (4)

CM YK

get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

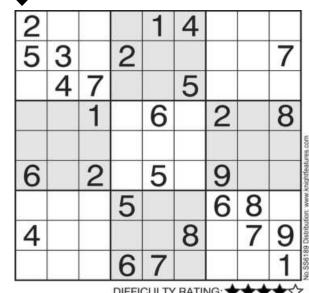
To solve this puzzle online,

- 11 'Days of Yore' by English poet, describes love as sham (10)
- 12 Just showcasing power and energy in public (6)
- **14** Job presented with mobile communication plan (4-4)
- 15 At home, word sex's stressful! Sounding like irregularity! (13)
- 17 Blissfully calm face, bit rattled after embracing one (8)
- **19** Plan time and ground (6)
- 21 Start! Go! Run! Spare us pretended disdain! (4,6)
- 22 Bad German stuff, pious fellow rejected (4)
- 23 Lands some of the best at entrepreneurship (6)
- 24 Unmasking old girlfriend's heartless attitude (8)

Down

- **1** It can do with bit of pepper mint (6)
- 2 Most amazing priest (4)
- 3 Governance takes a toll on him (8)
- 4 Top Kings embraced IPL basics (5,10)
- 5 Exiting, going, running, escaping, something similar basically (6)
- Reward comperes struggling with English (10)
- Leader of England almost resigned, failing to motivate (8) 7
- **13** Horrible riot in South African region related to swimming! (10)
- 15 Smartly, I chose EU for cold storage (3,5)
- **16** Part of church school, one wasted by blighted pest (8)
- **18** Designed car crashed by me (6)
- 20 Cripple redesigned 18D (6)
- 22 Fighter, not priest, gets earth (4)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku Solution to previous puzzle 3926187 4 7 2538964 8 9 67 4 1 2 5 3 82416 73 2 67395 8 1 31459872 6 4538 196 7 85213649 3648957 2



Five limbs of surrender

Acharya Sri Vedantha Desika has composed Nyasa Dasakam in which he explains all the concepts and the benefit of surrendering (saranagathi) at the divine feet of God in a simple manner. Navalpakkam Sri Vasudevachariar Swamy said in a discourse, "Nyasa" means to place or submit, and "Dasakam" denotes 10. Like Sri Ramanuja, who had given the essence of Veda Bhashya in a condensed form as "Vedanta Deepam", Sri Vedantha Desika has presented the doctrine of surrender in an abridged form in 10 verses in "Nyasa Dasakam". Though small, it contains excellent information about the import of "Dwaya Mantra".

One has to submit oneself to God, which involves three things. Submitting one's soul as it is the property of God (Aatma Nyasam), the responsibility of protection (Bhara Nyasam), and the benefit of surrender (Phala Nyasam).

The concept of surrender has six parts, called 'Shad Vidhya Saranagathi'. The main part is called Nyasa (surrender). The five limbs of surrender are: To resolve to perform only the duties enshrined; to desist the acts that displease God; to express our humility with helplessness; to have an absolute and enduring faith and to entrust our protection to Him with a sincere appeal. It is prayed to grant Moksha at the end of this birth. As long as we exist in this world, He should bless us to serve Him.

NBRIÐR



'Regency Ceramics to restart Yanam plant by June end'

Tile manufacturer Regency Ceramics Ltd.'s (RCL) Yanam plant is all set to restart operations by June end, said Executive Director Narala Satyendra Prasad. "We announced that the first line will commence operations by Q1. Plant refurbishment is over and trials started during February," he said. Mr. Prasad said the company had tied up with raw material suppliers and strengthened supply chain logistics.

Aurionpro arm gets RBI's final nod for aggregator licence

Aurionpro Payment Solutions Private Ltd., a subsidiary of Aurionpro, said it had received final authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as an online payment aggregator under the Payments Settlements Act, 2007, through its payments brand AuroPay. "Receiving the final approval from RBI to operate as a full-fledged online payment aggregator is a significant milestone in achieving our long-term goals as a payment service provider," the company said.

PNB MetLife declares ₹930 crore bonus for FY24

+ LIC holding

crosses 5%

The Hindu Bureau

HYDERABAD

in Dr. Reddy's

Life insurer PNB MetLife has declared ₹930 crore bonus for FY24, a payout that will benefit 5.82 lakh customers. Compared with the previous fiscal this is 21% more. The number of eligible beneficiaries has increased by 30,000 compared to FY23. "The ₹930 crore bonus declaration this year reinforces our commitment to generate the best possible outcomes for our customers' financial security and long-term prosperity," said Sanjay Kumar, Chief Investment Officer.

Life Insurance Corporation **The Hindu Bureau**

Will prioritise airfare review: new Civil Aviation Minister

As Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu takes charge, he says 'price fluctuations since COVID-19 is a cause of concern'; promises to pursue regional connectivity begun during Ashok Gajapathi Raju's tenure

Jagriti Chandra NEW DELHI

review of airfares will be a "priority" for the new government as pricing fluctuations are a "cause of concern", said Telugu Desam Party's Member of Parliament Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu as he took charge of the Ministry of Civil Aviation on Thursday. "We have seen ticket

price fluctuations right from the time of Covid-19 when air travel took a huge hit. Air fares have been



Accessible flying: TDP MP says biometric boarding passes will be expanded to all airports; "ease of flying" to be policy mantra. PTI

fluctuating and have not concern," Mr. Naidu told stabilised since then. I have journalists, adding he will observed this also as a pasprioritise a review meeting senger. This is a cause of on this issue with airlines common man will be at the "core" of policy making,

The Minister said the

and ministry officials.

and that he will ensure "easy of flying" in India. The Ministry will soon finalise a 100-day action plan.

Mr. Naidu said he will pursue initiatives like the regional connectivity scheme to expand connectivity to tier-2/3 cities, launched when his party colleague Ashok Gajapathi Raju headed the Ministry. He also said biometric boarding passes will be expanded to all airports.

GST Council to meet for the first time this year on June 22

Vikas Dhoot NEW DELHI

The Centre has decided to convene a meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council on June 22, eight-and-a-half months after its last meeting, the Finance Ministry said on Thursday.

"The 53rd meeting of the GST Council will be held on 22nd June, 2024 at New Delhi," a ministry statement informed.

The Council that is generally expected to meet every quarter, has met just six times since 2022.

The agenda for the upcoming meeting is not State Fican be exuggestions tax regime rporated in et likely to xt month.

ll also be on the revival of a plan to restructure the complex multiplerate tax structure, now that GST revenues have risen significantly, along with a promised review of the 28% levy on bets made in online gaming, casinos, and horse racing.

At its last meeting held on October 7, 2023, the Council, headed by the Finance Minister, had initiate ed discussions on a "perspective plan" to impose a cess or surcharge on top of GST levies after March 2026, when the GST Compensation Cess is due to expire.

Bajaj Auto	9923.40	
Bajaj Finserv	1590.10	
Bajaj Finance	7294.95	
Bharti Airtel	1425.75	-12.65
BPCL	619.35	6.00
Britannia Ind	5379.45	-59.85
Cipla	1544.55	
Coal India		
Divis Lab	4593.50	141.15
Dr Reddys Lab	6095.85	35.80
Eicher Motors		
Grasim Ind	2458.05	7.90
HCL Tech	1444.15	5.40
HDFC Bank	1580.75	6.60
HDFC Life	593.50	
Hero MotoCorp		
Hindalco		
Hind Unilever		
ICICI Bank		
IndusInd Bank		
Infosys		
ITC		
JSW Steel		
Kotak Bank		
L&T		
LTIMindtree Ltd.		
M&M		
Maruti Suzuki		
NestleIndia		
NTPC		
ONGC		
PowerGrid Corp		
Reliance Ind		
SBI Life		
SBI LITE State Bank		
Shriram Finance		
Ltd.		
Sun Pharma	1510.80	
TataConsumerPro-		
duct		
Tata Motors		
Tata Steel		
TCS.		
Tech Mahindra		
Titan		
UltraTech Cement		
Wipro	482.60	5.70

17

% CHANGE

0.27

-0.07

-0.06

0.60

MARKETS

THURSDAY

76,811

83.54

72,150

82.70

1404.45

6206.20

2910.00

1174.65

PRICE CHANGE

10.50

... 37.60

...4.20

-13.25

MARKET WATCH

Sensex US Dollar

Brent oil

NIFTY 50

Adani Enter

Adani Ports

Apollo Hosp

Asian Paints

Axis Bank

Gold

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in p.m. on June 13	t except yen	
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar		83.66
Euro		
British Pound	106.55	106.97
Japanese Yen (100)	53.03	
Chinese Yuan	11.49	
Swiss Franc	93.05	
Singapore Dollar		62.03
Canadian Dollar		60.89
Malaysian Ringitt	17.69	17.77
Australian Dollar	55.44	55.66

राष्ट्रीय पृथ्वी विज्ञान अध्ययन केंद्र ____ MENT for Appointment on Deputation basis **NATIONAL CENTRE FOR** ealthcare Institute, established by the Ministry of Health rnment of India under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya **EARTH SCIENCE STUDIES** NCESS AIIMS Madurai invites offline applications to the followin पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India Pay Scale as per 7th CPC Akkulam, Thiruvananthapuram -11 Level-14 (₹1,44,200-2,18,200) No.NCESS/P&GA/1224/01/2024 Date:10.06.2024 Level-11 (₹67,700 - 2,08,700) **RECRUITMENT OF SCIENTIST B (Four Posts)** Level-11 (₹67,700-2,08,700)

'Push land, labour, agriculture reforms in Modi's third term'

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

Industry body CII made a case for pushing reforms in land, labour, and agriculture in PM Narendra Modi's third term to acceler-

ate economic growth estimated at 8% in FY25. Incoming CII President

Sanjiv Puri said several policy interventions in the past put the economy on "a much stronger wicket". "The growth estimate

hinges on addressing unfinished reforms on priori-

to land, CII suggests moderating stamp duty to lower the cost of acquisition

On reforms related

ty, and improvement in world trade prospects aiding our exports, twin engines of investment and consumption doing well," Mr. Puri added.

On reforms related to land, CII suggests a moderation in stamp duty to lower the cost of acquisition.

Examination

Senior Accounts Officer

₹10,422 crore. The acquisition will be fully funded through internal accruals, the Adani Group company said in a filing with stock exchanges.

"This landmark acquisition is a significant step forward in Ambuja Cements' accelerating our growth journey," Ajay Kapur, CEO and Whole Time Director a statement.

CAMSRep unveils Bima Central to plan insurance portfolio

The interface allows

The Hindu Bureau

MUMBAI Ambuja Cements Ltd. said it had signed a binding agreement for acquisition

Ajay Kapur

01

01

of Ambuja Cements said in

VIL to issue			All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Madurai					
	VIL to issue			SHORT ADVERTISEMENT	for Appoint	tment on Deputation basis		
	shares worth	a	AllMS Madurai is an apex healthcare Institute, established by the Ministry of Healt and Family Welfare, Government of India under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthy					
-	₹2,458 crore to		Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). AIIMS Madurai invites offline applications to the following posts on deputation basis.					
Nokia, Ericsson			SI. No.	Name of the Post	No of Vacancies	Pay Scale as per 7 th CPC		
	i tolda, El lebboli		1	Medical Superintendent	01	Level-14 (₹1,44,200-2,18,200)		
		IГ	2	Assistant Controller of				

Ambuja Cements to acquire Penna Cement for ₹10,422 <u>The Hindu Bureau</u>

of 100% shares of Penna Cement Industries Ltd. (PCIL) from its existing promoter group - namely P. Pratap Reddy and family - at an enterprise value of

	coming meetin
	known yet but
	nance Ministers
	pected to flag su
	for the indirect t
	that can be incor
	the Union Budge
	be presented nex
Cr.	Industry will
	keen for signals

of India's (LIC) holding in Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has crossed 5%, with the institutional investor pur- chasing more than 1.08 lakh shares of the drugmaker. The shares were ac-	CHENNAI CAMSRep (CAMS Insu- rance Repository Services) unveiled Bima Central, a one-stop platform for sim- plifying insurance portfo- lio management.	users to manage policies through their secure e-insurance account personal data and nomi-	The Board of Directors of Vodafone Idea Ltd., at its meeting held on Thursday, approved issuance of up to 1,66,08,10,804 fully paid- up equity shares of face va- lue of ₹10 each in one or	The last date of receipt of application will be 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News. For further information please visit our website https://jipmer.edu.in/announcements/aiims-madurai for qualification, experience, age limit, tenure, application format and procedure to apply. Note: Any corrigendum/amendment in this advertisement will be published/ uploaded on website (https://jipmer.edu.in/announcements/aiims-madurai for qualification, experience, age limit, tenure, application format and procedure to apply. Note: Any corrigendum/amendment in this advertisement will be published/ uploaded on website (https://jipmer.edu.in/announcements/aiims-madurai only. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AIIMS MADURAI	citizens for appointment to four posts of Scientist B, on direct recruitment basis, in the Pay Level 10 of the 7 th CPC Pay Matrix of Rs.56,100-1,77,500 in Group A. For more details visit NCESS website www.ncess.gov.in. Sd/- Senior Manager
quired from the open mar- ket, as an investment func- tion, at an average price of ₹6,059.82 each, LIC said in a filing on Thursday. Consequently, the hold- ing increased from 4.95% to 5.01%. In terms of num- ber of shares, LIC holds 83,69,879 shares of Dr. Reddy's. On Thursday, Dr. Red- dy's shares closed 0.53% higher to ₹6,095.10 apiece	Bima Central allows us- ers to manage life, health and motor policies through their secure e-in- surance account (eIA), said CAMS wholly owned subsi- diary in a statement. Registered users of eIA will get access to Bima Cen- tral for managing their pol- icies with various insurers, with features such as sim- plified policy information, renewals and reminders,	nee information, policy ca- lendar, and more. The current interface is available in English and Hindi on Android, iOS and on the web portal. SBI General has been the anchor insurer from the research and design phase. ICICI Prudential Life, Star Union Daichi Life, TATA AIA and Aditya Birla Health are at various stages of integrating their	more tranches for an ag- gregate consideration of up to ₹2,458 crore on a pre- ferential basis. This includes up to 1,02,70,27,024 shares at an issue price of ₹14.8 per share aggregating to ₹1,520 crore to Nokia Solutions and Networks India Pvt. Ltd., a non-promoter, and up to 63,37,83,780 shares aggregating to ₹938 crore to Ericsson India Pvt. Ltd.,	Correctional कुरोदित एसे हाउन कांडी सामिति (एजव एवं सद्भां)) जारापुष्ट ततत्वा करोदित एसे तृट्य राज्ये प्रवित्त दिनी दिनाक Japant एका उठाता ठरोदित एसे तुट्य राज्य क्रनांक :- 585 - 601 दिनांक :- 12/06/2024 <u>ई-निविति सूचना</u> कृषि उपज मण्डी समिति (फल सब्जी) जयपुर द्वारा मुख्य मण्डी प्रांगण टर्मिनल मार्केट मुहाना में इन्क्यूबेशन सेन्टर स्थापित किये जाने हेतु विभिन्न शेष उपकरण एवं प्रयोगशाला सामग्री क्रय की जानी है तथा स्थापित इन्क्यूबेशन सेन्टर को 5 वर्ष के लिये संचालन हेतु इच्छुक संस्था/व्यक्ति को Operation and Management (O&M) आधार पर दिया जाना है। उक्त कार्यो हेतु कार्यालय द्वारा ऑनलाईन निविदा संख्या 01/2024–25 एवं 02/2024–25 आंमत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र व शर्ते spp.rajasthan.gov.in, eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://agriculture.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है व eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर दिनांक 13.06.2024 से दिनांक 07.07.2024 तक निविदा दरे प्रसतुत कर भाग लिया जा सकता है। UBN NO DAM2425GLOB00103 UBN NO DAM2425SLOB00104 राज.संन्न.खी.2025 से सिर्वेत का सित्त सिंदेव	Wheels India Limited Regd Office : 21, Patullos Road, Chennai – 600 002 CIN : L35921TN1960PLC004175 Phone : 044-2623 4300; Fax : 044-26257121 Website : www.wheelsindia.com Invites offers from interested parties for purchase of Mild Steel scrap items, for the two month period JULY - AUGUST 2024. Details of the items available for disposal and tender terms and conditions can be had from the Company on written request. Sealed offers can be submitted to the Sr. Vice President (Supply Chain), Wheels India Limited, Padi, Chennai - 600 050 to reach on or before 28th JUNE 2024. Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, PWD, Zone, Ajmer No:: ACE/AJTECH/F2(30A-NIT)/2024-2025/D-792 Date: 11.06.2024
		services with Bima Central.		NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN) (NIEPMD) (Dept.of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India) Muttukadu, East Coast Road, Kovalam (P.O), Chennai - 603 112 Phone: 044 – 2747 2113, 2747 2423. Mobile: 94443 14716. Toll Free No: 18004250345 www.niepmd.tn.nic.in. Email: niepmd@gov.in, asponiepmd@gmail.com RATE CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE OF TEACHING LEARNING MATERIALS (ASD, CP, DB, MD, MI & SLD Disabilities categories)	Notice Inviting Bid No. 02/2024-2025 Bids for 01 No. ROB Work (EPC MODE) are invited from interested bidders upto 6.00 PM on Monday 08 July 2024. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the State; and DIPR departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 3614.06 Lacs. UBN No. PWD2425WLOB00542 (V.K. Jain), Additional Chief Engineer, DIPR/C/4214/2024
<u>Ateeq Shaikh</u> MUMBAI In the last 12 months, Mumbai witnessed a 11.5% rise in luxury real estate	op 5 globa	three positions in Q1 FY24, from the corresponding period in FY23. Delhi's jump was bigger from 17 rank to fifth. However, Bengaluru's rank slipped a notch from 16 to 17, even	to remain stable over the next few quarters as eco- nomic corridors are likely to remain unchanged." Anarock, another pro- perty consultant seconds Knight Frank. Anarock in	(Valid for NIEPMD Extension Centers & Composite Regional Centers (CRCs) also) NIEPMD invites E-Tender through NIC e-procurement portal URL http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app in two bid system from reputed TLM manufactures and their authorised suppliers & Distributers having proven track record in supplying of Teaching Learning Materials to institutes / colleges / Special schools / NGOs. The bidder must have a minimum experience of 03 years for supplying TLM materials duly supported by proper testimonials certificates. The tender document can also be downloaded from over website www.niepmd.tn.nic.in Last date for E-bidding 02.07.2024 (2.00 PM) EMD Amount Rs.10,00,000/- (Refundable) Date & Time of opening of Tender documents 03.07.2024 (4.00 PM)	GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL NOTIFICATION Department of Agriculture Memo No : 173-20/HQ Dated : 12.06.2024 In pursuance of Clause VIII(A) of the Guidelines of Farm Mechanization Schemes 2024-24 vide Memo No : 179-AG- 11030(II)1/2024-NAB-SEC dt. 28.02.2024, indicative price of the different farm Machinery/implements is to be published by the Department of Agriculture, Govt. of West Bengal. Now, as per decision of the meeting of the SPMT held on 12.06.2024, all the Farm Machinery Manufacturers who are interested to take part in Farm Mechanization Schemes-2024-25 in
prices, reaching the third spot globally, after Manila and Tokyo. Delhi's prime residential prices soared by 10.5% in the last year, finding fifth spot on pro- perty consultant Knight Frank's prime global cities index, which is ranked as per annual percentage change in realty prices. Contrary to financial and national capitals of In- dia, Bengaluru witnessed a drop in luxury home rates. At the top of the table is Manila with 26.2% annual	at 12.5%. In fourth place is Perth, at 11.1%. "With annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth running at over 8%, strong economic growth across India has boosted housing prices in the main cities, particularly in Delhi and Mumbai, as our results confirm," Knight Frank said in its recent report.	while it recorded a 4.8% annual growth in luxury residential prices. "The strong demand trend for residential pro- perties has been a global phenomenon, led by gate- way markets of Asia-Pacif- ic, Europe, Middle East and Africa. Like its peers in these regions, the im- proved rankings of Mum- bai and Delhi on the prime global cities index was un- derscored by resilience in sales growth volume. We	its report said, "There were periods when the supply of real estate ex- ceeded demand, resulting in stable price growth that kept pace with inflation in the pre-pandemic era. Bet- ween 2013-2020, top seven cities recorded a cumula- tive supply of 23.55 lakh units against a demand for 20.68 lakh units. Following the pandemic, residential real estate saw rapid recov- ery, leading to significant price growth outpacing	Kerala State IT Mission Department of Electronics & IT, Government of Kerala. Website: http://www.itmission.kerala.gov.in/ TENDER NOTICE Selection of Data Centre Operator for the Operations and Management of Kerala State Data Centres Tender ID 2024_KSITM_675597_1 Tender Reference No. SDC/9/2024-KSITM Detailed Notification and RFP documents may be downloaded from https://etenders.kerala.gov.in/	 West Bengal are invited to furnish their information as stated below in respect of different models of the farm machinery / implements through email to facilitate publication of indicative price for the year 2024-25: Information in respect of different models of farm machinery/ imploements in an excel sheet in the prescribed format (Annexure-A). Invoices as referred to in the format in a folder creating dealer wise sub-folder. The notice including the format (Annexure-A) & Guidelines of FMS-2024-25 is available in <u>https://matirkatha.wb.gov.in</u> portal. For any query please contact with the Farm Mechanization Cell, Jessop Building, 1st Floor, 63 N S Road, Kolkata-700001, Phone:033-22540917. The information as detailed above is to be sent to the mail id : <u>wbfm2024@gmail.com</u> only by 30.06.2024. Registration of manufacturers in the portal will be started after publication of indicative price. Sd/-Director of Agriculture ICA-N 248(5)/2024
growth, followed by Tokyo	Mumbai's rank moved	expect momentum of sales	general inflation."	(D3/323/2024/I&PRD)	M ND-NDE

THE HINDU

World

BRUSSELS

18

EU court fines Hungary €200 mn for not following asylum laws



The European Union's top court on Thursday fined Hungary 200 million euros (\$216 million) and imposed a daily one-million-euro penalty for failing to follow the bloc's asylum laws and illegally deporting migrants, a decision Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban slammed as "outrageous and unacceptable". AFP

WELLINGTON

Chinese Premier warns against 'chasm' in ties with New Zealand



Chinese Premier Li Qiang said on Thursday his nation's differences with New Zealand must not become a "chasm", pledging greater trade and "friendship" after touching down in Wellington for rare bilateral talks. Mr. Li is embarking on a six-day tour of New Zealand and Australia. AFP

MANCHESTER

Will end the era of 'gestures and gimmicks' if we win polls: Starmer



Labour Party leader Keir Starmer, the left-of-centre politician aiming to become Britain's Prime Minister in three weeks' time, while launching the election manifesto, said on Thursday he will lead a government that's both "pro-business and pro-worker" and restore stability after years of economic and political turmoil. AP

MOSCOW

U.S. reporter Gershkovich to be tried on spying charges: Russia



U.S. reporter Evan Gershkovich, who was arrested in Russia in March 2023 on charges of working for the CIA and collecting "secret information" he and his employers have rejected as false, is to face trial, prosecutors said on Thursday. His trial will take place in the Urals city of Yekaterinburg, they said. AFP

U.S., Europe will lock up Russian assets until it pays for Ukraine war

Leaders agree to leverage interest and income from the \$260 bn in frozen Russian assets; they back a \$50 bn loan for Kyiv; President Joe Biden signs a 10-year security agreement with Zelenskyy, endorsing Washington's commitment to Ukraine

Associated Press BORGO EGNAZIA

he U.S. and European countries have agreed to lock up sanctioned Russian assets until Moscow pays reparations for its invasion of Ukraine, a senior U.S. official said on Thursday. The move cleared the way for leaders as they announced a \$50 billion loan package for Kyiv at the Group of Seven summit, where President Joe Biden signed a 10year security agreement with Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

The highly anticipated agreement will leverage interest and income from the



U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan described the pact as a 'real marker' of the U.S. commitment to Ukraine. AFP

more than \$260 billion in will be made this year, but it will take time for Ukraine frozen Russian assets, largely held in Europe, securto use all the money, the official said. The official ing a \$50 billion loan from the U.S. and additional spoke on the condition of loans from other partners. anonymity to preview the The first disbursements agreement, which will be included in the G-7 leaders' communique on Friday.

The leaders' statement will also leave the door open to confiscating the Russian assets entirely, for which the allies have yet to secure the political will, largely citing legal and financial stability concerns.

Mr. Biden will meet on Thursday with Mr. Zelenskyy to discuss a bilateral security agreement between the U.S. and Ukraine, as the international group of wealthy democracies has been looking for new ways to bolster Ukraine's defences against Russia.

It comes several months after the White House broke through a logjam in

Congress that stalled approval of some \$60 billion in U.S. aid for Ukraine. The delay gave Russia time to make up ground on the battlefield. Mr. Biden's National Se-

curity Adviser, Jake Sullivan, described the pact as a "real marker" of the U.S. commitment to Ukraine, "not just for this month and this year, but for the many years ahead". Mr. Sullivan said the

pact would not commit U.S. troops directly to Ukraine's defence. That is a red line drawn by Mr. Biden, who does not want to have the U.S. pulled into a conflict direct with Moscow.

Hezbollah attacks Israeli bases as Gaza war rages

Agence France-Presse BEIRUT

Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah group said it launched rocket and drone attacks on several Israeli Army bases and positions on Thursday, after an Israeli strike killed one of its senior commanders.

Hezbollah fighters launched "an attack with rockets and drones, targeting six barracks and military sites" while simultaneously flying "squadrons of explosive-laden drones" at three other Israeli bases, the group said in a statement.

It said the attacks were "part of the response to the assassination" of Hezbollah commander Taleb Abdallah on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Israeli helicopters struck Gaza's Ra-



Hamas militants reporting

street battles in the south-

ern city after top U.S. di-

plomat Antony Blinken

said a truce was still

Continued operation

Hamas Palestinian fighters,

possible.

despite widespread international alarm over the fate of displaced people crowded into the city.

Western areas of Rafah came under heavy Israeli fire from the air, sea and land, residents said.

Brigades, the armed wing of Islamist movement Hamas, said its fighters were battling Israeli troops on the streets of the same area.

The top world court, the International Court of Justice, in May issued a binding ruling for Israel to halt any offensive in Rafah and elsewhere that could bring about "the physical destruction" of the Palestinians.

Israeli ground forces have Israel responded that it been operating in Rafah, near the Egyptian border, had not "and will not" ensince early May to pursue gage in such operations against the Palestinians.

U.K. issues sanctions on Moscow stock exchange

deal with several parties Agence France-Presse CAPE TOWN



South Africa's ANC strikes

(EFF) was left out as talks with the party lead by firebrand politician Iulius Malema did not bear fruit, Mr. Mbalula said. Angry former ANC president Jacob Zuma's vehicle, the uMkhonto we-Sizwe (MK) party, which came in third in the election, was also not to back the government, although Mr. Mbalula did not name it. The party has denounced the results and its 58 MPs plan to boycott Parliament. Other small groups, including Muslim party Al Jama-ah, centre-left Rise Mzansi and the minority National Coloured Congress had agreed to join, but with reservations, he added. For 30 years, the late Nelson Mandela's ANC has held an absolute majority and elected a President from its own ranks.

THE HINDU GROUE



Agence France-Presse LONDON

The U.K. announced on Thursday dozens of new sanctions aimed at constraining Russia's war in Ukraine, including targeting Moscow's main stock exchange, a day after Washington announced similar measures.

London said the 50 new curbs - part of "co-ordinated action with G-7 partners" as the Western-led bloc's leaders meet in Italy - will hit the Russian financial system and suppliers supporting its military production.

The major new financial punishment, set to complicate billions of dollars in transactions, prompted the exchange to halt dollar and euro trades on Thursday.

South Africa's long-standing ruling ANC said on Thursday it has reached an agreement with several other parties to form a coalition government, after failing to win an outright majority in general elections in May.

Speaking on the eve of the first sitting of the newly elected Parliament, African National Congress Secretary General Fikile Mbalula said the government would "gravitate to the centre", after leftist

parties shunned the deal. "We have reached a breakthrough on the common agreement that we need to work together," Mr. Mbalula told a news conference.

The agreement means President Cyril Ramaphosa is likely to be appointed for Fikile Mbalula

a second term when lawmakers convene in Cape Town on Friday.

Mr. Mbalula described the coalition as a national unity government and said it was to include the centre-right Democratic Alliance (DA), the Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), the small centre-left United Democratic Movement, and right-wing Afrikaner Freedom Front Plus (FF+).

The radical leftist Economic Freedom Fighters



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Turkiye to buy F-16 warplanes from U.S.

Agence France-Presse ISTANBUL

Turkiye and the United States have signed a contract for the sale of F-16 warplanes after Washington greenlighted the \$23 billion deal following months of negotiations, Turkish Defence Ministry sources said on Thursday.

"The contract was signed and delegations from both sides are negotiating the details," the Ministry sources said.

Under the deal, Turkiye will get 40 new F-16s and upgrades to 79 of the jets in its existing fleet.

CM YK

The State Department last week hailed "a major step forward" in Turkiye's purchase of new F-16 fighter jets calling them "the most advanced F-16 ever made available only to closest Allies and partn-

ers". "Just the latest example of United States enduring commitment to security partnership with Turkiye," it said in a social media post.

The United States did not green light the transaction until Turkiye's instruments of ratification of Sweden's membership had arrived in Washington.

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SPEAKING OUT

Frustrated Williamson calls T20s a game of 'cat and mouse'



Kane Williamson's ploy to bowl out the pacers upfront proved disastrous against the West Indies, prompting the New Zealand captain to term T20s a game of "cat and mouse." "I think, in T20 cricket nowadays, with teams that are batting a lot deeper... you're always trying to sort of play a game of cat and mouse."

NEW RULE

Five-run penalty law is something we need to address, says Law



USA coach Stuart Law stated that his team is yet to get accustomed to the five-run penalty law for time taken between overs. "It is a rule that has only just come in. A lot of our players would not have heard about it before we played in the Bangladesh or Canada series earlier this year. It is something we need to address," Law said.

IDEAL CHOICE

Kuldeep will be India's preferred spinner in Super 8 stage: Chawla



Piyush Chawla feels that left-arm unorthodox spinner Kuldeep Yadav will be India's preferred specialist spinner when the Indian team competes in the Super Eight stage. Chawla said while the conditions in New York did not support spin bowling, the Indian spinners will now come into play in the tournament.

INNINGS ENDS

Nassau County International Stadium set for demolition



The Nassau County cricket ground, which was built specifically for the T20 World Cup, is all set to be demolished after the New York leg of the event came to an end. "After the last match is held at East Meadow on June 12, the stadium will be dismantled but with a world-class cricket pitch left behind," according to a report.

WI rallies around Rutherford, **Motie to secure Super 8 berth**

The southpaw's late assault, after Powell's men were in trouble throughout their innings, lifts the side to a competitive total; the left-arm spinner, along with Joseph (four-for), extinguishes the Kiwi challenge to the delight of the faithful fans

T20 WORLD CUP

Ayan Acharya TAROUBA (TRINIDAD)

alypso singer David Rudder performed "Rally 'Round the West Indies" live at the Brian Lara Stadium in Tarouba, its rousing lyrics and tropical melody providing an uplifting backdrop as Rovman Powell's men sailed into the Super Eight of this year's T20 World Cup with a comefrom-behind 13-run win against New Zealand, whose hopes now hang by a thread.

Adversity is known to test character, provoking reactions ranging from panic to composure.

Choke-hold

In its 150-run chase on Wednesday night, the New Zealand batting order appeared skittish as West Indies spinners, especially left-arm orthodox Gudakesh Motie, applied a brilliant choke-hold on a two-



Game-changer: Rutherford's knock gave the impetus that set up his side's incredible win. GETTY IMAGES

use of spinners during the slower balls and cutters, dew-affected middle ovinitially paid off. Andre Russell attempters, played a crucial role. This strategy exploited faed to shift the momentum vourable match-ups and with Rutherford but was deceived by a slower Trent mitigated the impact of the

Rutherford.

The left-hander capitalised, hitting with the wind and exploiting the shorter boundary to his leg side.

Crucial partnership

TODAY'S MATCHES

I am very confident about my batting, reveals Arshdeep

Adding another string: Arshdeep, who had a great outing with the ball against USA, is keen to contribute with the willow. K.R. DEEPAK

Ashwin Achal NEW YORK

Arshdeep Singh's four for nine against USA on Wednesday gave him the best ever bowling figures by an Indian in an ICC Men's T20 World Cup match. The previous best was R. Ashwin's four for 11 versus Australia in the 2014 ICC World Twenty20. Arshdeep enjoyed the (Jasprit Bumrah) bhai was success, especially since supposed to go before me, his family was at the but I just went in to bat afground. "It feels good ter asking (captain) Rohit when you perform well for (Sharma). They were surthe team. I'm very happy prised, but now I told them my family was here, and that I will go up the order they were really happy regardless of whatever you say. I will go at nine bewith my performance as well," the left-arm speedcause I faced the quickest ster said in the post-match bowlers in the Pakistan press conference game. I am very confident on about my batting," Arsh-Wednesday. Arshdeep also fancies deep said.

been promoted ahead of Jasprit Bumrah in the Pakistan match on Sunday. "You never know when the team needs those runs. It can be two runs, four runs, anything. I am trying to work as hard as possible with (batting coach) Vikram (Rathour) bhai regard-

himself as a batter, having

Heavy rain puts India's last group match against Canada in doubt

19

Sports Bureau NEW YORK

Heavy rain in Lauderhill has put India's last Group 'A' ICC Men's T20 World Cup match against Canada in doubt.

A flash flood warning was issued for the area, which is scheduled to host the game on Saturday.

A No Result will not impact India, which has already sealed a Super 8 berth.

But for Pakistan, the stakes are high. If the USA-Ireland outing at Lauderhill on Friday is called off, USA will progress from Group-A and Pakistan will exit the tournament.

The Sri Lanka-Nepal game at Lauderhill on Tuesday was called off due to heavy rain. This has put Sri Lanka on the brink of elimination.

Several flights in and out of Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (primary airport for Lauderhill) were cancelled.

Bangladesh

paced pitch.

Motie's three for 25, coupled with Alzarri Joseph's four-for and Sherfane Rutherford's unbea-39-ball 68. ten extinguished the Kiwi challenge.

Allen, Phillips shine

Finn Allen and Glenn Phillips were the only New Zealand batters to show resistance.

Powell's smart bowling changes, particularly his wet ball.

Tricky pitch

After New Zealand chose to bowl, the home fans watched West Indies' firstever men's World Cup three sixes off Daryl Mitchmatch at the Brian Lara ell in the 19th over, proved Stadium unfold on a tricky crucial. pitch. West Indies lost four for 10 to be 30 for five in

the seventh over. Kane Williamson's decision to delay introducing

I had to wait for the right

ball to hit, says Dube

spin until the ninth over, using Jimmy Neesham's

Boult delivery. New Zealand's fielding, previously shaky against Afghanistan, was sharp until Rutherford's late assault, which included

Gamble fails

Williamson gambled by having Mitchell bowl the penultimate over, leaving left-armer Mitchell Santner for the final over against

West Indies 149/9 in 20 overs (Rutherford 68 n.o., Boult 3/16, Southee 2/21, Ferguson 2/27) bt New Zealand 136/9 in 20 overs (Allen 26, Phillips 40, Joseph 4/19, Motie 3/25). Toss: New Zealand. PoM: Rutherford.

head.

The scores:

Afghanistan Papua New Guinea His 37-run last-wicket Tarouba, 6 a.m. stand with Motie pro-HEAD-TO-HEAD T20Is

pelled the Windies to 58 Played: 1 runs in the last five overs, Afghanistan | Papua New Guinea turning the match on its

> vs USA Ireland Florida, 8 p.m. HEAD-TO-HEAD T20Is Played: 2 USA 🚺 | Ireland 🚺

ing my batting," he said. "In the last game, Jassi

inches closer to a spot in the Super 8



Shakib. A

Press Trust of India KINGSTOWN

Bangladesh defeated Neth-

Ashwin Achal NEW YORK

For the first 25 balls of his stint against USA here on Wednesday, Shivam Dube looked completely at sea. He barely made good con-

tact, and ate up dot balls. There were fears that Dube's struggles would cost India the Group-A ICC Men's T20 World Cup match.

All through this tense time, Dube remained confident. The required rate was manageable, so it was a matter of getting one big hit.

Release shot

The release shot finally came in the 15th over bowled by Corey Anderson. Dube sat back, picked the length, and swatted the speedster way into the stands.

With the pressure finally off, Dube and Suryakumar

YK (



Hard grind: Dube said the New York pitch wasn't as easy to bat on as it seemed to be. K.R. DEEPAK

and staying low. I don't

think any T20 World Cup

"From the same spot, one

ball came on fast and

another one stuck to the

surface. It was very diffi-

cult to gauge," said Dube

after taking India home.

has seen a pitch like this.

Difficult to gauge

Yadav went on to make easy work of the target.

"I had to wait for the right ball. It was not easy to come in and start hitting. The plan was to take the game deep," Dube said. The pitch made it diffi-

cult to line up the power blows, Dube added. "The ball was sticking

Ashwin Achal

NEW YORK

Saurabh Netravalkar is the ideal candidate for an Instagram reel with uplifting background music and a motivational 'Never give up on your dreams' storyline.

Once a promising India under-19 and Mumbai cricketer, Netravalkar said goodbye to his cricket ambitions and moved to the USA to pursue a masters degree.

On Wednesday, turning out for USA, the left-arm pacer nicked off superstar Virat Kohli for a golden duck. In his next over, he took out India captain Rohit Sharma. All this is a World Cup encounter in

the Big Apple. The 32-year-old is an inspiration for the common man with big aspirations. "If you love doing something, plant the seed and wa-



If you love doing something, plant

the seed and water it: Netravalkar

Incredible journey: Netravalkar has proved to be an inspiration for the common man with big aspirations. K.R. DEEPAK

ter it. It might bloom late, but if you are on the right track, it will happen. True hard work never goes to waste," Netravalkar said.

Netravalkar understandably finds it tough to describe his incredible journey. "My journey is one of ups and downs. I had to take a practical call at the time to move out of India. I could not make it big in In-

dian cricket, simply because of all the competition there. I got a good scholarship offer at a top university here (Cornell University), so I moved. I'm glad that God gave me another chance to play cricket again," Netravalkar said on Wednesday.

Netravalkar also holds a steady job at Oracle, which has made him a cult hero

•••

erlands by 25 runs in their in the corporate world. "I T20 World Cup match here love my job at Oracle, and I love to enter the cricket field and bowl. I am blessed that I get to do what I love. Everyone at Oracle have been very supportive. There has been an outpouring of love from my colleagues. I wish I could thank everyone in person," the soft-spoken

pacer said. After the match, Netravalkar spent time chatting with his old mates Rohit and Suryakumar Yadav. "Surya and I reminisced about old times. We played together in age-group cricket. We carried off from where we left with jokes from those times. I also spoke to Rohit. He is my senior. I have played with him in Mumbai, and bowled to him at nets. I have not played with Virat, but he acknowledged the USA team for our performance," said Netravalkar.

on Thursday. This was Bangladesh's second win in the tournament. Bangladesh posted 159 for five, thanks to Shakib Al Hasan, who remained unbeaten on 64 not out off 46 balls. Off-spinner Aryan Dutt (two for 17) was the pick of the bowlers for the

Dutch. Netherlands kept itself in the hunt for a major part of the chase before losing its way and finishing at 134 for eight. Leg-spinner Rishad Hossan, with three wickets, was Bangladesh's best bowler.

Bangladesh's second victory in three games took it a step closer to a spot in the Super 8.

The scores: Bangladesh 159/5 in 20 overs (Shakib 64 n.o., van Meekeren 2/15, Aryan 2/17) bt Netherlands 134/8 in 20 overs (Engelbrecht 33, Vikramjit 26, Edwards 25, Taskin 2/30, Rishad 3/33); PoM: Shakib

THE HINDU

Sport



SA-President's XI women's warm-up match abandoned

South Africa's warm-up match against Board President's XI women at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Thursday was abandoned because of rain. Only 14 overs of play was possible and Board President's XI, which won the toss, had reached 71 for one with Shweta Sehrawat (24 n.o., 33b, 4x4) and Shubha Satheesh (18 n.o., 20b, 2x4) batting. India takes on South Africa in the first ODI here on Sunday.

Nadal to skip Wimbledon to prepare for Olympics

Rafa Nadal will skip Wimbledon in July in order to prepare for the Paris Olympic Games which will be played on the clay courts at Roland Garros, the Spaniard said on Thursday.



Rohan Bopanna, Sriram Balaji get the nod for Olympics

The All India Tennis Association (AITA) announced the "qualification" of Rohan Bopanna, in pic., and Sriram Balaji for the doubles event of the Paris Olympics. In a release on Thursday, AITA secretary-general Anil Dhupar stated that coach M. Balachandran and physio Rebecca Van Orshagen would be the support cast for the Indian pair. There was considerable suspense about Bopanna's doubles partner, as he had qualified straight as a top-10 doubles player with his World rank of No. 4.

India men to take on Pakistan in the quarterfinals

India blanked Chinese Taipei 3-0 in the women's section of the 22nd Asian team squash at Dalian (China) on Thursday. India will meet Republic of Korea on Friday in its last Pool-A match. If it wins, it will enter the semifinals. In the men's section, India defeated Mongolia 3-0 to finish second in Pool-D behind Japan and will meet Pakistan, also on Friday, in the quarterfinals.

Can Germany stand its ground or will Scotland spring a surprise on the host?

After a disappointing round-of-16 loss to England in Euro 2020, Nagelsmann's men will look to alter the script by going the distance on home soil



Associated Press MUNICH

he sound of bagpipes, and men in kilts on the streets of Munich – Scotland is in town and the excitement is ramping up ahead of the European Championship curtain-raiser between Germany and Scotland on Friday.

Expectations

Germany's lacklustre form at recent major tournaments has forced fans to readjust expectations.

"We are not here just to say hello but we still have to be humble," Germany defender Antonio Rudiger said.

"It's been up and down While the Germans are

for us all the way here and bemused by their raucous Scottish that's why we have to be counterparts, there should still be plenty humble. The first match is very important and then more to witness on matchwe'll see what happens day.

Welcome! The mascot Albart the bear with the Henri Delaunay Cup and official match ball. REUTERS

Anticipation

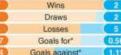
"First and foremost, there's a lot of anticipation because it's a huge event," Germany coach Julian Na-

gelsmann said. "It's probably not just Europe, but the whole world that will be watching how the Euros will go ... we're really looking forward to it."

Germany went out at the group stage of both previous World Cups and was eliminated by England in the round of 16 at Euro

UEFA Euro 2024 Germany v Scotland Group A, June 14





© GRAPHIC NEWS

playing

match.

2021. "It's going to be an amazing experience ... bements.' ing part of that kind of opening ceremony," Scotland forward Ryan Christie said when asked about the opening

Having failed to reach the Euros from 2000-16, Scotland has qualified for

Ankita exits in the pre-quarterfinals

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Ankita Raina was beaten 6-1, 6-4 by Mariam Bolkvadze of Georgia in the pre-quarterfinals of the \$60,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Guinaraes, Portugal, on Thursday.

In the €148,625 Challenger in Perugia, Italy, Sriram Balaji and Andre Begelann saned into the dou bles quarterfinals.

\$15,000 ITF men, Koszalin, **Poland: Singles** (pre-quarterfinals): Pawel

during the rest of the tour-

nament." A good first

match and group stage

would set off a new wave of

excitement in Germany.

Juszczak (Pol) bt Manas Dhamne 7-6(5), 3-6, 6-4. \$15,000 ITF men, Hong Kong: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): S.D. Prajwal Dev bt Daisuke Sumizawa (Jpn) 6-3, 6-4. **Doubles (quarterfinals):** Prajwal Dev & Adil Kalyanpur bt Daniil Golubev & Evgenii Tiurnev

6-1, 6-4 Ajeet Rai (Nzl) & Rishi Reddy bt Ryotaro Taguchi & Ryoto Tanuma 6-1, 6-7(6), [11-9].

\$15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Singles

(pre-quarterfinals): Manish

Sureshkumar bt Amr Elsayed

First round: Manish bt Paul

Guimaraes, Portugal: Singles

Bolkvadze (Geo) bt Ankita Raina

(pre-quarterfinals): Mariam

\$15,000 ITF women, Santo

\$15,000 ITF women, San

(pre-quarterfinals): Anna

Diego, USA: Doubles

Republic: Singles (first round):

Christasha McNeil bt Saumya Vig

Domingo, Dominican

(Bra) bt Abhinav Sanjeev

Shanmugam 7-6(2), 6-3.

\$60,000 ITF women,

(Egy) 6-2, 6-2.

6-1.6-4.

6-1, 6-1.

Unbeaten Divya and Nogerbek crowned the champions

WORLD JUNIOR CHESS

P.K. Ajith Kumar GANDHINAGAR

Divya Deshmukh added another significant title to her already impressive collection on Thursday. The 18-year-old from Nagpur won the World junior girls' chess championship after beating Bulgaria's Beloslava Krasteva in the final round at the Gift City Club. Top-seeded Divya fin-



Best on show: Nogerbek and Divya sealed the World titles on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

back-to-back tournaments and the next aim is to reach the knockout stage for the first time.

"That's the dream," Christie said. "To everyone around Scotland, it would mean the world, a massive kind of footballing country. If we come out of the group stages, that's the furthest Scotland will have ever been in a major tournament.

"So, you know, it puts us down in history as the most successful Scottish team ever, and that's the kind of motivation right

"We've got a huge belief in ourselves, with this squad of players, that we can really do a lot of damage to other teams and hopefully do well when we go to these big tourna-

Scotland showed during the qualifying campaign it can surprise, in beating Spain and Norway.

Germany will be more motivated than ever to win the trophy on its own turf. Match kicks off at 12.30 a.m. IST (Saturday).

there.



The results: Men: India bt Mongolia 3-0 (Suraj Kumar Chand bt Yesun Otgonchimeg 11-3, 11-5, 11-1; Om Semwal bt Brian Bayarmaa 11-2, 11-3, 11-2; Rahul Baitha bt Amartuvshin Mandakhbayar 11-4, 11-5, 11-8). Women: India bt Chinese Taipei 3-0 (R. Pooja Arthi bt Wu Yi Chun 11-4, 11-1, 11-3; Sunita Patel bt Wang Yuan 11-6, 11-8, 11-9; Rathika Suthanthira Seelan bt Lee Yi Hsuan 11-7, 11-6, 11-5).

Nainika downs Divya in the quarterfinals

Second seed Nainika Reddy defeated Divya Ungrish 6-3, 7-6(2) in the under-18 girls' quarterfinals of the AITA National series junior tennis tournament in Chandigarh on Thursday. In the boys section, Aditya Mor beat third seed Akshat Dhull 6-2, 6-3.

The results (quarterfinals): Boys: Shanker Heisnam bt Dhruv Ghanghas 6-2, 7-5; Aditya Mor bt Aksht Dhull 6-2, 6-3; Aryan Chauhan bt Ojas Mehlawat 6-2, 4-6, 6-3; Aashravya Mehra bt Aarav Chawla 6-4, 6-3.

Girls: Shagun Kumari bt Devanshi Gohil 6-3, 6-3; Ananya Jain bt Snigdha Pattbandia 6-3, 6-2; Mahika Khanna bt Anandita Upadhyay 6-1, 6-2; Nainika Reddy bt Divya Ungrish 6-3, 7-6(2).



Celtics hold off desperate Mavericks, go 3-0 in Finals

YK (

Boston Celtics, fueled by the star duo of Jayson Tatum (31 points) and Jaylen Brown (30) held off a furious Dallas rally to beat the host Mavericks 106-99 on Wednesday and take a 3-0 stranglehold on the NBA finals. Mavericks will try to claw back a game when they host game four on Friday.

The results:

€148,625 Challenger, Nottingham: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Rithvik Bollipalli & Niki Poonacha bt Jacob Fearnley & Cameron Norrie

(GBr) 7-6(1), 6-4. Charles Broom & Ben Jones (GBR) bt Jeevan Nedunchezhivan

& Vijay Sundar Prashanth 3-6, 6-3, [10-7]. €148,625 Challenger, Perugia,

Italy: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Sriram Balaji & Andre Begemann (Ger) bt

Jesper De Jong & Ryan Nijboer (Ned) 7-6(5), 6-3. \$25,000 ITF men, Wichita,

USA: Singles (first round):

Campana & Carolyn Campana Quinn Vandecasteele (uSA) bt (USA) bt Teja Tirunelveli & Brandy Ramkumar Ramanathan 7-5, 6-1. Walker (USA) 6-4, 4-6, [10-7].

NEW DELHI ROUND-UP

Century by Keshav

Keshav Singh top-scored with 108 and Vaibhav Kandpal made 74 as Madras Club beat Maulana Azad Club by 53 runs in the DDCA T20 League. The scores: Madras Club 229/4 in 20 overs (Keshav Singh 108, Vaibhav Kandpal 74) bt Maulana Azad Club 176 in 20 overs (Yash Tandon 38, Kartik Pawar 3/29). Young Friends 176/7 in 20 overs (Akshay Saini 65) lost to Sporting Club 179/8 in 19 overs (Lalit Yadav 56. Vision Panchal 35. Kaushal 3/25)

TEDCO 126 in 19 overs (Uzair Akhtar 60, Harshit Sehrawat 5/17) lost to Roop Nagar Gymkhana 127/3 in 10 overs (Madhur 62. Dweep 40); Delhi Police 199/8 in 20 overs (Manjeet 126) bt Sonnet Club 174/9 in 20 overs (Aryan Dalal 66, Sagar Tanwar 54, Vinit 3/33). DDA 148/6 in 20 overs lost to Gemini Club 152/2 in 13 overs (Ashutosh Aggarwal 60, Akshay Kumar 37). MCD 132 in 18 overs (Kapil Kohli 41, Ashwani Hooda 6/29) lost to Darling 138/7 in 14 overs.

Easy wins for TSA, RRG Purva Siwach scored a crucial half-century and claimed three wickets as Talent Sports Academy (TSA) beat Vijay Yadav Academy (VYA) by 197 runs in the all-India Shanti Devi women's cricket

tournament. In another match, Rohtak Road Gymkhana (RRG) defeated The Aryavrat School by 84 runs.

The scores: TSA 250/9 in 40 overs (Saachi Grover 72, Purva Siwach 54, Falak Dagar 3/23) bt VYA 53 in 23 overs (Purva Siwach 3/13); RRG 221/4 in 35 overs (Nidhi Mehto 47, Shweta Singh 46, Avleen Kaur 45) bt Aryavrat School 137 in 32 overs (Tanika Sharma 57).

Mohit scalps six

Man-of-the-match Mohit returned figures of six for 25 as Delhi Cricket Hub (DCH) beat Harsha Sports by nine wickets in the fourth Harcourt Butler

ished with 10 points, out of a possible 11, as she remained unbeaten, winning Ender (Aut) 6-1, 6-2; Paulo Santos nine games and drawing two.

The Open title was claimed by Kazakhstan's Kazybek Nogerbek, whose win in the last round against the sole overnight leader Mamikon Gharibyan of Armenia took him to 8.5 points. Armenia's Emin Oha-

nyan had already scored 8.5 points, thanks to his victory against Daniel Quizon of the Philippines. A better tie-break score gave the title to Nogerbek, seed-

nav Anand, who began as the third seed, was the best-placed Indian at 10th.

ed ninth.

In the girls' section, Mariam Mkrtchyan took the runner-up spot after finishing half-a-point behind Divya. Azerbaijan's Ayan Allahverdiyeva was third.

Important results (final round): Open: Kazybek Nogerbek (Kaz) 8.5 bt Mamikon Gharibyan (Arm) 8: Emin Ohanyan (Arm) 8.5 bt Daniel Quizon (Phi) 7.5; Luka Budisavljevic (Srb) 8 drew with

Jose Gabriel Cardoso (Col) 8; Anuj Shrivatri 7 drew with Rudik Luka Budisavljevic of Makarian (FIDE) 7.5; Shawn Serbia finished third. Pra-Rodrigue-Lemmieux (Can) 7.5 drew with Aditya Samant 7.5; Tobias Koelle (Ger) 8 bt Baris Ozenir (Tur) 7: Aleksandr Domalchukk-Jonasson (Isl) 6.5 lost to Aleksey Grebnev (FIDE) 7.5; Pranav Anand 7.5 bt Arsen Davtyan (Arm) 6.5; L. Srihari .5 lost to Santiago Avila (Col) 7.5; L.R. Shrihari 7 drew with Pham Tran Gia Phuc (Vie) 7. Girls: Divya Deshmukh 10 bt

Jain 7 lost to Shubhi Gupra 8;

Beloslava Krasteva (Bul) 7; Mariam Mkrtchyan (Arm) 9.5 bt Rakshitta Ravi 7.5: Ksenia Norman (FIDE) 7 lost to Ayan Allahverdiyeva (Aze) 8.5; Sachi

Mrudul Dehankar 7.5 bt Martyna Wikar (Pol) 7; Ayalum Kaladorva (Kaz) 7 drew with Xeniya Balabayeva (Kaz) 7; G. Tejaswini 7 drew with Sofia Hryzlova (Sui) 7; Bristy Mukherjee Anna Zhurova (FIDE): V. Rindhiva 7.5 bt Oshini Gunawardhana (SL) 6.5; Eszter Sulyok (Hun) 6 lost to Narmin Abdinova (Aze) 7.5.

The standings: Open:1-2.

Nogerbek and Ohanyan 8.5; 3-5. Budisavljevic, Gharibyan and Koelle 8; 4-10. Grebnev, Cardaso, Makarian, Quizon and Pranav 7.5.

Girls: 1. Divya 10; 2. Mkrtchyan 9.5: 3. Allahverdiveva 8.5: 4 Shubhi 8; 5-8. Rakshitta. Abdinova, Rindhiya and Mrudul 7.5; 9-10. Hryzlova and Kseniya 7.

Prannoy and Sameer enter quarterfinals

Press Trust of India

H.S. Prannoy and Sameer Verma progressed to the men's singles quarterfinals of the Australian Open badminton tournament with contrasting victories here on Thursday.

The results: Men: H.S. Prannoy 21-15: Sameer Verma bt Loh Kean Yew (Sgp) 21-14, 14-21, 21-19; Kenta Nishimoto (Jpn) bt Kiran George Kashyap bt Kai Qi Bernice Teoh (Aus) 21-16, 21-13; Putri Kusuma Nurumi Tri Wardoyo (Ina) bt Malvika Bansod 21-17, 23-21. Doubles: Pei Jing Lai & Chiew Sien Lim (Mas) bt Rutaparna & Swetaparna Panda 21-5, 21-9. Mixed doubles: B. Sumeeth Reddy & N. Sikki Reddy bt Kai Chen Teoh & Kai Qi Bernice Teoh (Aus) 21-11 21-11.

Wimbledon to offer record prize money of £50 million Wimbledon will have a record £50 million prize money pot this year with the singles champions taking home £2.7 million each. The total prize money is £5.3 million more than offered at last year's tournament.

SNAPSHOTS

Bhowneesh finishes fourth Bhowneesh Mendiratta finished fourth in the men's trap final in the shotgun World Cup in Lonato, Italy, on Thursday. Bhowneesh bowed out with a 29 after the first 35 shots of the 50-shot six-man final. Great Britain's Matthew John

Coward-Holley won with a score of 47, ahead of Italy's Daniele Resca (46), and China's Haicheng Yu (34). Historic win for Shruti Shruti Vora became the first Indian rider to win a three-star Grand Prix event, the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI) said on Thursday. Shruti scored 67.761 points in the CDI-3 event in Lipica, Slovenia, from June 7-9. She finished ahead of Moldova's Tatiana Antonenco (Aachen), who scored 66.522. In the Grad Prix Special, Shruti finished second behind Antonenco-Aachen combo with 66.085.

LIVE TELECAST

T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1, 2, 3 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m., 5 a.m., 6 a.m. (Saturday)

Football: Euro 2024, Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)



6/25) lost to DCH 113/1 in 11 overs (Noor Mohammad 56 n.o.).

Deepanshu shines

cricket tournament.

Deepanshu top-scored with 84 as Shree Sai Academy (SSA) beat LB Shastri Coaching Center (LBSCC) by six wickets in the fourth Friendship Cup cricket tournament. The scores: LBSCC 230/8 in 40 overs (Lakshay Sekhri 98) lost to

SSA 231/4 in 24 overs (Deepanshu 84, Aaryan Sharma 42).

Anurag smashes ton

Anurag Yadav's 101-ball 123 and Adarsh Kumar's 61 saw West Delhi Academy (WDA) downed SMC Academy by 152 runs in the fifth Srimati Vidya Devi memorial tournament. The scores: WDA 377 in 49 overs (Anurag Yadav 123, Adarsh Kumar 61, Anshu Sonkar 3/53) bt SMCA 225 in 43 overs (Priyansh 82, Yash 3/35).

The scores: Harsha Sports 112 in 33 overs (Yug Sharma 38, Mohit SYDNEY

bt Misha Zilberman (Isr) 21-17, 22-20, 21-6. Women: Aakarshi Wardani (Ina) bt Anupama Upadhyaya 21-11, 21-18; Ester

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Sport

Till death do us part: how Uganda's undying love for cricket prevailed

In a sport where teams are valued in billions of dollars, Uganda did the unthinkable without proper infrastructure, equipment, finances, and a whole lot of other things; with sincere preparation, utmost passion, and love for the game, The Cranes captured the hearts of the world with their first-ever victory



Tarun Shastry CHENNAI



midst the vibrant landscapes and rich cultural tapestry of East Africa, a captivating story of resilience, hope, and

tenacity unfolds. et team's remarkabl The Uganda crid

distant, was always achievable. The underdog status only fueled its grit and determination. The journey that spanned over a decade and finally reached its pinnacle in 2023, when it defied the odds and qualified for the T20 World Cup for the first time. The 2024 T20 World Cup qualification

enario was simple. Africa was allotted

rightfully earning its place in the T20 World Cup and the history books.

Credit has to be given to Lawrence Mahatlane, the former coach of the Uganda cricket team, who made the biggest difference. After he took over in 2020, Uganda won more T20 matches than any other nation en route to its World cup qualification Although its opponents may not have been top-tier, the team's commitment to playing as many matches as possible boosted its confidence greatly. Over the last four years, Uganda competed in 89 T20Is, winning a staggering 67 games. Uganda's captain, Brian Masaba, recently gave an insight into the team's pathway to the World Cup. "During the Covid outbreak, Lawrence Mahatlane became our coach. He drew a roadmap for us that ended with us playing at the 2024 T20 World Cup. He presented it to the board and the players, and we bought into it," said Masaba. "After that, it was just about being very sincere about everything we did, the number of games we played, our practice sessions, and all conversations were about having a chance of featuring at the T20 World Cup."

The skipper was also full of praise for his cricket board, saying, "It's been a massive effort not just from the playing group but also from the board back home. They were very intentional about where they wanted the team to go in the lead-up to the World Cup qualifier that got us here.

THE GIST

The Uganda cricket team's journey to the T20 World Cup is a testament to the power of perseverance, passion, and belief. It's story is a po message of hope and inspiration even in the most adverse of situations.

journey to the 2024 T20 World Cup is a story of triumph over adversity and poverty, one that defies all odds and transcends the boundaries of sport.

Despite facing challenges such as limited facilities, equipment, and support, a determined group of players and administrators persevered, keeping the sport alive in the country.

It was their unwavering dedication and passion for the game that allowed them to overcome these obstacles and establish a cricketing presence in the nation.

For Uganda, 1998 was a landmark year. It achieved a significant milestone by obtaining Associate Membership status in the International Cricket Council (ICC).

This opened the doors for the Uganda Cricket Association (UCA) to embark on a journey of grassroots development, focusing on nurturing and cultivating a new generation of talented cricketers with aspirations of representing their country on the international stage.

Uganda achieved a landmark victory over 2003 World Cup semi-finalists Kenya in a preparatory tournament for the inaugural T20 World Cup in 2007, which was held in South Africa.

This victory not only boosted the morale in Kampala but also ignited interest and enthusiasm for cricket in the country.

More people began showing interest in the national team and its development. This victory was especially important for a nation that is traditionally obsessed with football.

It led to a surge of interest in cricket, with many young people enthusiastically participating in cricket association-organised 'nets' and 'camps.' This newfound interest in the sport boded well for the future of cricket in Uganda, considering the country's political turmoil.

Dark horses

The audacious quest to compete in a major ICC tournament, pitting itself against the giants of the cricketing world, has been the team's singular focus since the early 2010's.

With each step of its journey, Uganda faced new challenges and overcame them with their unwavering determination. The Ugandan dream, though seemingly

two slots, and the teams in contention for the slots included Zimbabwe and Namibia. Both had prior experience in the T20 World Cup and were considered strong contenders.

However, the Cricket Cranes did the unexpected when they stunned Zimbabwe with a five-wicket victory in the ICC African Qualifiers and won four of the next five matches. Its only defeat was at the hands of Namibia.

This turn of events made the qualification pathway increasingly challenging for the struggling Zimbabwean side as it suffered another loss to Namibia, and pinned its hopes on Uganda losing atleast one of the remaining two games against Kenya and Rwanda.

However, the team's determination and resilience led them to victory,

Planning and execution

"So, it was about planning and executing a dream, and everyone was pulling in the same direction. So, we played a lot of games during that period, which allowed us to become consistent.

"But the administration back home played a huge part in terms of getting us those games, but also contracting a larger group of players that allowed us to play together as a unit for longer."

When there is veracity in preparation, the results follow. History was created as a nation's collective dream became a reality on June 5 at Providence Stadium in Guvana when Uganda beat fellow debutants Papua New Guinea in a low-scoring match for its first-ever victory at a major ICC event.

In a world where cricket teams and tournaments are valued in billions of dollars, this team did the unthinkable without proper infrastructure, equipment, finances, and a whole lot of other things. With sincere preparation, utmost passion, and love for the game, they captured the hearts of the world with their first-ever victory.

After the historic win, the Ugandan skipper said, "It's a question of opportunities and interest because if there's interest in the game in the country, then it can spread a bit further, and you can attract more resources to developing the infrastructure, which allows you to develop more players."

"So, getting a win at the World Cup means there's interest in the game in the country, which means we can ask for a little help from the private sector or the government in terms of infrastructure, which helps the development of the game," Masaba said.

The Uganda cricket team's journey to the T20 World Cup is a testament to the power of perseverance, passion, and belief. It's story is a powerful message of hope and inspiration even in the most adverse of situations.

As Uganda prepares to take on the world's best, the team carries with it the dreams of a nation and the proof that no dream is too big to achieve.

In the grand narrative of cricket, Uganda's journey will stand the test of time as an example of what can be achieved when a team and a nation refuse to give up.

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The skipper was also full of praise for his cricket board. saying, "It's been a massive effort not just from the playing group but also from the board back home."



On a high: Waiswa celebrates Uganda's maiden win in the World Cup. ICC

THE HINDU

SCIENCE

Rapid, diagnostic test from India may help stem super bug crisis

The Longitude Prize-winning device offers an affordable, quick, point-of-care test for urinary tract infections, which promises to revolutionise infection management and global efforts to tackle antimicrobial resistance

Abdul Ghafur

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his week, a prize was announced that is likely to have far-reaching implications in the world of health care. Despite its importance, most of the community is unaware of the event. The winner of the Longitude Prize is poised to spearhead a revolution in the field of infection management and global efforts to tackle antimicrobial resistance. The £8 million

(₹ 85 crore) Longitude Prize on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), first announced in 2014, revealed its winner at an event in London's Science Museum. The PA-100 AST System from Sysmex Astrego is a high-tech, transformative, rapid, point-of-care test for UTIs (Urinary Tract Infection).

Rational use of antibiotics - choosing the appropriate antibiotic for the correct patient at the optimal time – is fundamental to saving lives and combating the superbug crisis. Rapid diagnostics are poised to be crucial in this effort. The winner of the Longitude Prize is set to spearhead the list of emerging rapid diagnostic technologies in a transformative manner. The applications for the Longitude Prize bring hope, suggesting that through collective action, we can look forward to a future protected from the threats of antimicrobial resistance.

The crisis is imminent: Antibiotic-resistant infections killed nearly 1.3 million people globally in 2019 and are on course to cause 10 million deaths a year by 2050, outstripping cancer. The global economy may lose \$ 4 trillion by 2030 and up to \$100 trillion by 2050 due to the AMR crisis.

What does the prize mean?

Most advanced tests in medical practice today are PCR-based, but the PA-100 AST System from Sysmex Astrego has developed a transformative technology based on a phenotypic test. This test identifies the bacteria causing the urinary tract infection and performs antibiotic susceptibility testing (AST) to determine the effective antibiotic for the specific patient in under 45 minutes.

The test uses a single-use cartridge, the size of a smart phone. Less than half a millilitre of the urine is added to this cartridge. Bacteria in the urine are trapped in over 10,000 microfluidic traps in parallel arrays and exposed to five



The dipstick test has an accuracy of 50-60%. Even if the doctor carries out a dipstick test, it doesn't help the doctor choose the right antibiotic. GETTY IMAGES

into use for the majority of patients. Accurate, rapid diagnosis of bacterial infections that helps doctors and health workers manage and target antibiotics, will slow the development and spread of antibiotic resistant infections, improve healthcare and potentially save millions of lives

The test represents a huge advance over the current turnaround time of 2-3 days. The test will help doctors prescribe the right antibiotic at the right time, rather than waiting for 3 days and resorting to an empirical antibiotic prescription. The test can be performed in a doctor's clinic rather than sending the urine sample to a laboratory. When a patient with symptoms of a urinary infection visits a doctor, if the new technology is used , the doctor will know within 45 minutes ,whether the patient has urinary infection or not and if there is an infection for which antibiotics will work. The test is transformative, accurate, and affordable for patients worldwide.

Currently, there are two types of tests available to diagnose urinary infections.

The first one is the urine dipstick test that can be done as a point-of-care test. Point-of-care diagnostic tests are tests that can be performed in the clinic, emergency departments, hospital wards, or pharmacy counters, without the need to send the sample to a laboratory. The advantage of the dipstick is that results are available in a couple of minutes, which helps doctors decide whether t start antibiotics or not. Unfortunately, accuracy is not more than 50-60%. Even if the doctor carries out a dipstick despite its limitations, the test doesn't help the doctor choose the right antibiotic. For this, the urine sample must be sent to the laboratory for culture. The culture results take a minimum of 2-3 days. But the doctor cannot wait 2-3 days to start an antibiotic. So, even if the doctor sends a urine sample for culture, they still have to start an antibiotic empirically, based on



The PA-100 AST System identifies the bacteria causing the infection and performs antibiotic susceptibility testing to determine an effective antibiotic in under 45 minutes

educated guesswork, before the culture results are ready. By this time, the patient has already completed a full or half course of antibiotics. Such blind antibiotic prescriptions are a major cause of the antibiotic resistance crisis, especially in countries like India. A transformative, rapid point-of-care diagnostic test that is accurate and affordable has the potential to revolutionise urinary tract infection treatment in India and worldwide. Currently urinary tract infection management in most cases is based on a 50/50 rationale. Only 50% of patients with symptoms of urinary infection have an actual infection, and the accuracy of a urine dipstick is 50-60%

In India, every year, millions of patients with urinary tract infections visit doctors or pharmacies seeking treatment. These infections result in significant loss of life, burden the healthcare system, and have a socio-economic impact.

In 20-30% of sepsis patients, the infections originates from the urinary tract. Up to two in five people who develop severe sensis will lose their live Hence, rapid and accurate point-of-care tests for urinary tract infection can save millions of lives worldwide, especially in India. The solution is a rapid, accurate, and affordable test that can help the doctor diagnose urinary infections accurately and provide information on the correct antibiotic that can cure the infection.

announced the Longitude Prize to solve the longitude problem, literally.

In the 18th century, thousands of ships were lost at sea because sailors couldn't determine the position of the ship at sea. If a ship doesn't know where it is, it risks being shipwrecked.

To determine the position of a ship, both latitude and longitude are needed. Latitude was easy to measure by observing the sun, moon, and stars, but longitude was a mystery.

The British government announced the Longitude Prize for an invention that helps calculate longitude. John Harrison, a watchmaker, invented an ingenious device that could calculate longitude perfectly and won the prize.

300 years after the first Longitude Prize, Britain launched a second Longitude Prize. The public was asked to vote for a major challenge that needed an immediate solution, such as global warming, food shortages, and water shortages. The public voted for Anti Microbial Resistance.

A £ 10 million Longitude Prize was announced in 2014. Of this, £ 2 million was awarded to various innovators to refine their technology. The final winner receives £ 8 million.

The Longitude Prize on AMR intends to incentivise the creation of new diagnostic tests that in a matter of minutes, can identify whether an infection is bacterial and, if so, the right antibiotic to prescribe to slow the spread of antibiotic resistant



Sriram Natarajan (fourth from left), founder and CEO, Molbio, was part of a panel at the WHA, discussing point-of care diagnostics in India, as per a press release. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

India-made **TB** diagnostics tech wins acclaim at World Health Assembly

The Hindu Bureau

The Truenat platform, a rapid molecular test for the diagnosis of pulmonary, extrapulmonary, and rifampicin-resistant tuberculosis, that was developed in India, has been hailed for its role in combating TB and as a possible component of global healthcare solutions at the recently held 77th World Health Assembly in Geneva.

Developed by Goa-based Molbio, a point-of-care molecular diagnostics company, Truenat was first launched in 2017 and is a real-time quantitative micro-PCR system. It is a portable, battery-operated machine that can be deployed at labs, health centres, and in the field. Truenat delivers results from samples in less than an hour and can test for over 40 diseases.

At the World Health Assembly (the decision-making body of the WHO), The Global Fund, which collaborates with the WHO to build stronger health systems across the globe, appreciated India's commitment to eliminating TB by creating mass awareness, and intensive monitoring programmes using digital technologies, a press release from Molbio said.

different antibiotics at five different concentrations. The cartridge is inserted into a reader instrument the size of a shoe box, where bacterial growth is monitored by phase-contrast imaging. The reader provides a report, "sensitive" or "resistant" for each antibiotic in 30-45 minutes. This supports doctors and health workers in their clinical decision making at the point of care, and opens up the significant possibility of previously "retired" first-line antibiotics coming back

What is the Longitude Prize? In 1714, the British government

infections.

The goal is to replace th2-3-day lab test process that doctors and patients must currently endure, and end "just in case" prescribing that is prevalent as a result, which promotes the development of antibiotic resistance.

(Dr. Abdul Ghafur, Consultant in Infectious Diseases, Apollo Hospitals, Chennai, and a member of the Longitude Prize jury from its inception. drghafur@hotmail.com)

The Global Fund noted that India's

Truenat was launched in 2017. It is a real-time quantitative micro-PCR system. The device is portable and battery-operated and can be deployed at labs, health centres, and in the field. Truenat delivers results in less than an hour and can test for over 40 diseases

innovative initiatives in the TB programme such as the use of Truenat machines and handheld X-ray devices, designed for challenging operational environments, could serve as models for global emulation.

Sriram Natarajan, CEO of Molbio, said recognition such as this was welcome, especially as Truenat has now entered global markets, with roughly 10,000 installations worldwide. "Countries that have begun to use Truenat have all reported significant improvements in case detection," he said.

Mr. Nararajan said TrueNat is used at over 7,000 primary health centres and community health centres under the National TB Elimination Programme and is also being used at roughly 1,500 private labs in the country.

At the Assembly, Union Health Secretary Apurva Chandra called upon The Global Fund to continue its support for the TB programme to strengthen the capacities of public health systems, according to a Press Information Bureau release.

Early diagnosis and treatment are crucial to combating TB, which kills an estimated 480,000 Indians every year, or over 1,400 patients every day. The WHO reports over 10 million new cases of TB every year, and India alone accounts for 27% of the global TB burden.



S ND-NDE

A comprehensive immunisation schedule for women is ready

The Hindu Bureau

The Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI) recently unveiled comprehensive immunisation schedule for women that provides a list of essential vaccines that adult women should receive, and the recommended frequency of each vaccine. Actor and women's health champion Kajal Aggarwal unveiled the immunisation schedule at an event in Mumbai recently.

The importance of immunisation and vaccine preventable diseases in women cannot be overstated. A recent report highlighted that women spend 25% more time in poor health compared to men. Vaccination can help change this and safeguard women from vaccine-preventable diseases, contributing to an improved quality of life. The report, jointly written by the World Economic Forum and consultant McKinsey, 'Closing the Women's Health Gap: A \$1 Trillion Opportunity to Improve Lives and Economies',

YK



of time in life to prevent or

protect against infectious

Women spend 25% more time in poor health compared to men. AP

showcases how the narrowing of the women's health gap would allow 3.9 billion women to live healthier, higher-quality lives.

Preventive health care

Jaydeep Tank, President of FOGSI said, "The launch of FOGSI's updated immunisation schedule for women represents a significant milestone in preventive health care for women. This resource will provide a clear actionable roadmap for both women and doctors, resulting in an increased awareness about diseases, Hrishikesh Pai, vaccination. Immunisation is critical in protecting women against vaccine-preventable diseases and thereby helping reduce its burden in India. I firmly believe that this schedule will make a substantial contribution to the overall health and well-being of women in India and benefit society as a whole." Explaining how vaccination is not merely for children and that it is recommended at different points

immediate past president of FOGSI and currently trustee (Asia-Oceania) at The International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics Trustee, added that adult vaccine coverage in India is almost negligible and this needed to change. "There is an urgent need to sensitise people and health care providers on adult vaccination as it can help save millions of lives in India. Initiatives like the revised immunisation schedule can go a long way in changing the situation and

protecting more people in future."

The tendency of women to play down their own health concerns is a factor that must be acknowledged and prepared for, when looking at adult vaccination. Actor Kajal Aggarwal said: "As a mother, my priority is to always be there for my children. And that can only happen when I prioritise my own health. Women should take proactive steps to protect themselves from preventable diseases like cervical cancer. But the challenge often lies in not knowing where to start. I urge all women, regardless of age or stage

in life, to take control of their health and consult their gynaecologist today to learn more about the right vaccines for them."

Vulnerable period

A vulnerable period for women is after child birth, when the woman's body changes. After birth a woman's immune and hormonal system undergo changes which increase the risk of infection. "For example, 31% of women are at a high-risk of an HPV infection after birth. Thus, vaccination plays a crucial role in a new mother's health. The immunisation schedule specifically highlights vaccinations that are of utmost importance to new mothers." explained Madhuri Patel, secretary general of FOGSI.

In this venture, FOGSI and MSD Pharma have collaborated to raise awareness about women's immunisation and help prevent vaccine-preventable diseases across India. Priya Ganeshkumar, Chairperson of the FOGSI oncology committee and Co-ordinator for FOGSI Mahila Kavach Kendra, pointed out how studies have shown that increasing physicians' knowledge and awareness on vaccines significantly improves vaccination rates. "FOGSI has therefore decided to provide their member gynaecologists the FOGSI Handbook on Prevention & Management of Cervical Cancer and has also recently launched FOGSI FOCUS PLUS on Adult Women Vaccination, which will build confidence amongst the gynaecologists to counsel their patients on the available vaccines."

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