



Hindustan Times

FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

NEW
LAUNCH

RC/REP/HARERA/GGM/821/553/2024/48 DATED: 29.04.2024
PROMOTER NAME: M/S Manglam Multiplex Pvt. Ltd.
www.haryanarera.gov.in | www.M3MIndia.com



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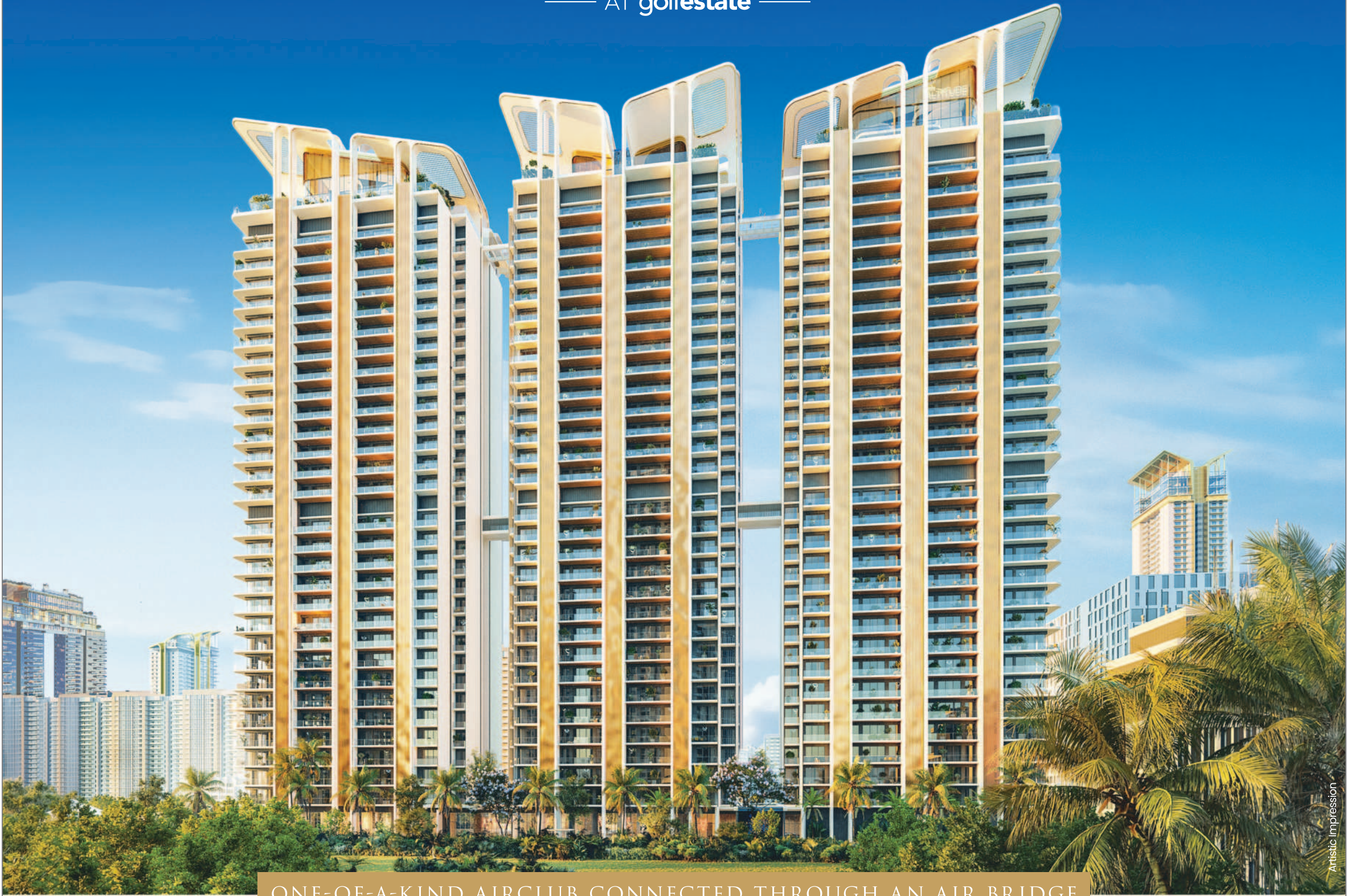
*Terms & Conditions Apply

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9 SECTOR 65, GOLF COURSE ROAD EXTN., GURUGRAM

AVAIL **20:80 PAYMENT PLAN***

VALID FOR **7 DAYS** ONLY

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*Terms & Conditions Apply



Hindustan Times

FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.



प्रधानमंत्री

नरेन्द्र मोदी

के गतिशील, दूरदर्शी एवं कुशल नेतृत्व में
विकसित भारत बनने की दिशा में अब और
तेज कदमों से आगे बढ़ेंगे हम



समर्पित प्रयासों से बदल रहा
विकास, जनकल्याण और
सुशासन का

परिदृश्य

मध्यप्रदेश सरकार के

180

दिन



“मध्यप्रदेश विकास और जनहित के पथ पर लगातार तेजी से आगे बढ़ रहा है। हर क्षेत्र में हम अपने मजबूत कदम जमा रहे हैं। प्रदेश में आधुनिक अधोसंरचना और गांव-गांव तक विकास को पहुंचाने में अब कोई कोर कसर बाकी नहीं रखेंगे।”

- डॉ. मोहन यादव, मुख्यमंत्री

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./ AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	THE PALWAL COOP. SUGAR MILLS LTD., PALWAL	TENDER FOR UNIT RATE CONTRACT OF VARIOUS TYPE OF BEARINGS AS PER THEIR LATEST RATE LIST FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-25 OR TILL THE END OF CRUSHING SEASON 2024-25. MAKE-SKIP/AG/ KOYO/ O/GK FROM AUTHORIZED DEALER/DISTRIBUTOR ONLY + 28 OTHER WORKS	08.06.2024 17.06.2024	10.30 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8307653870 palwalsugarmill@gmail.com
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaaprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in						
RO No. 13/2025/40/26736/11/17						


GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./ AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION PANCHKULA	CONSTRUCTION OF SYNTHETIC BADMINTON COURT IN PARK NEAR #272, #138, SECTOR 8 AND TWIN BADMINTON COURT IN PARK NEAR #34, SECTOR 9, WARD NO. 4, PANCHKULA + 5 WORKS	10.06.2024 25.06.2024	2.35 CRORES	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01722583695 xennmcp@gmail.com
2.	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION PANCHKULA	PROVIDING AND LAYING OF TACK COAT BITUMINOUS CONCRETE, MASTIC ASPHALT AND DENSE BITUMEN MACADAM PATCHES ON INTERNAL ROADS OF MDCT SECTOR 4 WARD NO. 2, PANCHKULA + 3 WORKS	10.06.2024 01.07.2024	3.12 CRORES	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01722583695 xennmcp@gmail.com
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaaprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in						
RO NO. 13/2025/40/26728/11/17/7						

UP SLDC Limited (A Govt. of UP Undertaking) Vibhuti Khand-II. Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010			
PUBLIC NOTICE			
Pursuant of Section 32(3) of the Electricity Act 2003, the State Government owned Uttar Pradesh State Load Despatch Centre (UPSLDC) submitted its Tariff Petition for ARR & LDC Charges for FY 2023-24 (1980/2023) and ARR & LDC Charges for FY 2024-25 (2046/2023) before the Hon'ble U.P. Electricity Regulatory Commission, Lucknow. The Hon'ble Commission admitted the aforementioned petition by its order dated 10 th June 2024.			
In compliance with the Hon'ble Commission order dated 10 th June 2024, all stakeholders and general public are hereby informed about the following salient features of the petition (1980/2023) for ARR & LDC Charges of FY 2023-24 and Petition (2046/2023) for ARR & LDC Charges for FY 2024-25 as under:-			
A. Summary of Petition (1980/2023)			
Aggregate Revenue Requirement of FY 2023-24 (Rs. Cr.)			
Sl. No.	Particulars		Claimed in ARR of FY 2023-24
1	O&M cost (a+b+c)		37.34
a	Employee cost	28.00	
b	R&M expenses	6.15	
c	A&G expenses	3.19	
2	Depreciation		2.47
3	Interest on Loan Capital		0.37
4	Interest on Working Capital		0.70
5	Return on Equity		0.35
	Total ARR		41.23
6	Less: Non-Tariff Income		10.70
a	SLDC Charges	2.5200	
b	Application Fee	8.1725	
c	Sale of Tender Form	0.0020	
d	Receipt for Transportation Facility	0.0027	
e	Other Misc. Receipts	0.0004	
7	Net ARR for FY 2023-24		30.53
Proposed LDC Charges for FY 2023-24 (Rs. Cr.):			
Sl. No.	Particulars	Unit	FY 2023-24
A.	Annual Revenue Requirement	Rs. Crore	30.53
B.	Proposed recovery fee to be Claimed		
i.	Proposed Recovery from Intra-State Transmission Licensees (#)	Rs. Crore	5.40
ii.	Recovery from Users(*) other than Intra-State Transmission Licensee.	Rs. Crore	25.13
	Total		30.53
(*) Proposed recovery from intra-state transmission licensee at Rs. 0.05 Crore per Licensee per month.			
(*) (User) means the Generating Companies, Distribution Licensees, Bulk Consumers (SEZ), Sellers and Intra-State Transmission Licensees, Demand Response Consumers, Qualified Co-ordinating Agency (QCA), or any other such entity who use, the Intra-State Transmission Network or the associated facilities or distribution system of distribution licensee through services of State Load Despatch Centre)			
Sl. No.	Particulars	Unit	FY 2023-24
1	Recovery from Users other than Intra-State Transmission Licensee.	Rs. Crore	25.13
2	Contracted Capacity of Discoms	MW	21344.00
3	Contracted Capacity of Generating Units	MW	19269.00
4	Total Contracted Capacity	MW	40613.00
5	LDC Charges	Rs./MW/Month	516
B. Summary of Petition (2046/2023)			
Aggregate Revenue Requirement of FY 2024-25 (Rs. Cr.)			
Sl. No.	Particulars		Claimed in ARR of FY 2024-25
1	O&M cost (a+b+c)		41.29
a	Employee cost	31.50	
b	R&M expenses	6.35	
c	A&G expenses	3.44	
2	Depreciation		2.42
3	Interest on Loan Capital		1.20
4	Interest on Working Capital		0.88
5	Return on Equity		0.96
	Total ARR		46.75
6	Less: Non-Tariff Income		10.01
a	Application Fee	10.0000	
b	Sale of Tender Form	0.0020	
c	Receipt for Transportation Facility	0.0027	
d	Other Misc. Receipts	0.0004	
7	Net ARR for FY 2024-25		36.74
Proposed LDC Charges for FY 2024-25 (Rs. Cr.):			
Sl. No.	Particulars	Unit	FY 2024-25
A.	Annual Revenue Requirement	Rs. Crore	36.74
B.	Proposed recovery fee to be Claimed		
i.	Proposed Recovery from Intra-State Transmission Licensees (#)	Rs. Crore	5.40
ii.	Recovery from Users(*) other than Intra-State Transmission Licensee.	Rs. Crore	31.34
	Total		36.74
(*) Proposed recovery from intra-state transmission licensee at Rs. 0.05 Crore per Licensee per month.			
(*) (User) means the Generating Companies, Distribution Licensees, Bulk Consumers (SEZ), Sellers and Intra-State Transmission Licensees, Demand Response Consumers, Qualified Co-ordinating Agency (QCA), or any other such entity who use, the Intra-State Transmission Network or the associated facilities or distribution system of distribution licensee through services of State Load Despatch Centre)			
Sl. No.	Particulars	Unit	FY 2024-25
1	Recovery from Users other than Intra-State Transmission Licensee.	Rs. Crore	31.34
2	Contracted Capacity of Discoms	MW	21375.00
3	Contracted Capacity of Generating Units	MW	22661.00
4	Total Contracted Capacity	MW	44036.00
5	LDC Charges	Rs./MW/Month	593
The above mentioned petitions, response of the deficiency notes and related data are available at UPSLDC's website (www.upsldc.org)			
Further, the stakeholders and general public are also advised to regularly check the website of UPSLDC for the updates on subsequent submissions made in respect of the both proceedings. All concerned stakeholders and general public may send their views/comments/suggestions/objections/representation if any, along with notarized affidavit in Six copies (Four copies may sent to Secretary, U.P. Electricity Regulatory Commission, Vidhyut Niyamak Bhawan, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow and Two Copies to Director (Technical) U.P. State Load Despatch Centre, Vibhuti Khand – II, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow – 226010 within 15 days from the date of publication of this Public Notice.			
Managing Director U P SLDC Ltd			
R.No 1978, Dt., 13-06-2024 "Save energy in the interest of Nation"			

PUNE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHIEF ENGINEER DEPARTMENT NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (N.I.T) YEAR 2022-23						
Tender Sale Date:- 14-06-2024 09:00 AM to Date 08-07-2024 upto 14:30 PM Bid Submission Start & End Date: 14-06-2024 09:00 AM to Date 08-07-2024 upto 14:30 PM Technical Envelope Opening Date: 09-07-2024 15:00 PM						
Tender No.	Name of Department	Name of Work	Cost of Tender Document (Rs.)	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	EMD Amount (Rs.)	Work Period
PMC/ DRAINAGE/ 2024/71	Drainage	For Pune City under 15th Finance Commission through National Disaster Management Authority Frequent floods areas under Urban Flood Risk Management Programme - Part 2	Rs. 29679/-	Rs. 192142460/-	Rs. 960712/-	24
PMC/ DRAINAGE/ 2024/72	Drainage	For Pune City under 15th Finance Commission through National Disaster Management Authority Frequent floods areas under Urban Flood Risk Management Programme - Part 3	Rs. 29679/-	Rs. 181950491/-	Rs. 909752/-	24
A) All details of Terms & Conditions of above works are incorporated in tender documents which is available on website www.mahatenders.gov.in Sale & acceptance is available by online system only. Tender needs to be submit in two envelope format. B) If sales or submission not been available on last day also & it is not been submitted will be sole responsibility of tenderer. C) Online tender process information will be available at Drainage, Pune Municipal Corporation. D) As per office order No. 32, dated 22/04/2016 EMD deposit amount will be acceptable through ECS / RTGS/NEFT Online Banking only.						
Advt No.- 3/35 Dt. 13/06/24						

(Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir) Office of the Executive Engineer (Distribution) Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDC) Electric Division Kathua Power Development Department Email: xennmckathua123@gmail.com						
e-NIT No: KED/14 of 2024-25 Dated:- 10.06.2024						
For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, the Executive Engineer (Distribution), JPDC, Electric Division, Kathua, hereinafter referred as 'Employer', invites online e-bids from reputed Companies or Class 'A' registered Electrical contractors for "Fixing of Rate Contract for Improvement/Maintenance/Emergent works of HT/LT Distribution Network including 11/433 KV Sub Stations in various Sub divisions of Electric Division Kathua (JPDC) on Turnkey Basis for FY 2023-24"						
S. No.	Cost of Tender Document (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)	Tender Value	Date and time of Downloading of Bidding documents	Last date and time of e-Bid submission	Date and Time of opening of e-Bids
1.	3000	200000	Rs. 1.00 cr	10.06.2024 (10.00 A.M.)	01.07.2024 (02.00 PM)	03.07.2024 (12.00 PM)
The tender document consisting of terms and conditions, Bill of quantities and other details can be downloaded from http://jktenders.gov.in						
No:- KED/TS/1267-70 Dated:- 10.06.2024 DIP-J-549-P-24						
						Sd/- Executive Engineer JPDC, O&M Division Kathua

e-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)					
The Executive Engineer HPWPD Rampur Division on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering, system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPWPD for the works as detailed in the table.					
Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost	Starting Date for downloading Bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for submission of Bid
1	C/O Approach road from NH-5 to Milk Plant at Duttanagar in Tehsil Rampur Distt. Shimla (SH:- C/O CC pavement road, C/O Rwall, B/wall, "V" & "U" shape drain RCC slab culvert, Barbed wire fencing and M/T works)	3,89,52,723/-	18.06.2024	7,80,000/-	24.06.2024
The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in .					
Executive Engineer, Rampur Division (B&R), HPWPD, Rampur Bushahr. On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh					
DPR HP-0146					



TENUGHAT VIDYUT NIGAM LIMITED

तेनुघाट विद्युत निगम लिमिटेड

(A GOVT. OF JHARKHAND UNDERTAKING)

CIN U40101JH1987SGC013153

HINOO, DORANDA, RANCHI-834002, JHARKHAND (TEL: 0651-6900252, Fax 0651-2253841)

Letter No: 245/2024-25

Date:12/06/2024

e- SHORT TENDER NOTICE

(Most Urgent Tender)

Online tender in two parts (Part-I Technical & Commercial Bid and Part-II price Bid to be submitted in TVNL Website Only) are invited on behalf of TENUGHAT VIDYUT NIGAM LIMITED, Ranchi from reputed, experienced and financially sound firms for under mentioned work at TTPS, Lalpania.

Sl. No.	NIT No. /Rfx.No.	Description	Last date & Time of purchase of Tender paper	Last date & Time of Bid Submission	Due date& Time of opening of Part-I
01.	NIT No. 08/BMD/W/TVNL/RAN/2024-25 Rfx No. 10000010190	Overhauling of main boiler (pressure parts), Fuel Firing Equipment and H.P.Valves of boiler of unit no.2	24 th June, 2024 up to 12:00 Hrs	24 th June, 2024 up to 14:00 Hrs	24 th June, 2024 up to 15:00 Hrs

Bid documents are to be submitted online through SAP-SRM, TVNL website webdispatcher.tvnl.in/srmpd up to last date and time of bid submission. The tender documents can be downloaded from our website www.tvnl.in

Sd/-

(R. Ranjan)

ESE(C&M)

PR 326239 (Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Ltd.) 24-25 (D)



Hindustan Times

FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

‘Grace marks’ reversed amid raging NEET row

Abraham Thomas
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday allowed the Centre to scrap grace marks awarded to 1,563 students and conduct a fresh National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for them, taking the first step in dispelling the chaos engulfing India’s premier medical entrance examination that threatens to jeopardise the futures of hundreds of thousands of children.

The Centre told the top court that it proposed to withdraw scorecards issued to 1,563 students awarded grace marks on account of loss of time during the May 5 test. The students will be given the option of appearing for the fresh exam, to be held on June 23, or retain their actual scores without the grace marks.

A vacation bench of justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta termed the decision “fairly reasonable” and disposed of a petition that opposed grace marks and called it discriminatory. But it refused to stall the counselling for medical seats, leaving it for the court to decide on July 8, when it will rule on a bouquet of complaints about this year’s examination.

“These issues will be dealt with on July 8. If this court quashes the entire selection, then automatically counselling will go. Why should we stay the counselling at this stage?” the court asked.

Hours later, the National Testing Agency (NTA) issued a statement confirming that the grace marks had been with-

continued on →8

The top court’s decision

SC allowed Centre to scrap ‘grace marks’ to 1,563 students awarded due to administrative delays in their exams

6 of the 67 students who secured All-India Rank #1 did so because of grace marks

THE OPTION OF RETEST

The students whose “grace marks” were deducted will now be given the option of appearing for the fresh exam, to be held on June 23, or retain their actual scores without the grace marks.

THE CONTROVERSY

NEET-UG 2024 results came out on June 4 with far better performance across the board. 67 students got full marks (720/720) and shared the top rank – for context, only 2 got a perfect score last year, and no one got it in 2022. This jump was due to three primary reasons:

GRACE MARKS: Students at 6 centres complained of “loss of time” due to admin reasons (getting wrong question paper etc). 1,563 students suffered, and were given “grace marks” based on a pre-determined formula.

CORRECTION MARKING: Officials later realised that a question in physics section had two correct answers – one based on the new NCERT textbook, and one on the old textbook. NTA decided to give 5 marks to all who marked either of these options.

IMPROVED PERFORMANCE: Students also performed better generally, which meant that even without the first two reasons, marks inflation was already prevalent.

HOW ‘INFLATION’ OF MARKS IMPACTS STUDENTS

Higher scores mean ranks dropped despite students scoring well. For instance, if someone scored 700 marks in 2022, they would’ve had a top 50 rank (#49) – making them eligible for AIIMS-Delhi. In 2024, the same 700 score yielded a rank of #1,770.



Six, all from same exam hall, no longer toppers

Leena Dhankhar
letters@hindustantimes.com

BAHADURGARH/JHAJJAR: Over the past week, India was roiled by protests as angry students hit the streets over the controversial National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) results. But in a corner of Haryana, six students celebrated quietly as they were among the 67 candidates who scored a perfect 720.

All six had appeared for the exam at the Hardayal Public School in Bahadurgarh, and received grace marks – as high as 140, according to students and teachers – that boosted their scores. On Thursday, however, a shroud of anxiety dispelled their joy as the Supreme Court allowed the Centre to scrap grace marks awarded during NEET and hold a retest on June 23.

→P10

OPPN CALLS FOR SC-LED PROBE; NO LEAK, SAYS GOVT

NEW DELHI: The future of 2.4 million students who appeared for NEET is at stake due to the “actions” of the Narendra Modi-led government, opposition parties on Thursday said, as they demanded a Supreme Court-monitored probe into allegations of irregularities in the exam. Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday rejected the paper leak allegations and reiterated the government’s commitment to safeguarding students’ interest.

→P10

Continuity in PM Office as Doval, Mishra reappointed

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday chose continuity and experience in his office by reappointing his two most trusted advisers, National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval and principal secretary to Prime Minister PK Mishra – a decision in line with his recent move to retain top Cabinet ministers.

Two other advisers, retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers Amit Khare and Tarun Kapoor, were also reappointed.

A retired IPS officer of the



Ajit Doval, PK Mishra



PTI

1968 batch and a former intelligence chief, Doval was Modi’s first choice to advise him on security he first assumed office in May 2014. Since then, Doval has been credited for helping shape India’s national security policy.

Mishra, 75, a 1972 batch retired IAS officer of the Gujarat cadre, has also been associated with Modi in the PMO since his first term. Like Doval, he too has a Cabinet rank.

→P12

COURT ISSUES ARREST WARRANT AGAINST BSY IN POCSO CASE

Arun Dev
letters@hindustantimes.com

BENGALURU: A special court in Bengaluru on Thursday issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against former Karnataka chief minister BS Yediyurappa in connection with a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act. He was expected to be arrested soon.



SC tells Yamuna body to act on Delhi request

Abraham Thomas
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Upper Yamuna River Board to process Delhi government’s request for additional water supply from Haryana at the earliest after Himachal Pradesh went back on its promised supply of 137 cusecs to Delhi, telling the court no such surplus water was available with it.

A vacation bench directed

Delhi to renew its request seeking additional 150 cusecs from Haryana by filing an application by 5pm and asked UYRB to convene a meeting of all stakeholders on June 14 to take a decision “at the earliest” and even consider holding day-to-day meetings.

Noting that UYRB is the expert body formed under an MoU, SC held, “Issue is best left to be considered by the body constituted with agreement of parties under the MoU.”

→P8

PEMA KHANDU TAKES OATH AS ARUNACHAL CM

Utpal Parashar
letters@hindustantimes.com

GUWAHATI: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislature party leader Pema Khandu took oath as chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh for the third consecutive term on Thursday at a ceremony held in Itanagar, days after the party won 46 of the state’s 60 seats in the assembly polls.

→P9

VORA SCRIPTS HISTORY WITH DRESSAGE WIN

Shantanu Srivastava
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Shruti Vora has created history by becoming the first Indian to win a three-star Grand Prix equestrian event, achieving the feat when she won at the FEI Dressage World Cup held in Lipica, Slovenia.



→P17

6 KILLED IN BLAST AT EXPLOSIVES UNIT NEAR NAGPUR

NAGPUR: Six workers were killed and three sustained injuries in a blast at an explosives manufacturing factory near Nagpur on Thursday afternoon, police said. The incident took place around 1pm at Dhamna village, around 25km from Nagpur.

→P9

MODI DEPARTS FOR KEY G7 MEET IN FIRST TRIP OF HIS THIRD TERM

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: India will focus on artificial intelligence (AI), energy, Africa, the Mediterranean and issues crucial to the Global South during its participation in the outreach session of the G7 Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday.

Modi is travelling to Italy’s Apulia region to participate in the G7 outreach session at the invitation of his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni, in what is his first overseas visit in his third term. He is expected to have bilateral interactions with several world leaders, including US President Joe Biden, on the margins of the summit.

“It will be an opportunity to bring greater synergy between the outcomes of the G20 Summit held under India’s presidency and the forthcoming G7 Summit,” Modi said ahead of his departure.

→P9

Modi orders wider op to combat terror in Jammu

Neeraj Chauhan
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday asked security forces to deploy the full spectrum of counterterror capabilities to deal with the spate of attacks that have roiled Jammu over the past four days, even as personnel fanned out across the region to locate foreign terrorists and police detained around 50 people for interrogation.

The review meeting was chaired by Modi – before leaving for Italy to attend the G7 Summit – to take stock of the situation in the Union Territory. National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval, and senior Prime Minister’s Office and ministry of home affairs (MHA) officials also attended the meeting.

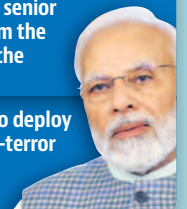
Officials who asked not to be named said that Modi was apprised of steps being taken to

Ahead of Amarnath Yatra

4 terror attacks in Jammu in 76 hrs

PM MODI CHAIRS HIGH-LEVEL MEET

PM Modi chaired a review of the situation in J&K with NSA Ajit Doval, as well as senior officials from the Prime Minister’s Office and the Union home ministry.



Modi asked security forces to deploy the full spectrum of counter-terror capabilities to deal with the spike in attacks in Jammu.

SEARCH OPS CONTINUE

Operations continued in the area to locate foreign terrorists, as police detained several individuals in connection with the Reasi bus attack that killed nine people on Sunday.

locate the terrorists, recently infiltrated from Pakistan, strengthening the security grid, and relief being provided to the victims.

Modi, said an officer who didn’t want to be named, asked the security forces “to deploy

the full spectrum of our counterterror capabilities”.

The PM is also learnt to have spoken to the home minister Amit Shah and J&K lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha.

In four back-to-back terror

continued on →8

{ 45 INDIANS DEAD } WORST BUILDING FIRE IN GULF NATION’S HISTORY

India scrambles relief for Kuwait victims, will send IAF aircraft to bring back bodies

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Indian authorities scrambled on Thursday to provide medical care, coordinate relief and rescue efforts, and bring back the bodies of the dead, a day after the worst building fire in Kuwait’s history killed 49 people, among them 45 Indian workers, and left 56 injured.

Minister of state for external affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh,

directed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to travel urgently to Kuwait to oversee relief measures, arrived at Mangaf on Thursday and visited several hospitals to meet the injured, even as a C-130J Hercules medium lift aircraft of the Indian Air Force was set to be pressed into service to repatriate the bodies, senior officials said.

The fire in the Al Mangaf building, a residence for foreign workers, broke out in the Al

continued on →8



MoS Kirti Vardhan Singh with an injured person on Thursday.

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9 people dead as landslides, triggered by incessant rains, wreak havoc in Sikkim



A house in North Sikkim upturned due to incessant landslides.

PTI

HT Correspondents
letters@hindustantimes.com

KOLKATA/SILIGURI: Six more people were killed and two others wounded as excessive rainfall triggered massive landslides across North Sikkim, causing extensive damage, blocking several key roads and inundating dozens of homes across the region, officials said on Thursday.

The toll in the state from the recent spate of rainfall and landslides is now nine, with

three deaths reported on Monday.

The tiny Himalayan state in eastern India has been recording excessive rainfall since Sunday, even as people in the rest of the country reel from varying degrees of heatwaves and water shortages. Around 2,000 tourists are stranded in the state as of Thursday evening, officials said.

The Sikkim government has initiated measures for relief and to provide basic necessities,

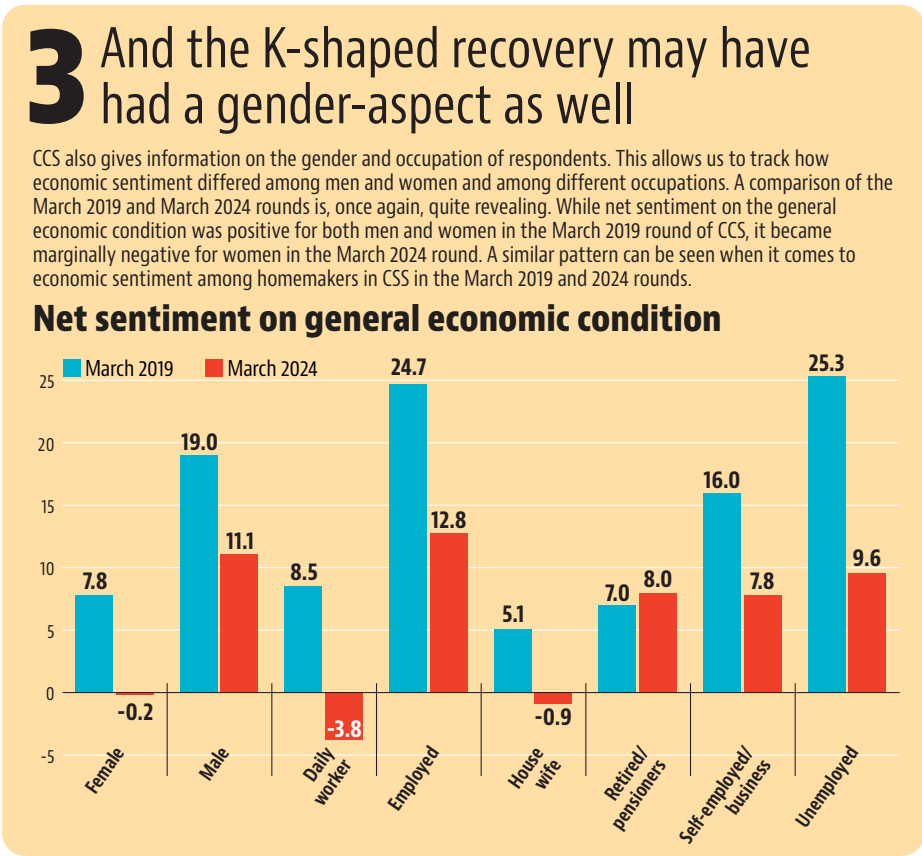
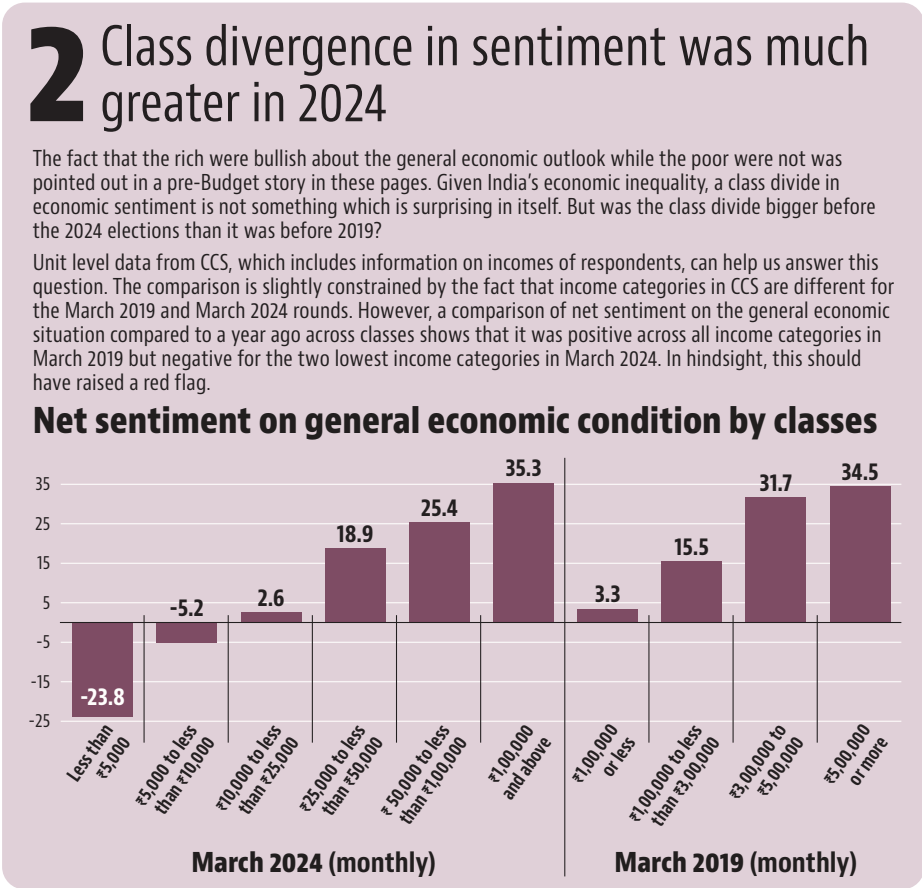
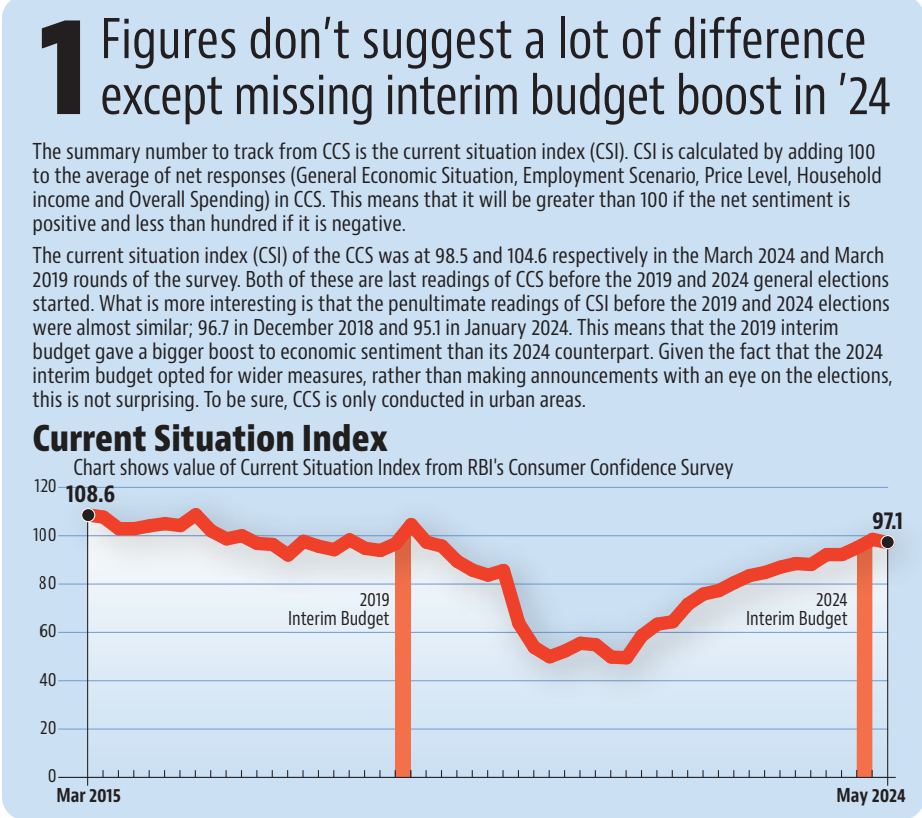
continued on →8

NUMBER THEORY

Should BJP have taken consumer sentiment data by RBI seriously?

By Roshan Kishore

Election results are always easier to explain in hindsight. Therefore, it is tempting to attribute the Bharatiya Janata Party's inability to secure a majority on its own to economic distress among the majority of voters. A lot of the commentary, including that published in these pages, has underlined the concerns around a K-shaped economic recovery in India since the pandemic. But was there any data which clearly pointed out that economic sentiment was grimmer in the run-up to 2024 elections than it was in 2019? A comparison between 2019 and 2024 is important because the BJP increased its majority between 2014 and 2019, but relinquished it between 2019 and 2024. An HT analysis of RBI's Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS) shows that the ruling party would have done well to take its findings seriously. Here are three charts that explain this in detail.



Was weak economic sentiment among the poor and women the only driver of the BJP's poor showing in the 2024 elections? Not necessarily, as elections are decided by a multitude of factors, including those outside the realm of the economic. However, these statistics do tell us that the ruling party perhaps did not pay enough heed to economic sentiment on the eve of the polls. Will the upcoming Budget in July try to correct this class and gender asymmetry? It will be interesting to watch. Even more interesting to see will be whether RBI also starts a CCS for rural areas to better track sentiment as the current survey is only conducted in cities.

{ MY INDIA } 'CBFC FAILED TO DO ITS JOB'

SC pauses release of film 'Hamare Baarah'



The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the June 14 release of Annu Kapoor's movie "Hamare Baarah" after taking note of allegations that the film is derogatory to the Islamic faith and married Muslim women. Referring to certain "offensive dialogues" shown in the trailer, the top court expressed its anguish over CBFC not removing them. "We have seen the movie trailer in the morning and all the offensive dialogues continue in the trailer... we are convinced that the CBFC, which is the statutory body entrusted under the Act, has failed to do its job," said a vacation bench.

{ MY INDIA } 2ND SUCH INCIDENT THIS YEAR

4 U'khand staffers killed trying to douse forest fire



Four Uttarakhand forest department personnel were killed while trying to control a forest fire in the Binsar wildlife sanctuary area in Almora district on Thursday, said officials. The deaths took the toll from forest fires in the state to 10 this year, said officials. The four were travelling in a vehicle that caught fire during the raging blaze, which began on Thursday. Four people were injured as well, added the officials. The four deceased people have been identified as Dewan Ram (35), a daily wage worker with the forest department, Karan Arya (21), a fire-watcher, Trilok Mehta (56), the forest beat officer of Binsar Range and Puran Singh (52), who worked with the Prantiya Rakshak Dal (PRD).

{ BUSINESS } 53RD MEETING

GST Council meeting to be held on June 22



The finance ministry on Thursday announced that the 53rd meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council will be held in New Delhi on June 22, which may provide an opportunity for the Centre to consult states on the forthcoming Union Budget 2024-25. The development comes a day after Nirmala Sitharaman took charge of Union finance ministry in third Modi government, and hours before North Block began its routine quarantine ahead of the Budget, which is likely to be presented in the third week of July. This will be the first GST Council meeting in eight months.

{ TOURNAMENT BEGINS TONIGHT } GAME ON!

The autobahn track to Euro 2024

German revival quest

Germans are hoping for a repeat of 2006, when many fell in love with their national team after a period in the doldrums similar to what they have experienced in recent years. Die Mannschaft endured a torrid 2023, with coach Hansi Flick removed and Julian Nagelsmann brought in. Since then, the outlook has been more positive. A group of Scotland, Hungary and Switzerland should be straightforward enough given the quality in Germany's ranks, from Toni Kroos to Florian Wirtz.

COACH: JULIAN NAGELSMANN

Spanish surprise?

Spain, like Germany, have for over a decade, looked like pale shadows of their once invincible selves. Between 2008 and 2012, La Roja won consecutive Euros, sandwiched the 2010 World Cup. At the 2022 World Cup, they lost to Morocco on penalties in the Round of 16, with then coach Luis Enrique being sacked. But coach Luis de la Fuente now helms a well-balanced team. Still, injuries to key players like Pedri and a misfiring first-choice forward in Alvaro Morata may dent Spain's hopes.

COACH: LUIS DE LA FUENTE

England's time at last?

England have never been European champions, although they came close in 2021 when they lost the final on penalties to Italy. Optimism about their prospects this time is fuelled by the fact that star players Harry Kane, of Bayern, and Jude Bellingham, formerly of Borussia Dortmund, should feel so at home on German soil. "We want to make history," England midfielder and Arsenal star Declan Rice said this week. "We say it all the time, but genuinely we have a group, a manager, that really believes."

COACH: GARETH SOUTHGATE

Opening Game

Germany vs Scotland
WHEN: June 15, 12.30am, WHERE: Allianz Arena, Munich

Final

July 14, Olympiastadion, Berlin

Mbappe on a mission

France are Europe's top-ranked nation and have been in the last two World Cup finals. Fresh from sealing his move to Real Madrid, Kylian Mbappe is eager to make up for a disappointing showing at the last Euros, when his penalty miss sealed a shoot-out defeat to Switzerland in the last 16. "Kylian is our captain and a great leader. We will need him to be at his best," admitted France coach Didier Deschamps.

COACH: DIDIER DESCHAMPS

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US outlook on India: Bullish, comfortable

Prashant Jha
letters@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: The US views the recent Indian elections as the "most successful democratic experiment and demonstration in modern history", notes that Prime Minister Narendra Modi accepted the electoral outcome, and believes that India's democratic resilience gives New Delhi an edge in its competition with Beijing, Kurt Campbell, the American deputy secretary of state has said.

Campbell, considered the key architect of the Joe Biden administration's Indo-Pacific policy, expressed scepticism about the prospect of any breakthrough in the India-China relationship due to the "structural issues" between the two countries and China's unwillingness to show any flexibility on territorial and border issues.

At the same time, Campbell said that the US was very "bullish, confident, comfortable" about its relationship with India, attributed any sense of drift in ties to the political and election campaigns in both democracies, termed India the leading nation of Quad, and said that he had never seen the bilateral relationship as close as it is now in his decades of working on India.

Campbell, who is the second-highest ranking diplomat in the US and moved from his perch as the Indo-Pacific coordinator in Biden's national security council to the state department earlier this year, also acknowledged that it was time for the US to change certain practices and ways of doing things in terms of export control regimes to deepen the defence and tech relationship with India. He will accompany US national security adviser Jake Sullivan on a trip to India next week when the two countries will review progress under the initiative on critical and emerging technologies (ICET) mechanism and

discuss other regional and global issues. Before that, PM Narendra Modi will meet US President Joe Biden in Italy on the sidelines of the G7 Summit.

Campbell was speaking on Wednesday at the Stimson Center, a Washington DC based think-tank, where he also outlined the administration's current approach to China. While the US officially congratulated Modi after the elections, this is the most expansive set of comments by a top American official on the bilateral relationship after the elections.

India-China-US triangle

Responding to a question on how US views reports about possible talks between India and China, Campbell said that any time two countries can find "a degree of common space to reduce tension", the US supports it, and expressed his best wishes to India for any deliberations.

But Campbell then expressed scepticism about any talks leading to a breakthrough and said there were "some structural issues" that "frankly will be difficult to resolve".

"I think from an Indian perspective, they are going to demand and expect, from any rapprochement or substantial improvement in relations, differences with respect to how China treats the contested borders and steps that they have taken. I think one of the things that we have seen under Xi Jinping, on anything that bridges or touches territorial matters, it's very hard for the Chinese to show any flexibility or any desire to find common ground," Campbell said.

In the same response, almost drawing up a contrast with the relationship with US, Campbell said that the US was "very proud" of the steps it had taken to elevate the India-US relationship and claimed he had never seen the kind of progress in bilateral ties as



US deputy secretary of state Kurt Campbell (centre) with Indian foreign secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra (centre left) and other Indian officials in Washington, in April.

had happened in recent years. "And there are many reasons for that. It is not only American support to India when they faced challenges along the Line of Actual Control; kudos to the Trump administration for that. We followed up on that in a variety of ways." Donald Trump was in office during the Galwan clash in the summer of 2020 when the US had stepped up to offer both intelligence, defence and logistical support to India in quick time.

Campbell added that the US has worked closely with India on Quad in many respects. "They are the leading nation in the quad frankly, they help drive initiatives. After being initially reluctant, they are now fully embracing the potential."

Campbell then referred to his upcoming trip to India. "We have worked assertively in technology. I will be with Jake Sullivan in India next week as we advance areas of coordination with India here. And so I think we feel very good about this partnership, the people, the people that connect with our diaspora and the like. We are very confident and comfortable about the state of our bilateral relationship. And we want that to continue going forward. And you know, the President engaged PM Modi almost immediately after the election. We are looking forward to continuing work with

them."

The democratic and strategic convergences

Asked if he felt that the resilience of Indian democracy gave India a "leg up" in the competition with China, Campbell said, "I do. There are obviously issues that have been raised in US-India relations, some concerns, but at the same time, we have to recognise that what India just experienced was the most successful democratic experiment and demonstration in modern history. And that's just remarkable. And note that PM Modi accepted the outcomes. This was thought to be an extremely effective demonstration of a democratic machinery."

Campbell reiterated that if he had to name one country that was going to be the most important for the US in the 21st century, he would, "without hesitation" put India on top of the list and listed out a set of factors that was propelling closer ties. "I believe that there is growing strategic alignment. There is enormous interests at the people to people level. And I am finding that among a younger generation of India's interlocutors, some of the previous inhibitions or concerns or grudges are not as significant."

Campbell added that this was the same on the US side, where "a growing group of people" recog-

Export controls: Need to change old practices

In response to a question from HT about the perception of drift in the relationship due to public controversies, Campbell said, "Things happen in a bilateral relationship, particularly between democracies. PM Modi had his campaign. We have had some politics as well. I would simply say that both countries are deeply committed to sustaining the upward trajectory of our bilateral relationship. I believe we remain ambitious for what we want to accomplish across the board and those areas of cooperation will include things in technology."

HT also asked Campbell whether the American export control regimes placed limits on bilateral tech and defence cooperation. The deputy secretary acknowledged that there were "practices and some steps" that had been in place for a long time but were no longer relevant to the US-India relationship.

"We need to move beyond them to find new areas of cooperation and partnership. And I think that's going to be one of the issues that NSA Sullivan will be talking to his Indian counterparts about. We want to take those steps to advance the relationship to make sure that that momentum is unmistakable. And we are quite bullish on the relationship."

Crucial water link to Capital under watch to deter ‘mafia’

Paras Singh
paras@hindustantimes.com

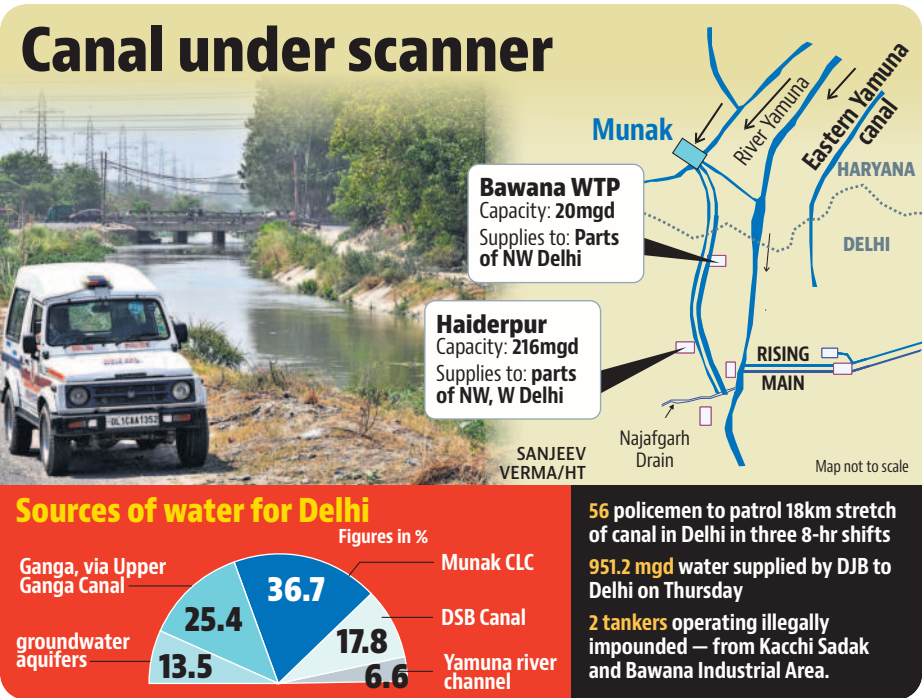
NEW DELHI: The policeman is taking a breather, leaning against a tree and shielding his eyes as a fierce sun beats down, its light reflecting off the water. The constable is one of 56 police personnel deployed on Thursday along the Munak Canal near the Delhi-Haryana border, the key waterway under the scanner amid allegations of illegal water lifting and leakages, and disputes arising from the actual quantum of water being released by Haryana to the Capital.

This summer, Delhi is on the brink of a water crisis, with the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) producing 951.2 million gallons per day (mgd) on Thursday — below the targeted supply of 1,000 mgd for the summer months. The Delhi government has blamed Haryana for the crisis, claiming that the neighbouring state has released a less than adequate amount of water for the city via the Munak, but Haryana in turn has blamed leakages and theft in the Capital for the deficit.

The deployment of police personnel along the canal comes after the Supreme Court on Wednesday drew a direct link between the “tanker mafia” and the prevailing water crisis, and warned the Delhi government that it will hand over the case to the Delhi Police. Later in the day, lieutenant governor VK Saxena directed the Delhi Police commissioner to ensure strict vigil along the canal to prevent the further theft of water.

To be sure, private individual tankers are not permitted in Delhi — a DJB official said that the water utility operates both government and hired tankers to supply water to water-starved areas of the city.

On Thursday, a senior police officer, on condition of anonym-



ity, said 56 personnel patrolled the entire 18km stretch of the canal that falls in Delhi — from Harewali along the Haryana border to the Outer Ring Road near Haiderpur water treatment plant — in three 8-hour shifts: in police control room (PCR) vans, cars, or on motorcycles.

He said that two tankers operating illegally were impounded — one each from the Kacchi Sadak and Bawana Industrial Area.

Water theft in a crime vulnerable area

The Munak Canal is a 102km concretised channel in Haryana and Delhi that is part of the Western Yamuna Canal. It carries water from the Yamuna at the Munak regulator at Karnal, Haryana and travels south via the Khubru barrage and Mandora barrage, finally terminating

at Haiderpur in Delhi. The canal was constructed by Haryana between 2003 and 2012 after it signed a memorandum of understanding with the Delhi government in 1996.

Earlier, 30-50% of the raw water discharged from the Tajewala head works at Yamuna Nagar in Haryana got lost through seepage during transit. The commissioning of the carrier-lined channel resulted in the availability of an addition 180 cusecs of raw water for Delhi, leading to the commissioning of new water treatment plants at Dwarka, Bawana, and Okhla.

On Thursday, during a spot check at Siraspur, HT spoke to constable Sunil Kumar, who said that his team received the patrolling orders on Wednesday night. “The patrolling duties have been provided based on the jurisdiction of local police stations.

Besides this Maruti Gypsy, the Badli police station has also deployed one PCR van and motorbike riders,” he said, adding that each team patrols its zone for eight hours.

HT also found that large sections of the canal were poorly maintained, with overgrown water hyacinths in parts. The road along the canal was peppered with large concrete blockades.

“This is a crime-vulnerable site so these barriers have been in place from a long time,” Kumar clarified.

No water tankers were to be seen, and Kumar claimed that there was no tanker mafia in the neighbourhood.

Locals, however, disagreed, saying illegal water tankers do lift water from the canal at multiple points during the peak summer months.

Prakash Chand, 34, who works in the Bawana Industrial Area but lives in Siraspur, said Thursday was a rare exception when water was not being illegally lifted.

“Water tankers are common here, especially around the Khera Khurd village culvert (3 km away). The local neighbourhoods don’t face a water shortage ever, but these tankers are used to supply other parts of the city,” he said.

Santosh Rajpal, who runs a small tobacco shop along the Khera Khurd bridge, said that there are several tankers illegally operating in the area. Pointing to a spot on the other side of the canal, he said, “Just behind that park in Rohini Sector 27, there are a couple of makeshift tanker-filling stations. When there is heightened vigil on the canal — like today — they (the “mafia”) use borewells to fill tankers.”

Around 6km upstream, two police vans and four motorcycles were patrolling the patch of the canal along the Bawana jhuggi-jhopri (JJ) cluster.

Local residents said that the tanker mafia was even more brazen along this section of Munak. Md Aamir, a resident of the JJ cluster, said the illegal tankers start filling up water from the canal at 6am, returning periodically to fill up for the next illegal shipment.

“They usually throw pipes into the canal and use high-pressure pumps to fill up the tankers. This happens right in the open. We did not know that it was illegal,” he said.

Aashu Sharma, another resident, said that tankers were conspicuously missing on Thursday, probably due to the police presence. “Initially, we thought another dead body was found floating in the canal. Is all this police presence is because of the tankers?” he asked.

BJP, CONG TRAIN THEIR GUNS ON AAP GOVT, ALLEGE MISMANAGEMENT

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress on Thursday slammed the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led Delhi government over the prevailing water situation in the Capital, accusing the state of failing to address the issues that the people of the city face.

Addressing a press conference, BJP leader and New Delhi MP-elect Bansuri Swaraj said that the Capital lacks a summer action plan for water distribution, and the government has been unable to stop wastage due to leakage.

“BJP has been continuously saying that Delhi is getting full water from all sources as per the agreements, and if for any reason the government needs additional water for Delhi, then it will either have to take it from the neighbouring states through mutual talks or ask for it from the Yamuna river board. It is regrettable that the AAP government, which failed to stop the water theft and wastage in Delhi, tried to put the blame on the neighbouring states,” she said.

Separately, Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee president Devender Yadav said his party will hold demonstrations in all 280 blocks of the city in the coming days to protest the water shortage in Delhi.

“Due to the failure of the government and the administration, water shortage during summer has become a recurring feature in the Capital with the BJP and AAP governments indulging only in blame-games,” he said.

BJP SAID DELHI LACKS A SUMMER ACTION PLAN FOR WATER, WHILE CONG ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR A CITY-WIDE PROTEST SOON

Himachal goes back on water pledge; ask Hry, court tells Delhi

Abraham Thomas
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Upper Yamuna River Board to process Delhi government’s request for additional water supply from Haryana at the earliest after Himachal Pradesh went back on its promised supply of 137 cusecs water to Delhi telling the court that no such surplus water was available with it.

A vacation bench of justices PK Mishra and PB Varale directed Delhi to renew its request seeking additional 150 cusecs from Haryana by filing an application latest by 5pm today and asked the UYRB to convene a meeting of all stakeholders on June 14 to take a decision “at the earliest” and even consider holding day-to-day meetings.

“A solution to the problem is only with the board,” the bench said, adding, “We are of the view that the issue concerning sharing of river Yamuna water between states who are party to a memorandum of understanding (MoU) of 1994 is complex and sensitive and this court does not have the expertise to decide, even on an emergent basis, that could violate the MoU.”

Noting that the UYRB is the expert body formed under the said MoU, the court held, “Issue is best left to be considered by the body constituted with agreement of parties under the MoU.”

On June 6, the court directed Himachal Pradesh to release 137 cusecs of surplus water of its share in river Yamuna downstream towards Hathnikund Barrage (HKB) for onward supply to Delhi through Wazirabad water treatment plant.

On Thursday, Himachal advocate general Anup Kumar Rattan informed the court that the statement made by the state on

June 6 was wrong. The advocate general requested the court to allow withdrawal of the earlier statement.

“We fell into the trap of HP’s promised statement. HP has not released even a single litre. The whole basis of proceeding with the matter was based on their statement. We proceeded on the basis of a false statement and a window cannot be made for entry of a thief,” the bench said.

The Delhi government, represented by senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi and advocate Shadan Farasat, requested for a timeline for Haryana government to consider providing additional water. Singhvi said that Haryana was not maintaining constant supply of water at the level of 1,013 cusecs at Munak canal as determined by UYRB. He gave figures of water flow from Munak canal from June 1 to 11 to suggest that except for two days when the water level was in the daily average range of 920 cusecs, on all other days, the average daily water flow was in the range of 840 to 898 cusecs.

As regards the tanker mafia, Delhi alleged Haryana to be at fault, as it said: “The tanker mafia is operational on the Haryana side of the Yamuna river and the petitioner lacks jurisdiction to act against the same.”

Haryana said that the issue of water distribution is “highly technical” on which courts should not decide. Senior advocate Shyam Divan appearing for Haryana said that based on documents submitted to UYRB, the state has maintained water supply at Munak at 1050 cusecs and it had no excess water to spare for Delhi. Further, the state pointed out that the water treatment plants (WTP) are functioning at optimum levels and they are not in a position to get excess water.

Areas on tail-end of supply, irregular colonies among those hit by crisis

Paras Singh
paras@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) on Thursday supplied 951.2 million gallons per day (mgd) of water to the Capital, the water utility’s bulletin for the day revealed — an increase from the 919.7 mgd the previous day, but still well short of the targeted supply of 1,000 mgd for the summer months.

A senior DJB official said that the deficit in the water supply on Wednesday — the highest shortfall this season — was due to a lower quantity of raw water reaching Delhi through the Yamuna, and due to a two-hour power outage on Tuesday, but the situation has now relatively improved.

Over the last fortnight, Delhi has witnessed multiple spells of shortfall in water supply, with a drop in 1 mgd potentially affecting up to 21,500 people.

Since DJB rationalises the supply across the city to minimise the impact of a shortfall, a deficit in the treatment of water often translates to low supply pressures and reduced supply timings in planned areas, which are connected to the 15,473-km water pipeline network. Within such neighbourhoods, tail end zones, such as Vasant Kunj in south Delhi, face relatively larger problems.

A deficit severely impacts JJ clusters and resettlement colonies where water pipelines haven’t been laid, as these areas primarily rely on tankers for their water. Consequently, the cost and demand for private tankers has also gone up.

To be sure, private individual tankers are not permitted in Delhi, and as per the rules, water filling stations are under the control of DJB. However, matters of legality become irrelevant for residents during times of high demand and low supply.

Effects in planned areas

Rajesh Panwar, who heads the federation of Vasant Kunj RWAs, said that each household in the neighbourhood is now getting around 700 litres of water a day, against the earlier 1000 litres a day. “The situation is not as bad as it was in May, but flats located at the tail end of the pipeline network are getting water at very low pressure, and we often facilitate



(Top) People stand in line to fill water from a DJB-approved water tanker at Chilla village near Mayur Vihar; (Left) Water leaks from a DJB pipeline near Nizamuddin; (Below) Residents of Vivekanand Camp fill water from a water tanker.

RAJ K RAJ, SANCHIT KHANNA, SANJEEV VERMA/HT PHOTOS

2000. “The DJB helpline for tankers is not responsive,” he said.

Crisis in unplanned colonies

Every day, around 7-7.30am, hundreds of people armed with buckets, jerry cans and empty plastic containers, wait for a water tanker to arrive in Safeda Basti in Geeta Colony, one of Delhi’s 1,799 unplanned colonies. The tanker’s arrival is marked by chaos among the people lined up to get water. With limited water in each tanker, each household takes a share of 3-4 jerry cans.

Urmila Devi, 40, a resident, said that women spend 3-4 hours in line just to fill water for their households. “After filling the jerry cans, we have to carry them home one by one on a bicycle,” she said.

Similar scenes can be seen at Sanjay Camp and Vivekanand Camp in New Delhi, Indira Camp near Kusumpur Pahadi in Vasant Kunj, slum clusters at Baljeet Nagar and Patel Nagar, parts of Sangam Vihar, among other places.



Atishi inspects main water pipeline network from Sonia Vihar Water Treatment Plant to south Delhi on Thursday.

HT PHOTO

Atishi meets CM in jail, inspects pipeline in Capital

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Delhi water minister Atishi met chief minister Arvind Kejriwal in Tihar jail on Thursday as the state government is engaged in a legal battle over distribution of the Yamuna water with some parts of the city facing shortage of supply.

After meeting the CM, Atishi said that Kejriwal sought a status check on electricity and water supply in Delhi. “Delhi CM has instructed the Aam Aadmi Party MLAs to go among the people and work to solve their problems, if they are facing water shortage,” the minister said.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener is lodged in Tihar jail’s number 2 in connection with an Enforcement Directorate (ED) probe into money laundering allegations pertaining to the now-scapped Delhi excise policy.

Atishi said, “The chief minister came to know through news outlets that that there is a water problem in Delhi and people are troubled. He has instructed me that whatever steps are required to be taken to overcome the water shortage in Delhi should be taken as soon as possible.”

The water minister and AAP Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha met Kejriwal for half-an-hour in the visitor’s room in Tihar.

Later, addressing a press conference at the Delhi secretariat, Atishi said that the Delhi govern-

ment has provided all details to the Supreme Court on steps being taken to minimise pilferage and ensuring efficient water distribution. “The water losses from the unlined Delhi Sub-Branch (DSB) canal were 30% but Delhi Jal Board (DJB) spent ₹500 crore on developing Carrier Lined Canal (Munak) to reduce water wastage. In the last nine years, leaking pipelines have been replaced and over new pipelines have been laid to prevent water thefts through illegal tapping of distribution lines,” she said.

She added that 3,285 bulk flow meters have been installed in Delhi on major water distribution nodes to track usage of water.

Earlier in the day, Atishi inspected DJB pipeline in Sonia Vihar and Akshardham areas. “The allegations that large scale leakages are taking place is just a rumour,” she added. Atishi said special patrolling teams have been deployed to check leakage and thefts.

Delhi BJP president Vandana Sachdeva said the Delhi government is repeating to their old script. “When the Delhi government owes a reply to people of Delhi after reprimand from the Supreme Court over its failure to stop water theft, Atishi has resorted to the old script that I met the CM Arvind Kejriwal and he expressed concern over water shortage in Delhi,” he said.

4 shot in NE Delhi, hospitalised

NEW DELHI: Four people were injured after they were shot by unidentified men at Welcome in northeast Delhi in the early hours of Thursday, police officers aware of the matter said.

Deputy commissioner of police (northeast) Joy Tirkey identified the injured as Waseem Ali, 33, Mohammed Asif, 30,

Mohammed Shareef, 70, and Mohammed Sultan, 70.

Police said Ali — who has multiple cases lodged against him — seemed to the primary target. He was on a motorcycle at 2.15am with Asif when the two were fired on, while Shareef and Sultan, sleeping on the footpath, were also hit by bullets. **HTC**

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Computation in the salary scale as per 7th Pay Commission Level 14: Other perks & fringe benefits as per The DPS Society Rules.

Candidates with meritorious academic record may apply within ten days to: **The Secretary, The Delhi Public School Society, F-Block, East of Kailash, New Delhi-110065**, enclosing detailed resume and a recent passport size photograph in the envelope superscribed **“Application for the Post of Principal Delhi Public School, Mathura Road”**. Shortlisted candidates will be called for interview.

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Fire sweeps through Gzb house, five of family dead

Peeyush Khandelwal
peeyush.khandelwal@htlive.com

GHAZIABAD: Five people, including two children, were killed when their two-storey house at Behta Hajipur locality in Loni, Ghaziabad caught fire late on Wednesday night, police officers aware of the matter said on Thursday.

A car and two two-wheelers were also gutted in the incident, police said.

The officers said that they are still investigating the cause of the fire, which broke out at around 9pm, but suspect that it was triggered by a short circuit. "We received information at night from Behta Hajipur that several people were trapped in a house which was engulfed in fire. Local police and fire service rushed to the spot. The fire started from the lower storey of the house and occupants got trapped on the first and second floors. Initially, a woman and a child were rescued in an injured state and sent to hospital for treatment. Five more bodies were recovered," said additional police commissioner Dinesh Kumar P.

Police said the house belonged to Haji Ishtiyak, 70, who lived with his sons Shariq, 28, and Shakiv, 20. None of the three were at home at the time of the fire.

The deceased were identified as Ishtiyak's daughter Nazra, 26, his son-in-law Shaiful Rehman, 35, and their daughter Ikra, 7, along with Shariq's wife Samreen, 28, and son Mohammad Faiz, aged seven months. Two other family members, identified as Uzma, 26, and Arsh, 7, were injured in the incident, and Uzma's condition is critical, said officers.

"The two injured were rescued from the first floor and the condition of the woman is still critical. The child was discharged and returned home on Thursday. The autopsy of the five deceased persons indicated cause of death as asphyxia and 95-100% burn injuries. It is suspected that they died before the rescuers could reach them," said Bhaskar Verma, assistant commissioner of police, Ankur Vihar.



(Top) The two-storey house in Behta Hajipur at Loni, Ghaziabad that caught fire on Wednesday night; (Below, left to right) The deceased Nazra, Samreen, and Shaiful Rehman.

Deputy commissioner of police (rural) Vivek Chandra Yadav said that after the fire broke out, it spread rapidly due to foam-like material store on the ground floor.

"We have asked the fire department to ascertain the material and also to find out whether any commercial activity was taking place in the house," the DCP said.

Fire department officials said that they received a call about the blaze at around 9.15pm. "Two fire tenders were pressed into service initially and two were sent later. The reach to the house was from a narrow lane and the fire tenders could not go inside. We had to connect and join hoze-pipes to about 400-500 metres in

length to take water to the building on fire," said chief fire officer Rahul Pal.

The officials said that narrow approach lanes and over-crowding in the area also hampered fire-fighting measures.

"We received the alert at 8.42pm and fire tenders reached the spot at 9.12pm. The delay happened because the lanes were narrow and girders were installed on the roads by residents to prevent the entry of heavy vehicles. The police are probing this," Pal said.

Pal, said the door of the staircase leading to the terrace was locked.

"The fire started on the ground floor where foam material was stored and fire soon spread to first and second

floors. There were no windows and we had to break walls from many places to go inside the building amid thick smoke and raging flames. Two injured persons were found and rescued from the first floor," Pal said.

Locals said the house is constructed on an area of about 200 square yards and located about 200 metres from the main road.

"Fire tenders got delayed due to girders installed on roads. Locals used buckets and also turned on submersible pumps to douse the fire. But the measures proved futile. The electricity was also turned off and people used generators to keep the submersible pumps going," said Mohammad Yusuf, a relative of Ishtiyak.

Heatwave conditions in parts of city, IMD forecast says no respite in sight

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

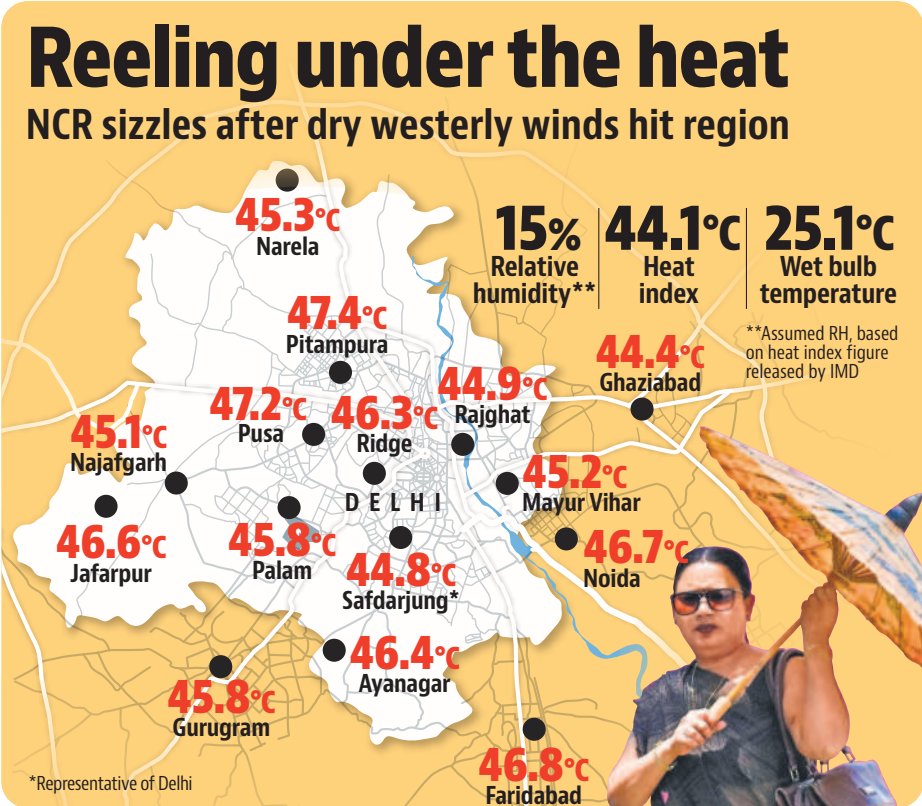
NEW DELHI: Clear skies and dry westerly winds on Thursday meant that there was no relief from the relentless heat for Delhi, with the Capital recording a maximum temperature of 44.8 degrees Celsius (°C) — five degrees above the normal for this time of the year, and a shade above the 44.7°C the previous day.

Thursday was Delhi's fourth official heatwave day at the Safdarjung base station this month, the highest for the month since 2014, when Delhi recorded seven heatwave days in June, data from the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said. Some neighbourhoods, meanwhile, have reeled under temperatures well beyond the heatwave threshold for 11 days.

IMD defines a "heatwave" in a region where the maximum temperature is over 40°C, and 4.5°C above normal, or when the actual maximum temperature reaches 45°C or more for two consecutive days. This becomes a "severe heatwave" when the maximum is 6.5°C above the normal.

The department forecast no relief in the coming days either, with a heatwave alert in place for the National Capital Region (NCR) till June 19, and Delhi's maximum likely to hover around the 44-45°C mark during this period.

"We are seeing strong, dry westerly and northwesterly winds. There is no significant cloud cover either and direct sunlight is hitting most parts of



northwest India. This has led to a gradual rise in temperature over the last few days. It could rise further in the next couple of days," said an IMD official, adding that an orange alert is in place till Saturday.

To be sure, IMD only maintains long-term heatwave data for the Safdarjung station in the Capital. In May, Safdarjung recorded six heatwave days — all in the second half of the month.

Other parts of the city were even warmer, with Pusa in west Delhi logging the highest maximum for the day at 47.2°C, followed by Jafarpur in southwest Delhi at 46.6°C.

Thursday's dry heat meant Delhi's Heat Index (HI) or "real-feel" was actually slightly lower than the actual temperature at 44.1°C.

Delhi's wet-bulb temperature, another indicator of discomfort levels, was between 23.2°C and

25.1°C on Thursday. A wet-bulb temperature of 32°C or higher makes it difficult for even fit and young people to work outdoors for long and at a wet-bulb temperature of 35°C — the maximum threshold — humans can no longer regulate body temperatures, leading to heat strokes and potential collapse.

The minimum, meanwhile, was 29.4°C, which was a degree above normal. It was 28.5°C the previous day.

Man held for beating his father to death

HT Correspondent
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A 35-year-old man was arrested for allegedly beating to death his 65-year-old father over a property dispute at their house at Nand Nagri in northeast Delhi on Wednesday afternoon, police officers said, adding that the accused was heavily drunk at the time.

Deputy commissioner of police (northeast) Joy Tirkey said that the deceased was identified as Kehar Singh, who was murdered by his son Arun Singh alias Gajji.

Police said that the incident was reported at 3.19pm on Wednesday, when Singh's elder brother Ram Bahadur said that his father had been killed.

Upon reaching the spot,

police found the ground floor locked and the gate to the first-floor stairs bolted from inside. "Singh was found on the first-floor balcony and initially resisted opening the door but eventually complied," said an officer.

Investigators found an empty liquor bottle, some cooked food, and a phone with its battery removed on the first floor. The

body of Kehar Singh, with multiple head injuries, was discovered on the second floor. It was sent to Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital for the autopsy.

"Frequent fights occurred between father and son due to Arun's demand for the entire property. Kehar wanted to give the ground floor to his daughters and the second floor to Ram Bahadur," said DCP Tirkey.

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely:** Lhingboineng Khongsai **D/o:** Thongmang Khongsai **R/o:** Hardik Apartment, Plot No. 03, 2nd Floor, Ward No. 8, Mehrauli, New Delhi **Sex:** Female, **Age:** 18 Year, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Medium, **Face:** Round **Wearing:** Blue Jeans Pant and white Chappal has been missing since 28.05.2024 from Hardik Apartment, Plot No. 03, 2nd Floor, Ward No. 8, Mehrauli, New Delhi from the Jurisdiction of Police Station Mehrauli, Delhi. In this regard **GD No. 168A Date: 07.06.2024** has been registered at **P.S.: Mehrauli, South Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the Missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this Missing girl. Please inform to the following.

SHO
E-Mail ID: cbc@cbl.gov.in **P.S.: Mehrauli**
Fax: 011-24368639 **South, Delhi**
DP/7337/SD/2024 **Phone: 7065569294, 9868247792**

भारत सरकार/GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
डॉ राम मनोहर लोहिया अस्पताल
अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, नई दिल्ली
DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIA HOSPITAL
ATAL BIHARI VAJPAEYI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES,
NEW DELHI-110001

No. HA-II-11022/1/2023-HA-II Section-Dr. RMLH/
Recruitment Notice for the post of Senior Resident
(Non-Academic)

The Medical Superintendent, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital & ABVIMS, New Delhi invites applications from Indian National in the **prescribed form** available on website **rmlh.nic.in** for the posts of **Senior Resident (Non-Academic)** on regular basis.

The detailed advertisement, numbers of posts, eligibility conditions, pay structure, age criteria, application form and other details can be seen in the full advertisement on the website **www.rmlh.nic.in**. Any corrigendum/modification order regarding this advertisement will be issued on the hospital website only. Candidates are advised to visit hospital website **www.rmlh.nic.in** regularly for this purpose. Last date for submission of application is **29.06.2024 till 03.00 PM**.

Sd/-
OFFICER In-Charge (HA-II)
A.B.V.I.M.S. & DR. RML HOSPITAL
NEW DELHI

CBC 17147/11/0002/2425

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in
(Contact No. 96461-17659)

Tender Enquiry No. 1667/Th. Op/O&M/PC-2538 **Dated: 12.06.2024**

Chief Engineer/O&M (P&P Cell-II), GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat, invites E-tender for the **Procurement of Two No. Fire Tenders for GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat**. Quantity as per NIT. For detailed NIT & tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from **12.06.2024 at 1700 hrs.** onwards.

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

GHTP-37/24 34556

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)

Corporate Identification Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website: www.pspcl.in
(Contact No. 96461-17606)

E-Tender Enquiry No. 27/MM-I/BMC-334 (XIII)/O&M/GHTP/2024 **Dated: 11.06.2024**

Office of Dy. Chief Engineer, Mechanical Mtc. Circle-I, G.H.T.P. Lehra-Mohabbat, Distt. Bathinda (Punjab)-151111, Email: se-mmct-lehra@pspc.in, contact No. 96461-17606, invites E-Tender for Supply and application of Thermal insulating material on Boiler, Turbine side piping, valves, H/P/L Piping and Mechanical Auxiliaries and Incorporation of Removal/ Repair/ Reapplication of new/old Ceramic Pad Insulation for HPT/IPT turbine modules of 2x210 and 2x250MM, GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat. For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 11.06.2024 from 05.00 PM onwards.

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

GHTP30/24 34483

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
PUNJAB WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD

NIT No.: 27/PWSSB D-2/BTI **Date: 12.06.2024**

Executive Engineer, Pb. W/S & Sew. Divn. No. 2, Bathinda on the behalf of Chief Executive Officer, Pb. W/S and Sew. Board Chandigarh invites online bids for the following:-

Sr. No.	Item	Amount In Lacs
1	Part (A) - Prov. & Laying of RCC NP-3 Pipe with HDPE lining, UPVC pipe sewer, MPS Including pumping Machinery, DI K-7 R/M and all others works contingent thereto at Bhagta Bhai Ka as per DNIT (SBM-2.0) Part-B: Survey, Soil Testing, Design, Supply and Constrn., Commissioning of 3 MLD capacity STP cum 9 Kid FSTP based on Suitable Proven Sustainable Biological technology including other appurtenant works on turnkey basis as per DNIT including O&M for a period of 60 months after stabilization period of 3 months (SBM-2.0)	556.15
2	Part (A)- (As per Sr. No. 1) S&S inside HDPE lining, at Nathana as per DNIT (SBM-2.0) Part (B)- (As per Sr. No. 1) 1.00 MLD Capacity STP Cum 3 KLD FSTP (SBM-2.0)	1349.38

Closing date & time:- 8th Attempt : 08.07.2024 upto 11.00 AM
Opening date & time:- 8th Attempt : 08.07.2024 upto 03.00 PM
Pre Bid meeting date & time : 21.06.2024 at 11.00 AM

For detailed log onto <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.

Note: Any Corrigendum(s), to the Tender/RFP Notice shall be published on the above website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Pb. W/S & Sew. Divn. No. 2, Bathinda

34529

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
PUNJAB WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD

NIT No.: 30/PWSSB D-2/BTI **Date: 13.06.2024**

Executive Engineer, Pb. W/S & Sew. Divn. No. 2, Bathinda on the behalf of Chief Executive Officer, Pb. W/S and Sew. Board Chandigarh invites online bids for the following:-

Sr. No.	Item	Amount In Lacs
1	Part (A) Prov. & Laying of RCC NP-3 Pipe with HDPE lining, UPVC pipe sewer, MPS Including pumping Machinery DI K-7 R/M and all others works contingent thereto at Bhai Rupa as per DNIT (SBM-2.0) Part-B: Survey, Soil Testing, Design, Supply and Constrn., Commissioning of 2.50 MLD capacity STP cum 9 Kid FSTP based on Suitable Proven Sustainable Biological technology including other appurtenant works on turnkey basis as per DNIT including O&M for a period of 60 months after stabilization period of 3 months (SBM-2.0)	543.51
2	Part (A)- Prov. & Laying of RCC NP-3 Pipe with HDPE lining, UPVC pipe sewer, MPS Including pumping Machinery, DI K-7 R/M and all others works contingent thereto at Kotha Guru Ka as per DNIT (SBM-2.0) Part-B: Survey, Soil Testing, Design, Supply and Constrn., Commissioning of 2 MLD capacity STP cum 6 Kid FSTP based on Suitable Proven Sustainable Biological technology including other appurtenant works on turnkey basis as per DNIT including O&M for a period of 60 months after stabilization period of 3 months (SBM-2.0)	529.84

Closing date & time:- Sr No. 1 (2nd Attempt) : 09.07.2024 upto 11.00 AM
Opening date & time:- Sr. No. 1 (2nd Attempt) : 09.07.2024 upto 03.00 PM
Closing date & time:- Sr No. 2 (8th Attempt) : 09.07.2024 upto 11.00 AM
Opening date & time:- Sr. No. 2 (8th Attempt) : 09.07.2024 upto 03.00 PM
Pre Bid meeting date & time : 25.06.2024 at 11.00 AM

For detailed log onto <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.

Note: Any Corrigendum(s), to the Tender/RFP Notice shall be published on the above website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Pb. W/S & Sew. Divn. No. 2, Bathinda

34562

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 (2) (ii) Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Ashu @ Sachin** S/o Sh. Raj Kumar R/o K-240, Mangolpuri, Outer Distt. Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence case FIR No. 232/21 u/s 379/356/411/34 IPC, P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Ashu @ Sachin** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Ashu @ Sachin** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 (2) (ii) Cr.P.C. has been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Ashu @ Sachin** accused of FIR No. 232/21 u/s 379/356/411/34 IPC, P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on **14.08.2024**.

By Order: Ms. Divya Arora,
Metropolitan Magistrate (North West)
Room No. 112, First Floor,
Rohini Courts, Delhi.

DP/7350/RD/2024

उपप्रो लोक सेवा आयोग

संक्षिप्त विज्ञप्ति

एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि शिक्षिता स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, उपप्रो (एलोपैथी) के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न विशिष्टताओं में से शिक्षिताधिकारी ग्रेड-2 (स्तर-2) के गायनकोलीजिस्ट, जनरल सर्जन एवं जनरल फिजिशियन पदों पर सीधी भर्ती द्वारा चयन हेतु साक्षात्कार कार्यक्रम निम्नवत् है:-

क्र० सं०	विज्ञापन संख्या	विभाग	विभाग संख्या	पद का नाम	साक्षात्कारपदों की संख्या
1	डी-1/ई-1/2024	चिकित्सा स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, उपप्रो (एलोपैथी)	एस-8/01	चिकित्साधिकारी ग्रेड-2 (स्तर-2) गायनकोलीजिस्ट	24, 25 एवं 26 जून, 2024
2	डी-1/ई-1/2024	चिकित्सा स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, उपप्रो (एलोपैथी)	एस-8/14	चिकित्साधिकारी ग्रेड -2 (स्तर-2) जनरल सर्जन	27 एवं 28 जून, 2024
3	डी-1/ई-1/2024	चिकित्सा स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, उपप्रो (एलोपैथी)	एस-8/20	चिकित्साधिकारी ग्रेड-2 (स्तर-2) जनरल फिजिशियन	01 एवं 02 जुलाई, 2024

नोट:- साक्षात्कार कार्यक्रम की विस्तृत सूचना आयोग की वेबसाइट <https://uppsc.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है।

संख्या- 01(27)/01/डीओआर/एस-8/2024-25 (विनोद कुमार सिंह) संयुक्त सचिव।

दिनांक-प्रयागराज, 13 जून, 2024

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

For & on behalf of the President of India, Chief Workshop Manager, N. Rly. C&W workshop, Jagadhri Workshop/Yamuna Nagar invites open e-tender for the following work:-

1	Name of work	Overhauling of 8928 Cut Off Angle Cock, 3144 Dirt Collector and Overhauling & Hydraulic Testing of 2040 Air Auxiliary Reservoir (capacity 200 Lt.) for POH due Coaches in Carriage Shop Jagadhri Workshop Northern Railway for TWO years
2	Location	Northern Railway, Carriage & Wagon Repair Shop, Jagadhri Workshop, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana-135002
3	Tender Value	₹ 2393003.75
4	Quantity	As per scope of work
5	Cost of Tender form	NIL
6	Earnest money amount	₹ 47900.00
7	Completion period of the work	24 months from the date of issuance of Letter of Acceptance
8	Date & Time for submission of tender form	03.07.2024 till 15.30 hrs.
9	Opening of tender	03.07.2024 till 15.35hrs. Tender opening will be done any time after the tender closing time. The tenders are not required to be present during the opening. Railway reserves the right to open the tender any time after closing of tender.
10	Website particulars	www.ireps.gov.in
No.	6-S/52/Tender/2023-24/P2 Date	11.06.2024 1786/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Centre for Railway Information Systems
Chanakyaapuri, New Delhi-110021,
Tel : 011-24106717, 24104525

Tender Notice

EOI for Leading Solution Providers in Media Processing Technologies through AI Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from leading solution providers to explore cutting-edge technologies for media processing. The focus of EOI is on solutions for processing of video, audio, and image files and to efficiently align with existing complaint redressal mechanism of Indian Railways. This initiative aims to harness advanced technologies from industry partners to provide a state of the art solution for grievances redressal in Indian Railways.

Interested agencies having relevant work experience may submit their EOI by **15:00 Hrs of 20.06.2024** to CRIS through mail at utsdel@cris.org.in with details as listed below:

1. Name of Organization; , 2. Address; , 3. Contact Person; , 4. Contact No; , 5. Email; , 6. Registered in India Since; , 7. Whether Startup; Yes/No , 8. Relevant Experience (No. of Years); , 9. Experience of working for video processing through AI; , 10. Experience of working for Audio processing through AI; , 11. Experience of working for Image processing through AI; , 12. Any Implementation for Government; , 13. Any other relevant details; , 14. Queries, if any;

A meeting in this regard is organized at CRIS, Conference Hall, 3rd Floor, ITPI Building, 4-A, Ring Road, New Delhi on 21.06.2024 at 11:00 Hrs.

Managing Director/CRIS

बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग
15, नेहरू पथ (बेली रोड), पटना-800001

आवश्यक सूचना

विज्ञापन सं.-32/2024 एवं विज्ञापन सं.-33/2024

लोक स्वास्थ्य अभिवर्धन विभाग, बिहार के अधीन सहायक अभियंता (असैनिक) के कुल 113 (एक सौ तेरह) एवं सहायक अभियंता (यांत्रिक) के कुल 05 (पाँच) पदों पर नियुक्ति हेतु सुयोग्य भारतीय उम्मीदवारों से विहित प्रपत्र में ऑनलाइन आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं।

2. ऑनलाइन आवेदन पत्र भरने से संबंधित तिथि एवं अन्य निर्देश निम्नांकित हैं:-

1. ऑनलाइन आवेदन प्रारम्भ करने की तिथि	15.06.2024
2. ऑनलाइन आवेदन भरने की अंतिम तिथि	30.06.2024

3. उपर्युक्त विज्ञापन के संबंध में विस्तृत सूचना/विवरण/जानकारी एवं ऑनलाइन आवेदन भरने हेतु निर्देश आयोग के वेबसाइट www.bpsc.bih.nic.in पर प्रदर्शित है।

4. अथर्था ऑनलाइन आवेदन भरने की प्रक्रिया प्रारम्भ करने के पूर्व वेबसाइट पर प्रदर्शित विस्तृत विज्ञापन एवं ऑनलाइन आवेदन भरने हेतु आवश्यक एवं विस्तृत निर्देश का भली-भाँति अध्ययन कर लें।

अपर सचिव-सह-परीक्षा नियंत्रक
बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग, पटना।

Bihar Public Service Commission
15, Nehru Path (Bailey Road), Patna-800 001 (BIHAR)

Notice for Short Term e-tender

The Proposal for "Selection of the Agency for operation and Maintenance of the Existing Online Application Management System and re-design, development, hosting & maintenance of BPSC website has been published on web-site of the eproc portal <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> . Bidders can participate in this tender only through ONLINE mode.

NIT No.	Online Application & Website/2024/02
Publication Date and Time	13.06.2024 and 6.00 PM
Last date for Submission of written queries for clarifications	19.06.2024 and 1 PM Website : https://bpsc.bih.nic.in e-mail: bpscpat-bih@nic.in
Date and Time of pre-bid Conference Mode Address	19.06.2024 and 4.30 PM Office BIHAR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
Non-Refundable Tender Fee/Cost	INR, 10,000 only (exclusive of taxes) (Rupees Ten thousand only) payable online through e-Procurement
Earnest Money Deposit	INR 500000 only (Rupees Five Lakhs only)
Last date (deadline) for submission of bids	27.06.2024 4.00 PM
Opening of General & Technical Bids	27.06.2024 4.30 PM

Secretary
Bihar Public Service Commission Patna

DGHS, health dept under lens after ACB fire report

Jignasa Sinha
jignasa.sinha@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A day after an Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) investigation showed that the fire at the Vivek Vihar neonatal hospital could have been averted, the focus has now shifted to the findings of the report, which pointed to official apathy and alleged collusion between owners of nursing homes and officials from the health department and the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The report, which was submitted to the vigilance department on Monday, says that the health department and DGHS officials failed to conduct regular inspections at the nursing homes and hospitals as requests for licence renewal were kept pending. HT has a copy of the report.

On May 25, a massive fire ripped through Vivek Vihar's Baby Care New Born Hospital killing six newborn babies and injuring six others. The Delhi Police then said that the hospital was running on an expired licence from the department of health services and did not conform to fire safety norms.

Lieutenant governor VK Saxena had ordered ACB to probe the incident and fix responsibility. ACB officials said that the report will eventually be submitted to the LG's office.

ACB inspected 65 nursing homes in east Delhi, Shahdara, Rohini, north-east Delhi and parts of south-east Delhi.

According to the report, many nursing homes had not been inspected since 2020-21, and the chief district medical officers (CDMOs) kept the



PHOTO: ARVIND YADAV/HT

What the ACB report says

65	Total nursing homes/hospitals inspected
13	Running without licence/expired licence
27	With illegally expanded beds
34	No Fire clearance from DFS
27	No fire safety arrangements/equipment
25	No emergency exit/ or exit blocked

license applications "pending" for over six months to a year. Of the 65 nursing homes the ACB inspected, at least 13 were operating without a health department licence or an expired licence.

Officials said four of the 13 nursing homes never applied for a licence and they had operation theatres, IVF facilities or neonatal care units with unqualified doctors.

DGHS issues licence to nursing homes and hospitals after receiving a clearance from the fire department, Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), and CDMOs who conduct inspections.

In the report, ACB has mentioned that department of health services officials had a "nexus" with doctors at these

nursing homes.

A senior official from the health department, who has been named in the report, said, "It is not the job of a medical superintendent to conduct checks at each and every hospital. The CDMO should have taken care of it. Also, one can't say collusion from our end based on some random inspection. We will give all details in due time..."

A DGHS official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said ACB has sought response about the inspections and added that they will submit a response. The matter is under investigation, the official said.

A secretary-level official with DPCC refused to comment on the matter, saying they have not seen the report.

A Delhi government spokesperson pointed out that all transfer and postings come under the LG office. "Appointments of all officers is under the control of BJP-ruled central government... Right from a nurse to a medical superintendent, all postings and transfers are under the control of LG. They, by themselves, decide who is to be appointed at which position. There have been so many cases where the elected government has requested to take action against errant officers who are sabotaging the health services, but the Centre has consciously chosen not to take any action against such officers," the government spokesperson said.

The report shows that 27 nursing homes of the 65 inspected by ACB added hospital beds without official permission. According to the health department, no hospital or nursing home can add beds beyond its sanctioned strength as it may lead to risk for patients safety can care.

According to the report, 27 nursing homes had no fire safety equipment or their devices were not working.

Atul Garg, Delhi Fire Service chief said it is the health department's prerogative to assess the licence applications and check if the hospital has a fire NOC (no-objection certificate). "We can only process an application after it has been cleared by the health department. How are we responsible for the misconduct at the hospitals? If there is some issue with fire safety at an establishment where an NOC has been given, then we can be held liable."

Delhiwale

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Mayank Austen Soofi



This way to Gali Surkh Poshan

The Walled City dictionary

{ PUBLIC INTEREST }

As part of our 'Walled City dictionary' series, that is chronicling every Old Delhi place-name.

The faker's deep-throated singing voice is wafting probingly along the weathered walls of the narrow cul-de-sac. The other — much younger — faker is silent, holding a small polythene thaila filled with surkh-red tomatoes. Both men are clad in white.

Gali Surkh Poshan must have its share of dwellers, but nobody else can be seen this afternoon. No matter, the faker continues to sing with feeling.

*Dur hoon Madine se,
Aur isliye udasi hai.*
(Being far from Madina, Is the cause for sadness.)

Meanwhile, it is unbearably hot, but only outside the lane, where it merges into the open expanse of Gali Choori Walan. Within the cramped Surkh Poshan feels like cool February. The sun's light may be infiltrating into the winding alley, but its heat isn't.

An elderly man lounging outside the lane, in front of Unchi Masjid, says that Surkh Poshan is home to "only 8-10 households." The gali's name means "lal kapre (red clothes)" in Persian, he says. A long time ago, the man explains, one of the houses belonged to a merchant of red fabrics.

The claim isn't universally shared. The soft-spo-

ken butcher Karimuddin Shah, resting in his meat shop within the lane (see photo), gives another version. "The walls here used to be surkh, or red."

No red wall is to be sighted today. (Although some walls appear to be very old; they are not even of old-fashioned lakhori bricks, but of rough-hewn stones).

Next moment, a creaking sound tears through the alley, as if a long-closed window somewhere has flapped open. The faker stops singing. A woman's cry descends from some multi-storey's high altitude, politely urging the fakers to come further up along the lane, towards its last house. The men hastily move to the vaguely indicated place, their raised heads trying to spot the source of the voice. Just then something hits the ground with a sudden dull thud. It is a ₹10 coin.

The older faker unhurriedly keeps the coin in his pajama pocket, uttering aloud a blessing—"May you and your family live long and happily." He again resumes his song. The other faker relaxes, and leans his back against a wall, beside a flier advertising matchmaking "all over India and around the world in every caste and category."

Soon, a door around the corner opens, a little boy steps out and shyly hands over a coin to the singing faker.

Hours later, in the evening, the lane is teeming with children playing hide-and-seek.



READ: For more stories by Mayank Austen Soofi, scan the QR code



Firemen attempt to douse the fire that broke out in a shop in Marwadi Katra, Chandni Chowk on Thursday.

SANCHIT KHANNA/HT

Shops gutted in fire at Chandni Chowk

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A massive fire erupted in several shops located in north Delhi's Chandni Chowk area on Thursday evening, prompting the fire department to deploy 30 fire tenders.

The department said that nobody was injured in the fire even as "cooling operation" continued till late evening.

Delhi Fire Services director Atul Garg said that the incident was reported at 5pm. The fire was in Marwadi Katra on Nai Sadak. Initially, 14 fire tenders

were dispatched, but the fire was so big that within two hours 16 more engines were sent.

Deputy commissioner of police (north) Manoj Kumar Meena said that the fire started in a single building with shops on the ground floor and storage spaces on two floors above them.

"The shops sold apparel and their stocks were kept in the godowns located above the shops," he said. All people who were present in the shop at the time of the incident were evacuated safely.

Chandni Chowk MP Praveen Khandelwal and Delhi BJP

spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor expressed concern over the loss of goods and property due to the fire.

Khandelwal alleged that none of the newly installed fire hydrants on main Chandni Chowk road were working, impeding operations to douse the blaze.

In a post on X, Delhi minister Atishi said, "I am in constant touch with the district administration regarding the fire incident in Chandni Chowk area. In this season of scorching heat, I request all of you to not allow any possibility of short-circuit

around you, take precautions and stay safe."

Garg highlighted the challenge of operating in narrow lanes. "We used all our equipments including hydraulic machines and laid water ropes a few metres in advance to reach the spot," Garg said.

Sarv Vyapar Mandal president Sanjay Bhargava criticised the authorities for neglecting safety in Chandni Chowk. "There have been many fires here, yet loose wires are hanging everywhere. Even in this case, a short circuit is suspected to be the cause of this fire," Bhargava said.

11K apply for 1,100 PG seats at Delhi's Ambedkar univ

Aheli Das
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Dr BR Ambedkar University (AUD) has received more than 11,000 applications for 1,100 postgraduate seats across 27 programmes, officials said, adding that this is the highest number of applications for PG courses that the varsity has received since it was established in 2008.

In comparison, AUD received 7,612 applications for its PG programmes in 2023, and 6,546 in 2022.

University officials said that this year, the most applications were for the Master's in Economics course, followed by English, sociology, and business

RECORD HIGH APPLICATIONS FOR 1,100 SEATS ACROSS 27 PG COURSES INCL. ECONOMY, BUSINESS ADMIN, SOCIOLOGY, ENGLISH

administration.

The last date for applying for PG courses is June 17. "We are expecting the number (of applications) to cross 12,000 by the last date," said AUD vice-chancellor Anu Singh Lather.

AUD also offers 21 undergraduate programmes, the admission process for which is

yet to start.

Delhi University and Jawaharlal Nehru University are also going through their admission processes for the academic year 2024-25.

AUD offers 79 undergraduate courses, with 71,000 seats. In addition, the university offers 82 PG courses with 13,500 seats.

Last year, DU received close to 246,000 applications for its UG courses, and about 56,325 registrations for PG courses.

"The total number of registered users for PG CUET this year is 85,144. Since the UG admission process is still going on, the data on registrations can only be shared at a later stage," dean of admissions Haneet Gandhi said.

POLICE LAY HONEY TRAP TO ARREST ABSCONDING MAN

NEW DELHI: A 45-year-old man, wanted in connection with 20 cases of theft and snatching, was arrested after he fell for a honey trap laid by a constable, police said on Thursday.

Police said Bunty Singh, an accused in multiple cases of robbery, Arms Act and bootlegging and was declared proclaimed offender by a city court in June 2013, had been absconding for more than a decade.

Officers said head constable Omparkash Dagar came up with the idea to create a social media account with a woman's name, and befriended Singh. "Dagar started chatting with Singh and called him to meet him at the Punjabi Bagh Metro station. On June 7, the meeting was fixed. The team was ready and laid a trap and he was successfully arrested," said DCP (north) Manoj Kumar Meena. **HTC**

Sanitation worker killed on Ggm road

HT Correspondent
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

GURUGRAM: A sanitation worker employed by the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram died after she was hit by a speeding cab on the Southern Peripheral Road (SPR) near Vatika Chowk on Thursday, police said.

They said the deceased was identified as Saroj (goes by one name), 52, a resident of Sarai Alwardi village in Bajghera. Police said that the incident took place at about 7.30am when she was sweeping the SPR spot with

several others.

Police said the cab was speeding and such was the impact was thrown into the air and fell several metres away, adding that she died at the spot.

Inspector Satish Kumar, station house officer of Badshahpur police station, said that the cab driver had fled from the spot on foot after leaving the damaged Hyundai Xcent at the spot. The driver was later traced and arrested. "He was identified as 30-year-old Mohammad Chand, from Farrukhabad district of Uttar Pradesh," he said.



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नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

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 तिरहा 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
- 2000 से अधिक पुलिसकर्मियों को मिला पात्रानुसार 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 25 हजार मकान बनाने का लक्ष्य
- मध्यप्रदेश में आयी अपराधों में कमी, थानों की सीमाओं के पुनर्निर्धारण का कार्य तेजी से जारी
- 105 वर्ग मीटर तक के आवासीय भू-खंडों के लिए ऑनलाइन आवेदन कर डीमड अनुज्ञा प्राप्त करने और 300 वर्ग मीटर तक के आवासीय भू-खंडों पर त्वरित अनुज्ञा प्रदान करने की व्यवस्था लागू
- दो चरणों में राजस्व महाअभियान चलाकर 30 लाख 48 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 8 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
- पीएम कॉलेज ऑफ एक्सीलेंस को बहुसंकायी बनाने एवं स्नातकोत्तर कक्षाओं के संचालन हेतु 7 महाविद्यालयों में स्नातक स्तर पर नवीन संकाय एवं 55 महाविद्यालयों में स्नातक व स्नातकोत्तर स्तर पर संस्कृत, बायोटेक्नोलॉजी, कम्प्यूटर साइंस विषय प्रारंभ
- पीएम कॉलेज ऑफ एक्सीलेंस में सेंटर फॉर रिसर्च इन स्कीम एड पॉलिसी (CRISP) के माध्यम से 8 रोजगारोन्मुखी 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 सेटलाइट कैपस) का उद्घाटन
- खरगोन में ₹170 करोड़ से क्रांतिसूर्य टंट्या भील विश्वविद्यालय का उद्घाटन
- 369 सर्वसुविधायुक्त सीएम राइज़ विद्यालयों का संचालन
- विश्वविद्यालयों के कुलपति को कुलगुरु कहे जाने का निर्णय
- सागर में रानी अवंतीबाई लोधी विश्वविद्यालय एवं गुना में ताल्या 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 इन्व्यूबेशन 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



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 46 हजार 491 नये पदों (नियमित/संविदा/आउटसोर्स) के सृजन की स्वीकृति
- स्वास्थ्य सूचकांकों में बेहतर प्रदर्शन के लिये स्वास्थ्य संस्थानों में चिकित्सीय विशेषज्ञों के 607 पदों पर पूर्ति सीधी भर्ती से कराने की मंजूरी



सशक्त बनती नारी शक्ति

- लाइली 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
- लाइली लक्ष्मी योजना अंतर्गत दिसंबर 2023 से अभी तक 73 हजार 880 लाइली बालिकाओं के खाते में ₹34 करोड़ की छात्रवृत्ति का अंतरण
- 45 लाख 89 हजार बहनों के खातों में ₹450 में गैस सिलिंडर की रीफिलिंग के लिए ₹118 करोड़ का अंतरण
- प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना अंतर्गत 3 चरणों में अब तक 88 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 11 हजार से अधिक उम्मीदवारों को सौंपे गए नियुक्ति-पत्र
- स्टार्ट-अप को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए नई पहल के तहत, प्रदेश के स्टार्ट-अप 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
- अग्रिवीर 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 स्ट्राइपेड वितरित



१९ 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 ११

- डॉ. मोहन यादव, मुख्यमंत्री

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 विंटेनल ₹ 1000 का विशेष प्रोत्साहन
- रबी विपणन वर्ष 2024-25 में 6 लाख से अधिक किसानों से 48 लाख 35 हजार मीट्रिक टन से अधिक गेहूँ का समर्थन मूल्य पर नकद भुगतान कर उपार्जन। प्रति विंटेनल ₹125 बोनस का भुगतान
- किसानों के लिए शून्य प्रतिशत व्याज 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 2.0' के अंतर्गत 30 हजार से अधिक श्रमिक परिवारों को ₹670 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 24 हजार 420 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
- तैदूपत्ता संग्राहकों का मानदेय ₹3000 प्रति बोरा से बढ़ाकर ₹4000 हजार किया। लगभग 35 लाख तैदूपत्ता 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 11 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

- मध्यप्रदेश के चोतरफा 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 6 माह में जीएसटी अंतर्गत कुल ₹19091 करोड़ का राजस्व प्राप्त ,जो पिछले वर्ष से 28% 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 स्कूटनी प्रवर्तन, ITC रिवर्सल आदि के माध्यम से प्राप्त हुआ



औद्योगिक निवेश को प्रोत्साहन

- आप्टा (सीहोर) में लगभग ₹60,000 करोड़ के निवेश से पेट्रोकेमिकल कॉम्प्लेक्स तथा इथेन क्रैकर परियोजना की स्थापना का प्रस्ताव
- 1 एवं 2 मार्च, 2024 को उज्जैन में रीजनल इंडस्ट्री कॉन्क्लेव ऐतिहासिक रूप से 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-2024 में वाहनों के आरटीओ पंजीयन पर 50% की छूट पर उज्जैन में हुई 23,000 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-कालीसिंह-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-बैंगलुरु, 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 ₹24 हजार 500 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 रस्-रखाव और सुविधाओं के लिए लगभग ₹100 करोड़ की लागत से नए कोच कॉम्प्लेक्स का शिलान्यास
- निशातपुरा-संत हिरदयाम 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-जावदा के मध्य 4-लेन ग्रीनफील्ड एक्सप्रेस कंट्रीलड 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 इंडस्ट्रियल कॉरिडोर (एक्सप्रेस-वे) से जुड़ेंगे
- ₹1540 करोड़ की लागत से बनने वाले भोपाल मेट्रो के नए 8 स्टेशनों का भूमिपूजन, नगरीय निकायों को विकास कार्यों के लिए ₹1 हजार करोड़ की राशि का अंतरण
- मुख्यमंत्री शहरी क्षेत्र अधोसंरचना (चतुर्थ चरण) निर्माण योजना के लिए ₹1630 करोड़ से अधिक राशि स्वीकृत
- भोपाल, इंदौर, ग्वालियर, जबलपुर, उज्जैन एवं सागर में प्रधानमंत्री ई-बस सेवा योजना में 550 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



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 1 मार्च से 9 अप्रैल, 2024 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
- 29 फरवरी, 2024 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 ₹20 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 सेवाएं
- वर्ष प्रतिपदा नव सन्वत्सर 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 स्वन-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 2.0 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 दूरिज्म को गति देने के लिए मध्यप्रदेश में ऑंकारेश्वर स्थित एकात्म धाम (स्टैच्यू ऑफ वननेस) से गुजरात के कावड़िया में स्थित स्टैच्यू ऑफ यूनिटी तक कूज 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 बढ़ाकर ₹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 50 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, 361 शहर ओडीएफ डबल प्लस, एक शहर 7-स्टार, एक 5-स्टार, 24 शहर 3-स्टार और 132 शहर 1-स्टार गार्बेज फ्री श्रेणी में पुरस्कृत



अन्य उपलब्धियां

- 50वें खजुराहो नृत्य समारोह के अवसर पर 1 हजार 484 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

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

- आयुष्मान भारत योजना
- मधुआ क्रेडिट कार्ड योजना
- राष्ट्रीय पशु रोग नियंत्रण कार्यक्रम
- प्रधानमंत्री आदर्श ग्राम योजना
- राष्ट्रीय आजीविका मिशन
- स्वच्छ भारत मिशन

मध्यप्रदेश शासन

SC ON NEET

drawn and that a new test will be conducted on June 23. A topper, 17, said his school and coaching centre had advertised his achievement and that the court decision “made a mockery of him”. “What if I do not make it this time? Society will laugh at me and my family members,” said the boy who attempted NEET for the first time.

But the decision represents only a small fraction of the problems roiling NEET this year, primary among which is the fact that 67 people scored a perfect 720, up from two in 2022. Junking grace marks will only remove six people from this list of 67. Other apparent inconsistencies in the process — such as six candidates getting perfect scores from the same centre in Faridabad, 44 students getting marks because of discrepancies in old and new physics textbooks, or inflated marking that has skewed the percentiles — remain unaddressed.

The chaos has sparked sweeping protests across India as thousands of students have hit the streets against this year’s process amid allegations of question paper leaks, and opposition parties have called for a Supreme Court monitored probe into the allegations.

The Congress on Thursday demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) inquiry and asserted that the anger in the country over the matter will “reverberate inside Parliament as well”.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said that over the last 10 years, the Modi government has ruined the future of millions of young people.

“Grace Marks was not the only problem in NEET exam. There has been rigging, papers have been leaked, corruption has taken place. The future of 24 lakh students appearing in the NEET examination is at stake due to the actions of the Modi government,” the Congress president said in a post on X.

He alleged that exam centres and coaching centres had formed a nexus.

The government has rejected the allegations of a leak even as it has set up a committee to look into the process.

Responding to Kharge’s allegations, Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that there is no concrete evidence of any kind of rigging, corruption or paper leak.

“I want to remind the Congress that to prevent paper leak

and to conduct a cheating-free exam, the central government passed the Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act this year, which has many strict provisions. Congress should not be under the misconception that if any nexus is found, no action will be taken against it,” he said in a post on X.

The vacation bench disposed of the petition filed by NEET candidate Jaripiti Kartheek after suggestions given by a four-member panel formed by the ministry of education on the issue. The petition challenged the grant of grace marks to 1,563 candidates.

The recommendations of the committee dated June 12 submitted by advocate Kanu Agarwal, appearing for the Centre, sought the withdrawal or cancellation of the scorecards of the 1,563 candidates issued on June 4.

Taking the suggestions on record, the bench said, “We dispose the petition in view of the stand taken above as stated by the Union of India and the National Testing Agency (NTA).”

NTA, represented by senior advocate Naresh Kaushik, informed the court that results will be available before June 30 to ensure the counselling process, which begins on July 6, does not get affected.

Advocate Y Balaji, appearing for the petitioner Kartheek, termed the decision “fair” and was satisfied with the proposal submitted by the Centre.

However, advocate J Sai Deepak, who appeared for Alakh Pandey, the founder and CEO of edtech firm Physicswallah, said that the window should not be restricted to 1,563 candidates. He said that the grace marks were not envisaged under the NEET examination policy and this denied a fair chance to 2.4 million candidates who appeared in the examination.

But the bench disagreed.

“These are all educated people who are aware of their rights. The examination was conducted on May 5 and nobody else has approached on this count for over a month. If we open the window, all sorts of requests will come saying enough time was not granted,” it said.

The court kept the matter pending as it also touched upon alleged malpractices and paper leaks — two aspects being considered in two separate petitions pending before the top court.

The court ordered Pandey’s

petition along with a similar petition on the aspect of paper leak brought by a group of NEET candidates be heard on July 8.

The 1,563 candidates who got grace marks complained that they did not get the stipulated 3 hours and 20 minutes to complete the examination. The NTA grievance committee looked into this aspect and identified the 1,563 candidates from six centres in Meghalaya, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Surat and Chandigarh.

In all 2.4 million students sat for the examination at 4,750 centres spread across 571 cities around the world.

This year’s NEET has been shrouded in controversy after allegations surfaced that in one centre in Rajasthan, students appearing for Hindi medium got question papers in English amid reports of torn OMR sheets and delay in distribution of question papers. A case was lodged in Patna over an alleged paper leak, after which the police arrested 13 people involved in solving question papers and supplying answers as part of a racket. The arrested people include four examinees.

The top court issued notice on a petition seeking cancellation of the NEET results on June 11. “The matter is not so simple. The sanctity has been affected and we need answers for that,” the top court said on Tuesday.

On June 8, the Centre constituted a four-member committee to examine the marks awarded for loss of time after petitions were filed in various high courts.

The vacation bench noted that the committee formed by the Centre held regular meetings from June 10 to 12 before arriving at the decision to offer retest to the affected 1,563 candidates. The order passed by court said, “This court finds that the recommendations made by the committee...are fair, reasonable and justified.”

A bench headed by chief justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud is likely to hear the batch of cases on July 8. It was a bench headed by the CJI which issued notice on a petition filed by a candidate Vanshika Yadav on May 17, to which similar petitions have been tagged.

The parents of some of the erstwhile toppers were despondent. For instance, a 40-year-old woman from Hajar whose husband is a daily wage labourer said they barely earn enough to make ends meet.

HAVOC IN SIKKIM

statement from the chief minister’s office said.

“Efforts are underway to provide every possible support to the victims and affected families, including recovery assistance, temporary settlement, and the provision of basic needs,” chief minister Prem Singh Tamang, who was in Itanagar for the swearing in ceremony of Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu, was quoted as saying in Sikkim government’s statement.

Mangan district, the northernmost region of the state bordering China, was the worst affected. According to data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Mangan district in North Sikkim received over 220mm rain between Wednesday morning and Thursday morning.

“A massive and devastating landslide has struck the areas around Mangan and various locations in North Sikkim following incessant rainfall since yesterday. This tragic incident has resulted in the loss of lives, the destruction of houses, and the displacement of families,” the government statement said.

While there were no official reports on how many people were displaced in this week’s havoc, over a hundred people have been affected.

In 2023, a flash flood devastated the state and also triggered a glacial lake outburst on the South Lhonak Lake in North Sikkim. Around 100 towns and villages were partially or severely hit. It included the towns of Lachen and Chungthang in north Sikkim. More than 88,000 people were affected. At least 33 bridges were washed away.

On Thursday, while three casualties were reported from Pakshap, three were killed in Ambhithang — both in North Sikkim which comprises Mangan district. With this, the toll in the state rose to nine, with three deaths being reported on Monday in South Sikkim.

The landslides blocked several roads and washed away some massive sections of others, damaged houses and uprooted electricity poles in multiple areas in Mangan. Several houses at Upper Gyathang and Tarag villages were completely damaged by landslides in Djongu area. The road leading to Mangan, the district headquarters, has been cut off. There were also several reports of deaths of cattle and poultry birds.

“The road leading to Mangan has been washed away at multiple points. This has cut off the supply line as vehicles can’t reach several areas. Measures were being taken to open up new routes to connect the cut off regions,” a district official in Mangan said.

District magistrate Hem Kumar Chettri said: “More than two thousand tourists are stranded at places like Lachen and Lachung. But they are all safe.”

Other areas like Damthang in South Sikkim, Gyalshing in West Sikkim and Gangtok have received 30mm-50mm rain in the same period. Ravangla in South Sikkim received 119.5mm rain between Tuesday and Wednesday morning, while Tadong in Gangtok district in East Sikkim, received around 103 mm rain between Monday and Tuesday morning.

While the state normally receives around 162mm rain between June 1 and June 13, according to IMD data, this year it has registered 250mm rain in the last 13 days, resulting in 54% excess.

{ FROM PAGE 1 }

Despite the rainfall so far, IMD has predicted even more in the coming days. IMD has issued a red alert for North Sikkim and orange alerts for others districts in the state, warning of more rain and possible landslides over the next four to five days.

“Alert for heavy to very heavy rainfall in all the six districts of Sikkim, till around the morning of June 18, has been sounded. For Mangan district, a red alert was in place for Thursday. Over the next few days orange alert has been issued for districts such as Gangtok, Geyzing and Mangan. The weather impact forecast says that there are possibilities of flash floods and landslides,” an IMD official said.

Attributing the excess rain to a strong monsoon trough and a low-pressure area over the state, GN Raha, director of IMD’s regional office in Gangtok, said, “Monsoon had hit Sikkim and sub-Himalayan West Bengal on May 31. Over the past few days, the monsoon trough has been very strong over Sikkim and as a result moisture-laden winds are gushing in from the Bay of Bengal. Secondly an elongated area of low pressure also passes over Sikkim. This is triggering the rains.”

Earlier, landslides were reported from several pockets in Gangtok district. At Namchi in South Sikkim, the main water supply pipeline was damaged hitting water supplies.

Officials from North Sikkim said the new bridge near Sangkalang, which was built by the Army and Border Roads Organisation after a glacial lake outburst in North Sikkim left over 100 dead in October last year, was completely damaged. As a result, connectivity between upper and lower Djongu, Chungthang, Lachung and Lachen has been cut off.

In West Bengal’s Kalimpong district, many people were rendered homeless as the Teesta River damaged human habitations along its banks. At Teesta Bazar, which was badly affected by the flash floods last year, the road leading to Darjeeling via Peshok was inundated, officials said.

Balasubramanian T, district magistrate of Kalimpong, said, “Many new vulnerable points have been identified on NH-10.” Used extensively by the Army and civilians, NH-10, which leads right up to the Indo-China border, is the lifeline of Sikkim and Kalimpong.

TERROR IN JAMMU

attacks in Reasi, Kathua and Doda districts since Sunday, highly trained foreign terrorists from Pakistan have targeted civilians and security forces.

In one attack, a group of three to four militants opened fire on a joint check post of the 4 Rashtriya Rifles and the Jammu & Kashmir Police in Doda’s Chattargala area on the Bhaderwah-Pathankot road at 1.45am on Wednesday. The ensuing gunbattle lasted several hours, leaving five army personnel and a special police officer injured.

On Wednesday evening, officers said the second attack was

on in the Kota Top area, 150km away from Chhattargala, when a second group of terrorists attacked a police team and injured head constable Fareed Ahmed.

Roughly 220km away in Kathua another gunbattle began late on Tuesday night and continued into Wednesday morning, leaving one Central Reserve Police Force jawan dead, six security personnel and one civilian injured, and two terrorists neutralised.

The three gunfights came on the heels of an attack on a bus carrying pilgrims in Reasi on Sunday, when armed terrorists opened fire on the vehicle, causing it to lose control and plunge into a gorge, with nine people dead and 42 others injured.

The string of attacks have sent ripples through the region fast becoming the hotbed of cross-border terrorism in the restive Union Territory.

Intelligence agencies have estimated the presence of 70-80 recently infiltrated foreign terrorists in the region. The Border Security Force (BSF), the Indian Army, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the J&K Police have been put on high alert as a manhunt is on for the terrorists.

Jammu has suffered at least seven terror attacks over the past year. After Wednesday night’s encounter in Doda, the sketches of four suspected terrorists were also released by the local administration.

With the Amarnath Yatra beginning soon, for which thousands of devotees will travel to the Valley, Shah will also hold a meeting with the ground forces and the intelligence agencies and discuss in detail the area domination plan, the law and order situation, and the status of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act cases against known suspects — lodged in prisons or out on bail — said a counterterrorism official who asked not to be named.

“The strategies that will be put in place include — round-the-clock nakas (check-points) at strategic points, group security in the form of static guards, intensified cordon and search operations to effectively deal with the challenges posed by terrorist organisations, and sharing of intelligence inputs on a real-time basis among all security forces operating in Jammu & Kashmir, particularly in the Rajouri, Poonch, Doda and Reasi regions,” said the official.

“We are also focusing on building a foolproof anti-infiltration grid and plug the gaps so that Pakistan is not able to send more terrorists,” this officer added.

A second security official said other strategies being implemented include day and night area domination, preventive operations to identify the strategic supporters (referring to overground workers who provide logistical support) of terrorism, and initiating investigations to expose their mechanisms of aiding and abetting terrorism, identifications of vulnerable spots to prevent terror-

ist attacks on civilians and sensitising troops on the ground about the issue.

The government believes that the bolstered strategy will help stave off further attacks, which, it says, are on the wane since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

According to the official ministry of home affairs (MHA) data, 44 incidents initiated by terrorists were reported in J&K in 2023 compared to 228 in 2018 (before the abrogation of Article 370). 48 encounters were reported in 2023 between terrorists and security forces compared to 189 in 2018. In these incidents, 13 civilians and 26 security personnel were killed in 2023, compared to 55 and 91 deaths, respectively, in 2018.

“We are working towards achieving zero-tolerance against terrorism, and a 360-degree security mechanism is being strengthened to completely eliminate the support and information system of terrorists,” a third security official said.

AFTER WEDNESDAY NIGHT’S GUNFIGHT IN DODA, THE SKETCHES OF FOUR SUSPECTED TERRORISTS WERE ALSO RELEASED BY THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

KUWAIT FIRE

Ahmedi governorate at 4.30am and most deaths were due to smoke inhalation while residents slept. NBTC group, an engineering and construction firm partially owned by KG Abraham, an industrialist originally from Kerala, had rented the building to house more than 195 workers, most of them Indians from southern Indian states.

At least 23 of the 45 dead are from Kerala, state government officials said, and state health minister Veena George has been directed by the state cabinet, which met on Thursday in an emergency sitting, to travel to Kuwait. “A help desk and a global contact centre are operating round the clock and the state government will fully support the interventions being carried out by the Indian government in Kuwait,” a Kerala government statement said.

To be sure, George alleged that the external affairs ministry denied her permission to travel to Kuwait.

Seven of the dead are from Tamil Nadu, and in a statement, chief minister MK Stalin said that “urgent steps” were being taken to bring back their bodies by a private plane.

Before leaving for Kuwait, minister of state for external affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh said, “The situation is that most of the victims are burn victims and some of the bodies have been charred beyond recognition.” DNA tests were being done to identify the bodies and an IAF aircraft was on stand-by to bring back the bodies, he added.

Singh met Kuwait’s deputy prime minister Sheikh Fahad Youssef Saud Al-Sabah and was told that the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, has issued instructions to ensure that all necessary assistance and support is provided to those affected by the fire. Singh thanked Al-Sabah and the leadership of Kuwait for the “proactive facilitation being provided by Kuwaiti authorities”, according to a post on X by the Indian embassy.

Singh visited Adan Hospital, where 12 Indians are being treated; Mubarak Al Kaber Hospital, where seven injured Indians are admitted; and then to Jaber Hospital, where six injured are being treated. He also met Kuwait’s health minister Ahmad Abdelwahab Ahmad Al-Awadi, who briefed him on the treatment of the injured Indians. Singh thanked him for the “exceptional medical care and attention” provided to the Indians.


The blaze was the second largest fire disaster in Kuwait in terms of the death toll, and the worst in a residential building. In August 2009, a woman, angry over her husband getting married for the second time, had set a wedding tent on fire, killing 56 women and children, according to Kuwaiti media.

As investigations picked up pace, Kuwait’s Fire Force announced after a field examination that the fire was caused by an electrical short circuit. Kuwait’s public prosecutor ordered the remanding of a Kuwaiti national and an expatriate on charges of “erroneous killing” in connection with the fire. The two persons, who weren’t identified, are being held on several charges, including “killing and injury by error due to negligence of security and safety precautions against fires”, the public prosecutor’s office said on X.


Al-Sabah said Kuwait’s Public Authority of Manpower will examine the issue of overcrowding of expatriate workers in buildings and the failure to comply with safety conditions. The owner of the building where the fire occurred will be kept in custody till the investigation is completed, he said.

The head of investigations at Kuwait’s fire department, Col Sayed Al-Mousawi, said a team probing the fire found an inflammable material was used as partitions between apartments and between rooms, and this caused the thick black smoke. Many victims suffocated while trying to run down stairwells filled with smoke, and people couldn’t go to the rooftop because the door was locked, he said.

AT LEAST 23 OF THE 45 DEAD ARE FROM KERALA, STATE OFFICIALS SAID, AND STATE HEALTH MINISTER VEENA GEORGE HAS BEEN DIRECTED TO TRAVEL TO KUWAIT



Homage



DR. R. P. BAJAJ

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your memory is a treasure.
You're loved beyond words,
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WITH A HEAVY HEART, WE ARE SAD TO
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Smt. Shanti Bhandari

Remembered by:
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Sangeeta-Sharad Bohra
Sanjay - Ranu Bhandari

Delhi:
16th June, Sunday
11am to 12pm
Chinmaya Mission
89 Lodhi Road, New Delhi

Jodhpur:
17th June, Monday
5:30 pm to 6:30pm
Motor Merchant Hall
D Road - Sadarpura, Jodhpur

Sumit - Natasha Bohra
Shikha - Abhinav Khaitan
Sagar - Prachi Bohra
Shriya Bhandari
Rayhan Bhandari

Sanjana, Kaira,
Navya & Karthik

Bhandari, Bohra, Kumbhat & Lodha Family

In Loving Memory




Smt. Shakuntla Ailawadi
(Wife of Late Shri K.C. Ailawadi)
14.06.1936 - 17.11.2014
Your ideals and moral values continue to be our source of inspiration. We always cherish the love, affection and blessings showered by you.

We love and miss you

**Anil Ailawadi
Rajiv Ailawadi
Rakesh Ailawadi**
B-1/28
SHAKUNTALA AILAWADI MARG
Janakpuri, New Delhi. 9717999120


In Loving Memory of




Divya Arora
14.06.1978 - 02.09.2023
D/o Vinod Arora

It is hard to not be upset that you are not here with us to celebrate your birthday. We miss you so much, but I know that you are looking down on us and we will be thinking about all the best memories we shared today. We all still talk about you and miss you so much and even more so today.

Fondly Remembered by:
Rashmi and Vinod Arora (Mummy and Papa)
Bhavya and Himanshu (Sister and Brother-in-Law)
Anam, Veer, Reava & Yuvraj (Nieces and Nephews)



Unforgettable



**In Loving Memory of
H.R. Lumba Mahan Atma
4th. Death Anniversary**

Worked with National Insurance Company. An illustrious member of the Lion's Club, actively contributed to cultural programs as well as Subroto Cup Tournaments.

Lumba Family,Relatives & Friends. Mob.9811750553

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सूचना

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निबन्धक / अध्यक्ष

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-II, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

1	Name of work : NIT-35-24-25-W-2 : Rag picking work in the section of SSE/ P.Way/GZB-I&II under ADEN/GZB jurisdiction of Sr. DEN-II
	Name of work : NIT-38-24-25-W-2 : Supply of portable water through tankers in the section of SSE/W/M/GZB and SSE/W/E/GZB including wayside stations and LC's under ADEN/GZB jurisdiction of Sr. DEN-II
2	Approx. cost of work : As per NIT on IREPS
3	Earnest Money to be deposited : As per NIT on IREPS
4	Cost of tender document : Rs. 0.00/-
5	Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender : 09.07.2024 at 15:00 Hrs.
6	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen : www.ireps.gov.in
7	Allocation : 04041032

- The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system.
- For all terms and conditions please refer tender document.
- No manual offers are acceptable.
- Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

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

C315/24 34558

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Tender ID No. 2024_DSCSC_257664_1

Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited (DSCSC) invites e-Tenders (online tender) from bonafide sugar manufacturers, traders, wholesalers and importers for supply of S - 30 Grade Sugar out of 2022-23 and 2023-24 season's production, for a quantity of approx. 4500 qtls +/- 20% (Approx. 750 qtls +/- 20% per month) to DSCSC Godowns at Gazipur, Siraspur or any other Godown in the NCT of Delhi. The quantity likely to be transported in each godown may range from 250 qtls to 500 qtls per month for 6 months from the date of award for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS) to eligible ration card holders in the NCT of Delhi. It can be seen/downloaded free of cost at/all from the website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

Start date & time of submission of e-bid	12.06.2024 from 6.55 PM
Last date and time of submission of bid	03.07.2024 upto 12.30 PM
Date and time of opening of technical bid	03.07.2024 at 01.00 PM
Date and time of opening of financial bid	to be communicated to the technically qualified bidders at later stage

For registration query bidder may be contact at this address:

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6th FLOOR, C-WING, VIKAS BHAWAN-II
(NEAR METALFE HOUSE),
CIVIL LINES, DELHI-110054

TOLL FREE NO. 180030702232/01244200462
(Monday-Friday, 09.30 AM to 06.00 PM)

Sd/-
DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0086/24-25 **Sr. GENERAL MANAGER**

SPOTLIGHT | NEET ROW

Govt, Oppn trade barbs as NEET row intensifies

Congress demands Supreme Court-monitored probe, says matter will ‘reverberate inside Parliament’; Centre accuses Opposition of ‘playing politics over future of students’

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The future of 2.4 millions students, who appeared for the National Eligibility Entrance Test (NEET) for admission in undergraduate medical courses this year, is at stake due to the “actions” of the Narendra Modi-led government, opposition parties on Thursday said, as it slammed the Centre and demanded a Supreme Court-monitored probe into allegations of irregularities and paper leaks in the examination that has already come under the scanner of the top court.

The Opposition also said that the grace marks awarded to 1,563 students, which were struck down by the Centre earlier in the day, was “unacceptable” and amounted to fraud, and asserted that the anger in the country over the matter will “reverberate inside Parliament as well”. The Parliament session is scheduled to be held from June 24 and July 3.

The remarks came even as Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan said there is no evidence to substantiate the claims of paper leak and added that the government is ensuring no student is at a disadvantage. He also said the Opposition is “spreading lies on a sensitive issue without knowing the facts”.

In a post on X, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge alleged “a nexus of Exam Centre and Coaching Centre has been formed, in which the game of ‘pay money, take paper’ is being played”.

“Grace marks were not the only problem in the NEET exam. There has been rigging, papers have been leaked, corruption has taken place. The future of 24 lakh (2.4 million) students who appeared in the NEET exam is at stake due to the actions of the Modi government,” he said. “The Modi government cannot escape its responsibility by putting it on the shoulders of NTA (National Testing Agency). The Congress party demands a fair investigation under the supervision of the Supreme Court in the entire NEET scam. After the investigation, the culprits should be given the harshest punishment

and lakhs of students should be compensated to save their year from being wasted,” he added.

At a press conference at AICC headquarters in Delhi, Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi said: “We are waiting for the Parliament session, we will raise the voice of 24 lakh (2.4 million) youth of the country inside Parliament. The anger over the NEET exam in the country will also reverberate inside Parliament. Now the INDIA bloc has the sufficient strength to bring the government to its knees and make them accountable to the students.”

He added: “We demand a Supreme Court-monitored investigation into this entire scandal...”

Trinamool Congress spokesperson Santanu Sen alleged that the BJP-led Centre was “playing with the future” of students.

The Tamil Nadu government also slammed the Union government, saying awarding students grace marks was “unacceptable” as it amounted to fraud. “The NTA has to be blamed for the irregularities and confusion arising due to the conduct of the test, especially awarding grace marks. What was the basis for granting grace marks...?” state health minister Ma Subramanian said.

He added that the protests across the country against holding the NEET only strengthened the repeated pleas of the ruling DMK in the southern state to abolish the screening test. The DMK government has repeatedly urged the Centre to abolish NEET, saying it disadvantages students from rural and poor backgrounds (who cannot afford coaching), and those studying in boards other than the Central Board of Secondary Education.

The education minister hit back at the opposition parties, saying “no concrete evidence of any kind of rigging, corruption or paper leak has been found so far in the NEET exam”. “Playing politics on the future of students is an old habit of Congress. Instead of making political gains, Congress should contribute to the development of India,” he said in a post on X. “...the Opposition is just spreading lies without knowing the facts,” he added.

No evidence to show paper leak in crucial exam: Education min

Fareeha Iftikhar
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday rejected allegations of paper leak in the medical entrance exams, reiterating the government’s commitment to safeguard the interest of students.

The allegations of corruption in the National Testing Agency (NTA) — the nodal body that conducts the National Eligibility Entrance Test (NEET) exam for admission to medical colleges — are baseless, Pradhan said, days after taking charge of the education ministry for a second consecutive term. “There is no paper leak, no proof has been found yet... The allegations of corruption in NTA are unfounded, it is a very credible body,” the minister said. “It conducts exams for more than 50 lakh school students annually, besides exams at the higher education level.”

His comments came on a day NTA told the Supreme Court that the decision to award grace marks to 1,563 candidates in NEET-UG for admission to MBBS, BDS and other courses was cancelled and they would be given the option to take a re-test on June 23.

The agency has come under criticism amid allegations of irregularities and inflation of marks in this year’s NEET-UG. Pradhan said that NEET-UG was conducted at 4,500 centres and of these, issues of incorrect question paper distribution were reported at just six centres. “The correct question paper was later provided but this took a little bit of time. Around 1,563 students were giving the exams in these centres and had to face time loss,” he said.

These 1,563 students were given grace marks as compensation based on a Supreme Court’s standing order on the issue, he said.



Dharmendra Pradhan

“NTA constituted an expert committee and applied the grace mark rule. Later it was found that some students got 100% marks. After this, some people went to the court. The Supreme Court today has given a verdict that 1,563 students will be given the option to either reappear in the NEET exam or accept the original marks. I accept the verdict of the Supreme Court. The government has taken this issue seriously,” the education minister said.

The minister said the re-exam of these candidates will be conducted on June 23.

Meanwhile, NTA also released a notification announcing the scrapping of grace marks for these 1,563 students.

“Subsequent to the Hon’ble Supreme Court’s Observations on the Report of NTA’s High Powered Committee, the grace / compensatory marks awarded to all 1,563 students stand withdrawn. A re-test of all the 1,563 candidates will be held on 23rd June 2024. NTA will issue a Public Notice shortly and will also contact these 1,563 candidates through email to ensure that they receive the official communication,” the NTA said in its notification.

According to NTA officials, with the scrapping of grace marks, the number of toppers has now decreased from 67 to 61. “Six of the 67 candidates had got grace marks due to loss in time. Now, either they will accept their original marks or can take a retest on June 23,” said a senior NTA official

NEET-UG row: All you need to know

By Fareeha Iftikhar

What’s the formula that was used to give grace marks to 1,563 students?

The NTA panel ascertained a “loss of examination time” for students and then they were compensated with marks on the basis of their answering efficiency and time lost, based on a formula established by a 2018 Supreme Court judgment regarding a similar incident in CLAT. The overall marks of these 1,563 candidates, after grace marks, vary between -20 and 720.

NTA did not share the exact formula used to calculate the grace marks – it was not clear if the used the exact CLAT formula or a modified version of that. “The students were compensated on the basis of questions attempted by them in whatever time was available to them,” the agency maintained.

However, amid the row, the Union education ministry last week formed a high-level committee to review the results of these 1,563 candidates.

Were all 6 ‘grace’ toppers from one examination centre?

Yes. One examination centre in Haryana’s Bahadurgarh had a time loss case, and students there were all given grace marks. The six students at AIR #1 with grace

WHAT IS THE CONTROVERSY?

Since the announcement of NEET-UG 2024 results on June 4, students, parents and experts have raised complaints about results being far better across the board compared to last year. A staggering 67 students received full marks (720 out of 720) and shared the top rank – for context, only two students got 720 last year, and no one got the perfect score the year before that.

Additionally, the results of NEET 2024 were published on June 4 – 10 days before the originally scheduled date – and NTA gave “grace marks” to a number of students due to some issues with the testing process, which stirred a major controversy.

How did 67 students get All-India Rank #1?

Initially, 17 students got full marks and shared the All-India Rank #1.

However, some students challenged a question in the physics section which was based on information in a new NCERT textbook. While one of the options was correct according to this new NCERT book, another option was right according to the older version of the book (which many students had prepared with). As a result, NTA ended up giving 5 marks to all those had marked any of these two options. With this, another 44 students went from 715 to 720 marks.

Besides, 6 students were given grace marks to take their total to 720.

marks were all from this centre. At this centre, a wrong question paper was initially distributed to students due to which they lost some time during the exam.

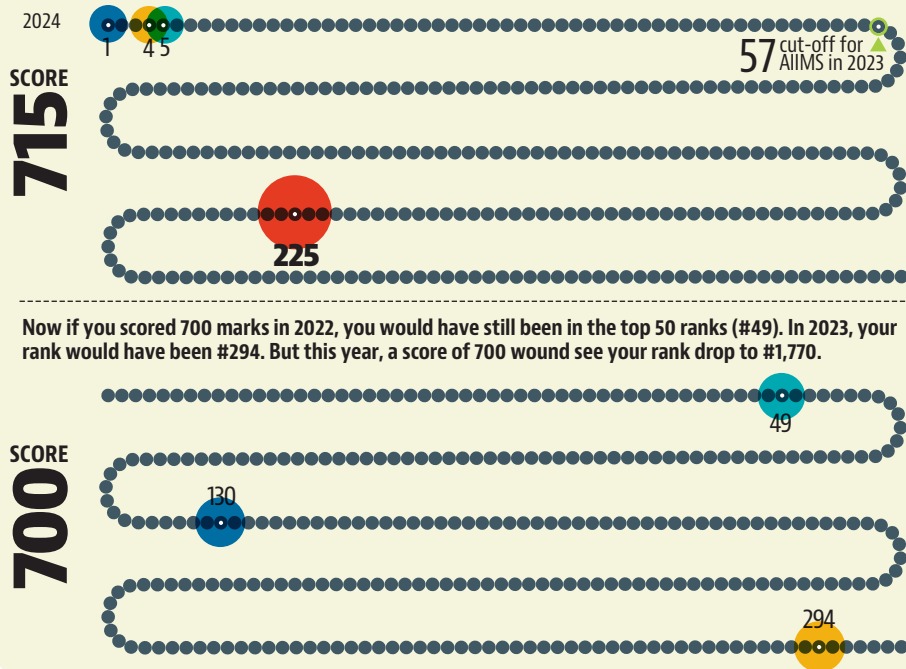
How has ‘inflation’ in marks affected students?

Due to inflation, many students have seen their ranks plummet despite scoring relatively well compared to previous years.

An HT analysis of previous results gives us a better idea.

RANKING WITH SAME SCORE IN DIFFERENT YEARS ● 2021 ● 2022 ● 2023 ● 2024

For instance, if you scored 715 marks (the 2nd highest possible score) in 2022, you would have had Rank #1 in 2022. For the same score, your rank would be #4 in 2023. But this year, your rank is #225.



Now if you scored 700 marks in 2022, you would have still been in the top 50 ranks (#49). In 2023, your rank would have been #294. But this year, a score of 700 would see your rank drop to #1,770.

Six perfect scorers, all from same Haryana centre, lose bragging rights

Leena Dhankhar
letters@hindustantimes.com

BAHADURGARH/JHAJJAR: Over the past week, India was roiled by protests as angry students hit the streets over the controversial National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) results. But in a corner of Haryana, six students – five boys and one girl – celebrated quietly as they were among the 67 candidates who scored a perfect 720. All six had appeared for the exam at Hardayal Public School in Bahadurgarh, and received grace marks – as high as 140, according to students and teachers – that boosted their scores.

On Thursday, however, a shroud of anxiety dispelled their joy as the Supreme Court allowed the Centre to scrap grace marks awarded during NEET and hold a retest on June 23.

Most of the 1,563 people awarded grace marks had scored poorly but six were part of the list of 67 toppers – the same six who wrote NEET at Hardayal Public School, a development that created a stir as it became emblematic of wider controversy that engulfed NEET this year. On Thursday night, they lost their status as candidates who ached what is normally considered to be one of India’s toughest entrance examinations. “I have been the topper of my school in Class 10 and 12 and it was not magic that I did it again. The decision is just not fair as mentally we were relaxed amid celebrations by friends and family members. This news had turned into a nightmare,” said a 17-year-old girl who scored 720 after getting grace marks.

Three of the six studied together in primary school in Jhaj-

jar district and two were good friends who prepared for the test together at the same institute. HT is not naming the students because they’re minors.

Another topper, also 17, said his school and coaching centre already advertised his achievement but the court decision made a mockery of him. “What if I did not make it this time? Society will laugh at me and my family members. This undue pressure is troubling me now and it will impact my studies too,” said the boy who attempted NEET for the first time.

Two other toppers said that their initial jubilation was replaced by disappointment upon hearing about the retest order. The court has said that if the students don’t opt for the retest, their actual scores without the grace marks will be considered.

“The court verdict is deeply



Hardayal Public School in Bahadurgarh, Haryana.

unfair to us. Scoring full marks was a result of my hard work and dedication, not grace marks. Now, I fear that my earlier achievement will be questioned if my performance changes in the retest,” said a 17-year-old.

At the heart of their predicament

is the controversial decision of the National Testing Agency (NTA) to award grace marks to some students. According to NTA, students from six centres in Meghalaya, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Surat and Chandigarh complained about “loss of time” during

the exams. At these locations, they did not get the fully allotted 3 hours and 20 minutes to write the exam due to administrative reasons that included the distribution of the wrong question paper, torn OMR sheets or delay in the distribution of OMR sheets. A committee was formed by NTA to probe the matter and it was decided that “grace marks” would be given to the students who lost time.

The agency said it awarded marks on the basis of the students’ answering efficiency and time lost, based on a formula established by a 2018 Supreme Court judgment regarding a similar incident in CLAT. The overall marks of these 1,563 candidates, after grace marks, vary between -20 and 720.

NTA did not share the exact formula used to calculate the grace marks and it was not clear if it used the exact CLAT formula or a

modified version of that. “The students were compensated on the basis of questions attempted by them in whatever time was available to them,” the agency maintained. But this clarification did little to remove the shadow of scandal hanging over the process.

Teachers at Hardayal Public School said there was no foul play but confusion over the set of question papers resulted in a delay.

“The students were not from the same school, they had come from different schools of the district. We were confused over two different sets and initially, we thought we had to give two sets of question papers but when students complained, we checked with NTA and took back one set. The process wasted a good 20 minutes,” said a teacher, requesting anonymity.

The principal said they were

cooperating with the authorities and the exam was taken under surveillance.

The parents of some of the erstwhile toppers were despondent. A 40-year-old woman from Jhajjar whose husband is a daily wage labourer said they barely earn enough to make ends meet. “Education was a luxury for which we ate only once a day. My son studied all night and slept hardly for three hours in the last two years. We do not have money to buy leaked papers or bribe anyone,” she said. “But this decision has burdened him with pressure...he is nervous and unmotivated.”

Not everyone is unhappy though. A 17-year-old who scored 650 is hopeful that the verdict will show that the assessment was not fair to everyone. “It will give a level playing field to all aspirants as there will be no grace marks.”

CONG SLAMS BJP ON LS NOTIFICATION SENT TO PLANNING COMMISSION

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Thursday hit out at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) after a Lok Sabha secretariat notification summoning the Lower House for its first session on June 24 was forwarded to the Planning Commission, which was struck down in 2015 and replaced by the NITI Aayog.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said: “A copy of the Notification has been forwarded to the Planning Commission. Finally the Ek thi hai(1/3rd)Pradhan Mantri seems to have realised his folly in abolishing it ten years back and replacing it with a drum-beating NITI Aayog.”

The BJP-led Centre had replaced the Planning Commission, which was started in 1950, with NITI Aayog in 2015. It works under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister. There was no reaction from the BJP.

{ **UPPER HOUSE POLLS** } 3 SEATS IN KERALA, 1 IN MAHA

After LS loss, Sunetra Pawar to enter RS

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Nationalist Congress Party leader Sunetra Pawar, who lost the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls from Baramati, is all set to make her legislative debut to the Rajya Sabha, as elections for one seat in Maharashtra and three in Kerala are scheduled on June 25. The nomination process ended on Thursday.

In Maharashtra, the bypoll was necessitated after NCP leader Praful Patel vacated his seat and switched to another berth in the Rajya Sabha. If elected, Pawar will retain the seat for four years till July 2028, as against the normal six-year term.

In Kerala, both the Congress and the CPI(M) have fielded their regional allies in the biennial polls to the three seats, currently held by the Left party and



Sunetra Pawar

its partners.

IUML, a partner of the Congress, is likely to bag the seat currently held by CPI(M)’s floor leader Elamaram Kareen.

In the remaining two seats, Jose K Mani of the Kerala Congress has been renominated while the CPI has replaced its outgoing lawmaker Binoy Viswam with PP Suneer.

After the biennial polls, the CPI(M) will have only four members in the Rajya Sabha.

The Rajya Sabha secretariat has also notified 10 vacancies in

the Upper House — two each in Assam, Bihar and Maharashtra, and one each in Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tripura — after its members switched over to the Lok Sabha in the recent general elections. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the single largest party in the Upper House with 90 members, is hopeful of retaining bulk of these 10 vacancies, however, it will face a tough contest in Haryana.

In Maharashtra, two seats that have fallen vacant after Piyush Goyal and Chhatrapati Udayanraje Bhosale were elected to the Lok Sabha. The BJP can easily retain both the seats as the combined strength of the NDA is 203 while the opposition has just 69 legislators in the 288-member assembly that currently has 14 vacancies.

ELECTION FOR LOK SABHA SPEAKER TO BE HELD ON JUN 26

NEW DELHI: The Lok Sabha will elect its new Speaker on June 26 for which notices for motions supporting candidates can be submitted by members by 12 noon a day prior, the Lok Sabha secretariat said on Thursday.

Speculations are afoot about the possible candidates for the role of the Speaker, with reports suggesting that the Telugu Desam Party, the biggest ally of the Bharatiya Janata Party under the National Democratic Alliance, may ask for the post. Some leaders, however, said the BJP may not give the Speaker’s post and instead, offer it the post of the deputy speaker.

A section of the establishment pointed out that previous Speaker Om Birla, a lawmaker from Kota, was not suitably accommodated in any ministry or otherwise yet.

{ **WAYANAD OR RAE BARELI?** }

‘Rahul has decided on LS seat, announcement at correct time’

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has already “decided” which of the two Lok Sabha seats – Wayanad in Kerala and Rae Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh – that he won in the general elections he would retain and whether he would accept the Leader of Opposition (LoP)’s post in the Lower House, top party leaders said on Thursday.

Both the decisions would be announced at an “appropriate time,” a top party leader said, seeking anonymity. The leader also said that during an informal interaction, a top-ranking Congress leader agreed to a suggestion that fielding party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra from Wayanad, if Rahul vacated the seat he occupied in the previous term,



Rahul Gandhi

would be a good idea to keep the voters happy.

On Wednesday, Rahul had said that both Wayanad and Rae Bareilly would be happy irrespective of the seat he picks.

The leader cited above said that for Gandhi, the LoP’s post is “important” but handling organisational responsibilities is also paramount.

“A decision has been made. But it will not be divulged now. The LoP post is important but managing organisational responsibilities

(for Rahul) is equally important,” the leader said.

On Saturday, the Congress Working Committee (CWC), the highest executive forum of the party, had passed a resolution, urging Rahul to be the LoP in the Lok Sabha.

Gandhi, who has won from Wayanad as well as Rae Bareilly and remained the biggest draw for the party in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, told the committee that he will consider the proposal and decide in the next few days, people aware of the details said earlier.

For the past 10 years, the Congress, which is the largest Opposition party in Parliament, did not meet the criteria to get the LoP status in the Lower House. This time, with 99 seats, the party is entitled to get the LoP post, which has the status of a cabinet minister.

Amid surge in attacks, ops bolstered to nab terrorists

Ravi Krishnan Khajuria
ravi.khajuria@htlive.com

JAMMU: Security forces on Thursday continued massive search operations in forest belts of different districts of Jammu & Kashmir to track down terrorists involved in recent attacks in the restive Union Territory, officials said, even as police have detained 50 people in connection with their probe into recent attack on a bus carrying pilgrims in Reasi district.

The J&K Police has also released sketches of four terrorists believed to be involved in recent terror activities and announced a cash reward of ₹5lakh for credible information on each of them.

“While there is no contact with the terrorists who had opened fire and injured a head constable on Wednesday, the army, special operations group (SOG) and police on Thursday resumed searches in the adjoining forests and upper reaches,” Doda senior superintendent of police (SSP) Javid Iqbal said.

On Wednesday, head constable Fareed Ahmed was injured after terrorists opened fire on security personnel at Kota Top in Gandoh area of Doda district, making it the fourth terror attack in as many days in Jammu division.

“At around 8.30am [on Thursday], the army started searches from Kota Top side while SOG initiated a parallel search from Tanta side to the hill top. However, no contact has been established with the attackers so far,” an Indian Army officer said.

While the operation to track down terrorists also continued at Chattargala, where five soldiers and an SPO were injured in a terrorist attack on Tuesday late night, no breakthrough has been achieved so far, SSP Iqbal said.

Searches were also underway in Reasi and the adjoining Rajouri district, while security forces in Kathua, Samba and Jammu districts have been put on alert in view of intelligence inputs about a possible terror



Army personnel during a search operation in Reasi district. PTI

threat, officials said.

“Terrorists may carry out suicide attacks on camps of the security forces and checkpoints in Jammu and Rajouri districts. In view of this, an alert has been issued for the next 48 hours. Apart from army, CRPF, BSF, armed police, IRP, DIG Jammu, Reasi and Rajouri Poonch range, all the SSPs have been alerted by the Police Control Room,” a statement from the police said.

Two terrorists were gunned down by the security forces in a fierce firefight in Kathua that began on Tuesday night and lasted over 15 hours. A CRPF jawan was also killed in the operation while a civilian was injured.

“Police have released sketches of four terrorists, who are roaming in the upper reaches of Bhaderwah, Thathri and Gandoh in Doda district and are involved in terror related activities,” police said in a statement. “J&K Police have announced a cash reward of ₹5 lakh for providing the information of each terrorist.”

50 people detained Meanwhile, police have detained 50 people in connection with their investigation into the June 10 terror attack in Reasi, where terrorists opened indiscriminate fire on a bus carrying pilgrims from the Shiv Khori temple in the district to Katra, resulting in nine deaths and causing injuries to 42 others. “Some leads have

come to us and we are working on them. Hopefully, the case would be solved soon,” Reasi SSP Mohita Sharma said.

She confirmed that the police have detained 50 individuals following an intensive investigation that led them to the Kanda area police station in Pouni.

To ensure a comprehensive probe, search operations have been expanded to encompass the far-flung areas of Arnas and Mahore, the senior officer said.

J&K director general of police (DGP) RR Swain, who visited Reasi on Thursday, accused Pakistan of trying to disturb peaceful atmosphere and asserted the Indian forces were determined to give a befitting response.

“It is a security challenge. The intent of the enemy is clear, to forcefully recruit and train their citizens and send them across (into J&K) to cause trouble,” Swain told reporters. “They are making use of difficult terrain here which has hills, ravines, jungles, rivulets to cause mayhem. We are mapping our resources and readying our response to these recent activities so as to give a befitting response.” He maintained that the terrorists were not big in numbers. “However, they are out of the jurisdiction of law and they have nothing to lose and that’s why they can cause extensive harm,” the DGP said. He also issued a stern warning to those helping terrorists.

LET OVERGROUND WORKER ARRESTED; GOVT STEPS UP SECURITY BEFORE AMARNATH YATRA

Prawesh Lama
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: An overground worker (OGW) of terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba who was caught with a large cache of arms and ammunition in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir was part of a group tasked to attack pilgrims during the upcoming Amarnath Yatra, a Border Security Force (BSF) spokesperson said on Thursday.

The OWG, whose identity was not disclosed, was being questioned by joint teams of J&K police, army and the intelligence bureau (IB). BSF personnel, acting on specific information, apprehended the OWG on Wednesday and recovered at least two improvised explosives, four hand grenades, one pistol and ten rounds of ammunition, the spokesperson said.

“The man’s father was killed by terrorists in 2000. He was arranging arms and providing logistical support to help terrorists who are trying to disrupt the Amarnath Yatra,” a second official aware of the matter said, requesting anonymity.

The annual yatra to Amarnath cave shrine located at Anantnag district of J&K is set to begin on June 29 and will continue till August 19 this year.

Meanwhile, with a little over two weeks for the start of the Amarnath yatra, the Union home ministry is set to put stringent security measures in place.

The Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board along with J&K police, IB, security agencies and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) will again meet sometime next week to finalise the security arrangement, an official said.

‘Capitalism’s crisis is that it’s not what it was meant to be’

{ **INTERVIEW** } RUCHIR SHARMA, INVESTOR AND AUTHOR

Ace investor and a best-selling author Ruchir Sharma’s latest book *What Went Wrong with Capitalism* tries to answer why people are losing faith in capitalism. The answer, Sharma argues, lies in the fact that what is being passed of as capitalism today has derailed creative destruction and institutionalised socialisation of risks with bloated governments. Sharma spoke to **Roshan Kishore** in an interview to talk about his book and the other things. Here are edited excerpts:



Why another book on capitalism?

There are a couple of reasons. One is that I’ve lived in America now for over 20 years. It’s been very friendly to capitalism, to immigrants such as me who have come here. And yet I’m astounded by a couple of things in today’s America. If you look at the surveys, most young people, particularly if they’re Democrats, say that they would rather have socialism rather than capitalism. Now this is a country that you would consider to be the Mecca of capitalism. So that’s what sort of got me thinking about what’s gone wrong.

Second, even though at the surface the American economy is doing relatively well, most Americans feel that the economy is moving in the wrong direction.

I grew up in India of the 1980s and ’90s so I’ve seen what socialism is like. I grew up with this sort of notion that capitalism is about giving people more economic freedom. India started to do that. And here you are in America, where you have got this big disaffection taking place with capitalism, a system, that I grew up admiring and loving. Therefore, I said I will write a book and try to answer what went wrong with capitalism.

Capitalism’s role as a value creator, perhaps in the future is unquestioned. But would you agree that there is an anxiety today that

value creation in the future would not need billions of workers?

Yes. But I think what I argue in the book today is the fact that the system we currently have in place in America is not really capitalism as it was meant to be. It is a very distorted form of capitalism. It is what Bernie Sanders and all called socialism for the rich. What I try and say is that it is not just socialism for the rich but socialisation of risk. When risk has been socialised, the role of government has also increased. Whether it’s regulation, or the way the US Federal Reserve manages the business cycle, all that has changed so dramatically now that this is no longer anything close to the capitalist system that the founders once had in mind.

In your book, you talk about how almost every major economy in the world is a democracy. Do you think politicians have any incentive to think beyond their own election cycle? Is it a reason for the problem with capitalism?

In America, right up until the 1970s, capitalism was working. And America has had a democracy for over two centuries. This disaffection with capitalism that’s taken place in America is really something which is a phenomenon of the last two or three decades.

This is a cynicism that has

come only in the recent past. But this is not how America used to be.

Talking about America, one thing which a lot of a lot of people rightfully say is that, we should never go back on trade liberalisation. But it is also a fact that a lot of jobs in the US have been lost to outsourcing of manufacturing. Does capital have any incentive to think about anything other than its own interest?

I think that you’re right that there is a problem in the world today, which is inequality. It has increased within countries but decreased between countries. Countries like India and China and all have grown much faster and benefited from globalisation. But globalisation and free trade are just one aspect of capitalism.

What I show in the book is that there are so many other things which have gone wrong, which cannot be attributed to globalisation. Within America itself, a lot of job losses have happened in many states where the policies have been less market friendly or small business friendly.

Today in America there is lot of bad regulation and this proclivity to keep bailing out companies at the slightest hint of trouble. That’s not what capitalism was meant to be. The share of government in the economy in places like America has gone up over the last 100 years from 3% to 36%. In many European countries it has surpassed even 50%.

What about the perverse outcomes that these policies are causing? We are focused on one aspect of capitalism, which is globalisation and the problems that it has led to. But just look at what else has happened. Why are so many companies, big companies, just getting bigger and getting more entrenched? Why is there corporate inequality between the big companies and the smaller companies?

Why is economic and social mobility in America today close to record lows?

How should countries such as India prepare themselves for the changing global economic order? India is also trying to put in place an industrial policy and interventions like Production Linked Incentive (PLI)?

I’m not a big fan of the government dictating what business should do. I’m not a fan of any of that stuff because at the end of the day, it’s very difficult for the government. I know people speak about industrial policy in East Asian countries, even China, but I’m not a fan of any of these policies. I feel that what we need to do is to give people the freedom to allocate capital the way they should. I think we need to learn that we have tried all of this and we don’t need to go back to policies that did not work.

You were somebody who started weighing in on the world at a very young age. Your ideals were very clear and you knew what was right. Would you agree that choices are more complicated for the young people today? What is your message to them?

History is better remembered than it’s lived because whenever we look back at the past, we think it was all clear. But at the end of the day, it’s about what your conviction is. All I tell people is, and this is me wearing my investor hat, is that you can’t be too ideological either. I believe in free market capitalism. And yet I also believe that there is a role for government. It matters who’s in power. What sort of policies are being made? So, I would say that, especially as an investor, one thing I keep in mind very strongly in my head is never be too ideological, because that can always get you in terms of trouble. And so you have to be very open minded about the way the world is shaping up.



Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu offers prayers at Sri Padmavathi Ammavari Temple, in Tirupati on Thursday. ANI

Teacher recruitment, pension hike among 1st decisions of Naidu

Srinivasa Rao Apparasu
letters@hindustantimes.com

HYDERABAD: In his first decision after assuming office of Andhra Pradesh chief minister on Thursday, N Chandrababu Naidu approved a mega recruitment drive to fill up 16,347 vacancies of teachers in various government schools in the state.

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) president, who was sworn in as the chief minister on Wednesday, assumed office in the secretariat at Velagapudi in Amaravati at 4.41pm amidst Vedic chants by priests. Naidu, who was accompanied by his wife N Bhuvanewari, was accorded rousing welcome by the secretariat employees, as he entered the premises after five years. The CM was received by chief secretary Neerabh Kumar Prasad and his cabinet colleagues.

The first file that Naidu signed as the CM pertained to recruitment of government school teachers through district selection committees (DSCs), his cabinet colleague Nimmala Ramanaidu told reporters. “It is a big boon for the unemployed youth who have been waiting for recruitment of teachers for the last five years. The previous YSRCP government promised to fill up vacancies every year, but did not fulfil its promise,” he added.

The second file signed by Naidu was to abolish the AP Land Titling Act, 2022, which had made it mandatory for all land owners to register their property with government agencies for issuance of a permanent title.

The third file signed by the CM was to increase welfare pension from ₹3,000 to ₹4,000 per

Amaravati farmers end stir after over 4 yrs

HYDERABAD: Amaravati farmers, who had been protesting for the last four-and-a-half years against the previous Jagan Mohan Reddy government’s decision to form three capitals for the state, called off their stir after Telugu Desam Party (TDP) president N Chandrababu Naidu was sworn in as the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday.

“For the last 1,631 days, people belonging to all communities and castes had been staging dharnas demanding Amaravati be made the sole capital of Andhra Pradesh. Now that Naidu came to power and announced restoration of the city’s glory, we have decided to call off the agitation,” Amaravati Joint Action Committee (JAC) chief A Siva Reddy said. **HTC**

month. “The enhancement of pension will come into retrospective effect from April. On July 1, the old age pensioners would get ₹7,000, including arrears of enhancement for the last three months,” the minister said. The fourth file that Naidu signed on was to revive Anna Canteens, established during the previous TDP regime from 2014 to 2019. “The poor people would get subsidised food three times a day for ₹5 a plate,” he said.

ACTIVIST SUSPENDS FAST ON MARATHA QUOTA; GIVES GOVT 1 MONTH TO DECIDE

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR: Activist Manoj Jarange-Patil on Thursday suspended his indefinite fast over the

Maratha quota six days after launching it and set a deadline of one month before the Maharashtra government to accept the community’s demands.

He made the announcement after Maharashtra minister and member of Maratha quota sub-committee Shambhuraj Desai, Shiv Sena MP Sandipant Bhumre met him at his native Antarwali Sarati village in Jalna district and discussed the issue.

Addressing people at the protest site, Jarange-Patil said, “We are giving a month’s time to the government to fulfil the demands of the Maratha community. But we will also go ahead with our preparations for the upcoming assembly elections. If the government doesn’t provide reservation to us, we will go and take it.” **PTI**

School torched, houses gutted in violence across 2 Manipur distts

Thomas Ngangom
letters@hindustantimes.com

IMPHAL: Unidentified assailants torched a building in Moreh in strife-torn Manipur late on Wednesday, puncturing months of relative peace in the Myanmar border town.

Around 10pm, assailants set fire to the newly constructed building of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in T Motha, officials said. The building is yet to be inaugurated, and there was no loss of life in the incident, the officials said. The town reported the violence months after a Manipur police officer was killed by militants on October 31, following which additional forces, including Manipur Police, state commandos and central forces were deployed in the border town to prevent violence.

Moreh is one of the largest commercial hubs of the state, which has been shut since the outbreak of violence from Churachandpur district on May 3, 2023.

ARSON WAS ALSO REPORTED FROM JIRIBAM DISTRICT, WHERE THREE HOUSES AND A SHOP WERE SET ON FIRE IN KALINAGAR

A police officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that jawans of the Border Security Force were set to establish a post at the new JNV building.

The village, largely inhabited by the Anal community, is located just opposite an Assam Rifles post. But jawans of the 5th Assam Rifles post, just opposite the school, did not intervene, said police sources.

Following Wednesday night’s arson, villagers blocked all roads leading to JNV to prevent the security forces from reaching the spot. The security forces, including central forces and Manipur police were stopped by the area’s

villagers so they could not extinguish the fire.

Arson was also reported from Jiribam district, which has been on the boil after a man was found beheaded by unknown assailants last week. Three houses and a shop were set on fire in Kalinagar on Wednesday night. Police said the incident took place at around 10.30pm. Later, at around 1.30am on Thursday, three abandoned houses in the same area were set on fire by unknown assailants.

In a related development, the Jiribam district administration made arrangements to resume sessions for students of pre-primary to VIII classes at Ching-dong Leikai Upper Primary School from Friday.

Manipur has been in the throes of a violent conflict for nearly a year. What began as an ethnic conflict on May 3 last year between the majority Meiteis and the tribal Kukis, has grown into seemingly irreconcilable cleavages within Manipuri society.

{ **INDIA BATTLES SEARING HEATWAVE** }

‘India experiencing one of its longest, deadliest summers’

Jayashree Nandi

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: India is blistering under one of its longest and most severe summers, data from the India Meteorological Department has shown, with 14 of the 36 subdivisions in the country recording over 15 heat wave days from March 1 to June 9.

The highest heat wave days were recorded in Odisha (27) followed by Rajasthan (23), Gangatic West Bengal (21), Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi and West Uttar Pradesh (20), the subdivision-wise data shows.

Only the northeastern states, coastal Karnataka and parts of Marathwada have been spared the heat during this period.

The scale and expanse of the extreme heat has taken climate scientists by surprise, with even high-altitude regions suffering its impact.

Heat wave days were recorded even in Jammu and Kashmir (6), Himachal Pradesh (12) and Uttarakhand (2), while coastal areas such as Kerala and Tamil Nadu have recorded five and 14 heat wave days, respectively.

“This map shows high num-

THE HIGHEST HEAT WAVE DAYS WERE RECORDED IN ODISHA (27) FOLLOWED BY RAJASTHAN (23), WEST BENGAL (21)

ber of heat waves over India. This was expected and predicted in advance. A year following an El Niño year we tend to get more heat waves. That is due to favourable atmospheric circulation for heat waves. Global warming is adding to this natural variability. We will tend to get more frequent, longer and stronger heat waves. We need to be well prepared,” said M Rajeevan, former secretary, ministry of Earth sciences and climate scientist

“This is one of the longest heat wave spells that we are seeing over northwest India, possibly longer than the one recorded in 2016 which was also an El Niño year. There has been nearly a month-long heat spell with heat-wave to near heatwave conditions since end of May except for a couple of days of respite. For

other parts of the country, the heat spell started in April and then there was relief intermittently,” said Mahesh Palawat, vice president, climate and meteorology at Skymet Weather.

And there is no relief in sight. While Palawat said that “we do not expect relief until at least June 18”, IMD warned on Thursday that heatwave to severe heatwave conditions are expected to continue over northern parts of India at least for the next four to five days.

On Thursday, HT reported that the progress of monsoon is likely to weaken over the next week, and heatwave conditions are consequently likely to intensify over northwest and eastern India.

According to IMD bulletins, the Northern Limit of Monsoon — which is the point up to which monsoon has advanced on any given day — has been at the same place since June 11.

“The Northern Limit of Monsoon continues to pass through Navsari, Jalgaon, Amravati, Chandrapur, Bijapur, Sukma, Malkangiri, Vizianagaram and Islampur. Conditions are favourable for further advance of Southwest Monsoon into some

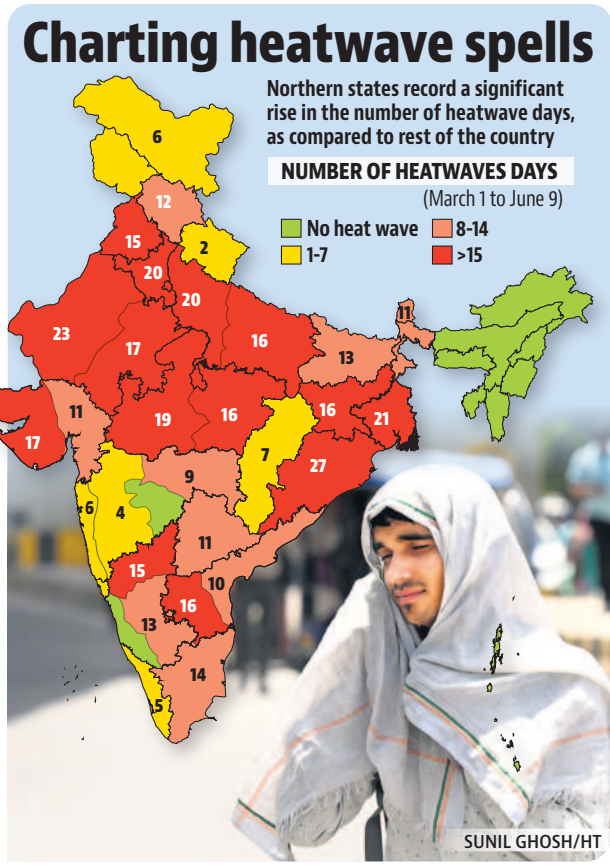
more parts of Maharashtra. Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Coastal Andhra Pradesh & northwest Bay of Bengal during next 3-4 days,” IMD said on Thursday.

Normally, monsoon cover Odisha, West Bengal, parts of Jharkhand and Bihar by June 15.

On Wednesday, heat wave to severe heat wave conditions prevailed in most parts of West Uttar Pradesh; in many parts of Punjab, Haryana-Chandigarh-Delhi, East Uttar Pradesh; in isolated pockets of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and Gangetic West Bengal; Heat wave conditions in some parts of Uttarakhand, northwest Rajasthan; in isolated pockets of Jammu division, Himachal Pradesh, northeast Rajasthan, northeast Madhya Pradesh and north Chhattisgarh.

Warm night conditions were observed in isolated pockets of northwest Rajasthan and West Uttar Pradesh.

Maximum temperatures were in the range of 45-47°C over some parts of west Jharkhand, south Uttar Pradesh, Haryana-Chandigarh-Delhi, Punjab, north Rajasthan on Wednesday. The highest maximum temperature of 47.5°C was reported at Kanpur on Wednesday.



Kuwait’s worst-ever building fire puts spotlight on violations

Rezaul H Laskar
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The devastating blaze in Kuwait that killed 49 people, mostly Indian workers, has been described as the worst building fire in the country's history, triggering a crackdown by the local authorities on housing violations. Forty-five Indians were among those who died on Wednesday when the fire engulfed a seven-storey building at Mangaf in southern Kuwait that housed foreign workers. Kuwait's health minister Ahmad Al-Awadhi said 56 injured people were taken to local hospitals. The incident was the worst building fire in Kuwait's history and it gave rise to calls for action against landlords and company owners who "violate the law to house large numbers of foreign laborers in extremely unsafe conditions to cut costs", the Kuwait Times newspaper reported. The blaze was the second largest fire disaster in Kuwait in terms of the death toll. In August 2009, a woman angry over her husband



MoS for external affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh and Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense & Interior, Kuwait, during a meeting on Thursday.

getting married for the second time, had set a wedding tent on fire, killing 56 people. Kuwait's Fire Force announced after a field examination that the fire was caused by an electrical short circuit, state-run KUNA news agency reported. Kuwait's public prosecutor ordered the remanding of a Kuwaiti national and an expatriate on charges of "erroneous killing" in connection with the fire. The two people, who weren't identified, are being held on several charges, including "kill-

ing and injury by error due to negligence of security and safety precautions against fires", the public prosecutor's office said on X. A special team examined the scene of the fire and visited hospitals to question the injured. Kuwait's first deputy prime minister and interior minister, Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, who is personally leading the campaign to check buildings housing foreign workers, said authorities began inspecting apartment blocks from Thursday and will

crack down on all violations without warning. Al-Sabah said Kuwait's Public Authority of Manpower will examine the issue of overcrowding of expatriate workers in buildings and the failure to comply with safety conditions. Owner of the building where the fire occurred will be kept in custody till the investigation is completed, he said. The building where the fire occurred had been rented by NBTC group, an engineering and construction firm partially owned by an Indian national, to house 196 workers, most of them Indians from Kerala, Tamil Nadu and northern states. Most of the dead and injured were from Kerala. The fire erupted just after 4 am, when most of the residents of the building were asleep. It resulted in thick clouds of smoke that suffocated most of the victims, Kuwait Times reported, quoting officials from interior ministry and fire department. The head of investigations at Kuwait's fire department, Col Sayed Al-Mousawi, said a team probing the fire found an inflam-

mable material was used as partitions between apartments and between rooms, and this caused the thick black smoke. Many victims suffocated while trying to run down stairwells filled with smoke, and people couldn't go to the rooftop because the door was locked, he said. Mousawi said the work of fire fighters was hindered by many violations inside and outside the building. An Egyptian national told reporters from his hospital bed it took him two hours to get out of the burning building with the help of fire fighters, and that he had seen several charred bodies. Kerala govt to provide ₹5L assistance to kin The Kerala government on Thursday said it will provide ₹5 lakh financial assistance to the families of the people from the state who died in the Kuwait fire. The decision was taken at an emergency Cabinet meeting chaired by chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan in the morning, a statement issued by his office said.

RSS CHIEF: BOLSTER ORGANISATION TO RESOLVE CHALLENGES BEFORE THE NATION

GORAKHPUR: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Thursday stressed that "strengthening and expanding the organisation" was key to resolving the challenges before the nation. "Nation is first, and an effective organisation could shape nation and society," a senior RSS functionary who was present at the "karyakarta" camp in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, quoted Bhagwat as saying. Around 280 RSS volunteers from Kashi, Gorakhpur, Kanpur and Awadh regions are participating in the "Karyakarta Vikas Varg" at the SVM Public School in Chitaha area of the city. Tight security arrangements have been made both inside and outside the venue, and only selected volunteers are permitted to enter the event site. According to another functionary, Bhagwat is likely to stay in Gorakhpur for five days, and may meet chief minister Yogi Adityanath in "a day or two". The RSS chief provided suggestions to the volunteers on increasing the number of Sangh branches and expanding the organisation. He also emphasised on the expansion of various projects undertaken by the Sangh," he said.

Doval reappointed NSA; Mishra to stay PM's principal secy

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday chose continuity and experience in his office by reappointing his two most trusted advisers, National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval and principal secretary to the Prime Minister PK Mishra — a decision in line with his recent move to retain top Cabinet ministers. Two other advisers, retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers Amit Khare and Tarun Kapoor, were also reappointed. On Doval, who was again assigned the rank of Cabinet minister, the government notification said: "The appointments committee of the cabinet has approved the appointment of Ajit Doval, IPS (retired) as National Security Adviser with effect from June 10, 2024. His appointment will be co-terminus with the term of the Prime Minister or until further orders, whichever is earlier."



Mishra, 75, a 1972-batch retired IAS officer of the Gujarat cadre, has also been associated with Modi in the PMO since his first term. He first served as the additional principal secretary to the PM between 2014 and August 2019, and then took over as principal secretary from Nripendra Misra. Like Doval, he too has a Cabinet rank. The order regarding Mishra's reappointment said: "The appointments committee of the cabinet has approved the appointment of Dr PK Mishra, IAS (retired) as Principal Secretary to Prime Minister with effect from June 10, 2024. His appointment will be co-terminus with the term of the Prime Minister or until further orders whichever is earlier."

A success story back home, Kerala man linked to tragedy

Vishnu Varma
letters@hindustantimes.com

KOCHI: For most in Niranam, a largely agrarian village filled with paddy farms and duck breeding centres on the banks of the Pampa river in Kerala's Pathanamthitta district, 69-year-old KG Abraham was a success story. The village called him "babychan" — a combination of his pet name "Baby" and "ichayan", term used to denote "elder brother", a marker of respect. For it was from this tiny village, often besieged by floods in the monsoon, that in 1976, armed with a civil engineering degree flew to Kuwait, with dreams of building a life and a career. He began with a small job as an engineer at a private firm in Al-Ahmad governorate with a monthly pay of 60 Kuwaiti dinars, around ₹16,000. But

seven years later, Abraham set up his own company NBTC. Over the years, the company grew and grew, and Abraham transformed from one of the lakhs of Malayali expatriates in the Gulf to an industrialist with diverse business interests — from oil to hotels to civil construction to logistics and retailing. While Abraham settled in Kuwait, villagers in Niranam said that he never forgot his roots. "He did not abandon the village that sent him to Kuwait. He made sure to hire many people over the generations from the village. Today, there are only a few families in the village which doesn't have at least one member working in his companies in Kuwait. In many ways, his success changed the face of the village," said Jolly George, a ward member in Niranam whose husband is a relative of Abraham.



Smoke billows after a fire broke out in a building, in Kuwait on Wednesday.

But on Wednesday morning, Abraham's name came to be associated with a tragedy in Kuwait, when a major fire broke out in a building leased out to NBTC group, a company of which he is the managing director and partner. Forty-nine

people died, of which 45 were Indians, and 23 were from Kerala. Kuwait's interior minister Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf A-Sabah, who visited the scene of the fire, suggested potential negligence and said that the fire had been caused as a "result of the greed of the company and building owners." The Kuwaiti government has issued a slew of instructions, particularly against officials of the Al Ahmadi administration. It was not immediately known if Abraham was arrested or detained in connection with the incident. The company has announced ex gratia of ₹8 lakh each and a job to the dependants, medical aid for the injured. When HT attempted to reach Abraham for comment, his family members and an official of the Central chambers of commerce who knows him closely

said that he did not wish to speak to the media. In Niranam, Jolly's family was among the those affected by the tragedy, with her husband's cousin, Mathew George (52) and his relative Shibi Varghese (52) were both among the dead. Overall, two of the dead are from Niranam. "It is such a sad incident and the shock still hasn't left us. The minute we heard about the fire in Mangaf block, we knew they lived there and tried calling. We thought they may have been injured and waited for hours," Jolly told HT over the phone. "But by Wednesday evening, confirmation had come that they had died." Apart from his interests in Kuwait, KGA Group owned at least two hotels — KGA Elite Continental in Thiruvalla and Crowne Plaza in Kochi — and he was also one of the producers of

the 2024 Malayalam film 'Aadujeevitham' (The Goat Life) which told the story of a Malayali migrant who was cheated by his employer in the Gulf and tortured for years on a goat farm. In February 2023, Abraham hit the headlines in Kerala when he lashed out at the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government accusing them of financial irregularities in the Chief Ministers Disaster Relief Fund. "It is decided that I will not give anything to any politician. The funds that we gave directly to people in Niranam and other neighbouring panchayats have been utilised and I am happy. But the other funds we gave (to the government), have flowed away. I feel fooled," he said on February 24, 2023. The Kerala government did not respond to Abraham's allegations.

P. W. Division No. 1 Nagpur
INVITATION FOR TENDERS
e-mail div1nagpur.ee@mahapwd.com
E-Tender Notice No. 01/2024-25

Online tenders in **SBD** Form (Item Rate) and B-1 are invited by the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division No.1. Nagpur for the following work from P.W.D. Registered Contractor. The name of work, estimated cost, time limit for completion etc. are as under.

SR. NO.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. In lakh)	Cost of Blank Tender Form	Time limit in Tender (Calendar Month)
1.	Construction of Twin Cable Stayed Bridge ROB with Underpass, Cement Concrete road with C.C. Drain, Land Acquisition and Utility Shifting on Ajni Railway Station Chowk to Medical Chowk Road (Till T.B.Ward) MDR-53 (47) in Tah & Dist. Nagpur. (2nd Call)	3639.24	3540/-	24 (Twenty Four Month)
2.	Construction of Compound Wall Around Central Jail Premises, Nagpur. (2nd Call)	466.18	3540/-	10 (Ten Months)
3.	Construction of Compound Wall Around DIG office East Division, Central Jail Nagpur.	187.41	1180/-	10 (Ten Months)

1. Detailed tender notice can be seen on website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>, <https://mahapwd.gov.in>
2. Detailed tender notice can be seen on the Notice Board in the office of the undersigned.
3. Right is reserved to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
4. In this Tender Notice, Tender downloading, Tender opening etc information available on web site.
5. The bidder shall submit the hard copy of tender document (Technical and financial Envelope) in sealed envelope within 3 days from last date of submission at the office of tender opening authority.
6. Post Qualification Criteria will be applicable for the said construction work.

O.W.No. 9558 dt.10.06.2024
DGIPR/2024-25/ROC 219

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
P. W. Dn. No.1 Nagpur

ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER (MECH.),
ERECTION AND MAINTENANCE,
CENTRAL WORKSHOP, RASULGARH, BHUBANESWAR -751010 (ODISHA)
Tel- 0674: 2580896, E-mail: gmerectionoccc@gmail.com
(GSTIN-21AAOC2571K2ZM)

"e"-Tender Notice No. 04/OCC/2024-25 (on-line).

Type of work: "Fitting of 1st. stage embedded parts for both radial gates & stoplogs for 12 sets , erection of anchorage system for 06 Nos of radial gates (05) nos of intermediate piers), erection & testing of pulley supporting girders for 130T rope drum hoist of radial gates for 12 sets, erection & testing of anchor bars for gear box supporting frame for 130T rope drum hoist for 12 sets and concreting of 2nd stage embedded parts for radial gates and stoplog, pertaining to Kanupur Gate Erection Project, Basudevpur, Keonjhar as per drawings, scope of work and instruction of engineer-in-charge"

Total No. of work : 01(One).
Period of completion : 180 (One hundred eighty) days.

Tendering Officer	Bid Identification No.	Cost of Tender document (Including GST) through on-line transfer system	Availability of tender (On-line)	Submission of Bid (On-line)
General Manager (Mech.), Erection and Maintenance , OCC Ltd., Central Workshop, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar	OCC-L-G.M./E&M/ 01/2024-25	Rs. 11,800/- (Non-refundable)	14.06.2024 10.00AM to 01.07.2024 5.00PM	14.06.2024 10.00AM to 01.07.2024 5.00PM

Date of opening of the Technical Bid : 02.07.2024 at 11.30 A.M.
Further details can be seen from the Govt. website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in)
Amendment/corrigendum/cancellation, if any shall be posted on-line only

General Manager (Mech.),
Erection and Maintenance
OCC Ltd., Bhubaneswar
OIPR - 34176/11/0001/2425

उत्तर प्रदेश पावर कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, (उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार का उपक्रम) U . P . P O W E R CORPORATION LIMITED (Govt. of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking), 14-अग्रहोकार्ग, राक गवन, लखनऊ, Advertisement No:02/ Advocate/ UPPCL/2024 :- Online application are invited from experienced advocates who are interested to be included in the empanment list of UPPCL and it's distribution companies (i.e Madhyanchal Viduyt Vitran Nigam Ltd, Paschimanchal Viduyt Vitran Nigam Ltd, Purvanchal Viduyt Vitran Nigam Ltd, Dakshinanchal Viduyt vitran Nigam Ltd and KESCO) for cases in the Hon'ble High Court (Allahabad and Lucknow Bench separately), NCLT and NGT. The eligibility criteria and other conditions are available on the official website of UPPCL www.uppcl.org under tab "Vacancy". In case of any query kindly mail it to legalcelluppclhq2012@gmail.com. Note- Advocates who have applied with reference to previous advertisement/ Advertisement:01/ Advocate/UPPCL/2024) published by UPPCL are not required to apply again. **Online application form opening date- 14.06.2024, Online application form closing date- 30.06.2024**
Law Officer (H.J.S.) UPPCL, पत्रांक: 23 दिनांक: 13.06.2024 "राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाये"

संचालनालय खेल और युवा कल्याण
टी.टी. नगर स्टेडियम, भोपाल (म.प्र.)
ई-निविदा सूचना

संचालनालय खेल और युवा कल्याण, मध्यप्रदेश, द्वारा 'क्रिकेट खेल सामग्री/ उपकरण क्रय हेतु' निर्माता अथवा उनके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि से ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र व निविदा की विस्तृत शर्तें www.mptenders.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है। ई-निविदा प्रकाशन उपरांत निविदा में कोई संशोधन व परिवर्तन किया जाता है तो वह मात्र उपरोक्त उल्लेखित ई-टेंडर पोर्टल पर ही उपलब्ध रहेगा।

म.प्र. माध्यम/114883/2024

संचालक

Hindustan Times

HT City

STARS ARE NOT IN TOUCH WITH REALITY. SHOULD RETHINK FEES: KARAN JOHAR

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./ AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./ AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, PALWAL	CONSTRUCTION OF RMC ROAD AND DRAIN FROM HANUMAN MANDIR TO H/O HARI IN WARD NO 1 + 16 WORKS	07.06.2024 21.06.2024	7.11 CRORES	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416410674 secymc.palwal@gmail.com
2.	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, PALWAL	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD AND DRAIN AT NEW CIVIC AMENITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEFICIENT AREA APPROVED BY HARYANA GOVERNMENT IN COLONY ID 324 IN REVENUE ESTATE FEROZPUR IN MC PALWAL + 6 WORKS	10.06.2024 18.06.2024	1.10 CRORES	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416410674 secymc.palwal@gmail.com
3.	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, PALWAL	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD AND DRAIN AT NEW CIVIC AMENITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEFICIENT AREA APPROVED BY HARYANA GOVERNMENT IN COLONY ID 456 MC PALWAL + 7 WORKS	10.06.2024 01.07.2024	9.08 CRORES	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416410674 secymc.palwal@gmail.com
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in						
RO NO. 13/2025/60/267271/19/7						

DELHI CANTONMENT BOARD
SADAR BAZAR, DELHI CANTT-110010
TENDER NOTICE

Delhi Cantonment Board invites tenders from the Govt. approved Firms/Contractors in appropriate category through e-tendering for the following works as detailed below:

DETAIL OF WORK

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Date of release of tender through e-procurement	Last date & time for downloading of tender documents	Last date and time submission of e-tenders	Date and time for opening of e-tenders
1.	Supply of Laboratory Reagents (Kit) & Chemicals for Cantonment General Hospital, Delhi Cantt.	18.06.2024 at 1800 hrs	12.07.2024 upto 1500 hrs.	12.07.2024 upto 1500 hrs.	13.07.2024 at 1530 hrs.
2.	Engagement of Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) for preparing and serving fresh cooked Mid-Day Meal to the students of CB Schools for 03 years	18.06.2024 at 1800 hrs	12.07.2024 upto 1500 hrs.	12.07.2024 upto 1500 hrs.	13.07.2024 at 1530 hrs.
3.	Annual Maintenance Contract of Open Area Gym Equipment at various locations of Delhi Cantonment	18.06.2024 at 1800 hrs	12.07.2024 upto 1500 hrs.	12.07.2024 upto 1500 hrs.	13.07.2024 at 1530 hrs.

The bidder may download the "Tender Document" and other terms and conditions as available on the website of <https://deproc.gov.in/nicgep/app>

Telephone No.25695450
CA NO. DCB/32/S-1/NIT-3/2024
OFFICE OF THE CANTONMENT BOARD

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
Delhi Cantonment

Office of The Principal, Autonomous State Medical College, Gonda.
E-mail: principalasmcgonda@gmail.com
asmcgonda@gmail.com
M.No.8858004085
website: www.asmcgonda.org
Add:Autonomous State Medical College, In-front of Circuit House, ChhavaniSarkar, District Gonda, Uttar Pradesh-271001

Letter No. 605/ASMC/Walk-In-Interview/2024-25
Advertisement

Applications are invited for walk-in interview for selection/appointment on contract basis to the vacant posts of Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor and Senior Resident in Autonomous State Medical College, Gonda Uttar Pradesh. For details regarding vacancies and other terms & conditions of appointment' visit college website: www.asmcgonda.org

Principal
Autonomous State Medical College
Gonda

Date- 13 June, 2024

PREPARATION OF GADS INCLUDING STRUCTURAL DESIGN WORK

Tender Notice No.: CON/MLG-1/JUNE/2024/01; Dated: 10-06-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; **Tender No.: DYCE1-MLG-GAD-24-01; Name of Work:** Preparation of GADs including structural design work of sub & Super structure of 4 nos. of ROBS, 5 nos. of RUB/LHS, extension of 05 nos. of minor Bridges, Scheme for dismantling the existing ROB and providing specification/scheme drawing for shifting for utilities like water supply pipeline, electric/ cable lines, Preparation of Plan for diversion of road traffic, geotechnical investigation and report and proof checking from IIT/NIT in connection with construction of Third Line from Kamakhya to Guwahati section. **Tender Value :** ₹54.96, 117.98; **Earnest Money :** ₹1,09,900/-; Date & time of closing of tender at 15:00 hrs. and opening at 16:00 hrs on 02-07-2024. For complete information please visit in website www.reps.gov.in

Dy. CE/CON-1, Maligaon
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HT TWIW
A quiz on the week's development.

Govt warns of stern steps as wheat prices jump 7%

Zia Haq
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Union government is monitoring market prices of wheat that have jumped 7% over the past week and contemplating strong measures to stabilise rates, including steps to curb hoarding, an official said on Thursday.

The winter staple has become costlier despite new-season harvests touching a record 112 million tonne this year, according to official estimates.

The government had banned exports of the grain in 2022 after a price spiral due to brisk overseas sales following the Ukraine war.

Although headline consumer inflation eased to a 12-month low of 4.75% in May from a year ago, food prices remained sticky at 8.69%, driven by cereals at nearly 8.7%, according to latest official data.

The government isn't looking to slash duties on imports of wheat, an official statement

THE WINTER STAPLE HAS BECOME COSTLIER DESPITE NEW-SEASON HARVESTS TOUCHING A RECORD 112 MT THIS YEAR

said. Authorities are expected to impose steeper stock limits, or quantities traders can hold in reserves.

The government on Thursday said state-held stocks were adequate to meet all requirements of food-security schemes. While the Food Corporation of India procured 26.6 million tonne in the current season, nearly 18.4 million tonne is required to cater to the public distribution system and other welfare programmes.

"Sufficient stock of wheat will be available to undertake market interventions as and when

required," the statement said. This suggests the government could resume sales of state-owned grains to private traders and processors to ramp up availability.

During 2023-24, the government had sold nearly 10 million tonne of wheat in open markets to cool prices.

Traders and farmers are holding on to stocks, expecting prices to increase in later months, which has caused prices to stay high, the HT had reported on May 6.

The government has procured 26.6 million tonne, lower than a targeted 30-31 million tonne, sending state-held stocks to a 16-year low.

To boost supplies, the Centre had on March 29 mandated that beginning April 1, all wheat traders, wholesalers, retailers, big-chain retailers and processors across states and Union Territories have to mandatorily declare their stock position on the government portal effective April 1.



BS Yediyurappa

NON-BAILABLE WARRANT ISSUED AGAINST BSY IN POCOS CASE

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

BENGALURU: A Bengaluru court on Thursday issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against former Karnataka chief minister and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader B S Yediyurappa in a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act.

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Crime Investigation Department (CID) had moved the Additional City Civil and Sessions (Fast Track Special Court-I) court, seeking an arrest warrant against Yediyurappa after he failed to appear for questioning on Wednesday.

The 81-year-old had sought time to join the probe. The BJP veteran, who is also a member of the party's parliamentary board, is presently in Delhi, and he is likely to join the probe after he returns, people aware of the matter said.

According to the police, Yediyurappa has been booked under the provisions of the Pocso Act and section 354 A (sexual harassment) of the Indian Penal Code based on a complaint by the mother of a 17-year-old girl, that he molested her daughter during a meeting in February this year, at his residence in Dollars Colony.

Yediyurappa has denied the charge and said he would fight the case legally.



New Okhla Industrial Development Authority Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, (U.P.) Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.in

E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firm for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

Sl. No	JOB NO	NAME OF WORK	Tender Amount (in Lacs.)
1	02/DGM/SM (WC-1) 2024-25	M/o Road (Corridor Improvement of Udyog Marg from DSC road to Sector-11, T-Point as a Model road), Noida.	4076.26
2	02/DGM/Dy GM/(WC-2)/ 2024-25	M/o Road (Beautification of DSC road, covering drain & fixing of kiosk along Sector-38A near Gate No.-2 GIP Mall at DSC road) Noida.	461.65
3	03/DGM/Dy GM/(WC-2)/ 2024-25	M/o Road (Beautification of Internal road in front of G-Block Market along Tikona Park in Sector-18) Noida	482.55
4	04/DGM/Dy GM/(WC-2)/ 2024-25	M/o Stadium (C/o Synthetic Track in open Land next to Skatting ring in Noida Stadium Sector-21A) Noida	290.64

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**. **Dy. General Manager (Civil) NOIDA**

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

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)/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 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:
1. Information in respect of different models of farm machinery / implements in an excel sheet in the prescribed format (Annexure-A).
2. 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 <https://matirkatha.wb.gov.in> 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 : wbfm2024@gmail.com only by 30.06.2024. Registration of manufacturers in the portal will be started after publication of indicative price.
sd/-
Director of Agriculture West Bengal
ICA- N 248(5)/2024

E-TENDER NOTICE
Gujarat State Aviation Infrastructure Company Limited, (GUJSAIL) A Govt. of Gujarat Undertaking, GUJSAIL Complex, Nr.Torrent Sub Station, SVPI Airport, Ahmedabad- 380 004. Ph.No.079-22882000
Tender is invited from the well-reputed and experience agencies for carry out the under mentioned work through e-tendering process.

Tender ID	Name of Work
73290	REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR SELECTION OF A CONSULTANT FOR PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF HELIPORTS IN GUJARAT.

Interested bidder may visit tender.nprocure.com for more information. The last date of online submission for tender is 08/07/2024 up to 18:00 Hrs.

Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalaya
Khanpur Kalan (Sonepat), Haryana-131305
A State University established under Haryana Act, No. 31 of 2006 ('B++' Grade University Accredited by NAAC)
Employment Notice
(Advt. No. 76/2024 to 97/2024)
Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalaya (BPSMV) invites applications from the eligible candidates for recruitment on regular Teaching posts i.e. Associate Professor and Professor in its Departments/Institutes/Regional Centres & Constituent Colleges/Institutes against sanctioned budgeted vacant posts latest by 01.07.2024 upto 5.00 p.m. in the office of the Deputy Registrar, Establishment (Teaching), BPSMV, Khanpur Kalan (Sonapat), Haryana.
Subject-wise and category-wise number of vacant posts along with Advt. Nos., detailed instructions, requisite qualifications, pay scales and modalities for selection are given on the University website www.bpsmv.ac.in.
REGISTRAR



Police reassign IO in Darshan case

BENGALURU: The Karnataka police has reassigned the investigation officer in the ongoing murder case against Kannada film star Darshan Thoogudeepa and his associates.

Kamakshipalaya Police Inspector Girish Nayak has been transferred, and his superior, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Chandan Gowda, has taken over as the investigation officer (IO) in the high-profile case. A senior police officer said that the transfer was part of a routine procedure. "Nayak was posted at the Kamakshipalaya station due to the elections. With the Model Code of Conduct no longer in effect, he has been returned to his original station. For continuity, ACP Gowda, who has been overseeing the case, has now been appointed the IO," the officer said.

MP Pappu Yadav gets bail in extortion case

PURNEA (BIHAR): A court in Bihar on Thursday granted bail to independent MP Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav in an extortion case lodged against him earlier this week. Yadav got bail from the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Purnea, in the case lodged on June 10 at Mofussil police station.

Yadav denied the allegation by a local businessman that soon after being declared elected from the Purnea Lok Sabha seat, the MP had demanded ₹1 crore. "I have never suffered mental torture. I will file a defamation suit against the person," said Yadav.

{ AFTER VIDEO GOES VIRAL }

Shah called me to ask about polls: Tamilisai

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

CHENNAI: A day after a video of her exchange with Union home minister Amit Shah went viral, former Tamil Nadu BJP chief Tamilisai Soundararajan on Thursday clarified that Shah was advising her to "work intensively".

In the short clip, Soundararajan, former governor of Telangana, and a defeated BJP candidate from the Chennai South constituency in Tamil Nadu in the recent Lok Sabha elections, was seen greeting Shah and former vice president M Venkaiah Naidu on the stage as she walked past them. A moment later, Shah called her back and was seen speaking to her about something, wagging his finger. She tried to interject as if to offer an excuse, but Shah appeared to be having none of that.

Responding to the video, BJP's state social media cell vice-president Karthik Gopinath, posted on X: "That looks like a strong admonishment from Amit Shah ji to Tamilisai akka..." Gopinath is a



Tamilisai Soundararajan

supporter of BJP's state unit chief K Annamalai. Amid the row, posters mushroomed in parts of Tamil Nadu on Thursday condemning Shah and Annamalai and in support of former governor Tamilisai Soundararajan.

Dismissing the row over the matter, Soundararajan posted on X: "Yesterday as I met our Honorable Home Minister Sri @Amit-Shah ji in AP for the first time after the 2024 Elections he called me to ask about post poll followup and the challenges faced," she posted on X. "As I was elaborating, he advised to carry out the political and constituency work intensively which was reassuring. This is to clarify all unwarranted speculations around..."

Man finds a severed finger in ice-cream

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A piece of a human finger was found inside an ice cream cone that a doctor ordered from a shop in Mumbai on Wednesday. The 26-year-old man reached Malad police station to lodge a complaint over the matter.

"The complainant in the case, a 26-year-old doctor with MBBS degree who stays in Malad west, had ordered a butterscotch ice-cream cone of Yummo company," news agency PTI quoted a police officer as saying.

"While consuming the ice-cream after lunch, he came across a half an inch long piece of flesh with a nail in the ice cream," the Mumbai Police officer said.

The man, who is pursuing his post-graduate studies, lodged a complaint with the ice cream company on its Instagram page, he said. But since there was no appropriate response from the

THE COMPLAINANT IS A 26-YEAR-OLD DOCTOR, WHO FOUND THE FINGER IN BUTTERSCOTCH ICE-CREAM HE ORDERED ONLINE FROM YUMMO

company, the complainant put the piece of flesh in an ice bag and approached the Malad police station, the official said.

"I am a doctor so I know how body parts look like. When I carefully examined it, I noticed the nails and fingerprint impressions under it. It resembled a thumb. I am traumatized," said the Mumbai-based doctor, identified as Orlem Brandon Serrao.

An FIR has been registered against Yummo Ice Creams on the basis of the man's complaint to Malad police. The severed body part has been sent for forensic analysis.

SC stays release of 'Hamare Baarah', slams censor board

Abraham Thomas

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the release of the movie "Hamare Baarah" taking note of a petition that alleged that the movie depicted Muslims and Islamic religious texts in a bad light and incites hatred against the Muslim community.

Taking note of the "offensive dialogues" in the trailer, the top court also pulled up the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) saying it has "failed to do its job" by not removing them.

"We have seen the movie trailer in the morning and all the offensive dialogues continue in the trailer... we are convinced that the CBFC, which is the statutory body entrusted under the Act, has failed to do its job," said a vacation bench comprising justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta.

The order came on a petition filed by a Pune resident Azhar Basha Tamboli challenging a June 6 order of the Bombay high court that lifted the stay on the screening of the film. The movie was scheduled for release on June 14. The petition objected to the content of the movie which depicted Muslim men as uncivilized, and women having no rights or privacy.

"The film is a wanton vilification of the Islamic faith and the practices of married couples as per Holy Quran as it is violation of Article 19 of the Constitution," the petition said, adding, "The theme, explicit visuals and dialogues in the film are not just hurtful, harmful and defamatory to the sentiments of the entire Muslim community but are of such nature that it would in all likelihood incite hatred against Muslims in the society, breach har-

mony and public order as there has been a willful, indecent and conscious distortion of the religious text."

The petitioner argued that the HC also directed CBFC to form a committee to review the movie which could not be done as CBFC was an interested party.

The bench admitted that CBFC was an interested party and allowed the petitioner to raise its objection against the formation of the committee. Movie producer Ravi S Gupta's lawyer informed the court that the teaser of the movie has been withdrawn as ordered by the HC. The top court, however, differed. Sending the matter back to the HC, the bench said: "Until disposal of the petition before the high court, screening of the movie in question shall remain suspended." It also requested that the petition be disposed "as early as possible".

उत्तर प्रदेश शासन न्याय अनुभाग-8 (लेखा)

संख्या-ए-55 /सात-न्याय-8 (लेखा)-24-24/28/91 टी0सी0
लखनऊ: दिनांक: 12 जून, 2024

विज्ञप्ति

उ0प्र0 राज्य लोक सेवा अधिकरण, इन्दिरा भवन, लखनऊ में रिक्त सदस्य (न्यायिक) के 01 पद एवं सदस्य (प्रशासकीय) के 02 पदों अर्थात् कुल 03 पदों हेतु पूर्व में निर्गत विज्ञप्ति संख्या-ए-01/सात-न्याय-8(लेखा)-23-24/28/91 टी0सी0, दिनांक 02 मार्च, 2023 को निरस्त करते हुए एतद्वारा उपाध्यक्ष (न्यायिक) के 01 पद, सदस्य (न्यायिक) के 04 पदों एवं सदस्य (प्रशासकीय) के 05 पदों अर्थात् कुल 10 पदों पर उ0प्र0 लोक सेवा अधिकरण अधिनियम, 1976 (यथा संशोधित) में निर्धारित अवधि 05 वर्ष अथवा 62 वर्ष की आयु तक, जो भी पहले हो, नियुक्ति हेतु आवेदन-पत्र आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं।

2- अतः उपाध्यक्ष (न्यायिक) के पद पर उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य लोक सेवा (अधिकरण) अधिनियम, 1976 (यथा-संशोधित) की धारा-3 (4) (क) (ख), सदस्य (न्यायिक) पद पर उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य लोक सेवा (अधिकरण) अधिनियम, 1976 (यथा-संशोधित) की धारा-3 (5), एवं सदस्य (प्रशासकीय) पद पर उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य लोक सेवा (अधिकरण) अधिनियम, 1976 (यथा संशोधित) की धारा-3 (6) के अर्न्तगत अर्हता रखने वाले इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी रिक्त पदों हेतु दिनांक 03 जुलाई, 2024 तक नियत प्रारूप पर आवेदन कर सकते हैं।

3-"कोई व्यक्ति उपाध्यक्ष (न्यायिक) के रूप में नियुक्त के लिए अर्ह नहीं होगा जब तक कि- (क)उसने सुपर टाइम स्केल के जिला न्यायाधीश का पद या उसके समकक्ष कोई अन्य पद धारण न किया हो, या

(ख)उसने कम से कम दो वर्ष तक न्यायिक सदस्य का पद धारण न किया हो।"

4- "कोई व्यक्ति सदस्य (न्यायिक) के रूप में नियुक्ति के लिए अर्ह नहीं होगा जब तक कि उसने जिला न्यायाधीश या उसके समकक्ष कोई अन्य पद धारण न किया हो।"

5- "भारतीय प्रशासनिक सेवा का अधिकारी या रुपये 18400-22400 या उससे अधिक के वेतनमान में प्रान्तीय सिविल सेवा (कार्यकारी शाखा) का कोई अधिकारी किसी प्रशासनिक सदस्य के रूप में नियुक्त के लिए अर्ह होगा परन्तु यह कि उसे न्याय व्यवस्था का पर्याप्त अनुभव हो।"

6- आवेदन-पत्र का प्रारूप न्याय अनुभाग-8 (लेखा) के कार्यालय द्वारा नियत किया गया है जिसे अभ्यर्थी न्याय विभाग की वेबसाइट <http://law.up.nic.in/> से डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं। नियत प्रारूप पर पूर्ण रूप से भरे हुए आवेदन-पत्र प्रमुख सचिव, न्याय के कार्यालय कक्ष में दिनांक 03 जुलाई, 2024 सायं 5.00बजे तक स्वीकार किये जाएंगे।

विनोद सिंह रावत
सदस्य (सचिव/संयोजन)सर्च कमेटी
प्रमुख सचिव, न्याय एवं विधि परामर्श
उत्तर प्रदेश शासन।

उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य लोक सेवा अधिकरण लखनऊ में रिक्त सदस्य (न्यायिक) के 01 पद एवं सदस्य (प्रशासकीय) के 02 पदों पर चयन/नियुक्ति हेतु आवेदन-पत्र का प्रारूप

पासपोर्ट साइज का नवीनतम फोटो	
1-आवेदक का पूरा नाम	
• हिन्दी में	
• अंग्रेजी में	
(बड़े अक्षरों में)	
2-पिता/पति का नाम	
3-जन्मतिथि	
4-स्थायी पता	
5-अस्थायी/वर्तमान पता	
6-सम्पर्क सूत्र	
• दूरभाष संख्या (एस0टी0डी0 कोड सहित)	
• मोबाइल नं0	
• फैक्स नं0	
• ई-मेल	
7-पैन नम्बर	
8-शैक्षिक योग्यता	
9-(क) क्या आवेदक विवाहित है	हाँ/नहीं
(ख)यदि हाँ तो क्या आवेदक की एक या एक से	

अधिक पत्नियों जीवित है _____
(पुरुष आवेदकों के लिए)

अथवा

क्या आवेदक ने ऐसे पुरुष से विवाह किया है _____

जिसकी एक पत्नी पहले से ही जीवित है _____

(महिला आवेदकों के लिए)

10-राष्ट्रीयता _____

11-(क) वर्तमान/पूर्व धारित अन्य विवरण (धारित पद का नाम किस अवधि तक धारित किया गया है, का उल्लेख अवश्य हो) _____

(ख)न्यायिक/प्रशासनिक अनुभव, यदि कोई हो (भारत सरकार राज्य सरकार के अधीन यदि कोई सेवा की गयी हो तो जिस पद पर सेवा की गयी हो, उसका पदनाम तथा अवधि का उल्लेख अवश्य किया जाय) _____

*अन्य विशिष्ट उपलब्धियाँ, यदि कोई हो _____

12-आवेदक अपने बारे में निम्न सूचना/विवरण करेंगे:

*शासकीय/अर्द्धशासकीय सेवा में रहने की स्थिति में यदि सेवाकाल के दौरान कोई विभागीय जांच जिसमें आरोप-पत्र दिया गया हो, ऐसी विभागीय जांच/कार्यवाही का विवरण दिया जाय, जिसमें आरोप पत्र तथा विभागीय जांच का अन्तिम परिणाम अवश्य अंकित किया जाय। _____

*आपराधिक प्रकरण में यदि प्रथम सूचना रिपोर्ट पंजीकृत की गयी हो, ऐसे अपराधिक प्रकरण के सम्बन्ध में विवरण दिया जाए, जिसमें दर्ज की गयी प्रथम सूचना रिपोर्ट की गयी प्रथम सूचना रिपोर्ट थाने का नाम, जनपद का नाम तथा जिन धाराओं में प्रथम सूचना रिपोर्ट दर्ज की गयी है, का विवरण दिया जाय। यदि दर्ज की गयीय प्रथम सूचना रिपोर्ट के आधार पर न्यायालय में आरोप-पत्र प्रस्तुत किया गया हो तो न्यायालय का नाम, न्यायालय द्वारा आरोप-पत्र का संज्ञान लेने की तिथि, वाद संख्या तथा न्यायालय द्वारा इस सम्बन्ध में प्रसारित अदयतन आदेश का उल्लेख किया जाय _____

*शासकीय/अर्द्धशासकीय सेवा या अन्य स्थिति में यदि कोई सर्तकता जांच प्रारम्भ की गयी हो या प्रचलित हो, तो उसका विवरण दिया जाय _____

13-परिवार के सदस्यों, जिसमें माता-पिता, पति पत्नी, बच्चे शामिल होंगे, के विरुद्ध भी यदि कोई आपराधिक वाद पंजीकृत हो, तो उसका विवरण प्रस्तर-12 (ख) के अनुसार दिया जाय। _____

14-विगत 10 वर्षों में जिन-जिन स्थानों पर एक वर्ष से अधिक अवधि तक प्रवास किया गया हो, ऐसे स्थानों पर प्रवास की अवधि तथा निवास का विवरण दिया जाय _____

नोट- यदि आवेदक भारत सरकार/राज्य सरकार या अन्य किसी शासकी/अर्द्धशासकीय संस्था में कार्यरत है तो सक्षम प्राधिकारी से प्राप्त अनापति प्रमाण पत्र आवेदन पत्र के साथ संलग्न किया जाय।

घोषणा-पत्र

मैं _____ आत्मज्ञ/आत्मज्ञा/पत्नी श्री _____

इस बात की घोषणा करता/करती हूँ कि मुझे कभी किसी न्यायानय द्वारा किसी अपराध के लिए गिरफ्तार, अभियोजित (Prosecuted) निरुद्ध (Kept in detention) आबद्ध (Bound) दण्डित (Convicted) अथवा अर्धदण्डित (Fined) नहीं किया गया है। मेरे विरुद्ध किसी भी न्यायालय में कोई वाद जोड़ित नहीं है।

इस आवेदन-पत्र में उल्लिखित विवरण व तथ्य मेरे ज्ञान एवं विश्वास के अनुसार सत्य व पूर्ण हैं। कोई तथ्य असत्य नहीं है और न ही किसी तथ्य को छुपाया गया है। यदि इसमें कोई तथ्य कालान्तर में असत्य पाया जाये अथवा छुपाया गया पाया जाये अथवा अधूरा पाया जाये, तो मेरा अभ्यर्थन/नियुक्ति निरस्त कर दी जाय।

स्थान : _____

दिनांक : _____

आवेदक के हस्ताक्षर : _____

नाम : _____

विनोद सिंह रावत

प्रमुख सचिव, न्याय विभाग

उत्तर प्रदेश शासन।

UP 206098 Dt. 13.06.2024
Website: www.upgov.nic.in



OPINION

The
Hindustan Times
ESTABLISHED IN 1924

{ OUR TAKE }

Time to fix NEET, build confidence

Allegations about irregularities must be probed and NTA held accountable. The careers of young people are at stake

The Supreme Court hit the nail on the head when it observed earlier this week that the sanctity of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) has been compromised. On Thursday, it cancelled grace marks awarded to 1,563 students. But this is only a small part of the mess that threatens to jeopardise the futures of 2.4 million students who spent years preparing for the examination. After all, as an analysis by this newspaper showed, a majority of the 1,563 students scored less than 300 marks out of 720, and cancelling their grace marks would shave off only six people from the 67-strong list of perfect scores. Evidently, the problems roiling this year's examination are deeper. At the heart of the matter is the unprecedented inflation of marks and the inability of the National Testing Agency (NTA) to offer a cogent explanation.

The body, authorised to conduct multiple qualification exams including NEET and CUET, has given a plethora of reasons for the chaos, including systemic and technology issues, discrepancies between old and new textbooks, and time lost in some centres due to circumstances beyond its control. Yet, as experts have pointed out, not one of these reasons can convincingly explain the large-scale arbitrariness in marking.

Nearly 70 students have scored a perfect 720, compared to only two in 2023 and none in 2022. The unreasonable spike has played havoc with ranks and cut-offs. Someone scoring 600 placed 28,000 last year but 80,000 this year. That six candidates from the same centre in Faridabad scored 720 has also stoked doubts about the integrity of the testing process. NTA has also fended off allegations of question paper leaks and incorrect answer keys in some of its iterations.

The list of anomalies is too long to ignore or chalk up to coincidence. The government may have denied any leak, but the expert panel it has set up needs to delve deep into what went wrong. Cancelling the June 4 results and conducting a new test should not be off the table. Transparency and public course-correction are needed to restore trust in the process. With the rush of aspirants for medical education, NEET has become an elimination test rather than an examination of the skills needed for prospective healers. There are just 110,000 seats available in 706 medical colleges, of which only 56,405 are in government colleges or institutions backed by the government. Students already face an uphill battle. The least they deserve is a trustworthy and scientific process.

In the Gulf, the need for a healing touch

The fire that killed more than 40 Indian nationals at a building housing foreign workers in Kuwait is perhaps the worst incident of its kind involving migrant labourers in West Asia in decades. Close to 200 workers were living in the seven-storey building and many of them suffocated in their sleep. The preliminary investigations done by the Kuwaiti authorities and the comments of senior officials have pointed to overcrowding in the building and the violation of safety provisions. Kuwait's interior minister has already directed authorities to crack down on all safety violations and to address the overcrowding of expatriate workers in buildings.

Unlike in the past, India's missions in West Asian countries have comprehensive procedures to deal with such contingencies, as well as community welfare funds to meet the immediate needs of the victims of such disasters. A junior minister has also reached Kuwait to oversee relief measures and efforts to repatriate the bodies of the dead. However, the tragedy has irreversibly affected some 40 families, and the Indian authorities owe it to them to ensure that more is done to protect the rights of expatriate workers and their loved ones.

Under the "kafala" or sponsorship system for managing the migrant workforce in Kuwait, the employer has an oversize role in ensuring the rights and working and living conditions of the workers. Several human rights organisations have said that migrant workers do not have adequate legal protections in the country and remain vulnerable to abuse and other factors. They have also raised concerns about their living conditions. India has excellent relations with most members of the Gulf Cooperation Council. It should nudge its counterparts in the region to ensure the well-being of Indian workers. That's the deeper healing touch the country's overseas workforce needs.

{ BEYOND THE BYTE }

Rajdeep Sardesai



Mandate shows limits of strongman politics

This time, the voter has asked for a humbler government and a more robust Opposition

One of the great joys of watching a blockbuster movie is the intermission which often comes just when the plot is reaching a dramatic crescendo. It is during the interval that you can step out from the darkness into a calmer space for a quick break. Indian electoral politics, too, has entered a much-needed interval phase after a bruisingly polarised decade marked by constant action and high-octane theatrics. Ever since Narendra Modi took over as Prime Minister (PM) in 2014, the news cycle has been on steroids. Now, finally, a fatigued voter has pressed the pause button without a total switch-off.

Which is why it would be a huge mistake to overread the 2024 verdict. The Modi fan club reminds us that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s 240 seats are still higher than any Congress performance in the last 30 years. The Modi baiter club tells you that this is a mandate against the incumbent: A government that boasted of being "char sau par" (400 plus) is well below the halfway 272 mark on its own. The truth, as often is

the case, lies somewhere in between.

The BJP's victory *rath* triumphally marching from one state to another has undoubtedly been halted. In the country's three biggest electoral states — Uttar Pradesh (UP), Maharashtra and West Bengal — the party has ended second best. Amidst the recrimination over what went wrong, the reality is that a seemingly supreme election machine is no longer invincible. The aura around PM Modi has somewhat dimmed too: A Centre for Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) post-poll survey actually puts Rahul Gandhi above Modi in UP on the leadership question, the first time he has edged ahead in a major Hindi heartland state in a decade.

And yet, the Congress itself remains well behind the BJP nationwide in seats and vote share. In direct BJP versus Congress fights, the gap in seats won remains in favour of the BJP: 157 against 51 wins. The only state the Congress dominated was Kerala, where its principal opponent was the Left, not the BJP. In the Congress-ruled states of Karnataka, Telangana and Himachal Pradesh, the party was unable to push ahead.

But electoral arithmetic tells only part of the 2024 story. This election was driven by chemistry, by an unshaken belief that "Modi ki Guarantee" alone would be enough to give the BJP a decisive victory. This is where the BJP campaign managers

erred, forgetting that in a country as diverse as India, no one issue can be bigger than its people. That over 100 BJP candidates were imports from other parties and 132 sitting Members of Parliament (MPs) were replaced suggests an overconfident political strategy that revolved around the "one leader, one nation" chorus in which all other candidates were rendered faceless and dispensable.

This Modi-centric polity has now reached exhaustion point. Three results stand out: Varanasi, where the BJP was talking up the possibility of the PM winning by a record margin, saw a 320,000 drop in the victory count; Faizabad-Ayodhya where the Ram Mandir opening in January was billed as the ultimate Hindutva moment witnessed a fresh-faced leader from a Dalit community defeat a two-time MP; and Banswara in Rajasthan, where the PM first made the elections about identity saw a young tribal leader from the Bharat Adivasi Party emerge triumphant.

Collectively, these results and the overall splintered verdict expose the limits of strongman politics in which institutions and ideology, even religion and society, were subsumed under the looming presence of a king-size persona laced with divinity. Instead, voters have reminded us that they need greater accountability, and yes, more humility from the political leadership.



This may be a 'mili-juli sarkar' but unlike previous coalition arrangements, it has a strong party at its core

AFP

But while the domineering personality cult has lost some of its regal splendour, Modi remains in power even if his political authority may be diminished. The Modi era isn't over, it has simply been forced by a disenchanting voter to soften a bit. This may be a *mili-juli sarkar* but unlike previous coalition arrangements, it has a strong party at its core: The BJP actually got 6.9 million votes more than it did in 2019 but lost 63 seats. The unilateral style of decision-making may give way to a more accommodative way of functioning. But for how long is still a moot question.

In a sense, the key to the next political act lies not so much with the BJP's allies, most of whom are relishing the scent of power, but with the Opposition that has been hugely boosted by the mandate. After being battered into submission for 10 years — its parties were broken, leaders hounded and even jailed, and Parliament was often reduced to a notice-board — the Opposition has finally got the numbers, and crucially, a voice that matters. The wise voter just doesn't want a humbler government, she is also

pushing for a robust Opposition that will take up citizens' concerns with greater vigour while being constructive, not chaotic.

The length of this intermission phase in Indian politics is unclear and could well depend on the next round of assembly election results. But what is more certain is that the Indian voter has chosen consensus over conflict, modesty over arrogance, federalism over a unitary State, diversity over uniformity. Embracing this extraordinary verdict requires sagacity on all sides. Or else, the increasingly impatient voter may be forced to speak out again: The second half of an indeterminate political plot is yet to unfold.

Post-script: In the spirit of humility, some of us in the media, too, need to apologise for pitching the exit poll as an "exact" poll. We too need to take time off and rediscover a better way to tell the election story, less driven by sensationalist claims of know-it-all pollsters and more by the common sense of voters.

Rajdeep Sardesai is a senior journalist and author. The views expressed are personal

Kuwait fire makes the case for a new emigration law

On Wednesday, both Kuwait and India, especially Kerala, woke up to a heartbreaking tragedy — a fire in a six-storey building in Mangaf had claimed the lives of 49 migrant workers, including over 40 Indians, in a Keralite-run Kuwaiti construction company. The Kuwaiti government has initiated a probe and ordered a raid to find violations in buildings housing migrant workers. Mangaf, a 30-minute drive from Kuwait City, is known for accommodating low- and mid-level migrant workers from India, Bangladesh, and Egypt in poor conditions.

The Indian ministry of external affairs (MEA) has set up help desks and hotlines, and the minister of state, Kirti Vardhan Singh, has arrived in Kuwait to assess the situation. The government has also declared a compensation of ₹2 lakh each to the families of the Indians who died in the fire.

However, media attention will shift from the tragedy to other news, and the MEA will become preoccupied with other pressing issues. The fact is that, despite India being the largest sender of migrants with around 13 million Indians working abroad, and the largest receiver of remittances (\$11,100 crore), it has frequently failed to uphold the rights of Indian workers on foreign soil.

The Union government continues to govern migration with the outdated Indian Emigration Act of 1983, despite significant changes in migration worldwide. In 2019, there was an attempt to update the Act, but it failed to get Parliament's approval. Two years later, a fresh version, the Emigration Bill 2021, was put forward. Suggestions were sought from the public and civil society organisations, but not much has been heard about it since then.

The existing Emigration Act lacks standardised Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for assisting Indians in foreign countries. This gap became evident during the Covid-19 pandemic when Indians stranded abroad sought to return home. Then, Indians were repatriated by their employers, mainly from the Gulf Cooperation Council countries (Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain,

Qatar, United Arab Emirates), which lack labour friendly laws. They returned empty-handed. The Indian government lacked an effective mechanism to recover their unpaid wages or end-of-service benefits, amounting to lakhs of rupees for many. Meanwhile, smaller out-migrant countries such as the Philippines actively fought against such wage theft. Similar issues arose in Qatar, when Indian workers involved in building stadiums for the football World Cup were exploited and repatriated without receiving their wages. The Indian government was silent. Similarly, during Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Indian students had to take shelter in bunkers, fearing for their lives. India lacked SOPs and an estimate of the number of students stranded, which meant it took days to ascertain the situation.

Now, let's explore another reason why an updated Emigration Act is necessary and how it could prove beneficial during tragedies, including the Kuwait fire.

The Indian government provides insurance coverage of ₹10 lakh in case of accidental death or permanent disability, along with other benefits, for Indians migrating for employment. Unfortunately, this scheme is mandatory only for those migrating to certain countries, holding specific passports, and using the eMigrate system established by the late external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj.

The covered destinations are 18 nations where labour-friendly laws are lacking and there are security risks. Among them are all six Gulf countries, Malaysia, Iraq, and Yemen. The chances of exploitation of migrant workers are high in these countries, including through denial of decent working and living conditions, among other forms.

The existing Emigration Act provides for two categories of passports, Emigration Clearance Required (ECR) and Emigration Clearance Not Required (ECNR).

Passports held by under-matriculate workers are of the ECR category. Such workers must use the eMigrate system and are obligated to subscribe to the insurance scheme if they wish to migrate to the aforementioned 18 countries. If these requirements are not met, families of victims of incidents such as the Kuwait tragedy may not receive the ₹10 lakh compensation. Media reports indicate that the Kuwait fire victims from Kerala were skilled migrants and highly educated, likely falling under the ECNR category — subscribing to the insurance scheme would not have been mandatory for them.

Labour migration activists have been urging the Indian government to update the Emigration Act and address the existence of two passport categories, emphasising equal protection for both. As a labour migration researcher and forced labour investigator, I advocate updating the Emigration Act, eliminating the ECR and ECNR distinction, and establishing a comprehensive migration policy, similar to those in neighbouring countries. India requires a visionary plan rather than mere response measures.



Rejimon Kuttappan



A fire in a building in Mangaf claimed the lives of 49 migrant workers

AFP

Rejimon Kuttappan is a labour migration researcher and author of Undocumented: Stories of Indian Migrants in the Arab Gulf. The views expressed are personal.

{ GIORGIA MELONI } ITALY PRIME MINISTER



The G7 is not a self-enclosed fortress... It is a container of values, and we want to open it to the world in order to have shared development and growth

At the opening of G7 summit in Italy



Developed country goal needs structural reforms

India's impressive growth performance has raised hopes of it becoming a developed country in the not-too-distant future. The Prime Minister has set 2047 as the aspirational target year. However, leapfrogging from being a low middle-income economy to a developed country in the next 25 years requires raising the country's per capita income by more than five times, from \$2,600 to \$10,205. This translates to a per capita income growth of 7.5% per year and an aggregate Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of 9%.

This growth has to be inclusive. Creating jobs for four million persons entering the workforce annually in the next 25 years and moving a significant portion of 44% of the workforce languishing in agriculture and another 42% in small enterprises with low productivity and incomes to jobs with higher productivity and income, will be a formidable challenge. Given almost two-thirds of those in the 20-33 age-group have less than higher secondary qualifications, enough well-paying jobs cannot be created in the services sector. The focus thus must be on labour-intensive manufacturing. This requires greater flexibility in capital and labour markets, besides upgrading education and skill levels.

India has made considerable progress in macroeconomic stability, financial sector efficiency, and digital infrastructure. In recent years, it has also increased public spending on infrastructure. But more needs to be done to push the economy on a 9% growth path. The most important reform is to reduce the borrowing costs of businesses by reducing public borrowing. The Union finance minister has promised to reduce the fiscal deficit to 4.5% of the GDP by 2025-26. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s record transfer of ₹2.1 lakh crore will help compress the deficit in current fiscal. Sustained efforts to contain the deficit and debt while maintaining high levels of spending on infrastructure, education and skill development will have to continue. This calls for enhancing the revenue productivity of the tax system and reprioritising expenditures.

Fortunately, the tax system has seen higher buoyancy in recent years. The record Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection of ₹2.1 lakh crore in April bolsters prospects of revenues continuing to be buoyant. However, maintaining high revenue productivity on a sustained basis and reducing distortions require reforms. The time is ripe for the GST

Council to undertake second-generation reforms to broaden the base and rationalise the rate structure. In personal income tax, tax exemptions and preferences should be ended, and the number of rates should be reduced to three from the prevailing five. That apart, the government can focus on some key structural reforms. One, productive jobs must be created in both manufacturing and service sectors. Small-scale enterprises, each with less than 20 workers, employ over 75% of the manufacturing workforce cannot compete in global markets. It is necessary to encourage them to evolve into medium- and large-scale industries. The biggest deterrent to this is the labour laws. To that end, the four labour codes can help. However, imparting flexibility requires effective implementation and the states have an important role in this.

Two, there has to be a greater thrust on exports and avoiding protectionism. Exports are a strong engine for the growth. But, India accounts for just 2.5% of global exports. Tariffs have been steadily rising since 2017, and the share of exports in the GDP has been declining. It is also important to avoid bias against producers in policies on the trade of agricultural commodities. Nine per cent growth cannot be achieved unless the trend is

reversed. In this connection, India's withdrawal from joining the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) was disappointing. The recent signing of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with Australia and the United Arab Emirates are important, and faster negotiations with the United Kingdom and the European Union should help.

Three, while the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) is a landmark reform, it is important to ensure that the insolvency resolution process is timely and effective.

The three farm legislations that were later withdrawn in the face of protests by the farmers exemplify much required but failed reforms. Unfortunately, failed reforms are difficult to revive. The Centre, perhaps, could collaborate with the state governments to generate acceptability for such reforms — after all, in the case of the farm reforms, agriculture being a state subject, the latter's collaboration becomes vital.



M Govinda Rao

M Govinda Rao is councillor, Takshashila Institution. He is a former director, NIPFP, and was a member of the 14th Finance Commission. The views expressed are personal



Clockwise from top-left: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni with UK's Rishi Sunak; Presidents Emmanuel Macron and Joe Biden of France and the US; Olaf Scholz of Germany; Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy; and Canadian PM Justin Trudeau in Savelletri, Italy.

AGENCIES

G7 summit: Russian frozen assets for Ukraine, EU powers recalibrate

Associated Press
letters@hindustantimes.com

BORGO EGNAZIA (ITALY): Leaders of the Group of Seven wealthy democracies have agreed to engineer a \$50 billion loan to help Ukraine in its fight for survival. Interest earned on profits from Russia's frozen central bank assets would be used as collateral.

Details of the deal were being hashed out by G7 leaders at their summit in Italy.

The money could reach Kyiv before the end of the year, according to US and French officials who confirmed the agreement before a formal announcement.

Most of the money would be in the form of a loan mostly guaranteed by the US government, backed by profits being earned on roughly \$260 billion in immobilised Russian assets. The vast majority of that money is held in European Union nations.

A French official said the loan could be "topped up" with European money or contributions from other countries.

A US official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to preview the agreement said the G7 leaders' official statement due out on Friday will leave the door open to trying to confiscate the Russian assets entirely.

That's much harder to do. For more than a year, officials from multiple countries have debated the legality of confiscating the money and sending it to Ukraine.

The US and its allies immediately froze whatever Russian central bank assets they had access to when Moscow invaded



G7 leaders participate in a working session at the summit, on Thursday, in Borgo Egnazia, Italy.

AP

Ukraine in 2022. That basically was money being held in banks outside Russia.

The assets are immobilised and cannot be accessed by Moscow, but they still belong to Russia.

While governments can generally freeze property or funds without difficulty, turning them into forfeited assets that can be used for the benefit of Ukraine requires an extra layer of judicial procedure, including a legal basis and adjudication in a court.

The EU instead has set aside the profits being generated by the frozen assets. That pot of money is easier to access.

Separately, the US this year passed a law called the REPO Act — short for the Rebuilding Economic Prosperity and Opportunity for Ukrainians Act — that allows the Biden administration to seize \$5 billion in Russian state assets in the US and use them for the benefit of Kyiv.

That arrangement is being worked out. It will be up to technical experts to work through the details.

Ukraine will be able to spend the money in several areas, including for military, economic and humanitarian needs and reconstruction, the US official said.

President Joe Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, said the goal is "to provide the necessary resources to Ukraine now for its economic energy and other needs so that it's capable of having the resilience necessary

to withstand Russia's continuing aggression."

About the G7

The G7 includes Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the US. Italy, has also invited several African leaders — Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, Kenyan President William Ruto and Tunisian President Kais Saied — to press Italy's development and migration initiatives on the continent.

Apart from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, fresh off his own election, and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, were also invited.

With Biden, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and now French President Emmanuel Macron facing elections in the coming months, pressure was on the G7 to get done what it can while the status quo lasts.

Top court in US protects access to abortion pill

Associated Press
letters@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: The United States' Supreme Court on Thursday unanimously preserved access to a medication that was used in nearly two-thirds of all abortions in the US last year, in the court's first abortion decision since conservative justices overturned Roe v. Wade two years ago.

The nine justices ruled that abortion opponents lacked the legal right to sue over the federal Food and Drug Administration's approval of the medication, mifepristone, and the FDA's subsequent actions to ease access to it.

The case had threatened to restrict access to mifepristone across the country, including in states where abortion remains legal. Justice Brett Kavanaugh, who was part of the majority to overturn Roe, wrote for the court on Thursday that "federal courts are the wrong forum for addressing the plaintiffs' concerns about FDA's actions."

The decision could lessen the intensity of the abortion issue in the November elections, with Democrats already energised and

voting against restrictions on reproductive rights.

But the high court is separately considering another abortion case, about whether a federal law on emergency treatment at hospitals overrides state abortion bans in rare emergency cases in which a pregnant patient's health is at serious risk. More than 6 million people have used mifepristone since 2000. Mifepristone blocks the hormone progesterone and primes the uterus to respond to the contraction-causing effect of a second drug, misoprostol. The two-drug regimen has been used to end a pregnancy through 10 weeks gestation.

Health care providers have said that if mifepristone is no longer available or is too hard to obtain, they would switch to using only misoprostol, which is less effective in ending pregnancies.

President Joe Biden's administration and drug manufacturers had warned that siding with abortion opponents in this case could undermine the FDA's drug approval process beyond the abortion context by inviting judges to second-guess the agency's scientific judgments.

UN: 120mn forcibly displaced globally

Agence France-Presse
letters@hindustantimes.com

GENEVA: A staggering total of 120 million people are living forcibly displaced by war, violence and persecution, the UN said on Thursday, branding the ever-increasing number a "terrible indictment on the state of the world".

The United Nations' refugee agency UNHCR said forced displacement globally had once again smashed records, with conflicts in places like Gaza, Sudan and Myanmar forcing even more people to flee their homes. The global displaced population is now equivalent to that of Japan, it pointed out in a statement. "Conflict remains a very, very big driver of mass displacement," UN refugee chief Filippo Grandi told reporters.

At the end of last year, 117.3 million people were displaced, UNHCR said in a report. And by the end of April, the number had swelled further, with an estimated 120 million people around the world living in displacement.

The number has risen from 110 million last year, increasing for 12 straight years and nearly tripling since 2012 due to new,



A Palestinian man flees Rafah during an Israeli attack on Gaza, on Wednesday. REUTERS

mutating, and unresolved crises, UNHCR reported.

Grandi expressed shock at the high displacement figure when he started eight years ago. Since then, it has "more than doubled," a stark indictment of the world's state, according to Grandi. He noted increased crises and highlighted climate change's role in population movement and conflicts. UNHCR declared 43 emergencies in 29 countries last year, a sharp increase from previous years, according to Grandi.

He highlighted conflicts conducted in disregard of international law as a major driver of displacement, with little hope for improvement without geopolitical shifts.



Austria will hold parliamentary polls on September 29

BERLIN: Austria's government, nearing the end of its five-year term, announced on Wednesday the Alpine country's next parliamentary election will be held on September 29. This comes in the wake of a narrow win by the far-right Freedom Party over Chancellor Karl Nehammer's conservative Austrian People's Party in last week's European Parliament election which saw hard-right parties achieving major gains across the 27-nation bloc. The Freedom Party won 25.4% of the vote, taking first place in a national election for first time.

AP

Tropical disturbance dangerously floods southern Florida

MIAMI: Dangerous flooding from a tropical disturbance inundated much of southern Florida on Wednesday, blocking roads, and floating vehicles. The disorganised storm system moved across Florida from the Gulf of Mexico at roughly the same time as the early June start of hurricane season, which this year is forecast to be among the most active in recent times amid concerns of stronger storms due to climate crisis. But the disturbance has a low chance to become a tropical system as it moves into the Atlantic, as per the National Hurricane Center.

AP

Fist-fight erupts in Italian Parliament



5-Star lawmaker Leonardo Donno, centre top, is shielded by staff during a brawl in Italy's lower chamber, on Wednesday. The fight, sparked by a controversial government proposal, sent an opposition lawmaker to the hospital.

AP

Battles rage in Rafah as US says Israel-Hamas truce 'still possible'

Agence France-Presse
letters@hindustantimes.com

TEL AVIV: Israeli helicopters struck Gaza's Rafah on Thursday, residents said, with Hamas militants reporting street battles in the southern city after top US diplomat Antony Blinken said a truce was still possible.

Israeli ground forces have been operating in Rafah, near the Egyptian border, since early May to pursue Hamas Palestinian fighters, despite widespread international alarm over the fate of displaced people crowded in the city. Western areas of Rafah came under heavy Israeli fire from the air, sea and land, residents said.

"There was very intense fire from warplanes, Apaches (helicopters) and quadcopters, in addition to Israeli artillery and military battleships, all of which



Displaced Palestinians walk past destroyed buildings in al-Bureij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, on Wednesday. AFP

were striking the area west of Rafah," one of them told AFP.

On Monday the US Security Council adopted a US-drafted resolution supporting the plan. Blinken, in Doha, on Wednesday said the US would work with regional partners to "close the deal". Hamas responded to mediators Qatar and Egypt late

on Tuesday. Blinken said some of its proposed amendments "are workable and some are not". However, a senior Hamas official, Osama Hamdan, said the group sought "a permanent ceasefire and complete withdrawal" of Israeli troops from Gaza, demands repeatedly rejected by Israel.

{ **AFGHANISTAN** } 'HALF THE POPULATION LEFT BEHIND'

1,000 days since the Taliban barred girls from school: UN



Afghan girls attend school, in Kabul, on March 25, 2023.

AP

Associated Press
letters@hindustantimes.com

ISLAMABAD: One thousand days have passed since girls in Afghanistan were banned from attending secondary schools. That's according to the UN children's agency, which said on Thursday that "no country can move forward when half its population is left behind."

UNICEF executive director Catherine Russell in a statement urged Taliban authorities to allow all children to resume learning immediately, and called on the international community to support Afghan girls, who she said need it more

than ever. The agency estimates that more than 1 million girls are affected.

The UN has warned that the ban on girls' education remains the Taliban's biggest obstacle to gaining recognition as the legitimate rulers of Afghanistan.

The Taliban, who took over in Afghanistan following the withdrawal of US and NATO forces in 2021, has said girls continuing their education goes against the group's strict interpretation of Islamic law.

Despite initially promising a more moderate rule, Taliban have also barred women from higher education, public spaces

like parks and most jobs as part of harsh measures imposed. When the Taliban ruled Afghanistan in the 1990s, they also banned girls' education.

The Taliban has barred girls from attending classes beyond sixth grade, making it the only country in the world with such restrictions on female education.

In March, the new school year started with girls barred from attending classes beyond the sixth grade. The Taliban also have been prioritising Islamic knowledge over basic literacy and numeracy with their shift toward madrassas, or religious schools.

Fired SpaceX workers sue Musk

Agence France-Presse
letters@hindustantimes.com

SAN FRANCISCO: Workers fired by SpaceX filed a lawsuit on Wednesday accusing Elon Musk of fostering a sexist "Dark Ages" culture at the company he founded.

The civil complaint filed in a California court in Los Angeles contends Musk had the workers terminated after they published an open letter detailing their concerns and calling on the American aerospace firm's board to distance itself from the

SpaceX chief executive. "Elon Musk trumpets SpaceX as the leader to a brave new world of space travel," the court filing says.

"But (he) runs his company in the Dark Ages — treating women as sexual objects to be evaluated on their bra size, bombarding the workplace with lewd sexual banter, and offering the reprimand to those who challenge the 'Animal House' environment that if they don't like it they can seek employment elsewhere."

The suit charges Musk and SpaceX with sexual harassment,

discrimination, retaliation, and wrongful termination.

"Musk thinks he's above the law," said plaintiffs' attorney Laurie Burgess. "We look forward to holding him accountable at trial."

The fired workers' complaint to the US National Labor Relations Board is stalled by a lawsuit from Musk. "This suit is a milestone in our quest for justice, for holding leadership accountable, and workplace policy changes at SpaceX," said plaintiff Paige Holland-Thielen in a statement.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING, U.P, LUCKNOW.

No.ME/Nazarat/2024/175 Dated: 13.06.2024
: : : : WALK-IN-INTERVIEW : : : :
Appointment on the one Post of Sector Expert/Consultant (Administrative) on fixed pay basis invited through Walk-in-Interview on dated 20-06-2024 in the Meeting Hall of the Directorate of Medical Education & Training, Uttar Pradesh, Jawahar Bhawan, 6th floor, Lucknow at 12:00 AM from retired 1.A.S/P.C.S eligible candidates of Govt./State (sachivalaya seva). Detail of post remuneration, eligibility and other terms & conditions is available on the department website- www.dgme.up.gov.in
UP 206106 Dt. 13.06.2024, Website: www.upgov.nic.in Director General

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
भवन प्रमंडल, खगड़िया
"अति अल्यकालीन शुद्धि पत्र"
एतद् द्वारा सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-30/2023-24, जिसका पी.आर.नं०-020082 (BCD) 2023-24 एवं पी.आर.नं०-000746 (BCD) 2024-25 है [जो विभिन्न समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित हुआ है, को निम्न प्रकार से संशोधित किया जाता है :-
संशोधित विवरणी
क्र. सं० कार्य का नाम परिमाण विपत्र की राशि (लाख में) अग्रघन की राशि (लाख में) परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (रु० में) ई० निविदा प्रोसेसिंग फीस कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1 खगड़िया प्रखंड में गौड़ा शक्ति व रविमुर उत्तरी पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन (विद्युत कार्य सहित) का निर्माण कार्य। 610 12.20 10000.00 eproc2.bihar.gov.in वेबसाइट के अनुसार 12 महिने
2 अलीली प्रखंड गोरियामी पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन (विद्युत कार्य सहित) का निर्माण कार्य। 305 6.10 10000.00 eproc2.bihar.gov.in वेबसाइट के अनुसार 09 महिने
3 गोगरी प्रखंड कोयला पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन (विद्युत कार्य सहित) का निर्माण कार्य। 305 6.10 10000.00 eproc2.bihar.gov.in वेबसाइट के अनुसार 09 महिने
4 बेलदौर प्रखंड दिचौन व कुर्बन पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन (विद्युत कार्य सहित) का निर्माण कार्य। 610 12.20 10000.00 eproc2.bihar.gov.in वेबसाइट के अनुसार 12 महिने
क्र० सं० विवरणी संशोधित तिथि एवं समय पुनः संशोधित तिथि एवं समय
3 प्रीबिड मिटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान दिनांक-10.06.2024 को 3:00 बजे अपराह्न अधीक्षण अभियंता, भवन अंचल, भागलपुर। दिनांक-14.06.2024 को 03:00 बजे अपराह्न में मुख्य अभियंता (दो), भवन निर्माण विभाग, बिहार, पटना। दिनांक-18.06.2024 को 3:00 बजे अपराह्न अधीक्षण अभियंता, भवन अंचल, भागलपुर। दिनांक-21.06.2024 को 03:00 बजे अपराह्न में मुख्य अभियंता (दो), भवन निर्माण विभाग, बिहार, पटना।
4 परिमाण विपत्र (खंडनलौड करने) की तिथि एवं समय निविदा प्राप्ति (अपलौड करने) की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय दिनांक-18.06.2024 को 3:00 बजे अपराह्न तक। दिनांक-24.06.2024 को 3:00 बजे अपराह्न तक।
5 (अपलौड करने) की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय दिनांक-19.06.2024 को 3:00 बजे अपराह्न तक। दिनांक-25.06.2024 को 3:00 बजे अपराह्न तक।
6 निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय दिनांक-20.06.2024 को 3:30 बजे अपराह्न तक। दिनांक-26.06.2024 को 3:30 बजे अपराह्न तक।
उक्त सूचना state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर भी देखी जा सकती है। कार्यपालक अभियंता PR- 001726 (BCD) 2024-25 भवन प्रमंडल, खगड़िया
नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

PROFORMA-1
GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION, YAVATMAL
E-mail: yavatma.lee@mahapwd.gov.in
E-Tender Notice No. 03 Year 2024-2025
Government of Maharashtra public works Department through Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Yavatmal, inviting online E-Tender in B-1 Form from Sr. No. 01 to 13 any Eligible contractors who fulfilled the condition of Tender Document and Sr. No. 14 to 20 Contractor Registered in appropriate Class with Maharashtra Public Works Department Download Tender Document from Government Website Website http://mahatenders.gov.in Conditional Tender is not accepted.
E-Tender Work No. Name of Work Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)
1 FOUR LANNING TO PANCH KANDIL CHOWK TO HOTEL GALAXY ROAD IN YAVATMAL CITY (C.C. ROAD/ WHITE TOPPING) TQ. DIST. YAVATMAL UNDER CRF PROGRAMME 2023-24. 1210.64
2 IMPROVEMENT TO DARDA NAGAR TO BAJRANG SQUARE ROAD IN YAVATMAL CITY (C.C. ROAD/WHITE TOPPING) TQ. DIST.YAVATMAL UNDER CRF PROGRAMME 2023-24. 564.00
3 FOUR LANNING TO BUS STAND TO POST OFFICE ROAD IN YAVATMAL CITY (C.C. ROAD/WHITE TOPPING) TQ. DIST. YAVATMAL, UNDER CRF PROGRAMME 2023-24. 645.64
Note :- Bidder has to refer online schedule published on e-tendering details of PWD of Government of i.e http://mahatenders.gov.in Maharashtra
1. http://mahatenders.gov.in Maharashtra before downloading tender documents and to participate in e-tendering
2. Post Qualification Criteria is applicable
3. Bid Capacity- Bidders shall upload QR based Bid Capacity Certificate downloaded on or before two days of submission form Portal https://bidcap.emahapwd.com/ if this bid capacity Certificate is not uploaded then tender shall be treated as non-responsive.
4. Bidders shall fill the relevant information of key persons and Technical Staff available with him in the formats and fields specified on https://bidcap.emahapwd.com/ Portal. Out of the total key persons and Technical staff available with bidder shall upload the staff he desires to deploy for this work. This Statement shall be downloaded from portal https://bidcap.emahapwd.com/ Bidder shall upload this QR based statement downloaded on or before two days of submission. If this certificate is not uploaded then tender shall be treated as non responsive.
5. For any other queries regarding online enrollment on the above mentioned website and digital certificate, please contact to 0120-4001 002, 0120-4200 462, 0120-4001 005, 0120-6277 787.
6. Other details can be seen in the bidding document. Right is reserved to reject any or all tenders without assigning any
7. The Electronic tendering system for Public Works Department of Government of Maharashtra will be available on
Sd/- (D. V. Mukade) Executive Engineer Public Works Division Yavatmal
Out No.3114/T.C./Dt.11-06-2024
Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Yavatmal.
DGIPR/2024-25/ROC 226

GOVT. OF MAHARASHTRA
Public Works (East) Division, Pune - 411 001
Phone No. 020/26122457. Web- www.mahapwd.gov.in & e-mail- eastpune.ee@mahapwd.gov.in
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 01 FOR 2024-2025
The Executive Engineer, Public Works (East) Division, Pune - 411 001 invites bids for following work from Registered as well as unregistered Contractor, and full filling the qualifying criteria for B-2 Tender Format as per Maharashtra Government. Public Work Department G.R. No. CAT/2017/Pra.Kra-08/Bldg-2, Dt. 27/9/2018 and Public Work Department Matralaya Mumbai Circular No. CAT/2017/Pra.Kra-08/Bldg-2, dt. 22/10/2018. Bids document can be downloaded from website https://mahatenders.gov.in Executive Engineer reserves all rights to accept or reject bids. Conditional bids will not be accepted.
NAME OF WORK AND ESTIMATE COST LIST
Sr. No. Name of Work Estimated Cost Rs. Earnest Money Deposit Time limit for Completion Cost of e-tender Form Fee Class of Contractor
1 1. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION FOR "DOG TRAINING CENTER" ON LAND BEARING GUT NO, 140/, AT GOJUBAVI, TAL -BARAMATI, DIST.PUNE. 42,02,76.826/- 21,02,000/- 24 Months (Including Monsoon) Rs.3540/- (With GST 18%) Registered as well as unregistered Contractor
E-tender Time Table
1. Period of Downloading of bid documents/ Sale start and end dates Dt. 14.06.2024 @ 10.00 hrs. to Dt. 04.07.2024 @ 18.00 hrs.
2. Pre-bid Meeting In the Office of Chief Engineer, P. W. Region Office, Pune, Old Central Building, Pune-411001. Dt. 25.06.2024 @ 12.00 hrs.
3. Period of Bid Submission / Bid Submission Start and End date. Dt. 14.06.2024 @ 10.00 hrs. to Dt. 04.07.2024 @ 18.00 hrs.
4. Bid Opening Period Dt. 05.07.2024 @ 18.00 hrs. (If Possible) (In the office of Superintending Engineer, P.W. Circle, Pune.)
Note :-
1. All eligible/interested contractors are downloading and mandated to get enrolled on e-tendering portal https://mahatenders.gov.in.
2. For online Payment related issues, Kindly send email with Bank Reference Number to this email ID merchant@sbi.co.in, You may also contact 022-27560149 for clarifications.
3. Other term and condition Displayed in online e-tender forms. Right to reject any or all online bid of work without assigning any reasons thereof is reserved.
4. Above only Tender Notice is displayed on P.W.D. website "www.mahapwd.gov.in"
5. Online Blank Tender Downloading fee and Earnest money shall be paid via online using NEFT/RTGS or payment gateway mode.
Sd/- (ANIL SHAMRAO DHEPE) Executive Engineer, Public Work (East) Division, Pune - 411 001.
DGIPR/2024-25/ROC 201

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FOR SALE 7 Seater, Metallic Silver Honda Mobilio Diesel Car, 2014 Model, 13427 Kms Done. Contact: schooloffice@hillwoodsacademy.in or Call at + 9818849910.
A DIPLOMATIC Mission Selling Scrap Car, Embassy of Iran, New Delhi. Imported Car - Toyota Land Cruiser - Prado, Model 2008, Petrol, Color - Pearl White. Contact: 783286351.
CHANGE OF NAME
I, SHEETALBEN legally wedded with of No 15733436K/L/NK Parmar Vinodhbhai Ramabhai of unit No 2CTTB.HQ 2STC have changed my name from Sheetalben to Parmar Sheetalben vinodhbhai in my husband army record. My correct name is Parmar Sheetalben vinodhbhai named in future vide affidavit no IN-GJ8159777328658W, date 08May24
I, NK Jitendra singh, Army No 2704440K VPO- Segajagatpur Dist-Bulandshahr Teh-sayana, UP-203407. Do Heresby Declares That in my Service Record My son name is Wrongly Mentioned as Vashu Choudhary. The Correct name is Vashu Chaudhary
I, LACHHO W/o Babudeen R/o Andhop, Teh. Hathin, Dist. Palwal have declared that my and my husband name Lachho @ Lachhi @ Laxmi Devi W/o Babu @ Babudeen in mentioned other documents. Whereas both of us are called by the same name and all these names are ours. Now our name in bank and other documents should be changed to Lachho W/o Babudeen.
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CHANGE OF NAME
I, DIVYA D/o Shri Nagender Kumar R/o C-62, First Floor, Tulip Garden, Ardee City, Sector-52, Gurugram 122011. Have changed my name from Divya to Divya Harsh for all future purposes.
I, DHIRESH Naithani, S/o Om Prakash Naithani, R/O Flat no 306, Sai Prabhat Building, Plot no. 34-35, Raju Enclave, N. S. I. T. Dwarka Pin 110078, in my service record my father name has been wrongly written as O P Naithani but his actual and correct name is Om Prakash Naithani.
I, ANIKA D/o Pradeep Kumar R/o H. No. H-1/24, 2nd Floor, Budh Vihar Phase-I, New Delhi - 110086 have changed my name to Anika Namdev as per my Birth certificate.
I, ANJU Aggarwal W/o Sh. Subhash Chand Singhal R/O R-82, S.No. 5, Bank Colony, Mandoli, Delhi-110093 after marriage have changed my name to Kavita Singhal for all future purposes.
IT IS for general information that I, Mehboob Ahmed S/o Maqsood Ahmed, R/o H.No. E-13/A, Ground Floor, Madapur Khadar Extension Part-3, P.O. Sarita Vihar, New Delhi-110076, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Mehboob Ahmad, in my Passport. The actual name of mine is Mehboob Ahmed, which may be amended accordingly.
I, MARIA RITA Chatterjee W/o Partha Roy, R/O Flat No R-24, D-Tower, 12th Avenue, Gaur City-2, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar U.P.-201301, have changed my name to Moupali Roy for all future purposes.
I, BIMLA Bati Gautam W/o Late Shri Laxman Singh R/O 216-B/7A, Gautam Nagar, New Delhi-110049 have changed my name to Bima Bati in future for all purposes my correct & actual date of birth is 30/08/1947.
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CHANGE OF NAME
I, PINKI D/o Maman R/o H.No.174, Near Badi Chopal, Village -Parnala, Bahadurgarh, Jhajar, Haryana-124507 declare that I have changed my name from Vikash to Vikash Sehrawat for all future purpose vide affidavit before public notary Delhi dt 04-06-2024
I, USHA Gumber W/o Sh. Mohinder Kumar Gumber R/O 2118-A, Rani Bagh, Delhi - 110034 have changed my name from Usha Gumber to Usha Goomber for all future purposes. That Usha Goombar and Usha Gumber are one and the same person
I, SHANKER Lal Berry S/o Sh. B.C. Berry R/O A-57, Omare Green Valley, Sec-41-42, NHPC colony, Faridabad have changed my name to Shanker Lal Berry for all purposes.
I, BHOLA S/o Sh. Ramkumar R/o Madrahana, Gujraulla, Maharajganj, UP 273157. That I have changed my name from Banarasi to Bhola for all future purposes.
I, SALOO Chabria W/o Shri Kanhaiya Lal Sewani R/o AC-79B, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi - 110088, have changed my name from Saloo Chabria to Meetu Sewani for all future purposes
I, KARTIK Bhardwaj S/o Sh. Sunil Kumar Sharma R/O H.No.T-30, Sector-11, NOIDA , Distt. Gautam Buddha Nagar R/Ur 27-A, Old Anarkali, Near Lal Mandir, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051, have changed my name from Siddharth to Siddharth Sharma for all purposes.
I, SIDDHARTH S/o Shri Ajay Kumar R/o 27-A, Old Anarkali, Near Lal Mandir, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051, have changed my name from Siddharth to Siddharth Sharma for all purposes.
I, SHEEKHA Roy Chaudhury W/O, Sh. Shivnath Roy Chaudhury R/O, T-5, G-02,La Residentia, Gr.Noida GB Nagar (UP)201306, State that my name is Sheekha Roy Chaudhury Not Sheekha Roychaudhury
I, RADHIKA Thakur D/o Shri Ranjit Kumar Thakur R/o 94, GC Emerald Height, T-1, Ramprastha Greens, I.E. Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, UP-201010 have changed my name from Radhika Kumari Thakur to Radhika Thakur for all purposes.
I, MUKESH Chand S/o Sh. Hoshnar Contact in case of Finding and Objection. Sushil Kumar S/o Nidhaa Lal Gupta, R/o Mohalla Ram Ganj Hapur, Ph. No.-9897017602
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Arrow Aircraft, a renowned provider of air travel services in Jammu & Kashmir, has discovered an alarming case of identity fraud. A man named Mir Wasim has been falsely representing himself as a representative of Arrow Aircraft, offering unauthorized services in the region.
We inform the public and our valued customers that Mir Wasim is in no way affiliated with Arrow Aircraft. He has been using a fake identity to mislead and potentially defraud individuals seeking our services. We urge all devotees and customers to exercise caution and verify the authenticity of any representative claiming to be associated with Arrow Aircraft.
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PUBLIC NOTICE
My understanding / agreement to purchase Residential Flat being the entire First Floor with proportionate share in the land underneath in Property bearing number B-106, Gulmohar Park, New Delhi measuring 500 sq. yds. within the limits of Municipal Corporation of Delhi; hereinafter referred to as the "said Property", from Mrs. Nitya Gupta Aggarwal.
Any person/persons/firm/company/bank/financial institution, having any claim or interest in the above said Property is hereby called upon to put the claims along with supportive documents before the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which the transaction shall be concluded and no objections shall be entertained thereafter.
Ranjan Grover (Advocate) Stilt Floor, Devika Tower Nehru Place, New Delhi Mob: 8527144403
MY ORIGINAL General Power of Attorney Serial No.-422, Dated 02/08/2000 related to property situated at Mohalla Awas Vikas Colony, Meerut Road, Hapur bearing Plot No. A-44 has been lost somewhere. Contact in case of Finding and Objection. Sushil Kumar S/o Nidhaa Lal Gupta, R/o Mohalla Ram Ganj Hapur, Ph. No.-9897017602
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ENTIRE FIRST FLOOR OF PROPERTY BEARING NO. D-5/13, SITUATED AT VASANT VIHAR, NEW DELHI, MEASURING 400 SQ. YDS.
"Be it known to all that my client has agreed to Purchase Entire First Floor, along with proportionate ownership rights in the plot of land measuring 400 Sq. Yds., Bearing No. D-5/13, situated at Vasant Vihar, New Delhi [say "said Portion"] from Shri Vijay Kumar Bhalla S/o Late Shri Bal Raj, who has represented himself to be sole, absolute and exclusive owner of the said portion and has further represented that the said portion is free from all disputes, litigations, charges, liens and other encumbrance(s) whatsoever.
Any other person(s) having any claim against, into or upon the said portion or any part thereof by virtue of sale, inheritance, agreement, contract, mortgage, lien, charge etc., or otherwise howsoever and of whatsoever nature is hereby required to notify the same in writing along with supporting documentary evidence to the undersigned within 30 days, from the date of publication of this notice, failing which my client shall conclude the sale and any claim and/or objection if any shall be considered as waived and abandoned and shall not be binding upon my client.
AMIT GUPTA (Advocate) C-13, Pamposh Enclave, New Delhi-110048. Tel. 26284741, 26284569
PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public is hereby informed that Mr. Vijay Sahebrav Dhare, S/o Sahebrav Eknath Dhare R/o Lohgaon, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, who was working as Manager-Institutional Sales, has been ceased w.e.f. 31 May 2024 neither in the employment of PSI India Private Limited nor associated in any manner whatsoever, and all authorities stand revoked. He has no authority to represent PSI India Pvt Ltd., in any capacity. The Company shall not be held liable/responsible in respect of any dealing offered/performed by him and any person dealing with him in any manner, shall be doing so at his own risk and responsibility.
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Time for ‘six-hitter’ Dube to start making it count

The pitches at Nassau haven’t helped Dube, but he will hope for a better showing as India move out of NY

Vivek Krishnan
vivek.krishnan@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Walking in at 44/3 in a tricky run chase against United States was bound to exert pressure on the tall frame of Shivam Dube. But that may not have been the only source of anxiety playing on Dube’s mind. Beyond the match situation at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in Long Island, New York, on Wednesday, Dube was likely to have felt the need to prove that he belongs in India’s blue.

For the 30-year-old to be in that situation so early in this T20 World Cup may seem a bit perplexing, but the scrutiny on any Indian cricketer, especially one who is largely unproven at the highest level, is such that even a couple of subpar performances can result in harsh criticism.

The left-hand batter has technically had only one failure in this T20 World Cup—he was out for three off nine balls against Pakistan last Sunday. But in the brief time that he spent at the crease against Pakistan’s bowlers, he looked utterly unconvincing.

The warm-up game against Bangladesh didn’t have official status, but Dube couldn’t get going there too when everyone else around him did. He meandered to 14 off 16 balls while hitting just the lone six before getting caught at long-on.

These two games seemed to be enough—he was unbeaten on 0 in India’s victory over Ireland—for social media to pass unflattering remarks on Dube before the game against US. The grouse against the batting all-rounder from Mumbai seems to have been compounded by the omission of Rinku Singh from the 15-member squad. The dynamics of squad selection were such that there was only place for one of Dube or Rinku in India’s contingent. Dube’s ability to contribute a few overs as a medium-pacer and his splendid form for Chennai Super Kings (CSK) at the time of selection meant he ended up getting the nod.

There are a few factors behind Dube’s current predicament. For starters, the two-paced drop-in pitches at Long Island haven’t helped Dube or any other batter for that matter. The bounce has been variable, and the pitches have been on the slower side, deterring someone like Dube from tapping into his natural strength of hitting through the

line. It’s also worth considering that he may have just fallen out of form in recent weeks. Since May, his scores read 0, 0, 21, 18, 7, 14, 0*, 3 and 31*.

In these circumstances, his unbeaten 31 off 35 balls against the US, effective though not entertaining, was much needed for Dube. He didn’t look entirely convincing in this knock too, but the confidence of seeing off the run chase should hold him in good stead when the Super Eight phase commences on June 19.

“I was struggling with my form and focusing on my process,” Dube said during an interaction with reporters at the mixed zone. “All the support staff and coaches backed me and told me, ‘It’s difficult, but you have the ability to hit sixes, so apply it.’ I’ve never doubted myself for what I’ve done in the past. I just think that these conditions do not demand what I’ve done at CSK. These conditions require a different approach. It’s not easy to come here and start hitting from ball one, you have to take your time.”

Part of the reason for Dube’s pedestrian run in this tournament is his own reputation of being a belligerent six-hitter against spin. With neither strengths nor weaknesses of any player no longer staying elusive, teams are understandably reluctant to bowl their spinners to Dube. On Wednesday, for instance, US left-arm spinner Harmeet Singh remained unused.

If Dube is to become a more complete batter at the international level, he will also have to become more adept at rotating the strike. He is also yet to fully convince while playing the short ball.

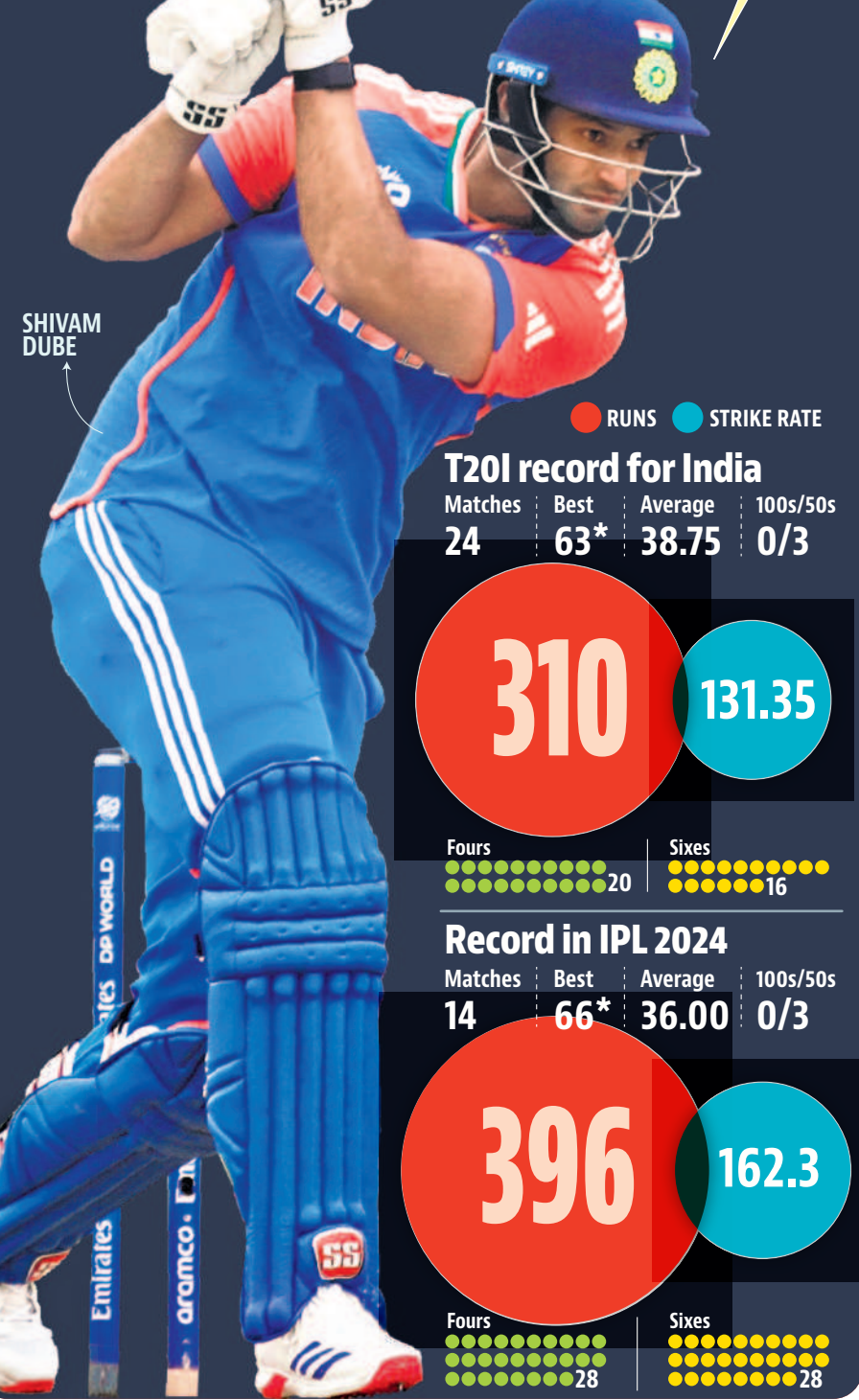
Against the Americans, 15 of his 33 balls were dots, adding to the pressure in what should have otherwise been a straightforward chase. His tendency to go at the ball with hard hands means that the dexterity to manoeuvre the ball into gaps isn’t quite there. When he’s up against top opponents, he won’t always be able to catch up with fours and sixes like he does for CSK in IPL.

To pigeonhole Dube solely as an IPL success won’t be correct though. His overall T20I record for India is quite good—he has 310 runs in 24 matches at an average of 38.75 and a strike rate of 131.35.

With the New York leg of fixtures over, the key for Dube now is to quickly put this mid-dling run behind him and take advantage of hopefully better batting surfaces in their coming games. Starting with the inconsequential match against Canada in Lauderhill on Saturday.

Dube looks to find his range

The left-hand batter has a reputation as a six-hitter for Chennai Super Kings in IPL, but he is yet to show that talent at the T20 World Cup



Rutherford takes WI to Super Eight

Somshuvra Laha
somshuvra.laha@htlive.com

KOLKATA: Not since the 1999 World Cup had West Indies scored an outright victory over New Zealand at an ICC event. And on 11/2/9 after the 18th over, West Indies weren’t close to even threatening that record. Sherfane Rutherford, however, was biding his time after coming in to bat in the Powerplay only for the second time in his T20I career. Two sixes were the only two boundary shots he had managed till then in a largely disappointing innings that Trent Boult had a stranglehold on after a ruthless spell of 4-1-16-3. Needing a win to stay on course for a Super 8 berth, New Zealand could tell themselves almost half the job had been done.

But then came the exact moment Rutherford turned it around for West Indies. Bowling to him was IPL-enriched Daryl Mitchell, taking pace off the ball on a slow Tarouba pitch in Port of Spain. Rutherford waited, having sized out the fine-leg boundary, and muscled Mitchell over the infield for a six. Next ball was an intended yorker but it ended up in Rutherford’s arc, and he had no problem lofting it for six. Two balls later, Mitchell inexplicably pitched it short enough for Rutherford to get inside its line and pull it over long-leg for the third six of the over. Two fours and another six off Mitchell Santner in the last over, and Rutherford had raced to a 39-ball 68 not out, adding 37 runs off the last two overs in the process and guiding West Indies to 149/9. Throughout this ram-page stood No.11 and slow left-arm bowler Gudakesh Motie on zero, making this 37-run stand the highest for the tenth wicket in T20 World Cup history. Motie followed

POINTS TABLE (GROUP C)						
Team	P	W	L	NRR	Pts	
WI	3	3	0	2.596	6	
AFG	2	2	0	5.225	4	
UGA	3	1	2	-4.217	2	
PNG	2	0	2	-0.434	0	
NZ	2	0	2	-2.425	0	

POINTS TABLE (GROUP D)						
Team	P	W	L	NRR	Pts	
SA	3	3	0	0.603	6	
BAN	3	2	1	0.478	4	
NED	3	1	2	-0.408	2	
NEP*	2	0	1	-0.539	1	
SL*	3	0	2	-0.777	1	

*Match abandoned

that up with a class act of his own, taking 3/25 to complement Alzarri Joseph’s 4/19 to script a 13-run win that saw West Indies advance to the next round. The only previous instance of a team winning a T20 World Cup match after losing their first five wickets for 30 runs or below was Uganda (26/5) during their chase of 78 against Papua New Guinea in Guyana last week. New Zealand have now lost three consecutive matches in the T20 World Cup since that 2022 semi-final loss to Pakistan, making this their second longest losing streak in the competition. All because Rutherford chose that over to break loose.

Rutherford’s selection—ahead of Shimron Hetmyer—was a gamble, given he didn’t even get a game at Kolkata Knight Riders who won this year’s IPL. But he chose the perfect occasion to highlight the Caribbean’s endless supply of support staff that include her coach Woller Akos, strength and conditioning coach Wayne Patrick Lombard, a physiotherapist and a sparring partner, besides her

Bangladesh beat Netherlands, inch closer to Super 8 berth

Aditya Chaturvedi
aditya.chaturvedi@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: Bangladesh’s clash with Netherlands on Thursday was a crucial one. Both teams lost close battles to South Africa but also had two points each on the board. With the Proteas already through to the Super 8 stage from Group D, and Sri Lanka and Nepal languishing at the bottom, it was an opportunity to take a big step towards qualification.

It was Bangladesh who held their nerves in the end to close out a 25-run victory. After an unbeaten half-century from

Shakib Al Hasan took them to 159/5, a three-wicket haul by leg-spinner Rishad Hossain ensured the Dutch were restricted to 134/8.

Netherlands were off to a strong start in the chase as Michael Levitt and Max O’Dowd hit a string of boundaries. Despite the openers falling in quick succession, Vikramjit Singh kept the momentum going and struck Shakib for consecutive sixes. The left-hander perished for a 16-ball 26 before Sybrand Engelbrecht (33 off 22) and skipper Scott Edwards added a 42-run stand for the fourth wicket.

Needing 49 runs to win off 33

balls with six wickets in hand, the Dutch seemed to be marching towards a famous win. But that’s when Hossain removed Engelbrecht and Bas de Leede in a span of three deliveries to set Bangladesh on their way.

Mustafizur Rahman got rid of Edwards (25 off 23) soon after and went on to complete a fine spell of 1/12. Hossain (3/33) was the standout bowler as Netherlands could only score 23 runs in the last five overs.

Brief scores: Bangladesh 159/5 (S Al Hasan 64*; P Meekeren 2/15). Netherlands 134/8 (S Engelbrecht 33; R Hossain 3/33). **Bangladesh won by 25 runs.**

Wrestlers skip Hungary camp, to train on their own

Avishek Roy
avishek.roy@htlive.com

NEW DELHI: Three of the five women wrestlers who have qualified for the Paris Olympics and were scheduled to train at the ongoing international camp in Hungary to prepare for the Games have skipped training.

After participating at the International Ranking Series in Budapest (May 27-June 5), Antim Panghal, Anshu Malik and Reetika Hooda have returned to India citing various reasons, it has been learnt. Vinesh Phogat and Nisha Dahiya are the only two wrestlers training at the Olympic Training Centre in Hungary from June 10-21. Vinesh is with her own set of support staff that include her coach Woller Akos, strength and conditioning coach Wayne Patrick Lombard, a physiotherapist and a sparring partner, besides her

wrestler husband Somveer Rathi. The two-time Worlds medallist has plans to compete at the Grand Prix of Spain from July 5 to 7 in Madrid. The other qualified wrestlers want to follow their individual training plans.

The women’s camp in Hungary was planned by the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) on the recommendation of national coaches Virender Dahiya and Sonia Mor. WFI confirmed participation of Indian wrestlers after getting confirmation from them. WFI has paid for the stay (80euro per person per day) of the team of four wrestlers, two coaches and one physio for 16 days. However, the national coaches are now left with only one wrestler—Nisha Dahiya—to train. Around 50 wrestlers from 15 countries, mostly Paris Olympics quota winners, are participating in the training camp. A WFI official said the three wrest-

lers gave various reasons to not participate in the camp. “The national coaches were of the opinion that the camp will be beneficial because our wrestlers did not have much international exposure this season. The wrestlers also confirmed their participation. But after the ranking series they changed their minds,” said a senior WFI official. “We can’t force anyone to participate in a camp. WFI does not want to disturb their training plans either, so we have decided that we will support whatever proposals they are sending,” the official added.

Anshu Malik is planning another trip to Japan starting next week. Aman Sehrawat, the only male wrestler to qualify, is also looking to train in Dagestan, Russia, with his personal coach and physio. “Everyone is sending their individual training plans to WFI. We are not stopping anyone,” he

{ LEFT FIELD }

Sharda Ugra



Keeping the US cricket dream alive and kicking

Now that the last of the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium (NCICS) matches is over, the entire stadium itself will, to use a Potterism, disappear. Not apparating back anywhere else anytime soon. Its Las Vegas F1 Grand Prix temporary seating will be packed into containers and sent into storage. All that will remain in Eisenhower Park is the drop-in pitch, which player-commentator Ambati Rayudu memorably called the only unwanted piece of real estate in New York. A newspaper headline talked about Nausea County.

Alright, enough with the mean jokes, it’s no fault of the good people of Long Island. While the ICC T20 Cricket World Cup leaves American shores over the weekend and heads out for the West Indies, the hard yards of ‘taking cricket to America’ story continue. Five days after the World Cup final, Season 2 of Major League Cricket begins, featuring six franchise teams over two venues—Grand Prairie in Texas and Morrisville in North Carolina.

Season one of MLC was deemed a success. Forbes reporting revenues at \$8m with 17,000 spectators across the 18-day, 19-match league last year. Sanjay Govil, owner of MLC franchise Washington Freedom who moved to the US in the 1980s, said for decades “we never thought cricket was going to come to us”. But it’s here and he has a hand in it, as the only solo owner of an MLC franchise. Freedom gets its name, he says, from striving, throwing away shackles, taking a different path. Of the other five franchises, three are owned and run by IPL big dads: Texas Super Kings, LA Knight Riders and defending champions MI New York. The other two, Seattle Orcas and San Francisco Unicorns, have many millionaire co-owners.

Govil is pleased that Freedom, who partnered with Cricket NSW for game management, made the playoffs and finished third in Season 1. Season 2 should have them better prepared, with a new CEO, Cricket NSW still involved and a roster that reads Travis Head, Rachin Ravindra, Steve Smith, Marco Jansen, and T20 World Cup Team USA superhero, Saurabh Netravalkar.

What MLC is doing, Govil says, is unlike mainstream cricket. “We’re not just building a league but we’re also building the sport in the US. That’s a very different paradigm as compared to other countries. A harder thing to do.” Within the first decade of the MLC, he says, the dream is that cricket becomes a “semi mainstream” game—“like lacrosse or rugby” and MLC occupies a spot just behind the top US leagues: gridiron football, basketball, baseball and ice hockey.

This will mean “not just promoting major cricket, but also minor cricket, academics, cricket in schools, having an expanded grassroot kind of thing. That is going to be very, very paramount in how we approach cricket in the US.” Increasing playing numbers from more than 100,000 weekend players, from a predominantly South Asian diaspora audience, is also part of the mission. The size of the cricket-



The Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in Long Island, New York, hosted eight matches in the T20 World Cup. GETTY

viewing audience in the US ranges between three million to a wild consultancy figure of 25 to 30m. Govil overall is realistic. “To get to where we want—is a 20, 30, 40-year journey.”

In MLCI, 12 of 19 matches were held in the Grand Prairie (GP) cricket stadium in suburban Dallas. The ground was repurposed from an abandoned baseball venue called AirHogs Stadium for the Texas AirHogs, which folded in 2020. This exercise led to MLC being called the “hermit crabs of sports leagues by D Magazine sports editor Mike Piellucci. Like the hermit crab, MLC found an empty shell of the AirHogs stadium, climbed into it, and from there have turned Grand Prairie into “Cricket City, USA.”

In the World Cup, Grand Prairie provided the best playing surface and spectator experience. Once again, it will host 16 of the 25 MLC2 matches, with Morrisville’s Church Street Park staging the other nine. Piellucci, Dallas-born and bred, reminds me that cricket has made its entry into Dallas at a time when the city/region is enjoying its golden era across the big leagues.

The Texas Rangers have won the Major League Baseball world series, the Dallas Mavericks are in the NBA finals, its NHL team Dallas Stars have made two conference finals in a row. “And the football team (Dallas Cowboys) is the most valuable sports franchise in the world.”

He says not only will cricket have to “break through” the buzz created by the other leagues, “there’s no lull period because you are going from success to success.” Time for the Texas Super Kings to pull out their cricket league A-game, no doubt.

MLC has been positioned for July, which is known though as a ‘dry season’ for US sport in between the leagues. With summer temperatures in Dallas rising, Piellucci suggests getting a roof over the cricket ground would be a good idea. “The owners will have to convince people to go out and engage in a sport that they might not know about and do it when the weather is really, really hot...it’s a tough sell to kind of work

with.”

In trying to explain Dallas’ response to its sports teams, Piellucci told contrasting stories between football/soccer and ice hockey. Dallas was an original market for Major League Soccer (Dallas Burn/FC Dallas) “but they’ve never had this huge groundswell of support...” this despite the fact that people love the sport and that Dallas is a big hub for youth soccer and its talent development pathway.

“There’s a ton of talent that comes out of here... but the (MLS) team itself doesn’t have the support because I guess they’re not successful... they’ve not been a consistent winner...” While the Dallas Stars ice-hockey team is much loved—even in this non-traditional ice hockey market—because, Piellucci says, “they never really tank...what they do is they’re consistently very good.” Plus, the last two seasons have had them produce “truly excellent” results.

Cricket must grab eyeballs in a multi-sports-league-saturated market. Dallas-Fort Worth teams also play in leagues across rugby, ultimate frisbee, and the spring football minor league called United Football League. In May 2024, Dallas Trinity FC women’s professional soccer team joined the USL Super League.

The MLC, however, cannot be the only event to build cricket’s popularity in the country because, Piellucci says, the other leagues “are constantly on people’s minds.” He says, “It can’t just be major league cricket, there have to be more competitions, other competitions... going a few different times a year... you have to get a foothold on the calendar and claw to stay in people’s minds, to remind them.”

Cricket’s growth story in the most lucrative market outside South Asia has to somehow stay relevant even after MLC2 ends in mid-July. Piellucci says it’s not just about gaining a foothold now, but also “don’t get people to forget about you the other 46 weeks of the year?” It’s no surprise that he and his magazine called MLC, and through it cricket in the US, as the “greatest experiment in pro sport”.

MATCH SCHEDULE

GROUP A	GROUP D	GROUP C
USA vs Ireland	Nepal vs South Africa	New Zealand vs Uganda
At 8PM ● Venue: Lauderhill	At 5AM (Saturday) ● Venue: Kingstown	At 6AM (Saturday) ● Venue: Tarouba

Individual training plans

Three Paris-bound wrestlers stay away from international camp in Hungary despite expenses being paid for the team

VINESH PHOGAT
Currently at Olympic training camp in Hungary. She is travelling with her own team of support staff that include coach Woller Akos, trainer Wayne Patrick Lombard, physio and sparring partner.

ANTIM PANGHAL
Returned to India after competing in International Ranking Series in Hungary (May 27-Jun 5), though she had earlier confirmed her participation in camp. Currently training in Hisar with personal coach.

NISHA DAHIYA
Currently training at Olympic training camp in Hungary. Two national coaches and physio are looking after her training.

REETIKA HOODA
Returned to India after competition in Hungary and wants to train in her academy in Rohtak with her coach.

ANSHU MALIK
Returned to India after Ranking Series in Hungary. Plans to travel to Japan to prepare for Paris Olympics. She trained in Japan for a short stint earlier this year.





Hindustan Times

FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

BOOK II

SPORT

AMID STRIFE, A EURO BINDER

STARS TO WATCH

Cristiano Ronaldo

(Portugal)
Age: 39
Club: Al Nassr
Position: Forward

Cristiano Ronaldo is 39 and in the twilight of his illustrious career. But don't count out a man whose hunger to make a mark hasn't dimmed. In Portugal's last warm-up game against Ireland, Ronaldo scored two fine goals. While he is no longer in the limelight after moving to Saudi Arabia, he has the experience and technical nous to make the difference in big games.

Luka Modric

(Croatia)
Age: 38
Club: Real Madrid
Position: Midfielder

Luka Modric, the beating heart of Croatia's midfield, inspired them to go all the way to the 2018 World Cup final. He has collected a host of top club honours with Real Madrid, where he has been a key player since 2012. Even at 38, his creative and influential style is impossible to ignore.

Kevin De Bruyne

(Belgium)
Age: 32
Club: Man City
Position: Midfielder

Playmaker Kevin De Bruyne was the midfield maestro behind Manchester City's victorious charge to their fourth straight EPL title. The Belgian was almost unstoppable in the second half of the season for City and is on form at the right time for the Euro.

As Europe grapples with conflicts, football, Philipp Lahm says, could “illustrate our democratic values”

Dhiman Sarkar
dhiman@htlive.com

KOLKATA: In the time of war, elections in England and France, the far-right making significant gains in the European Union parliament and one in five telling a poll that hosts Germany should have more white-skinned players, the European championship could seem irrelevant in a continent grappling with greater problems. “There are conflicts everywhere... conflicts within German society, conflicts within Europe,” Stefan Uersfeld, a sports columnist for German broadcaster N-TV, told AP.

But Philipp Lahm's urge for the tournament to foster a sense of togetherness shows that football can have a role to play. “The Euro can be used to illustrate our democratic, European values,” said Lahm, the former Germany captain now director of Euro 2024. Germany getting behind skipper Ilkay Gündogan and the team where Jamal Musiala and Antonio Rüdiger are expected to play important roles can be a start when they kick-off against Scott McTominay-led Scotland on Friday. And given these tournaments' ability to generate optimism, who knows, by the time of the final on July 14, Germany may be comparing this with what it calls the summer fairytale of 2006. A World Cup that was also a time to make friends.

Like then, no one was giving Germany a chance till recently. They had lost 1-4 to Japan, 2-3 to Turkey and had been held 2-2 by Mexico. Things began shifting with wins against France and Netherlands in March. A month prior, Toni Kroos ended his international retirement. Then, Borussia Dortmund made the Champions League final and Bayer Leverkusen became “Never-lusen” till the Europa League final. A proud football nation, three-time champions of Europe, gave coach Julian Nagelsmann and team director Rudi Voeller new deals as it learned to hope again.

“Something big can happen,” Musiala told Sports-bild. A “cheesy” ending, Kroos has said referring to the possibility of ending his international career the way he finished at the club. One he would happily take.

Now in charge till the 2026 World Cup, Nagelsmann purged the old guard removing 11 players including Leon Goretzka and Mats Hummels even as he welcomed back Kroos. If Nagelsmann can get 21-year-olds Florian Wirtz and Musiala in the team without it losing balance — England's inability to do with Frank Lampard and Steven Gerrard cost a generation — they can go deep. “They are players you always have a bit of doubt as defenders,” Kroos has said. Wirtz, who missed the 2022 World Cup with injury, had 20 assists and 18 goals in 49 games. Musiala had 12 goals and eight assists in 38.

Defending champions Italy have also left out many from the squad that came from behind to beat England at Wembley in 2021. Nicolo Barella still runs the engine room in midfield but Luciano Spalletti has opted for a roster thin on experience — nearly half have played less than 10 internationals. Four, five, six of

them are world class, said former Italy goalie and legend Gianluigi Buffon, adding that underestimating Italy might not be wise. Goals have been a problem though and qualification far from the breeze it was last time.

If Italy and Germany have changed, England and France have walked the opposite route. Should France make the semi-finals, coach Didier Deschamps will be working on July 8, the 12th anniversary of taking the job. In that time he has played successive World Cup finals, winning one, and won the 2021 Nations League. France are the top-ranked team in Europe and know how to progress in tournaments, the blip of snatching defeat from the jaws of victory against Switzerland in 2021 notwithstanding. And they have Kylian Mbappe.

France could meet England in the semi-final if both teams top their groups. Gareth Southgate's duration in charge is less than Deschamps by four years but he has brought England close to believing that their men's team can win another major title. Known to eschew spectacular for the solid, Southgate has a squad that can go in with one plan of attack — attack. Here's looking at you Harry Kane (44 goals in 47 games last term), Phil Foden, Jude Bellingham and Bukayo Saka. And we haven't even got to Cole Palmer, Ivan Toney, Kobbie Mainoo and Ollie Watkins.

“We want to make history,” said Declan Rice. “We say it all the time but genuinely we have a group, a manager that really believes. We have confidence that we can go there and do something special.”

No conversation about favourites will be complete without mentioning Portugal. Goal-keeper Diogo Costa kept most clean sheets in the qualifiers (6) and Bruno Fernandes registered the most assists (8). Back to front, they are good, proof of which came in Portugal winning all 10 of the qualifying rounds. And Cristiano Ronaldo continues to defy age, defeat defenders and question the judgment of those who thought his international career had ended when Portugal lost to Morocco in Doha. For all talk about favourites, we must remember that Greece were champions in 2004 and Denmark in 1992 when they weren't even supposed to play. While expecting Albania or debutants Georgia to go all the way may be a stretch, what's not to say Belgium, unbeaten in qualifiers with Romelu Lukaku leading the scoring charts (14 goals), Austria, where Ralf Rangnick and Marcel Sabitzer have done what neither could at Manchester United, Spain's young ones and Croatia's not-so-young-ones will be enjoying the German summer.

Or Netherlands reprise the successful campaign of 1988, when Ronald Koeman was a player and neither West Germany nor the Berlin Wall history. You could add Denmark to that list and it wouldn't be odd. But for their captain Christian Eriksen, just being there can feel like a triumph.

When Eriksen steps out against Slovenia on June 16, he will be the embodiment of hope. It will be a moment that takes Euro 2024 beyond being a project that can generate €2.7 billion in revenue.

Kylian Mbappe

(France)
Age: 25
Club: Real Madrid
Position: Forward

After becoming the first teenager since Pele to score in a World Cup final to help France to victory in Russia in 2018, Mbappe became the first player since 1966 to net a hat-trick in the World Cup final 18 months ago. Mbappe missed the crucial penalty in France's shock last-16 exit to Switzerland three years ago and he will want to set that straight.

Jude Bellingham

(England)
Age: 20
Club: Real Madrid
Position: Midfielder

Fresh from helping Real Madrid to La Liga and Champions League glory in his first season in Spain, Jude Bellingham turns his attention to trying to end England's 58-year wait for major tournament glory. The 20-year-old is part of a star-studded array of attacking talent alongside Harry Kane, Phil Foden and Bukayo Saka.

Phil Foden

(England)
Age: 24
Club: Manchester City
Position: Attacking midfielder

Phil Foden's impressive haul of 19 goals and eight assists for Man City earned him the Player of the Season award. A breakout tournament from the 23-year-old Foden may be the extra weapon England need up front to finally end their Euros title drought.

Top two teams from each group and four best third-placed teams advance to the Round of 16 knockout stage

GROUP A

- GERMANY
- SCOTLAND
- HUNGARY
- SWITZERLAND

GROUP B

- SPAIN
- CROATIA
- ITALY
- ALBANIA

GROUP C

- SLOVENIA
- DENMARK
- SERBIA
- ENGLAND

GROUP D

- NETHERLANDS
- FRANCE
- POLAND
- AUSTRIA

GROUP E

- UKRAINE
- SLOVAKIA
- BELGIUM
- ROMANIA

GROUP F

- PORTUGAL
- CZECH REP
- GEORGIA
- TURKEY


THE MISSING STARS

ERLING HAALAND (Norway)
Haaland's goal-scoring statistics are staggering. But his finishing prowess won't be in view at this tournament after Norway failed to qualify.

THIBAUT COURTOIS (Belgium)
The keeper announced in December that he would miss the Euros and has not backpedaled on his decision despite returning to full fitness for Madrid.

MARCUS RASHFORD (England)
The Man United striker paid the price for a disappointing season at the club level and failed to make the cut in England's initial 33-man squad.

MATS HUMMELS (Germany)
Reaching the Champions League final with Borussia Dortmund wasn't enough for the centre-back to make the squad for hosts Germany.



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
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1.	Selection of Contractor for: "Door to Door collection, Transfer and Secondary Transportation of Municipal Solid waste, Road/Street Sweeping and transportation of Sweeping waste, Drain cleaning & transportation of silt, collection & transportation of Horticulture Waste and collection & storage of Domestic Hazardous Waste in Zone 02,05,08 (Package 02) to designated processing facility/ disposal site/ collection centres."	25000 + 18% GST = Rs.29,500 (Rupees Twenty Nine Thousand Five Hundred only)	2,50,00,000/- (Rupees two crore fifty lacs only)	10 years extendable upto 5 years

Event of Calendar:

Sl. No.	Events	Date & Time
1	Online Tender purchase start date	14/06/2024 by 10:00 AM
2	Online Tender purchase end date	04/07/2024 by 03:00 PM
3	Online Bid Submission End date	04/07/2024 by 05:00 PM
4	Submission of Pre- Bid queries (through E-mail/ Hard copy) by prospective bidders	till 20/06/2024 by 02:00 PM
5	Pre-Bid Meeting	20/06/2024 by 05:00 PM at Smart city Office, Lucknow
6	Hard copy of technical submission end date	04/07/2024 by 05:00 PM
7	Technical Proposal open Date	04/07/2024 by 06:00 PM

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ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A consumer under existing category continuously for last 3 years, having good antecedents and has no outstanding dues of electricity. • In the Rural Circles as a last resort, the nomination for appointment as Independent member can be sought from the area of the urban circle of the same district
Zonal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shall be a consumer of the area of zone who is at least a Graduate. • Shall be a domestic connection of contracted load not less than 10KW. • A consumer under existing category continuously for last 3 years, having good antecedents and has no outstanding dues of electricity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shall be a consumer of the area of zone who is at least a Graduate. • Shall be a consumer having a connection of HV 1/HV 2 category. • A consumer under existing category continuously for last 3 years, having good antecedents and has no outstanding dues of electricity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shall be a consumer of the area of zone who is at least a Graduate. • Shall be a person having contracted load of not less than 20KW • A consumer under existing category continuously for last 3 years, having good antecedents and has no outstanding dues of electricity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shall be a consumer[Electricity connection can be in the name of spouse] of the area of zone who is at least a Graduate. • Shall be a person, who is or has been a civil servants but not below the rank of ADM (in the service of Central Government or State/Union Territory Government and rank of ADM means Pay Matrix level-11 of 7th Pay commission report). • A consumer under existing category continuously for last 3 years, having good antecedents and has no outstanding dues of electricity.

2. **Terms and condition of nominated members –**

A. The nominated member shall have a term of three years. Provided that such nominated member shall be eligible for one-time reappointment for a second term of three years either in the same forum or in the forums, which are placed vertically above in the hierarchy of the forums. Provided further that no nominated member shall hold post as such after he has attained the age of 70 years.

B. The members nominated by the distribution licensee and the commission shall be paid remuneration by the licensees on per sitting basis as specified in point-4. The remuneration shall be in accordance with the Orders issued by the Commission from time to time.

C. Any nominated member may relinquish his office by giving three months prior notice in writing to the distribution licensee/commission as the case may be.

3. **Remuneration of nominated members on per-sitting basis at different levels of CGFR**

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The prescribed format for application for all the above positions is available on the Dakshinanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited, Agra website i.e. www.dvvn.org. Applications not forwarded as per format are likely to be rejected. Copies of self-attested testimonials/certificates relating to educational, work experience and proof of date of birth are to be attached and a self-attested passport size photograph is to be affixed on the application form. Applicants are required to furnish all the details as per the format given with this advertisement. Additional information's if any may be provided in a separate sheet. The duly completed application is to be submitted either through email id or to the address mentioned in the point no. 1 through speed post or registered post. The envelope containing the application should be super scribed as **"Applied for the position & location"**. The last date for receipt of applications will be **21 days** from the date of publication of advertisement in newspaper.

All the submitted applications will be short listed by the DVVN management based on the eligibility criteria mentioned in this advertisement. The short listed candidates will be informed by their email ID (if available) & mobile number/whatsapp number as provided by them in the application form.

APPLICATION FORM

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- Age of candidate (should not be more than 65 years) :
- Father's Name :
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- Contracted load :
- Consumer category :
- Duration since when the consumer is in above category (Should not be less than 3 years.) :
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Chief Engineer (Admin)
Dakshinanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited,
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PHOTO: YOGEN SHAH

HT City

Delhi

STARS ARE NOT IN TOUCH WITH REALITY, SHOULD RETHINK FEES

As many big-budget Bollywood films fail at the box office, Karan Johar feels actors should charge fees based on production costs and profits



KJo supports Kangana
Johar, who's had a long-running spat with Kangana Ranaut, condemned the CISF personnel slapping the actor-MP in Chandigarh. "Dekhiye, I don't support or condone any form of violence," said Johar, whose feud with Ranaut began in 2017 when she labelled the filmmaker as the "torchbearer of nepotism" on his talk show.

The debate around exorbitant star fees and their entourage costs, including makeup artists, hairdressers along with other crew members, has been on the minds of many filmmakers, including Karan Johar. He feels that it isn't necessarily the entourage cost but the rising fees of stars which isn't "viable" and is negatively affecting a film's budget.

"The entourage cost is the least of our worries. It's the main remuneration of the actors that needs to be looked into. It's very critical for all the actors to understand the difficulties that one encounters while making a motion picture of any magnitude or size," the 52-year-old filmmaker said at an event in Mumbai on Wednesday.

For Johar, the filmmakers can meet the actors' demands only when the latter comes to understand the reality of profit margins: "They (actors) can take all the entourage they want, that is not the problem. But this can be made

possible after the [calculation of] percentages of profits and slabs of the box office as per performance-based remuneration. So, every actor has to look within because a lot of them are not really in touch with reality."

Talking about additional production costs, he shared, "There are so many costs including the PnA (publicity and advertising) and above-the-line costs. So, every single movie star today has to review what they're asking for."

Johar feels that producers would do anything "just to realise their film" including adhering to rising fees of stars that can potentially "damage the entire system". Meanwhile, he also filed a suit against the makers of the *Shaadi Ke Director Karan Aur Johar*, an upcoming film, for violating his personal rights at Bombay High Court. "By using the brand name of Plaintiff in the title of the said Film, the Defendants are creating confusion in the minds of the public at large that the said Film is associated with Plaintiff (sic)," his plaint reads. HTC




PHOTO: YOGEN SHAH

STOP PRESS

On Wednesday, actor Salman Khan, in his statement to police about the April 14 firing incident outside his house, acknowledged that there is a "serious threat" to his life. He told the four-member Mumbai Crime Branch that he was home on the day and was woken up by the firing.




PHOTO: HTC

Ammy-Sonam starrer Kudi Haryane Val Di set to release today, eyes national audience

The highly-anticipated film *Kudi Haryane Val Di*, starring Ammy Virk and Sonam Bajwa, is set to release in cinemas today. Marking its pan-India release, the Punjabi-Haryanvi cross-cultural film seeks love from across communities and states. For this reason, *Kudi Haryane Val Di* is a bilingual film which has dialogues in both Punjabi and Haryanvi.

Set against the backdrop of the wrestling world, this romantic comedy revolves around the collision of two different backgrounds of the protagonists' families, offering a delightful blend of humour and romance.

The quality of the film is further raised by its stellar cast, which includes names such as Yograj Singh, Yashpal Sharma along with the Haryanvi actor Ajay Hooda. It also stars stalwarts such as Hardeep Gill, Honey Mattu and Deedar Gill.

Kudi Haryane Val Di has already generated substantial buzz after a Reel featuring Virk and Bajwa went viral, and gained over 20 million views. The film has been written and directed by Rakesh Dhawan. Under the banner of Ramara Films, it is produced by Pawan Gill, Aman Gill and Sunny Gill. HTC

Ammy Virk and Sonam Bajwa




PHOTO: SURBHJYOTI

Surbhi postpones wedding once again

Navya Kharbanda
navya.kharbanda@hindustantimes.com

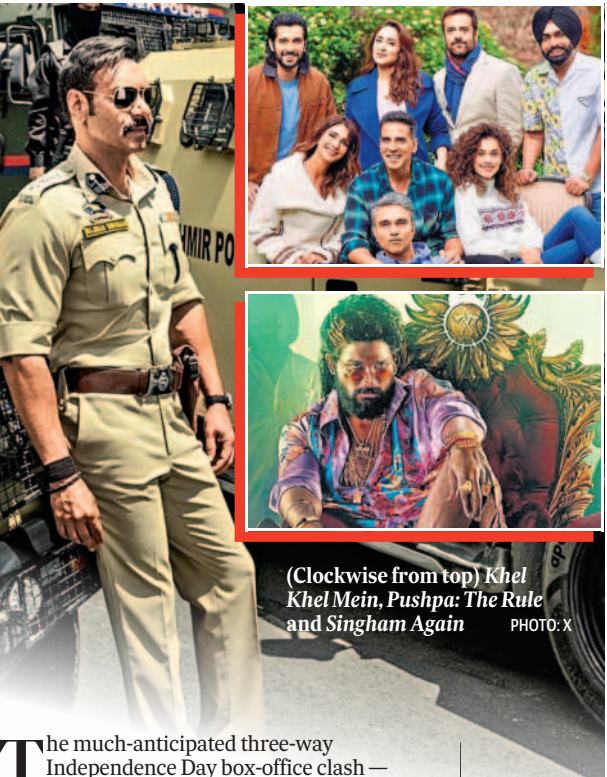
There have been no updates on TV actor Surbhi Jyoti's nuptials with long-time beau, businessman Sumit Suri, after the tentative March scheduling was pushed. We have now exclusively learnt that it was postponed since the wedding preparations suffered many roadblocks. "The plan was to get married in March and Surbhi had started looking for a venue in Rajasthan. She took trips to Udaipur, Jaipur and Jodhpur to finalise it. But in the end, the dates weren't available for the booking she wanted," a source tells us. The venue wasn't the only



roadblock, adds another insider. "The wedding lehenga wasn't ready... But she didn't panic. She and Sumit just want to do everything in a calm and composed way. They aren't in a rush for the wedding," says the insider, confirming that the wedding has now been pushed to later this year. "The exact date is yet to be finalised but they are looking at November-December."

And the couple is savouring the buffer time, having jetted off for a vacation on Jyoti's birthday (May 29). "They are travelling as much as they can. They only take breaks to plan the wedding, otherwise they are mostly out with friends or each other," the source adds.

Khel Khel Mein grabs I-Day release as wait gets longer for Singham Again and Pushpa 2



The much-anticipated three-way Independence Day box-office clash — between Ajay Devgn's *Singham Again*, Allu Arjun-starrer *Pushpa: The Rule* and *Vedaa*, starring John Abraham — has been called off.

On Thursday, Devgn confirmed at a press conference that *Singham Again* isn't releasing on August 15 owing to "unfinished work". It might release on January 26, 2025, a source shared. Another insider confirmed to HT City that *Pushpa: The Rule* has also been postponed. "Post-production work on *Pushpa: The Rule* is ongoing. Portions of the film are yet to be shot. It is unlikely that the film will release on I-day."

Vedaa will now clash *Khel Mein* (featuring Akshay Kumar and Taapsee Pannu), whose release date has been brought forward to August 15 from September. "The makers of *Khel Mein* cashed in on the postponement of the much-awaited *Pushpa 2*, bringing their release date forward," informed an insider. HTC


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'OUR LIVES NOW REVOLVE AROUND VAAYU'

FATHER'S Day

Navya Kharbanda
navya.kharbanda@hindustantimes.com

Actor Vatsal Sheth, who welcomed his son Vaayu with wife, actor Ishita Dutta last July, tells us that he is enjoying this phase of fatherhood. "This is the best phase of my life. It's a different feeling altogether, you can only experience it," says the actor. Reminiscing over the last ten months, Sheth says he cherishes being able to see Vaayu grow up: "From his first crawl to standing up on his own, these things make you feel amazing and you want to spend more time, so you don't miss out on such little moments. In fact, his first word was 'papa'. I was so excited and happy when I heard it." The 43-year-old notes that his daily routine has changed in several little ways ever since his son was born. "The whole priority paradigm has changed. Vaayu is our priority now. When you have a baby, all attention goes to him, everything is for him and with him. Our life revolves around Vaayu. Our vacations and days out, sab uske according kiye jaate hain. Even generally, Ishita and I make a conscious effort to spend time at home with him," elaborates the actor. Sheth says he's looking forward to this Father's Day, since three generations will be celebrating together. "There are no specific plans but, it is going to be special. I will be at home, spending time and playing with Vaayu," says Sheth. Adding that his respect for his parents has grown ever since little Vaayu arrived, he says, "When you become a parent, your love for your own parents multiplies. We understand the sacrifices they made for us. When I do certain things for Vaayu, I think of my parents and what they did for me, even with limited facilities."



Vatsal Sheth with Vaayu

In our special series in the run-up to Father's Day (June 16), actor Vatsal Sheth describes fatherhood as the best phase of his life so far

Avinash Tiwary: I am not conservative about taking on more work

Rishabh Suri
rishabh.suri@htlive.com

Actor Avinash Tiwary has been receiving glowing reviews for his role in the recently released *Madgaon Express*. The film, which premiered on OTT following a successful theatrical run, has been touted as a rare offering that doesn't rely on innuendo to make audiences laugh. Talking about what drew him to the project, he tells us, "When Kunal (Kemmu, director-actor) narrated the film, [the cast] fell off our chairs laughing. When I re-read the script, I realised there was something special about it." Ask if he would consider doing similar roles in the future, he replies, "If there is a project I don't want to do, I will say no. I rely on a good script, the makers and the production house backing it. *Madgaon Express* had all these factors working for it." The 38-year-old, who made his TV debut in 2014, has had limited title to his name. But Tiwary asserts that he isn't picky with his projects and feels like his career is now in "overdrive." "I am not conservative about taking on work. It took time for some of my films to be released. The industry came to a halt due to Covid-19. Then, [web series] *Khakee* and *Kaala* happened," says the actor, who will next be seen in Boman Irani's directorial, *The Mehta Boys*.



PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/AVINASHTIWARY15

There is a dearth of clean comedy films, where everyone can come together and have a laugh. AVINASH TIWARY, Actor



PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/KARANOBEROI/OFFICIAL

I thought I was going to die: Karan Oberoi on stint in jail

I didn't get work for a long time [after bail]. There's a certain duality in the industry which I think led to a situation where work didn't come my way, but a lot of sympathy did.

KARAN OBEROI, Actor-singer

Mugdha Kapoor
mugdha.kapoor@hindustantimes.com

Karan Oberoi, best known for being a part of Indipop boy band A Band Of Boys and TV show *Jassi Jaissi Koi Nahin*, has been away from the public eye for quite some time. The actor-singer faced a "harrowing ordeal" when he was incarcerated after being accused of rape and extortion in 2019, when the #MeToo movement was at its peak. Recalling his time in jail, Oberoi says, "I would often ask

myself, 'How did I land up here?' I've never even broken a traffic rule, I'm so by the book. What I took solace in was, while I was fighting a very hard battle inside, there were other people who were fighting a bigger battle outside for me, because they were connected to my pain" Acknowledging that he lived in a bubble all his life, the actor shares that he "didn't eat or sleep for six to seven days" and thought he was "going to die". He recounts, "Everyone thought I was going to die.

They didn't think I could survive the ordeal. There were times when I thought it was the end of the road." Though the 45-year-old was out of jail in a month's time, he confesses that the dark phase gave him a greater regard for human life. "I've seen such brutality in jail that it made me question everything. There was an episode where I feared I would die because of

asphyxiation. Today, I cherish the very air I breathe," Oberoi shares, without divulging details. Ask how the industry reacted to his arrest and if it affected his work opportunities the actor says: "I received messages from people who I worked with twenty years ago. They were shocked to see me linked to such a heinous crime. So, there was a lot of generosity extended towards me." Despite his ordeal, the actor says his perspective towards the #MeToo movement hasn't changed. He calls it a "wonderful" movement, but goes on to say: "It went wrong, like any other utopian idea. The idea is that we are human beings first, genders later. There are dark shades to everyone. So, while the movement was right, it went south when it became a tool for personal vendettas." Oberoi last worked as a writer and producer on the 2022 web series *Mukhbir: The Story of a Spy*. Now, he has exclusively revealed that the band is getting back together very soon. "Band Of Boys is coming back with a bang and we would be releasing a full album that should be out hopefully in a month's time," he tells us.

Kerala University denies permission for Sunny's performance at engineering college

The vice-chancellor of Kerala University has refused to authorise a dance performance featuring actor Sunny Leone at the University College of Engineering campus in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, on July 5. According to reports, vice-chancellor Dr Mohanan Kunnummal had directed the registrar to ensure Leone's performance was excluded from the programme list. This order follows a stampede that occurred last November during a concert at the Cochin University of Science and Technology in Ernakulam. It resulted in the death of four students and injured over 60 others. Following the incident, the state government banned DJ nights and parties on college campuses. Reportedly, Kunnummal further stated that the college union had not sought the varsity's approval for the show.



PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/SUNNYLEONE

Sunny Leone

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/ASH4SAK

Aishwarya is now a certified therapist

Akash Bhatnagar
akash.bhatnagar@partner.hindustantimes.com

Actor Aishwarya Sakhuja recently took to Instagram to announce that she is now a certified therapist. Sakhuja tells us that she received her certification on June 9 and reveals that she was at her "lowest" over a year ago. "Actors are freelancers. If we say no to something, we don't know how long the period between projects will last. I had a dry spell and calls [for shows and movies] stopped coming. I didn't know what was wrong. Waking up every day had become difficult as I had no sense of purpose," she shares. The actor, who was last seen in a recurring role in the TV show *Junoonyia* in 2023, goes on to say that this made her feel like she was "wasting precious time", but asserts she didn't "blame the industry for anything". The 37-year-old credits her husband, producer Rohit Nag, for pushing her to do more with her life during this period. She says, "He saw me spiralling and made me speak with a therapist. She suggested I take this course [to

become a therapist] as she felt I'd be good at it." While she was doubtful about this course of action, her husband motivated her to begin with a five-day workshop. "It resonated with me and those around me saw a complete shift in my energy," she says. Now, Sakhuja is over the slump and is busy on all fronts: "Two months ago, I had no calls coming my way. Today, I don't have time to breathe." The actor says that getting back to studies was "empowering" and adds that she is interning at the same academy she received her certification from. "I'm on my way to becoming a trainer and plan to open my own clinic when I am done interning," she signs off.

Studying was very empowering. I understood how therapy benefitted millions of people worldwide.

AISHWARYA SAKHUJA, Actor



Jack-et of all trades, shades

Jackets are all-weather staples, especially in celeb-town. Weather isn't a worry when it comes to celebrity fashion, despite record-breaking temperatures this year and summer jackets are proof of it. From casual to formal and everything chic in between, the versatility of layering has once again proved advantageous, offering numerous styling possibilities and ways to carry different ensembles. Even on the international stage, summer/spring and autumn/winter runways are embracing the jacket trend.

Compiled by Vitti Joshi



Actor Kareena Kapoor Khan opted for an olive green casual A-line jacket over her jeans and white tee ensemble



Actor Alia Bhatt embraced the Gully Boy style with a grey oversized jacket matched with green sweatpants



Actor and mum-to-be Deepika Padukone chose a denim jacket to layer over a straight black calf-length dress and white sneakers



Actor Taha Shah took things a step further with a sky-blue blouson featuring bold floral motifs

PHOTOS: YOGEN SHAH

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WT20: Ghar wapas aa jao; Aa ab laut chalen memes galore after Saurabh Netravalkar dismisses Kohli, Sharma



WORLD CUP FEVER

PHOTOS: ANI

Saurabh Netravalkar's popularity rose higher after the India-born US cricketer dismissed India's superstar batters Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in the first two overs of the India vs USA clash in New York, on Wednesday. The left-arm fast bowler, a software engineer moonlighting as a cricketer, also became the first-ever bowler to dismiss Kohli on a golden duck in WT20. Additionally, eagle-eyed social media users were quick to point out that the 30-year-old's stunning performance has coincided with a rise in Oracle's stock, where he works as a Principal Member of Technical Staff.

Saumi Heard It

Being a software engineer at Oracle and getting Kohli out for a duck

Netravalkar is the coolest techbro ever. None of us stand a chance

Trendulkar

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Redwood City, California

Virat Kohli

Rohit Sharma

Saurabh Netravalkar

HR manager: "So tell me Saurabh, you've got a stellar CV but what do you do outside of work?"

Saurabh Netravalkar

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WE SUPPORT INDIA: NETRAVALKAR'S SISTER

In an interview with News 18's Cricket Next, Netravalkar's sister Nidhi said, "We are supporting India. We want India to win the World Cup, and we are confident they have a good chance. That's also what we had hoped for in the ODI World Cup. We were born and brought up here, and we love Indian cricket. We definitely want India to win not just this match but the World Cup, but we also want him to perform well. So, yeah. It is a dilemma for us."



DAILY HOROSCOPE

Friday, June 14, 2024

Dr Prem Kumar Sharma (Astrologer and Vaastu expert) can be contacted at: Delhi: 011-47033152, 40532026 (Sat to Mon); Panchkula: 91-172-2562832, 2572874 (Tues to Thurs); Mumbai: 09716145644 (Last week of every month)

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ARIES

MAR 21-APR 20



Financial worries are likely to become a thing of the past, so rejoice! Business persons are likely to find the day profitable. Buying a new house is possible. A short vacation for rest is possible. **LOVE FOCUS:** Love life looks up, so expect to have a cosy twosome soon. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 8 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Green

LEO

JUL 23-AUG 23



Someone known will give you correct guidance in a financial matter. Your efficiency at work will come in for praise by those who matter. A property booked by you may come into your possession now. **LOVE FOCUS:** Taking romance to the next level is a distinct possibility. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 3 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Golden

SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21



Buying new furniture or a major appliance for home is on the cards for some. Decision regarding a property may go in your favour. Some of you may get busy giving finishing touches to a project. **LOVE FOCUS:** Love grows, newlyweds may experience togetherness. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 22 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Dark Grey

TAURUS

APR 21-MAY 20



Money comes in steady stream. An employee involved in enhancing your business will need monetary encouragement. Health remains satisfactory. **LOVE FOCUS:** Someone you secretly love is likely to respond to your oblique hints on the romantic front! **LUCKY NUMBER:** 5 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Yellow

VIRGO

AUG 24-SEP 23



What is the point in earning nicely if you don't find time to enjoy it? A new break on the professional front awaits you. This is not the day to either sell or buy property. Shifting to a new place is possible. **LOVE FOCUS:** You will succeed in rekindling your love life. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 8 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Cream

CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 21



Meeting someone you just adore cannot be ruled out. Luck is on your side, if you are preparing for an exam or competition. Someone's good advice will make things easier for you on the professional front. **LOVE FOCUS:** Your romantic overtures are likely to get reciprocated, so expect the love life to blossom! **LUCKY NUMBER:** 6 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Pink

GEMINI

MAY 21-JUN 21



Money comes to you from an unexpected source. Marriage of someone eligible in the family may get fixed or solemnised. You may undertake a long journey. **LOVE FOCUS:** You may crave nearness to the one you have a soft corner for on the romantic front. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 18 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Red

LIBRA

SEP 24-OCT 23



Plans for an exciting trip with friends and family may be put into action today. Time seems favourable for purchasing property. **LOVE FOCUS:** Romantic mood persists and you are certain to make the most of it! **LUCKY NUMBER:** 11 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Orange

AQUARIUS

JAN 22-FEB 19



An invitation for a leisure trip that promises to be fun is in the pipeline. Shifting into a bigger house is possible for some. **LOVE FOCUS:** Possibility of someone entering your life and stirring up romantic feelings, look real. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 8 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Light Grey

CANCER

JUN 22-JUL 22



You will start managing your finances well and also save something for the rainy day. A wedding in the family is likely to be arranged. Shifting into a bigger house is possible for some. **LOVE FOCUS:** Closeness with the one you love is likely to increase. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 17 **LUCKY COLOUR:** White

SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22



Harmony prevails on the family front and may motivate you to plan an outing with your near and dear ones. Your hard work and focus is likely to pay off on the academic front. **LOVE FOCUS:** Lover's nearness is likely to appear most reassuring for those in love. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 22 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Red

PISCES

FEB 20-MAR 20



A vacation is on the cards. Cross check with others before purchasing a property. You may plan to invest in a scheme that looks promising as of now. **LOVE FOCUS:** Someone who secretly loves you may make the first move, so keep your fingers crossed! **LUCKY NUMBER:** 5 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Orange

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ROMY

CASUAL TO COUTURE: DENIM COMES OF AGE

Experiencing a high-fashion renaissance, here's how denim is making waves in the world of haute couture

Jatan Kalra
htcity@hindustantimes.com

Fashion's cyclical nature ensures that what once was old will become new again. Once considered too casual for formal events, denim is now being creatively incorporated into haute couture, appearing on red carpets and high-fashion circles, challenging traditional dress codes and expectations. Of late, celebs have embraced this trend, showcasing denim innovatively and stylishly at high-profile events.

Weighing on this transition of the fabric, designer Jenjum Gadi says, "The incorporation of denim into haute couture signifies a bold reimagining of the classic fabric. As celebs continue to push the boundaries of fashion, denim's presence on red carpets and in high fashion collections reaffirms its enduring ingenuity and appeal."

Recently, actor Priyanka Chopra Jonas made headlines in a Nina Ricci number crafted from bleached denim for the *Love Again* movie premiere in New York (USA). She kept her look elegantly simple with natural makeup and a jewellery set.

Similarly, Oscar-winning actor Da'Vine Joy Randolph wowed at the 2024 Met Gala with an all-denim ensemble designed by Zac Posen, Gap Inc.'s creative

director. Her outfit, dubbed "Gap Couture", masterfully blended vintage Gap denim in various shades, featuring elements inspired by 18th-century gowns, creating a striking and memorable appearance.

Sienna Miller also embraced the denim trend at this year's Cannes Film Festival. The actor wore indigo barrel jeans by Schiaparelli, paired with a cream bouclé jacket. Adorned with tousled boho waves and gold accessories, this look balanced the casual nature of denim with the sophistication of high fashion.

Not just actors, but musicians like Ice Spice are also showing love for the fabric. The rapper turned heads with her two-piece denim ensemble, comprising a fur-collared denim jacket and a denim skirt with a distressed train, from Baby Phat at a recent event. She accessorised the outfit with a custom-carved belt, a pair of nude stilettos and a large cross necklace.

With this metamorphosis, we wonder what's going to be the next hot thing for denim.

Ice Spice wowed in a Baby Phat denim ensemble at the 2024 Grammys

Priyanka Chopra Jonas stunned in a bleached denim gown by Nina Ricci at the *Love Again* premiere in NYC

Sienna Miller rocked barrel jeans from Schiaparelli at the Cannes Film Festival 2024

How to get the jean game right

- Pair it with a sleek hairstyle and elegant heels to blend its casual roots with a touch of glamour.
- Match the tone of the jewellery with the shade of the denim to ensure a sophisticated look.
- Opt for minimal makeup to make the outfit shine.

Inputs by celebrity stylist Isha Bhansali

PHOTOS: INSTAGRAM

The whole bloody truth: Experts bust myths around blood donation

WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY

Samiksha Kasyap
htcity@hindustantimes.com

Has a tattoo ever deterred you from donating blood? Or is it the thought of a long and painful process that makes you go naah?

On World Blood Donor Day today, we spoke to medical professionals and researched government guidelines to bust some oft-repeated myths and bring real facts about the selfless act of blood donation.

Myth: I can't donate blood if I have tattoos or piercings

Fact: Dr Dinesh Arora, HOD Transfusion Medicine at a Delhi-based hospital, says, "If someone has undergone these procedures, blood donation is deferred for a minimum of one year after the procedures as these patients start to show symptoms of contamination in a year's time. However, if there are no symptoms, it is safe to proceed with the donation." He explains how tattoos, piercings, and dental extractions require needles and hence raise concerns about contamination or infections such as Hepatitis B, C and HIV.

Myth: It will hurt or the process will be too long

Fact: Not true! The prick of the needle may hurt for a few seconds, but it is a relatively painless process. Likewise, donating blood takes a short while. "It takes less than an hour, and anyone can visit any registered and licensed blood bank during their working hours and donate blood," adds Dr Arora.

Myth: You cannot donate blood often

Fact: "For whole blood donation, once every 90 days for men and 120 days for women" is recommended in Guidelines for Blood Donor Selection and Blood Donor Referral by the National Blood Transfusion Services.

Myth: If I am taking medicines, I cannot donate.

Fact: It completely depends on the type of medication and condition. The National Blood Transfusion Services guidelines available online outline medications and recommended deferral times for blood donation.

Myth: There are no benefits for the donor.

Fact: False again! Dr Arora explains, "Regular blood donation reduces the risk of heart attack, balances iron levels in the body and the small health checkup right before blood donation rules out potential diseases."

Who can you help

- In India, anaemia, leukaemia, thalassaemia and kidney diseases are the most prevalent conditions that require blood transfusions.
- All major surgeries including liver transplants and cancer patients too require blood transfusions, as per the expert.
- Blood donation can also help women experiencing complications during pregnancy and childbirth, children with severe anaemia, accident victims or surgical and cancer patients, as per the WHO.

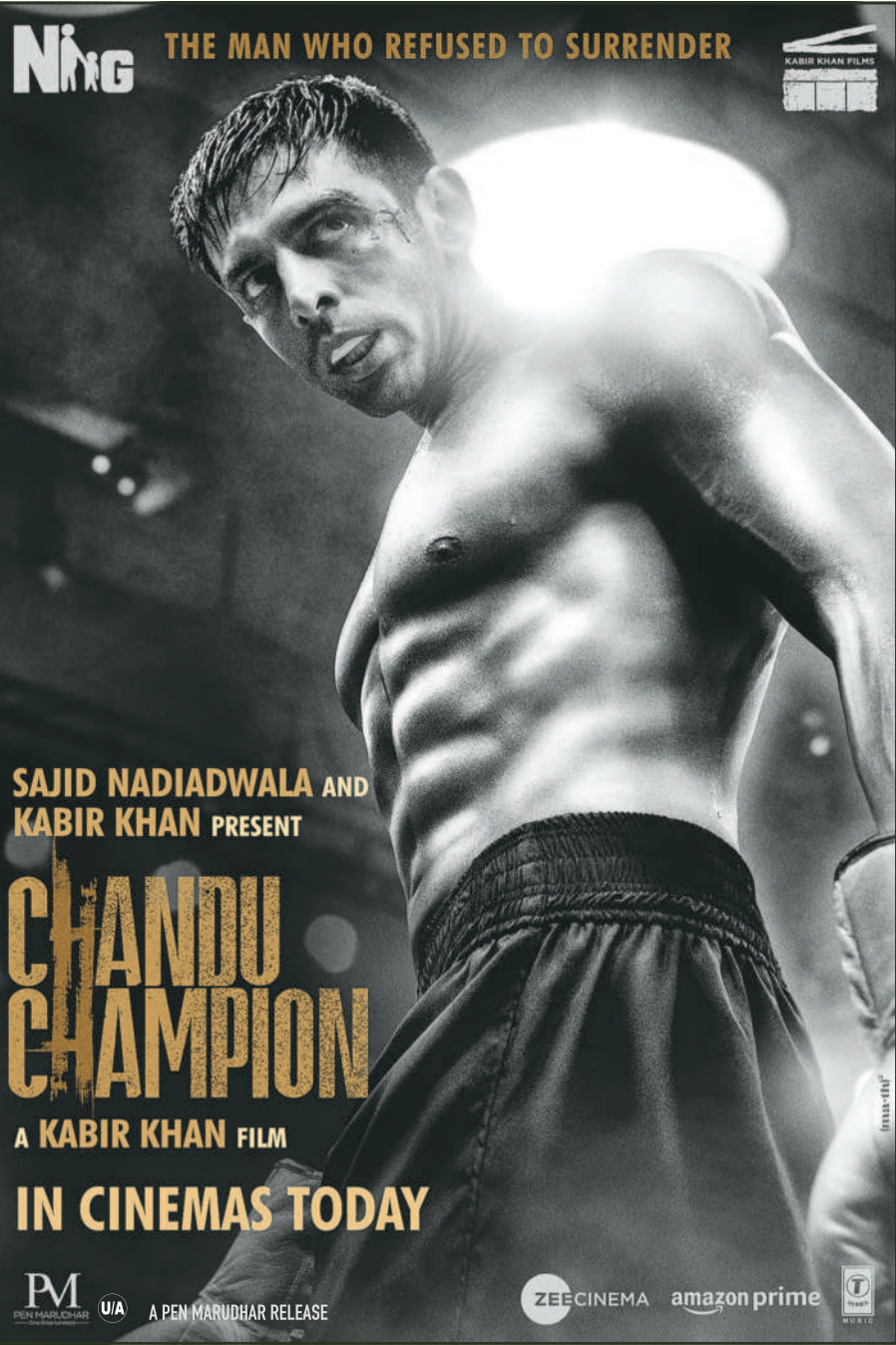
This World Blood Donor Day, if you qualify, we encourage you to donate blood and inspire those around you to do so. You can contact the following- Indian Red Cross Society: +91-11-23711551 Apollo Hospitals: +91-11-26925801

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FARNAZ



Romy
JUNE 14

HT CITY FRIDAY JAM: GET YOUR ROCK ON FOR SEASON 9!

Ahoy music lovers! Starting today, your Fridays are set to resonate with Punjabi, Sufi, Bollywood, rap music and much more, all thanks to HT City Friday Jam's latest season. Are you ready to groove, Delhiites?

Naina Arora
htcity@hindustantimes.com

There ain't no jam that's bigger and grander than the HT City & DLF CyberHub Friday Jam presented by Cantabil! A place where music goes a notch higher each year with rocking performances that promise to take your breath away.

A quick rewind to last year would remind you of powerful performances by singers Jassie Gill and Babbal Rai, Kunal Wason, Salman and Zaman as well as Lakhwinder Wadali. Now this scintillating event is back, with Season 9 promising a host of smashing performances by singer Romy (June 14), band Khushro (June 21), singer Mansa Jimmy (June 28), and rapper-singer MC Square (July 5).

All set to take to the stage tonight, popular singer Romy says, "Main aur mera poora band bahut excited hai [to perform]. Main Patiala se hoon, mere gaanon mein wahan ki vibe hai. Mere track plays (on music platforms) bhi wahin se zyada aate hai." The singer, who is known for hits like *Sanu Kehndi* (Kesari, 2019), *Laal Peeli Akhiyan* (Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya), *Ghagra* (Crew) and *Baaja* (Chamkila), will have his first-ever public gig in Delhi-NCR.

The Millennium City has a vibe of its own, a fact that Romy agrees to. "Kuch gaane popular bhi nahin hote hain par Delhi-NCR mein woh bhi achhe se sunte hain," he says, adding, "We are trying a lot of new things. My set has 30% qawwali... Nusrat sahab ki aur kuch purani cheezein humne mould kari hain. We are creating two to three fusions, too. Kuch surprises bhi hain audience ke liye."



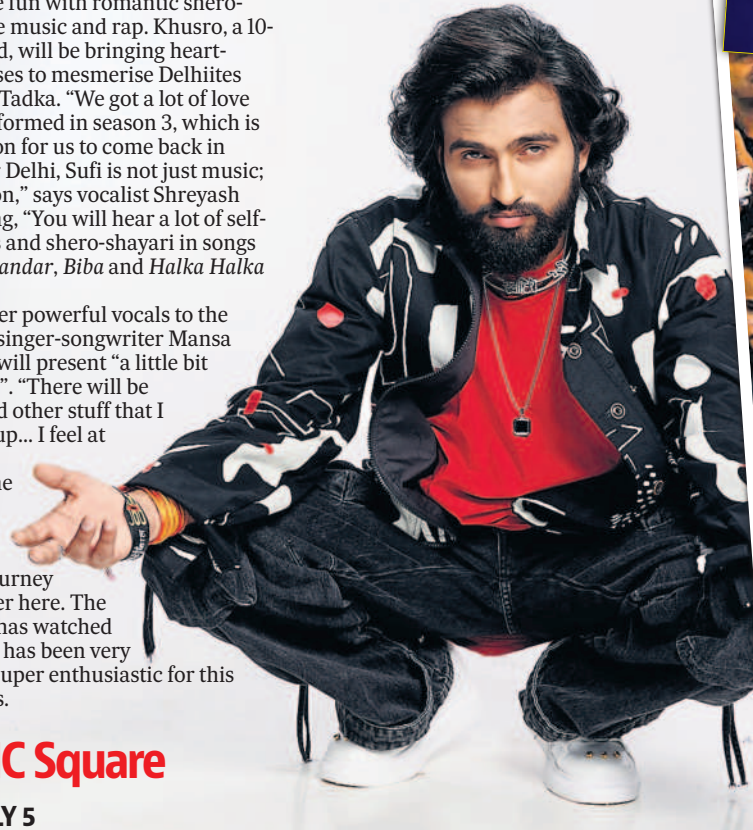
Catch It Live

What: HT City Friday Jam Season 9
Where: Amphitheatre, DLF CyberHub, Gurugram
When: June 14 to July 5 (Every Friday)
Timing: 6pm
Nearest Metro Station: Sikanderpur on the Yellow Line and Cyber City (Rapid Metro)
Entry: Free

This isn't all! The following Fridays also promise to be fun with romantic shero-shayari, more music and rap. Khushro, a 10-member band, will be bringing heart-touching verses to mesmerise Delhiites with its #SufiTadka. "We got a lot of love when we performed in season 3, which is the sole reason for us to come back in Season 9. For Delhi, Sufi is not just music; it's an emotion," says vocalist Shreyash Tiwari, adding, "You will hear a lot of self-written lyrics and shero-shayari in songs like *Mast Qalandar*, *Biba* and *Halka Halka Suroor*."

Bringing her powerful vocals to the stage will be singer-songwriter Mansa Jimmy, who will present "a little bit of everything". "There will be some Sufi and other stuff that I usually take up... I feel at ease when playing for the Delhi crowd because, a decade ago, I started my journey as a performer here. The Delhi crowd has watched me grow and has been very kind. So I'm super enthusiastic for this gig!" she adds.

MC Square
JULY 5



Mansa Jimmy
JUNE 28



Khushro
JUNE 21

PHOTOS: HTBS

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Julian Nagelsmann AFP

NATION

NEET-UG grace marks scrapped, retest option for 1,563 students on June 23: NTA

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday allowed the Centre to scrap grace marks awarded to 1,563 students and conduct a fresh National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for them, taking the first step in dispelling the chaos engulfing India's premier medical entrance examination that threatens to jeopardise the futures of hundreds of thousands of children, even as Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan rejected the allegations of paper leak in the exams, reiterating the government's commitment to safeguard the interest of students.

The Centre told the top court that it proposed to withdraw scorecards

issued to 1,563 students awarded grace marks on account of loss of time during the May 5 test. The students will be given the option of appearing for the fresh exam, to be held on June 23, or retain their actual scores without the grace marks.

A vacation bench of justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta termed the decision as "fairly reasonable" and disposed a petition that opposed grace marks and called it discriminatory. But it refused to stall the counselling for medical seats, leaving it for the court to decide on July 8, when it will rule on a bouquet of complaints about this year's examination.

"These issues will be dealt with on July 8. If this court quashes the entire selection, then automatically counselling will go. Why should we stay the counselling at this stage?" the court asked.

Hours later, the National Testing Agency issued a statement confirming that the grace marks had been withdrawn and that a new test will be conducted on June 23.

But the decision represents only a small fraction of the problems roiling NEET this year, primary among which is the fact that 67 people scored a perfect 720, up from two in 2023 and zero in 2022.



A protest against alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG exam in Kolkata on Thursday

PTI

PM to celebrate Int'l Day of Yoga in Srinagar on June 21

SRINAGAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir on June 21 to celebrate International Day of Yoga.

According to a senior J&K official aware of the details, Modi will lead the global celebrations at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar. "He will attend the International Yoga Day celebrations in Srinagar. It is going to be a big function and arrangements for the same have already started," the official said, seeking anonymity.

In 2014, the United Nations declared June 21 as International Day of Yoga. Modi inaugurated the first edition of the event on June 21, 2015 on the theme Yoga for Harmony and Peace.

Officials said around 3,000 to 4,000 people, including political leaders, celebrities and students, are expected to attend the celebrations in Srinagar this year.

HTC

Pema Khandu sworn in as Arunachal CM for 3rd straight term

ITANAGAR: BJP leader Pema Khandu took oath as the chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh for the third consecutive term on Thursday.

Khandu, who was re-elected unopposed from the Mukto constituency in the border district of Tawang, was sworn in by Governor KT Parnaik in the presence of Union home minister Amit Shah, BJP president JP Nadda, Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma and Sikkim chief minister Prem Singh Tamang, among others.

Eleven other MLAs were also sworn in as ministers at the function held in the Dorjee Khandu State Convention Centre. Among them were Deputy CM Chowna Mein, former assembly speaker PD Sona, BJP state president Biyuram Wahge, and Dasanglu Pul, the widow of former CM Kalikho Pul.

While Dasanglu Pul is the lone woman minister, the new cabinet has eight fresh faces.

PTI

CITY LIGHTS

Zoo to boost surveillance after conflict between chinkaras

NEW DELHI: Delhi Zoo authorities have announced plans to add more CCTV cameras to animal enclosures following a recent bout of aggression between two male chinkaras that led to the death of one of them. The fierce fight between two male chinkaras occurred on June 1.

Delhi Zoo director Sanjeet Kumar explained that such conflicts among animals are not uncommon. "For dominance, males often engage in fights both in the wild and in zoo conditions. Unfortunately, in this case, the fight led to severe injuries. The affected male suffered from an intestinal injury and was rushed to the hospital, but it succumbed to injuries during treatment," he said. The surviving chinkara, which sustained minor injuries, has been kept in an enclosure with other animals, including one born last month.

After this incident, several measures have been taken to enhance animal safety and monitoring, Kumar said, adding, "We are also working to reduce our response time through



Chinkaras inside the Delhi Zoo

HT FILE

advanced technology and optimal use of manpower. We are planning to increase the number of CCTV cameras and expand coverage in animal areas to ensure quicker information relay during emergencies," he told PTI.

The Delhi Zoo director also said, "We cannot change their core behaviour, but we strive to prevent such incidents from escalating. Unfortunately, sometimes these fights can result in severe outcomes."

PTI

City govt planning fourth inter-state bus terminal

NEW DELHI: The Delhi government is planning to build a fourth inter-state bus terminal (ISBT) in the national capital near the Tikri border to cater to buses coming from Haryana, officials said on Wednesday. Delhi has three ISBTs - Anand Vihar, Sarai Kale Khan, and Kashmere Gate. The project to build the fourth ISBT is at a nascent stage with the government identifying a piece of land for the purpose, said an official. "Haryana-bound buses also traverse through Kashmere Gate but if a bus terminal is built at Tikri border, it will ease the burden on Kashmere Gate and also provide relief to commuters," he added.

90% hike in vector-borne diseases in homes last yr

NEW DELHI: The breeding of vector-borne diseases like dengue, malaria and chikungunya spiked by nearly 90% in Delhi during the monsoon season last year as compared to 2022, revealed an MCD report.

According to the report, which also outlines the action plan of the corporation for the prevention and control of vector-borne disease for the forthcoming monsoon season, there has been a spike in the number of such breedings found during home inspections in the last four years since 2020. Monsoon is expected to arrive in the national capital around June 27.

PTI

SCHOOL EVENT

DAV, NTPC, FARIDABAD, ORGANISES CHAMPIONS HONOUR CEREMONY

DAV Public School, NTPC, Faridabad, organised Champions Honour Ceremony at



the NTPC Gas Power Plant auditorium with great enthusiasm. On that occasion, the winners of DAV National Sports, SGFI as well as CBSE Games were felicitated. In the academic session-2023-24, the students had secured gold, silver and bronze medals, showcasing their sporting skills in various games held at cluster, zonal and national levels. >P2

WORD POWER

Ebullience

lh-buhl-yuhns (Noun)

Meaning: High spirits; exhilaration; exuberance. Boiling over; overflow.

Origin: First recorded in 1740-50; ebull(ient) + -ence.

Synonyms: Buoyancy, elation, exuberance, gaiety, liveliness

Antonyms: Depression, sadness, unhappiness, apathy, calm

Usage: She burst into the room with her usual ebullience, and immediately start talking to everyone.

WORLD

Record 120 million people displaced globally, says UNHCR

GENEVA: A staggering total of 120 million people are living forcibly displaced by war, violence and persecution, the UN said on Thursday, branding the ever-increasing number a "terrible indictment on the state of the world". The United Nations' refugee agency UNHCR said forced displacement globally had once again smashed records, with conflicts in places like Gaza, Sudan and Myanmar forcing even more people to flee their homes. The global displaced population is now equivalent to that of Japan, it pointed out in a statement.

AFP

Armenia to leave Russia-led security bloc, says PM

YEREVAN: Armenia will leave a Russia-led security bloc, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan confirmed on Wednesday for the first time, accusing members of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation of having planned a war against his country with Azerbaijan. Pashinyan, who has tried to cultivate closer ties with the United States and European Union, said in March that Armenia, traditionally a close Russian ally, would leave the CSTO unless the security bloc detailed its commitment to uphold his country's security in a satisfactory way.

REUTERS

As Art Basel opens, buyers confront a 'cooling' market

BASEL: Multimillion-dollar works by Jean-Michel Basquiat, Yayoi Kusama and Alberto Giacometti went on the market this week as the Art Basel fair opened in Switzerland. Thousands flooded the exhibition centre for VIP previews before doors open to public on Thursday. More than 280 galleries exhibited everything from paintings and sculpture to video installations and performance art. The Art Market Report 2024, published by Art Basel and Swiss investment bank UBS, found that sales fell by 4% year-on-year in 2023, to an estimated \$65 billion, against a backdrop of high interest rates, inflation and political instability. Sales were particularly thinner at the top end of the market. But there is still enthusiasm.

AP

SCHOOL REPORTS

DAV Public School, NTPC, Faridabad, organises Champions Honour Ceremony

DAV Public School, NTPC, Faridabad, organised Champions Honour Ceremony in the auditorium of NTPC Gas Power Plant with great enthusiasm. On that occasion, the winners of DAV National Sports, SGFI as well as CBSE Games were felicitated.

In the academic session-2023-24, the students had secured gold, silver and bronze medals, showcasing their sporting skills in various games held at cluster, zonal and national levels.

The dignitaries from the NTPC Gas Power Plant Faridabad, who graced the occasion, included V. Venkatesh (G.M. Finance) Nishant Garg (AGM O&M), Aditya Narayan Srivastava (AGM), Pankaj Arora (AGM HR) and Mithali (DGM HR).

The NTPC officials present at the ceremony appreciated students on their commendable achievements at all levels and acknowledged school's efforts in providing quality education along with special focus on skill development to provide ample opportunities for students' holistic development. They motivated the achievers to continue with their success saga in future events too. At the cluster level, the students won 85 gold, 27 silver & three bronze medals.



Students won many medals, showcasing their sporting skills in various games

At the state level, they clinched 26 gold, 12 silver and 6 bronze medals, while at the national level, they grabbed 7 gold, one silver medal and 6

bronze medals.

In addition, the students also won the Kho-Kho U-19 Winner Trophy, Karate U-17 (Boys) Runner-up Tro-

phy, Karate U-19 (Boys) Runner-up Trophy, Karate U-19 (Girls) Winner Trophy, Taekwondo U-19 at the state level. Boys brought glory to the school by displaying their talents and winning the overall winner trophy. It was really a thrilling moment for the audience to see the view of exemplary talents.

The students also proved their mettle by winning medals at the state-level SGFI. Nikita won a bronze medal in karate in the U-19 category while Vaidehi Gupta clinched a bronze medal in taekwondo in the U-14 category.

Vansh won a bronze medal in discus throw in the U-19 category at national level in CBSE Games. Deepanshu Kapasia, Lakshya, Vansh, Abhay, Vaidehi Gupta, Kunal Nagar and Madho Singh, who showcased their special talents in DAV National Sports, were honoured with a prize money of ₹5,100 by the DAV CMC. The felicitation ceremony concluded with a mesmerizing cultural dance.

Principal Alka Arora expressed her heartfelt gratitude to all the honorable guests for felicitating and motivating the students to work hard and to tread on the path of success.



Students showcased their creativity and dedication towards technology and its usage in life

KIIT World, Sohna Road, G'gram, celebrates National Technology Day with all enthusiasm

As part of National Technology Day celebrations, KIIT World School, Sohna Road, Gurugram, organised an inter-school competition wherein the students from different schools showcased their creativity and dedication towards technology and its usage in life.

The guest speaker for the event was SCERT director Sunil Bajaj.

The event emphasised the significance of technological developments and its usage. A total of 100 students participated in a plethora of activities during the event, which promoted collaboration & exchange of ideas among students from different schools. The event promoted a sense

of unity in the development of new technology in different fields of life.

Inspiring talk on the importance of technology and the role of youth in driving positive change were delivered by the guest speaker. It was followed by a motivational talk about National Technology Day by KIIT Group of Colleges director general SS Aggarwal. Outstanding participants in each category received awards for their creativity, innovation and dedication. The event strengthened the message that we can make a difference by providing new innovative ideas for technology by utilising education, creativity and community engagement.



The objective of the camp, which comprised not only informative & educative activities but also activities based on technology, was to enhance the hidden talents of the participants

Jiva Public School, Fbd, organises summer camp for students and yoga shivir for teachers & parents

Jiva Public School, Faridabad, organised a three-week summer camp for its students. The additional feature of the event was a yoga shivir (camp) for teachers and parents.

The school lays emphasis on holistic development of students, besides teaching them to wisely and creatively utilise their leisure time.

The objective of the camp was to enhance the hidden talents of the participants of all age groups. The activities were based on multiple intelligences and multiple natures.

This camp comprised not only informative and educative activities but also activities based on technology. Different activities such as drawing and painting, computer, coding, dance, art and craft, and science and sports activities such as basketball, archery, skating and karate were conducted for different age groups.

The participants joined for sports activities in huge numbers to keep themselves fit. This camp also included activities related to personality development, public speaking, language development, engineering challenge and creative writing. All

these were added attractions for the participants.

At the yoga shivir, which was held between 7am and 8am, the school yoga acharya supervised and guided yoga exercises for health benefits and to remain active through the day. The yoga acharya suggested solutions to many physical problems through yoga exercises. That shivir proved to be of great advantage to many as it inspired them to remain fit and healthy.

The chief attraction of this summer camp was the theatre. Through theatrical performances, students expressed gratitude towards their parents, which was not only the need of the hour but also display of reverence towards them. The end of the camp was very inspiring and educative. Participants developed various extra skills in a fun-filled atmosphere. They were awarded the certificate of participation.

School chairman Rishi Pal Chauhan, director Chander Lata Chauhan and academic & excellence head Mukta Sachdeva appreciated the efforts of the in-charges.

Shalom Presidency School, G'gram, shines in regional-level event of WSC 2024

The students of Shalom Presidency School, Gurugram, performed brilliantly in the regional-level event of World Scholar's Cup (WSC) 2024, which was hosted at Sun City School, Gurgaon, and Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Auditorium at Delhi Cantt. The event witnessed 36 students from 12 teams embarking on an enriching educational journey.

The WSC, a renowned global academic programme distinguished for its interdisciplinary curriculum, challenged participants to explore a wide array of subjects. Under the theme 'Reimagining the Present,' students delved into topics spanning history, science, literature, social studies, art, music & a special area. The event began with an introductory session



The event was a source of pride for the entire Shalom Presidency community

on WSC. Participants were divided into junior & senior categories. Senior participants engaged in collaborative writing, the scholar's challenge &

team debates. Juniors tackled similar activities tailored to their level.

The concluding ceremony showcased students' outstanding efforts,

featuring piano and Kathak performances, and won accolades from Daniel and other guests.

Shalom President School emerged as a dominant force, winning gold & silver medals, trophies and securing prestigious ranks in debate, collaborative writing & other contests. One student earned the recognition as a debate showcase panelist while another served as a judge, showing their talents. With all 12 teams securing berths for the global rounds to be held later this year, the regional leg of WSC was a celebration of learning & a source of pride for the Shalom community. Its achievement underscored its unwavering commitment to academic excellence & collaborative success.

MIND GAMES

SUDOKU

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

SCRAMBLE

Solve the four anagrams and move one letter to each square to form four ordinary words

GLAEI
DEZIS
BATTLE
BEISQU

*		*		*
*	*			
*			*	
			*	*

Now arrange the letters marked with an asterisk (*) to form the answer to the riddle or to fill in the missing words as indicated.

Nothing endures but personal ____ - Walt Whitman (9)

Answer: Nothing endures but personal qualities - Walt Whitman

MATHDOKU

4+	9+	2÷	
	24×		75×
7+			
15×		32×	
2÷		2-	

Place numbers into the puzzle cells so that each row and column contains each of the digits from 1 to 5. No number is to be repeated in any row or column. Each bold-out lined cells contain a hint of a number and one of the mathematical symbols + x - ÷. The number is the result of the operation represented by the symbol to the digits contained.



Solutions

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

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

2	1	5	3	4
3	2	4	1	5
4	2	1	5	3
1	4	3	2	5
3	5	4	1	2

MATHDOKU SOLUTION

SCRAMBLE Solution Words: Ajliq, sized, table, biscuit

The Millennium School, Greater Noida West, hosts inter-school event dedicated to STEAM with great zeal

The Millennium School (TMS), Greater Noida West, hosted Innovibe 2024: A Celebration of Design Thinking and Science Innovation, an inspiring inter-school event dedicated to STEAM. The event saw enthusiastic participation from over 16 schools in Greater Noida, fostering a spirit of innovation, creativity and collaboration among young learners. The event comprised several activities such as:

Quiz-o-mania: A test of young minds, this activity witnessed students of Grades 4&5 showcasing their knowledge in science, GK, environmental science, UN sustainable development goals (SDGs), artificial

intelligence and technology.

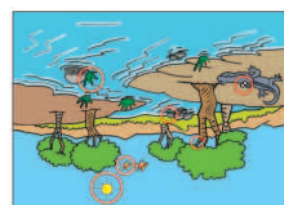
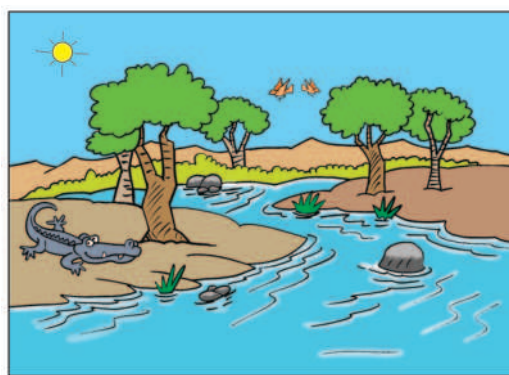
SDG Challenge: In this activity, students from Grades 6-10 competed in a model-making competition focusing on 'Building a Sustainable Future'. Their creations addressed critical global issues, such as water pollution, safety of the elderly, creation of alternate energy source for the slums, etc.

Open Challenge: In this activity students of Grades 8-10 designed sustainable lunar habitats to ensure humanity's future in space. They addressed issues such as radiation protection, resource utilisation, power sustainability, food production, and economic viability.

The competition was fierce and many schools including TMS, Greater Noida (W); GD Goenka International; Manav Rachna, Noida; Sarvottam International; JM International; Mayo School, Noida; and The Infinity School emerged as top performers in various challenges. The event was a big success as it highlighted the power of collaboration, importance of futuristic skill building, and the bright future of STEAM education.



The event fostered a spirit of innovation, creativity and collaboration among the young learners



Answer:

Observe this picture carefully and spot the odd one out.

Amrita Bharati Features

MAIN AGENDA: AIDING UKRAINE, COUNTERING CHINA'S ECONOMIC AMBITIONS

G7 leaders back deal to use interest from Russian assets for Ukraine

Reuters

BORGO EGNAZIA, ITALY: Leaders of the Group of Seven major democracies started their annual summit on Thursday, many of them under a cloud at home but determined to make a difference on the world stage as they seek to help Ukraine and counter China's economic ambitions.

Heading into two days of talks, diplomats said a deal had been agreed in principle on plans to issue \$50 billion of loans for Ukraine using interest from Russian sovereign assets frozen after Moscow launched its invasion of its neighbour in 2022.

Western nations were also unanimous in their concern over China's industrial overcapacity, which they say is distorting global markets.

"There is a lot of work to be done, but I am sure that in these two days we will be able to have discussions that will lead to concrete and measurable results," Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni told her G7 guests as their talks started in Puglia.

While Meloni is flying high after triumphing in weekend European elections, the leaders of the other six nations — the United States, Japan, France, Germany, Britain and Canada — face major domestic woes that risk undermining their authority.

US President Joe Biden faces an uphill battle to win re-election in November, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak looks certain to lose power at a national poll next month and French President Emmanuel Macron dissolved his country's parliament on Sunday after his party was trounced in the European vote.

For a second year running, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy



From left, President of the European Council Charles Michel, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Canadian PM Justin Trudeau, French President Emmanuel Macron, Italy's PM Giorgia Meloni, US President Joe Biden, Japanese PM Fumio Kishida, British PM Rishi Sunak and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen at Borgo Egnazia resort during the G7 Summit hosted by Italy in Apulia region, in Savellettri, on Thursday.

AFP

will attend the summit, taking part in talks on Thursday afternoon, after which he will sign a new, long-term security accord with Biden.

The G7 leaders will also almost certainly announce that they have agreed the outline of a multi-year loan using profits from the impounded Russian funds, which legal experts will then finalise with the aim of raising cash by the end of the year. A person close to the talks said the point of deal was to ensure it can run for years regardless of who is in power in each G7 state beats Biden in November.

Packed agenda

Biden's goal at the G7 was to reinforce the idea that the US is best served if it is closely aligned with its democratic allies, White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said, when asked about the

prospects of it being the president's last summit.

Underscoring US determination to punish Moscow, Washington on Wednesday dramatically broadened sanctions on Moscow, including by targeting China-based companies selling semiconductors to Moscow.

By announcing new restrictions on Chinese firms on the eve of the G7 meeting, Biden was no doubt hoping to persuade Western allies to show greater resolve in confronting Beijing over its support for Russia and its industrial over-capacity.

Eager not to appear like an elitist fortress, the G7 has thrown open its doors to a large number of outsiders this year, including the Pope. Among those who have also been invited are the leaders of some of the biggest regional powers across the globe such as India, Brazil, Argentina, Turkey, Algeria and Kenya.

POPE FRANCIS TO MEET BIDEN, ZELENSKIY, MACRON, MODI

Pope Francis will meet with the leaders of the United States, Ukraine, France and India on the sidelines of the Group of 7 (G7) summit in Italy's Borgo Egnazia, the Vatican said on Thursday.

Francis, who in January warned against the "perverse" dangers of artificial intelligence, is due to take part in leaders' talks on the new technology on Friday.

He is the first pope to take part in G7 discussions.

Issuing a programme for his one-day appearance, the Vatican said Francis would have a bilateral meeting with US President Joe Biden, a fellow Catholic.

The Vatican said he would also have one-on-one meetings with Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy, France's Emmanuel Macron, Narendra Modi, Brazil's Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Canada's Justin Trudeau, Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Kenya's William Ruto, Algeria's Abdelmadjid Tebboune, and the head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Kristalina Georgieva.

REUTERS

MORE THAN 1 MILLION GIRLS AFFECTED

1,000 days have passed since the Taliban barred girls from secondary education: UN

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD: One thousand days have passed since girls in Afghanistan were banned from attending secondary schools. That's according to the UN children's agency, which said Thursday that "no country can move forward when half its population is left behind."

Unicef executive director Catherine Russell in a statement urged Taliban authorities to allow all children to resume learning immediately, and called on the international community to support Afghan girls, who she said need it more than ever. The agency estimates that more than 1 million girls are affected.

The UN has warned that the ban on girls' education remains the Taliban's biggest obstacle to gaining recognition as the legitimate rulers of Afghanistan. The Taliban, who took over in Afghanistan following the withdrawal of US and Nato forces in 2021, has said girls continuing their education goes against the group's strict interpretation of Islamic law.

Despite initially promising a more moderate rule, Taliban have also barred women from higher education, public spaces like parks and most jobs as part of harsh measures imposed. When the Taliban ruled Afghanistan in the 1990s, they also banned girls' education.

The Taliban has barred girls from attending classes beyond sixth grade, making it the only country in the world with such restrictions on female education.

In March, the new school year started with girls barred from attending classes beyond the sixth grade. Female journalists were not allowed to attend the opening ceremony.



Afghan girls attend school in Kabul. The Taliban has barred girls from attending classes beyond sixth grade, making it the only country in the world with such restrictions on female education.

AP FILE

The Taliban also have been prioritising Islamic knowledge over basic literacy and numeracy with their shift toward madrassas, or religious schools. Unicef's executive director called the systematic exclusion of girls "not only a blatant violation of their right to education, but also results in dwindling opportunities and deteriorating mental health."

She said Unicef works with partners to run community-based education classes for 600,000 children, two-thirds of them girls, and train teachers.

Although Afghan boys have access to education, Human Rights Watch has said the Taliban's "abusive" educational policies are harming them. In a report published in December, the group said deep harm has been inflicted on boys' education as qualified teachers — including women — left, including an increase in corporal punishment.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

Union Council of Ministers announced

The portfolios of the Union council of ministers were announced on Monday (June 10). There was no change in the big four ministries: Rajnath Singh retained defence, Amit Shah home, Nirmala Sitharaman finance and S Jaishankar external affairs. While Dharmendra Pradhan retained education, JP Nadda got health and family welfare, chemicals and fertilisers, former chief ministers Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Manohar Lal Khattar got agriculture and rural develop-

ment, as well as power and housing and urban affairs, respectively. Ashwini Vaishnaw retained railways but was also given electronics and information technology as well as information and broadcasting. Jyotiraditya Scindia got telecommunications and development of the North East. Cabinet ministries also went to Telugu Desam Party's Ram Mohan Naidu (civil aviation), and JD-U's Lallan Singh (Panchayati Raj and fisheries, animal husbandry and dairying).



Starliner launch

Boeing's Starliner spacecraft was successfully docked to the International Space Station (ISS), with Nasa's Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams and her colleague Butch Wilmore aboard, on June 6. The astronauts had to overcome new issues during their journey to ISS. Williams, 58, who flew to space for the third time, and Wilmore, 61, became the first members aboard Boeing's Starliner spacecraft to the ISS. Williams is the pilot for the flight test and Wilmore is the commander of the mission. Both the astronauts' stay has been extended, with the return date set no earlier than June 18.



Macron, EU elections

French President Emmanuel Macron on Sunday (June 9) dissolved parliament and called snap legislative elections after the far-right trounced his centrist alliance in EU polls. He announced that the first round of elections for the National Assembly, the lower house, would take place on June 30 and the second round on July 7. Macron's stunning announcement came after EU election projections showed the far-right Marine Le Pen's National Rally in France had scored more than double the votes of his centrist alliance in the French vote. Pen's party won about twice as many votes — over 30% — as Macron's Renew party.



French Open

Carlos Alcaraz fought back to defeat Alexander Zverev in a five-set French Open final on Sunday and became the youngest man to win Grand Slam titles on all three surfaces. Alcaraz adds the Roland Garros crown to the Wimbledon title he won against Novak Djokovic last year and the 2022 US Open. Iga Swiatek strengthened her reputation as the queen of clay by capturing a third straight French Open crown with a crushing 6-2 6-1 victory over 12th seed Jasmine Paolini on Saturday to claim her fifth Grand Slam title.

India beat Pakistan

India beat Pakistan by six runs in a low-scoring, tense T20 World Cup Group A match on Sunday in New York watched by more than 34,000 fans. Pakistan won the toss and elected to bowl first on a two-paced pitch where rain interruptions made it tough for India who were dismissed for 119. Mohammad Rizwan laid the platform for the chase with a patient 31 but Pakistan fell short after losing wickets at regularly while India's Jasprit Bumrah (3-14) made crucial breakthroughs. The result took India to the top of Group A while Pakistan had zero points from two defeats following their upset by the hosts, the United States.



HT CHRONICLE from the archives of the Hindustan Times

Quiz no. 14062024

The Hindustan Times

ESTABLISHED IN 1924



1 The new Union government headed by Lal Bahadur Shastri was sworn in on June 9, 1964. How many Cabinet ministers were there in that government?

- A. A. 11 B. B. 13
C. C. 16 D. D. 19

2 India pulled off their first Test cricket triumph at Lord's, only their second in England, in June 1986. How many

runs did Sunil Gavaskar score in India's second innings?

- A. A. 39 B. B. 46
C. C. 22 D. D. 19

3 On which day in June 1986 did India pull off their first Test cricket triumph at Lord's, only their second in England?

- A. A. June 10
B. B. June 13
C. C. June 19
D. D. June 22

4 By how many wickets did India beat England to pull off their first Test cricket triumph at Lord's, only their second in England, in June 1986?

- A. A. 3 B. B. 5
C. C. 6 D. D. 8

5 On which day in 2002 did Prime Minister AB Vajpayee announce the name of APJ Abdul Kalam, the father of India's indigenous missile programme and recipient of the Bharat Ratna, as the NDA's presidential candidate?

- A. A. January 26
B. B. March 17
C. C. June 10
D. D. August 31

6 Who was the NDA convenor when Prime Minister AB Vajpayee announced the name of APJ Abdul Kalam as the NDA's presidential candidate in 2002?

- A. A. Chandrababu Naidu
B. B. Pramod Mahajan
C. C. George Fernandes
D. D. LK Advani

7 What is the height of the Ripon Falls, which is located at the northern

end of Lake Victoria in Uganda?

- A. A. 16 feet
B. B. 18 feet
C. C. 21 feet
D. D. 23 feet

8 The German-Japanese alliance was signed when Hitler was already plotting an invasion of Russia. In which year was that alliance signed?

- A. A. 1936 B. B. 1938
C. C. 1941 D. D. 1944

9 In which year was the first Rocket Mail despatch fired --- from Muktabpur to Dhapa over a large flooded area near Calcutta?

- A. A. 1932 B. B. 1936
C. C. 1939 D. D. 1942

10 According to a report, the Indian expedition led by P. Nikore conquered Panch Chuli, a high Himalayan peak near Almora, Uttar Pradesh, in May 1953. What is the height of that Himalayan peak?

- A. A. 20,375 feet
B. B. 21, 410 feet
C. C. 21, 985 feet
D. D. 22,650 feet

11 On which day in June 1984, while addressing a public meeting at Kargil, did Prime Minister Indira Gandhi say, "I as a mother have feelings for every son who is lost and my heart cries out because of all the sad events"?

- A. A. June 10

- B. B. June 12
C. C. June 17
D. D. June 21

12 In which year did a Scottish-Kumaoni expedition attempt to conquer Panch Chuli, a Himalayan peak near Almora, Uttar Pradesh?

- A. A. 1945 B. B. 1947
C. C. 1950 D. D. 1952

Answers to quiz #07062024

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 1. 1951 | 7. Dhyani Chand |
| 2. 1987 | 8. 1932 |
| 3. 26,000 | 9. 73 years |
| 4. 64 | 10. 1949 |
| 5. 1988 | 11. June 5 |
| 6. 1933 | 12. June 5 |

CONTENT FOR QUIZ CALLOUT

Send in your answers separated by commas to htpcedelhi@hindustantimes.com (For example: 1-A, 2-C, 3-D ... and so on) Subject Line: Answers for Quiz #14062024

Send in your entry by June 19, 2024. Remember: Earlier you respond, better your chances to win. The quiz is open only to school students.

DESIGNING URBAN SPACES INCORPORATING NATURE CAN REDUCE MENTAL HEALTH BURDEN OF CITY LIVING

NEW TECH RECYCLES ALKALINE WASH WITHIN SCHEME

Simply looking at greenery can boost mental health, finds research

A research experiment has found that participants who focused more on green elements reported drastic improvements in mood and reductions in anxiety compared to those who focused on grey elements.

Whitney Fleming/PTI

BANGOR UNIVERSITY, UK: It is becoming increasingly clear that spending time in nature can benefit our mental health and well-being. But a new study shows that you don't have to actually be in nature to reap the rewards. Simply directing your gaze towards natural elements, even in the middle of a city, can enhance well-being.

A paper, published in the journal *People and Nature*, used eye-tracking technology to explore how focusing on natural versus man-made elements affects mental health.

Urban living, with its fast pace and high levels of stress, has been linked to numerous mental health issues, including anxiety and depression.

The research team recruited 117 adults for the study. Participants were randomly assigned to one of three groups: one that focused on natural elements such as trees (green group), one that focused on man-made elements such as buildings (grey group) and a third group that focused on a mix of both (mixed group).

Each participant wore specialised eye-tracking glasses during a 45-minute guided walk around town and the campus. The route included ten designated stopping points designed to emphasise either natural or man-made elements, depending on the group.

Before and after the walk, participants completed surveys assessing their mood, anxiety levels and the



Researchers suggest an easy way to boost mental health: Spend more time looking at trees, flowers and other natural elements. Whether during a daily commute, a walk in the park or a weekend hike, consciously directing your gaze towards nature could make a significant difference in how you feel.

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restorative quality of the walk. The surveys included standardised measures such as the positive and negative affect schedule (Panas) and the state-trait anxiety inventory (Stai).

The eye-tracking glasses recorded where participants were looking throughout the walk, allowing researchers to quantify the amount of time spent focusing on green (natural) or grey (man-made) elements. In fact, our technique offered a precise and objective measure of visual engagement, strengthening the link between nature exposure and improved well-being. The data confirmed that each group really did spend more time looking at the scenery we had asked them to focus on.

The results were striking. Participants who focused more on green elements reported significant improvements in mood and reductions in anxiety compared to those who focused on grey elements.

And they showed higher levels of positive emotions and lower levels of anxiety after the walk. They also reported feeling more rejuvenated. In

contrast, the grey group did not show these improvements, and the mixed group had intermediate results, suggesting that even a partial focus on nature can be beneficial.

Implications for urban planning

These findings have important implications for urban planning and mental health practices. Designing urban spaces that incorporate natural elements and encourage visual engagement with nature could help reduce the mental health burden of city living.

For instance, planners could prioritise green spaces, tree-lined streets, parks and ponds that invite people to pause and take in the natural beauty.

The findings could also be useful for mental health professionals. For example, they may want to incorporate guided attention exercises into therapy, encouraging patients to specifically focus on natural elements during walks or other outdoor activities.

This simple, cost-effective strategy could enhance traditional treatments

for anxiety and depression.

The study highlights the importance of visual engagement with nature, providing robust evidence that the mental health benefits of nature are closely tied to where we focus our attention.

For an average person, this study suggests an easy way to boost mental health: spend more time looking at trees, flowers and other natural elements. Whether during a daily commute, a walk in the park or a weekend hike, consciously directing your gaze towards nature could make a significant difference in how you feel.

Our research underscores the potential for simple, everyday actions to have a profound impact on mental health. As urban areas continue to grow, integrating natural elements into cityscapes and encouraging people to engage visually with these elements could play a crucial role in enhancing public well-being.

Whitney Fleming is a lecturer in the School of Environmental & Natural Sciences, Bangor University, UK

IISc develops three-step process to remove arsenic from groundwater

Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: Researchers at the Centre for Sustainable Technologies (CST), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), have developed a remediation process for removing heavy metal contaminants such as arsenic from groundwater.

The three-step method, which is patent-pending, also ensures that the removed heavy metals are disposed of in an environment-friendly and sustainable manner, instead of sending untreated heavy metal-rich sludge to landfills from where they can potentially re-enter groundwater, Bengaluru-based IISc said in a release.

"In every technology that exists, you can take out arsenic and provide clean water. However, after you remove the arsenic, you must do something about it so that it doesn't re-enter the environment, and that aspect is not given due consideration in existing methods. Our process was designed to solve this problem," said Yagnaseni Roy, assistant professor at CST, whose lab has developed the method.

According to reports, the release said, 113 districts in 21 states in India have arsenic levels above 0.01 mg per litre while 223 districts in 23 states have fluoride levels above 1.5 mg per litre, which are beyond the permissible limits set by the Bureau of Indian Standards and the World Health Organisation (WHO). These contaminants can significantly affect human and animal health.

The first step in the process developed by the IISc team involves passing the contaminated water through a bed of biodegradable adsorbent made of chitosan, a fibrous substance obtained from crustaceans, doped with bimetalllic (Fe and Al) hydroxide/oxyhydroxide. The adsorbent bed grabs the toxic inorganic arsenic through electrostatic forces and complex formation between arsenic and the adsorbent, it was stated.

A novel aspect of the technology is that the alkaline wash - used to repeatedly regenerate the adsorbent bed



Nearly 113 districts in 21 States in India have arsenic levels above 0.01 mg per litre while 223 districts in 23 States have fluoride levels above 1.5 mg per litre, which are beyond the permissible limits set by the WHO

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after its saturation - is recycled within the scheme.

In the second step, the alkaline wash solution, which is essentially sodium hydroxide and arsenic in water, is taken to a membrane system to separate the two.

While the sodium hydroxide solution (the alkaline wash) is taken back to regenerate the bed, the arsenic concentrated in the other stream is now ready to be taken to the third step: bioremediation. The membrane process serves to concentrate the arsenic ahead of bioremediation.

In the bio-remediation step, the inorganic arsenic is converted to low-toxicity organic arsenic via methylation by microbes found in cow dung. This results in a decrease of toxic inorganic arsenic to below the maximum permissible limit specified by WHO standards, within 8 days. The remaining cow dung sludge can be safely disposed of in landfills, since the arsenic is locked in it in an organic form.

"On average, these organic species are approximately 50 times less toxic than the inorganic form present in groundwater," said Roy. The system can also be adapted to remove fluoride, with the last step changed to precipitation to form calcium fluoride, which has very low solubility in water.

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T20 WORLD CUP

Rutherford powers West Indies into Super 8

TAROUBA: Sherfane Rutherford smashed a career-best unbeaten half-century before pacer Alzarri Joseph and left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie ripped through the New Zealand line-up to steer West Indies into the T20 World Cup's Super Eight stage with a 13-run win here.

Rutherford came up with the innings of his life, smashing half a dozen sixes and two fours for his 39-ball 68 to lift West Indies to 149 for 9 from 76 for 7 in 12.3 overs after New Zealand opted to bowl in a virtual knock-out Group C fixture.

In reply, West Indies restricted the Kiwis to 136 for 9 with Rutherford's fellow Guyanese Motie returning with splendid figures of 3/25. Joseph turned up the heat lower down the order to become the wrecker-in-chief

with his 4/19. With three wins in a row, the tournament co-hosts qualified for the Super Eight stage, while New Zealand's hopes were all but over following back to back losses.

They had earlier lost to Afghanistan by 84 runs after being shot out for 75. The 2021 runners-up, among the most consistent sides in World Cups, have been found wanting this time.

They made the semi-final in the 2015, 2019 and 2023 editions of the ODI World Cup, and in 2016, 2021 and 2022, the Black Caps ensured a last-four appearance in the T20 World Cups. It was half past midnight in Trinidad but the locals erupted in joy to celebrate their team's Super Eight qualification, erasing the disappointment of successive setbacks in the big event.



West Indies' Sherfane Rutherford (R) is congratulated by Gudakesh Motie.

OLYMPICS

Mandaviya takes stock of Paris preparations

NEW DELHI: Newly-appointed Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday took stock of India's Olympic preparations during a meeting with IOA President P T Usha here.

Mandaviya took charge of the ministry on Tuesday after the new NDA government, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was sworn to office on June 9. Mandaviya replaced Anurag Thakur in the position. During the over one hour long meeting, which was also attended by new Minister of State for Sports, Raksha Khadse, Sports Secretary Sujata Chaturvedi, and Sports Authority of India Director General Sandip Pradhan among others, Mandaviya was briefed about country's preparations for Paris Games.

"I today visited the IOA officials for

the first time where they briefed me about India's preparation for Paris Olympics. The government is committed to extend all possible support," Mandaviya said in a brief address to the media. Usha said the interaction with the minister went well but did not divulge the details.

"The Sports Minister today visited IOA along with the Minister of State for Sports and I am so happy that they wanted to know about IOA and about Paris preparations.

"We have done everything good this time and I have briefed him. We will be in contact every week and I hope that this is good for our Olympic athletes," she said.

Usha hoped, that like the Tokyo Games, India's contingent would be in excess of 100 even this time.

BADMINTON

Prannoy enters quarterfinals in Australia

SYDNEY: HS Prannoy eased into the quarterfinals of the Australia Open with a fluent win over Misha Zilberman of Israel in a men's singles second round match here on Thursday.

Prannoy, a former world No.1 and seeded fifth here, took just 46 minutes to get the better of Zilberman 21-17 21-15 in their round of 16 match.

He will be up against second seed Kodai Naroaka of Japan in the next round. However, it was curtains for Kiran George in the men's singles event as he lost 20-22 6-21 against

seventh seed Kenta Nishimoto of Japan. Later in the day, Sameer Verma will be up against eighth seed Loh Kean Yew of Singapore in his men's singles contest. Among the Indian women shuttlers, eight seed Aakarshi Kashyap beat Australia's Kai Qi Bernice Teoh 21-16 21-13 to progress to the quarterfinals, where she will be playing third seed Yu Po Pai of Chinese Taipei. But the tournament ended for Anupama Upadhyaya and Malvika Bansod in the women's singles second round.

EURO 2024



Orangutan oracle Walter places his tip ahead of the opening football match between Germany and Scotland of the UEFA Euro 2024 Championship at the zoo of Dortmund on Thursday.

EURO 2024



Germany's head coach Julian Nagelsmann (C), players and staff members walk on the pitch during a training session in Herzogenaurach, Germany.

Germany set for kick-off with France, England favourites

Agencies
sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

MUNICH: Euro 2024 kicks off on Friday in Germany as the continent's footballing heavyweights prepare to fight it out over the next month with the aim of taking the crown away from reigning champions Italy.

Germany play Scotland in the opening game in Munich and the host nation are hoping their journey will continue all the way to the final in Berlin on July 14.

It is the first time the country has hosted a major men's international tournament since the 2006 World Cup, and it is a mouth-watering setting after the underwhelming nature of the last European Championship.

Euro 2020 was delayed by a year because of the pandemic, finally taking place in 2021 in front of limited crowds.

It was also staged in cities all across the continent, from Seville to Baku, and those factors stripped away much

of what makes these tournaments so special.

This time all supporters will descend on Germany, where matches will be played in 10 stadiums, from Hamburg in the north to Munich in the south.

Germans are hoping for a repeat of 2006, when many fell in love with their national team again after a period in the doldrums similar to what they have experienced in the years leading up to this competition.

Philipp Lahm, the captain of Germany's 2014 World Cup-winning team and now Euro 2024 tournament director, also hopes the competition will bring people together at a time of division and disunity across the continent.

The tournament begins less than a week after far-right parties made significant gains in EU parliament elections, while Europe is still dealing with the crisis of the war in Ukraine.

"I hope at the very least the Euro will lead to a more united Germany

again," said Lahm.

A good performance by Germany on the field would help, and the outlook is more positive for Julian Nagelsmann's team now than a few months ago.

A group also containing Hungary and Switzerland should be straightforward enough given the quality in Germany's ranks, from veteran playmaker Toni Kroos to younger stars Florian Wirtz and Jamal Musiala.

"We have gone through difficult phases as a national team, but something big can happen here," Musiala, of Bayern Munich, told Sportbild.

However, there are good reasons why France and England are so strongly fancied to raise aloft the Henri Delaunay trophy on July 14.

France are Europe's top-ranked nation and have been in the last two World Cup finals. Fresh from sealing his move to Real Madrid, Kylian Mbappe is eager to make up for a disappointing showing at the last Euros, when his penalty miss sealed a shoot-

out defeat to Switzerland in the last 16.

"Kylian is our captain and a great leader. We will need him to be at his best," admitted France coach Didier Deschamps.

England have never been European champions, although they came mightily close in 2021 when they lost the final on penalties to Italy.

Optimism about their prospects this time is fueled by the fact that star players Harry Kane, of Bayern, and Jude Bellingham, formerly of Borussia Dortmund, should feel so at home on German soil.

"We want to make history," said England midfielder Declan Rice this week.

"We say it all the time, but genuinely we have a group, a manager, that really believes. We have a confidence that we can go there and do something really special."

England begin their tournament against Serbia on Sunday in Gelsenkirchen, home of fallen German giants Schalke 04.

T20 WORLD CUP

Afghans eye win over PNG; USA look to go past Ireland

Agencies
sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

TAROUBA: Afghanistan will eye another all-round effort to crush an inexperienced Papua New Guinea here and enter the Super Eights of the T20 World Cup, and the result will have another underlying effect -- knock out New Zealand.

The win will carry Rashid Khan's side to Super Eight from Group 'C' alongside the West Indies, who have qualified on Thursday with a win over New Zealand. It will also mean curtains for the 2021 finalists New Zealand who have lost two out of two.

That Rahamanullah Gurbaz (156 runs) and Fazalhaq Farooqi (9 wickets) are currently leading the chart of run-makers and wicket-takers respectively is a just reflection of their fine run in this ICC showpiece.

Apart from Gurbaz, the experienced Ibrahim Zadran too has contributed well to Afghanistan's totals, making 114 runs with a highest of 70.

In bowling, pacer Farooqi has made a fine combination with Rashid, who has so far taken six wickets from two matches. It has ensured that Afghanistan's opponents do not have any let-up either upfront or in the middle passage. The PNG might be a spirited side, but it looks way beyond their abilities to overcome a formidable Afghanistan.

In a strange scenario, a non-playing Pakistan will be more keen on the result of USA and Ireland Group A match at Lauderhill, Florida on Friday.

A win for USA, currently second in this group with four points, will put an



Afghanistan's Fazalhaq Farooqi (L) celebrates with Rahmanullah Gurbaz.

end to the World Cup campaign of Pakistan, who have two points from three matches.

Of course, it will also take the co-hosts into the Super Eight from this group along with India.

Ireland are a competitive side with experienced players in their ranks, but they look woefully out of sync here and the task might be heavier against the US, who are playing some very good T20 cricket at the moment.

They will be keeping an eye on the fitness of skipper Monank Patel, who missed the match against India on Wednesday with a left-shoulder injury.

Aaron Jones did the duty of skipper against Rohit Sharma's men in New York.

There is also a strong rain threat to the match as per weather predictions, and even a washout can end the campaign of Pakistan.

QUOTA BELONGS TO COUNTRY: BINDRA BACKS NRAI'S TEAM SELECTION FOR PARIS

Agencies
sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: Olympics gold winner Abhinav Bindra on Thursday said promising shooter Rudranksh Patil was unfortunate to miss the flight to Paris Games, but emphasised that the quota belongs to the country and not to one athlete.

Patil, who had bagged a 10m air rifle quota for the Paris Olympics, could not find a place in the 15-member Indian squad for the quadrennial extravaganza after finishing behind Sandeep Singh and Arjun Babuta in the selection trials organised by the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI). As per the Olympic guidelines, a country can only send top two shooters in one event from trials to the Games.

"See, it's not a call. It's a matter of selection. There's a due process laid out and they followed the process," Bindra told the media here on the sidelines of the IISM Convocation Ceremony 2024.

"You'll ask the same question in case the process was not followed. But a fair process was put out for everybody, and it was followed," Bindra added.

Bindra further explained his point.

"Well, that is the process laid down for the country. Many countries follow that process. It's not just that India is following that process. The quota doesn't belong to an athlete per se. It belongs to the country and a process was put out well in advance," he said.

Bindra backed the method which NRAI followed and said a clear system should be followed.

NBT BOOKLIST

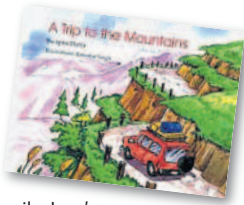
Great reads just for you during this vacation time

The summer vacation is the perfect time to unwind. Meet characters just like you, who have taken a break from their daily schedule and find out what they did during the vacations. Learn about the formation of Earth with Anshu or take a trip to the mountains with Jaya, follow Granny out in the streets or get to know about all that Goa has to offer and see how Phatik's choices change his life.

A TRIP TO THE MOUNTAINS

Author: Swapna Dutta

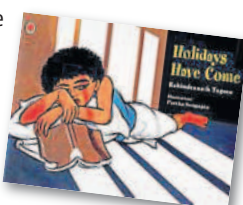
This book takes readers on a fun-filled adventure to the mountains with ten-year-old Jaya and her family. Jaya's parents introduce her and Rohit, her little brother, to the Himalayan mountain range and tell them about how there is a drop in the temperature as we go up the altitude. The children learn about the flora and fauna that is found in the mountains and look at majestic glacial lakes and waterfalls during their trip. Beautiful illustrations bring the story to life, as the readers get to learn about the importance of mountains and the different activities that can be done when in the hills. This book will truly take you on a vicarious trip of the mountains.



HOLIDAYS HAVE COME

Author: Rabindranath Tagore

Holidays Have Come is a beautiful yet emotional story by writer, artist and social reformer Rabindranath Tagore. This book talks about a mischievous child, Phatik Chakravorti – the ringleader among the boys of the village. However, his life changes drastically with one hasty decision that he makes. This book explores the importance of family – even though children may not understand their parents' point-of-view, but parents know what is best for their children. Children realise this only after being away from their parents. Colourful illustrations supporting the story make it an interesting read. Do read it to understand the importance for parents' advice.



GOA : A STORY OF MY WONDERLAND

Author & Illustrator: Shashi Shetye

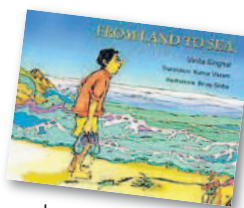
Goa is known for its beautiful sandy beaches and vibrant nightlife which is a perfect fusion of Portuguese architecture and culture with Indian heritage. This book talks about some of the most famous activities, things and places one can encounter and indulge in during their visit to Goa. It also throws light on the diverse livelihoods of people and some famous attractions. The picturesque illustrations perfectly capture Goa through the eyes of Shashi Shetye and take the readers right into the vibrant Goan life.



FROM LAND TO SEA

Author: Vinita Singhal

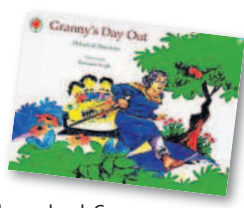
This book is for curious minds who wish to know more. This is the story of Anshu and his grandfather, who discuss how the Earth came to be, the difference between various kinds of soils is, the ozone layer, how does the weather change, and so on. This interesting book explores the connection between the five elements of nature – air, water, earth, sunlight and fire, and explores how life will cease to exist if any of these elements go missing. The engaging and vibrant illustrations depict the different geographical features described in the book, helping children understand the concept of geology easily.



GRANNY'S DAY OUT

Author: Debashish Majumdar

These days everyone leads a busy life and so is the case with Granny's family. After everyone leaves for work or school, Granny decides to spend a fun-filled day and sets out on an adventure. She heads out to catch a train but trips; visits little Jojo's school and swims; kicks balls in shops; visits an animal fair and falls off the horse; as the day comes to an end, she shares a sandwich with a French-speaking ghost. What a fun day she had. This book is written in a poetic form and is complemented with vibrant illustrations. Young family members often overlook the old grandparents due to their hectic life. Read this book to see they can have fun too.



HANDS ON

PAPER PLATE SAILBOAT

SUPPLIES

- A paper plate
- Light blue and dark blue paint
- Two sheets of coloured paper
- A skewering stick (with the point removed)
- PVA glue or school glue
- Scissors
- Stapler



INSTRUCTIONS

Cut the paper plate in half and shape some 'waves' into one edge.

For guidance, draw the waves first with a pencil.

Paint the paper plate blue. As you can see, we've added some deep-sea depth with a darker tone of blue to create the appearance of waves.

Once the paint has dried, staple the paper plates together, leaving plenty of space at the bottom of the plate for the boat to be moved via the stick

(skewer) freely.

Fold a piece of coloured paper in half and at the fold, cut out a triangular 'sail' shape.

Open the triangle and place the wooden skewer on the fold. Add glue and fold the triangle over, pressing along the skewer and edges to ensure the sail is securely glued together. This will prevent the sail from swiveling around.

Fold the second piece of paper in half (using

an alternative colour) and cut out a 'boat' shape as seen above.

This time do not cut along the fold as we're looking for two separate symmetrical shapes that can be stuck together.

Like the sail, glue the paper together to create a boat and press around the skewer to ensure the paper fits snugly without movement.

Place the stick between the paper plates and begin sailing!

WHAT'S COOKING

PINEAPPLE COCONUT ICE CREAM

INGREDIENTS

3 cups of fresh pineapple (chopped), 1 cup of coconut milk, 2 teaspoons of sugar, ¼ cup of almonds (soaked and peeled), ¼ cup of raisins, 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract



METHOD

Blend the pineapple chunks, almonds and raisins until smooth.

In a large bowl, mix the blended pineapples, coconut milk, sugar, and vanilla extract, and whisk until the sugar gets completely dissolved.

Refrigerate for at least 1 hour.

Pour the chilled mixture into an ice cream maker or blender and churn for at least 20 minutes.

Transfer the churned ice cream to an airtight container and freeze for about 4 hours.

Once done, enjoy the frozen dessert.

MANGO BARFI

INGREDIENTS

1 cup chopped mango, 1 cup sugar, 1/2 cup milk, 2 cup coconut powder



METHOD

Blend 1 cup chopped mangoes along with 1/2 cup milk to form a smooth paste. Put a pan on medium heat, add the mango paste and sugar and allow the sugar to dissolve.

Now add coconut powder and mix well. Cook for about 20 minutes, stirring frequently.

Continue till the mixture holds its shape. Transfer the mixture to a tray lined with parchment paper. Spread the mixture evenly to one inch thickness.

Let it rest for about 30-40 minutes. Cut the settled barfi mix into square pieces. Your mango barfi is now ready to be served.

TISSUE PAPER BUNNY

SUPPLIES

- Tissue paper
- Marker pen
- Rubber band
- Pink powder colour/blush
- Brush



INSTRUCTIONS

Roll a tissue paper diagonally. Once rolled, fold it in half.

Now place the open side of the folded tissue paper roll on the top of the closed loop end.

The two ends of the open side will become the bunny's ears and the closed loop end will be the rabbit's face.

Secure the ears and face together with a tight

rubber band.

Draw features of a bunny's face with a marker and paint the insides of the ears pink. The tissue paper bunny is complete.

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