

Beginner, Veteran or Rank improvement? ForumIAS is for *everyone*.

Is ForumIAS for freshers? Ask Ananya Reddy from Hyderabad or Saurabh from Delhi, who chose ForumIAS for their Mains preparation and cleared IAS with **Rank 3** and **22** in their very first attempt. Or ask Kunal Rastogi who followed ForumIAS' year long study plan and secured **Rank 15** in his second attempt. Or perhaps Ashish from Jaipur who chose ForumIAS for securing **8th Rank** and a place in the IAS in his fourth attempt.

Ask Ruhani, Medha and Chandana, who chose ForumIAS for their rank and score improvement and secured **Ranks 5, 13** and **50** in CSE 2023, getting Indian Administrative Service.

But what humbles us is the story of our GS Foundation student - Rashmi Paikra, from a small tribal hamlet in Chhattisgarh, who secured a place in the final list this year. Or perhaps the case of Arpit, a Hindi medium student who joined an English medium course, but wrote answers in Hindi medium, and secured **Rank 136** - the second highest topper from Hindi medium.

But that's not all. The 1st rank in IAS in the past three years have been secured by ForumIAS Academy students Aditya*, Ishita and Shruti.



ForumIAS
WE BUILD OFFICERS

thought leader in IAS preparation

Jenita Kishor
AIR - 1
UPSC CSE 2022

Aditya Srivastava
AIR-1, CSE 23

Durishetty Anudeep
AIR-1, CSE-2017

Shruti Sharma
AIR 1, CSE 2021

Yash Jaluka
Rank 4
CSE 2020

Ananya Reddy
AIR-3
CSE 2023

Chandana Jahnvi
RL-1, 2020; AIR 813-2022
and AIR 50-2023

Singya Shakti
Rank 79, CSE 2019.

Amol Patil
AIR 7
UPSC CSE 2023

Monita Jadhav
AIR-05, CSE-2020

Smriti Sharma
AIR 17
CSE 2023

Arinash Kumar
Rank-17, UPSC CSE-2022.

Chandrajyoti Singh
AIR-28
UPSC CSE-2019

Dr. Neha. U. Rajput
AIR 51
UPSC CSE 2023

Zafshan Haque
AIR-34
CSE 2023

Minal Karamvef.
AIR-35

Saurabh Sharma
AIR-23 (CSE-2023)

Arijun Gupta
CSE Rank 32, 2023

Radhika Gupta
AIR-18 UPSE CSE 2020

Karishma Nair
AIR-14
CSE 2020

Siddharth Jain
AIR 11th, CSE-2017

Sanjay
20/04/24
[All India Rank = 89]

Smriti Mishra
AIR 4, CSE 2022

Ruhani
RANK-5
(CSE-2023)

Rupal Rama
AIR - 26

Arpit Chauhan
AIR-20, CSE 2021

Abhishek Surana
Rank-10, CSE 17

Manvita Tiwari
20th rank
UPPSC (2019)

GAURI PRABHAT
AIR 47 UPSC CSE 2022

Utkarsh Doshi
AIR 5, CSE 2021

Smita Mohapatra
(SARITTA MOHAPATRA)
Rank: 10 (UPSC CSE-19)

Ishita Rastri
AIR 8
UPSC CSE 2021

Anshu
SHRUTI
IPoS AIR 1,
CSE AIR 146
2021

Pratham Kaushik
AIR - 5 (CSE-2017)

MEHAK JAIN
AIR 17, CSE 2021

**Rank-10,
UPSC-(CSE-22)**

Sanika Goyal
AIR 09 CSE, 2022

Divya Mishra
AIR-28, UPSC CSE 2020

Priamita Dosh
AIR-42, UPSC-CSE
2022

Bhavyashya
BHAVISHYA
(AIR-29, CSE 2021)

APALA MISHRA
UPSC AIR-09
CSE-2020

Naman Goyal
AIR 30, CSE 2021

Dr. Hyma Garg
CSE 2022 (AIR-5)

Ashish
rank 23 CSE 2021

Shourya Arora
AIR 14, CSE 2023

Jayant Singh Rathore
(AIR-53, CSE 2020)

Shilpi Pandey
AIR-62 CSE 2020

Shubham Aggarwal
AIR 25 - CSE 2019

Praanya Jais
Rank-91
CSE 2021

Rishabh Pandey
Rank-21,
CSE-2019

Himanshu Gupta
Rank: 27 CSE 19.

Shubham Aggarwal
AIR-44, CSE 2021

Manvita Bhasadwaj
AIR 28 CSE-2021

Vaishnavi Paul
AIR 62
UPSC, CSE 2022.

Jagat Sai
AIR 32
CSE 2020

Garima Narula
AIR-39, CSE 2022

Navreet Mann
AIR-33
CSE-2019

Vaibhav Rawat
AIR 25 UPSC CSE 2020

Anita Chandhary
Rank-14, CSE-18

AYAN JAIN
AIR 16 CSE 23 & AIR 87 CSE 22

*Aditya was enrolled in MGP 2022 Program

COURSES THAT HELP YOU SUCCEED

IAS 2025	GS Foundation Program (1 & 2 year)
	MGP (Mains Guidance Program)
	Current Affairs Classes (Pre-cum-Mains)
	PTS (Prelims Test Series)
	Optional Foundation 2025
	AWFG for Optional Subjects

IAS MAINS 2024	MGP (Mains Guidance Program)
	Current Affairs Classes for Mains 2024
	Essay Guidance Program
	Ethics+ Classes for Mains 2024
	AWFG (Answer Writing Focus Group)
	AWFG for Optional Subjects

You want to crack Mains. We want to help



IAS MAINS 2024

MAINS GUIDANCE PROGRAM (MGP)

Mentor supported; Test Series based program for Civil Service Preparation

The mentor guided test series based self-study plan to help your cover the syllabus through self-study and have it assessed through objective evaluation. The mentor support helps you discuss your copy with a mentor in both online and offline mode for further development. MGP students have secured Rank 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 in the Civil Services Examination 2022-23. It is available in both offline & online mode.

Sectional + Full Length
29 June | Cohort 10

Full Length Tests Only
30 June | Cohort 11

CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR MAINS 2024

Batch Starts
26 June

What is common between Donuru Ananya Reddy, Garima Lohia, Divya Mishra, Sanjitha Mohapatra, Varun Reddy and Pratham Kaushik? They are all IAS officers, selected in past 7 years and they are among the highest scorers In General Studies Mains. Since its inception, CA classroom students have secured among the highest marks in GS.

The CA class is no ordinary Newspaper Classes. They provide you with much needed edge in the mains examination through three things – content differentiation, crispness and issue based preparation. The CA Classes declutter your preparation by providing you curated content to aid a high score in GS. If you are looking for score improvement or rank enhancement, *this a must join.*

ETHICS+ CLASSES FOR MAINS 2024

Batch Starts
26 June

The Ethics Paper is one of the key determinants of cracking the UPSC Civil Services Mains Examination or for that matter even getting in the top 100 of the final lists. This paper has the potential of scores ranging from an average of 125 to a high of 160 marks. We have guided several of our students in a manner that leads to good marks as scored by Natasha Goyal (Rank 175 , 133 Marks in GS IV) , Neha Bhosle (Rank 15, 147 Marks in GS IV) Himanshu Gupta (Rank 27, 139 Marks in GS IV) and many more.

GS ADVANCED PROGRAM 2024

Batch Starts
22 June

What is better than MGP & Current Affair Classes? The GS Advanced Program. One, because it includes the MGP and Current Affairs. Two, for those of us who have missed a foundation course, done self-study or otherwise not a good static preparation. The GSAP provides a second avenue for course correction.

AWFG FOR MAINS 2024

Batch Starts
28 June

The Answer Writing Focus Group is a answer writing focused initiative by ForumIAS, you need for you to enhance and enrich your Mains static content to the exam level. It is useful for anyone who is writing or expecting to write the Mains examination. The AWFG provides you the below benefits a) Complete coverage of the static syllabus through questions, discussions and answers B) Answer Writing Practice in a timed manner, and c) specific Arguments and Keywords for the issues from which questions are asked.

AWFG FOR OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

Batch Starts
01 July

Optional Answer Writing Focus Group is an answer writing program for Optional Subjects. It will comprise of daily answer writing tests as well as full length tests. The O-AWFG seeks to precisely solve four problems for the students: 1. a regular committed time for preparation of Optional for mains 2024. 2. to provide for incremental study plan on day – day basis. 3. to cover important and relevant PYQs as there has been trend from UPSC to repeat questions in optional. 4. to solve the hurdle of answer writing for optional. Currently available for Anthro, Socio, Pub Ad, PSIR and Geography

ANNOUNCING



Call/scan for details

93117-40404



What makes ForumIAS GS Foundation Programme a preferred choice for aspirants?

- **Thousands of Success Stories:** ForumIAS through its various programmes have guided thousands of students towards success in CSE. Join the league of Anudeep Duraishetty (2017), Ms. Shruti Sharma (2021), Ms. Ishita Kishore (2022) and Aditya Srivastava (2023)
- **Dynamic Learning:** We stay up-to-date with the ever-evolving Civil Services exam pattern. Our methods evolve, reflecting the dynamic nature of the exam.
- **360 Degree Preparation:** All-encompassing resources for a one-shot exam success. Our resources & content are meticulously designed to empower you with the impeccable knowledge & skills required to clear the exam.
- **Mentorship Matters:** We understand that this exam is not just about books; it's a psychological challenge. Our mentors offer the guidance, motivation, and support you need to excel.

29 JUNE | D15- 4:00 PM, Evening
D16- 8:30 AM, Morning

16 JULY | D17- 8:30 PM, Morning
D18- 4:00 AM, Evening

Inviting Applications for

FORUM RESIDENTIAL COACHING, Gurgaon

- Admission Through Entrance Test Only
- Limited Batch Size
- Accommodation, Library and Mess Facility
- Scholarship for Meritorious Student
- The same team which has mentored 3000+ students in achieving their UPSC dream

BATCH-1
10 July



9311740938

OPTIONAL FOUNDATION 2025

BATCH-1
05 July

Online/Offline

Ahead of the curve: start before the others

PSIR	PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
SOCIOLOGY	ANTHROPOLOGY

COHORT-6

MGP2025

मेंस गाइडेंस प्रोग्राम

Cohort-6
21 June

मेंटर समर्थित, टेस्ट सीरीज आधारित सेल्फ स्टडी कार्यक्रम UPSC CSE के लिए

हिंदी माध्यम के रिजल्ट्स को हम कैसे सुधार सकते हैं? हमें लगा की अगर, इंग्लिश मीडियम के बेस्ट और गाइडेंस को अगर हिंदी माध्यम स्टूडेंट्स को दिया जाए, तो शायद बात बन सकती है। मात्र 20 बच्चों के हिंदी माध्यम के एमजीपी बैच में से **136वाँ** रैंक प्राप्त किया है। मार्क इंटरव्यू के दौरान जब हमने पूछा - आप यहाँ तक कैसे आए - तो उन्होंने कहा - सर, मैं अंग्रेजी और हिंदी माध्यम की जॉइंट लिस्ट में हमेशा टॉप 50 में रहता था। अर्पित उत्तर प्रदेश से हैं, और SFG, AWFG और MGP के छात्र रहे हैं।

COHORT-7

MGP2025

MAINS GUIDANCE PROGRAM

Cohort-7
23 June

Mentor Supported, TEST SERIES based Self Study Program for CSE

Join the Mentor Guided, test series based study plan for Civil Services that has helped every second candidate selected in the Civil Services Examination Final List in CSE 2023. It is the proven, time tested program that has produced Rank 1 - Anudeep, Shruti, Ishita & Aditya - 4 times in past 7 years. MGP 2024 & 2025 admissions are now open.

PRELIMS TEST SERIES (PTS) 2025

Batch-1
ADMISSION OPEN

English Medium

Batch-2
20 June

हिंदी माध्यम

The ForumIAS Prelims Test Series 2025 aims to prepare you for Civil Services Prelims 2025 in a structured, relaxed and comprehensive manner. It seeks for gradual and incremental progress over multiple levels with expected reading and outcome at each level. Through its 4 levels of tests, it ensures complete coverage of static through NCERTs and recommended textbooks as well as coverage of current affairs for a period of 2 years. Different pattern and difficulty levels provide for sufficient practice to develop problem solving skills for prelims.

CURRENT AFFAIRS CLASSES 2025 (PRE-CUM-MAINS)

Batch Starts
21 July

What is common between Donuru Ananya Reddy, Garima Lohia, Divya Mishra, Sanjitha Mohapatra, Varun Reddy and Pratham Kaushik? They are all IAS officers, selected in past 7 years and they are among the highest scorers In General Studies Mains. Since its inception, CA classroom students have secured among the highest marks in GS. The CA class is no ordinary Newspaper Classes. They provide you with much needed edge in the mains examination through three things – content differentiation, crispness and issue based preparation. The CA Classes declutter your preparation by providing you curated content to aid a high score in GS. If you are looking for score improvement or rank enhancement, this a must join.

COURSES FOR IAS 2025

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(बिहार सरकार का उपक्रम)

कौटिल्य नगर, पटना-14, फ़ोन नं०- 0612-2950702

राष्ट्रीय/स्पर्धा/ई0 निविदा (एस0बी0डी0)

ई0-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या- 02/SBD/2024&25

1. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता : मुख्य अभियंता, बिहार पुलिस भवन निर्माण निगम, मुख्यालय, पटना। 2. निविदा आमंत्रित करने की तिथि : **ई0- 11-06-2024** 3. निविदा खोलने की तिथि : **ई0- 28-06-2024** से **04-07-2024** तक। 4. निविदा खोलने के लिए अंतिम तिथि एवं समय : **ई0- 05-07-2024** को **17.00** बजे तक। 5. प्रो बीड प्रक्रिया की तिथि: समाप्त एवं स्थान : **ई0- 01-07-2024** को **15.00** बजे। मुख्य अभियंता, बिहार पुलिस भवन निर्माण निगम, मुख्यालय, पटना के कार्यालय कक्ष में। 6. (क) तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : **ई0- 08-07-2024** को **16.00** बजे। (ख) वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : तकनीकी बीड का विघटन सक्षम प्राधिकार से होने के पश्चात्। 7. निविदा पत्र विक्री का स्थान : **www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in** पर। 8. निविदा की वैधता अवधि : **120 दिन**। 9. कार्य का विवरण :-

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	कार्य का अंश, बि090 ग0 पी0 पी0, कार्य प्र0	परमाणु विवरण की राशि (लाख रू0 में)	अवधि की राशि (रू0 में)	निविदा कागजात का मूल्य (रू0 में)	बीड प्रोसेसिंग चार्ज सेवा कर सहित	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1.	नवागछिया पुलिस जिलान्तर्गत कदवाँ ओ0 पी0 में थाना भवन (G+2 Structure) आउट हाउस का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	भागलपुर	436.94	873900	10000	As per eproc 2.	12 माह
2.	औरंगाबाद जिलान्तर्गत मुफ्फासिल थाना भवन (G+3 Structure) आउट हाउस एवं आधारभूत संरचना का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	मगध	575.36	1150800	10000	As per eproc 2.	14 माह
3.	सुपौल जिलान्तर्गत राधोपुर थाना में मॉडल थाना भवन (G+3) आउट हाउस का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	पूर्वोच्च	553.55	1107100	10000	As per eproc 2.	14 माह
4.	पश्चिम चम्पारण जिलान्तर्गत नरकटियागंज में 02 युनिट अग्निशामक भवन (G+3 Structure) का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	मुजफ्फरपुर	435.87	871800	10000	As per eproc 2.	14 माह
5.	पश्चिम चम्पारण जिलान्तर्गत मनुआपल ओ0 पी0 में थाना भवन (G+2 Structure), आउट हाउस का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	मुजफ्फरपुर	503.44	1006900	10000	As per eproc 2.	12 माह
6.	मुँगेर जिलान्तर्गत सफियासराय थाना में थाना भवन (G+2 Structure) आउट हाउस का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	भागलपुर	472.42	944900	10000	As per eproc 2.	12 माह
7.	अररिया जिलान्तर्गत फारसिगंज में अग्निशामक भवन (G+3), का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	पूर्वोच्च	465.14	930300	10000	As per eproc 2.	14 माह
8.	सुपौल जिलान्तर्गत लौकहा थाना में थाना भवन (G+2 Structure), आउट हाउस का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	पूर्वोच्च	460.35	920700	10000	As per eproc 2.	12 माह
9.	बेगूसराय जिलान्तर्गत लोहियानगर थाना में थाना भवन (G+2) का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	दरभंगा	480.94	961900	10000	As per eproc 2.	12 माह
10.	बेगूसराय जिलान्तर्गत खानपुर ओ0 पी0 में थाना भवन (G+2 Structure) का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	दरभंगा	485.23	970500	10000	As per eproc 2.	12 माह
11.	लखीसराय जिलान्तर्गत अनुसूचित जाति / अनुसूचित जनजाति एवं महिला थाना में थाना भवन (G+3 Structure) का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	राजगीर	444.66	889400	10000	As per eproc 2.	14 माह
12.	अररिया जिलान्तर्गत ताराबाड़ी थाना (G+3) आउट हाउस का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	पूर्वोच्च	596.87	1193800	10000	As per eproc 2.	14 माह
13.	खगड़िया जिलान्तर्गत अमौरी थाना भवन (G+3) आउट हाउस का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	दरभंगा	602.88	1205800	10000	As per eproc 2.	14 माह
14.	मोजपुर जिलान्तर्गत खानपुर थाना में थाना भवन (G+2 Structure) आउट हाउस का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	पटना	495.12	990300	10000	As per eproc 2.	12 माह
15.	बक्सर जिलान्तर्गत नौजोर थाना में थाना भवन (G+3 Structure) आउट हाउस का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	पटना	575.57	1151200	10000	As per eproc 2.	14 माह
16.	पटना जिलान्तर्गत वेङर थाना में थाना भवन (G+3 Structure) का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	पटना	332.14	664300	10000	As per eproc 2.	14 माह
17.	पटना जिलान्तर्गत गोपालपुर थाना में थाना भवन (G+3 Structure) का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	पटना	338.09	676200	10000	As per eproc 2.	14 माह
18.	सुपौल जिलान्तर्गत राजेश्वरी ओ0 पी0 में थाना भवन, आउट हाउस का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	पूर्वोच्च	477.59	955200	10000	As per eproc 2.	12 माह
19.	किसानगंज जिलान्तर्गत अरबाड़ी ओ0 पी0 (G+2 Structure) आउट हाउस एवं आधारभूत संरचना का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	पूर्वोच्च	394.95	789900	10000	As per eproc 2.	12 माह
20.	मोतिहारी जिलान्तर्गत फकीरदाल में 02 युनिट अग्निशामक भवन (G+3) भवन का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	मुजफ्फरपुर	431.50	863000	10000	As per eproc 2.	14 माह
21.	गोपालगंज जिलान्तर्गत वरौली थाना में थाना भवन (G+3 Structure), आउट हाउस का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	मुजफ्फरपुर	593.45	1186900	10000	As per eproc 2.	14 माह
22.	सिवान जिलान्तर्गत गोय्याकोठी थाना भवन (G+3 Structure) आउट हाउस एवं आधारभूत संरचना का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	मुजफ्फरपुर	545.06	1090200	10000	As per eproc 2.	14 माह
23.	मोतिहारी जिलान्तर्गत मेलही ओ0 पी0 भवन (G+2 Structure) आउट हाउस एवं आधारभूत संरचना का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	मुजफ्फरपुर	442.26	884600	10000	As per eproc 2.	12 माह
24.	मोतिहारी जिलान्तर्गत इबराहम ओ0 पी0 में (G+2) आउट हाउस एवं आधारभूत संरचना का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	मुजफ्फरपुर	476.01	952100	10000	As per eproc 2.	12 माह
25.	मोतिहारी जिलान्तर्गत गोविन्दगंज थाना भवन (G+3 Structure) आउट हाउस एवं आधारभूत संरचना का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	मुजफ्फरपुर	575.86	1151800	10000	As per eproc 2.	14 माह
26.	मोतिहारी जिलान्तर्गत जयवर्धन नगर ओ0 पी0 भवन (G+3 Structure), आधारभूत संरचना का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	मुजफ्फरपुर	460.79	921600	10000	As per eproc 2.	14 माह
27.	मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत मधुबनी में अग्निशामक भवन (G+3 Structure) का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	दरभंगा	436.47	873000	10000	As per eproc 2.	14 माह
28.	दरभंगा जिलान्तर्गत तिलकेश्वर ओ0 पी0 (G+2 Structure) आउट हाउस एवं आधारभूत संरचना का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	दरभंगा	434.26	868600	10000	As per eproc 2.	12 माह
29.	खगड़िया जिलान्तर्गत मौरकाही थाना (G+3 Structure) आउट हाउस एवं आधारभूत संरचना का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	दरभंगा	532.72	1065500	10000	As per eproc 2.	14 माह
30.	सिवान जिलान्तर्गत आनंद थाना में थाना भवन (G+3 Structure), आउट हाउस का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	मुजफ्फरपुर	565.77	1131600	10000	As per eproc 2.	14 माह
31.	मुजफ्फरपुर जिलान्तर्गत हथौड़ी थाना भवन (G+3 Structure), आउट हाउस, का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	मुजफ्फरपुर	568.00	1136000	10000	As per eproc 2.	14 माह
32.	मोतिहारी जिलान्तर्गत अग्निशामक भवन अररत के लिए 2 युनिट अनुसूचित अग्निशामक भवन (G+3) का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	मुजफ्फरपुर	429.41	858900	10000	As per eproc 2.	14 माह
33.	भागलपुर जिलान्तर्गत यातायात थाना भवन (G+4) आउट हाउस का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	भागलपुर	576.03	1152100	10000	As per eproc 2.	16 माह
34.	नवागछिया जिलान्तर्गत अंजपुर ओ0पी0 में थाना भवन (G+2) आउट हाउस का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	भागलपुर	441.56	883200	10000	As per eproc 2.	12 माह
35.	पटना जिलान्तर्गत श्रीकृष्णपुरी थाना में मॉडल थाना भवन, आउट हाउस का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	पटना	606.07	1212200	10000	As per eproc 2.	14 माह
36.	दरभंगा जिलान्तर्गत मोरो थाना में थाना भवन (G+3 Structure) का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	दरभंगा	354.67	709400	10000	As per eproc 2.	14 माह
37.	दरभंगा जिलान्तर्गत जलित नारायण निष्ठा विद्यालय थाना में थाना भवन (G+3 Structure) का विद्युतीकरण सहित निर्माण कार्य। (पुनर्निविदा)	दरभंगा	583.18	1166400	10000	As per eproc 2.	14 माह

इस निविदा की अन्य विस्तृत जानकारी एवं आवश्यक शर्तें अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय के सूचना पट एवं वेबसाइट **www.bpbcc.co** पर देखा जा सकता है तथा ई-निविदा-पत्र **www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in** से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

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PR- 001913 (B & C) 2024-25 **मुख्य अभियंता, पटना**

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Railways backs out of human error claim; toll climbs to 10

Senior official acknowledges that automatic signalling system was not working; Kavach was absent; Commissioner of Railway Safety will begin probe into the cause of the accident today

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The death toll in the accident involving Kanchanjunga Express and a goods train in Darjeeling district of West Bengal rose to 10 on Tuesday, with a six-year-old child dying of injuries at the North Bengal Medical College and Hospital.

The Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) will begin an inquiry into the cause of the accident on Wednesday, even as the Railways seemed to walk back its initial claim that human error caused the accident, acknowledging that the automatic signalling system was not working on the route.

The Kavach train protection system is yet to be installed for the region's rail network.



Tragic incident: The wreckage of the Kanchanjunga Express passenger train at Rangapani in West Bengal on Tuesday. AFP

The deceased include three Railway employees – the driver of the goods train initially blamed for the accident, the guard of the Kanchanjunga Express, and a Railway Mail Service employee travelling in the parcel van of the express – and seven passengers.

Railway services were

restored through the down line at the accident site from 7.30 a.m. on Tuesday, with the first passenger train passing through at 10.42 a.m. Operations on the up line had been restored at 5.40 p.m. on Monday. Three trains were diverted and two were cancelled on Tuesday due to the accident.

The survivors from the Kanchanjunga Express – which had left Agartala station at 8.25 a.m. on Sunday –reached Sealdah station in Kolkata on Tuesday morning, with many passengers in a state of trauma and shock from the ordeal.

Having visited the accident site on Tuesday, Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety Janak Kumar Garg said an inquiry will be made to ascertain the reasons for the accident.

“The automatic signal was not working and so the drivers had to follow certain procedures. The first driver had to follow those procedures and similarly, the driver after that. Now we have to investigate what mistakes were made,” he said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

NEET-UG row: deal with any negligence thoroughly, says SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday made it clear to the Centre and the National Testing Agency (NTA) that it did not want “even .001% negligence” on the part of anyone in the conduct of the undergraduate medical entrance examination – NEET-UG 2024 – to be spared.

“Even if there is .001% negligence on the part of anyone, it should be thoroughly dealt with,” said Justice S.V. Bhatti, part of a Vacation Bench headed by Justice Vikram Nath, addressing the lawyers appearing for the Centre and the NTA.

The court hearing was based on two petitions filed by over 30 candidates urging the court to take cognisance of the NEET controversy. The court said that the NTA, which conducts the exam for medical

NTA must stand firm. If there is a mistake, say yes, there is a mistake. This is the action we are going to take.

SC BENCH



admissions, should be able to take a firm stand and own up to having made mistakes, if any.

“You [NTA] must stand firm. If there is a mistake, say, ‘Yes, there is a mistake. This is the action we are going to take.’ At least that will inspire confidence in your performance,” Justice Bhatti told advocate Kanu Agrawal, appearing for the NTA and the Centre.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12



ENGINEER RASHID'S BAIL

Delhi court asks NIA to file reply on plea

NEWS » PAGE 13



AIRPORTS ON ALERT

Bomb threat found to be hoax

NEWS » PAGE 12



PERFECT FINISH

Nicholas Pooran helps WI crush Afghanistan

SPORT » PAGE 17

Days after attack, U.P. cattle transporter dies

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

Saddam Qureshi, the sole survivor in the mob attack on three cattle transporters from Uttar Pradesh in Chhattisgarh's Arang ear-

lier this month, died of injuries on Tuesday.

On June 7, two cattle transporters, Guddu Khan, 35, and Chand Miya Khan, 23, were found dead under suspicious circumstances after being allegedly

chased by a mob. Qureshi's testimony was crucial to the investigation in the case in which the police have neither made any arrests nor disclosed any details about the suspects so far. Kirtan Rathore, Addi-

tional Superintendent of Police, confirmed Qureshi's death. He said the victim was on ventilator support since the incident.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12



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IN BRIEF



North India goes heavy on power consumption

NEW DELHI

Amid the longest spell of heatwaves in the past 15 years, the power demand in North India surged to 89 GW (89,000 MW) on Monday, the highest ever for a single day. To meet this demand, nearly 25% to 30% of power had to be "imported" from outside the region, the Power Ministry said on Tuesday. » Page 14

Water crisis: two tankers sent to RML Hospital

NEW DELHI

Two water tankers were dispatched to Centre-run RML Hospital in Delhi to "meet any future emergency", an official said on Tuesday. » Page 2

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कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,
भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमंडल, सुपौलराष्ट्रीय स्पर्धा ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
(ई-0 निविदा पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

अल्पकालीन ई0 निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं-03 (S.B.D. भ० प्र०, सुपौल)/2024-25

- विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, भवन प्रमंडल, सुपौल।
- निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत की तिथि :-13.06.2024
- निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड (प्राप) करने की अवधि एवं समय :-दिनांक-28.06.2024 से 17.07.2024 के 3:00 बजे अपराह्न तक (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
- ट्रिबिड मिटिंग की तिथि,समय एवं स्थान :- (a)दिनांक-05.07.2024 को 3:00 बजे अपराह्न को
- अधिष्ठाण अभियंता,भवन अंचल सहरसा के कार्यालय कक्ष में।
(b) दिनांक -09.07.2024 को 3:00 बजे अपराह्न मुख्य अभियंता (स०) भवन निर्माण विभाग, बिहार, पटना के कार्यालय कक्ष में।
- निविदा कागजात अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :-दिनांक-18.07.2024 के 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक।
(on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
- तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :-दिनांक-19.07.2024 को 3.30 बजे अप०।
(on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
- अग्रण की राशि एवं अन्य कागजात मूल में जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :-दिनांक-19.07.2024 को 3.00 बजे अप० तक।
स्थान-I, कार्यपालक अभियंता, भवन प्रमंडल, सुपौल का कार्यालय।
II, अधीष्ठाण अभियंता, भवन अंचल, सहरसा का कार्यालय।
III, मुख्य अभियंता (उत्तर), भवन निर्माण विभाग, बिहार, पटना का कार्यालय।
- वित्तीय बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- तकनीकी बीड निष्पन्न के पश्चात्।
- निविदा देवता की तिथि :- 120 दिन।

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राकल्पित राशि (रु० में)	अग्रण की राशि (रु० में)	परिमाण- विपन्न का मूल्य (रु० में)	बीड प्रोसेसिंग चार्ज एवं सर्विस टैक्स (अप्रत्यक्ष मूल्य) (रु० में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1.	डॉ० भीमराज अम्बेडकर 720 आसन वाले आवासीय विद्यालय भवन हर्दी, जिला-सुपौल में विद्यालय भवन निर्माण कार्य (विद्युतीकरण एवं फर्नीचर सहित)	517786000	6177900	10000	As Per Website	18 (अठारह माह)

10. विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए यह निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in & www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर देखा जा सकता है।

PR. No. 001945 (BCD) 2024-25 कार्यपालक अभियंता
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(National Competitive Bidding Through e-Procurement)

eTender No.- 04/2024-25 Ranchi, Dated: 18.06.2024

The undersigned on behalf of Government of Jharkhand invites item rate bids through e-Procurement from the eligible bidders registered* in appropriate class with any State/Central Government/State /Central Government Organization for construction and maintenance for five years of the works (List of schemes shall be displayed in the website pmsgstendersjhr.gov.in) of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna PM-JANMAN (Batch-1, 2023-24).

Sl. no.	District/Block	Package Number	Mega Package No	Road Name	Type	Length (in Kms.)	Const. Cost (in Lakhs)	Maint. Cost (in Lakhs)	Total (Const.+ Maint. in Lakhs)	Total cost (in Lakhs)	EMD (in Lakh)	Time period (in Month)
1	Gumla/Bishunpur	JH10AEC 002	JH-10-PMJANMAN-AN-GUM-01/2023-24	L022-Tutuwakujam Road to Bhattipath	Road	2.45	219.84	18.87	238.71	1352.20	27.05	12 months
	Gumla/Bishunpur	JH10AEC 004	JH-10-PMJANMAN-AN-GUM-01/2023-24	BrahmdewHakajang to Tirkonvandarikon (Bethath)	Road	3.00	268.91	22.71	291.62			
	Gumla/Bishunpur	JH10AEC 003	JH-10-PMJANMAN-AN-GUM-01/2023-24	Tutuwakujam road to Chatsarai	Road	1.05	90.99	9.32	100.31			
	Gumla/Bishunpur	JH10AEC 005	JH-10-PMJANMAN-AN-GUM-01/2023-24	Tutuwakujam road to Jawadi	Road	0.76	65.95	5.99	71.94			
	Gumla/Bishunpur	JH10AEC 006	JH-10-PMJANMAN-AN-GUM-01/2023-24	Residential school Sakhuwapani to Polipolat	Road	3.91	340.39	29.61	370			
	Gumla/Ghaghra	JH10AEC 010	JH-10-PMJANMAN-AN-GUM-02/2023-24	Salgibhuyaitoli to Hariduba	Road	3.00	258.99	20.63	279.62			
2	Gumla/Ghaghra	JH10AEC 008	JH-10-PMJANMAN-AN-GUM-02/2023-24	L021-SH-9 Malgo more to Biropani	Road	12.80	1,345.21	100.97	1446.18	1446.18	28.93	12 months
3	Gumla/Ghaghra	JH10AEC 009	JH-10-PMJANMAN-AN-GUM-03/2023-24	L022-Rukighat more Sidadipa to Ghunghrupath Via Ghaghrapat,Baran	Road	6.60	554.75	51.23	605.98	1271.13	25.43	12 months
	Gumla/Ghaghra	JH10AEC 011	JH-10-PMJANMAN-AN-GUM-03/2023-24	L024-Salgi Bhuyaitoli to Pirhapathal	Road	3.55	307.40	28.01	335.41			
	Gumla/Gumla Sadar	JH10XCL -012	JH-10-PMJANMAN-AN-GUM-03/2023-24	L023-PMGSY Anjan-Kuyyu Road L055 to Harinakhad	Road	3.65	309.44	20.30	329.74			
4	Gumla/Chainpur	JH10XCL 004	JH-10-PMJANMAN-AN-GUM-04/2023-24	MarwaKukurjia Road to Chapalhariya	Road	0.75	72.60	2.54	75.14	1108.02	22.17	12 months
	Gumla/Chainpur	JH10XCL 005	JH-10-PMJANMAN-AN-GUM-04/2023-24	L053-Kotiyaripath road to GrahapathAsurtoli	Road	3.40	290.37	19.37	309.74			
	Gumla/Chainpur	JH10XCL -007	JH-10-PMJANMAN-AN-GUM-04/2023-24	L024 Dumri to Kewna	Road	2.75	238.35	16.53	254.88			
	Gumla/Chainpur	JH10XCL -006	JH-10-PMJANMAN-AN-GUM-04/2023-24	L022-L059 Malam to KatarikonaAsurtoli	Road	4.60	440.73	27.53	468.26			
5	Gumla/Chainpur	JH10XCL -013	JH-10-PMJANMAN-AN-GUM-05/2023-24	L024-SH-T02 Bardhi to Pakarkona	Road	4.05	379.52	24.18	403.7	1066.85	21.35	12 months
	Gumla/Chainpur	JH10XCL -008	JH-10-PMJANMAN-AN-GUM-05/2023-24	L023-L059-Asurtoli Road to KulhukonaAsurtoli	Road	2.35	194.50	13.34	207.84			
	Gumla/Chainpur	JH10XCL -009	JH-10-PMJANMAN-AN-GUM-05/2023-24	L027-Luru-Kutma RCPLWE Road to KuchwanAsurtoli	Road	0.70	69.48	3.99	73.47			
	Gumla/Chainpur	JH10XCL -010	JH-10-PMJANMAN-AN-GUM-05/2023-24	L028-L053 Basna Road to TilwaripathAsurtoli	Road	3.15	268.21	16.53	284.74			
	Gumla/Chainpur	JH10XCL -014	JH-10-PMJANMAN-AN-GUM-05/2023-24	L029-SH-T02 Kukurjia to Haldikona	Road	1.03	91.20	5.90	97.1			
6	Gumla/Dumri	JH10XCL -003	JH-10-PMJANMAN-AN-GUM-06/2023-24	L023-MRL-17 to Kudarkorwatoli	Road	2.50	215.89	14.72	230.61	1240.3	24.82	12 months
	Gumla/Dumri	JH10XCL -011	JH-10-PMJANMAN-AN-GUM-06/2023-24	T01-L051 road Dumri to Lyachuha	Road	5.40	471.93	32.71	504.64			
	Gumla/Dumri	JH10XCL -001	JH-10-PMJANMAN-AN-GUM-06/2023-24	L021-REO road Dhorit to UrikonaBandkona	Road	1.50	148.49	9.08	157.57			
	Gumla/Dumri	JH10XCL -002	JH-10-PMJANMAN-AN-GUM-06/2023-24	L022-T04 Dumrtoli to DumrpaniKorwatoli	Road	3.80	326.93	20.55	347.48			

The bid should be submitted online in the website pmsgstendersjhr.gov.in. The bidders should have valid Digital Signature Certificate for online submission of bid.

Details of bid submission is as under:

Procurement Officer	Place of Opening	Availability of tender (on-line) for bidding	Last date & time of seeking clarification	Last date and time of bid submission	Date & time of opening (on-line) of tender
1	2	3	4	5	6
Engineer in Chief, JSRRDA, Ranchi	Engineer in Chief, JSRRDA, Ranchi	28.06.2024 at 10.00 AM	11.07.2024 upto 5.00 PM	04.07.2024 upto 2.00 PM	11.07.2024 at 05.30 PM
					To be informed later

* Non-registered bidders may also submit bid, however the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authority before signing the contract.
** Cost may change.

- Note:-**
- Amount of Bid Security should be taken as mentioned in the Bid Data Sheet of the Bidding Document.
 - Cost of Bid Document (Rs. 10000) and Bid Security (as mentioned in the Bid Data Sheet) shall be deposited **online** in form as mentioned in Bid Data Sheet failing which the bid will be treated non responsive and action shall be taken as per Sec. 2 of ITB clause 12.2 (d).
 - In case, it is found, even after the award of work that the bidder has submitted/ uploaded any false/erroneous/fraudulent statement/document, he/she is liable for blacklisting and forfeiture of Bid Security.
 - Bidders must submit GST registration certificate without which bid is liable to be rejected.
 - Bidders whose names appear in the Debar/blacklist of RWD or any department of GoJ/Gol (including JSRRDA) shall not be allowed to participate in the above bids.
 - Bids submitted by bidders, who have long pending ATR(s) / made inordinate delay in execution of earlier allotted construction/ maintenance works of PMGSY, may be rejected summarily.
 - In case of any discrepancy/dispute about units in BOQ, units as mentioned in Current SOR on which BOQ has been prepared shall prevail.
 - Participating bidders are free to submit grievances, if any, against the decision of technical evaluation within five days from the date of uploading of decision of technical evaluation only through email at jhce@pmsgy.nic.in Grievance submitted after stipulated period shall not be considered.
 - Bidders must have valid registration with Employee Provident Fund organization under EPF and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1952 failing which the bid shall be rejected.
 - Bidders must not quote rate for routine maintenance. The amount for routine maintenance as indicated in the Bill of Quantities must be acceptable to bidders.
 - For unbalanced bids, extra security will be required to be deposited by the bidder at the time of Agreement.
 - The undersigned reserves the right to cancel the tender at any stage without giving prior notice/reason.
All other details can be seen in the bidding document which is available in website pmsgstendersjhr.gov.in as per schedule mentioned above.

Engineer-in-Chief
Rural Works Department-Cum-
JSRRDA, Ranchi

PR 326750 Rural Work Department(24-25)#D

RML Hospital gets two water tankers amid supply cut by DJB

No shortage at Centre-run hospital, says official: NDMC member says agency is supplying water meant for emergencies to New Delhi; join us in seeking Delhi's share of water from Haryana, AAP urges BJP

Satvika Mahajan
NEW DELHI

Two water tankers were dispatched to Centre-run Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital to "meet any future emergency", a New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) official said on Tuesday.

The official added that there was no shortage at the facility and that all Centre-run hospitals in the city have reservoirs to sustain themselves. The development comes amid an acute water shortage that has forced the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) to slash the supply to Lutyens' Delhi.

"The water tankers were sent to ensure that they [RML Hospital] have ad-



A woman filling water from a tanker at Anand Parbat in Delhi. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

ditional water when needed," said the official of the NDMC, the agency responsible for providing civic services in Lutyens' Delhi. When reached for comment, the hospital authorities did not respond.

The DJB had on Monday cut by 40% the water supply to the underground reser-

voirs at Tilak Marg and Bengali Market, from which water is provided to Lutyens' Delhi, including stretches such as Ashoka Road, Barakhamba Road, and K.G. Marg.

The measure was taken after the water level at the Wazirabad treatment plant dropped considerably. The plant gets water from the Munak canal, which carries the Yamuna water to the city from Haryana.

The Delhi government has repeatedly accused BJP-ruled Haryana of not releasing its share of the water, a charge denied by the neighbouring State.

Meanwhile, NDMC member and BJP leader Kuljeet Singh Chahal claimed that due to the supply cut, the

civic agency has been forced to supply water stored in its reservoirs meant for emergencies to New Delhi.

NDMC Vice-Chairman and BJP leader Satish Upadhyay said the DJB is supplying only 80 million litres per day (MLD) of water against the normal supply of 125 MLD, resulting in shortages in Parliament, Supreme Court, High Court, Kalawati Hospital, and Lady Harding Hospital.

In response, Delhi's ruling AAP said it was doing everything possible to help people. "We urge the BJP to stop levelling baseless allegations and join us in appealing to Haryana to release Delhi's share of water," it said in a statement.

Peak power demand hits record high of 8,647 MW

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Capital's peak power demand hit an all-time high of 8,647 megawatts (MW) on Tuesday, according to officials at the State Load Dispatch Centre (SLDC).

The previous high of 8,302 MW was recorded on May 29 in the city, an official said, adding that the power demand in the national capital had crossed the 8,000 MW mark for the first time on May 22.

The record high, which was witnessed at 3.22 p.m. on Tuesday, is about 16% more than the previous year's record high, the official added.

The official also said that in 2023, the national capital's peak power demand was 7,438 MW.

Govt. of Bihar

Rural Works Department

Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, Rural Works Department, Bihar

Vishweshwaraiya Bhawan, 5th Floor, Rural Works Department, Bailey Road, Patna, Bihar -800015

(मुख्यमंत्री ग्रामीण पथ उन्नयन कार्यक्रम)

Notice Inviting Tender for MMGSUY based on Output and performance based Contract through e-procurement mode on Model Bidding Document (MBD).

(Notice Inviting Tender No. - MMGSUY-4515-01/2024-25)

- Designation and Address of the Advertiser : Office of Engineer-in-chief, Rural Works Department, Bihar, Patna
- Date of Issue of Notice Inviting Tender : 14.06.2024
- Period for downloading of Tender documents : From 08.07.2024 (9:00) to 19.07.2024 up to 15:00 hrs. From website-<http://pmsgstenderbih.gov.in>
- Date, Time & Place of Pre-Bid Meeting : Date 10.07.2024 time 15:00 hrs.
Place O/o Concerned Superintending Engineer
- Last Date & Time for uploading tender : Date 19.07.2024 up to: 15:00 hrs.
Document by bidder <http://pmsgstenderbih.gov.in>
- Date, time for online opening of Technical bid : Date 19.07.2024 up to Time: 15:30 hrs.
- Last date, time and place for submission of Original Instrument of EMD, : Till 15:00 hrs on 19.07.2024
Cost of BOQ, and an Affidavit regarding correctness of Information provided with bid document : Place- O/o-concerned (i) Executive Engineer Or (ii) Superintending Engineer Or (iii) Chief Engineer
- The Engineer in chief, Rural Works Department on behalf of Governor of Bihar invites bids from the eligible bidders for the works detailed below.
- Details of Works:-

SL.No	Package No.	District	Name of Division	Block	Name of Road	Length (In Km)	Cost of Upgradation/ Strengthening (in lakhs)	Cost of 5-Years Maintenance (In Lakh)	Total Estimated Cost (In Lakhs)	Cost of BOQ (In Rs)	Bid Security (In Lakhs)	Amount Payable to Works Division
1	MMGSUY/23-24 Araria/03	Araria	Araria	Palasi	L026-T01 to Kurhali (VR26) with High Level Bridge	5.350	979.406	211.125	1190.531	10000	23.811	EE, RWD Works Division, Araria
Total for the Group						5.350	979.406	211.125	1190.531			
2	MMGSUY/23-24 Araria/04	Araria	Araria	Kursakata	T01-L021 to Bhag Parasal	14.508	1147.3	123.75	1271.050	10000	25.421	EE, RWD Works Division, Araria
Total for the Group						14.508	1147.300	123.750	1271.050			
3	MMGSUY/23-24 Darbhanga-2/06	Darbhanga	Darbhanga-2	Singhwara	Madhopur To Banauli Via Fulthua	4.360	332.113	31.221	363.334			EE, RWD Works Division, Darbhanga-2
		Darbhanga	Darbhanga-2	Singhwara	PWD Road To Sirhuli	0.950	66.724	5.458	72.182	10000	10.272	
		Darbhanga	Darbhanga-2	Singhwara	PWD Road To Maheshpati Via Pipra	0.800	73.456	4.606	78.062			
Total for the Group						6.110	472.293	41.285	513.578			
4	MMGSUY/23-24 Lakhisarai/03	Lakhisarai	Lakhisarai	Suryagadha	NH-80 Sahid gate Rampur to Lakhochak Via Sita Rampur Itahari	6.420	687.192	63.635	750.827	10000	17.717	EE, RWD Works Division, Lakhisarai
		Lakhisarai	Lakhisarai	Pipariya	L027-T01 Murwariya To Hasanpur (Track27)	1.410	120.702	14.314	135.016			
Total for the Group						7.830	807.894	77.949	885.843			
5	MMGSUY/23-24 Virpur/03	Supaul	Virpur	Basantpur	Const. of Road and H.L. Bridge From Samda Bhawanipur Road	7.330						EE, RWD Works Division, Virpur
					Part A (Road) - 625.287 Part B (Bridge) - 587.098				1311.460	10000	26.229	
					Total =1212.385				Total =99.075			
Total for the Group						7.330	1212.385	99.075	1311.460			
6	MMGSUY/23-24 Saharsa/04	Saharsa	Saharsa	Mahishi	Supouli Kosi Bandh Pool to Balan Bandh	3.810						EE, RWD Works Division, Saharsa
		Saharsa	Saharsa	Saubazar	L049-L077 to Sahuria	2.390	183.950	19.680	203.630			
Total for the Group						6.200	1197.550	60.770	1258.320			
7	MMGSUY/23-24 Banka-1/03	Banka	Banka-1	Banka	Kateli More Dauna PMGSY Road To Rampur Tak	2.210						EE, RWD Works Division, Banka-1
					Part A (Road) - 150.784 Part B (Bridge) - 366.370				536.075	10000	10.722	
					Total =517.154				Total =18.921			
Total for the Group						2.210	517.154	18.921	536.075			
8	MMGSUY/23-24 Banka-2/03	Banka	Banka-2	Katoriya	Katoriya - Belhar Road Tughra	21.430	12					



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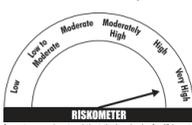
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IN BRIEF



Mevani among 300 detained for staging protest in Gujarat

Around 300 government job aspirants in Gujarat who have cleared examination but yet not employed as schoolteachers were on Tuesday detained by police in Gandhinagar city after they held a protest demanding their recruitment. They were later released from custody, the police said. Gujarat Congress MLA and party's State working president Jignesh Mevani was also detained by the police for taking part in the protest, said Gandhinagar DSP Teja Vasamsetty. "We detained nearly 300 protesters, including Mevani, for organising a protest without permission," Mr. Vasamsetty said.

Himachal CM's wife to contest Dehra Assembly byelection

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's wife Kamlesh Thakur will contest the Dehra Assembly bypoll slated to be held on July 10. Ms. Thakur, who hails from Dehra, is pitted against BJP nominee and two-time MLA Hoshiyar Singh, who bagged the seat as an Independent candidate in 2022 Assembly elections. Earlier, the Congress declared the names of Pushpinder Verma from Hamirpur and Hardeep Singh Baba from Nalagarh. The bypoll to the three Assembly seats were necessitated after the resignation of three Independent legislators who later joined the BJP. The Three had submitted their resignation on March 22.

Kerala will oppose NCERT textbook revision: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Modification in portions related to Babri Masjid and Ayodhya in school textbooks by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is not acceptable to Kerala, Minister for General Education V. Sivankutty has said.

Narrow ideological stance of any movement or propagation of their ideas is not what should be included in textbooks. Actual history and science should be taught to students. This was the State's stance and what it would follow, a statement quoting the Minister here said on Tuesday.

The deliberate removal of certain portions from NCERT textbooks had led to many debates and discussions across the country. There were apprehensions from many corners that these changes sabotaged Constitutional values and secularism. A committee, including State Council of Educational Research and

Training (SCERT), education experts, teachers, and social workers, was appointed to study the modifications in the NCERT textbooks in detail and analyse their repercussions. The findings underlined the need to protect values enshrined in the Constitution such as secularism, democracy, and social justice.

The State prepared parallel textbooks that included portions removed by the NCERT as education that reflected its cultural traditions, secular attitudes, and progressive thinking had to be imparted to students. These textbooks included social and cultural specialties of the country and the State and were faithful to Constitutional values. This step by the State led to many discussions around the country on content and character of education, and provided hope to believers in secularism, the Minister said in the statement.

The NCERT has made the revisions in the Class XII Political Science textbook.

Kharge, Rahul Gandhi plan strategy meetings with party officials of poll-bound States

Series of meetings to be held between June 24 and 27; Congress will look to calibrate its strategy to take along allies in Jharkhand and Maharashtra, where elections are scheduled later this year

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Boyed by the Lok Sabha results, the Congress on Tuesday announced a series of strategy meetings for Maharashtra, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Jammu and Kashmir, where Assembly elections will be held later this year.

Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Rahul Gandhi will meet leaders from Jharkhand on June 24 and those from Maharashtra the next day to discuss the party's election preparedness in the two States.

Poll preparations

On June 26, Haryana Congress leaders will meet Mr. Kharge and Mr. Gandhi, while J&K leaders will meet them a day later. AICC general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said in a post on X, "Carrying forward the momentum in our favour, we are dedicated to ensuring a handsome victory in the upcoming State



Ready to roll: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Rahul Gandhi will meet the leaders next week. FILE PHOTO

elections... Onward and upwards!"

The election preparation meetings are important as the Congress will look to calibrate its strategy to take along its allies in Jharkhand and Maharashtra. In the recent Lok Sabha election, the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc, which

comprises the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena and Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), won 30 of the 48 Lok Sabha seats in the State.

Strengthening alliance

These three parties, which make up the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in the State, plan to contest the Assem-

blies together.

In Jharkhand also, the party will look to continue its alliance with the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and other smaller players.

In fact, sources said Mr. Gandhi's decision to retain the Rae Bareilly Lok Sabha seat in Uttar Pradesh was taken with an aim to strengthen the party's alliance with the Akhilesh Yadav-led Samajwadi Party (SP) before the next Assembly election and improve its presence in the Hindi heartland.

North-South bridge

The decision to field Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, someone who has been working in the constituencies of Amethi and Rae Bareilly for two decades now, from a constituency in Kerala can be seen as the party's attempt to bridge the North-South divide.

"The voice of the people will resonate much louder with both @RahulGandhi and @priyankagandhi present inside Parliament," Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi said in a post on X.

No change in Maharashtra leadership, planning to win Assembly election, says BJP

Abhinav Deshpande
MUMBAI

Union Minister Piyush Goyal put an end to speculation about a leadership change in Maharashtra Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) following its recent disappointing performance in the Lok Sabha election by confirming on Tuesday that there will be no change.

"There is no change. We have to bring a strong Mahayuti-National Democratic Alliance government in Maharashtra," he stated after the Maharashtra BJP core committee meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi.

On June 5, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis took full responsibility for the poll results in the State and requested the top leadership to relieve him from the responsibilities in the State government to enable him to strengthen the party ahead of Assembly election.



Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had earlier requested the BJP leadership to relieve him from the responsibilities in the State government. FILE PHOTO

The meeting on Tuesday focused on strategies for the upcoming Assembly election, discussing individual roles, and the formation of a central coordination committee to ensure collaboration among the three Mahayuti constituents: the BJP, the Shiv Sena, and the NCP.

Less seats in LS poll

It was attended by BJP national president J.P. Nadda, Union Minister and Maharashtra co-in-charge Ashwini Vaishnav, Mr. Fadna-

vis, and other key leaders from the State.

The BJP managed to win only nine of the 28 seats it contested. The Mahayuti alliance secured a total of 17 seats out of 48, while the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) won 30 seats, with an additional seat won by a rebel Congress candidate, Vishal Patil from Sangli, who later extended his support to the grand old party. In the 2019 elections, the saffron party won 23 seats in the western State.

Students must not be allowed to sport wearables indicating caste: Justice Chandru panel

Dennis S. Jesudasan
CHENNAI

The one-man committee headed by retired Madras High Court judge K. Chandru has recommended that the Tamil Nadu government prohibit students in schools from wearing coloured wristbands, rings, or forehead marks that may indicate their caste. It also recommended the removal of caste appellations in the names of schools.

Mr. Chandru submitted his report to Chief Minister M.K. Stalin at the Secretariat in Chennai on Tuesday, in the presence of School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, Chief Secretary Shiv Das Meena and others. The Hindu accessed the copy of the report.

Former High Court judge Chandru's committee was constituted in the wake of an incident in Nanguneri in Tirunelveli district in August 2023, in which two schoolchildren belonging to the Scheduled Castes were brutally assaulted by a



Justice K. Chandru

group of students from an intermediate caste.

The report said, "They [students] must refrain from coming to school on bicycles painted with reference to their caste or exhibiting any caste-related sentiments. Failure to comply with these rules must result in appropriate action being taken against erring students, in addition to advising their parents or guardians." While the words 'Kallar Reclamation' and 'Adi Dravidar Welfare' should be removed from State-run schools, in the case of existing private schools, the School Education Department should request them to give up caste appellations, the report

said. "If they fail to comply, appropriate legal steps should be considered, including legislative changes to serve the larger public interest," it said. The students' attendance register should not contain any column or details relating to their caste. "At no point can the class teacher call out students, either directly or indirectly by referring to their caste, nor make any derogatory remarks about the student's caste or the so-called character attributed to the caste," it said.

Seating arrangements

The State government must take steps to amend the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975, and insert a provision that a society intending to start an educational institution shall not include any caste appellations in the institution's name, it said.

The seating arrangements for students in all schools and colleges should be strictly based on alphabetical order (of their names), the panel said.

Priyanka Gandhi's entry could be a game changer for Cong.-led UDF in Kerala Assembly poll

NEWS ANALYSIS

Biju Govind
KOZHIKODE

The decision of the Congress to nominate All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for the bypoll from the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency, following Rahul Gandhi's relinquishment of the seat, appears to be aimed mainly at boosting the United Democratic Front (UDF)'s prospects in Kerala for the 2026 Assembly election.

Congress party sources said the decision to field

Ms. Vadra was not surprising, given the Congress's yearning to consolidate its gains in the Lok Sabha election, unlike in the 2021 Assembly election when it failed to return to power in Kerala.

The shift in minority community votes, especially among Muslims, to the Congress has helped the UDF secure leads in 110 of the 140 Assembly segments.

Many believe that Ms. Vadra's presence will unify the warring factions of the Congress and stem the flow of leaders to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Besides, Ms. Vadra could rekindle the memories of



Congress party sources said the decision to field Priyanka Gandhi was not surprising. FILE PHOTO

former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, her grandmother, who shared an emotional bond with the

people of Kerala. Already, the handle of Congress Kerala has tweeted on X (formerly Twitter): "This is

Priyanka's presence, many believe, will unify party's warring factions and stem the flow of leaders to BJP

history! It is not Priyanka Gandhi who is coming to Wayanad, but India's iron lady, Indira Priyadarshini."

A safe seat

Sources said Wayanad, with a demographic composition of about 60% minority communities, including 45% Muslims, remained a safe seat for solidifying the Nehru family's influence in South India as well as leveraging the Con-

gress's minority voter base in Kerala.

With the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) leaders Sayed Sadik Ali Shah Thangal and P.K. Kunhalikutty wholeheartedly endorsing Ms. Vadra's candidacy for the Wayanad bypoll, this has firmly signified that the Congress's steadfast ally, frequently courted by the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI-M], will loyally stay within the UDF fold.

Even when the Left parties and the BJP criticise Mr. Gandhi for relinquishing the Wayanad seat, the Congress leadership thinks otherwise.

Had the former Con-

gress chief vacated the Rae Bareilly seat in Uttar Pradesh, there is no guarantee a Congress candidate or even Ms. Vadra would retain that seat as Prime Minister Narendra Modi has secured power for the third time and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath would, in all likelihood, marshal his resources to ensure a BJP victory, sources said.

With Ms. Vadra looking to make her electoral debut in the State, Kerala is likely to have a woman representative in the Lok Sabha.

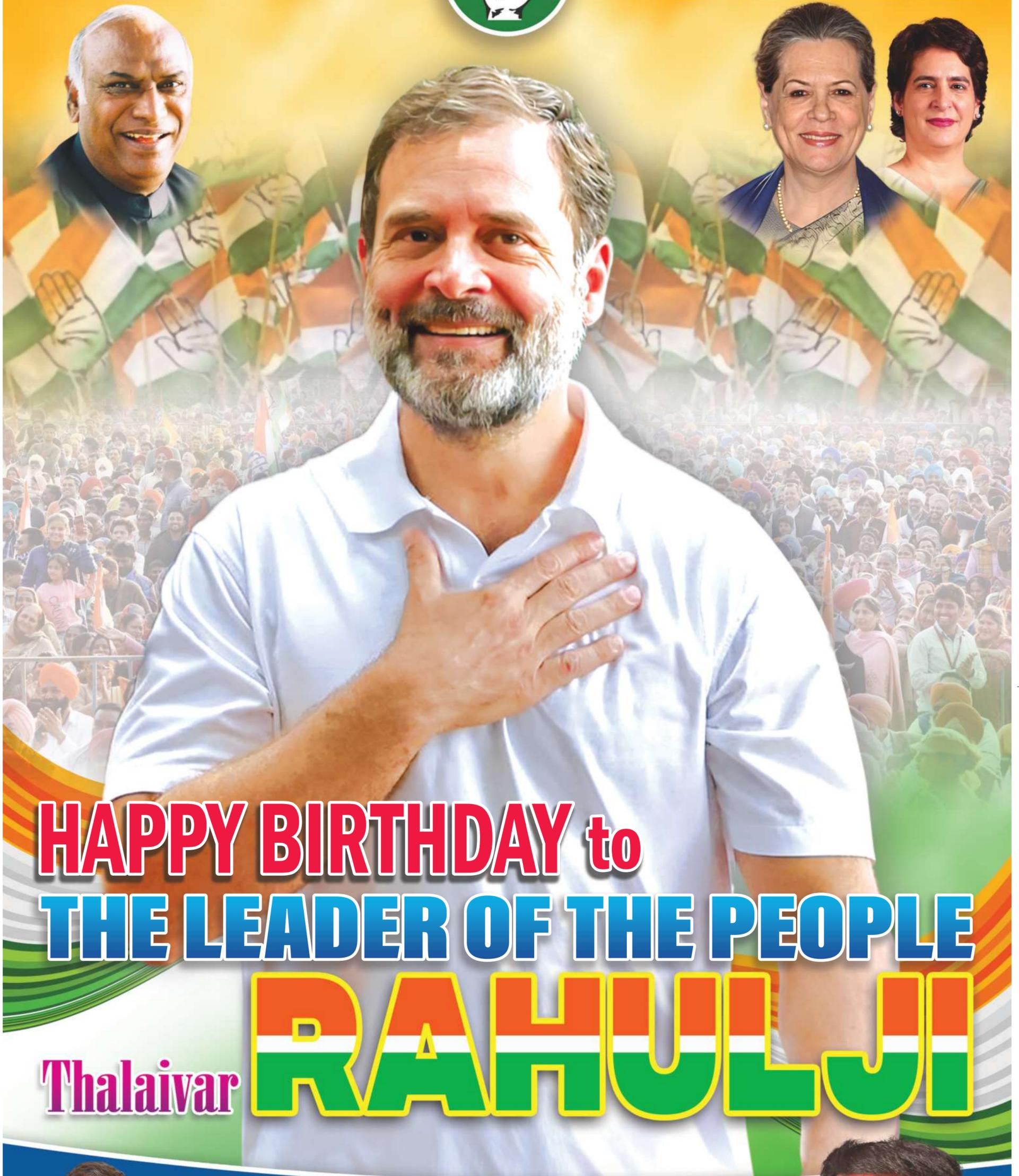
Perhaps, her victory is a foregone conclusion. Mr. Gandhi had won the seat

by a margin of 4.31 lakh votes in 2019, and this time, his margin decreased to 3.64 lakh votes.

Political dynasty

Just as Mr. Gandhi's candidacy from Wayanad catapulted the constituency into the national spotlight in 2019 and 2024, the upcoming bypoll will closely monitor Ms. Vadra's performance.

However, her entry into the electoral arena has reignited the debate on political dynasties. Their mother, Sonia Gandhi, who opted out of the electoral race from Rae Bareilly, is currently a member of the Rajya Sabha.



Proud to be in Congress!
It's our duty to strengthen Congress!!

VIJAY VASANTH

Member of Parliament,
Kanniyakumari constituency.

[X](#) [f](#) [i](#) [v](#) / iamvijayvasanth
[/ office@vijayvasanth.com](mailto:office@vijayvasanth.com)



Sexual abuse case: Karnataka High Court gives anticipatory bail to Prajwal Revanna's mother

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a relief to Bhavani Revanna, mother of rape accused Prajwal Revanna, former MP, the High Court of Karnataka granted regular anticipatory bail in the case of alleged abduction of one of the victims of her son's sexual assaults.

Justice Krishna S. Dixit passed the order while allowing Ms. Bhavani's petition seeking anticipatory bail.

The court said there is no material against the petitioner to *prima facie* attract Section 364A of the IPC, as the victim herself, in her statement recorded either before the police or before the judicial magistrate, has not given any such statements against Ms. Bhavani.

On the argument of the Special Public Prosecutor of the Special Investigation Team that the SIT needs Ms. Bhavani for custodial interrogation and that this version of the SIT has to be ac-



Bhavani Revanna. FILE PHOTO

cepted at face value, the court said if such a proposition is accepted, "It would strike the death knell for sacrosanct guarantees of freedom and liberty gloriously

enacted in the Constitution, they have been progressively construed by the courts."

Meanwhile, Mr. Prajwal Revanna was remanded into judicial custody for 14 days by the Special Court on Tuesday. His police custody ended on Tuesday and he was produced before the court. The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing all cases related to him did not ask for his custody further, sources said. The court remanded him into 14 days judicial custody.

insist that an accused should give answers in the way as the police desire".

For the Janata Dal (Secular) [JD(S)] in Kerala, its national leader H.D. Kumaraswamy's entry into the Narendra Modi Cabinet was the last straw that broke the camel's back. On Monday, the JD(S) Kerala unit demonstrated a strong determination to remove the 'political stigma' of being in the BJP government at the Centre and the LDF regime in Kerala at the same time.

JD(S) Kerala unit to form new party with new name, flag and poll symbol

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The party's leadership meeting in Thiruvananthapuram announced the formation of a new party. It would have a new name, flag, and electoral symbol.

The new party would remain an independent political entity in the LDF fold, JD(S) leader Mathew T. Thomas said.

He seemed to dismiss speculation that the estranged JD(S) Kerala unit would merge with other socialist parties, either the RJD or the Samajwadi

party. JD(S)'s continuation in the LDF, including the government, had become a political albatross around the ruling front's neck.

The party State unit's unique predicament also provided potent political ammunition to the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) Opposition, which is seeking to undermine the LDF's secular image and further stymie its pro-minority pivot ahead of the local body elections in 2025.

Govt. of Bihar

Rural Works Department

Notice Inviting Tender

(No.-RWD/MMGSY(AWSESH)/HQ/ET/2024-25/01)

The Government of Bihar has applied for a loan/credit through the Govt. of India (GoI), to the New Development Bank (NDB), for Bihar Rural Roads Project (Phase-II) (Mukhya Mantri Gram Sampark Yojana- AWSESH) and intends to apply the funds to cover eligible payments under the contracts for construction of works as detailed in the Table-1.

Engineer-in-Chief, Rural Works Department, on behalf of Governor of Bihar invites, SBD based Percentage rate tender in electronic tendering system under MukhyaMantri Gram Sampark Yojana-AWSESH for each of the following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with RWD/RCD/CPWD/MES /Railways/Other State/Central Govt. departments.

Table-1

Sl. No.	Package	Description of the Works [CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF ROADS (A) / BRIDGES (B)]		Length (KM)	Construction Amount (In Lacs)	Maintenance Amount (In Lacs)	Total Amount (In Lacs)	Earnest Money Payable* (In Lacs)	Amount Payable to Works Division
		From	To						
1	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-838-ARARIA	A1	PWD Road Mandal Toli	0.500	63.869	4.498	68.367	2.245	Araria
		A2	PMGSY Road se Ward 10	0.300	41.226	2.677	43.903		
			TOTAL	0.800	105.095	7.175	112.270	2.245	
2	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-839-ARARIA	A1	Batesh Jha ke Ghar	1.400	165.509	18.161	183.670		Araria
		A2	PMGSY Road Jhala	0.400	53.629	3.525	57.154	8.418	
		A3	Bajrangbali Mandir	1.350	162.578	17.487	180.065		
			TOTAL	3.150	381.716	39.173	420.889	8.418	
3	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-840-BHAGALPUR	A1	PWD Road No 12 Tarni Tanti ke Ghar	2.260	179.007	17.425	196.432	3.929	Bhagalpur
			TOTAL	2.260	179.007	17.425	196.432	3.929	
4	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-841-BHAGALPUR	A1	Ramanand Chaudhari ke Khet	0.620	77.637	3.038	80.675	1.614	Bhagalpur
			TOTAL	0.620	77.637	3.038	80.675	1.614	
5	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-842-FORBISGANJ	A1	Sirsiya Kala Ward No 5 Surendera Jha House	2.100	180.723	26.396	207.119		Forbisganj
		A2	Rampur Aadi Chanyak Path	1.400	125.826	15.810	141.636		
		A3	Dumuhan Basdev Yadav House	2.900	254.531	36.276	290.807		
		A4	Srivastav Tola Rajo Yadav House	0.250	41.520	2.340	43.860		
		A5	Domuhan Ghat Yogendra Yadav House New HL Bridge	0.500	82.693	4.470	87.163		
		A6	Mahthawa Saif ganj road Lachhadhar HL bridge to	1.200	132.971	15.631	148.602		
		A7	Kukela Mandal Tola Bindesari Chaupal House	0.750	88.976	6.229	95.205		
			TOTAL	9.100	907.240	107.152	1014.392	20.288	
6	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-843-FORBISGANJ	A1	Ghurnawali path	0.500	62.330	4.760	67.090		Forbisganj
		A2	NH 27	1.000	130.360	12.330	142.690		
		A3	Madhura Utar Ward No 15 Yogendra Yadav	0.900	115.802	11.190	126.992		
		A4	Ramghat Middle School Ward 4	0.400	46.290	3.530	49.820		
		A5	Ward No.-19 Bajrangbali Sthan to Lalan Ray Tola road	0.600	76.370	7.480	83.850		
		A6	Indo Nepal Road Near Md. Wakil Chowk	0.400	47.290	3.530	50.820		
		A7	Bahardar Tola	0.450	77.380	7.080	84.460		
		A8	PMGSY Road Near Pul to	0.750	95.440	9.930	105.370		
			TOTAL	8.000	651.262	59.830	711.092	14.222	
7	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-844-FORBISGANJ	A1	RaniganjForbisganj	0.600	64.894	8.444	73.338		Forbisganj
		A2	Rabani House	1.300	171.332	15.176	186.508		
		A3	Gaya nand Paswan House Majhua 14	1.100	141.774	14.761	156.535		
		A4	Ravish Shekh Majhua Ward no 13	1.600	201.653	19.167	220.820		
		A5	Digbi Pokhara Kabristan	3.100	402.638	41.443	444.081		
			TOTAL	7.700	982.291	98.991	1081.282	21.626	
8	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-845-FORBISGANJ	A1	DhamaChamru Sarak	2.700	322.950	33.640	356.590		Forbisganj
		A2	Khatab Husain House	1.850	237.900	21.291	259.191		
			TOTAL	4.550	560.850	54.931	615.781	12.316	
9	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-846-KATHIHAR	A1	PWD Road Balua Shambhu Mahaldarke Ghar se	1.600	164.630	9.770	174.400		Katihar
		A2	Pipra Baindada MR Path Kachhua Boro Dhar HL Bridge Hafjike Dukan se	1.600	165.600	9.770	175.370		
		A3	Sikkat Balua MR path Riska Majhhi Ghar se	0.800	79.450	5.100	84.550		
			TOTAL	4.000	409.680	24.640	434.320	8.686	
10	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-847-KATHIHAR	A1	Jhagru Chowk Gopighat Jha ke Ghar se	2.125	267.940	19.670	287.610		Katihar
		A2	Madhya Rahuta PMGSY Sarak	0.700	69.630	7.140	76.770		
		A3	Pirmokam Chowk	1.425	154.040	13.110	167.150		
			TOTAL	4.250	491.610	39.920	531.530	10.631	
11	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-848-KATHIHAR	A4	Maheshwa Near Church	0.700	115.270	7.270	122.540	2.451	Katihar
			TOTAL	0.700	115.270	7.270	122.540	2.451	
12	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-849-KATHIHAR	A1	Dherua Uttar Tola	0.750	94.320	7.670	101.990	2.040	Katihar
			TOTAL	0.750	94.320	7.670	101.990	2.040	
13	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-850-KATHIHAR	A1	Melvasa Road Railway Crossing	0.600	67.860	3.600	71.460		Katihar
		A2	Khorwa	0.227	25.748	0.884	26.632		
		A3	Madhepura Munda Tola	0.495	42.886	4.745	47.631		
		A4	NH81 Maniya Railway Station	1.200	119.040	10.710	129.750		
		A5	Patharwari Tola	2.100	239.860	20.100	259.960		
			TOTAL	4.622	495.394	40.039	535.433	10.709	

14	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-851-KATHIHAR	A1	SH-77 Rupauli	MirganjKurshele Road	3.100	271.050	28.000	299.050	5.981	Katihar
			TOTAL	1	3.100	271.050	28.000	299.050	5.981	
15	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-852-LAKHISARAI	A1	KiulBanisipur Path Near Mohan Yadav House	Vindaban	1.500	100.927	18.916	119.843	2.397	Lakhisarai
			TOTAL	1	1.500	100.927	18.916	119.843	2.397	
16	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-853-LAKHISARAI	A1	Noma to SirkhandiNoniya Tola Road	LahuaraMahadalit Tola	1.000	77.247	12.487	89.734		Lakhisarai
		A2	LajpurSirkhandi PMGSY Road	Kushwaha Tola Sirkhandi via Sanskrit Vidyalaya	2.180	158.096	29.082	187.178	17.029	
		A3	HalsiKumaitha Road	BundoliMahadalit Tola	2.040	145.244	24.104	169.348		
		A4	HalsiKumaitha Road	Khuryari Ghat	4.815	237.328	59.603	296.931		
		A5	Shekhpurwa School	Nadiyama Nahar	1.245	91.966	16.300	108.266		
			TOTAL	5	11.280	709.881	141.576	851.457	17.029	
17	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-854-LAKHISARAI	A1	LakhisaraiJamuiMukhya Path	Ahra Kon hote hue Makra Tola tak	1.780	121.671	25.220	146.891	4.334	Lakhisarai
		A2	JakhrajAsthan	Dih Tola Mahisona	0.750	60.282	9.508	69.790		
			TOTAL	2	2.530	181.953	34.728	216.681	4.334	
18	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-855-LAKHISARAI	A1	Karauta Railway Station	GarsandaMahadalit Tola	3.500	211.211	48.624	259.835		Lakhisarai
		A2	Ramnagar Gai	Bakiya Pul	3.720	219.725	52.400	272.125		
		A3	SurariEmannagar Road	Bhawariya	2.560	211.362	30.496	241.858	23.009	
		A4	Both Nagar	Barui Sadak Tak	1.440	172.477	21.560	194.037		
		A5	LakhisaraiJamui RCD Road	NimchakMushari (Sondhi Bartara)	1.400	164.532	18.038	182.570		
			TOTAL	5	12.620	979.307	171.118	1150.425	23.009	
19	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-856-PURNEA	A1	Thakur Patti chowk	Tintoliya	0.800	178.210	7.990	186.200	3.724	Purnea
			TOTAL	1	0.800	178.210	7.990	186.200	3.724	
20	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-857-SAHARSA	A1	Saharsa Bariyahi road SH canal pul	Ram tola Rahuamani	2.500	250.840	13.270	264.110	5.282	Saharsa
			TOTAL	1	2.500	250.840	13.270	264.110	5.282	
21	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-858-SAHARSA	A1	Road no 17	BaghawaMaszid Tola	0.650	111.250	0.400	111.650	2.233	Saharsa
			TOTAL	1	0.650	111.250	0.400	111.650	2.233	
22	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-859-SAHARSA	A1	Darhar	Belahi Gadiya	2.500	388.380	13.340	400.720		Saharsa
		A2	PMGSY Road Jharba	Pasi Tola Madhubani Sima	2.500	403.450	12.200	415.650	16.347	
			TOTAL	2	5.000	791.830	25.540	817.370	16.347	
23	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-860-SAHARSA	A1	PMGSY ROAD	Kari Yadav tola	3.100	457.430	16.600	474.030		Saharsa
		A2	Bakuniya Yadav tola	Barba Harijan tola	2.800	403.340	10.140	413.480	17.750	
			TOTAL	2	5.900	860.770	26.740	887.510	17.750	
24	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-861-SAHARSA	A1	SH Saharsa supol	Paswan Tola	0.400	51.160	0.010	51.170		Saharsa
		A2	Laukahi Canal	Teliyari sah tola Daurm	1.700	210.150				

Sena factions gear up for foundation day celebrations

Leaders from both sides will pay respects at Bal Thackeray's memorial; Eknath Shinde, Uddhav Thackeray to hold parallel meets with new MPs

Abhinav Deshpande
MUMBAI

The rival factions of Shiv Sena – the Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led group and the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) – will celebrate the party's foundation day on Wednesday.

Leaders from both sides will pay their respects at the memorial of Shiv Sena founder the late Bal Thackeray. However, the exact timings for this homage have not yet been set, making it unlikely for both groups to be there simultaneously.

Address by leaders

Later in the evening, Mr. Uddhav Thackeray will address party functionaries at Shanmukhanandan Hall and felicitate the newly-elected MPs while Mr. Shinde will conduct a parallel meeting at the National Sports Club of India (NSCI) complex in Worli.

The Chief Minister has asked party leaders, MPs, MLAs, former corporators, and functionaries from



The party founded by Bal Thackeray split after Eknath Shinde (right) rebelled against Uddhav Thackeray. FILE PHOTO



across the State to participate in the event, considering the upcoming Assembly election.

The party founded by Mr. Bal Thackeray celebrates its 58th Foundation Day this year, which comes after the split in 2022 when present Chief Minister Eknath Shinde rebelled against then CM and Shiv Sena leader Mr. Uddhav Thackeray, resulting in the downfall of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in the State.

Mr. Thackeray on Tuesday paid a visit to the site of the memorial of the Sena founder at the Mayor's

bungalow in Dadar along with his son and former Maharashtra Minister Aaditya Thackeray. The Sena (UBT) chief said he was looking to throw open to the public the memorial on his father's birth anniversary on January 23 next year. "The construction will finish by July and interior work will commence from August," he said.

Shinde's Sena spokesperson Manisha Kayande said they will launch membership drive, voter registration drive, and outline plans to commemorate two years of the Shinde government.

Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd.
(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001704)
(Civil Engineering Department)
Regd. Office: JUSNL (SLDC) Building,
Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-834002
e-mail: ceciviljusnl@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM
E- Tender notice published vide NIT No. 27/PR/JUSNL/2024-25 in various news paper may be amended and read as follows:-

Sl. No	Particulars	Existing	Amended
1.	Estimated Cost	Rs. 2,77,13,500.00 (Including GST).	Rs. 2,87,85,690.00 (Including GST)
2.	EMD Cost	Rs. 5,54,300.00 (Including GST).	Rs. 5,75,800.00 (Including GST)

Other terms and conditions remains same.
एकलित एवं एडवर्टिसमेंट में कर्जा बचाने / कृपया अपनी विकल्पों को 18003466570 (टोल फ्री नंबर) पर दर्ज करें।
PR No. 326144
PR 326771 Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd(24-25).D
Sd/-
General Manager, (Civil)

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (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://tender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

A) Fresh Tender Work:-

S. N.	Job No.	Name of work	Tender Amount (In Lacs)
1	53/DGM/ Sr. M. (E&M)-II/2023-24/ET	D/o Vill's Providing Street Light work in Vill's Ganhi Chaukhandi, Noida.	78.32
2	02/DGM(E&M)/S.M./E/M-III/2024-25	M/O Authority Building (AMC of different type of AC's installed in different offices in Main Administrative office sector-6 and Indra Kala Kendra), Noida	57.06
3	03/DGM(E&M)/S.M./E/M-III/2024-25	Annual Maintenance of Street light in sector-14, 15, 15A, 16, 16A, 17, 17A 18,99,100,107 and related main roads, MP-2 road No. 2 upto film city flyover, DSC road, Noida	78.23
4	04/DGM(E&M)/S.M./E/M-III/2024-25	Providing and Fixing of Triangular Water Fountain on Sashi Chow Round about, Noida	55.17
5	05/DGM(E&M)/S.M./E/M-III/2024-25	Strengthening of Street Light in Kanchan Junga Market & surrounding Main road of sector-53 & 61, Noida	83.52

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 02.07.2024 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/ downloaded on dated 03.07.2024 at 11.00 AM.
Dy. General Manager, (E&M), NOIDA
Sector-39, NOIDA
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

MURLIDHAR C BHANDARE

December 10, 1928 - June 15, 2024



Passed peacefully into the ages after an exemplary life in service. His zest for life was infectious and his interests were deep and varied.

In gratitude for his life
Manali, Rahul and Namita Bhandare
Shreya Singhal
Teesta and Ananya Bhandare
Jahan Tahiliani

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
FORENSIC SCIENCES DEPARTMENT
30-A, KAMARAJAR SALAI, MYLAPORE, CHENNAI - 600 004.

Tender No. D1/ 50837 / 2024

1) E-tender under two bid systems (Technical bid and Price bid) are invited from manufacturers / suppliers for the supply of the Instrument / Equipment upto 10 A.M. on 22.07.2024.
2) Towards the items floated in tender-technical, Commercial terms, **Earnest Money Deposit at a fixed rate** for Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometer (GC-MS) - Rs.8,00,000/-, Fourier Transform IR Spectrometer - Rs.3,00,000/-, UV-VIS Spectrophotometer - Rs.1,75,000/-, Densitometer / Alcohol Analyser - Rs.50,000/-, Catalogues, Pamphlets, Specifications and tender documents as **Technical bid** and price of the equipment as **Price bid**, duly filled, signed are to be uploaded.
Name of the Instrument / Equipment
Instrument / Equipment - Schedule XI
3) Tender documents can be downloaded 19.06.2024 onwards from the website www.intenders.gov.in
4) Tender will be opened on 22.07.2024 at 4.30 p.m. by the Directorate of Forensic Sciences Department.
DIPR/1973/Tender/2024
Director (FAC)

Maliwal writes to INDIA bloc leaders over alleged assault

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party leader Swati Maliwal on Tuesday wrote to leaders of the INDIA bloc parties, seeking time with them to discuss the alleged assault she was subjected to at Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence by his aide, Bibhav Kumar, and alleged she had been "subjected to victim-shaming by her own party". In the letter, she claimed that since the incident, instead of receiving support, she was confronted with "incessant attacks" on her character by AAP leaders and workers.

Timings
DELHI

WEDNESDAY, JUN. 19

RISE 05:24 SET 19:22
RISE 16:59 SET 02:49

THURSDAY, JUN. 20

RISE 05:24 SET 19:22
RISE 18:02 SET 03:29

FRIDAY, JUN. 21

RISE 05:25 SET 19:23
RISE 19:04 SET 04:16

Delhi Weather

	max	min
Delhi City	44	34
Safdarjang	44	34
Palam	44	35

Delhi Palam Today
44°C Heat wave to prevail. The weather will be very hot and uneasy with strong dust raising winds. Duststorm and thundershower will occur.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
43°C Fall in temperature. Morning will be warm. The day will be very hot and uneasy. Chances of dustorm & thunder storm with strong winds.

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TAMIL NADU CEMENTS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU UNDERTAKING)
5th Floor, Avin Ilam, No.3A, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Salai, Nandanam, Chennai-600 035.

E-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender Ref.No:11/2024-25. Appointment of Transport Contractors for movement of packed cement through open trucks from Anyalur Cement Works to various destination in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Kerala
Est. Value: Rs.42.33 Crores. EMD: Rs.50,000/-
Submission of tender: Up to 3.00 P.M. on 18.07.2024
Important Note:
A pre-bid meeting will be held on 01.07.2024 at 3.00 pm at TANCEM, Registered Office, 5th Floor, Avin Ilam, No.3A, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Salai, Nandanam, Chennai-600035.
The Tender document can be downloaded from <https://intenders.gov.in> Corrigendum / Addendum to this publication, if any would appear only on the above said website.
DIPR/1998/TENDER/2024
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3	01/DGM/SM (WC-5)/ 2024-2025	M/o Road (Raising of Boundary wall, Grit Wash, Painting, Jaal and C.C. Pavement in Mansarovar Apartment, Sector-61), Noida	41.06
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New dynamics

The G-7 must review its own purpose in a rapidly changing world

Welcoming leaders of 10 countries including Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the “G-7 Outreach” Summit, Italy’s Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said it was important to step away from the old trope of the “West vs the Rest”. That sentiment explained Italy’s decision to invite mainly the Global South countries including BRICS notables such as Brazil, India, and the UAE, to hold an outreach with seven African countries on energy issues, and to host the summit in the Mediterranean Apulia region. The G-7 was once hailed as a dynamic group of the world’s most developed democracies where heads of state would roll up their sleeves once a year to effect real solutions to global financial and development issues. However, with manufacturing slowdowns, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and western sanctions, the grouping has appeared more tired, and its meetings less effective. The shaky electoral fortunes of most of the G-7 leadership did not enhance that image at the summit. The joint communiqué read more like a laundry list of the world’s problems, than it did as a strong call to action on resolving them. Most salient was the G-7’s continued “military, budget, humanitarian, and reconstruction support” for Ukraine, but with no constructive plan on how to end the war. A Gaza ceasefire appeal has also not been accepted by Israel. The G-7’s focus on China in the Indo-Pacific and on “industrial targeting” and unfair practices was particularly sharp, but it remains to be seen whether any member-country will reduce its own considerable trade ties with Beijing. A line in the communiqué that recommitted to about eight infrastructure corridors, including the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor, reinforced the lack of focus on executing (as distinct from discussing) projects.

Given the G-7’s current situation, India, in attendance for the eleventh time, could well take stock of the engagement’s utility. While the event was an opportune moment for Mr. Modi, now in his third term, to meet with some of the world’s top leadership, the meetings themselves did not yield many outcomes. Formal bilaterals with the leaders of important partner the U.S., and fractious relationship-ridden Canada, did not materialise. Mr. Modi focused on India’s elections as a “victory for the democratic world”, on the importance of harnessing technology and artificial intelligence to bridge global inequalities, and on the value of the Global South, especially Africa. It would seem most of those issues would be better addressed in a larger and more representational format such as the G-20, while the G-7 may wish to review its own identity and purpose amidst a rapidly changing global power dynamic.

Drastic decline

Anodyne approach to oppositional politics has made BSP a shell of its past

In Indian democracy, if a ruling party does not perform according to the expectations of the electorate, the opposition always gets the opportunity to win back the support of the people, provided it works towards earning it. This is evident in the contrasting fortunes of the Samajwadi Party-Congress alliance and that of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), in Uttar Pradesh in the general election. The SP-Congress alliance took recourse to coherent messaging, targeting the Union government on issues related to protecting constitutional rights and freedoms and economic problems, while managing to stitch a new alliance that transcended the politics of narrow caste arithmetic reminiscent of the Mandal years. This helped it win 43 seats, boost its vote share and gain support from OBCs and Dalits. In contrast, the BSP’s vote share fell to 9.4% – a nearly four point drop from the 2022 Assembly elections – as even its loyal Jatav backers split their support between the three major political forces in the State. Other non-Jatav Dalits, OBC sections and the minorities (overwhelmingly in their case) endorsed the SP-Congress alliance.

The BSP, a party, which began as a movement led by Kanshi Ram, reached its apogee in the late 2000s after being part of a series of post-poll coalition governments before winning power on its own in a split polity in 2007. By this time, its ideology had also shifted from being a “bahujan” (a term connoting the subaltern) to that of a “sarvjan” party, a catch-all phrase for an alliance of contradictions in order to win a broad-based vote. In government, the BSP accorded dignity to the Dalit population in the State and engaged in a fervent politics of Dalit symbolism, but showed little gumption to address socio-economic issues through steps such as redistribution or enlightened governance. Out of power since 2012, the party has remained an anodyne force, with its leader Mayawati abjuring agitational politics and largely limiting her political messaging and activism to statements and press releases. Her party has retreated into a cocoon even as it has sought to be a spoiler in the parliamentary elections by promoting a political messaging that relied on a false equivalence of the BJP and the SP-Congress. After her defeat, Ms. Mayawati blamed EVMs, the weather and the lack of trust among Muslims, while still refusing to acknowledge her own lack of agency that has resulted in the BSP’s decline. To revive itself, the BSP can learn from the experiences of the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi or even the fledgling Aazad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) that have taken to ideological and agitational struggle to represent the interests of Dalits, allowing these parties to punch above their weight.

The boomerang effect in this general election, and how

The 2024 general election verdict has many takeaways. While some say that it has enlarged what was becoming a shrinking space for dissent and democracy, others say it has created hope for change in the future by reining in what would be called Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s virtual dictatorial run.

But these are only the visible effects. There is something deeply philosophical about this verdict. It is actually a civilisation-strikes-back occasion for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its ecosystem. The Hindutva project, that is spearheaded by Mr. Modi, has re-opened the old civilisational suspicion in the minds of the religious have-nots among Hindus. Far from creating a Hindu monolith, it has resulted in only counter-polarisation among Hindus themselves.

Clearly, Hindutva’s civilisational call to Hindus to unite against a perceived enemy, mainly Muslims and liberals, and to reclaim Bharat’s “glorious” past has proved counter productive. The 2024 verdict has proved that Hindutva politics has ended up polarising Hindus instead of uniting them.

The Constitution as turning point

This has been amply borne out by the subject of the Constitution gaining huge currency in the 2024 battle. The Constitution has been under attack from the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh ecosystem right from the time it was being formulated and debated. With Mr. Modi riding a wave of unprecedented popularity, the Hindutva ecosystem thought it had the numbers in Parliament and also sufficient moral authority to start talking about “changing the Constitution”.

It began by blaming the Opposition for orchestrating a “false” campaign against the BJP that it would change the Constitution to rob the backward castes and tribes of their affirmative action privileges guaranteed by the statute. But the Opposition was only picking up points from the several statements made by the BJP’s own leaders and poll nominees.

Mr. Modi also entered the election with a repeated and strident call for 400 seats for his party. A relevant question was why was this number needed if not for changing the Constitution?

When some questions began to be asked, Mr. Modi tried every trick to neutralise any perception over the issue of the Constitution. But the impression had percolated deep and the damage had been done.

The most encouraging takeaway from this battle between Hindutva’s civilisational have-nots and have-nots is that the Constitution – which embodied the essence of the civilisational course correction painstakingly championed by the leading lights of Independence struggle – itself proved to be the reason for this realisation about the real intent of Hindutva’s civilisational project.



Vivek Deshpande
freelance journalist based in Nagpur, was with The Indian Express

This was to resurrect the so-called great and glorious past of Hindu civilisation and to “decolonise” Hindu society’s collective mindset through a project that essentially relied on poisoning people’s minds with a pathological hatred for those who do not belong to Hindu civilisation.

The Constitution itself was necessitated by the deeply dehumanising inequalities inherent to Hindu civilisation. In fact, Constitutions all over the world were necessitated by similar concerns.

Right-wing intellectuals, however, very insidiously try to belittle the path-breaking contribution by the makers of modern India by arguing that the statute book has great values in it not because of any outside influence, but because those values have flowed in from the “great” Hindu value-system.

One of the most commonly cited examples of this argument is that secularism was always inherent to the Hindu way of thinking. And, as such, it found its expression in the constitutional scheme of things.

The Hindutva protagonists, however, in the same breath, also prove themselves wrong by indulging in a demonising of Muslims and other minorities.

This hatred for non-Hindus is not the only thing that contradicts their own claims of “justness” in Hindus’ ancient civilisational past. It is the affirmative action part of the Constitution that Hindutva revivalists often find tough to sit pretty with. So, while overtly supporting reservations, many Hindutva protagonists often openly denigrate it and also form the vanguard of “save merit” campaigns.

It also shows up when they start glorifying the *Manusmriti* and also try to introduce it in school and university curricula.

Clearly, their line of the Constitution being a reflection of past glory is subterfuge to cover up their ideological forefathers’ past sins of opposing the Constitution in Constituent Assembly debates as well as in articles in right-wing publications when the Constitution was in the making. But the cover-up has been exposed.

‘Political acumen’ that was overestimated

The Hindu have-nots have a clear sense now of the possibility of the BJP turning the Constitution on its head by altering it to suit the BJP’s idea of India that is anchored in some deeply problematic sociological premises. This realisation has had its singlemost profound impact in the 2024 elections – in a humiliating reversal for Mr. Modi’s mission. And, as it is there for all to see, the BJP has only itself to blame. The Opposition only found the weak spot and exploited it to stunning effect.

What Mr. Modi and the whole Hindutva ecosystem must understand is that their social engineering and Hindu consolidation efforts over the past many decades have been brought to a

The Constitution of India has struck back, rebuffing the ruling party and its misconceived campaign against ‘a perceived enemy’

The high cost of a global economic decoupling

The announcement by United States President Joe Biden, in May, to slap a fresh round of tariffs on a range of Chinese imports, has refuelled fears of a new phase of decoupling in the world economy. Siding with Washington, policymakers in Europe are also deliberating having a “united front” to counter China’s pursuit of coercive economic practices.

While this may define the trajectory of China-U.S. relations, it is not clear what the long-term costs are going to be. With China, the West’s trade risk calculations have increasingly become a function of national security. Contesting the liberal premise, the new political rhetoric in Washington assumes that since economic interdependence does not benefit China and the U.S. equally, it is likely that Beijing will weaponise vulnerabilities to its ends. In fact, the Biden administration’s decision to resume a tariff war with China, reveals how political, and not economic, considerations become key in deciding what goods would receive tariff increases.

The story in the tariffs

The latest tariff on Chinese electric vehicles (EV) is a case in point. Given that the U.S. imports few EVs from China, the decision reinforces Mr. Biden’s pro-union stance and his support for the ongoing efforts of the United Auto Workers (UAW) to scale up EV manufacturing domestically. Conceived as a pre-emptive measure, the quadrupling of tariffs from 25% also explains the fear that the American auto union has *vis-à-vis* the fast-growing Chinese car and battery industry and its ability to outcompete traditional domestic automakers in no time.

The new tariffs on medical devices, on the other hand, are a straightforward way to grow independent of China. For a decade now, China has been the primary source of medical equipment to the U.S., with imports nearing \$640 million in 2023.

Many American health-care businesses have



Priyanka Pandit
Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations and Governance Studies, School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS), Shiv Nadar University, Delhi-NCR

their manufacturing and research laboratories in China, and they have been ramping up their investments owing to China’s growing health-care needs for the elderly and demand for quality health-care services. However, the deepening mistrust between the leaders of China and the U.S. creates pressure on the private sector and is likely to increase the burden of health-care costs on domestic patients in both countries. What protectionist enthusiasts often forget is that the costs of protection are borne through higher prices paid by consumers.

The long-term effects

While continuity with the Trump-era tariffs seems to be the obvious answer to deal with an aggressive China, the world economic situation is at odds with the geopolitical realities. The vicious cycle of tit-for-tat tariffs further exacerbates the dangers arising out of protectionism, encouraging other countries to follow suit. Moreover, the new import restrictions on Chinese clean energy products would delay the green transition targets and the expansion of renewables worldwide. As China faces slowing growth and rising household debts, many western multinationals dependent on China’s vast consumer market will see a dip in their earnings.

For resource-rich countries such as Australia and Brazil, a slowing Chinese economy would not only hurt their exports in various commodities but also create downward pressures on iron-ore prices. For these economies that are heavily dependent on China for their exports, diversifying into other markets is never an easy task.

Similarly, the European Union’s approach to de-risking trade in critical raw minerals with China may entail a greater risk of Beijing tightening its iron grip on the supply chain. As the scramble to control the value chain of rare earths intensifies, one cannot rule out the possibility of a mineral-rich grouping, led by China, trying to dictate the terms of green trade

naught by themselves alone. They tried to stand on two stools – an anti-minority plank and Constitution misdeemeanour – and only ended up falling between the two. They tried to unite caste Hindus (upper castes were always organically on board) against Muslims and also antagonised caste Hindus, who were their foot soldiers in the anti-Muslim project, with their anti-Constitution bravado. In the process, they paid a heavy price.

There are several examples that underline this boomerang effect in this election. But nothing illustrates the issue in this way than the BJP’s own defeat in Ayodhya in this election. The fact that the Opposition candidate, a Dalit candidate fielded by the Samajwadi Party, won shows that the people were not receptive to the Ram temple as something with which to cover themselves in glory, and that social justice was the real public concern. It also exposed the overestimated political acumen as well as the vulnerabilities of the BJP’s self-styled Chanakyas.

So, where does the Hindutva project, in decline, go from here? Will this suspicion in the minds of the Hindu have-nots remain etched or will it wither away with time?

Going a bit deeper into the subaltern side of this election, it looks that the advantage of the BJP’s *labharthi* (beneficiary schemes) was mostly cancelled out by the *Samvidhan* (Constitution) buzz since the *labharthi* section is largely the same as those disturbed by the BJP’s *Samvidhan* plan. With this, the BJP’s best bet becomes ineffective.

The Opposition must rediscover its voice

With Mr. Modi now having to run a coalition government, the Constitution debate might remain latent, unless the Opposition keeps it burning.

And burn it must, because a vast majority of Hindus have been fooled into believing that their real battle is with Muslims and not with the Hindutva haves, when actually, if at all, it is the other way round.

The makers of the Constitution had such deep divisions within India, and Hindu society in particular, in mind when the Constitution was being drafted. The non-BJP regimes managed to keep the Constitution’s basic structure intact, keeping not only Hindus and non-Hindus together but also a deeply divided Hindu society as one whole.

Now, the Constitution has struck back, giving the BJP a civilisation rebuff.

The Opposition has its task cut out. It must keep this fight of social justice alive and prevent the misuse of Hindu have-nots to achieve Hindutva’s communal goals.

The Hindu have-nots must cease to be a part of the right-wing’s project as they have their own battles to wage and win against those who have misled them into believing that their real battle lies outside the Hindu fold.

in the years to come.

Southeast Asia has also not been immune to the effects of protectionism and great power competition. While the region is said to benefit from production and investment shifting from China, the dependence on Beijing for technology and investment continues to run high. And the region’s prospects of replacing China as the major supplier of components and manufactured goods could dim if Washington imposes stricter rules of origin and eschew access to goods from third countries that use components either made in China or by Chinese firms located in these countries.

With a burgeoning consumer market, India remains next in line in expecting to benefit from the decoupling dynamics. But, one is not sure of the extent of gains in terms of global market share and the time this transition would take. The reason is that India’s manufacturing continues to be in a catching-up phase despite several initiatives by the government. New Delhi faces tough competition in low-end manufacturing from its South and South-East Asian neighbours, and its deep economic entanglements with China remain.

A potential crisis

One, therefore, sees no end in sight if this cycle of escalation continues. More than its real significance, global investors would deeply feel the psychological effects of decoupling. What makes this strategy worse is its deliberate distancing from the World Trade Organization (WTO). Once a flag bearer of WTO rules, Washington continues to block the appointment of judges to the WTO Appellate Body, rendering the adjudicatory process paralysed. While a direct collision between the two is unlikely, the intensifying geopolitical rivalry along with the fragmentation of the global economy puts the future of the liberal international order at a high risk. And, it would benefit neither the U.S., China or the rest of the world.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rail accident

The train accident in West Bengal’s Darjeeling district (Page 1, June 18) has highlighted the perilous state of rail safety in India. The hasty imputation, without proper inquiry, that the accident is due to human failure, is premature and inconsistent with the

rules. The Railways must wean itself away from ‘vanity projects’ and focus on rail safety. Restoring the exclusive Railway Budget is also an imperative need.

N. Sadasivan Pillai,
Guntakal, Andhra Pradesh

The Congress’s next move
Congress leader Priyanka

Gandhi Vadra did emerge as a star campaigner in the general election, but it is too early to perceive what extent her impact as a lawmaker will be, if it materialises. Wayanad, in all likelihood, will give Ms. Gandhi a thumbs up, but her litmus test will be the State Assembly elections.

How far she will succeed in countering challenges posed by the formidable saffron party, swinging votes in her party’s favour, remains to be seen.

V. Johan Dhanakumar,
Chennai

The Congress has rolled its last dice as the Congress’s

‘Brahmastra’ will be on test in the political battlefield. Parliament and its business are a different game altogether. It remains to be seen how the Gandhi siblings steer and rebuild the party, by encouraging new talent.

S. Venkataraman,
Bengaluru

Testing time

When aspirants have to undergo much stress during their appearance for NEET, those who facilitated paper leaks and committed other offences need to face severe punishment. Hard-working students deserve better.

A.P. Thiruvadi,
Chennai

Time for a Census, come what may

Why has the 2021 Census been delayed for so long? Here is one plausible answer: the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is delaying the Census because it wants to fast-track the “delimitation” exercise in anticipation of the 2029 Lok Sabha elections.

If this sounds absurd, think again. The 84th amendment of the Constitution clearly states that the next delimitation exercise is to be based on the first census after 2026. If the next census happens, say, in 2024 or 2025, then delimitation will have to wait until after the following census, i.e. sometime in the 2030s. So, if the BJP wants delimitation before the 2029 elections, then it must continue to drag its feet on the census until 2026 or even 2027 (since a 2026 census may not qualify as “after 2026”).



Jean Drèze

Visiting Professor at the Department of Economics, Ranchi University

purposes, including the implementation of welfare schemes. To illustrate, the number of people benefiting from subsidised food rations would increase by more than 100 million if updated census figures were available to revise the coverage of the National Food Security Act. Postponing the Census deprives many people of essential entitlements. The Opposition could feed two birds with one crumb by insisting on an early census and deferred delimitation. The issue could also be taken to the Supreme Court: setting the date of the Census is the Central government’s privilege under the law but postponing the 2021 Census by more than five years can be construed as an abuse of privilege and infringement of people’s fundamental rights.

However, there is a catch, or so it may seem. This catch is related to women’s reservation. The 106th amendment of the Constitution, passed last September, provides for one-third reservation of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. Under Section 5, this is due to come into effect “after an exercise of delimitation is undertaken for this purpose after the relevant figures for the first census taken after [2023] have been published” (emphasis added). So far, this has been interpreted to mean that women’s reservation would begin after the larger delimitation exercise required by the 84th amendment. In that case, an early census would postpone women’s reservation, by

postponing delimitation. However, the words “for this purpose” in Section 5 can also be read to mean that women’s reservation could proceed on the basis of its own delimitation exercise (involving nothing more than the designation of “women only” constituencies) ahead of the larger delimitation exercise. Therefore, nothing prevents the Opposition from arguing for (1) an early Census, (2) women’s reservation from then onwards under the 106th amendment, and (3) delimitation later on (sometime in the 2030s) under the 84th amendment.

How much is the BJP likely to gain from delimitation? Before June 4, 2024, it seemed like it had a lot to gain because it had overwhelming support in the northern States and very little in the south. Today, that picture has changed, as the BJP lost ground in the north but gained some in the south. Nevertheless, the BJP still has a strong stake in delimitation. Consider this exercise. If the seat shares of political parties within States were to be kept constant even as the 543 Lok Sabha seats were redistributed across States in proportion to their current population, how would this affect the overall seat shares of the NDA and INDIA coalitions today? The answer is that the NDA’s seat share would rise by about 3 percentage points, from 54% (294 seats out of 543) to 57%, while INDIA’s share would drop by 2 percentage points or so. In absolute terms, this means that the NDA would have about 309 seats instead of 294 – an extra 15 seats. This is a big deal. The reverse side of the coin, however, is that delimitation might lead to a backlash against the BJP in the south. The BJP may or may not decide to cross that creaky bridge before 2029.

The fact remains that postponing the Census is hard to justify. Aside from obstructing women’s reservation, it deprives millions of people of essential entitlements. They should not be held hostage to any party’s electoral stratagems.

Paradoxically, the Modi government can fast-track delimitation by delaying the population census. The Opposition should resist this tooth and nail



K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Delimitation refers to periodic attempts to ensure that the shares of different States in Lok Sabha seats are similar to their respective population shares, and also that all constituencies have the same population size as far as possible, as required under Article 81 of the Constitution. As is well known, the forthcoming delimitation exercise is likely to shift the balance of Lok Sabha seats in favour of States that have experienced relatively fast population growth since 1973, when the last inter-State delimitation was carried out (based on the 1971 Census). This means, in particular, that the seat shares of the northern States will grow at the expense of the southern States. Naturally, this is a can of worms. Some of the southern States may rebel. If the BJP is able to get away with this, however, its electoral prospects will improve, since it has a much stronger base in the north than in the south.

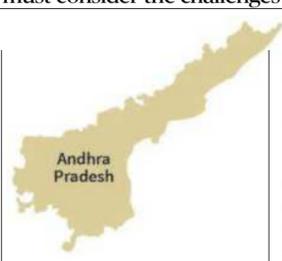
The Opposition could try to thwart this plot by insisting on the timely completion of the Census, before 2026. There is certainly an objective argument for it. Census data are essential for many

Welfare, voters, and mobilisation

Andhra’s political parties must consider the challenges of a populist model too

STATE OF PLAY

Vignesh Karthik K.R.
Chandra Sekhar Vadigalla



The outgoing Chief Minister, Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy, in his poignant address after the rout of his party, The Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP), in State Assembly and general elections said; “...and yet, after all these incredible transformations, after touching the lives of millions, I wonder where has that affection gone, where did the warmth vanish...” The YSRCP government put in place a strategic new welfare-based governance model, leveraging short-term welfare measures to lay the groundwork for more extensive, infrastructure-focussed and capital-intensive endeavours. These welfare programmes, particularly aimed at women voters, were significant for their precision in reaching intended beneficiaries, and for their chequered impact on political parties and their workers in Andhra.

Women, particularly in the below-middle-class sections, are a crucial demographic in Andhra politics. Our fieldwork in four districts indicates that the welfare initiatives of the YSRCP substantially contributed to attracting women voters. The ‘YSR Cheyutha’ scheme offers direct financial aid, while ‘Amma Vodi’ provides crucial support for education. A door-to-door volunteer system was introduced which streamlined access to these benefits, especially for uneducated rural women.

Focusing on the immediate needs of women allowed the YSRCP to create a stable support base, leaving room for the party to pursue long-term

initiatives. Andhra Pradesh under Jal Jeevan mission for reliable clean water supply installed water meters in over two-thirds of households. The ‘Nadu-Nedu’ scheme upgraded school infrastructure and introduced English medium education.

Historically, political communication has promoted welfare and development but as distinct categories. Yet, voters do not delink long-term and short-term goals. This is something the YSRCP seemed to have understood, boosting its potential for electoral victories. Besides, the volunteer network eliminated the need to rely on elite support for benefit distribution. This was practically achieved by direct benefit transfers, which can mute the influence of rural caste elites on redistributive schemes. That said, the caste elites still hold sway over society in Andhra.

Streamlined delivery, reduced bureaucracy, and minimised leakages build voter trust and limit local cadres’ control over resources. This shift in power dynamics has weakened local leaders’ ability to mobilise support and cultivate cadres. The cadres, deeply invested in the party’s ideology or leadership charisma, are crucial for voter mobilisation. The YSRCP’s success largely depends on its charismatic leader. However, this charisma is not easily transferable, necessitating direct interaction with the lead-

er. Marginalising cadres and limiting their access to leadership has undermined their motivation and hurt the YSRCP’s electoral prospects.

While volunteers are capable of delivering schemes, their lack of ideological connection with voters makes it easier for similar parties to attract support. Volunteers’ effectiveness in scheme delivery has not translated into electoral success for YSRCP because welfare and economic empowerment alone do not bind voters to a party. Without an ideological core, voters can be swayed by any party offering similar benefits and accessibility.

Conversely, the Telugu Desam Party’s traditional approach, involving numerous localised rallies and a comparable basket of welfare schemes, has proven more effective. Their strategy of smaller, frequent rallies contrasts with Mr. Reddy’s preference for large public gatherings. This method has allowed the TDP to maintain a stronger grassroots connection and mobilise voters more effectively.

Through its welfare model, the YSRCP established a powerful populist leader and built a loyal voter base but also undermined internal party dynamics, raising doubts about its long-term viability. The absence of a robust ideological framework begs the question: can a party reliant solely on populism endure periods out of power? This is a critical consideration for parties on a similar path.

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The vagaries of equidistance in a polarised polity

Parties that endorsed the BJP’s signature ideological policies despite taking on them electorally, suffered in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections

DATA POINT

Srinivasan Ramani
Swetha Kumar

Regional parties have been a significant presence in Indian polity for over three decades now. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, they could be classified into three types – one, parties that allied with the Bharatiya Janata Party in the National Democratic Alliance; two, parties that were part of the INDIA bloc and a distinctive third category. This category includes parties that were technically not part of the NDA, and had, in the recent past, endorsed controversial legislations introduced by the BJP or adopted ideological positions closer to that of the BJP.

The first category includes parties such as the Shiv Sena (led by Eknath Shinde), Janata Dal (United), Telugu Desam Party, Janata Dal (Secular), Lok Janshakti Party, Asom Gana Parishad and Nationalist Congress Party.

The second category includes Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, the Samajwadi Party, the Shiv Sena (UBT), Nationalist Congress Party (SP), the Left parties, Rashtriya Janata Dal and Aam Aadmi Party. The Trinamool Congress supported the alliance after the polls.

The third category includes the Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party, Biju Janata Dal, the AIADMK, the Bahujan Samaj Party, the Bharat Rashtira Samiti and the Shiromani Akali Dal.

In 2024, the fortunes of the parties in the first two categories were tied to the fate of their respective alliances – they did well where the dominant party of the alliance performed well. But the parties in the third category did rather poorly.

Table 1 looks at three legislations by BJP that were in line with their ideological positions on “asymmetric federalism in India” – dilution of Article 370, Farmers Bill and Citizenship Amendment

Act. **Table 1** lists where select parties positioned themselves on these legislations. Note how YSRCP, BJD, BRS, AIADMK, AAP and BSP supported BJP on one or more of these legislations, despite technically contesting against the BJP in their respective States and ideologically being opposed to it.

Table 2 looks at the performance of YSRCP, BJD, AIADMK, BRS, BSP and AAP (not in the third category but endorsed the dilution of Article 370). These parties suffered a significant loss. The AAP had later taken antagonistic positions to the BJP but had also, like some State units of the Congress such in Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, resorted to “soft Hindutva” as a counter to the BJP’s emphasis on Hindutva as an ideological distinguishing mark. The Congress also suffered some of its heaviest defeats in these two States.

In T.N., the AIADMK lost much support after its alliance with BJP and could not recover it even after ending the alliance as the DMK-led coalition had a stronger cementing factor in its ideological outlook towards BJP. The YSRCP’s endorsement of the BJP’s ideologically motivated legislations robbed it of any distinguishing factor and especially the support of minorities, many of whom – according to the Lokniti post-poll survey – voted for the rival TDP and the Jana Sena Party despite their alliance with the BJP.

The BJD’s “friends at the Centre/ rivals in the State” approach only allowed the BJP to grow at its expense, a fate that was endured by the BRS, whose later turn towards being equidistant from Congress and the BJP did not help either. The BSP also adopted the same ploy of “equidistance” and limited its critique of the BJP, abjuring any agitational opposition. It, too, suffered a significant erosion of support, with many voters endorsing the SP-Congress coalition in U.P. These parties also lost out on votes from those who wanted to support one of the national alliances.

Neither here, nor there

The data for the tables are sourced from the Election Commission of India

Table 1: The table lists where select parties positioned themselves on the three controversial legislations

Citizenship Amendment Bill		Farmers Bill		Article 370 Bill	
Supported	Did not support	Supported	Did not support	Supported	Did not support
BJP, AIADMK, Akali Dal, Shiv Sena, JDU, YSRCP, BJD	AITC, SP, Congress, CPI(M), DMK, RJD, BSP, AAP, NCP	JD(U), YSRCP, BJD*, BJP, AIADMK	Congress, AITC, TRS, SP, DMK, RJD, AAP, BSP	BSP, YSRCP, TDP, BRS, BJD, JD(U), Shiv Sena, AIADMK, AAP, BJP	AITC, SP, Congress

Table 2: The table looks at the performance of YSRCP, BJD, AIADMK, BSP and AAP. In the tables, the State parties’ vote share and the BJP’s vote share is mentioned. The State parties’ contested vote share (cont.) and the BJP’s contested vote share is also listed

In Odisha		In Tamil Nadu		In Uttar Pradesh	
Year	Type	BJD vote %	BJD cont. vote %	BJP vote %	BJP cont. vote %
2009	LS	37.2	43.7	16.9	16.9
2014	LS	44.8	44.8	21.9	21.9
2019	LS	43.3	43.3	38.4	38.9
2024	LS	37.5	37.5	45.3	45.4
2009	AE	38.9	44.2	15.1	15.3
2014	AE	43.4	43.4	18.0	18.0
2019	AE	44.7	44.7	32.5	32.5
2024	AE	40.2	40.2	40.1	40.1
2006	AE	32.6	40.8	2.0	2.1
2011	AE	38.4	54.1	2.2	2.6
2016	AE	40.8	41.1	2.8	3.6
2021	AE	33.3	40.5	2.6	34.3
2002	AE	23.1	23.2	20.1	25.3
2007	AE	30.4	30.4	17.0	19.6
2012	AE	25.9	26.0	15.0	15.2
2017	AE	22.2	22.2	39.7	41.6
2022	AE	12.9	12.9	41.3	44.2

SWETHA KUMAR IS INTERNING WITH THE HINDU DATA TEAM



In Andhra Pradesh		In Delhi		In Punjab	
Year	Type	YSRCP vote %	YSRCP cont. vote %	AAP vote %	AAP cont. vote %
2019	LS	49.9	49.9	1.0	1.0
2024	LS	39.6	39.5	11.3	49.1
2019	AE	50.0	50.0	0.8	0.9
2024	AE	39.4	39.4	2.8	50.0
2014	LS	33.1	33.1	46.4	46.6
2019	LS	18.2	18.2	56.8	56.9
2024	LS	24.2	43.8	54.4	54.4
2013	AE	29.5	29.7	33.1	34.1
2015	AE	54.3	54.6	32.1	32.8
2020	AE	53.6	53.6	38.5	40.6
2014	LS	24.5	24.5	8.7	40.3
2019	LS	7.5	7.5	9.6	45.3
2024	LS	26.0	26.0	18.6	18.6
2017	AE	23.7	24.6	5.4	30.0
2022	AE	42.0	42.0	6.6	10.6

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 19, 1974

Govt. goal to root out smallpox in fifth plan period

SRINAGAR, June 18. The Union Health Minister, Mr. Karan Singh, on June 17 directed health authorities at the Centre and in the States to see that smallpox is eradicated during the Fifth Plan period.

He set this deadline in his inaugural address to the northern zonal administrative medical officers’ conference here.

He said he was not impressed by the officials’ explanation that the increase in the incidence of smallpox was due to improved arrangements for counting and recording of cases.

Increase in malaria incidence

Mr. Karan Singh noted that the incidence of malaria, which came down from 75 millions in the pre-independence period to about 150,000 a decade ago, had since gone up to about 1.5 millions. This “disturbing trend” was primarily due to the fact that mosquitoes had developed resistance to the spray used in the malaria eradication programme. Another reason was the complacency that had developed in the States and at the Centre too. He wanted malaria eradication to be given the highest priority.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 19, 1924

Indian students at Oxford.

LANGUAGE QUALIFICATION.

(Special Cable—Copy right.)

LONDON, June 18. The crowded Congregation of the Oxford University rejected by 60 votes to 33 the statute under which previous study of either Latin, Greek, French or German would no longer be a necessary qualification for the status of Indian junior student.

The Principal of Hertford in introducing the statute stated it would remove the anomaly and abolish what was regarded as a grievance. He said that foreigners from Europe had to meet the same condition, but one of the languages offered was their vernacular. Incidentally none of the five oriental classical languages was vernacular for oriental students and they were therefore placed at a disadvantage. The Rector of Exeter said that the choice lay between having at Oxford a large number of ill-equipped Indian students and a small number of well-equipped Indian students who could benefit from the advanced work of the University.

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Indian professionals facing learning barriers: LinkedIn

91 In per cent. A new research by LinkedIn suggests work and family pressure pose as learning barriers for Indian professionals. Many are adopting 'Loud Learning' to overcome these barriers. PTI

The number of States to fill legislative council vacancies

4 Bypolls will be held on July 12 in Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Andhra Pradesh, to fill five vacancies. Elections to three of the five seats were necessitated due to the resignation of members. PTI

Passengers who arrived at Sealdah by Kanchanjunga Express

850 Scheduled to reach Sealdah at 7:20 PM on Monday, the unaffected coaches began their journey from the accident site. The train had collided with a goods train, resulting in 10 deaths. PTI

The light combat helicopters to be procured by Ministry

156 The Defence Ministry has started the process to procure light combat helicopters from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL). A request for initial tender has been issued by the Ministry. PTI

The number of safety category posts that are vacant in Railways

1.52 in lakh. Out of the around 10 lakh sanctioned posts under the safety category in the Indian Railways, more than 1.5 lakh were vacant. PTI
COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Does H5N1 pose a threat for humans?

Can the highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 strain spread from cattle to humans? What is the strategy to identify and contain the spread of the virus? What is the concept of 'One Health' and how is Kerala using it to limit the spread of avian influenza?

EXPLAINER

C. Maya

The story so far:

The highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 strain has been affecting cattle across several States in the U.S., and for the first time, three cases of human infection in dairy farm workers were also reported, raising fears of the risks of a wider transmission of this virus from cattle to humans. The districts of Alappuzha, Kottayam and Pathanamthitta in Kerala, where water bodies, migratory birds, fowls and integrated farms form part of the ecosystem, have reported H5N1 outbreaks in 19 places since April. However, the death of crows in large numbers in Alappuzha, and subsequent confirmation of the H5N1 virus in their carcasses have given rise to concerns that the virus could spread far and wide.

How dangerous is it?

Ever since it emerged in 1996, H5N1 has resulted in the mass killing of billions of wild birds as well as fowls. The virus's jump to some 26 mammalian species, especially cattle and the now emerging proof that it can infect humans, has heightened the threat perception that H5N1 could lead to the next global pandemic. Of particular concern are the facts that herd-to-herd transmission of H5N1 is now taking place in the U.S., involving some 12 States and that the virus has been detected in raw milk and in milking machines. According to scientists, the virus lacks changes that would make it better adapted to transmit between people and therefore, the risk to human health remains low. However, the potential for influenza viruses to rapidly evolve and the wide geographic spread of H5N1 signals that more human infections should be expected.

What is the level of risk to humans?

The virus seems to spread from



All risk evaded: Ducks being killed by the Animal Husbandry Department, in Alappuzha, on April 19. PTI

birds/animals to humans who may be closely interacting with these, without adequate personal protection.

According to the WHO, between 2003 and April 1, 2024, close to 900 human infections of H5N1 have been reported from 23 countries, of which, more than half were fatal. Even though the risk of human infections from H5N1 is still perceived to be low, this can change rapidly as the virus spreads to more animals, especially cows or domestic mice, which have closer contact with humans. In districts like Alappuzha where water fowls, chicken, dairy cows and humans share the same environment, the opportunities for human infections should be perceived as high.

What are the symptoms of H5N1?

The common symptoms of H5N1 are similar to those of influenza-A illnesses,

including respiratory difficulties, fever, cough, sore throat and pneumonia, all of which can potentially worsen, especially in those who are immunocompromised or have underlying conditions. In the U.S., conjunctivitis or pink eye was the only symptom that was reported in one of the farm workers who was infected.

In April itself, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) had sent out a health advisory that clinicians should consider the possibility of H5N1 infection in persons who report with respiratory illness or conjunctivitis, if they have had exposure to livestock or dead birds. Early detection and containment of the infection is important to prevent the extensive spread of the virus.

As of now, in Kerala, as only the poultry has been found affected in all outbreaks, the strategy adopted for containment is the mass culling of birds

within a certain radius of the reported infection. However, the incident of the mass death of crows has now changed the equation, as it is possible that the infection may have been taken by the crows beyond the current surveillance zone. Continuous surveillance by testing environmental samples – water, faecal matter of birds – as well as Influenza-like illness human samples would be necessary in designated surveillance zones. People who have livestock and birds at home are being advised to wear masks, and the antiviral Tamiflu is being prescribed as prophylaxis to people wherever H5N1 positive cases are found.

What are the necessary precautions?

People should avoid unprotected exposure to infected birds or animals or their contaminated environments. If at all one has been exposed to a possible H5N1-contaminated environment, they should monitor themselves for new respiratory illness symptoms, including conjunctivitis for 10 days and seek proper medical advice. It would be better to ensure that people use only pasteurised milk and poultry meat and eggs should be well-cooked to prevent any possible food-borne transmission of H5N1.

In a recent editorial, *The Lancet*, spoke about the need for a robust and coordinated response to H5N1. It pointed out that the concept of 'One Health', although often acknowledged, is rarely prioritised and operationalised.

Kerala, however, has taken 'One Health' beyond the conceptual framework and the project is currently being implemented as part of the World Bank-aided 'Rebuild Kerala' project in four districts – Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, and Idukki. It has established a community-based disease surveillance network, with 2.5 lakh volunteers trained in the 'One Health' concept in these districts, who will report any unusual events or death of animals/birds in a locality so that early warning and early preventive or control measures can be taken.

THE GIST

The districts of Alappuzha, Kottayam and Pathanamthitta in Kerala, where water bodies, migratory birds, fowls and integrated farms form part of the ecosystem, have reported H5N1 outbreaks in 19 places since April.

The virus seems to spread from birds/animals to humans who may be closely interacting with these, without adequate personal protection.

In a recent editorial, *The Lancet*, spoke about the need for a robust and coordinated response to H5N1. It pointed out that the concept of 'One Health', although often acknowledged, is rarely prioritised and operationalised.

How can Himachal Pradesh fight against forest fires?

What does the State need to do in order to democratise forest management and curtail raging forest fires?

Tikender Singh Panwar

The story so far:

Himachal Pradesh (H.P.) is witnessing widespread forest fires across the region. According to the Himachal Pradesh Forest department, there have been a total of 1,684 forest fires since April 15. These fires have damaged a total of 17,471 hectares of forest land, resulting in significant loss to wildlife. From 2001 to 2023, H.P. has lost 957 hectares of tree cover from fires and 4.37 thousand hectares from all other drivers of loss.

How do forest fires start in the State?

Fires in the Himalayas occur during the pre-monsoon summer period of moisture stress, due to the resultant depletion of snowmelt water. The moisture conditions of the pre-monsoon season, characterised by rainstorms, play a critical role in determining the nature of forest fires. The less moisture there is, the greater the impact of the fires. Human activities such

as unattended campfires, discarded cigarettes etc., are also some of the common causes for forest fires.

These fires are also a major source of pollutants, including black carbon, which significantly contribute to glacier melt in the Himalayas and negatively influences the regional climate. The primary causes of these forest fires are faulty forestry practices, and treating forests from a utilitarian perspective, excluding people's participation.

Have the Himalayan forests undergone a transformation?

The Himalayan forests have been systematically transformed over the last two centuries. A crucial watershed moment in Indian forestry began with the construction of railways in the 1850s. Lord Dalhousie's understanding about railway construction was that the railways were to be constructed not just to market British goods but also to serve as an outlet for British capital seeking profitable avenues. Unfortunately, the profitability

of Himalayan forests continue to be a driving force. From 1853 to 1910, the construction of around 80,000 kms of railway track led to an assault on forests and the extinction of the customary rights of the people. Between 1869 and 1885, 6.5 million sleepers were made of Deodar, and the area for Chir pines was expanded for timber and resin. Total trees from which resin was tapped between 1910 and 1920 increased from 2,60,000 to 21,35,000. Resin was used for commercial and industrial applications, and its extraction continues to be a major source of production from pine forests. Verrier Elwin, an Oxford scholar and renegade priest, wrote in the early 20th century that State-managed forestry led to the gradual replacement of the Banj oak, a source of fuel, fodder, and leaf manure, with the Chir pine, which was more valued commercially as a source of timber and resin. Ecologically, Banj forests absorb a high content of rainwater, leading to better moisture retention and water springs in the mountains.

Currently, more than 17.8% of the total 37,033 square kilometers of forest area is covered with Chir pine trees in H.P. Chir forests are very vulnerable to forest fires.

What needs to be done?

Democratisation of forests is essential to ensure that people and communities who have lived in and around forests are made part of the forest management process. The rights of the local community have been periodically curtailed, and as a result, when forest fires start, first responders are nowhere to be found.

The traditional forest rights of Himalayan dwellers included the right to extract wood for fuel, timber, fodder, and other activities. H.P. is under Schedule V of the Indian Constitution, which requires community assent for development activities in the region. However, for large projects like hydro power generation, road widening, and four-lane highways, forests are being diverted with ease.

What the Himalayan States now need is to build mixed forestry and remove pine trees; ensure that both scientific and community knowledge converge and forest management is conducted in a participatory manner; implement check dams and other methods to revive water springs; create environmental services at the village level; and articulate their case with the ongoing 16th Finance Commission, seeking help apart from disaster mitigation funds.

Author is former Deputy Mayor, Shimla, and Member, Kerala Urban Commission.

THE GIST

According to the Himachal Pradesh Forest department, there have been a total of 1,684 forest fires in the State since April 15.

Democratisation of forests is essential to ensure that people and communities who have lived in and around forests are made part of the forest management process.

The traditional forest rights of Himalayan dwellers included the right to extract wood for fuel, timber, fodder, and other activities.

BIBLIOGRAPHY



S. SUDARSHAN



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

“Novel, fiction (S. Keshav, Tiptur).”
“A novel is a “long written story about people and events that have been invented by the author.” It is usually written in prose. Most novels have a story, a set of characters, action and dialogue.
Salman Rushdie’s *Midnight’s Children* is a best selling novel.

I have not read any novels recently.
“Fiction” is a much more general term than novel. In fact, all kinds of imaginative prose writing can be included under ‘fiction’ – the story, play, narrative and the novel. So the word ‘fiction’ is a cover term for all forms of story-telling. For example, the 1980s were great years for fiction; a lot of good novels were written during this period.

I do not care much for poetry, but I do read a lot of fiction.
Agatha Christie was a writer of crime fiction. Have you read any of her novels?

Now-a-days, not many people maintain the distinction between ‘novel’ and ‘fiction.’ This is probably because the novel has become the most dominant form of fiction. As a result, the two words have almost become synonymous.”
“Scurrilous (S. Dhandapani).”

“The word means ‘grossly or obscenely abusive.’ If a person is accused of being scurrilous, then he/she makes use of every trick in the trade to ruin another person’s reputation. He/she may resort to outright lying, unfair criticism and even to the use of filthy language. For example, Vijay’s book is full of scurrilous gossip.
Sharma makes scurrilous remarks.

A scurrilous attack is often accompanied by a lot of crude buffoonery. This should not come as a surprise because ‘scurra’ in Latin means ‘buffoon.’ The first syllable ‘scu’ is pronounced like the letters ‘sku’ in the word ‘skull.’ The second syllable ‘rri’ sounds like ‘re’ in the word ‘reply.’ The final ‘lous’ is pronounced in the same manner as the ‘lous’ in ‘marvellous.’ The stress is on the first syllable of the word.”
“Portmanteau (Kilpatrick Jones).”

“It is an ‘invented word that combines parts of two words and their meanings.’ The word ‘brunch’ for example is a portmanteau word, it combines parts of two words, namely ‘breakfast’ and ‘lunch.’ The br of ‘breakfast’ is combined with the unch of ‘lunch’; and we have a new word ‘brunch,’ which means “a meal that is eaten in the middle of the morning.” The word ‘smog’ is another example of a portmanteau word. The words ‘smoke’ and ‘fog’ are combined to give this word. A ‘smog’ is a mixture of smoke and fog and is usually found in highly industrialised areas. ‘Motel’ (motor and hotel), ‘tiger’ (tiger and lion), ‘gerrymander’ (Gerry and Salamander) are other examples of portmanteau words. Such words are often called ‘blend’ words because they combine, blend parts of two words to produce a new word. A man who excelled in the art of inventing such words was the mathematician Charles Dodgson, better known as Lewis Carroll, the author of *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*. He coined words like ‘chortle’ (combination of chuckle and snort), ‘mimsy’ (miserable and flimsy) and ‘stithy’ (slimy and lithe).”
Published in *The Hindu* on June 2, 1992.

How the Maratha, Kunbi identities have changed over the course of history

The crystallisation of the term ‘Maratha’ probably occurred between 1400 and 1600 C.E. to describe a newly emerging service elite – the chiefs who brought bands of followers to serve the Bahamani kingdom and its five successor states

Shoumojit Banerjee

Since September last year, an agitation for Maratha reservation spearheaded by an emaciated, wraith-like 41-year-old activist Manoj Jarange-Patil spread like bushfire in Maharashtra’s arid Marathwada region and has been the cause of deep socio-political rumblings in the State. While the demand for a quota in jobs and education for the economically backward Maratha community members has been ongoing since the 1980s, a series of dramatic hunger strikes by Jarange-Patil (the fourth one was withdrawn last week) over the past 10 months has forcefully foregrounded the issue, vexing the ruling Eknath Shinde-led Mahayuti government.

The Maratha quota agitation has cost the Mahayuti candidates dearly on several parliamentary seats in the Marathwada region, the wellspring of the movement.

Among Jarange-Patil’s demands is that Marathas be given reservation under the Kumbi category classed as Other Backward Classes (OBCs), a demand which has predictably aggravated social tensions in the State and especially Marathwada. As a counterpoise, OBC politicians and writers have opposed Marathas eating their share of the reservation pie, arguing that the community is already the politically dominant one in the State and that more than 60% of Maharashtra’s Chief Ministers – from Y.B. Chavan to Sharad Pawar to Eknath Shinde – have all been Marathas and that nearly 70% of Maharashtra’s 288 legislators belonged to the community.

At a deeper level, this ongoing conflict has prompted introspection of the complex identities of ‘Maratha’ and ‘Kunbi’, and their fascinating and politically fraught histories.

On identity formation

Any attempt to understand the meanings of these two charged terms must begin with a study of English civil servant R. E. Enthoven’s magisterial three-volume *Tribes and Castes of Bombay* (1922) – a mammoth and enduring classic which is a landmark in Indian anthropology. “There is probably no difference in origin between the landholding and warrior

section, the Marathas proper, and cultivators, the Maratha kunbis,” said Enthoven, noting the fluidity of the terms.

One of the most scrupulous and closest observers of western Indian society, Enthoven noted that the rise of the Maratha power under the warrior chieftain Shivaji Bhosale in the 17th century had induced the fighting classes and landholders to claim for themselves the Kshatriya rank, which was why they considered themselves superior to Kunbis, who tilled the land.

While observing that Kunbi denoted a status and not a caste and that Marathas and Kunbis are used synonymously in many cases, Enthoven distinguishes between Konkani kunbis who claim neither to be Marathas nor Kshatriyas. It is no wonder that Marathas in the Konkani today vehemently oppose Jarange-Patil’s agitation and categorically refuse to accept reservation under the OBC Kunbi category, as they fear becoming déclassé.

But when and how did the term ‘Maratha’ originate? Rosalind O’ Hanlon’s now-classic study of the process of identity formation in Maharashtra titled *Caste, Conflict and Ideology* (1985) is an essential masterwork in understanding this concept as well as turning the light on the Maratha-Kunbi cluster of castes.

At the simplest level, ‘Maratha’ denotes all Marathi speakers and those who had fought under Shivaji Bhosale’s banner and later in the 18th Century under the Peshwas until the decline of their power and British paramountcy in 1818 following the Third Anglo-Maratha War. Around this time, to European observers, the term was not caste-specific and all Marathi speakers be it Brahmin priests, soldiers, cultivators, artisans were indiscriminately called ‘Marathas.’

Unconsciously, it implied mastery over land and military prowess with early European writers assumed the existence of a strong regional identity focus on their heroic qualities, notes O’ Hanlon. And yet, this term was applied in a narrower, caste-specific way. Within the larger complex of Maratha peasant castes, families who called themselves ‘Marathas’ represented a small social elite, claiming a varna status of Kshatriya appropriate to rulers, while the Kunbis accepted the

lower Shudra varna. The emergence of the term must be understood in the context of Ala-ud-din Khajji’s ferocious raids in the Deccan in the 1290s and the eventual extinction of the Marathi-speaking Yadava dynasty that ruled from the fortress-citadel of Devgiri.

In Stewart Gordon’s *The Marathas* (1993), part of the New Cambridge History of India series) scholar-travellers like Al-Beruni (1020 C.E.) mention ‘Marhat Des’ as the people who lived south of the Narmada while Ibn Batuta (in 1340 C.E.) said that the people who lived around Daulatabad were Marathas.

Aspiring to be a Maratha

The crystallisation of the term ‘Maratha’ probably occurred between 1400 and 1600 C.E. to describe a newly emerging service elite – the chiefs who brought bands of followers to serve the Bahamani kingdom and its five successor states which arose after the kingdom’s fragmentation, says Gordon. As certain Maratha families (including the Bhosales) gained prominence for their military service with the Bahamani successor states, their domestic and social practices differed from that of the Kunbis owing to their close association with the Muslim courts of Ahmednagar and Bijapur.

Besides aspiring to a Kshatriya status and being invested with the sacred thread, these families followed the Islamic practice of secluding their women, as well as the habit of eating from a single-dish with their caste-fellows, notes O’ Hanlon. These distinctive social practices led to the coining of the term ‘Marathmola’ (translated as ‘ways and practices peculiar to the genuine Maratha’), as given by lexicographer James Molesworth in his classic *Marathi-English dictionary* (1847).

In their striving for an elite status, even Shivaji Bhosale’s coronation as ‘Chhatrapati’ (June 6, 1674) was not without controversy as he had to be declared a ‘pure’ Kshatriya and admitted formally into the varna of rulers and kings. Strenuous efforts were made to persuade Brahmins and demonstrate the Bhosale family’s genealogical linkages with ancient Rajput families like the Sisodias of Udaipur. After Shivaji’s death, the later Chhatrapatis after Shahu

(Shivaji’s grandson) became puppets in the hands of the Brahmin Peshwas who ruled from Pune and expanded the Maratha power. A pivotal moment came after Bajirao II’s defeat of Elphinstone and East India Company’s forces, which installed Pratapsinh Bhosale, the nominal successor of the House of Shivaji, as the Chhatrapati in Satara. This period of Pratapsinh’s rule (until his dethronement in 1839) would have momentous consequences in the debate over the Kshatriya, the tensions between Marathas and Chitpavan Brahmins, and the Maratha-Kunbi complex of castes.

Pratapsinh was ever suspicious of his Brahmin administrator Balajipant Natu, who had been assigned to him by the British who wanted to rein in the Maratha raja. The atmosphere of intense hostility seemed to confirm Pratapsinh’s suspicions that the Peshwas had undermined the rule of Chhatrapati.

When James Grant Duff, who, as resident of Satara (1818-23) was ‘monitoring’ Pratapsinh, wrote his three-volume *History of the Mahrattas* (1828) – the first attempt to document the exploits of Shivaji and the foundation of the Maratha state until its decline and dissolution – Pratapsinh eagerly endorsed it and had it translated in Marathi. This work, along with the conflicts and debates between the Satara ruler and Brahmins, would lead to the wide diffusion of the term ‘Maratha’ in western Indian society in the 1860s and 70s, when more and more Kunbis aspired to be called Marathas as a mark of social mobility.

As O’ Hanlon observes in her book, from the 1860s onwards the term ‘Maratha’ gained significance until it became a new identity that was applied to the whole Maratha-Kunbi grouping to the specific exclusion of Brahmins. O’Hanlon observes that the upward social mobility of many Kunbi families who aspired to gain acceptance in elite Maratha circles, was neatly summed up in the proverb *kunbi majhala Maratha zhala* (when a Kunbi prospers, he becomes a Maratha).

Today, in one of history’s ironies and reversals of fortune, it is the Marathas (albeit in a certain part of Maharashtra) who are demanding to be called ‘Kunbis’ to avail of OBC reservation benefits.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Here is a quiz on events and milestones that happened on June 19

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1

This American couple was convicted of spying for the Soviet Union in 1951. On June 19, 1953, the couple became the first American civilians to be executed for espionage. Name them.

QUESTION 2

This politician from a neighbouring country won the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize. An activist, she has played a major role in the country’s transition from military junta to partial democracy in the 2010s. Born on this day in 1945, who is she?

QUESTION 3

This Soviet cosmonaut was the first woman to travel in space. She returned to Earth in the spacecraft

Vostok 6 on June 19. Who is she?

QUESTION 4

Name this country which gained its independence from Britain on June 19, 1961, when Emir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al Sabah, the 11th ruler of the country, signed the Declaration of Independence.

QUESTION 5

This American baseball player was born on this day. Nicknamed “the Iron Horse”, he is also now referred to in terms of a neuromuscular illness, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. After he was diagnosed with ALS, the illness famously came to be referred to, in the U.S., as _____ disease. What is his name?

QUESTION 6

June 19 is a federal holiday in the U.S. It is known as Juneteenth. What makes the day special to America?



Visual question:

Identify this American actor who passed away on this day in 2013. He is best known for his portrayal of an Italian-American Mafia crime boss. Name the actor and the show.

Questions and Answers to the previous day’s daily quiz:

- The number of countries participating from CONMEBOL and CONCACAF each Copa America 2024. **Ans: 10 countries from CONMEBOL and six countries from CONCACAF**
 - The two countries which have won the Championship the most times. **Ans: Argentina and Uruguay**
 - The two countries out of the 10 from the CONMEBOL teams that have not won the Championship yet. **Ans: Ecuador and Venezuela**
 - The country making its debut in the 2024 edition. **Ans: Canada**
 - This person holds the record of having played in most matches. **Ans: Lionel Messi**
 - In 1959, the two editions of Copa America were hosted by these countries. **Ans: Argentina and Ecuador**
 - The first player to officially win the best player of the tournament award. **Ans: Carlos Valderrama of Columbia in 1987**
- Visual: The only player to win Copa America both as a player and a coach. **Ans: Dunga of Brazil**
Early Birds: Jyot Prakash Gultaji| Sadhan Kumar Panda| Ayushman| Abhay Krishan

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

Word of the day

Boisterous: noisy and lacking in restraint or discipline

Synonyms: rambunctious, robustious, rumbustious, unruly

Usage: He was faced with a boisterous crowd.

Pronunciation: bit.ly/boisterouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈbɔɪstɪəz/, /ˈbɔɪstɪz/

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

From Page One

Railways backs out of human error claim

The CRS inquiry will be held at the office of the Additional Divisional Railway Manager from 10 a.m. on June 19 (Wednesday), according to a notification issued by Northeast Frontier Railway, with the public being asked to bring any information related to the accident before the CRS or write to him.

While the Railways initially said that *prima facie*, the accident was the result of a human error, it has since come to light that the automatic signalling system along the route where the accident occurred was not functional since Monday morning.

Hence, manual memos were issued by the station master of Rangpani station to both the trains — the Kanchanjunga Express at 8:20 a.m., and fifteen minutes later, to the goods train at 8:35 a.m. — permitting them to cross the signal at red. This seems to contradict the claims of Railway authorities, who had blamed the goods train driver of wrongly crossing the signal at red.

Questions have also been raised about delays in the installation of Kavach, an indigenously developed automatic train protection system.

Any negligence in NEET should be dealt with: SC

Justice Nath issued notice and directed the Centre and the NTA to submit their responses in two weeks.

Agreeing with Justice Bhatti, Justice Nath remarked orally that the allegations of irregularities in this year's NEET were "very serious".

Justice Bhatti told the Centre and NTA that they should not treat the petitions filed by NEET aspirants and academicians as adversarial. "Imagine a person who has played fraud on the system becoming a doctor. That would be deleterious to society," he said, highlighting the honest effort put in by lakhs of students to prepare for the NEET exam and noting that cheating thwarted honest effort and ambition. "We all know the labour children put in, especially for this exam," he said.

Mr. Agrawal beseeched the judges not to come to an adverse conclusion against the NTA and the government before they had submitted their responses to the myriad petitions filed in the top court. The counsel said there was no doubt about the preparations that students put in for NEET. "We were discussing [outside the courtroom] the difficulties that children undergo," Mr. Agrawal said. "Your stand outside ought not change the moment you enter the court," Justice Bhatti reacted.

Days after attack, U.P. cattle transporter dies

Based on a conversation with the doctors of the private hospital, *The Hindu* had earlier reported on Tuesday that the next "48 to 72" hours were critical to his recovery.

Shoaib, a relative of the deceased, who has repeatedly maintained that the incident was a mob lynching and that he had heard Mr. Qureshi's cries for help on a call made by the latter at the time of the incident, alleged that the Raipur police had so far not conducted the investigations in earnest. "It's been 11 days since the incident and I have repeatedly met police officers seeking an update. But there are no arrests so far. We demand justice in the matter," said Mr. Shoaib. Asif, a younger brother of Mr. Qureshi also expressed displeasure with the police probe.

The family's version on the sequence of events differs from the police version who have so far hinted that the three either fell on a rocky patch 30 feet below the Mahanadi bridge connecting Raipur and Mahasamund. Mr. Rathore said the police had identified a few vehicles seen chasing the victims that night, but camera footages were not clear. Till Tuesday no arrests have been made.

CDS releases blueprint for warfare in cyberspace

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Acknowledging that cyberspace has emerged as a crucial and challenging domain in modern warfare, the Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan, released India's first joint doctrine for cyberspace operations during a meeting of the Chiefs of Staff Committee on Tuesday.

The joint doctrine will guide commanders of the armed forces in conducting cyberspace operations, the Defence Ministry said.

Unlike territorial limits in the traditional domains of warfare, cyberspace is a "global common and hence has shared sovereignty", the Ministry said.

NSAs of India and the U.S. assure industry to resolve any barriers that hold back relations

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

India and the U.S. have to remain at the forefront of technology to protect and defend the value systems as part of a larger strategic interest, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval said on Tuesday at the initiative for Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) industry CEO roundtable. His U.S. counterpart, Jake Sullivan, was present.

Both NSAs assured the industry that due diligence would be done to resolve any barriers which hold back deeper India-U.S. ties.

"iCET has achieved more than we could imagine," Mr. Doval said, highlighting the progress made across the defence innova-

41 airports go into a tizzy after receiving bomb threat by email

Director-General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security says hoax calls are on the rise, proposes five-year flying ban for culprits; Chennai, Coimbatore, Patna, Jaipur, Vadodara airports get threats; bomb detection teams take up searches

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

As many as 41 airports in the country received an email threat warning of bombs on their premises on Tuesday. All were later found to be hoax.

Zulfikar Hasan, Director-General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), told *The Hindu* that such instances had been on the rise in the past two-and-a-half months. Threats had also been received by various airlines. He said six men had been arrested across the country by local police teams. The BCAS had proposed to the Civil Aviation Ministry a five-year ban on flying across all airlines for hoax callers, the senior official said.

"Threats have been received through phone calls, notes inside aircraft lavatories as well as emails. Some callers have been traced, and there have been a few arrests as well. Police teams are also analysing handwriting on various notes. As far as emails



Tight security: A bomb detection and disposal squad team conducting security checks on the premises of the Coimbatore International Airport following a bomb threat on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

are concerned, some have been traced, while others are being investigated," Mr. Hasan said.

Airport sources said that on Tuesday, 41 Airport Directors received a bomb threat mail at 40 minutes past noon.

The mail was received

from the email id exhume-dyou888@gmail.com. "There are explosives hidden in the airport. The bombs will soon explode. You will all die," it said.

All airports constituted bomb threat assessment committees and declared the threat as "non-specific"

or a hoax. The mail claimed that a group called "KNR", which had also issued threats to Delhi schools early in May, was responsible. The threat was issued to an email id of the Airports Authority of India. Meanwhile, Chennai received its sixth threat in re-

cent days on Tuesday. The threat, sent by email, was for an Emirates flight from Dubai to Chennai, which was to land at 2.35 a.m. but was diverted to Bengaluru due to bad weather and rain.

It later landed in the city around 9 a.m., airport sources said.

At Coimbatore airport too, security was tightened after airport officials were informed of the mail. CISF personnel carried out extensive searches inside the terminal building with a trained sniffer dog. The Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad of the Coimbatore City Police carried out searches. Patna, Jaipur and Vadodara airports were also among those that received threats.

The BCAS chief also said that that the security agency was in a dialogue with airlines on how to trace culprits when they are travelling with the airline as well as minimise passenger inconvenience when such threat calls are received.

(With inputs from Chennai and Coimbatore Bureaux)

Modi to open new Nalanda University campus today

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

On the eve of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bihar's Nalanda University to inaugurate its new campus on Wednesday, the university's interim Vice-Chancellor Abhay Kumar Singh termed the occasion "historic".

"We consider the visit of the Prime Minister a very prestigious and auspicious occasion," Mr. Singh said.

"The Prime Minister has made the occasion special because he is bringing the diplomats of East Asia Summit countries. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is also coming. This celebratory spirit will give Nalanda a boost," he said.

Mr. Singh said after the Prime Minister's visit, the university will become more popular at the international level. At present, students from 26 countries are studying here. "The Prime Minister's visit is a big sign of validation and authentication."

He also praised Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for lending unconditional support. Mr. Kumar will also be present along with the Prime Minister.

Why are nearly 3 lakh posts lying vacant in Railways, asks Kharge

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Stepping up its attack on Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw after the Kanchanjunga Express train accident, the Congress on Tuesday demanded his resignation, and accused the Narendra Modi government of "destroying" Indian Railways in the past 10 years.

The Opposition party also took a dig at Mr. Vaishnaw for reaching the accident site riding pillion on a motorcycle, and asked whether he was a Rail Minister or a "reel minister".

In a statement posted on X, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said that whenever there was a train accident, the Modi government's Railway Minister reached the spot under the glare of cameras and behaved as if everything was fine.

"Narendra Modi ji, tell us who should be held accountable, the Railway Minister or you," Mr. Kharge

Day after Bengal accident, Congress president demands the resignation of Ashwini Vaishnaw

asked, posing seven questions.

"Why are nearly 3 lakh posts vacant in the Railways, why were they not filled in the last 10 years? According to the NCRB (2022) report, 1,00,000 people have died in rail accidents between 2017 and 2021 alone! Who will take responsibility for this," the Congress chief asked.

The Railway Board itself has admitted that the long working hours of loco pilots, due to an acute shortage of manpower, are the main reason for the increasing number of accidents, he said.

Mr. Kharge questioned why not a single kilometre of the much-hyped "Kavach" system had been added after a major accident in Balasore in 2023.

Despite rising number of accidents, Kavach work still on the slow track

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The accident involving Kanchanjunga Express and a goods train in Darjeeling district on Monday, which claimed 10 lives, has brought to the fore once again the delay in installing Kavach, an indigenously developed automatic train protection system, across the country's rail network.

Experts, including former Railway Minister and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, raised questions about the delay. Ms. Banerjee said safety of passengers was no longer a priority of the Railways.

Within specified speed limits, Kavach automatically applies the brakes to avert a collision in case the loco pilot fails to do so despite another train coming in the opposite direction on the same track.

On Monday, the accident took place between the Rangapani and Chatterhat stations, throwing four coaches of the passenger train and five wagons of



Terrible tragedy: Rescue operation on at the Kanchanjunga Express train accident site in Darjeeling on Monday. ANI

the goods train off the rails.

At a press conference hours after the accident, Railway Board Chairperson Jaya Varma Sinha said that *prima facie*, the accident was due to a "human error". To reduce this possibility, implementation of Kavach was being planned by the Ministry in a mission mode, she said.

Asked about the implementation in West Bengal and Northeast India, she said it was in the planning stage. She said installation of Kavach along the Howrah-Delhi route would be

completed this year and in the Northeast Frontier Railway section in the next phase.

Last December, to a question in the Lok Sabha, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said Kavach had been deployed on 1,465 km and in 139 locomotives, including electric multiple unit rakes, in South Central Railway. "At present, Kavach tenders have been awarded for the Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah corridors [approximately 3,000 km] and work is in progress on these routes,"

the Minister replied to a question by Benny Behanan and Kumbakudi Sudhakaran, MPs.

The Indian Railways has taken up preparatory work, including a survey, and readied a detailed project report and a detailed estimate on another 6,000 km, the Minister said.

The first field trials of Kavach began in February 2016, and the system was adopted nationally in July 2020. In his reply, the Minister said there were only three Indian original equipment manufacturers of Kavach, and efforts were on to have more of them to enhance the capacity to scale up the implementation. The Railway Board Chairperson stressed that they should augment their production capacity.

Adhir Sharma, former Director-General of Police of the West Bengal Railway Police, said Kavach was usually installed on passenger trains. But on Monday, it was a goods train that hit the express train on the same track.

Fake news can cause disaster: Dhankhar

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday stressed the need to regulate information. He stated that unregulated information and fake news could create a disaster of "unimaginable proportions."

At an interaction with Indian Information Service (IS) trainees, he said information was the most potent weapon and the fifth dimension of war. Manipulative, divisive, and agenda driven narratives peddled in the information space presented a real danger to the nation, he said.



Bilateral collaboration: National Security Adviser Ajit Doval with his U.S. counterpart, Jake Sullivan, in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

tion road map and start-ups, while particularly emphasising the importance of the semiconductor industry.

The roundtable was organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry

(CII). "Both NSAs assured the industry that they welcome industry communications highlighting specific issues and due diligence will be done to resolve any barriers which hold back deeper and closer India-

U.S. ties," the CII said in a statement.

"The industry enlightened the NSAs on their experiences thus far in terms of their bilateral collaboration, their vision on how to take the collaboration forward, and specific areas where government facilitation can play a key role in addressing particular barriers to unshackle further collaboration," the Ministry said.

Two mega deals

At the roundtable, it has been learnt that both sides put forward their requirements and expectations from each other in terms of the policy framework to take forward cooperation in defence and high-end technologies.

The U.S. side pressed for strengthening of India's export controls as well the ease of doing business, according to sources present at the roundtable. The U.S. is also looking for India to speed up the two mega deals in the pipeline — the purchase of 31 MQ-9B unmanned aerial vehicles and local licence manufacture of GE-414 jet engines. Both deals are in the advanced stages but are yet to be cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Security.

In turn, the Indian side pressed for liberalisation of licensing requirements for India for more high-tech areas as well as increased funding for research and development, officials said.



APPEAL

Yashna aged 10 years, suffering from Relapsed B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia is advised to undergo Allogeneic Bone Marrow Transplantation at Meenakshi Mission Hospital and Research Centre, Madurai. The total expenditure is Rs. 16,00,000-. Her family is very poor and cannot afford this huge cost. Kindly help her to undergo the treatment and lead a healthy life. The donations sent through Ch.D./NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakam Branch, A/C No: 6018210063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through WWS, Regd Public Charitable Trust, Flat No. GF 1, Cordelia Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.23, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137461/ 28235324/ 7338978027. E-mail ID: womenswelfare.org@gmail.com. Website: www.womenswelfare.org. WWS

Why is PM silent on NEET issue, asks Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Hitting out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for maintaining "silence" on the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) issue, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said that his party was committed to taking the voice of the youth from the streets to Parliament.

In a post on X, Mr. Gandhi pointed out that the party's Nyay Patra, or manifesto, had given a guarantee to secure the future of the youth by enacting a strong law against paper leaks.

"We are committed to performing our role as a responsible Opposition to raise the voice of the youth from the streets to Parliament and put pressure on the government to formulate strict policies," he said.

His remarks came after the Supreme Court said even if there was "0.001% negligence" on the part of NEET 2024, it should be thoroughly dealt with.

When can Rashid take oath as MP, Delhi court asks NIA

The court's direction to the agency came during the hearing of a plea for interim bail filed by the MP-elect from the Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency, while seeking bail to take oath in Lok Sabha

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Delhi court on Tuesday directed the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to file its reply on the date Sheikh Abdul Rashid, aka Engineer Rashid, has to take oath as a Lok Sabha member.

The court's directions came during the hearing of an interim bail plea filed by Mr. Rashid, who won the Baramulla Lok Sabha seat in Jammu and Kashmir, seeking bail to take oath.

Mr. Rashid was arrested by the NIA in 2016 in a Jammu and Kashmir terror funding case and is lodged in the Tihar Jail at present.

Speaking on the development, advocate Vikhyat Oberoi, who represented Mr. Rashid, said, "The judge has directed the NIA to file response because there are three dates for oath ceremony. The NIA



Sheikh Abdul Rashid has been lodged in the Tihar Jail since 2019, charged under UAPA in an alleged terror funding case. FILE PHOTO

has been directed to file a reply as to on which date Rashid has to take oath."

Case adjourned
Additional Sessions Judge Chander Jit Singh then adjourned the matter for further hearing on June 22.

The first session of the 18th Lok Sabha will be held from June 24 to July 3. The session will witness oath/

affirmation of the newly elected members of the Lok Sabha, election of the Speaker, address of the President of India and the discussion thereon, a communique from the government has said.

Mr. Rashid successfully contested the recently held election as an Independent candidate. He defeated National Conference leader

and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah from Baramulla.

Terror funding case

In jail since 2019, Mr. Rashid was charged by the NIA under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention), 1967 Act in the alleged terror funding case.

His name cropped up when the NIA was investigating a terror funding case pertaining to Kashmir-based businessman Zahoor Watali. He was allegedly funding terrorist groups and separatists in the Valley.

The NIA had filed a chargesheet against several people, including Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik, Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Saeed and Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salauddin, in the matter. Malik was awarded life imprisonment by a trial court in 2022 after he pleaded guilty to the charges.

'Maa Ganga' adopted me, 2024 Lok Sabha verdict 'unprecedented', says Modi

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that "Maa Ganga" had adopted him and that the "mandate" of the 2024 Lok Sabha election was "unprecedented". Mr. Modi made the comments in his speech during the release of the 17th instalment of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi.

Mr. Modi, who was on his first visit of the Varanasi constituency which re-elected him to the Lok Sabha for a third consecutive time, released a sum of ₹20,000 crore for over 9.26 crore farmers.

"It is very rare in democratic countries for governments to be elected for a third consecutive time, but the people of India made this happen. In India, it happened 60 years ago," Mr. Modi said. "I consider farmers, women, the youth and the poor strong pillars of Viksit Bharat; as such, the first decision is



Narendra Modi being felicitated by Yogi Adityanath during the Kisan Samman Sammelaan in Varanasi on Tuesday. PTI

for the farmers and the poor," he said.

The event was virtually attended by more than 25 million farmers from 732 Krishi Vigyan Kendras, 50,000 Common Service Centres, and roughly 1,00,000 Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies. "The PM Kisan Samman Nidhi is the world's largest Direct Benefit Transfer scheme, with ₹3.25 lakh crore deposited into the bank accounts of millions of farmer families across country," he said.

Expressing gratitude to the voters of Varanasi, Mr.

Modi said the love received from Kashi was immense. "With the blessings of Baba Vishwanath and Maa Ganga, and the immense love of the people of Kashi, I have got the privilege of becoming the country's 'pradhan sevak' for the third time. Now, it seems as if Maa Ganga has adopted me," he said.

He said the agriculture sector would play an important role in making India world's third-largest economic power. "With the trust of farmers, we will reach new heights," he said.

T.N. CM Stalin writes to Shah, urges him to keep implementation of three criminal laws in abeyance

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Chief Minister and DMK president M.K. Stalin has written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah requesting him to keep in abeyance the three laws that have been enacted to replace the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Evidence Act.

In his communication to the Union Minister, Mr. Stalin flagged certain ob-

jections and complexities faced by the State governments in implementing these laws, official sources said on Tuesday.

'New laws rushed'

The conversion of the old laws into new ones was undertaken without sufficient consultation, and had been rushed for the sake of their enactment, the Chief Minister is learnt to have told the Union Minister.

"As these subjects are



Stalin flagged certain objections and complexities faced by State governments in implementing the new laws.

part of the Concurrent List III, elaborate consultations

should have been held with the State government," he said.

Mr. Stalin pointed out that the three laws were enacted in Parliament in the absence of the Opposition parties, which had staged a walkout.

'Names in Sanskrit'

Furthermore, they had been named in Sanskrit - the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya

Adhiniyam.

"This (naming of the laws in Sanskrit) is clearly violative of Article 348 of the Constitution. The authoritative texts of Bills adopted by Parliament shall be in the English language," officials quoted the Chief Minister as saying.

Mr. Stalin also pointed to certain errors in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. For instance, there were two sub-sections under Section 103 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita to refer

to two types of murder, but the punishment provided for both were the same. The provisions of the new Act were complex and ambiguous, he said.

Stakeholders such as the judiciary, police, prisons, prosecution and the forensic wing needed more time and resources to acquaint themselves with the new Acts, the Chief Minister said. Law colleges, too, needed more time to incorporate them in the syllabus, he said.

NCP's Sunetra Pawar elected RS member

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's wife Sunetra Pawar from the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) was elected Rajya Sabha member on Tuesday.

The Returning Officer and Secretary, Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat, Jitendra Bhole announced her election to the Upper House. Ms. Pawar's was the only application received for the post.



Sunetra Pawar

The only seat from Maharashtra became vacant on the resignation of NCP working president and former Union Minister Praful Patel.

As first LS session nears, BJP tightens allies' coordination

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday held a meeting of senior Ministers, as well as some National Democratic Alliance (NDA) allies in New Delhi, to approach the upcoming Parliament session with a degree of coordination between various partners in the government, and to fine-tune the President's address to the joint session of Parliament before it is placed before the Union Cabinet.

Senior Ministers S. Jaishankar, Dharmendra Prad-

han, and Kiren Rijju, and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) leader Chirag Paswan were present at the meeting.

Suspense still prevails over the big question in the upcoming session - who will be the new Lok Sabha Speaker? "Between Home Minister Amit Shah, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president J.P. Nadda, and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, all the allies have been spoken to individually, and it is certain that a BJP candidate is to be endorsed for the Speaker's post. It is possible that the Deputy Speaker's post will

be offered to one of the allies," a source said.

Five sets of nomination papers are being prepared for the Speaker's elections, to be held on June 26.

"In the coordination meetings thus far, it has been decided that the executive committee of leaders and Ministers who meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi almost daily during the Parliament session may have representation from the NDA partners, a departure from the last five years, when only BJP leaders and Ministers were members," a source said.

Government of Karnataka
Department of Collegiate and Technical Education
NO. 1, Unnatha Shikshana Soudha, Sheshadri Road, Bangalore - 560 001
Phone: 080-22223906, email: dce.tenders2017@gmail.com

No.: DCE/ITS/PUR/10/2024-INFO (Computer No. 1336473) Date: 18.06.2024

E-Tender Notification

The Commissioner for Collegiate and Technical Education, Bangalore hereby invites bids in Two-Cover system through e-Procurement portal from eligible bidders for the following Tender. The Tender Documents with detailed terms and conditions may be obtained from the website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>.

Tender Schedules are as below

Sl. No.	Tender Name & Number	Date of Floating Tender on e-Procurement Portal	Date and Time of pre-bid meeting	Last date and Time for bidding through eprocurement portal
1.	Tender No: DCE/2024-25/SE0006 "Providing Services of Data Entry Operators and Group-D Employees on outsource basis for Department of Collegiate and Technical Education"	18/06/2024	21/06/2024 12.00 Noon	29/06/2024 5.30 PM
2.	Tender No: DCE/2024-25/IND00014 "Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Equipment and other Accessories necessary for establishment of Help desk at PMU of UUCMS Project"	18/06/2024	21/06/2024 11.00 AM	28/06/2024 5.30 PM

Sd/-
Director of Collegiate Education, Bangalore

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Deputy Director of Horticulture
Annex-3 Building, N.R. Square, BBMP Head Office, Bangalore.

No. DDH/TENDER/02/2024-25 Date: 18.06.2024

LETTER OF INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(TWO COVER SYSTEM) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

A) The Deputy Director of Horticulture, (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites tenders to Implement in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person/Agencies / Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour department for Maintenance of Parks. B) The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the instructions to tenderers to qualify for award of the contract (standard tender document KW-1, KW-2 KW-3 & KW-4). C) Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home> under login for Contractors.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works/Amount in rupees/EMD Amount
1	Development of park and greenery in BTM layout, Improvement of freedom park and planting of trees in Gandhinagar and Improvement to Rajkumar park in Sarvagnanagara (Call-3), Amount in rupees : 5,00,00,000/-, EMD Amount: 7,50,000/-

Calendar of events as follows:
(1) Date of Notification: 18.06.2024, (2) Tender can be downloaded from: 19-06-2024, (3) Pre bid Meeting: 24-06-2024 at 11.30 AM, (4) Tender Closing Date: 29-06-2024 at 4.30 PM, (5) Technical bid opening date: 01-07-2024 at 4.30 PM, (6) Financial bid opening date: After Approval of Technical bid.

Sd/- Deputy Director of Horticulture, BBMP

ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION-2024 (OJEE-2024)

PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING OJEE WEB COUNSELLING FOR 2024-25

No: OJEE / 246 Date : 18.06.2024

This is for the information of all concerned that OJEE Web-Based Counselling Process for Lateral Entry courses for B.Tech (LE. Tech for Diploma Candidates) and B.Pharm (LE. Pharm for D.Pharm candidates) is going to start from 19th June, 2024.

Interested candidates having valid OJEE 2024 Rank (OJEE conducted during May, 2024) are advised to visit OJEE websites (www.ojee.nic.in/ www.odishajee.com) and see the detailed Counselling Schedule for these courses.

They are further advised to carefully go through the documents, "Counselling Brochure" and "Step-by-Step Procedure", available in the website to get detailed information about the entire counselling process.

Sd/-
Chairman, OJEE
ODISHA

Government of Kerala
Published Tenders from 13-06-2024 to 16-06-2024

Harbour Engineering Department

Tender ID: 2024 HED 675047_1 * Executive Engineer * ARTHUNKAL 50 TON BLOCK - General Civil Work * Closing Date: 29-Jun-2024 * PAC: Rs24958128

Kerala Public Service Commission

Tender ID: 2024 PSC 675801_1 * Secretary * Supply of OMR answer sheets * Closing Date: 15-Jul-2024 * PAC: Rs11448000

Visit <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> for more details.

Ro.No:13-16/Jun/2024/PRD(N)9

ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA
PIN: 751012, Tel No: (0674) 2562020, e-Mail: theoccltd@odishaconstruction.com / GSTIN-21AAAC02571K2ZM

*e-Procurement Notice No- 07/OCC/2024-25 (on-line)
On-line percentage rate tenders are invited for the following works:

Sl. No.	Name of work	Name of Division	Bid Identification No	Approx Value of work	Bid security (through on-line transfer / as per DTCL) (in Rs.)	Period of completion	Availability & Submission of tender (on-line)
1	Improvement to Kakatpur Distributary from RD 0.00 Km to 3.801 Km of Kakatpur Branch Canal System	Nimapara Irrigation Division	OCCL-HQP/27/24-25	Rs. 7.16 Crore	Rs. 7,16,000/-		From 03/07/2024, 03.30 PM to 18/07/2024, 5.30 PM
2	Improvement to Kundhei Distributary from RD 16.200 Km to 20.332 Km of Gop Branch Canal System		OCCL-HQP/28/24-25	Rs. 7.55 Crore	Rs. 7,55,000/-		
3	Improvement to Barjanga Distributary RD 00 Km to 3.312 Km, Bhuyana Distributary from RD 00 Km to 3.825 Km & Aisabad Distributary from RD 00 Km to 1.036 Km of Chandanpur Branch Canal		OCCL-HQP/29/24-25	Rs. 7.63 Crore	Rs. 7,63,000/-	9 (nine) calendar months	
4	Improvement to Astaranga Minor from RD 0.00 Km to RD 5.338 Km of Kakatpur Branch Canal System		OCCL-HQP/30/24-25	Rs. 7.37 Crore	Rs. 7,37,000/-		
5	Improvement to Service Road on left bank of Gop Branch Canal from RD 42.500 Km to 49.500 Km		OCCL-HQP/31/24-25	Rs. 6.70 Crore	Rs. 6,70,000/-	6 (six) calendar months	
6	Improvement to NBC right bank from RD 00 Km to 18.00 Km		OCCL-HQP/32/24-25	Rs. 7.13 Crore	Rs. 7,13,000/-		
7	Concrete Lining to Gop Branch Canal from RD 10.812 Km to 12.00 Km	Prachi Irrigation Division	OCCL-HQP/33/24-25	Rs. 4.24 Crore	Rs. 4,24,000/-	9 (nine) calendar months	
8	Concrete Lining to Gop Branch Canal from RD 10.812 Km to 12.00 Km		OCCL-HQP/34/24-25	Rs. 7.47 Crore	Rs. 7,47,000/-		
9	Concrete Lining to Gop Branch Canal from RD 10.812 Km to 12.00 Km		OCCL-HQP/35/24-25	Rs. 2.08 Crore	Rs. 2,08,000/-		
10	Improvement to service road on left bank of PMC from RD 0.00 Km to 2.80 Km		OCCL-HQP/36/24-25	Rs. 2.16 Crore	Rs. 2,16,000/-	6 (six) calendar months	
11	Improvement to service road on left bank of PMC from RD 3.00 Km to 5.20 Km		OCCL-HQP/37/24-25	Rs. 1.69 Crore	Rs. 1,69,000/-		
12	Improvement to right bank of river Daya from RD 12.250 Km to 15.750 Km		OCCL-HQP/38/24-25	Rs. 2.16 Crore	Rs. 2,16,000/-	6 (six) calendar months	
13	Improvement to left bank service road of Puri Main Canal from RD 16.105 Km to 19.312 Km		OCCL-HQP/39/24-25	Rs. 3.04 Crore	Rs. 3,04,000/-		
14	Improvement of Dyke-I, Dyke-II & Dyke-III top road & approach road of Main Earth Dam of Balmela Dam Project	Balmela Irrigation Division	OCCL-BGP/01/2024-25	Rs. 1.93 Crore	Rs. 1,93,000/-		
15	Improvement of Canal Service Road (left bank) from RD 34577 M to RD 47419 M of Baragan Main Canal	Bargarh Irrigation Division	OCCL-SGP/01/2024-25	Rs. 7.62 Crore	Rs. 7,62,000/-	9 (nine) calendar months	

Procurement Officer: Managing Director, OCCL. Date of Opening of the Tender: 19.07.2024, 12.00 Noon onwards. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>

MANAGING DIRECTOR
OIPR-3412011/0011/2425
CAD-237

IN BRIEF



Cipla to invest additional €3 mn in mRNA firm Ethris

Cipla, through a wholly owned subsidiary in the U.K., will invest an additional €3 million, by way of a convertible loan, in German firm Ethris GmbH to accelerate its participation in the mRNA-based treatment space. The additional investment follows the €15 million invested in 2022 and reaffirms Cipla's confidence in Ethris's proprietary mRNA platform. Cipla and Ethris are working on a long-term strategic partnership to fast-track innovative mRNA-based treatments.

SAMIL ties with Volvo CE to trade used construction gear

Shriram Automall India Ltd. (SAMIL) has tied up with Volvo Construction Equipment (Volvo CE) to provide seamless channel for exchange and sale of pre-owned construction equipment. This partnership will enable Volvo CE and their dealers to efficiently manage their exchange, demo and surplus inventory of used construction equipment, SAMIL said. Additionally, SAMIL will provide end-to-end support services to the customers of Volvo CE.

Alembic Pharma gets U.S. FDA nod for generic anticoagulant

Alembic Pharmaceuticals has received final approval from U.S. Food and Drug Administration for its abbreviated new drug application for Dabigatran Etxilate Capsules, 75 mg and 150 mg and tentative approval for Dabigatran Etxilate Capsules, 110 mg. The approved ANDA is therapeutically equivalent to reference listed drug product Pradaxa Capsules, 75 mg, 110 mg, and 150 mg of Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Net direct tax receipts rise 21%, CIT share dips to 39.1%

Share of Personal Income Tax and Securities Transaction Tax in net direct tax receipts crosses 60%, while corporate taxes yield less than 40%; Gross tax collections rose 22.2% by June 17

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Direct tax collections made a brisk start in the first quarter of 2024-25, with net taxes rising 21% to almost ₹4.63 lakh crore by June 17, from ₹3.82 lakh crore over the same period a year earlier, the Finance Ministry said on Tuesday.

Personal Income Tax (PIT) and Securities Transaction Tax (STT) inflows continued to dominate the tax pie, contributing 60.7% of the direct taxes, while corporate taxes (CIT) yield-

Buoyant takings

Net direct tax collections rose 21% YoY to almost ₹4.63 lakh crore by June 17 from ₹3.82 lakh crore



- Gross CIT collections were ₹2.26 lakh crore and PIT, STT receipts stood at ₹2,88,993 crore
- Among minor heads for tax receipts, Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) yielded ₹3,24,787 crore
- In FY24, PIT's share rose to 53.3% from 50.1%, while CIT receipts dipped to 46.5% from 49.6%

ed a smaller share of 39.1%.

In FY24, net direct tax collections rose 17.7% to hit ₹19.58 lakh crore, with PIT's share rising to 53.3%

from 50.1% in the previous year while CIT's contribution declined to 46.5% from 49.6%. Advance tax collections

'Slash petrol taxes, cheaper crude not reflecting in prices'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a bid to boost consumption by enhancing households' disposable incomes, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has urged the Centre to slash the excise duty levied on petrol and diesel, stressing that global crude oil prices have fallen more than 40% while retail prices of petrol in the capital have been reduced by just ₹1.8 per litre.

In addition to a cut in the high fuel taxes, CII has mooted granting some relief in income tax for those with taxable income of up



to ₹20 lakh a year, raising the minimum wage under the rural employment guarantee scheme to ₹375 a day from the present level of ₹267, and increasing annual benefits under the PM Kisan scheme to ₹8,000 from ₹6,000.

Apart from these steps to boost consumption, mooted in pre-Budget consultations with Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra on Tuesday, CII president Sanjiv Puri also called for reforms in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) by switching to a three-tier rate structure and including items like petroleum, real estate and electricity into its ambit.

Mr. Puri mooted a social security fund for gig and platform workers, and the introduction of an employment-linked incentive scheme for sectors with high growth potential.

for this year stood at ₹1,48,823 crore, reflecting a growth of 27.3%, with ₹1,14,353 crore paid as CIT, while PIT receipts were ₹34,470 crore.

Prior to refunds, the gross direct tax collections had risen 22.2% to about ₹5.16 lakh crore by June 17, compared with ₹4.22 lakh crore at the same time last year. Gross CIT collections were ₹2.26 lakh crore and PIT, STT receipts stood at ₹2,88,993 crore. Among minor heads for tax receipts, Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) yielded ₹3,24,787 crore.

'Gold prices to slow jewellery consumption growth this FY'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The domestic jewellery consumption growth (in value terms) is expected to moderate to 6-8% in FY25 as compared with an expansion of 18% in FY24, due to sharp rise in gold prices and the consequent impact on consumer sentiment, ICRA said in a study.

After a muted volume growth of 2% and 4% in FY23 and FY24 respectively, the volume will contract in FY25, the credit rating agency added.

Fitch raises FY25 growth view, sees only one rate cut

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Fitch Ratings on Tuesday raised its FY25 GDP growth forecast for India to 7.2%, from 7% estimated earlier, citing higher consumer confidence despite an anticipated slowdown in new investments. It also pared its expectations of interest rate cuts by the Reserve Bank of India to just one reduction of 25 basis points from two such cuts anticipated earlier.

Noting that India's rapid growth, reflected in a faster-than-expected 8.2% uptick in FY24, was underpinned by a fast expansion in investment, Fitch added a caveat that the economy's Gross Value-Added (GVA) at basic prices "is currently a better guide to underlying momentum and has been growing at just over 7%".

'Investments to slow'
Fitch reckoned that fixed investments would rise 7.2% this year, slowing from a 9% pace in FY24, before rebounding to a 7.8% uptick in 2025-26. GDP growth is expected to moderate to 6.5% next year and 6.2% in 2026-27, with consumer spending and investment remaining the key growth drivers.

"Signs of the... monsoon season being more normal should support growth and make inflation less volatile, though a recent heatwave poses a risk. We expect growth in later years to slow and approach our medium-term trend estimate," it said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	77,301	0.40
US Dollar	83.43	0.14
Gold	72,350	0.37
Brent oil	84.92	-

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter.	3309.05	47.30
Adani Ports	1445.00	14.30
Apollo Hosp.	6236.35	28.75
Asian Paints	2918.50	-3.10
Axis Bank	1193.90	10.85
Bajaj Auto	9918.20	-43.55
Bajaj Finserv	1597.95	-6.20
Bajaj Finance	7334.70	-6.85
Bharti Airtel	1428.35	-0.95
BPCL	630.90	-4.25
Britannia Ind.	5395.85	2.20
Cipla	1574.80	10.05
Coal India	489.05	-2.10
Divis Lab	4564.50	-24.10
Dr Reddys Lab	5991.25	-94.00
Eicher Motors	4936.10	1.00
Grasim Ind.	2457.55	-13.65
HCL Tech	1437.20	6.15
HDFC Bank	1607.80	10.90
HDFC Life	601.20	2.85
Hero MotoCorp	5754.85	-43.35
Hindalco	678.75	-4.85
ICI Bank	2486.25	-6.50
ICICI Bank	1122.85	17.20
IndusInd Bank	1507.90	-5.55
Infosys	1498.20	9.30
ITC	428.75	-2.40
JSW Steel	925.35	4.20
Kotak Bank	1719.40	2.20
L&T	3689.20	1.40
LTMindtree Ltd.	5089.60	57.05
M&M	2961.90	33.30
Maruti Suzuki	12560.95	-284.25
NestleIndia	2550.35	7.85
NTPC	369.65	1.20
ONGC	275.80	0.40
PowerGrid Corp.	331.80	10.30
Reliance Ind.	2962.05	-6.95
SBI Life	1473.55	-3.65
State Bank	844.90	-5.70
Shriram Finance	2829.75	97.60
Sun Pharma	1520.95	4.95
TataConsumerProduct	1126.90	14.45
Tata Motors	985.90	-7.50
Tata Steel	181.12	-2.03
TCS	3815.10	-16.95
Tech Mahindra	1371.35	-0.10
Titan	3589.00	58.95
UltraTech Cement	11119.05	-123.75
Wipro	491.85	14.35

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 18

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.21	83.53
Euro	89.18	89.53
British Pound	105.52	105.93
Japanese Yen (100)	52.61	52.82
Chinese Yuan	11.47	11.51
Swiss Franc	93.68	94.04
Singapore Dollar	61.44	61.69
Canadian Dollar	60.53	60.76
Malaysian Ringgit	17.65	17.73
Australian Dollar	55.06	55.28

Future Generali India Life declares ₹59.80 cr. bonus for FY24

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Future Generali India Life Insurance Company has declared ₹59.80 crore bonus for 2023-24.

The payout, 12% higher compared with the FY23 bonus, will benefit over 1.01 lakh policyholders who have made investments in the company's participating products, the insurer said on Tuesday.

Beginning FY24, FGLI has decided grant terminal bonuses to policyholders who exit from reduced paid-up status, in addition to those with premium paying or fully paid poli-

The payout, 12% higher compared with the FY23 bonus, will benefit over 1.01 lakh policyholders

cies, following the specified eligibility criteria.

"The declaration of the highest-ever participating bonus serves as evidence of our strong financial position," MD and CEO Alok Rungta said.

Bonuses are payments received in addition to the entitled basic sum assured. Life insurers allocate a portion of their profits to distribute these bonuses.

Macawber Beekay bags 3 NTPC 'green coal' projects

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Macawber Beekay Private Ltd., a waste-to-energy firm said it had bagged three 'green coal' projects from NTPC in Noida (Uttar Pradesh), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), and Hubballi (Karnataka).

The largest project with 900 tonnes per day (TPD) capacity would come up in Noida, while Bhopal and Hubballi would have 500 and 400 TPD respectively, the firm said in a release.

"Green coal" is produced from discarded fine coal. It helps halve sulphur emissions during combustion.

'Indian fintechs digitally disbursed loans worth ₹1,46,517 cr. in FY23-24'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Fintech and digital lending firms in India have pro-

cessed and sanctioned over 10 crore loans and carried out disbursements of ₹1,46,517 crore during FY23-24, the Fintech Asso-

ciation for Consumer Empowerment (FACE) said on Tuesday.

The disbursement volume and value grew year-

on-year by 35% and 49%, respectively, reaching 10.19 crore loans totalling ₹1,46,517 crore in FY23-24, the industry body said.

The average ticket size for loans disbursed in FY23-24 stood at ₹12,648, compared with ₹11,094 a year earlier.

U.S.-grown Pima cotton production to likely increase

M. Soundariva Preetha
COIMBATORE

The U.S. expects higher production of high quality Pima cotton in the next marketing season, said Marc A. Lewkowitz, president and chief executive officer of Supima.

Mr. Lewkowitz, who is in India as part of a Cotton Council International delegation, told *The Hindu* that U.S.-grown Pima production in the current marketing season is 77,000 tonnes and for the next marketing season, it is estimated to be 1,10,000 tonnes.

"With India removing the import duty for extra long staple cotton, I am optimistic about the demand growing in India," he said.

'Construction equipment sector grew 20% in poll year'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Despite an election year, India's \$10 billion construction equipment (CE) industry has grown between 15% to 20% and market sentiment remains reasonably strong, said Dimitrov Krishnan, MD, Volvo CE India.

Traditionally, the market slows in an election year. But this growth has taken the industry by surprise, Mr. Krishnan added.

He said, despite a slowdown in industrial growth globally India continued to grow in recent years.

Mr. Krishnan reckoned the government would expand on its "sizable" in-



Dimitrov Krishnan

frastructure spending in the upcoming Union Budget, as "buying sentiments are strong and the policy environment is likely to be stable."

He said the CE sector was expecting a 10% to 15% growth in FY25, backed by strong growth in the second half of CY24.

कोचीन शिपयार्ड लिमिटेड
(आवक सहायता का उद्योग)
COCHIN SHIPYARD LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)

संदर्भ/ REF: SB-OSD/ GEN/ 878/ 2024 तिथि/ Date: 19.06.2024

अभिरुचि की अभिव्यक्ति/ EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
कोचीन शिपयार्ड लिमिटेड, (सौराष्ट्र) में निर्माणधीन पोतों में निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए विक्रेता पैनलीकरण के लिए अनुभवों प्रतिलिखित फर्मों से "अभिरुचि की अभिव्यक्ति" आमंत्रित करता है:
Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) invites "Expression of interest (EOI)" from experienced reputed firms for vendor empanelment for the following works in Ships under Construction in CSL:

क्र.सं./ Sl.No	कार्य विवरण/ WORK DESCRIPTION
1	"सब-असेंबली / हल ब्लॉक निर्माण" "Sub-Assembly / Hull block Fabrication"
2	"हल निर्माण कार्य" "Hull Erection works"
3	"ब्लास्टिंग एवं पेंटिंग कार्य" "Blasting and Painting Works"

विवरण के लिए हमारी वेबसाइट: www.cochinshipyard.in या <https://eprocure.gov.in/cppp/> देखें। यदि कोई सुझाव है तो केवल सौराष्ट्र/सौराष्ट्र में जारी किया जाएगा।
For details visit CSL web site: www.cochinshipyard.in or <https://eprocure.gov.in/cppp/>. Corrigendum if any will be issued in CSL/CPMP only.

र/- Sd/-
मुख्य महाप्रबंधक (पोत निर्माण)
Chief General Manager (Ship Building)

K RIDE
RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (KARNATAKA) LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Government of Karnataka & Ministry of Railways)
BENGALURU SUBURBAN RAIL PROJECT

CIN: U60100KA2000SGC028171
Regd. Office: K-RIDE, Samparka Soudha, 1st Floor, Opp. Orion Mall, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar, 1st Block, Bengaluru - 560010, Email ID: gmprocurement@kride.in

e-Tender Notice
No. K RIDE/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT21 Date: 15.06.2024
PACKAGE - C1A-S&T Utility Shifting
"Shifting of Signaling & Telecommunication underground utilities in KSR Bengaluru city Jn. to Yelahanka section via Yeshwanthpur, Lottegolahali of Bangalore Division to facilitate Bangalore Suburban Railway Project (BSRP) Corridor-1A". Last date for submission of bids is **18/07/2024, IST 15:00 Hrs.**, for details visit <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>
No. K RIDE/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT19 Date: 15/06/2024
PACKAGE - C2A
"Construction of Eight (08 Nos) Stations i.e., Elevated Interchange (1 No), Elevated (3 Nos.) and At-Grade (4 Nos) BSRP Stations of Corridor-2 at Benniganahalli, Kasturi Nagar, Seva Nagar, Banaswadi, Nagawara, Kanaka Nagar, Hebbal, Mathikere, including Civil, Structural, Entry / Exit Structure, Steel Foot Over Bridge (FOB), Roof Structures, PEB Works, Architectural finishes, Plumbing, Façade, E&M Works and Detailed Design & Engineering (DDC) with" all allied works for Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project" (BSRP). Last date for submission of bids is **31/07/2024, IST 15:00 Hrs.**, for details visit <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- GENERAL MANAGER /Procurement/KRIDE

THE HINDU POWERPLAY T20 TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Virat Kohli holds the record for the most runs in a single edition of the T20 World Cup—319 runs in 2014. Which batter sits second with 317 runs in 2009?

2. Which is the only edition of the T20 World Cup to not have a single century scored?

3. Excluding this World Cup, along with Shakib Al Hasan, who is the only other bowler to have three four-wicket hauls in T20 World Cups?

Scan the code, to participate in the quiz and win exciting gift vouchers

Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. Kenya
2. Sri Lanka
3. Chris Gayle

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
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E-mail : edrugs.kmscl@kerala.gov.in, website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No.KMSCL/ED/06/2024 **Re- TENDER NOTICE** Date : 18.06.2024

Online bids are invited from manufacturers/direct importers / loan licensees on behalf of Department of Health, Govt of Kerala for the procurement of Biolarvicide: Bacillus Thuringiensis Israelensis AS 5 (BT) for NVBDCP for the year 2023-2024.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	Category
1.	KMSCL/ED/BTI-NVBDCP/RT/2024/013 dtd. 18/06/2024	Insecticide

Last date and time of online uploading of tender - 06.07.2024, 5.00 pm.
Date and time of opening of Technical bid - 08.07.2024 11.00 am.
Tenders shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.

(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

BANGKOK
Thailand approves same-sex marriage in a historic move



Thailand on Tuesday became the first country in Southeast Asia to legalise same-sex marriage, in a historic parliamentary vote hailed as a "victory" by campaigners. The upper house Senate gave final approval — by 130 votes to four, with 18 abstentions — to changes to the marriage law allowing same-sex couples to tie the knot. AFP

JERUSALEM
Thousands of Israelis turn out for anti-government demonstrations



Thousands of Israelis protested against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government on Monday over the Gaza war and failure to negotiate the release of hostages held in the Palestinian territory. Protesters travelled to Jerusalem to rally outside the Israeli parliament and Mr. Netanyahu's residence on Monday. AFP

KYIV
Kyiv claims its drones hit a Russian oil facility, sparking a huge blaze



Ukraine claimed responsibility on Tuesday for an overnight drone attack on a Russian oil facility that started a massive blaze in the latest long-range strike by Kyiv's forces on a border region. The attack set fire to an oil reservoir in Russia's Rostov region and more than 200 firefighters were at the scene. AP

LAHORE
36 Ahmadi community members held in Pak. for animal sacrifice



At least 36 members of the minority Ahmadi community were held in Pakistan for sacrificing animals on Id as they have been declared non-Muslims in the country, a community leader said on Tuesday. Jamaat-e-Ahmadiyya Pakistan's Amir Mahmood blamed the radical Islamist party TLP for fanning hatred against Ahmadis. PTI

'Israeli intel had warned of Hamas's plans before attack'

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

An Israeli intelligence brief prepared weeks before Hamas's October 7 attack had warned military officials of the Palestinian group's preparations for an assault, according to Israeli public broadcaster Kan.

The Israeli military's signals intelligence unit drafted the brief in September. It said the Unit 8200 intelligence document included details of elite Hamas fighters training for hostage-taking and plans for raids on military positions and Israeli communities.

The brief said the Palestinian militants were aiming to take hundreds of hostages. "The expected number of hostages: 200-250 people", the brief said.

Biden planning to ease immigration pathway for spouses of U.S. citizens

While the new rules do not expand the eligibility for permanent residency, they seek to streamline the process for those who already qualify, and will do away with the requirement that they leave the country as part of the application process

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden on Tuesday will unveil new rules easing the process for undocumented spouses of U.S. citizens to obtain permanent residency status, the White House said.

The Biden administration has been trying to walk a thin line on immigration, a key issue for many Americans ahead of November's presidential election.

The Democrat is seeking to be tougher on illegal migrants, while also contrasting himself with the harsher policies of Republican rival Donald Trump.



New stride: Officials estimate the new rules will benefit around 5,00,000 people and 50,000 stepchildren of U.S. citizens. REUTERS

The new rules will not expand eligibility for permanent residency, but rather streamline the process for those who already

qualify. That includes by removing a requirement they leave the country as part of the application process.

The new rules would apply to those present in the country for at least 10 years and married to a U.S. citizen before June 17, 2024 — which the administration estimates to include some 5,00,000 people.

In addition, some 50,000 stepchildren of U.S. citizens would be eligible.

Those approved would be granted work authorisation and the right to stay in the United States for up to three years while they apply for permanent residency.

Once someone has permanent residency — also known as a green card — that person could in theory later apply for citizenship.

"What we are announcing are potentially streamlined processes... (to) minimise the bureaucracy, minimise the hardship that having to leave the country creates," a senior administration official told reporters ahead of the announcement.

However, "only Congress can deliver... comprehensive reform of our immigration and asylum laws," another official added.

A previous, bipartisan immigration package pushed by Mr. Biden in Congress would have introduced the strictest policies in decades, but fell apart when Republicans walked away from the deal.

Jaishankar to 'review' progress of projects during Sri Lanka visit



Friendly talks: S. Jaishankar with Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe in New Delhi on June 10. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will arrive in Colombo on Thursday, in his first official visit to a neighbouring country since the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA)'s coalition government assumed charge in India earlier this month.

Confirming his Indian counterpart's visit, Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Ali Sabry told *The Hindu* on Tuesday that projects that India and Sri Lanka have agreed to jointly implement will be reviewed. "We will review progress in projects in various sectors such as renewable energy and connectivity, and look at ways to expedite them," Mr. Sabry said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's possible visit to Sri Lanka this year will also be discussed, he added.

In addition to holding talks with the Sri Lankan leadership, Mr. Jaishankar will meet politicians across Sri Lanka's political parties. After his visit to Sri Lanka, Mr. Jaishankar is scheduled to travel to Mauritius.

On June 10, Mr. Jaishankar called on President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who was in New Delhi for the swearing in ceremony of Mr. Modi. Following the meeting, Mr. Wickremesinghe's office said Mr. Jaishankar spoke on the "swift resumption of development projects initiated in Sri Lanka with Indian investments, which had been halted midway." Further, Mr. Jaishankar highlighted plans for an industrial zone in the eastern district of Trincomalee to be established by the Indian government, which "will attract numerous Indian investors and potentially investors from other countries".

In a joint vision statement released during Mr. Wickremesinghe's visit to New Delhi in July 2023, the two countries noted that the ongoing cooperation in developing the Trincomalee oil tank farms was "a reflection of our endeavour to develop mutually beneficial cooperation projects".

Further, they agreed to develop Trincomalee as "a national and regional hub of industry, energy and economic activity".

Chinese forces seize two Philippines boats in disputed shoal

Associated Press
MANILA

Chinese forces seized two Philippine rubber boats that were delivering food and other supplies to a military outpost in a disputed South China Sea shoal in a tense confrontation in which some Filipino navy personnel were injured, Philippine security officials said on Tuesday.

The U.S. renewed a warning on Tuesday that it is obligated to defend the Philippines, a treaty ally, a day after the hours-long

hostilities in Second Thomas Shoal. The shoal has been occupied by a small Philippine navy contingent aboard a long-grounded warship that has been closely monitored by China's coast guard and navy in a years-long stand-off.

There is fear that territorial disputes in the South China Sea could escalate and pit the United States and China in a larger conflict. China and the Philippines blamed each other for Monday's hostilities, the most serious in recent months.

Russian President Putin makes a rare visit to North Korea, an old ally

Associated Press
SEOUL

President Vladimir Putin arrived in North Korea early on Wednesday, Russian news agencies reported, after he said the two countries want to cooperate closely to overcome U.S.-led sanctions in the face of intensifying confrontations with Washington. Mr. Putin was met at Pyongyang's airport by North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.

Mr. Putin's comments appeared in an op-ed piece in North Korean state media hours before his expected arrival for a two-

Ahead of the trip, he said the two nations want to cooperate closely to overcome U.S.-led sanctions

day visit as the countries deepen their alignment in the face of separate, intensifying confrontations with Washington.

In the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, the streets were decorated with Mr. Putin's portraits and Russian flags. A banner hung on a building said: "We warmly welcome the President of the Rus-

sian Federation."

Mr. Putin, who will be making his first trip to North Korea in 24 years, said he highly appreciates his firm support of his military action in Ukraine. He said the countries would continue to "resolutely oppose" what he described as Western ambitions "to hinder the establishment of a multipolar world order based on justice, mutual respect for sovereignty, considering each other's interests." Mr. Putin also said Russia and North Korea will develop trade and payment systems "that are not controlled by the

West" and jointly oppose sanctions against the countries, which he described as "illegal, unilateral restrictions."

Future cooperation

North Korea is under heavy UN Security Council economic sanctions over its nuclear weapons and missile programs, while Russia is also grappling with sanctions by the United States and its Western partners over its aggression in Ukraine.

Mr. Putin said the countries will also expand cooperation in tourism, culture and education.

Sport

Turkiye puts it past Georgia; Mbappe injury scare for France as it beats Austria



Reuters
DORTMUND

Teenager Arder Guler's superb long-range strike helped Turkiye get off to a victorious start to its Euro 2024 campaign with a 3-1 win over debutant Georgia here on Tuesday.

Mert Muldur gave Turkiye the lead in the 25th minute, smashing a swerving volley past a helpless Georgia goalkeeper Giorgi Marnadashvili from the edge of the box.

major international tournament, equalised in the 32nd minute when Georges Mikautadze turned Giorgi Kochorashvili's cross past Mert Gunok.

The 19-year-old Guler, coming into the tournament fresh from a run of goals for Real Madrid, scored after 65 minutes, curling an unstoppable shot into the top corner. Georgia pressed for a late equaliser but to no avail before Kerem Akturkoglu broke away and passed into an empty net in added time to make it 3-1.

Meanwhile on Monday, France delivered a 100th win for manager Didier Deschamps as it beat a tenacious and well organised Austria side 1-0, courtesy of an own goal, in their opening Group D match at Dusseldorf but talisman Kylian Mbappe suffered a



Firing away: Guler curled an unstoppable shot for Turkiye's second goal. REUTERS

worrying injury on Monday. On his 80th appearance for *Les Bleus*, the 25-year-old's wing wizardry broke Austria's resistance in the 38th minute when his drib-

ble past three defenders and cross caused the unfortunate Wober to head past Patrick Pentz.

But Mbappe also wasted a glorious chance to make things more comfor-

table for his side in the 54th minute, surprising virtually everyone in the stadium as he shot wide after bursting through on goal.

He ended up bloodied

UEFA Euro 2024	UEFA Euro 2024	UEFA Euro 2024
Croatia v Albania Group B, June 19 Voiksparkstadion	Germany v Hungary Group A, June 19 Stuttgart Arena	Scotland v Switzerland Group A, June 19 Cologne Stadium
FIFA rank: 10 vs 66	FIFA rank: 16 vs 26	FIFA rank: 39 vs 19
CRO 0-3 ESP Match 1 ALB 1-2 ITA	GER 5-1 SCO Match 1 HUN 1-3 SUI	SCO 1-5 GER Match 1 SUI 3-1 HUN
HEAD-TO-HEAD	HEAD-TO-HEAD	HEAD-TO-HEAD
First meeting	Germany 13 Hungary 12	Scotland 8 Switz 5
UEFA EURO RECORD	UEFA EURO RECORD	UEFA EURO RECORD
Wins: 9, Draws: 5, Losses: 8, Goals for: 1.30, Goals against: 1.36	Wins: 2, Draws: 13, Losses: 13, Goals for: 1.94, Goals against: 1.92	Wins: 4, Draws: 2, Losses: 6, Goals for: 0.60, Goals against: 1.50

and bruised after taking a shoulder to the face in the closing minutes before being shown a yellow card having sat down on the pitch shortly after coming back on after receiving treatment. Mbappe was finally substituted in a

chaotic end to the match.

The results:
Group F: Turkiye 3 (Muldur 25,

Guler 65, Akturkoglu 90+7) bt Georgia 1 (Mikautadze 32).

Group D: Austria 0 lost to France 1 (Wober 38-og).

BANG BANG

Windies scores 36 runs in an over against Afghanistan



West Indies equalled the T20 World Cup record for most runs in an over during the game against Afghanistan in Gros Islet on Tuesday. Nicholas Pooran and West Indies scored 36 runs off Azmatullah Omarzai's over (6, 4nb, 5w, 0, 4lb, 4, 6, 6), equalling India's record set in 2007 by Yuvraj Singh with six sixes against England.

ADAPTABILITY

One has to bat according to the conditions, says Suryakumar



It is adaptability that makes Suryakumar Yadav the world's top-ranked T20I batter. "One has to bat according to the conditions and change his game based on what the team needs. You have to display good batsmanship, especially if the pitch is difficult," he said at a press conference in Barbados on Tuesday.

PRICELESS GIFT

Hall gives a copy of his biography Answering The Call to Kohli



West Indies fast bowling legend Wesley Hall was greeted by Indian batter Virat Kohli at the Kensington Oval at Barbados on Tuesday. Hall gave a copy of his biography *Answering The Call* to Kohli, and wished the Indian team success at the ongoing T20 World Cup. Hall also praised Kohli for his expert batsmanship.

PERMANENT SCAR

Australia's Warner says the 2018 'sandpaper-gate' will never go away



David Warner says he will forever be tarnished by the 2018 "sandpaper-gate" scandal, as he ponders his legacy ahead of an impending international retirement. "It's going to be inevitable that when people talk about me in 20 or 30 years' time, there will always be that sandpaper scandal," Warner told *Cricket Australia*.

Men in Blue fresh and ready to show their might with the bat

If 130 seemed like gold on the wickets in New York, a more IPL-style total can be expected in the West Indies; openers Rohit and Kohli can play with freedom in the PowerPlay while Pant will relish the opportunity to take on the bowlers

T20 WORLD CUP

Ashwin Achal
BARBADOS

For the Indian batters, the USA leg of the ICC men's T20 World Cup was a rough ride. Runs did not come easy at New York, as the seamers exploited favourable conditions to the hilt.

Good times ahead

Having made it out safely to the West Indies for the Super 8 stage, it is now finally smooth sailing. Smiles were present all around as the players warmed up with light fielding routines at the Kensington Oval. Virat Kohli was all laughs as he showed his football skills to his mates.

A short huddle was followed by a fielding session. The players perhaps wanted a feel of the outfield after heavy rains lashed the city the previous night. Kohli went in to bat at nets, and the throwdown specialists offered him a few full balls. Crisp drives, and Kohli was on his way. The former captain will feel that he is due to escape a horror run.

At the Kensington Oval, the site of India's first Sup-



Different landscape: Rohit and Kohli will look to get going on the quality pitches in the Caribbean. K.R. DEEPAK

er 8 game against Afghanistan, stroke-making is considerably easier. The last match held here, between Australia and England around 10 days ago, was a high-scorer. Australia breached the 200-mark - unthinkable in New York - while England responded with 165 for six. These will seem like joyous numbers for India, which could only manage scores of 97/2, 119, 111/3 in its Group-A

matches. Even better tidings await at Antigua, where India will face Bangladesh on Saturday. The city has been affected by rain, but when play has been held, the big hits and bold swings have come thick and fast. England and Australia have had a great time of it in Antigua, taking apart the minnows ruthlessly. The Indian team will

now have to rethink the par-score. If 130 seemed like gold in New York, then a more IPL-style total can be expected in the West Indies. Openers Rohit Sharma and Kohli can bat with freedom in the PowerPlay, and gain maximum reward for their shots. This was not the case earlier, when Kohli fell flat when trying to force the pace. Rishabh Pant needs no second invitation to

take on the bowlers. He can come good in any part of the world. The spinners will have a bigger role to play in the Caribbean. Axar Patel kept it tight in the group stage, but Ravindra Jadeja found it hard to extract any purchase. If Jadeja stays in the XI against Afghanistan, expect the southpaw to give the ball a fair rip. The Indian team, restrained thus far, can now go full tilt.

Nicholas Pooran stars in WI's win over Afghanistan

Avan Acharya
GROS ISLET (ST. LUCIA)

Nicholas Pooran's power-packed innings at the Daren Sammy National Cricket Stadium on Monday night ended dramatically: a direct hit from Azmatullah Omarzai caught Pooran short of his first T20 World Cup century by two runs, leaving him on all fours with the stumps in disarray.

His partner, Andre Russell, expressed the collective disappointment of West Indies fans as Pooran fell after a sensational 53-ball knock.

However, he had just laid the foundation for West Indies' 104-run victory against Afghanistan in the final Group-C match, securing an unbeaten entry into the Super 8s.

Chasing 219, Afghanistan's hope dwindled rapidly after slipping from 45 for one to 63 for five within the first 10 overs.

Obed McCoy's three for 14, including three wickets in eight balls, and Akeal Hosen's wicket maiden in the first over derailed the Afghan chase.

In elite club

Earlier, West Indies, after being asked to bat, systematically dismantled Afghanistan's bowlers.

Johnson Charles attacked left-arm quick Fazalhaq Farooqi and Azma-



Packing a punch: Nicholas Pooran went on the rampage, smashing a 53-ball 98 studded with six fours and eight sixes. PTI

tullah Omarzai, exploiting the third man region with multiple boundaries.

Rashid Khan's decision to keep a deep backward point instead of a squarer third man allowed Charles to exploit that gap.

Pooran came in at three, and immediately capitalised on the lack of swing, racing to 27 off nine balls as Omarzai conceded 36 runs in his second over - the joint-most runs scored in an over in the T20 World Cup, after Yuvraj Singh's six sixes against Stuart Broad in 2007.

Early action

This forced Rashid into early action in the PowerPlay - not his forte - and he went for 12 as well.

By the end of the first six overs, Pooran and Charles had propelled West Indies to 92 for one, the highest

PowerPlay score in men's T20 World Cups.

Naveen-ul-Haq ended the 38-ball, 80-run partnership by dismissing Charles for 43 off 27 balls. Pooran then slowed down as Noor Ahmad brought some control.

However, he accelerated again with skipper Rovman Powell, reaching his half-century off 31 balls and then hammered Rashid for 24 runs in the 18th over.

Powell contributed significantly in the 38-ball 64-run stand before falling to a slower ball. But by then, the result was a foregone conclusion.

The scores: West Indies 218/5 in 20 overs (Pooran 98, Charles 43, Powell 26, Hope 25, Naib 2/14) bt Afghanistan 114 in 16.2 overs (Zadran 38, McCoy 3/14, Hosen 2/21, Gudakesh Motie 2/28).
Toss: Afghanistan.
PO: Pooran.

What went wrong for Pakistan, New Zealand and Sri Lanka?

Bhavin Shivaa
CHENNAI

Former T20 World Cup champions Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and regular contender New Zealand failed to advance to the Super 8, rather shockingly, in the ongoing edition of the T20 World Cup.

Pakistan, along with India, was expected to progress from Group-A, but a shock Super Over loss to USA and a failed run chase against its neighbour ruined its chances.

The Lankans and Kiwis were in tougher groups. While the former was in Group-D with Bangladesh and South Africa, Kane Williamson's men were drawn with two-time champion West Indies and Afghanistan.

Both teams would have hoped to advance, but sub-par performances meant that they were on the flight back home before the Super 8 stage.

All three sides will rue the missed chances. The precarious nature of the pitches in the United States will definitely be a point of discussion for the teams that played their group stage games in New York.

Final standings

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
GROUP-A						
India (Q)	4	3	0	1	7	1.137
USA (Q)	4	2	1	1	5	0.127
Pakistan	4	2	2	0	4	0.294
Canada	4	1	2	1	3	-0.493
Ireland	4	0	3	1	1	-1.293
GROUP-B						
Australia (Q)	4	4	0	0	8	2.791
England (Q)	4	2	1	1	5	3.611
Scotland	4	2	1	1	5	1.255
Namibia	4	1	3	0	2	-2.585
Oman	4	0	4	0	0	-3.062
GROUP-C						
West Indies (Q)	4	4	0	0	8	3.257
Afghanistan (Q)	4	3	1	0	6	1.835
New Zealand	4	2	2	0	4	0.415
Uganda	4	1	3	0	2	-4.510
Papua New Guinea	4	0	4	0	0	-1.268
GROUP-D						
South Africa (Q)	4	4	0	0	8	0.470
Bangladesh (Q)	4	3	1	0	6	0.616
Sri Lanka	4	1	2	1	3	0.863
Netherlands	4	1	3	0	2	-1.358
Nepal	4	0	3	1	1	-0.542

Q: Qualified

Pakistan and Sri Lanka were rattled by the inconsistent surface at the Nassau County Stadium and would believe that different circumstances might have

yielded different results. Not only the wickets, the weather gods also intervened in a few matches.

Some tactical blunders, like dropping Tim Southee

Today's match



USA vs South Africa
Antigua, 8 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD T20Is
First Meeting

- the all-time top wicket-taker in T20Is - in the crucial encounter against Afghanistan and a poor performance in the death overs against Rovman Powell's men, sealed the Kiwis' fate as they suffered reverses in their first two fixtures.

It was almost a similar script for Wanindu Hasaranga's men who, after two losses and a No Result against Nepal, finished third in their group with three points.

Even as the heavyweights faltered, the lesser-fancied teams punched above their weight. No one would have backed USA to qualify at the start of the tournament, but a spirited show saw the co-host defy expectations and beat the 2009 champion Pakistan while making it to the Super 8.

Gambhir and Raman interviewed for India head coach post



Gambhir and Raman. FILE PHOTOS: K.R. DEEPAK & M. VEDHAN

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Gautam Gambhir and W.V. Raman, former India opening batters, were interviewed on Tuesday for the post of India's men's cricket team's head coach. The duo appeared virtually for the interviews conducted by the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC).

The CAC was chaired by former India batter Ashok Malhotra.

It is understood that Malhotra and his two colleagues - Sulakshana Naik and Jatin Paranjape - were impressed by both the presentations.

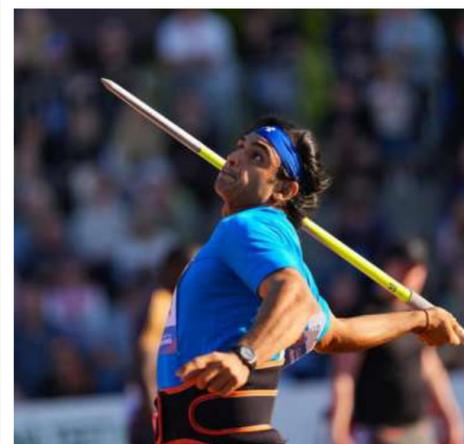
Raman - with his rich experience coaching the India women's side, a long

stint at the National Cricket Academy, various state sides along with being a batting coach in the Indian Premier League - was an automatic choice to be shortlisted for the interview.

Gambhir, meanwhile, has emerged as a clear front-runner as Rahul Dravid's successor. After being the team mentor with Lucknow Super Giants in IPL 2022 and 2023, he helmed the Kolkata Knight Riders' to the IPL title in the same capacity last month.

Despite his lack of experience in coaching in formats other than T20, the BCCI hierarchy along with the CAC is understood to be in favour of him.

Neeraj claims gold at Paavo Nurmi Games



Marking his territory: Neeraj came back strongly after his injury layoff. @WORLDATHLETICS

Press Trust of India
TURKU (FINLAND)

India's Neeraj Chopra snared his maiden gold medal at the Paavo Nurmi Games here on Tuesday, returning to action in style after being laid low for a month due to a niggle.

Neeraj, who claimed the silver here in 2022, produced the winning effort of 85.97m in his third attempt to lead the field for a major part of the competition, which also featured 19-year-old German prodigy

Max Dehning who is the youngest member of the 90m club.

Home favourite Toni Keranen claimed the silver medal with a best throw of 84.19m, while his compatriot and last edition's gold-medallist Oliver Helander took the third spot with 83.96m.

The 26-year-old Neeraj came into this event following a second-place finish in the Doha Diamond League and a gold in the Federation Cup in Bhubaneswar last month.

IN BRIEF



Raonic sets record for most aces in a three-set match

Milos Raonic sent down a record 47 aces and saved two match points while defeating Cameron Norrie in the first round at Queen's Club tennis in London on Monday. It is an ATP record for a three-set match since the statistic was kept from 1991. The previous record was 45 aces sent down by Ivo Karlovic against Tomas Berdych in Halle in 2015. Raonic's previous best was 38 in 2011.

Priyansh and Jyothi best Indian archers at Antalya WC

Priyansh and V. Jyothi Surekha were the best among Indian men and women respectively in the compound qualification rounds of the Archery World Cup Stage-3 in Antalya, Turkey, on Tuesday. Priyansh placed fourth with 710 points, while Abhishek Verma was fifth with an identical score of 710. Prathamesh Fuge was 20th with 705. Jyothi was second after scoring 705 points. She was followed by Aditi Swami (10th, 699) and Parneet Kaur (14th, 696). India topped the rankings in men (2125), women (2100) and mixed team (4115) categories.

Ganemat and Mairaj placed 22nd in mixed skeet

Ganemat Sekhon and Maria Ahmad Khan shot 138 to be placed 22nd in mixed skeet in the shotgun World Cup in Lonato, Italy, on Tuesday. The other Indian team of Raiza Dillon and Anantjeet Singh Naruka were 26th with 136.

Golfer Shubhankar qualifies for Paris Olympics

Shubhankar Sharma will be teeing off for India in the Paris Olympic Games. This was confirmed after the International Golf Federation revealed its Olympic qualification list of 60 men and women.

Tour de France to start in Barcelona in 2026

The Tour de France will start in Barcelona in 2026, organiser ASO announced on Tuesday. Two complete stages would take place in Catalonia and the third stage would also begin there before crossing into France. This year, the Tour starts in the Italian city of Florence on June 29.

LIVE TELECAST

India Women vs South Africa Women: 2nd ODI, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 1.30 p.m.
T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m. & 6 a.m. (Thursday)
Football: Euro 2024: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 6.30, 9.30 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Thursday)

Paddler Snehit wins bronze in BRICS Games

Sports Bureau

S. Fidel R. Snehit won the individual bronze in the BRICS Games table tennis competition in Kazan. Snehit lost to title winner Kirill Skachkov 9-11, 8-11, 6-11 in the semifinals. "I was in good rhythm till the semifinals. I couldn't handle Kirill in front of his home crowd," said Snehit.

Russia defeated India 2-0 in tennis men's semifinals. In women's section, India downed Uzbekistan 2-0 to set up a last-four clash against Belarus.

The results: Tennis: Men (semifinals): Russia bt India 2-0 (Ilya Simakin bt Karan Singh 7-6(1), 1-6, 6-0; Daniel Panarin bt Chirac Duhan 6-1, 6-2). **Women (quarterfinals): India bt Uzbekistan 2-0** (Vaishnavi Dakar bt Sabrina Olimjonova 6-3, 6-3; Akanksha Nitture bt Maftunab Kahramonova 6-0, 6-4).

Arjun seals Stepan Avagyan Memorial title

CHESS

Sports Bureau

CHENNAI

Arjun clinches Stepan Avagyan Memorial title India's highest-rated chess player GM Arjun Erigaisi continued his top run as he dominated the 10-player field to win the Stepan Avagyan Memorial 2024 on Monday in Jermuk, Armenia, with a round to spare. Arjun beat Russia's Volodar Murzin with white pieces in 63 moves to end the penultimate round (eight) with six points, a full 1.5 points ahead to seal the title. The 20-year-old drew with local lad Manuel Petrosyan in the final round to finish with 6.5 points in nine rounds.

With four wins and five draws, Arjun gained 7.2 Elo rating points; his live rating of 2778.1 helped him retain the World No. 4 spot behind Norway's Magnus Carlsen and Americans Hi-

India will look for unassailable lead against South Africa

The Proteas will need a massive upgrade in their performance, having let the host slip out of their grip in the first ODI; they will have a full squad to choose from this time around, after illness forced at least three members out of Sunday's fixture

CRICKET

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Following the commanding 143-run victory in the first ODI, India will look to sew up the series when it meets South Africa in the second match, at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Wednesday.

In the first encounter, Smriti Mandhana carried the batting with a fine century (117), and was assisted by all-rounders Deepti Sharma (37) and Pooja Vastrakar (31 n.o.).

The bowlers, led by debutant Asha Sobhana (4/21), then pinned the visitors down.

If anything, the think-tank will seek improvements from its top-order batters.

Opener Shafali Verma has totalled 21 runs from her previous six visits to the crease in ODIs while skipper Harmanpreet Kaur has 41 from five.

It is imperative that the



Fine tuning: The think-tank will seek improvements from India's top-order batters with the intention of sewing up the series. K. MURALI KUMAR

duo comes good.

Pooja Vastrakar — clutching her left knee while fielding and exiting the field in the opening tie — caused some worry, but the 24-year-old bowled in the nets on Tuesday though it remains to be seen if she is match-fit.

South Africa, on the oth-

er hand, will need a massive upgrade in its performance. After letting India off the hook from 99 for five, its batting came undone as it folded for 122. Tazmin Brits, Sune Luus and Marizanne Kapp all got starts, but did not make them count.

One upside will be that

the Proteas will have a full squad to choose from. Pacer Nadine de Klerk, in the pre-match briefing, said that the illness that had kept at least three women from playing Sunday's game, including herself, was a thing of the past. The 24-year-old, however, was tight-lipped about Kapp's

return to bowling following a back injury.

This being a weekday fixture, there may not be that many supporters in the stands.

The ones who do turn up will seek their money's worth while all along hoping for the rain to stay away like it has all week.

'Kuldeep can pick up wickets as Caribbean pitches may offer turn'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India may have a set bowling combination, but New Zealand great Stephen Fleming feels inclusion of left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav can provide that "extra bit of wicket-taking flair" as the Caribbean wickets are expected to offer turn in the Super 8 stage of the T20 World Cup.

India has so far gone with three pacers — Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj and Arshdeep Singh and two spinners — Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel in its XI. "I would think maybe Kuldeep would come in to provide that extra bit of wicket-taking flair if the wickets do provide the turn as they get a little bit more used and you get closer to the end of the tournament," he said.

"But they've still got that opportunity now to do



Making a point: Jadeja can be dangerous in the right conditions as per his IPL team CSK's coach Fleming. FILE PHOTO: AKHILESH KUMAR

both which is good and horses for courses, you can't be so set in one way of playing that you miss the opportunities to take advantage of conditions."

India has played two left-arm spin all-rounders and while Axar has been among wickets, Jadeja still hasn't quite fired and bowled just three overs in three matches.

Fleming, a long-time coach of IPL side Chennai Super Kings, doesn't see any problem in playing two players with the same skill sets.

"Jadeja in the right conditions can be incredibly dangerous, and Axar can provide a different type of attack where conditions are slightly different like in New York," said Fleming.

Rutuja progresses in singles and doubles in Spain

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Rutuja Bhosale defeated Anastasia Gureva 6-4, 6-4 in the first round of the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Taste, Spain, on Tuesday.

Rutuja also made the doubles quarterfinals with Tian Fangran of China, with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Alexandra Bozovic and Maria Ramirez.

The results:
\$25,000 ITF men, Luzhou, China: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Jeffrey Hsu (The) & Mitsuki Long (Man) bt S. Mukund & Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-2, 7-6(9).

\$15,000 ITF men, Hillcrest, South Africa: First round: Aryan Shah bt Charl Morgan (RSA) 6-1, 6-0. **Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Vasilios

Caripi (RSA) & Jesse Flores (CRC) bt Parth Aggarwal & Nash Yadav 6-3, 6-4.

Kabir Hans & Aryan Shah bt James Beaven (GBR) & Darrshan Suresh (Mas) 6-2, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF men, Koszalin, Poland: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Manas Dhamne & Daniele Rapagnetta (Ita) bt Tim Ruhl & Patrick Azhraj (Ger) 6-1, 3-6, [10-8].

\$15,000 ITF men, Hong Kong: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): S.D. Prajwal Dev & Adil Kalyanpur bt Elhan Leung & Ching Yew (Hog) 6-3, 7-6(3).

Siwanat Auytayakul & Kasidit Samrej (Tha) bt Aditya Balsekar & Rishi Reddy 6-1, 6-1; Jake Delaney & Jesse Delaney (Aus) bt Dev Javia & Kazuma Kawachi (Jpn) 6-7(3), 6-2, [10-5].

\$15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: First round: Jack Loutit (Nzl) bt Manish Sureshkumar 6-1, 6-3.

\$15,000 ITF women, Hillcrest, South Africa: First round: Liana Cammilleri (Ger) bt Nidhitra Rajmohan 6-0, 6-3.



Asha Sobhana. K. MURALI KUMAR

'WPL and RCB have played a major role in my life'

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

India leggie Asha Sobhana credited Women's Premier League and Royal Challengers Bangalore for the turnaround in her cricketing fortunes.

The 33-year-old was an integral part of the RCB side that won the WPL in March and has since made her debut for India in both white-ball formats.

"WPL and RCB have played a major role in my life," Sobhana said on Tuesday, ahead of the second ODI against South Africa here. "It was not easy for me to come to international level. Playing in such crowded stadiums... that experience RCB gave me.

"And the Chinnaswamy Stadium has been very special, even before I started playing for RCB, from my under-19 days. Whenever I have bowled here, I have got some advantage," Sobhana said about the ground at which she marked her ODI debut on Sunday with a four-wicket haul (4/21).

Tondaiman gets the nod for Paris Olympics

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prithviraj Tondaiman has got the nod for the trap entry for the Paris Olympics as the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) announced the selection on Tuesday.

Bhowaneesh Mendiratta had won the Olympic quota in men's trap, but Tondaiman was able to nose ahead following consistent performances and the best fare during the Olympic selection trials earlier.

Rajeshwari Kumari in women's trap and Anantjeet Singh Naruka in men's trap, apart from Raiza Dillon and Maheshwari Chauhan were able to retain their berth for Paris after having the Olympic quota.

Anantjeet and Maheshwari will compete in the mixed skeet as well.

With one of the women's pistol quota being swapped, Shreyasi Singh has been proposed as the second candidate in women's trap.

"A second Olympic medal in shotgun looks a strong possibility," said NRAI secretary-general Sultan Singh.

The NRAI had earlier announced the rifle and pistol squad. With 21 quota places, the second best after China among all the countries, India has given itself 25 chances to win medals in shooting.



Tondaiman. FILE PHOTO

Tatum powers Celtics to a record-breaking 18th title

NBA FINALS

Reuters
BOSTON

Jayson Tatum produced a dazzling 31-point display as the Boston Celtics dominated the Dallas Mavericks 106-88 to clinch a record-breaking 18th NBA championship on Monday.

Humbled by Dallas in a 38-point game four drubbing on Friday, Boston slammed the door on any chance of a Mavericks fightback to seal a 4-1 series victory and claim the Larry O'Brien Trophy at an electric TD Garden.

Tatum spearheaded a superb performance at both ends of the floor as Boston pulled clear of its arch-rival Los Angeles Lakers to stand alone with 18 titles.

The emphatic win came 16 years to the day after Boston's last triumph — ov-



Best on show: Celtics' shooting guard Brown, named the Finals MVP, proudly holds aloft the Larry O'Brien Trophy. GETTY IMAGES

er the Lakers — in 2008. "Oh my God. It's a surreal feeling. We did it," Tatum said.

Jaylen Brown, who was named Finals Most Valuable Player, gave Tatum scoring support with 21 points, while Jrue Holiday added 15 and Derrick White 14.

Brown averaged 20.8 points, 5.4 rebounds and

5.0 assists in five Finals games. The defeat marked a miserable end to the finals for Dallas duo Luka Doncic and Kyrie Irving, who had led the Western Conference fifth seeds on an improbable giant-killing journey to the NBA Finals.

Doncic, sensational during the Mavs' game four rout of the Celtics, finished with 28 points.

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E-Tender Notice:- RFP No. GMDC/KEP/36/24-25

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The candidates willing to apply should visit website of this institute www.gmch.gov.in for further details. The Prospectus will be available on the website from 21.06.2024 onwards and online application form will be available on the website from 21.06.2024 to 10.07.2024 upto 4.00 pm. All candidates who have applied online will be allowed provisionally to sit in the GCET-2024 i.e. Entrance Examination. Mere submission of application online & appearing in the entrance test does not make a candidate eligible for admission to the course. It will be subject to eligibility criteria laid down for the course.

Note: 1. The application received other than online process will not be entertained and rejected summarily.

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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH



N. Krishnan Nair
In solemn gratitude for the life of N. Krishnan Nair (Mohan-Age 69). We announce his passing on June 17th, 2024.
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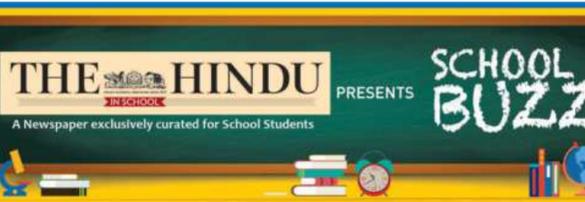
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CORRIGENDUM-I
Notice Inviting Tender (No.-RWD/PMGSY/HQ/ET/2024-25/03) [PR No.-001560(RWD) 2024-25]

- In column 06 for new technology, "Cement stabilization" should be read as "Full Depth Reclamation (FDR) methodology using Cement stabilization".
- All other terms & conditions will remain same as per NIT.

Engineer-in-Chief-cum-Additional Commissioner-cum-Special Secretary, RWD, Bihar, Patna
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WORKSHOP ON STUDENT MANAGEMENT

Manaskriti School, Faridabad, recently held a workshop on student management, led by Ms Alka from Suraasa. It focused on empowering educators with strategies to enhance student engagement and create a positive learning environment. Ms Alka introduced innovative teaching techniques and emphasised active listening to foster a harmonious classroom. The session addressed common challenges in managing student behaviour and provided practical solutions, equipping educators with valuable insights to improve their teaching practices and support students effectively.

ART FEST CELEBRATED

Ramjas School, Pusa Road, hosted the annual Art Fest, "Gulmohar", celebrating Indian folk and classical art forms. Over four days, students, guided by award-winning artists, explored Lippan Art, Madhubani Painting, Chhau dance, and traditional music like 'Tappe' and 'Chhath geet'. They also learnt Papier Mache and Batik art. The fest featured a screening of the play "Jis Lahore ni Dekhya O Janmya I Nai," followed by a panel discussion. Workshops and sessions encouraged creative expression and boosted students' self-confidence.

ABHYUDAYA 2024 CELEBRATED

SSLT Gujarat Sr Sec School celebrated 'Gujarat Diwas' with 'Abhyudaya 2024', graced by Chief Guest R.N. Sharma, Director of Education and Sports. The event featured diverse performances showcasing Gujarat's heritage, with the highlight being a 'Maharaja' themed on Lord Krishna and Radha's 'Raas Lila'. The school's first magazine, "Meraki," was also released. Head of School Ms Geetanjali Pathak thanked participants and attendees, stressing the cultural event's significance in enriching students' experiences.

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A) (Rs. 30.00 Lacs to 100.00 Lacs)

S. No.	Job No.	Sale Start Date	Sale End Date	Tender Opening Date and Time
1	जॉब सं.-01/ई-निविदा/भनक्रॉडिग/2024-25 कार्य का नाम - प्रिंटिंग एवं स्टेशनरी सामान की आपूर्ति, अनुमानित लागत रु. 64.06,115.00	19.06.2024	02.07.2024 upto 5:00 P.M.	03.07.2024 11.00 AM
2	Job No.-16/E-TENDER/SPO/2023-24 Name of Work - Procurement of Manhole Covers with Frame for Jal Division-II, Estimated Rs. 50,40,000.00	19.06.2024	25.06.2024 upto 5:00 P.M.	26.06.2024 11.00 AM

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NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

(National Competitive Bidding Through e-Procurement)
eTender No.- 03/ 2024-25-Ranchi, Dated: 18.06.2024

The undersigned on behalf of Government of Jharkhand invites item rate bids through e-Procurement from the eligible bidders registered* in appropriate class with any State/Central Government/State/Central Government Organization for construction and maintenance for five years of the works (List of schemes shall be displayed in the website pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in) of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY) of Phase XIV (Bach-II, 2016-17).

Sr. No.	Package ID	District Name	Block name	WORK NAME	Length (in KM)	Cost of Const. and Maint. (in Lakh)	Earnest Money (in Lakh)	Time Period
1.	JH-XIV-RP-PAK-06	Pakur	Pakur	Remaining work of L040-Srirampur to Kasidanga	3.50	201.92	4.09	09 Months

The bid should be submitted online in the website pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in. The bidders should have valid Digital Signature Certificate for online submission of bid.
Details of bid submission is as under:

Procurement Officer	Place of Opening	Availability of tender (on-line) for bidding		Date & time of opening (on-line) of tender	
		From	To	Technical bid	Financial bid
1	2	3	4	5	6
Chief Engineer, JSRRDA, Ranchi	Chief Engineer, JSRRDA, Ranchi	20.06.2024 at 10.00 AM	08.07.2024 upto 5.00 PM	08.07.2024 at 05.30 PM	To be informed later

* Non-registered bidders may also submit bid, however the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authority before signing the contract.
* Cost may change.

- Cost of Bid Document (Rs. 10000) and Bid Security (as mentioned in the Bid Data Sheet) shall be deposited online in form as mentioned in Bid Data Sheet failing which the bid will be treated non responsive and action shall be taken as per Sec. 2 of ITB clause 12.2 (d).
- In case, it is found, even after the award of work that the bidder has submitted/ uploaded any false/erroneous/fraudulent statement/document, he/she is liable for blacklisting and forfeiture of Bid Security.
- Bidders must submit GST registration certificate without which bid is liable to be rejected.
- Bidders whose names appear in the Debar/blacklist of RWD or any department of GoJ/GoI (including JSRRDA) shall not be allowed to participate in the above bids.
- Bids submitted by bidders, who have long pending ATR(s)/ made inordinate delay in execution of earlier allotted construction/maintenance works of PMGSY, may be rejected summarily.
- In case of any discrepancy/dispute about units in BOQ, units as mentioned in Current SOR on which BOQ has been prepared shall prevail.
- Participating bidders are free to submit grievances, if any, against the decision of technical evaluation within five days from the date of uploading of decision of technical evaluation only through email at jhr-c@pmgsy.nic.in Grievance submitted after stipulated period shall not be considered.
- Bidders must have valid registration with Employee Provident Fund organization under EPF and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1952 failing which the bid shall be rejected.
- Bidders must not quote rate for routine maintenance. The amount for routine maintenance as indicated in the Bill of Quantities must be acceptable to bidders.
- For unbalanced bids, extra security will be required to be deposited by the bidder at the time of Agreement.
- The undersigned reserves the right to cancel the tender at any stage without giving prior notice/ reason.
- All other details can be seen in the bidding document which is available in website pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in as per schedule mentioned above.

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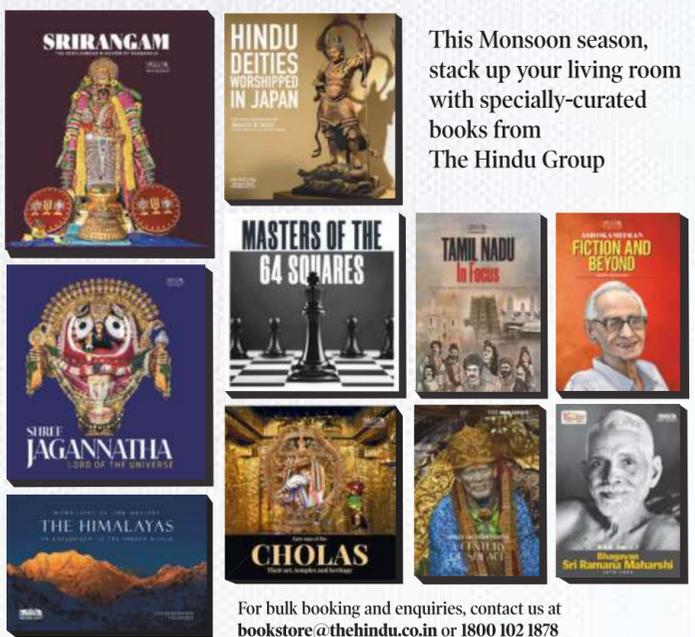
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				10% Booking Amount (within 7 days)	10% of TBC within 45 Days/ATS	30% of TBC within 90 Days	10% of TBC within 9/12/15 months from booking (As per construction)	20% On Offer of Possession	10% Booking Amount (within 7 days)	20% of TBC within 45 days/ATS	50% of TBC within 90 days	20% On Offer of Possession				
Ground Floor	100 SQ. FT.	Rs. 1,04,44,900	₹31,000	Rs. 10,44,490	Rs. 10,44,490	Rs. 31,33,470	Rs. 10,44,490	Rs. 20,88,980	Ground Floor	100 SQ. FT.	Rs. 94,67,500	₹31,000	Rs. 9,46,750	Rs. 18,93,500	Rs. 47,33,750	Rs. 18,93,500
First Floor	40 SQ. FT.	Rs. 35,81,080		Rs. 3,58,108	Rs. 3,58,108	Rs. 10,74,324	Rs. 3,58,108	Rs. 7,16,216	First Floor	40 SQ. FT.	Rs. 32,46,000		Rs. 3,24,600	Rs. 6,49,200	Rs. 16,23,000	Rs. 6,49,200
Second Floor	50 SQ. FT.	Rs. 37,30,300		Rs. 3,73,030	Rs. 3,73,030	Rs. 11,19,090	Rs. 3,73,030	Rs. 7,46,060	Second Floor	50 SQ. FT.	Rs. 33,81,250		Rs. 3,38,125	Rs. 6,76,250	Rs. 16,90,625	Rs. 6,76,250
Third Floor	50 SQ. FT.	Rs. 52,22,450		Rs. 5,22,245	Rs. 5,22,245	Rs. 15,66,735	Rs. 5,22,245	Rs. 10,44,490	Third Floor	50 SQ. FT.	Rs. 47,33,750		Rs. 4,73,375	Rs. 9,46,750	Rs. 23,66,875	Rs. 9,46,750
FOOD COURT	150 SQ. FT.	Rs. 1,41,00,000		Rs. 14,10,000	Rs. 14,10,000	Rs. 42,30,000	Rs. 14,10,000	Rs. 28,20,000	FOOD COURT	150 SQ. FT.	Rs. 1,27,81,000		Rs. 12,78,100	Rs. 25,56,200	Rs. 63,90,500	Rs. 25,56,200

*Allocated area will be undivided share under any unit as per sanctioned building plans as declared under RERA and post lease will be converted into units under SM REIT. *GST & govt charges as applicable *IFMS & Power Backup charges extra, payable on possession

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Disclaimer: The Project is under PPP scheme with DDA and the same is registered with Real Estate Regulatory of NCT of Delhi vide registration no. DLRERA2018P0013 dated 26.06.2018, PR/RERA/2018/3886 Dated: 16/12/2022. Sanction building plan no. CA/BP/0062/19-20 (11 October 2019). Approvals can be checked at the Company's or RERA's website or at our office. The image shown here is pictorial conceptualization and actual may differ. The information and contents provided herein are subject to change within the provisions of Act and norms. This is neither an offer nor an investment advice nor an inducement or invitation for payment of any advance and/or deposit. It is just information about the project. The right of customers will be limited to undivided ownership rights in unit and pro rata common areas while lease rights will remain pre assigned. This project is charged to EARC (Edelweiss Assets Reconstruction Company Limited). Please carefully read and peruse all terms and conditions, specifications and payment plans in the Application Form as well as locations, sanctions, permissions, Delhi RERA registration conditions, intimations, applications and clearances before tendering your booking. It is further abundantly clarified that by participating, you consent to the inclusion of your A-grade Future Revenue Generating property in the SM REIT scheme. You'll receive units in proportion to your property allotment and income distributions per SEBI (REIT) Regulations as may be amended from time to time and subject to applicable approvals. 1 Hectare = 2.471 Acres = 4840 Square Yards or 4046.856 Square Meters; 1 Square Yard = 0.8361 Square Meter; 1 Square Meter = 10.764 Square Feet. <http://dda.org.in/rera/> Amount is refundable in case of unsuccessful allotment within 30 days

Mind over matter: Rathika stresses on importance of mental strength

The ace squash player attributes much of her progress to coach Harinder Pal who has been guiding her for a few months now; "Whatever he says, I try my best to listen to it as he has international experience and his inputs have been beneficial," says the 23-year-old



SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

S. Prasanna Venkatesan

Rathika Suthanthira Seelan won her maiden PSA Challenger title in the Indore leg of the HCL Squash Tour in May.

In the same month, she also won the National women's doubles title with Pooja Arthi at the Indian Squash and Triathlon Academy (ISTA) here.

Consistence is key

Rathika attributes her progress to her coach Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu, who's been mentoring her for a few months now.

"I have been training with him for 3-4 months now. Game-wise, I'm playing more

consistently. Earlier, I didn't have consistent results. Now, it's comparatively more consistent.

"We work almost everyday. Whatever he says, I try my best to listen to it. He has international experience, so his inputs have been beneficial," she said at the ISTA.

Mental fortitude

Rathika said that the Brain Training (Neurofeedback training), which is a part of the HCL Squash Podium Program, has also been helpful.

"We have mental games - virtual reality. Basically, it's to improve reaction time. We've been doing a lot of breathing exercises. So, it helps for me to reset

myself after long rallies," she said adding that she's able to stretch herself when the match gets stretched.

For instance, she rallied from a game down to win the 45-minute quarterfinal, 9-11, 11-8, 11-8, 11-13, 11-1, versus Pooja Raghu in the Chennai leg of the HCL Squash Tour.

But she suffered a straight-game loss to Anahat Singh in the final. An off-colour Rathika made enough unforced errors to play herself out of the contest.

It was Rathika's second loss to Anahat in the PSA Challenger Tour this year. She had lost in straight games in just 16 minutes in the semifinal of the JSW Willingdon Little Masters and Senior

Tournament in Mumbai in January.

Learning curve

Speaking of these losses, she said she needed to improve her mental resilience to perform better in such crucial matches.

"(In Monday's final) I made a lot of mistakes. I mostly couldn't anticipate what she would do, and was very slow. Definitely, I have to be mentally stronger. I know she is a better player and that was a mental block, because I think it impeded me from playing freely and comfortably. I think I should work mentally, more than on-court. No matter how much I push physically, I think mentally it matters at the end of the day."

THE GIST

Rathika attributes her progress to her coach Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu, who's been coaching her for a few months now.

Rathika said that the Brain Training (Neurofeedback training), which is a part of the HCL Squash Podium Program, has also been helpful

Laksiri — an apparel manufacturing unit employee single-handedly stitching together a career in squash; aims to break into top-50 rankings

S. Prasanna Venkatesan

Ravindu Laksiri's first visit to Chennai in twelve years turned out to be fortunate, as he had a walkover win declared for him after his opponent Rahul Baitha failed to turn up within the stipulated time for the men's final in the HCL Squash Tour.

It was Laksiri's second PSA Challenger title in four tournaments in India this year. He'd lost in the finals of the Hamdard Squashers Northern Slam in New Delhi and the Poona Club Open in Pune, before winning back-to-back titles in the HCL Squash Tour in Indore and Chennai. So, if it was third time lucky for him, the fourth time was unbelievably lucky!

"Actually, I saw that a lot of Indian Junior players played very well. For instance, I played one of the top players in the u-15 category (Lokesh Subramani) in the second round. I think compared to Sri Lanka, there are more good players in India," he observed after his title win at the Indian Squash and Triathlon Academy (ISTA).

Crowd favourite

The 28-year-old is one of the top players in his country and has won eleven National singles titles since 2013. He said that there are currently

The 28-year-old is one of the top players in his country and has won eleven National singles titles since 2013. He said that there are currently seven PSA circuit players in Sri Lanka and there is a good pool of players in Colombo.

seven PSA circuit players in Sri Lanka and there is a good pool of players in Colombo.

"Squash is very popular in Colombo and Kandy. They have good players in the Colombo area. They have a lot of players in the u-9 till u-19 age groups. The army and the Navy also have a lot of players."

He felt that Sri Lanka doesn't have the ideal squash infrastructure, and added that there's not even a single all-glass court in the entire country.

"You have a lot of academies in Sri Lanka. Actually, they have courts, but not in good condition. They have no glass courts in Sri Lanka. We have a big challenge (getting accustomed to glass courts) when we go to other countries," he said.

Desperate measures

At the peak of Sri Lanka's financial crisis, the National squash team had to stay and practice at an army camp for around a month before the 2022

Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

"It was very difficult to play at that time. There was no petrol, no gas, and queues were everywhere. We couldn't go to practice because of a lack of transportation. We were staying in one place and playing squash, and somehow managed at that time. They had an army camp in Colombo. We stayed there and played. I think we spent one month before the Commonwealth Games. The entire team stayed there."

Laksiri is an HR executive with Brandix, an apparel manufacturing firm based in Sri Lanka. His employer sponsors his participation in PSA tournaments and without a dedicated coach, he keeps learning through playing.

"I don't have any coach in Sri Lanka. I got the experience only through the matches. I learn through travelling and playing. I actually started my full-time professional career in 2022. I suppose I've become a professional player very late," he said.

He reckoned that the European circuit is the most competitive and challenging from his experience and stated that his primary goal is to break into the top-50 (current rank - 133) in the PSA men's singles rankings.



SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Genomes reveal legacies of human sacrifice and medieval epidemics

In the last decade, scientists have used the tools of archaeogenetics and evolutionary medicine to study ancient human burial sites, thus understanding the origins of a bubonic plague pandemic, the evolution of malarial parasites, the spread of the mpox virus, and the historical occurrence of Down's syndrome

Sridhar Sivasubbu
Vinod Scaria

People's practice of burying human remains throughout modern history echoes diverse cultural, spiritual, and social beliefs, and is often considered to be a line in the sands of time between modern and ancient humans. Studying burial practices is a complex endeavour, however, it's hard to say if some prehistoric cave burials are intentional commemorations or remains covered by sediment over time, for example.

Nevertheless, researchers have recorded the practice of burying since the time of our now-extinct Neanderthal ancestors. The oldest intentional modern human burial dates to more than 100,000 years ago, in a cave in Israel. This timeline overlaps with the discovery of the skeletal remains of a roughly three-year-old child buried in Kenya some 80,000 years ago.

Burial practices evolved with advancing human civilisations, with the construction of elaborate mausoleums (that continue to date). The pyramids of Egypt were monumental tombs for the pharaohs; Mughal emperor Shah Jahan commissioned the Taj Mahal in Agra as a mausoleum for his wife. These structures reflect an enduring human desire to honour the dead and remember them.

The handful of well-preserved skeletal remains at ancient burial sites also open a window into the dietary habits, environmental adaptations, microevolutionary characteristics, biological kinship, sex, and genetic history of the population. These sites, spread worldwide, have thus been sites of intense scientific investigation as well. Some famous examples include the Tollund Man Bog Bodies in Denmark and the Thebes Tombs in Egypt.

Studies of these sites have accelerated in the last decade thanks to rapid technological advances in genome sequencing and medical genetics, which have expanded to seed the new fields of archaeogenetics and evolutionary medicine.

Of late, researchers have used the tools and concepts therein to understand the origins of the bubonic plague pandemic, the evolution of malarial parasites, the spread of the mpox virus, and even the occurrence of Down's syndrome in ancient genomes.

Ancient Mayan genomes

Chichén Itzá is an ancient Mayan city located in modern-day Mexico. It is known for its grand architecture and iconic ceremonial temples, built around



The Temple of Kukulcán is the most famous structure at the Chichén Itzá archaeological site. DANIEL SCHWEN (CC BY-SA 4.0)

800-1000 AD. The temples are also infamous for having been the site of human sacrifices made as ritual offerings, and have been under constant archaeological investigation for more than a century.

The offerings were deposited in an enormous sinkhole or a subterranean cistern called the 'Sacred Cenote'. In Mayan culture, these subterranean features were often associated with water and rain. The Sacred Cenote in Chichén Itzá holds the skeletal remains of more than 200 ritually sacrificed individuals, many of them children or adolescents. But we don't know much about the lives of these individuals or their biological relationship (if any) with contemporary inhabitants of the region. European colonists used to believe these children and adolescents were "obtained" by kidnapping, purchase, or exchange of gifts with other nations.

In a recent scientific report published in *Nature*, a team of archaeologists and scientists from Germany, Mexico, Spain, the U.K., and the U.S. sequenced genetic material obtained from the human remains. They read the results along with bio-archaeological evidence collected at the site to launch an extensive investigation of the remains of 64 sub-adults from the Sacred Cenote and compared them to modern-day individuals of Mayan origin.

Their studies revealed that all sub-adults in the cenote were genetically male and closely related to each other. The findings go against 20th-century colonial accounts that claimed young women had been sacrificed here.



Studying burial practices is a complex endeavour. It's hard to say if some prehistoric cave burials are intentional commemorations or remains that have been covered by sediment over time

The study also identified two pairs of monozygotic twins among the remains. Twins held significance in Mayan spiritual life and were linked to the underworld, so their presence in the cenote wasn't surprising. The researchers also used isotopic studies to establish that all the related individuals in the cenote had similar diets, suggesting they all belonged to the same household.

The similarities also suggested they were selected for a specific purpose. It is widely believed that the Mayans organised ritual sacrifices to ensure the bountiful growth of maize and to appease the rain gods.

Genetic studies comparing the skeletal remains with those of present-day Maya people showed the latter are direct genetic descendants of the populations involved in the ritual sacrifices. This long-term continuity within the Mayan population opens doors for additional investigations on microevolutionary studies and genomic adaptations over the years, with implications for the study of population health.

THE GIST

The oldest modern human burial dates to more than 100,000 years ago, in Israel. This overlaps with the discovery of the buried remains of a three-year-old in Kenya some 80,000 years ago

Skeletal remains at ancient burial sites open a window into the dietary habits, environmental adaptations, microevolutionary characteristics, biological kinship, sex, and genetic history of the population

By comparing ancient and modern genomes from Mexico, researchers found evidence of positive selection in genes related to immunity. The study of genomes helps resolve mysteries, and gain new insights into the past

Legacy of colonial epidemics

The ceaseless wars, famines, and epidemics wrought by colonial invaders decimated the Mexican population. Their numbers fell from 10-20 million to 2 million by the end of the 16th century. In this period, diseases such as smallpox, measles, influenza, typhus, typhoid, and enteric fever spread among the people, resulting in a genetic bottleneck. (The rapid decline of a population also shrinks the genetic variations therein. Future populations will be based on this smaller pool, and will thus be at greater risk of disease.) Such events can leave long-lasting genetic footprints in the population. By studying them, researchers may be able to identify genes that have been subjected to genetic selection.

By comparing the ancient and modern genomes from Mexico, the researchers found evidence of positive selection in genes related to immunity, especially those associated with resistance to enteric fever caused by *Salmonella enterica Paratyphi C*, a pathogen serotype previously identified with the 16th century cocoliztli epidemic in Mexico. The study of ancient genomes and their modern counterparts allows us to resolve mysteries, dispel old hypotheses, and gain new insights from the past to light the way for the future.

(The authors are senior consultants at the Vishwanath Cancer Care Foundation, Adjunct Professors at Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and Dr. DY Patil Medical College, Hospital and Research Center, Pune.)

BIG SHOT



Professor Hong Jin-kee with a bowl containing pink "meaty rice" at the Yonsei University in Seoul on May 21. In a small laboratory in the South Korean capital, a team of scientists is injecting cultured beef cells into individual grains of rice, in a process they hope will revolutionise how the world eats. AFP

QUESTION CORNER

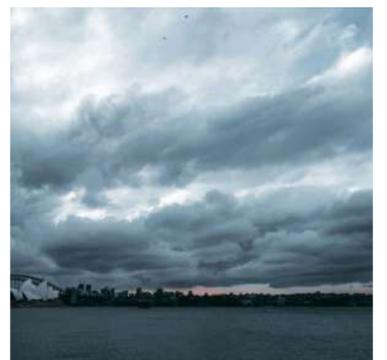
Why clouds go grey before they rain



Q: Why do clouds usually appear white but look grey when they're going to rain?
Vineeth E.K.

A: Scattered water droplets in the clouds are the reason. When the Sun shines over clouds, water droplets in the latter act like prisms, splitting white sunlight into its component colours. They send these rays of light of different colours (frequencies) flying in different directions at haphazard angles. These rays often manage to recombine because there are several droplets in clouds, all scattering sunlight and creating white light. This is why clouds are white.

But just before clouds are going to rain, the water droplets are swollen. They coalesce to form larger droplets, of a few millimetres or more each. These droplets absorb more light and transmit less to the base of the clouds. As a result, these clouds have a greyish appearance; only their base scatters white light (image) to observers on the ground. However, because enough sunlight illuminates the clouds' upper decks, they continue scattering white light to anyone viewing them from space



Dust scatters white light the same way clouds do for the same reason, in a process called Mie scattering. ROADTRIPWITHRAJ/UNSPLASH

or from aboard an aeroplane. Such scattering phenomena manifest in other ways too. Dust scatters white light the same way clouds do for the same reason, in a process called Mie scattering. It takes place only when the size of the scattering particle is comparable to the wavelength of the light.
- Karthik Vinod, intern with The Hindu

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