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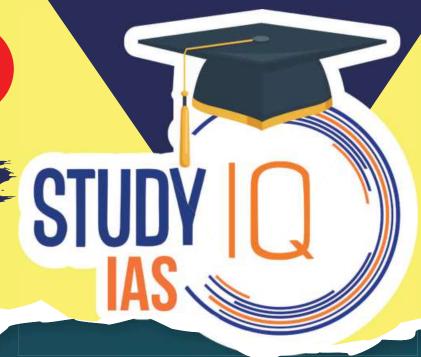
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STAFF EXPLOITATION Jail term for Hinduja family members **WORLD** » PAGE 12

**GORY PLOT** Catching a falling star

A murder turns spotlight on fan culture, social media violations

**GROUND ZERO » PAGE 7** 



Rohit Sharma's men face the Bangladesh test SPORT » PAGE 15

# EC begins work on polls in J&K and three States

It will be the first Assembly election since abrogation of Article 370, division of J&K into two UTs; delimitation of constituencies to be held; Haryana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand too gear up for polls

**The Hindu Bureau** NEW DELHI

he Election Commission (EC) has kicked off preparations for holding Assembly elections in Haryana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Jammu and Kashmir by updating electoral rolls in these States.

The terms of the existing legislative Assemblies will end on November 3 (Haryana), November 26 (Maharashtra) and January 5, 2025 (Jharkhand) and polls are required to be conducted before the completion of their terms.

Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir are also to be conducted for constituting a new House after delimitation of constituencies, the EC said in a statement on Friday.

### Prelude to polls

The EC's schedule for the poll process in the States

July 1 will be the cut-off date for updating electoral rolls

■ The pre-update exercise will begin on June 25 ■ The final rolls will be published

on August 20 ■ The terms of Haryana, Maharashtra and Jharkhand Assemblies will end on Nov. 3, Nov. 26 and Jan. 5, respectively

"Witnessing the huge participation of the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the recent Lok Sabha elections, the commission has also directed for updating electoral rolls in the Union Territory with July 1, 2024 as the qualifying date," the statement said.

In December last year, the Supreme Court had directed the poll body to

hold Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir by

### PM, CEC's stand

September 30.

On Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Assembly polls would be held soon in Jammu and Kashmir and plans were also afoot to restore Statehood to the Union Territory.

Chief Election Commis-

sioner Rajiv Kumar said recently that the poll body would soon initiate the process of holding Assembly polls in the Union Territory after witnessing the enthusiastic response during the Lok Sabha polls. It will be the first Assembly polls since the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories.

The poll body said July 1 would be the qualifying date for the electoral rolls update.

The pre-update exercise will begin on June 25 to set up or rationalise polling stations at locations most convenient to electors in group housing societies, slums, city outgrowths and rural areas. The final electoral rolls will be published on August 20.

# Kejriwal to remain in jail as HC stays bail order of court

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

After a day-long hearing on the Enforcement Directorate's plea challenging the bail granted to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the excise policy case, the Delhi High Court on Friday put on hold the trial court's order.

"Till the pronouncement of this order, the operation of the impugned order (of the trial court) shall remain stayed," a Vacation Bench of Justice Sudhir Kumar Jain said, adding that he was reserving the order for two to three days as he wanted to go through the entire records.

The ED had moved an urgent plea challenging the trial court's bail order, which was passed late on Thursday evening. Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju, representing the ED, contended that the agency



Arvind Kejriwal

was not given adequate opportunity to argue its case by the trial court.

Senior advocates Abhishek Singhvi and Vikram Chaudhari, representing Mr. Kejriwal, urged the High Court not to stay the bail order; they instead suggested that the court send him back to jail if it found overwhelming and cogent circumstances.

**CONTINUED ON** » PAGE 8

» PAGE 2

**'ED ACTING WITH BIAS'** » PAGE 9 **PANIC WITHIN BJP: AAP** 



### **Tamil Nadu** hooch tragedy toll touches 50

# KALLAKURICHI

The death toll in the hooch tragedy in Tamil Nadu rose to 50 with 13 more persons losing their lives after consuming spurious liquor. The victims included five women and a transperson. » Page 4



Jacob Koshy NEW DELHI

India's first indigenously

developed coronavirus

vaccine, Covaxin, was a

joint collaboration bet-

ween the Indian Council of

Medical Research (ICMR)

and the Hyderabad-based

Bharat Biotech Interna-

tional Limited (BBIL) with

intellectual property (IP)

rights jointly shared bet-

ween the two organisa-

tions. That is what the pu-

blic record states.

# SC refuses to put off **NEET-UG counselling** set to begin on July 6

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

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the National Testing Agency (NTA) to respond to pleas for conducting a fresh National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) 2024 following allegations of question paper leaks.

A Vacation Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and S.V. Bhatti, however, refused to postpone or stay the counselling process scheduled to begin on July 6.

"It [counselling] only commences from July 6. It will continue for a week. Meanwhile, the applicants have many options... to amend/modify...," Justice

Bid to 'divert the

issue': Tejashwi

A day after Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha accused Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav's private secretary of being involved in the NEET paper leak case, Mr. Yadav on Friday said attempts were being made to "divert the issue". » PAGE 8

Bhatti told a counsel for a petitioner. The court, for the second consecutive week, issued notice to pleas seeking a CBI investigation into the allegations. A petitioner urged the court to bring the exam under its direct monitoring.

# MEA: Gupta has not requested consular help

Suhasini Haidar

Nikhil Gupta, the businessman accused in the U.S. of an assassination plot against Khalistani separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, has not asked for consular help, the Ministry of External Affairs has said.

"We have so far not received any request for consular access from Mr. Gupta, but his family has got in touch with us, and we are in touch with the family members, and we are looking at the matter, as to what can be done," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, confirming that Mr. Gupta was extradited to the U.S. on June 14.

**DETAILS** » PAGE 9



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However, filings by the BBIL at patent offices in India, the United States and Europe suggest that only its scientists and personnel are credited as 'inventors' of the vaccine with no



Patent filings credit Bharat Biotech

as 'inventor' of Covaxin, omit ICMR

mention **ICMR** scientists.

The Hindu has viewed documents detailing these patent applications. If BBIL personnel, credited in applications as Deepak Kumar and Krishna Murthy Ella – Chairman and Founder, BBIL – are indeed the only inventors, it contradicts a statement by the Union Health Ministry in the Sabha, which claimed that the IP rights are "jointly owned".

In response to a question in the Rajya Sabha on

provide a "well characterised" virus strain for vaccine development, the BBIL would develop the final vaccine formulation and, be given a "non-exclusive" licence granted to commercialise the product within two years.

The Minister's state-

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Public at large are hereby informed that below mentioned documents have been misplaced/lost- Original Relinquishment Deed registered dated 19/12/2003 executed by Sh. Sirv Sangam Chibber in favour of Smt. Minu Chibber Vide Doc. No. 11744, vol. no. 3722, pg- 167-168, Registered in Sub- Registrar- Vi in respect of Property no. R-1 Nehru Enclave, Kalkaji, New Delhi- 110019. Accordingly, Police complaint has already been lodged dated 19/06/2024 in P.S. - Crime Branch Delhi, Vide LR Number is: 1829035/2024 and the same is under investigation. And now someone intends to purchase the property from Smt. Minu Chibber has approached the KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK for loan against mortgage of above said property, If any person has found/information /possession / knowledge of above said Original Relinquishment Deed dated 19/12/2003 doc. no. 11744 or has any claim/right/title of any kind over the above said property, then submit / intimate within 9 days in writing to Vikas Shokeen, Advocate, H-20, BASEMENT, BALI NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110015. Thereafter any kind of claim will not be acceptable. PUBLIC NOTICE any kind of claim

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Hon'ble Court was pleased to issue summons to the suit and the case is

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# Bail to Arvind Kejriwal betrays panic within ED, and BJP, says AAP

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders said on Friday that the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) plea in the Delhi High Court against the trial court's bail to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had betrayed the "panicked state" of the probe agency and the BJP, which are "trying to destroy Mr. Kejriwal's politics of truth".

Terming as "historic" the trial court's order, which late on Thursday evening gave relief to the Chief Minister in the money laundering case linked to the now-scrapped excise policy, Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh said the fine print revealed the ED and BJP's "plot" against AAP.

"After the order, the ED was in a dilemma. Then, it was given orders by its higher-ups to go to the High Court. Have you ever heard of a situation where the order copy has not been released, nobody knows what is in the order, yet the ED goes and asks the High Court to put a stay on it?" Mr. Singh said.

He added that the probe agency uses testimonies that are in its favour, while "conveniently hiding" those that are not. "They [ED] have cited fabricated stories in court to destroy the Chief Minister and AAP. Is this how Prime Minister Narendra Modi is planning to run our judiciary system?" he said, adding that he hoped the High Court would take "serious cognisance" of the trial court's order.

### 'ED's case in tatters' Delhi Minister Saurabh Bharad-

waj said the trial court's order had "entirely demolished" the ED's case on the alleged liquor



against AAP. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

policy scam. "The entire case was left in tatters after the Vacation Bench's bail order, which is why the ED and Union Ministers are panicking and reaching the High Court asking for a stay on the trial court's order," he said.

The AAP chief's wife, Sunita Kejriwal, also lashed out at the probe agency, stating that it was "behaving as if Arvind Kejriwal is India's most wanted terrorist".

### 'HC order still valid'

Meanwhile, Delhi's BJP unit said although AAP leaders "excel in spreading confusion", the High Court order is still in operation and that it found that the Chief Minister's arrest was "legally correct".

"The High Court order found that Kejriwal had a personal role in receiving crores of rupees in kickbacks from the liquor policy," said Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva. He added that it was an "old habit" of the party to claim that "the truth alone triumphs" when judgments are in their favour, but to question the same judicial system when the orders go against them.

"It would be better if AAP leaders understand the judicial system before hastily passing comments," he said.

# Atishi begins hunger strike for more water; BJP calls it a sham

Did everything possible to get relief, indefinite fast is now the only option: Water Minister; BJP says the protest is meant to hide Atishi's inefficiency

Satvika Mahajan NEW DELHI

enior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Delhi Water Minister Atishi on Friday began an indefinite hunger strike, demanding that Haryana release Delhi's "rightful" share of water. The national capital has been suffering from an acute water shortage, with the Minister claiming that the BJP-ruled Haryana had curbed water supply to the city, directly affecting nearly 28 lakh people.

Several senior AAP leaders, including Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife, Sunita Kejriwal, were present at the launch of Ms. Atishi's fast.

Ms. Kejriwal read out a message from her husband who said Delhi's people had nowhere to go amid the water crisis even as the neighbouring State of Haryana had refused to extend help.

The message stated, "We had hoped that we would get more support from the neighbouring States in this difficult time, but even in such a difficult time, the Haryana government has reduced the daily supply of water to Delhi. Delhi is thirsty. Where should the people of Delhi

New Delhi MP Bansuri Swaraj said Ms. Atishi's hunger strike was a



Water Minister Atishi, along with other senior leaders of AAP, at Raighat on Friday before the start of her fast. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

"sham" and an attempt to cover up her inefficiency as the Water Minister.

Addressing mediapersons from the protest site in south-east Delhi's Bhogal, the Minister said Delhi relies on a supply of 1,005 million gallons per day (MGD) of water daily. Out of this, Haryana is supposed to provide the city with 613 MGD. However, for the past two weeks, the State has been supplying only 513 MGD of water.

### 'No relief'

"Being the Water Minister of Delhi, I made every possible effort to get Delhi's rightful share of water. However, the BJP government of Haryana did not provide it. In this regard, I also wrote a letter to the Prime Minister and requested him to get Delhi's rightful share of water from the Haryana government. Instead of providing relief, for the last two days, the Haryana government has curbed 120 MGD of supply," she said.

### 'Ignored warnings'

Ms. Swaraj said the Delhi Jal Board should have prepared in advance for the water crisis, given that the weather department had issued repeated warnings about the intense heat. The New Delhi MP also asked why the Delhi government had not sought water from the Punjab government, as AAP is in power in both States.

In a statement, AAP accused the MP of "trying to trivialise the situation by asking baseless questions".

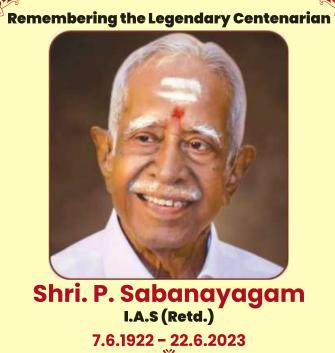
"Delhi Water Minister has made every effort to mitigate the water crisis, including meeting Delhi's Lieutenant-Governor,

seeking interventions from the Prime Minister and Union Jal Shakti Minister, and requesting help from the Haryana CM," it added.



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Yoga enthusiasts performing an asana on Kartavya Path on Friday.

# Thousands across the Capital participate in **International Yoga Day**

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Scores of students, police officers, and members of civic bodies across the Capital participated in International Yoga Day on Friday and engaged in various yoga events in the early hours of the day.

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda, while participating in an event organised by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) at Yamuna Sports Complex, appealed to all to make yoga an integral part of their daily routines. "Yoga not only keeps our body healthy, but also awakens our inner strength," he said.

Almost 20,000 people

participated in the events organised by the DDA across a total of 18 sports complexes, golf courses, and DDA parks. Meanwhile, about 1,000 people practised yoga with

Delhi University (DU) Vice-

Chancellor Professor Yo-

gesh Singh and BJP MP Manoj Tiwari at the DU cam-The Municipal Corporation of Delhi also organised a series of events in all its zones, and encouraged the participation of specially-

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# 'Record number of deaths of homeless in Capital due to heat, lack of amenities'

Fatalities among the homeless due to heatstrokes in Capital broke 22-year record, as per police, MHA data, says an NGO; punishing work hours, absence of facilities caused the spike, it adds

Ashna Butani **NEW DELHI** 

ata from the Zonal Integrated Police Network and the Ministry of Home Affairs show that a record number of homeless people died in the Capital between June 11 and June 19, according to a report by the Centre for Holistic Development (CHD), a non-profit organisation (NGO) that works to provide support to the homeless. The report was released on June 19, a day before Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj confirmed the deaths of 14 persons due to heatstroke, of whom many had pre-existing diseases.

The NGO, which is a member of the National Forum For Homeless Housing Rights - a coalition of 50 organisations, lawyers, and activists working across the country on issues affecting homeless people – said it has never recorded as many deaths among the destitute during the nine-day period since it started collating data 22 years ago.

Sunil Kumar Aledia, executive director of CHD, said, "Many homeless people do not get the required care and hence do not get admitted to hospitals. That



is a major reason why the deaths among homeless people are much higher than the number of deaths reported from hospitals." He attributed the spike in deaths to the most severe spell of heatwave the national capital has witnessed in the last several decades.

Speaking about the rising number of deaths, Dr. Suresh Kumar, medical di-

A heatstroke patient at Lok Nayak Hospital. FILE PHOTO Source: Centre for Holistic Development rector, Lok Nayak Hospital, said, "This year, we suddenly received many heatstroke cases. Some of the patients were severely affected while some were

> persons." Talking about the treatment of heatstroke patients, Dr. Kumar said the hospital has beds reserved for such cases.

even brought dead. Many

of them were homeless

Moreover, doctors and nursing staff are trained to identify heatstroke patients and bring down their body temperature. In some cases, patients may also suffer from low blood pressure and seizures, he also said.

Doctors at RML Hospital have also been seeing a rise in the number of heat-related cases. As of Wednesday, 50 patients had been admitted to the hospital's heatstroke unit, which was established in May.

Dr. Ajay Shukla, medical superintendent, RML Hospital said, "Patients are cooled down in the heatstroke unit and then sent to the general ward or the ICU depending upon the treatment they require." He added that till Wednesday, 11 heat-related deaths were recorded at the medicial facility.

75 bodies for autopsy

Meanwhile, at least 75 bodies were received by the Gautam Buddh Nagar's Health Department for autopsy between June 18 to 20, reported PTI. The district's Health Department officials described the fatalities as "unexpected".

They could not, however, conclusively say if the deaths were directly caused by the heatwave.

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# Delhi receives rain, gets some respite after 10 days of heat

Light rain showers were received in parts of Delhi on Friday, bringing relief for many in the Capital suffering from an intense heatwave for the past few days. The rain was accompanied by thunderstorms and wind with the speeds of 30 to 50 kmph. The city's minimum temperature settled at 28.4 degrees Celsius, which is normal for this time of the season.

# Two men arrested for robbing women they met on dating apps

Two men were arrested for befriending women on dating apps and allegedly robbing them at their homes, the Delhi police said on Friday. The police identified the accused as Vijay Kumar Kamal, 28, and Rahul, 35, both residents of Mohan Garden in Dwarka. The police recovered stolen jewellery, mobile phones, an SUV car, a stolen scooter, and fake vehicle registration plates, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Ankit Singh said. The two had robbed two women

# **'Scrapping UGC-NET** will disturb calendar, delay PhD admissions'

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Jawaharlal Nehru University Teachers' Association (JNUTA) on Friday expressed concern over the circumstances leading to the cancellation of the University Grants Commission-National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET), 2024, in which over nine lakh candidates appeared.

"This was the first time that the UGC-NET exam was supposed to be used for admissions to PhD programmes of universities, which is a policy that the UGC itself made. The implications of the cancellation this time around are therefore much larger and more wide-ranging, as it means that these admissions will also now be delayed, and the academic calendars of institutions will be disturbed," the teachers' bo-

dy said in a statement. It added that the students will now have to mentally prepare themselves again for a retest despite having appeared in the exam honestly.

"Little has been revealed yet publicly about the nature of the breach that has taken place in the UGC-NET examination. While the swift decision to cancel it may have been prompted by the Centre's desire to avoid yet another controversy like that around the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG), the public has a right to know what went wrong," the statement said, adding that it demanded the restoration of the JNU entrance examination conducted by the university earlier.

The Education Ministry on Wednesday had announced the cancellation of the UGC-NET after the Ministry of Home Affairs suggested that the integrity of the examination had been compromised. The move came amid a controversy over alleged irregu-NEET-UG, larities in prompting backlash from

students across India.

and had four cases against them, he added.

### Timings **DELHI**

SATURDAY, JUN. 22 RISE 05:25 SET 19:23

RISE 20:04 SET 05:11 SUNDAY, JUN. 23

RISE 05:25 SET 19:23

RISE 20:59 SET 06:13 MONDAY, JUN. 24

RISE 05:25 SET 19:23 RISE 21:47 SET 07:21

**Delhi Weather** Delhi City 28 40 27 39

**Delhi Palam Today** 41°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be slight warm.The day will be hot and uneasy. Night will be slight

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow** 42°C A dry weather to prevail. Morning will be slight warm. The day will be hot and uneasy. Night will be slight



# States



# Kharge hits out at BJP over grim Assam flood situation

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge Friday hit out at the BJP over flood management in Assam, claiming that people have been squarely betrayed by the "double engine Modi-Shah" promise of making Assam flood free. The flood situation in the State remained grim on Friday with over four lakh people reeling under the deluge in many districts, officials said. "Congress party stands in solidarity with the people of Assam," Mr. Kharge said in a post on X. "In the past 10 years, on every issue, Modi government has only indulged in the politics of lies, deceit and treachery," the Congress chief said. PTI

# Rajkot game zone fire: SIT submits report, finds lapses

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) appointed by the Gujarat government to probe the May 25 Rajkot game zone fire incident, which claimed 27 lives, submitted its interim report on Friday to Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi. In its 100-page interim report, the SIT, headed by senior IPS officer Subhash Trivedi, has suggested some changes to Section 33 of Gujarat Police Act (GP Act), which empowers local police to give various licenses to such game zones. "We submitted an interim report to the government today. We found lapses on the part of the police, fire department, town planning and road and building department," Mr. Trivedi said. PTI

# T.N. hooch tragedy toll goes up to 50; one-man commission begins probe

The victims in the Kallakurichi incident included five women and a transperson; a total of 135 others, including six women, are undergoing treatment at various hospitals in the State

The Hindu Bureau KALLAKURICHI

he death toll in the hooch tragedy in Tamil Nadu rose to 50 with 13 more persons losing their lives after consuming spurious liquor at Karunapuram in Kallakurichi. The victims included five women and transperson.

Most of the victims who succumbed on the interim night between Thursday and Friday were from Karunapuram. Twenty-seven persons died at the Government Kallakurichi Medical College Hospital, 16 at the Government Mo-Kumaramangalam Medical College Hospital in Salem, four at the Government Villupuram Medical College Hospital and three at the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (Jipmer) in Puducherry.

A total of 135 others, including six women, are undergoing treatment at the Government Kallakurichi Medical College Hospital;



Bidding adieu: Relatives of the hooch tragedy victims taking part in a funeral procession in Kallakurichi on Thursday. S.S. KUMAR

government medical hospitals in Salem and Villupuram; and at Jipmer.

### **Specialist doctors**

Official sources said a 71member team of specialist doctors, staff nurses and technicians drawn from government medical colleges and hospitals in Salem, Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai, Tiruchi and Chengalpattu have been sent to the Kallakurichi hospital.

Former High Court judge B. Gokuldas, the oneman commission appointed by the State government to probe the tragedy, on Friday visited the Kallakurichi hospital and Karunapuram, the epicentre of the tragedy, and held a meeting with officials.

The retired judge visited those admitted to the hospital and inquired about the incident. He met the family members of the

He also held a meeting with Collector M.S. Prasanth, Superintendent of Police Rajat Chaturvedi and officials from various line departments.

He inquired about the incident and developments from day one, the investigation angle and the action taken by the police and the administration.

Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu Minister for Health and Family Welfare Ma. Subramanian visited the Jipmer in Puducherry, where some of the victims are undergoing treatment.

### One more held

The CB-CID police have arrested one more person for his alleged involvement in the hooch tragedy.

Police said the accused, identified as Joseph alias Raja of Sankarapuram, had supplied the brew to Chinnadurai who in turn supplied it to bootlegger Govindaraj alias Kannukutty. The police have arrested Chinnadurai, Govindaraj and two others in connection with the incident.

# 'T.N. govt. will bear education costs of bereaved children'

The Hindu Bureau

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Friday said that the State government would meet the educational expenses and hostel fees of all the children who had lost either one or both of their parents to the Kallakurichi spurious liquor tragedy, until they graduate.

Responding to a calling attention motion in the Assembly, he said that besides the ₹10 lakh solatium that had been announced, the government would offer ₹5,000 a month to the orphaned children.

"Moreover, the government would deposit ₹5 lakh in their names which, along with interest, would be given to them when they turn 18. In the case of children who have lost one of their parents, the amount would be ₹3 lakh. These children would also get priority in all government schemes," he said.

The Chief Minister said that the children would be admitted to governmentrun homes or homes functioning with government aid, if they consented to it.

Reiterating that the government was taking stringent action against those involved in the illicit brew-



CM M.K. Stalin speaking about the spurious liquor tragedy in the Assembly on Friday.

ing of liquor, and that such persons had been arrested under the Goondas Act, Mr. Stalin said that a total of 14,606 cases had been filed against the brewing and sale of spurious liquor since the DMK came to power. "A total of 10,154 persons have been arrested and 58 of them have been detained under the Goondas Act," he said.

Responding to the demand that he take responsibility for the incident, Mr. Stalin said that he was not someone who would run away from problems.

"I also have a list of hooch tragedies that happened during AIADMK rule. I do not want to politicise the issue. I also request them not to do that," he added.

# Ensure people displaced due to post-poll violence return home, HC tells W.B. govt.

**Shiv Sahay Singh** 

The Calcutta High Court on Friday directed the West Bengal government to take note of complaints of post-election violence and restoration of the displaced persons to their place of residence.

A Division Bench of Jusces Harish Tandon and Hiranmay Bhattacharyya also directed that the police administration "shall ensure the safety and security of such displaced persons and make a constant vigil in the area of the residence and ensure that no threat perception or any kind of violence takes place in such area".

The court also extended the deployment of Central forces in the State till June 26. Allegations of postelection violence and threats have been raised by Bharatiya Janata Party supporters across the State and the party has sent a



The court also extended the deployment of Central forces in the State till June 26. FILE PHOTO: DEBASISH BHADURI

team of MPs to assess the situation.

"We cannot shut our eves to the spate of complaints as disclosed and the allegation on the role of the police administration for which we feel that the deployment of the Central forces may continue for a limited period. We, therefore, extend such deployment till June 26, when the matter would be listed next to be taken up at 2 p.m.," the order read.

The court had earlier ordered the deployment of the Central forces in the State till June 21. Additional Solicitor General Asok Kumar Chakrabarti, representing the Central government, stated that if the court directs, it will continue the deployment of the Central forces in the State.

Advocate General Kishore Dutta said 800 complaints have been processed and taken note of by the State government

and out of which more than 200 cases have been detected as cognisable offence, and the rest needs sanction from the concerned Jurisdictional Magistrate. A few cases are still under scrutiny.

Earlier a single judge Bench of the High Court had allowed the persons affected by post-poll violence to submit complaints to the Director General of Police, West Bengal.

The Division Bench also added that the State is directed to "take note of those complaints so disclosed and shall take immediate action, as may be required, including the registration of the complaints/FIR and restoration of the displaced persons into

residence". The court also added that the plea of compensation as claimed in the instant public interest litigations shall be considered in due course.

# Pune car crash: HC to pass order on plea to release accused minor on June 25

The Hindu Bureau

The Bombay High Court on Friday reserved till June 25 its order on a habeas corpus petition filed by the aunt of the 17-year-old accused in the Pune luxury car accident case in which two software engineers were killed.

The Division Ben Justices Bharti Dangre and Manjusha Deshpande questioned the approach of the Pune police in the manner in which the minor was granted bail first, but then put in an observation home following public

# 'Child also in trauma'

The High Court said both sides have gone through trauma. "Those who met with the accident and lost their lives, of course their families are in trauma. But the child is also in trauma. Give him some time," the court said.



Car crash victim Ashwini Koshta's grief-stricken kin in Jabalpur. The HC said on Friday that both sides have gone through trauma. PTI

objections against the habeas corpus petition filed by the minor's aunt, who is seeking the accused's release from the observation home, public prosecutor Hiten Venegavkar argued that a habeas corpus petition challenging a remand must be based on the incompetence of the judge or the mechanical passing of the order, neither of which were mentioned in the petition.

To this, the court said, "Prima facie, we have made up our minds that in such a contingency, if we do not entertain either writ of certiorari or habeas corpus, we will be failing the citizens of this country."

Mr. Venegavkar argued that since the grandfather and parents were in custody, the minor had to be in an observation home under the supervision of a probation officer.

The public prosecutor

informed the court that there was no obligation for the minor to leave unless someone physically 'fit' comes to take him, but till date no one has approached the authorities. He also stressed that sending him to the observation home was important for the minor's safety and well-being.

Appearing for tioner, senior advocate Aabad Ponda argued that once a juvenile is granted bail, in no circumstances can they be placed in an observation home.

# Father granted bail

Meanwhile, a court in Pune granted bail to the father of the juvenile accused in one of the cases pertaining to the car crash case. The court also granted bail to five other accused, including the owner and managers of two bars who were arrested for allegedly serving liquor to the underage patrons.

# Bengal's recruitment protests fizzle out post LS poll, but aspirants pin hopes on SC verdict

**Moyurie Som** KOLKATA

In the run-up to the Lok Sabha election, the Mahatma Gandhi statue on Kolkata's Mayo Road was the site of massive demonstrations against alleged irregularities in teachers' recruitment by the School Service Commission (SSC) in West Bengal.

Dubbed the 'SSC scam' by the Opposition, it was one of the planks on which the Bharatiya Janata Party fought the general election in the State. But the ruling Trinamool Congress's performance in the poll, extreme heat, and dwindling finances of the job aspirants have driven the oncevociferous protesters away. The venue, abuzz with TV crew and police personnel, now bears a deserted look.

Abhishek Sen, 37, a wait-

been going on since 2019. It is not possible for most people to keep their spirits high and continue fighting amid increasing expenses," he said, adding that most job aspirants spend a lot to travel to Kolkata from other districts to take part in the protest.

listed candidate, is among

the handful of protesters

holding fort. "The fight has

# 'No income'

"There are candidates from Uttar Dinajpur, Malda and North 24 Parganas who have been coming here daily to protest against the recruitment process. We have spent years fighting for our jobs with zero alternative income," he said.

Many job aspirants from the districts had rented rooms on the southern fringes of the city to com-



Till recently, Kudrat-e-Kabir, 34, a resident of Chanchal in Malda district, had been living with 40 candidates from North Bengal in Narendrapur and Baruipur. "We have no income. Our responsibilities towards our families are increasing. We can no longer

afford this. So many of us

have come back home for

good," he said, adding that some aspirants still travel to Kolkata from faraway districts to attend the protest once a week. For two years, the

State's politics had revolved around the recruitment 'scam', especially after the arrest of former **Education Minister Partha** Chatterjee in July 2022. Since then, several Trina-



The fight has been going on since 2019. It is not possible for most people to keep their spirits high and continue fighting amid rising expenses ABHISHEK SEN

mool leaders have been arrested in connection with the case that involves the recruitment of teachers and non-teaching staff in State-run schools. But the Trinamool Congress's resounding victory in 29 Lok Sabha seats indicates that the issue has not resonated with the people.

On April 22, the Calcutta High Court had ordered the cancellation of the 2016 recruitment panel that hired 25,753 teachers

and non-teaching staff. The Bench said OMR sheets were manipulated that year. However, the Supreme Court, on May 7, had stayed the High Court order, saying that "it would be unfair to set aside all the appointments if the tainted and untainted ones can be segregated". The CPI(M)'s Rajya Sab-

ha member and senior advocate, Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya, who had represented the job aspirants in the High Court, told *The* Hindu, "The Supreme Court has listed the case for July 16. It will then become clear if the 2016 recruitment panel will be cancelled, and if the deserving and undeserving candidates would be segregated. If the undeserving candidates are filtered out, vacancies might open up, which can then be filled by aspirants."

Near the Matangini Hazra statue at Maidan in Kolkata, the crowd of protesters, who are expecting appointments as primary and upper primary teachers, has dwindled from hundreds to just three.

Prasenjit Mal, 38, said he has been delivering gas cylinders since 2014 to sustain himself. "I wanted to be a teacher, but I am still delivering gas cylinders to make a living. I am left with no other option. I have ageing parents and I need to put food on the table," he said, adding that he has to take leave from work to come to the protest site. "But how many times can I keep asking for leave?"

Priyali Pramanik, 34, another protester, said the heat wave this summer and a feeling of hopelessness have hit the move-

ment hard. "Many job aspirants used to leave behind their parents, spouses, inlaws, and children to come to the protest every day. But for how long can our families bear this?" she said. "Most abandoned the protest because of hopelessness. Everyone had thought that before the elections, the Chief Minister will take some initiative to ensure justice. But now that the election is over, the optimism has gone down," she said.

### Only way forward But keeping the protest

alive is their only way forward. Many candidates have spent four years protesting to become a teacher. As Mr. Kabir and his fellow protester Abhishek Sen put it, till the final verdict in the Supreme Court, the agitation will go on.

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# Denial of *pro tem* Speaker post to Cong. MP kicks up row

Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan and Congress leader Satheesan slams Union government for appointing BJP MP Bhartruhari Mahtab to the post; they accuse BJP of undermining parliamentary traditions

**The Hindu Bureau** THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

erala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan on Friday criticised the Centre for ignoring the convention and not appointing senior-most member MP Kodikunnil Suresh, and eight-term Congress parliamentarian, as pro tem Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha.

In separate statements, the leaders condemned the decision to appoint BJP MP Bhartruhari Mahtab, seven-term MP from Cuttack, as pro tem Speaker.

### **Casteist politics**

Mr. Vijayan said the decision flouted established



Congress MP Kodikunnil Suresh speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Budget Session of Parliament in New Delhi. FILE PHOTO

parliamentary norms and showed the BIP's blatant disregard for democratic principles. "By overlooking Kodikunnil Suresh, the senior-most MP in the 18th Lok Sabha, they undermine our parliamentary traditions. It smacks of the Sangh Parivar's revanchist, casteist politics that dis-

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criminates against marginalised communities. During the previous Lok Sabha term, the post of Deputy Speaker was kept vacant for five years. Their attitude of not accepting anyone from the Opposition benches to the position led to such a situation. We must stay vigilant in protecting our democratic values and demand fair practices," said Mr.Vijayan.

Mr. Satheesan said the denial of pro tem Speaker post to Mr. Suresh was antidemocratic and exposed the BJP's anti-Dalit face.

"The decision not to make Suresh, who belongs to the Dalit community, the pro tem Speaker is part of the sectarian politics followed by the BJP and the Sangh Parivar. Such violation of parliamentary norms even in a situation in which the BJP has not secured an absolute majority is a challenge to the will of the people and the democratic system of the country. It also shows the BJP's disregard and contempt for Kerala," said Mr. Sathee-

# FIR against two for 'blackmailing' Karnataka MLC Suraj Revanna on allegations of sexual abuse

<u>The Hindu Bureau</u> SHIVAMOGGA

The police on Friday registered an FIR against two persons, who allegedly demanded money from JD(S) MLC Suraj Revanna, threatening that they would defame him if their demand was not met.

### 'Victim' on TV

The FIR was registered less than an hour before a Kannews channel claimed that a man had petitioned the Karnataka State Police chief and Superintendent of Police, Hassan, alleging that he was raped by Mr. Suraj Revanna, son of former Minister H.D. Revanna and brother of Prajwal Revanna, former MP.

The alleged victim appeared on the private



channel and claimed that he had been sexually abused at a farmhouse in Hassan district. However, The Hindu did not get an independent confirmation of the same. Sources in Hassan district police claimed they had not received any such petition.

The police registered the case based on a complaint filed by Shivakumar H.L of Hanumanahalli. In his complaint, he identified himself as treasurer of the Suraj Revanna Brigade. The complaint was raised

against a resident of Kollangi and his brother-inlaw. Shivakumar, in his complaint, said that the person had often requested Shivakumar to introduce him to Mr. Suraj Revanna so that he could secure a job with his help. During the elections, the complainant introduced him to the MLC.

The Kollangi resident allegedly met Mr. Suraj Revanna on June 16 with a request for a job. However, he did not get any assurance from the legislator.

"As he did not get any assurance from the MLC, the person contacted me and demanded ₹5 crore, threatening that he would make allegations of sexual abuse against Mr. Suraj Revanna if the demand was not met," the complainant claimed.

# Elephant kills mahout at safari centre

The Hindu Bureau

The Forest Department filed a case against an illegal elephant safari centre in Idukki and issued a stop memo after a mahout was trampled to death by an elephant there on Thursday. According to officials, Neeleswaram resident Balakrishnan, 62, was killed by a cow elephant at a private elephant safari centre in Idukki around 6.30 p.m.

Officials said the elephant trampled Balakrishnan while he was waiting near the animal to take tourists on safari. The tourists narrowly escaped the attack. The body was handed over to relatives after autopsy. Both elephants at the centre are not registered under the Animal Welfare Board of India, which is mandatory if they are to be used for entertainment purposes.

# Darshan's police custody ends today

The Hindu Bureau BENGALURU

The police custody of actor Darshan, who has been arrested in the Renukaswamy murder case, will end on Saturday, and he will be produced in the court.

The police can seek the custody of the actor for two more days, if needed, as per norms. However, it is not clear whether the police will seek an extension of his custody on Saturday or he will be remanded in custody.

The police had taken the custody of Darshan, his friend Pradosh, Stonny Brook pub's owner V. Vinay, and electrician Dhanraj for two days on Thursday, while seeking judicial custody of other accused.

The police had claimed that the four accused they sought custody of were not cooperating with the probe. The police had claimed that they had found crucial evidence in the phone of Vinay. The police are tight-lipped on what the evidence is.

# THE HINDU

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# EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM

Notice No. W.584/E-Tendering/43-DHN-24-25 | Dhanbad

It is further to notify that, the E-Tender No.43-DHN-2024-25 Dated-04.06.2024 is hereby Cancelled due to administrative

For Divl. Railway Manager (Engg.) East Central Railway, Dhanbad PR/00546/DHN/ENGG/C/24-25/16

### EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-Tender Notice Open Tender Notice No.

MC-115-QW BXR STN., DT: 20.06.2024 The Divisional Railway Manager, E.0 Railway Danapur is inviting online ope tender (on IREPS Portal) for and on behal of the President of India from reputed contractor with experience, financia capability including those registere working with Railway/Irrigation/CPWD/MES or any other public sector undertaking for under mentioned works: (1) Name of work with its location: Quick Watering Facility as per CAMTECH design at Buxar station Location:- BUXAR STATION. (2) Approx Cost of the work: Rs. 1,19,33,671.92 (Rupees. One Crore Nineteen Lakh Third Three Thousand Six Hundred Seventy On and Paisa Ninety Two Only). (3) Earnest Money to be deposited: Rs. 2,09,700/-(Rupees. Two Lakh Nine Thousand Sever Hundred Only). (4) Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Date & Time for submission tender - 12.07.2024 up to 12:00 Hrs. o www.ireps.gov.in Date & Time of opening of tender - 12.07.2024 at 12:30 Hrs. o www.ireps.gov.in (5) Website particular & Notice Board location where complete details of tender, corrigendum (if any) can be seen etc.: The Tender Notice ilable on website: www.ireps.gov.in Divisional Railway Manager (Mech) E.C. Railway, Danapur PR/00541/DNR/MECH/T/24-25/40

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### 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/12/2024-INFO (Computer No. 1437822)

Date: 21.06.2024

# 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

SI. No.	I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	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/IND0015  "Supply of ICT Equipments for Mandya Unitary University of the Department of Collegiate and Technical Education, Bangalore"	21/06/2024	24/06/2024 12.00 Noon	28/06/2024 5.30 PM
2.	Tender No: DCE/2024-25/IND0017 "Supply of Furniture for Mandya Unitary University & Maharani Cluster University of the Department of Collegiate and Technical Education, Bangalore"	21/06/2024	25/06/2024 11.00 AM	03/07/2024 5.30 PM
3.	Tender No: DCE/2024-25/IND00014/Call-2 "Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Equipment and other Accessories necessary for establishment of Help desk at PMU of UUCMS Project"	19/06/2024	24/06/2024 11.00 AM	27/06/2024 5.30 PM
			647	

DIPR/CP/501/Zen/2024-25

Sd/-**Director of Collegiate Education, Bangalore** 

### 🔞 EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY 🚳 **E-Tender Notice**

of India for the under mentioned works:- (1

-Tender No: ECR-CAO-C-S-ETEN-16

4-25 in two packet system, Name of work:

Conducting FLS, Preparation of land plans

Obtaining permission of tree cutting, Preparation of GAD, Design of Major Bridges, Minor Bridges, LHS, RUB, ROB,

hrust Bed, Animal underpass/overpass

FOB, RFO, Buildings, soil stability, slope tability, EV2 test under projects

irisdiction of Dy. CE/CON/BRKA and Dy

CE/CON/HZME-1., Approx cost of the

work in (Rs.): 15,40,32,712.12, Bid

Security in (Rs.): 9,20,200.00, Period of

(2) E-Tender No: ECR-CAO-C-S-ETEN-

7-24-25 in single packet system, Name o

vork: Conducting Final Location Survey

Traffic Survey with EIRR/FIRR, ESP, I

ection, GAD and design of bridges/RUB

ROB. Preparation of Detailed Project

Report (DPR), EPC/BOQ Tender Document

and the Preliminary Activities for preparing

etailed Estimate (apporx. 100 Km) i

onnection with Railway projects and (8 nos

ROB, 04 nos, ROR and other concerned

activities associated with Survey and

reliminary work) providing assistance to

aisoning in land acquisition/transfer of

rivate/Government/Forest land fron

pplication stage to final documentatio

tage of Railway projects under

CE/C/South., Approx cost of the work in (Rs.): 7,54,19,486.06, Bid Security in

(Rs.): 5,27,100.00, Period of work

completion: 24 (Twenty four) Months, Date

and time for closing of tender 12.07.2024 a

15:30 hrs. Any e-tenders which is sent b

Post/Courier/Fax or by hand will not be

accepted. All such manual submission

ender even if it is on firm's letter pad o

received in time will not be accepted. The

above e-tender document alongwith full

nformation is available on website

http://www.ireps.gov.in. Note: In case o

any descripencies found in tender notice

nglish version will be final. Tenderers are

equested to visit the website http:

www.ireps.gov.in atleast 15 days before

ast date of closing, for latest corrigendum

corrections etc in connection with this e

PR/00544/CONS/ENGG/T/24-25/64

CAO/Con/South

E.C. Rly. MHX, Patna

STATE BANK STAFF COLLEGE **BEGUMPET ROAD, HYDERABAD-500016.** Phone: 040-23403130

# **TENDER NOTICE FOR CATERING SERVICE**

Applications and tenders are invited for selection under single stage two envelope system from reputed Agencies for CATERING SERVICE at State Bank Staff College premises Begumpet Road, Hyderabad. Please log on to https://bank.sbi/web/sbi-in-the-news/procurement-news

or further details. Last date of submitting the tender **on or before** 12-07-2024 at 3:00 PM.

Assistant Genreral Manager (Administration)

HIMACHAL PARDESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

### e-Procurement Notice **INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

om the eligible and approved contractors registered with HPPWD:-

The Executive Engineer HPPWD Dharamshala Division on behalf of Governor of H.F wites the Percentage rate rate bids, in electronic tendering system, for following work

Estimated Earnest Start date Deadline cost in Rs. work Money tender downIsuhmiss form -oading of Bid of bid 1. C/o Link 2,67,91,631/- |5,23,800/- |Eighteen | 5000/- |03.07.2024 | 10.07.202 road from Months

Vir Chowk to Sarah via Salangni i/c bridge over Manjhi Khad 50.00 mtr. Span PSC

box grider (SH:-C/o road connectivity from Vir Chowk to SPTI complex at Chetru including 50.00 mtr. Span PSC box grider bridge over Manjhi Khad) he bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the departmental website https://hptenders.gov.in. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject an

ender or all tenders without assigning any reasons. Executive Enginee Dharamshala Division HP.PWD., Dharamshala On behalf of Governor of Himachal Prades

HP / 0297/24-25 HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK.

### **ADDENDUM** Dt: 21.06.2024

ntioned in the Annexure-II of notification dt.07.06.2024 applications are invited for the post of Vice-Chancellor, Kaloji Narayana Rao University of fealth Sciences, Warangal also from Distinguished educationalists in the field of medicine 2. Application with the detailed Curriculum Vitae in the prescribed Proforma and ocumentary evidences should be sent by Registered Post to the following address The Secretary to Government, Health Medical and Family Welfare Departmen Room No. 17, First Floor, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat, Hyderabad 500 022, Phone No. +91 -40-2345 5824. 3. The last date to receive applications is extended till 5.00 PM on 06.07.2024.

R.O. No.: 98-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25

Sd/- Dr. Christina Z. Chongthu



GOVT. OF MAHARASHTRA Public Works (East) Division, Pune- 411 001

Phone No. 020/26122457 Web- www.mahapwd.gov.in and e-mail-eastpune.ee@mahapwd.gov.in

**E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 09 FOR 2024-2025** 

The Executive Engineer, Public Works (East) Division, Pune 411 001 invites bids for following work rom Registered as well as unregistered Contractor, and full filling the qualifying criteria for **B1 Tende**i Format as per Maharashtra Government, Public Work Department G.R. No. CAT/2017/Pra.Kra-08/Bldg-2 dt. 27/9/2018 and Public Work Department Matralaya Mumbai Circular No. CAT/2017/Pra. Kra-08/Bldg-2 dt. 22/10/2018. Bids document can be downloaded from website https://mahatenders.gov.in Executive

I	Eng	ngineer reserves all rights to accept or reject bids. Conditional bids will not be accepted  NAME OF WORK AND ESTIMATE COST LIST					
	Sr. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost Rs.	Earnest Money Deposit	Time limit for Completion	Cost of e-tender Form Fee	Class of Contractor
ı	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Beautification of Road from Central Library to Administrative Building to Central Park to Indapur Road Tal. Baramati Dist. Pune		3,38,000/-	06 Months (Including Monsoon	Rs.3540/- (With GST 18%)	Registered as well as unregistered Contractor
	2	Construction of Gunawadi Road to Motibag Odha DP Plan Road Under baramati Muncipal Carpo. Tal. Baramati	7 70 22 860/-	3,86,000/-	06 Months (Including	Rs.3540/- (With	Registered as well as unregistered

2	Construction of Gunawadi Road to Motibag Odha DP Plan Road Under baramati Muncipal Carpo. Tal. Baramati Dist. Pune	1 / /// 22 86/1/-	3,86,000/-	06 Months (Including Monsoon	Rs.3540/- (With GST 18%)	Registered as well as unregistered Contractor
3	Construction of Road from Motibagh to Phadtare Wasti Under baramati Muncipal Carpo. Tal. Baramati Dist. Pune		7,43,000/-	06 Months (Including Monsoon	Rs.3540/- (With GST 18%)	Registered as well as unregistered Contractor
	E-tender- Time Table					
1	Period of Downloading of bid document end dates	s/ Sale start and		6.2024 @ 10.00 7.2024 @ 18.00		
2	Pre-bid Meeting In the Office of Chief Eng Office, Pune, Old Central Building, Pune-4		on Dt. 02.0	7.2024 @ 12.00	) hrs.	

**Bid Opening Period** 

All eligible/interested contractors are downloading and mandated to get enrolled on e-tendering

18.00 hrs.

portal https://mahatenders.gov.in. For online Payment related issues, Kindly send email with Bank Reference Number to this email

ID merchant@sbi.co.in. You may also contact 022-27560149 for clarifications. Other term and condition Displayed in online e-tender forms. Right to reject any or all online bid of

work without assigning any reasons thereof is reserved. Above only Tender Notice is displayed on P.W.D. website "www.mahapwd.gov.in"

Online Blank Tender Downloading fee and Earne, st money shall be paid via online using NEFT/RTGS or payment gateway mode.

Excutive Engineer,

Public Works (East) Division, Pune-411 001 DGIPR/2024-2025/373

झारखण्ड सरकार कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता स्वर्णरेखा वितरण प्रमंडल, राँची

Period of Bid Submission/ Bid Submission Start and End

अल्पकालीन ईप्रोक्यॉमेंट नोटिस

(प्रथम आमत्रण) ई-निविदा आमत्रण संख्या-पे०स्व०वि०/वितरण/01/2024-25

		11Φ:20.06.2024	
1	कार्य का नाम	Utility Shifting of Existing rising main pipe line of 450mm dia D.I pipe between Durga Soren Chowk to Namkum ROB due to widening existing road into four lane road by Road Construction department road division, Ranchi Rural Under D.W.&S. Swarnrekha distribution, Division, Ranchi for year 2023-24	
2	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में)	4.2319799 लाख (चार करोड तेइस लाख उन्नीस हजार सात सौ निनान्बे) रूपये मात्र।	
3 अग्रधन की राशि (रूपये में) 425000.00 लाख (चार लाख पच्चीर रूपये मात्र।		425000.00 लाख (चार लाख पच्चीस हजार) रूपये मात्र।	
4	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	ार्य समाप्ति की अवधि 🛮 09 (नौ) महीना।	
5	5 परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य 10,000.00 (दस हजार)। (रूपये में)		
6	बेवसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय	28.06.2024 को अपराह्न 05:00 बजे	
8	बेवसाइट पर निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	08.07.2024 को अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक।	
9	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	09.07.2024 को अपराह्न 04:00 बर्ज ।	
10	विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता स्वर्णरेखा वितरण प्रमंडल, राँची।	
11	जिनके द्वारा निविदा खोली जायेगी का पदनाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता स्वर्णरेखा वितरण प्रमंडल, राँची।	
12 प्रोक्यॉरमेंट कार्यालय का 9 सम्पर्क नं0 E		9608892111 E-Mail ID:- distributionbooty@gmail.com	
13	ईप्रोक्यॉरमेंट सेल का सहायता केन्द्र सं0	0651-2480345	
<del></del>		l	
नाटः	—1. ।नावदा अन्तगत पारमाण [व	पत्र् का मूल्य एवं अग्रधन् की राशि ई—गवनैंस विभाग	

झारखण्ड मत्रालय धुर्वा, राँची के आदेश सह ज्ञापाक 120 दिनांक 03.10.2023 के अनुरूप

प्राप्त का जाएगा। निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई—भुगतान संवेदक द्वारा जिस बँक खाता से किया जाएगा। उसी खाते से अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर बँक खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही संवेदक की होगी। प्राकुकलित् राशि घट अथवा बढ सकती है उसी प्रकार से अग्रधन एवं परिमाण विपन्न की

केवल ई निविदा ही स्वीकार किया जायेगा।

4. कपल इ ामपरा हा स्वायराज्य जाउना 5. विस्तृत जानकारी हेतु बेवसाइट http://jharkandtenders.gov.in पर देखें I 6. निवेदा बिना कारण बताये कभी भी संशोधित या रद्द किया जा सकता है I 7. राज्य सरकार द्वारा निर्गत अद्यतन आदेश / परिपत्र लागु होगें I

PR 327249 (Drinking Water and कार्यपालक अभियता जल ही जीवन है। पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता स्वर्णरेखा जल ही जीवन है। वितरण प्रमंडल, राँची Sanitation) 24-25 (D)

# ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL DHAULA KUAN IDGE ROAD, DHAULA KUAN, NEW DELHI- 10 | www.apsdk.com

Dt. 24.06.2024 @ 10.00 hrs. to Dt. 08.07.2024 @

of Superintending Engineer, P.W. Circle, Pune.)

Dt. 09.07.2024 @ 18.00 hrs. (If Possible) (In the office

**TENDER NOTICE** Sealed tenders are invited from manufacturers/dealers with professional expertise in execution of civil works pertaining to Roof Treatment at APS Dhaula Kuan.

Tender form can be collected from School reception from 22 June to 29 June 2024 between 9.00AM to 3.00PM @ Rs 100/-. Forms duly completed in all respect be submitted to APS Dhaula Kuan by 06 July 2024 at 1500hrs along with DD (EMD) as per RFP in favour of Army Public School, Dhaula Kuan. For any queries contact on 011

Quantity Closing Opening

### **Government of Punjab** Tender Notice Reference No. 01 dt. 20.06.2024

On behalf of the Chief Executive Officer, Punjab Water Supply 8 Sew. Board, Chandigarh, Executive Engineer, Puniab Water Supply and Sewerage Division, Sangrur invites bids from the eligible bidders, contractors for the project work(s) detailed in the following table. The bidders may submit bids for any or all of the following Project/Work (s):

No.	Trainic or response mentice,	<b></b>	Date & time of Tender	Date & time of Tender
1	Installation of Water Supply System Construction of OHSR at <b>Dirba</b> Under AMRUT 2.0 Part-1, Phase-1	1	15.07.2024 05:00 PM	16.07.2024 11:00 AM
2	Providing Tap Connections to consumers Extension and Augmentation of Water Supply System at <b>Dhuri</b> District Sangrur, for Distribution Network Installation of Tube well under Amrut 2.0	1	15.07.2024 05:00 PM	16.07.2024 11:00 AM
3	–do- at Sangrur Distt. Sangrur for distribution network under AMRUT 2.0	1	15.07.2024 05:00 PM	16.07.2024 11:00 AM
4	—do- at <b>Moonak</b> District Sangrur for Distribution Network under AMRUT 2.0	1	15.07.2024 05:00 PM	16.07.2024 11:00 AM
5	Providing House Connections and Augmentation of Water Supply System at <b>Khanauri</b> Under AMRUT 2.0	1	15.07.2024 05:00 PM	16.07.2024 11:00 AM
6	Providing, Installing, Testing and Commissioning of One No. T/well at Shivam colony and Machinery in Uppli Road at Sangrur Dist. Sangrur	1	01.07.2024 05:00 PM	02.07.2024 11:00 AM

The pre-bid meeting for the tender will be held on 01.07.2024 at

11:00AM in the office of undersigned. For details log onto : www.eproc.punjab.gov.in

> **Executive Engineer** Pb. W/S & Sew. Divn., Sangrui ees.pwssb@punjab.gov.ir

> > M ND-NDE

NA/12/23554/2023/34825

Sr. Name of Project/work(s)

# **Testing times**

The National Testing Agency needs an overhaul to regain credibility

he cancellation of the UGC-NET examination on Wednesday, just a day after its supposed "successful conduct" by the National Testing Agency (NTA), is one more load of straw threatening to break the agency's creaking reputation. Coming as it did after irregularities in this year's NEET-UG (medicine), and complaints about the JEE (engineering), the NTA is under intense pressure. In some ways, the Education Ministry's actions are in stark contrast to its response to the ongoing NEET fiasco, and seem to indicate that it has learnt some lessons. It took suo motu action on the basis of the Home Ministry's cybercrime team's inputs, even without any formal complaints from candidates, unlike in the NEET case where it has dragged its feet through committees and court cases despite multiple allegations and police complaints of paper leaks. The Ministry immediately cancelled the UGC-NET and promised a fresh examination. It has asked the CBI to probe the case, while not heeding the persistent demand of NEET aspirants for a similar probe. However, for the over nine lakh UGC-NET candidates who studied for months, and then travelled long distances to their examination centres, some taking loans to cover their costs, this is little consolation.

These young people deserve answers, and right now, most of the questions are still unanswered. For one, no one in the government's education establishment has explained why the NET was an offline exam conducted by the CBSE till 2018, when it was taken over by the NTA and became an online exam, only to revert this year to an offline, pen-and-paper exam, which is potentially more vulnerable to paper leaks. As the investigation is carried out, full transparency is key to any hopes that the NTA can regain trustworthiness in the eyes of candidates. The second is accountability and punishment of the guilty. The government would also do well to consider a rehaul of the NTA's systems and personnel to ensure that the technical glitches, cheating scams, paper leaks, and proxy candidates that have plagued the exams this year are not allowed to happen again. With the fate of lakhs of India's educated youth and youngest voters at stake, it is not surprising that the testing agency's woes have become a political hot potato. Some Opposition leaders have demanded that the NTA be dismantled and the responsibility for entrance examinations be handed over to the States instead. This may well curb the Union government's centralising tendencies leading to examinations of enormous scale that are harder to manage in a farflung nation. However, some all-India examinations will always remain, and the need is for the States to join the Centre in recovering the integrity of the beleaguered examination system.

# **New Cold War**

Russia's pact with North Korea will deepen U.S. ties in East Asia

he security pact reached between Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Pyongyang, in which both countries promised mutual assistance "in the event of aggression", has echoes from the Cold War era. Russia and North Korea, erstwhile allies, are facing biting sanctions, but for different reasons. And, both are at odds with the West. Now, they seem determined to revive the alliance so that they can stand up to the western-led global order together. Mr. Putin's visit to Pyongyang, his first in 24 years, itself marked a new beginning. The Russian leader has supported multilateral efforts to curb the North's nuclear programme in the past. Moscow has also voted for sanctions at the UN Security Council against Pyongyang over its nuclear arsenals. But the Ukraine war appears to have altered Kremlin's geopolitical arithmetic and provided an opportunity for Pyongyang to make itself useful as an ally. When the Ukraine war dragged on and Russia came under western sanctions, Mr. Putin turned to Mr. Kim for ammunition and ballistic missiles. After Mr. Kim's visit to Russia in September 2023, North Korea reportedly supplied ammunition to Russia. Moscow stepped up supplies of food and fuel, and there was speculation that it could help the North's defence sector with critical technologies. While both have rejected reports of weapons trade, the security pact clearly elevates ties to the level of a de facto alliance.

Ever since the Ukraine war, Mr. Putin has steadily expanded Russia's cooperation with countries that are at odds with the U.S. He reportedly bought kamikaze drones from Iran. China has also emerged as a key economic, technological and energy partner. And, by promising to help North Korea, an isolated, one-family-ruled totalitarian state that is still technically at war with South Korea, in the event of an attack, Russia has signalled its readiness to play a larger role in northeast Asia. Mr. Putin, essentially a cold warrior, wants to build an axis of the 'others' opposed by the West to expedite the churn in the global order. China remains cautious but seems fine with the idea of its closest partners challenging the western order. This will have far-reaching geopolitical consequences. North Korea will now have little incentive to discuss denuclearisation. Russia, which already has testy ties with Japan, could see its relationship with South Korea deteriorating. The agreement is also likely to strengthen the emerging tripartite partnership in East Asia among Japan, South Korea and the U.S., further solidifying the new cold war between great powers, which is still in its early stages.

# A mandate for a new economic approach

he results of the just concluded general election may partly be interpreted as signalling a discontent with economic conditions. The substantial drop in the number of seats won by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Uttar Pradesh – which is among India's poorest and most rural States – aligns with this view.

### Discontent, its sources

Dissatisfaction with governance is bound to be high at a time of unemployment and persistent inflation. Food-price inflation, in particular, has remained elevated for five years. It is highest for cereals and pulses, which are staples. For households at the bottom of the income distribution, food constitutes close to half their household expenditure. Past experience suggests that the price of food can be a determinant of how the electorate votes. For instance, historically high food-price inflation towards the end of its decade-long tenure had preceded the end of the A.B. Vajpayee-led National Democratic Alliance government in 2004. When it comes to jobs, the unemployment rate has mostly been higher since 2014. The Periodic Labour Force Survey also shows a decline in the real earnings of regular employees and the self-employed, being substantial in the case of the latter. These are some of the sources of the economic discontent that may have propelled the shift away from the BJP.

In the spirit of democracy, which he constantly refers to, Prime Minister Narendra Modi must now honour the mandate given by the people. His government must address the sources of their discontent. This would require a change from the economic approach that has been followed for the last decade. We are yet to see indications that the government has this in mind. The Finance Minister has promised 'reforms', and some supportive commentators have spoken of how they are essential for growth. Two points spring to mind as reforms are brought to the table.

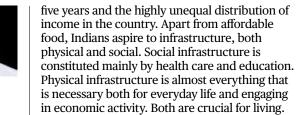
First, Mr. Modi's much praised reforming zeal has not translated to a higher average growth rate after 2014. Reforms understood as changes in the policy regime are effective only to the extent that they affect the forces of demand or supply. Clearly, this has not happened strongly or widely enough in the economy, whatever the reforms undertaken by the present regime so far.

Second, the growth that we have seen since 2014 has not brought along with it the things that Indians aspire to. I have already mentioned the high food inflation. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations estimates that close to 75% of the Indian population cannot afford a healthy diet. This is not surprising given the extent of increase in food prices in the past



<u>Pulapre</u> <u>Balakrishnan</u>

Honorary Visiting Professor, Centre for Development Studies Thiruvananthapuram



The economic policy of the past decade has focused on attracting foreign investment, moving to digital payment in all spheres, building a manufacturing sector through subsidy and, in the past three years, unleashing a highway construction spree. Combined with this, there have been a host of transfers, cash for farmers and housewives and free rations for the poorest. This might appear to be a winning formula, but it has not been enough to bring the BJP back with a majority. To continue with this would be to ignore the people's verdict. To honour it would require going beyond vague pronouncements on reforms or doubling down on welfare transfers, even if there was fiscal capacity for this. Showcasing macroeconomic stability also will not do. Till the COVID-19 pandemic, the central government had had fair success with fiscal consolidation, though not equally with inflation control, but that could not prevent growth from sliding even before COVID-19 had struck. While you certainly do not want macroeconomic instability, we can now see that it does not necessarily bring more growth or deliver the goods citizens aspire to. Continued high growth in India would require a rise in the investment rate. Private investment is guided by anticipation of demand. The private investment rate in India has not budged for a decade. Whether it will rebound at a time when its principal cheerleader, Mr. Modi, has lost his majority in Parliament is to be seen.

### Glaring deficits

So, if 'more reforms' is not the way for economic policy to respond to the electorate, then what is? It would be to undertake specific interventions at the pressure points which currently signal a presence. The first, as already flagged, is the rising price of food. Other than the promotion of millets, agriculture has been a generally neglected aspect of the Modi economic package of the last decade. The relentless rise in prices of staple foods is the sign of an under-developed economy, and sits uncomfortably with the goal of a 'Viksit Bharat'. While wheat production only experiences shortfalls in certain years, the production of pulses, a major source of protein for workers, has chronically fallen short of demand for decades. Making India self-sufficient in pulses must be taken up in mission mode. The supply of fruits and vegetables, the sources of

vitamins and minerals, is hobbled by the absence of cold-storage facilities and poor transportation.

A second pressure point in the country is to be found in the Indian Railways. Its leadership appears to have been caught unawares by the rise in long-distance migration for work. Pictures of reserved compartments on long-distance trains swarming with ticketless travellers have sent shock waves across the country. In such a situation, to treat high-end 'Vande Bharat' trains as a priority, not to mention the bullet train, is a serious failure of judgment when it is not actually irresponsible.

A third pressure point is the strained water supply situation in our mega cities. First Bengaluru and now Delhi have witnessed severe deficits this summer. These are India's leading agglomerations and water shortage can cripple their economic potential, apart from endangering social harmony. 'Nal se jal' must seem a distant dream to many.

### The public sector is crucial

I have selected only a small set from the many deficits in India today, but this would be sufficient to see the point being made. Expressways and a Digital Stack, which the BJP has championed, have their place for sure, but connecting cities and digitising India are not the most pressing of the country's needs right now. The country needs infrastructure that supports both everyday life and economic activity. The first is easily understood, but the second perhaps not. Firms, including the self-employed, need producer services ranging from efficient transportation and steady electricity supply to sewerage and waste disposal facilities. When such services are unavailable, production cannot take place, and employment cannot expand.

The relatively high growth in India over the past quarter century has not delivered these services sufficiently, and they are unlikely to be supplied by the private sector within any time frame. Only the public sector can supply them at scale. Surely, this must be obvious to Mr. Modi as he travels the world to attend summits held in locations with impressive public infrastructure. His economic approach has banked too much on the private sector to take the lead in developing the country. But this has not materialised in a decade, and it is unlikely to change. The government, however, can undertake course correction now. Instead of promising, or even implementing, liberalising reforms, it should move swiftly to address the pressure points that are so obvious. It has set 2047 as the date to make the country a developed economy. However much it may grow by then, India will remain underdeveloped without the infrastructure to

# A progressive Indian policy on Myanmar outlined

hree years on, the military in Myanmar, which overthrew the elected civilian government in February 2021, continues to kill, maim and displace its own people. India has steadfastly maintained formal relations with this regime, which has so far murdered more than 5,000 people and displaced some 2.5 million people. In its second tenure, the Narendra Modi government did very little to engage with the pro-democracy resistance, which now has both political and military wings. Indian foreign policy scholars and practitioners have doggedly defended this policy by arguing that India needs to work with the junta if it has to protect its "interests" in Myanmar and not get swayed by an idealistic preoccupation with "values".

How India can step out of China's shadow
But, in foreign policy, there is no clear line
between "values" and "interests" simply because
neither has a standard definition. It all depends
on how a country defines these terms. This is also
the case with India's Myanmar policy. New Delhi
has long defined its "interests" in the Southeast
Asian country in narrow strategic terms. But now,
it needs to leverage a unique set of "values" to
better defend its interests. It is possible for India
to put in place a more progressive, values-driven
Myanmar policy that works in favour, and not
against, its national interests.

This new policy should have two key pivots, namely, democracy and human security. The new National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government, therefore, needs to take four interlocking steps immediately.

First, India needs to use its credentials as the largest federal democracy in the region to sharpen its influence in Myanmar. For long, Myanmar's pro-democracy political elites and civil society have looked up to India as a model of a federal democratic union with a well-oiled power-sharing arrangement between the centre and various subnational units. This is even more relevant today as the democratic resistance in Myanmar, which is led by the National Unity Government (NUG), dozens of ethnic revolutionary organisations, civil society organisations, and trade unions, strives to replace the military-drafted 2008 constitution with a



To continue

formula' - i.e.,

the economic

policy of the

past decade

would be to

people's verdict,

their discontent

ignore the

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with the

**'winning** 

Angshuman Choudhury

New Delhi-based researcher and writer from Assam, and formerly an Associate Fellow at the Centre for Policy Research

New Delhi's

defining its

country in

terms needs

to change

'interests' in the

Southeast Asian

narrow strategic

stance of

federal constitution. By helping this vibrant opposition achieve its aim through capacity-building and knowledge exchange programmes, India can distinguish itself from China, its primary regional competitor in Myanmar. Both Beijing and New Delhi can sell military hardware to Myanmar, but only India can sell the spirit of federal cooperation. Here is a chance for the new Indian government to outmanoeuvre the Chinese in their own 'backyard'.

# Weapons sales and humanitarian outreach

Second, India needs to immediately halt all weapon sales to the Myanmar military. According to the advocacy group, Justice For Myanmar (JFM), Indian state-owned military hardware manufacturers have sold a range of non-lethal and semi-lethal equipment to the junta since the 2021 coup. In its most recent report, published on March 27, the group claimed that on January 2, the Indian Air Force transferred a package which had 52 items, including navigation and communication parts, to its Myanmar counterpart. Another recent investigation by Frontier Myanmar claims that India sold more than \$1.5 million worth of navy-grade diesel to junta-linked entities since the coup. New Delhi needs to immediately put a stop to these, as the Myanmar military continues to use all its three services – the army, air force, and navy – to attack non-combatant civilians using imprecise lethal tactics

Third, India needs to immediately open cross-border humanitarian corridors to help civilians affected by the conflict along three border provinces – Sagaing Region, Chin State and northern Rakhine State. According to United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) data, Sagaing Region has seen the largest quantum of internal displacement in all of Myanmar since the coup (as of March 25, 2024). Rakhine comes next, while Chin State sits tenth in the list. Continuing air strikes by the junta and clashes between armed groups in these areas have only pushed more civilians across the borders. New Delhi needs to first revoke its plans to fence the India-Myanmar border and reinstate the Free Movement Regime,

or the FMR, which the Union Home Ministry suspended in February 2024. Then, it should engage existing humanitarian aid networks along the India-Myanmar border to send emergency relief assistance including medicines, food and tarpaulin to the other side. Mizoram, where a multi-layered asylum and aid ecosystem is already operational, is a good starting point. India should also collaborate with local and international non-governmental organisations with experience in the field. Best practices from Thailand, which recently started cross-border aid deliveries into Myanmar, should also be adopted. New Delhi should use its clout to ensure that the aid is not distributed by the junta, which not only has a disastrous track record in this field, but is also not even in control of large areas along the India-Myanmar border. It is also possible to run cross-border aid corridors without allowing contraband to pass through, with stringent checks and pre-delivery vetting.

# Detention of asylum seekers

Fourth, the Narendra Modi government should immediately halt the detention and deportation of asylum seekers from Myanmar. This is especially so in the case of Manipur, where the BJP-led government has so far deported 115 asylum seekers to Myanmar - the latest round was on June 11. These are people who entered India not because they wanted to or with mal-intent, but because they were forced to. Regardless of the fact that India has not ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention, it is incumbent upon the government to treat them as refugees in need of humanitarian assistance and protection rather than as "illegal immigrants". Both the Indian Constitution and international law allow the Indian state to do so. In fact, the customary international legal principle of non-refoulement discourages India from deporting refugees back to a home country where they face a threat of persecution or death. The Centre should also urge the BJP-led Assam government to release the 27 Chin refugees detained in the State and house them in a humane refugee shelter.

India, the "Vishwabandhu", routinely claims to stand with the people of Myanmar. It should now walk the talk.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Kallakurichi and policy

It is heart-wrenching that several families in Kallakurichi district have lost their breadwinners. It is likely that the Tamil Nadu government will take action against bootleggers, at least in the short term. However, the elephant in the room — flawed liquor taxation policies — is being ignored. Liquor is viewed as an easy source of revenue for governments, as consumers are from diverse social classes and are not organised, allowing the

governments to raise taxes without much backlash. Since total prohibition has been shown to be ineffective historically, there is a need for measures to ensure a safe product. Simultaneously, efforts to promote de-addiction and

more awareness of the impact of alcohol on health must be scaled up.

Michael Jom,

Thiruvananthapuram

Examination scandal
It is a real shame and
pathetic that even decades

after Independence, a competitive examination cannot be conducted in a fair and scandal-free way in India. The plight of hapless aspirants cannot be imagined. Their being demoralised is only one aspect.

Even though there are loopholes in the legal system in India, there needs to be stringent legal action and severe punishment even if the political class is found to be involved.

K.V. Ramesh Nair,

M ND-N

# GROUND ZERO



# Catching a falling star

The killing of Renukaswamy, allegedly by Kannada film actor-producer Darshan and his associates, has made news even in places he and his films are not popular. K.V. Aditya **Bharadwaj** and **G.T. Sathish** chronicle the horrifying series of incidents that mirror society's realities: fan-culture, alleged social media violations, and violence so brutal that it caused death

food delivery executive out with a Sunday-breakfast parcel on June 9, was headed to one of the apartments in Sattva Anugraha, an upmarket complex on the Outer Ring Road (ORR) in Bengaluru's western suburbs. On his way, he saw street dogs pull at what looked like the body of a man in a storm water drain. He alerted the security guards, who in turn called the police

Based on the complaint of Kevalram Dorji, the security officer of the apartment complex, the police recovered the body riddled with injuries. It was stuck on a bushy slope off the road and had not fallen into the running water. There was no identification on him. The CCTV footage from the apartment com-

plex gave leads on two suspicious vehicles. As is routine, the police secured the body in a morgue and put out an advertisement with photographs in newspapers that evening, seeking information. It might have ended up as one of the many unidentified bodies in the metropolis, but the police were in for a surprise on the evening of

At about 7 p.m. that day, four men walked into the Kamakshipalya police station and confessed to the murder of the man they said was K.S. Renukaswamy, 33. A resident of Chitradurga, a district headquarters in central Karnataka, around 200 kilometres away from Bengaluru, Renukaswamy worked at a retail pharmacy chain. Raghavendra, 43, also from Chitradurga; Karthik, 27; Keshavamur-

thy, 27; and Nikhil Naik, 21, all from Bengaluru, claimed they had a financial dispute with the deceased, had abducted and brought him to the city, beaten him up, and he had died.

# **Police action**

Chitradurga

Bengaluru The police were sceptical: "The victim did not have a profile which could have led to his murder due to a financial dispute. Such surrenders usually happen only in underworld cases," said a senior police official, who has been leading the investigation.

Following sustained interrogation, the four told a different story. "What they revealed came as a shock to us," the official said. The men said Darshan Thoogudeepa, one of the most popular Kannada cinema actors, had got the victim abducted from Chitradurga, had him brought to a shed in Rajarajeshwari Nagar in Bengaluru, and had beaten him up by his associates, leading to

They said the victim had sent obscene messages to Darshan's alleged partner Pavithra Gowda on social media. The actor had sent the four to surrender, paying them to keep his name out, police say. One of the four, Raghavendra, was the president of the Chitradurga District Darshan Fans' Club.

In the next few hours, the police arrested seven more people: Vinay V., 38, owner of Stonny Brook resto-bar in Bengaluru, where the actor had been partying on Saturday afternoon. Vinay's uncle owns the shed where the victim was



June 28 is his wedding anniversary, and we were planning an event to mark the occasion KASHINATH S. SHIVANA-GOWDRU

father

allegedly tortured and killed. Deepak, 39, is a partner in the company running the shed and a nephew of a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) city MLA. Pavan K., 29, is an employee of Darshan, working as Pavithra Gowda's helper. Pradosh, 40, is a corporate executive and has been Darshan's friend for two decades. Nandeesh, 28; Lakshman, 54; and Nagaraju, 41, were allegedly present at the shed and had assaulted the victim

The next morning, as Gowda was arrested in Bengaluru, city police arrested Darshan, who was at a hotel in Mysuru for a film shoot.

Darshan is one of the highest paid actors in the Kannada film industry, called Sandalwood informally. "He did at least two or three movies a year earlier, and was considered a 'dependable' hero. Producers invested money in him; exhibitors felt the need for such a hero so that theatres would be busy most of the year. Both the industry and the audience admired him for different reasons," said Shashidhar Chitradurga, author and film journalist.

Darshan's most recent action film Kaatera is the industry's biggest hit this year so far. At election time, politicians flocked to get the D-Boss, as he is popularly known, to campaign for them, especially in southern Karnataka.

# Last day at home

At about 2.30 p.m. on June 8, Renukaswamy had called his mother Rathnaprabha, 62, over the phone to tell her that he would not come home for lunch, and would return late in the evening. That was their last conversation. His body was brought to Chitradurga three days later.

Renukaswamy had left home around 9 a.m. on Saturday and parked his two-wheeler near Balaji Bar, close to the circle where the roads connecting Chitradurga with Bengaluru and Challakere taluka meet. As per CCTV camera footage, he

got into an autorickshaw, and the vehicle took the Bengaluru route. After a couple of kilometres, the passengers in the autorickshaw and the driver shifted to a taxi.

They have now been identified as Raghavendra, the driver Ravi Shankar, and two of his associates Anu Kumar, 25, and Jagadeesh, 36, all from Chitradurga. Raghavendra had allegedly lured them into the plot, promising them a meeting with their idol, Darshan.

Back home, his mother; father, Kashinath S. Shivanagowdru, 75; and wife, Sahana K.S, 26, waited, as the evening turned to the next day, and there was no sign of him. "We called his friends and the pharmacy, but no one knew anything," says Shivanagowdru.

As they contemplated lodging a complaint with the police on Monday, Shivanagowdru, who retired as a senior assistant from the Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) 17 years ago, got information of his son's death from the police. "I felt the ground beneath me cave in," recalled the father, still shaken.

Renukaswamy, who was actively involved in the activities of a few Hindutva groups, according to people in the locality, had dropped out of college, where he was studying Commerce. He secured a job in the sales section of a pharmacy company and worked at its outlets in Chitradurga, after undergoing training. "Last year, we got nim married to Sahana. June 28 is his wedding anniversary, and we were planning an event to mark the occasion," said Shivanagowdru.

Instead, on June 17, the family held a ritual in memory of Renukaswamy. "Sorry, the moment I start to speak about my son, I cannot hold back my tears," Shivanagowdru said. What haunts him most are the reports of torture. "The moment I remember him, I start to imagine how he must have suffered. I imagine him pleading with folded hands, wailing in pain. He must have cried for help; he must have begged them not to torture him." Then, "His wife is five months pregnant."

# Where it all happened

The now infamous shed, about 300 metres away from the road, is situated on a four-acre plot owned by Pattanagere Jayanna, who has significant land holdings in the Pattanagere village, now subsumed within Rajarajeshwari Nagar, a suburb in west Bengaluru. Intact Autoparc India Pvt Ltd had rented the land parcel. About 400 seized vehicles, including some trucks and buses, allegedly of loan defaulters, are parked in the space. It has a two-storey building at one end and is covered by at least eight CCTV cameras.

Raghavendra was allegedly instructed to take Renukaswamy to the shed, where at least one movie of Darshan had been shot. Darshan was partying at Stonny Brooks.

Gowda, who runs a boutique, had on January 24, this year, posted pictures with Darshan on so-



Barring Darshan, who had a domestic abuse case [in 2011, when he was arrested]; three others have petty cases against them; none of the other accused has any criminal record A SENIOR POLICE OFFICER

cial media with the caption, "One decade down; forever to go. #10vear. It's been 10 years of our relationship. Thank you." A sprinkling of hearts and stars was added. Gowda became a target of trolls. The message upset many Darshan fans who sided with his wife, Vijayalakshmi, and wrote messages against Gowda.

Renukaswamy was one of them. Allegedly operating under multiple fake Instagram identities, he had persistently trolled Gowda publicly. Police say he used the account @goutham\_ks\_1990 to send her obscene messages and pictures. Police have now found that Renukaswamy was a habitual offender and had employed a similar modus operandi with many women. One of them had brought it to the notice of a police officer in March 2024, but no action was taken.

These messages enraged Gowda, who allegedly informed her help Pavan. Posing as Gowda, he had chatted with Renukaswamy, managing to extract his mobile number and details of his whereabouts. With this information, Darshan allegedly contacted Raghavendra, seeking his 'help'. Using the photo and number, Raghavendra tracked down Renukaswamy and brought him to the shed, allegedly on Darshan's instructions.

Darshan then allegedly landed up at the shed with Gowda and several of his associates, including Pavan, the pub owner Vinay, and his friend Pradosh. Investigations have now revealed that Darshan got Gowda to beat up Renukaswamy and made him apologise. Renukaswamy was later tortured for several hours. Police claim that Deepak, a partner in the company running the shed, who had been out on work, joined them midway.

### Past and present offenders

The post-mortem report says that Renukaswamy's death was "due to shock and haemorrhage as a result of multiple blunt injuries sustained," say the police. The police's remand application gives graphic details of the torture. So far, 17 arrests have been made.

Police claim Pavan took charge of the coverup, roping in three associates. Late in the night, the trio along with four others, took the body in two SUVs and threw it into the drain. "They assumed it would be washed away, but the body got stuck in the bushes," a police official said.

Darshan claims he only warned Renukaswamy, got Pavithra to slap him, and left, and that he had nothing to do with the murder. But police say he was present for much longer. The actor has now reportedly confessed to having paid Pradosh ₹30 lakh for the cover-up. Pradosh allegedly gave ₹5 lakh each to three who surrendered before the police, taking the blame for the murder. They had been promised more money for their families. Police have recovered the money.

Bengaluru City Police Commissioner B. Dayananda said they were confident of the case against the actor, as the arrest was based on strong evidence. "Barring Darshan, who had a domestic abuse case (in 2011, when he was arrested after his wife filed a case]; three others have petty cases against them; none of the other accused has any criminal record," another senior police officer leading the probe, said. He adds this was the reason they did not know how to cover their tracks.

# Fact, fiction, and the film world

Following Darshan's arrest for murder, social media is abuzz with multiple clips from his films which eerily mirror the happenings in the case. The characters Darshan plays in the movies often portray a type of masculinity that punishes those who violate women, by taking the law into their hands. At 6.3 feet and a gym-built body, Darshan's appeal was at many levels.

"In the initial years, people appreciated his screen presence and stunts, in addition to his looks. It was the time when gym culture picked up in Karnataka. Young boys who were keen on their physical appearance followed the actor," said Shashidhar.

Despite being the son of on-screen villain and character-actor Thoogudeepa Srinivas, wellknown in the 1970s and 1980s, Darshan started at the bottom of the film industry pyramid, working as a light boy, when he lost his father at 18. His first break as a lead actor came with the 2002 superhit Majestic, in which he played an orphaned youth led astray into Bengaluru's underworld.

With his arrest after the domestic violence case, for which he got bail, his relationship with the media soured, but most of his films continued to rake in money. Days after the domestic violence case, his film Sarathi, in which he played an auto driver fighting to take revenge over his father's murder, became a blockbuster.

Today, fans stand outside the police station where he is being held, and the police, have had to impose prohibitory orders around the station. Social media is awash with fan support.

In recent years, Darshan had made an effort to break away from the mould he found himself in, essaying roles of freedom fighter Sangolli Rayanna and the Mahabharata's tragic-hero Duryodhana in recent films. These brought him closer to family audiences. His recent films Yajamana, Kranti, and Kaatera, made good business and were hailed for their social messages.

Away from the blinding camera lights, Chandrappa, 60, accused person Anu Kumar's father, collapsed and died on hearing the news of his son's arrest. Chandrappa was a construction labourer; his wife Jayamma works as a domestic help. In their one-room tenement in Chitradurga, Jayamma says, "My son Anu's friend Jagadish is Darshan's fan. He forced Anu to join him for the trip," she says, weeping.



Police seal the shed were Renukaswamy, a fan of actor Darshan, was allegedly tortured and murdered. MURALI KUMAR K

# From Page One

# Kejriwal to remain in jail as HC stays bail

Presenting his case before the High Court, Mr. Raju said, "Material facts were not considered by the trial court. There cannot be a better case for cancellation of bail than this one. There cannot be greater perversity than this."

"I was not allowed to argue fully. I was not given proper time of 2-3 days to file written submissions. This is not done. On merits, I have an excellent case. The trial court said 'finish off in half an hour' as it wanted to deliver the judgment. It did not give us full opportunity to argue the case," he said.

The trial court did not even look at his reply on the ground that it was bulky, he said.

He also mentioned that the trial court had given findings contrary to those of the High Court while upholding Mr. Kejriwal's arrest.

### 'Attempt to malign court'

Refuting Mr. Raju's claims, Mr. Singhvi said, "This matter lasted for five hours (before the trial court). Nearly 3 hours 45 minutes were taken by Mr. Raju (ED) and then trial judge is faulted because she does not repeat every comma and full stop."

He also called out the ED for attempting to malign the trial court judge by claiming she did not give the agency enough time to argue and did not consider material evidence.

"There is a complete misconception as to what the trial court judge dealing with bail application should do. ED's conception appears to be that the bail hearing merely because it involves a former Chief Minister and merely because there is a political antagonism with the ruling party must go on endlessly for hours without end," Mr. Singhvi said.

"It is extremely unfortunate the way Mr. Raju has maligned the trial court judge," he added.

Mr. Chaudhari submitted that Mr. Kejriwal had surrendered to the jail authorities on the expiry of the interim bail period, which showed his bonafide conduct.

# Patent filings credit BBIL as Covaxin 'inventor'

It was explicitly mentioned that the "..intellectual property over the product would be jointly owned by the ICMR and the BBIL".

The ICMR would also receive as royalty 5% of net sales to be remitted half-yearly.

The ICMR said that while it had not funded the BBIL for Covaxin development, one of its institutes – the ICMR-National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune – had spent "funds for Covaxin development". It also funded phase-3 clinical trials of Covaxin at 25 locations, involving 25,800 participants. All in all, the ICMR spent ₹35 crore for developing Covaxin. As of January 2022 – as per an update by the government to the Rajya Sabha – the ICMR received ₹171 crore as royalty for Covaxin.

Ms. Pawar's response to Parliament, however, did not elaborate on the sharing of patent rights. The BBIL, which has over the years had several research collaborations with public research bodies such as the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the ICMR itself, has listed scientists from all institutions as 'inventors' in patent applications.

A BBIL spokesperson told *The Hindu* that the patent filed by Bharat Biotech was only for "process development" and specific to the making of the vaccine. It also covered the use of an adjuvant (an ingredient used in vaccines to elicit a stronger response) that was licensed from the Kansasbased ViroVax and added to Covaxin. India's patent laws allow both product and process patents. Product patents grant an inventor a monopoly over, say, a drug.

# Act punishing organised cheating comes into effect

The law has provision for up to five years' imprisonment and a fine of up to ₹1 crore for exam malpractices; the UGC-NET exam cancelled on June 19 will not be covered by the new legislation

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

he Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 that has provision for up to five years' imprisonment and a fine of up to ₹1 crore for malpractices and organised cheating in government recruitment exams was notified by the Union government to come into effect from Friday.

The UGC-NET 2024 examination that was cancelled on June 19 on grounds of being compromised and is being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation will however not be covered by the newly enacted law.

On February 6, Parliament passed the Bill.

A notification issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) on Friday said, "In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 1 of the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 (1 of 2024), the Central government hereby appoints the 21st day of June, 2024 as the date on which the provisions of the said Act shall come into force."



National Students Union of India supporters stage a protest against the irregularities in NEET-UG, in Nagpur on Friday. ANI

The Act mentions punishments for "leakage of question paper or answer key", "directly or indirectly assisting the candidate in any manner unauthorisedly in the public examination" and "tampering with the computer network or a computer resource or a computer system" as offences done by a person, group of persons or institutions.

### List of offences

Besides these, "creation of fake website to cheat or for monetary gain", "conduct of fake examination, issuance of fake admit cards or offer letters to cheat or for monetary gain" and "manipulation in seating arrangements" are also among the offences punishable under the law.

"Any person or persons resorting to unfair means and offences under this Act shall be punished with imprisonment for a term not less than three years but which may extend to five years and with fine up to ₹10 lakh," said the Act.

A service provider, engaged by the public examination authority for conduct of examinations, shall also be liable to be punished with imposition of a fine up to ₹1 crore "and proportionate cost of examination shall also be recovered" from it, according to the Act.

Such service providers shall also be barred from being assigned with any responsibility for the conduct of any public examination for a period of four years

# 'FIR against Gujarat-based firm must be made public'

The Hindu Bureau

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday raised questions about the Uttar Pradesh police recruitment exam paper leak and its connection with a Gujarat-centric company.

He suggested that the Gujarat-based firm which conducts the police recruitment exam paper is involved in leaking the paper and only after its owner fled abroad, the State government came to know about it.

"It is the identity of the 'BJP', they work for cheaters. The allegation is very serious that the Gujarati company which conducts the police recruitment exam paper is involved in leaking the paper," Mr. Yadav said on X. He added that the U.P. govt informed the public about it and blacklisted the company to avoid public anger.

# Govt. diverting issue to protect paper leak kingpin: Tejashwi

Amit Bhelari PATNA

A day after Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha accused the private secretary of Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav of being involved in the NEET paper leak case, Mr. Yadav on Friday said attempts were being made to "divert the issue" to "protect the kingpin".

On Thursday, Mr. Sinha said Pritam Kumar, Mr. Yadav's aide, had booked the government guest house for Sikandar Prasad Yadavendu, an accused in the case. One of the arrested students, Anurag Yadav, told the police that Mr. Yadavendu dropped him at the place of accused Amit Anand and Nitish Kumar, who gave him the NEET question paper and answer sheet.

### RJD leader's challenge

"If the government has any doubts, then call my private secretary and question him. I will ask the Chief Minister to arrest whoever is guilty. On the claim made by the Deputy CM, I am wondering why the Economic Offences Unit, which is investigating the case, has not issued any such statements," Mr. Yadav said.

"The engineer who has been arrested may be a be-



Tejashwi Yadav

neficiary, but the mastermind is Amit Anand and Nitish Kumar. This government is making an attempt to divert the issue. Why does it want to protect the kingpin," he asked.

The RJD also hit back at the BJP by releasing an old photo of Mr. Anand along with Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary.

"The main accused in the NEET exam paper leak scam is with the Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar. The so-called powerful Minister who was felicitated by the accused has deleted all his photos with him from his social media handles but don't worry we have them all. Send this to your worried counterpart, the other deputy CM," the RJD wrote on its X handle on

The RJD leader blamed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the paper leak and said exam papers are leaked in the BJP-ruled States.

# NTA postpones joint CSIR-UGC-NET citing 'logistical issues'

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Amid multiple controversies that the National Testing Agency (NTA) is currently embroiled in, the agency on Friday issued a notification postponing the Joint CSIR-UGC-NET exam due to "unavoidable circumstances and logistical issues".

The notification stated: "The candidates are hereby informed that the Joint CSIR-UGC-NET Examination June-2024 which was scheduled to be held between 25.06.2024 to 27.06.2024 is being postponed due to unavoidable circumstances as well as logistic issues. The revised

schedule for the conduct of this examination will be announced later through the official website."

Candidates have been asked to keep checking the official website.

# Recurring issue This comes days aff

This comes days after the Education Ministry cancelled UGC-NET following inputs from the Home Ministry suggesting that the integrity of the examination had been compromised.

Over the past few days, students across the country have been questioning the testing agency over the irregularities in NEET-UG, and now about the cancellation of UGC-NET.

# Congress set to raise NEET issue in Parliament, demand NTA overhaul

The Hindu Bureau

The Congress is likely to demand the cancellation of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) 2024, a senior leader said on Friday as the principal Opposition party is all set to raise the issue in the first session of the 18th Lok Sabha that begins on June 24.

As a separate discussion on the subject may not be possible in the short session of Parliament that will conclude on July 3, the party is likely to work out a joint strategy with INDIA partners to raise it during the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address to a joint sitting of Parliament.



Delhi Congress president Devendra Yadav while staging a protest over the NEET and NET exams issues, in New Delhi on Friday. ANI

The party will also demand a Supreme Courtmonitored probe into the alleged irregularities, including question paper leak, as well as a complete overhaul of the National Testing Agency (NTA) that

conducts exams such as NEET. Many of these points emerged during Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's interaction with NEET aspirants on

Thursday. "Thousands of students

Trinamool joins Opposition

three new criminal laws

chorus against implementing

appearing for NEET are on the streets with their families in the scorching heat and [Prime Minister] Narendra Modi is silently watching the spectacle. I assure them that... India is with you," Mr. Gandhi said in a post on X on Friday.

He also released a seven-minute video of his interaction with the NEET aspirants, in which many of them demanded a re-examination and a probe into the alleged irregularities.

In a post on X, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said question paper leaks had become a national problem under the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) rule, which had "ruined the future" of crores of youth.

# Congress allegations on appointment of *pro tem* Speaker 'misleading': Rijiju

The Hindu Bureau

Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju on Friday termed the Congress party's allegations that the claims of its MP, Kodikkunnil Suresh, had been overlooked in the appointment of *pro tem* Speaker as "misleading". He insisted that the Opposition had no "valid argument" on its side.

On Thursday, President Droupadi Murmu assented to appointing BJP MP Bhartruhari Mahtab as *pro tem* Speaker – usually the senior-most MP elected to administer the oath of office to other MPs in the House – of the 18th Lok Sabha. However, the Congress protested the move, asserting that Mr. Suresh who had entered his eighth term was overlooked.

term was overlooked.

Mr. Rijiju claimed that
Mr. Suresh, though an



eight-term MP, was not a member of the Lok Sabha in 1998 and 2004 and hence did not have an uninterrupted tenure.

"Do you think such an argument is even valid," he asked about the Congress's accusation that Mr. Suresh was ignored as he was a Dalit. Mr. Mahtab, he said, was entering his seventh-consecutive tenure. "We wanted the proceedings of Parliament, meeting for the first time with a new set of MPs, to start on a good

note. But, even before the start of the first session, the Congress resorted to misleading everyone," Mr. Rijiju said. He then went on to cite

past precedents to show that the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government had ignored the seniority principle, specifically when Congress MP Balasaheb Vikhe Patil had been appointed the pro tem Speaker, ignoring former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, the late George Fernandes and former Odisha Chief Minister Giridhar Gamang, who all had more terms under their

"I have to say it with great regret that I feel ashamed that the Congress has talked like this. The post of *pro tem* Speaker is very temporary. They play their role till the election of the new Speaker," he said.

# Marathwada simmers as Jarange-Patil, Laxman Hake cross swords

Shoumojit Banerjee

Maharashtra's Marathwada region seethed with caste tensions yet again on Friday as other backward class (OBC) activist Laxman Hake, on an indefinite hunger strike, traded bitter barbs with Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil over the Maratha reservation and OBC counter-protest issue even as Home Minister Devendra Fadnavis and CM Eknath Shinde's Mahayuti government

While Mr. Fadnavis said the government did not want "a Marathas versus OBC face-off" and wanted to preclude caste tensions, Mr. Hake refused to call off his fast which entered its ninth day in Jalna's Wadigodri village today, reiterating that the State government give a written assurance that it would not

strove to defuse tensions.

accommodate Maratha community interests at the cost of harming OBC reservation.

Throwing down the gauntlet to Mr. Jarange-Patil, Mr. Hake said, "Jarange, you do not have the stature to argue with me on reservation. Someone needs to educate and teach him about policy. He knows nothing about the Mandal Commission."

In a stinging riposte, Mr. Jarange-Patil accused Mr. Hake of being an 'agent' of his bête noire, OBC leader and Maharashtra Minister Chhagan Bhujbal and vowed to destroy the NCP leader's political career.

"It is clear how casteist Laxman Hake really is. I warn the Shinde government that if they try and commit injustice towards the Maratha community, then we will put their leaders in their proper places," Mr. Jarange-Patil said.

# The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee has written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to pause the operation of the three criminal laws that replace the Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act.

West Bengal Chief Minister

Her letter comes after a meeting with senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram, who also served as the Home Minister in the UPA government.

Mr. Chidambaram, Trinamool leader Derek O'Brien and DMK's N.R. Elango were part of the Parliamentary Standing Committee and had given dissent notes to the reports on the three Bills.

This is the first sign of Opposition parties belong-

This is the first sign of all parties of the INDIA bloc working together ahead of the Parliament session

ing to the INDIA bloc working together on crucial issues before the first session of the 18th Lok Sabha.

A senior Trinamool leader said the presence of Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury as the Congress leader in the Lok Sabha was a stumbling block to cooperation between the Trinamool and the Congress.

In her letter, Ms. Banerjee noted that the three Bills were passed in the Lok Sabha at a time when 146 MPs had been suspended.

The Trinamool chief expressed "grave concern" over the impending implementation of the three

laws – Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, Bharatiya Sakhsya Adhiniyam (BSA) 2023 and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) 2023.

"The outgoing government of yours had passed these three critical Bills unilaterally, and with absolutely no debate. That day, almost 100 members of the Lok Sabha had been suspended and a total of 146 MPs of both Houses were thrown out of Parliament," she said.

The Trinamool chief said the three Bills were passed in an "authoritarian manner" in that "dark hour of democracy".

"I urge your esteemed office now to consider at least a deferment of the implementation date. Reasons are two-fold – ethical and practical," Ms. Banerjee said.

(With PTI inputs)

# 98 Indians died during annual Haj pilgrimage

**Press Trust of India** NEW DELHI

Ninety-eight Indians have died so far this year during the annual Muslim pilgrimage of Haj to Mecca due to natural causes, chronic illnesses and old age, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday.

The total number of deaths of Indians during the entire Haj period last year was 187, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said during his weekly media briefing.

"This year, 1,75,000 Indians visited Mecca during the Haj period from May 9 to July 22. Till now, 98 deaths have been reported this year," Mr. Jaiswal said.

"The deaths were due to natural causes, chronic illnesses, and old age. Six people died on the day of Arafat and four were accident-related deaths," Mr. Jaiswal added.

The Ministry spokesperson was responding to a question on the deaths of Indians during Haj.

Bangladesh Prime

Minister arrives on

two-day visit to India

# Gupta has not requested consular help, his family is in touch, says MEA

Ministry reiterates that a high-level committee is looking into various inputs on the U.S. charges against the businessman; it also slams Canadian Parliament's decision to observe a moment of silence in the memory of Hardeep Singh Nijjar

Suhasini Haidar NEW DELHI

₹ ikhil Gupta, the businessman accused in the U.S. of an assassination plot against Khalistani separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, has not asked for consular help, the Ministry of External Affairs has said.

"We have so far not re-

ceived any request for consular access from Mr. Gupta, but his family has got in touch with us, and we are in touch with the family members, and we are looking at the matter, as to what can be done," said Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, confirming that Mr. Gupta was extradited from the Czech Republic to the U.S. on June 14. He was produced in a New York court on Monday where he pleaded "not guilty" to the charges in the case.

In a statement this



al Merrick Garland said Mr. Gupta will "now face justice" in an American courtroom. "This extradition makes it clear that the Justice Department will not tolerate attempts to silence or harm American citizens," he added.

The government has denied that killing or targeting Khalistani separatists abroad is "Indian policy". However, after U.S. agencies filed charges against Mr. Gupta in November, and identified - without naming – an Indian official

We have so far not received any request for consular shared with us".

access from Nikhil Gupta, but his family has got in touch with us... we are looking at the matter, as to what can be done RANDHIR JAISWAL

while publishing transcripts, which if proven may implicate others in India's security structure and leadership, the Ministry announced a "high-level" enquiry panel into the charges levelled by the U.S.

When asked by The Hindu last month why no details about the composition of the committee, or its investigation thus far had been announced more than six months later, the Ministry spokesperson said that he could only confirm "that the high-level committee has been constituted and the high-level committee is looking into all the inputs that were

Nijjar case

Meanwhile, India has consistently denied similar charges made by Canada on the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June 2023. Reacting to the Canadian Parliament's decision to stand for a moment of silence this week to mark Nijjar's death anniversary, Mr. Jaiswal said India opposes "any moves giving political space to extremism and advocating viothose lence".

"To advocate anti-India agenda is the real problem. And therefore, we have time and again been insisting that Canadian authorities take strict action against them," he added, referring to Nijjar supporters who took out rallies and held "mock-court trials accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his killing"

The Ministry also took sharp aim at Australian Broadcaster ABC for a recent documentary entitled "Spies, secrets and threats: How the Modi regime targets people overseas", which alleged that four Indian diplomats were expelled from Australia for espionage and spying on Khalistani activists and contained accusations that groups allied to the BJP were engaged in "political interference" in Australia.

"The documentary is biased and reflects unprofessional reporting. We obviously oppose any such attempts to condone, justify, or even glorify terrorism," said Mr. Jaiswal on Friday, but did not respond to specific questions about the alleged expulsion of Indian diplomats.

# Trial court order had come down on ED 'bias' in Kejriwal case

The ED should be

prompt and fair so that it

the principles of natural

justice were also being

followed by the agency

anything on record that Vi-

jay Nair was acting upon

the directions of the appli-

cant. It has also failed to es-

tablish that even if Vinod

Chauhan has close rela-

tions with Charanpreet,

how come the same going

to help ED to establish the

guilt of the applicant, even

if, the applicant is having

acquaintance with both of

these co-accused," the

"ED is also not clarifying as

to how the alleged amount

of ₹40 crore being traced

out during the investiga-

tion is forming a part of the

proceeds of the crime. It

seems that ED also believes

that the evidence on re-

cord is not sufficient to

proceed against the appli-

cant and it is taking time to

procure the same in any

manner whatsoever to

convince the court with

respect to the availability

of the evidence against the

applicant," the court said.

should be prompt and fair

so that it can be perceived

that the principles of natu-

ral justice were also being

Commenting on the de-

layed bail in cases under

the Prevention of Money

Laundering Act, the court

noted that it became im-

possible for the accused to

obtain bail in such cases as

the investigating agency

gave its own reasons, put-

ting the accused on par

with a convict without any

more grave if later on, the

accused comes out to be

innocent and the agony he

has undergone remains

unexplained," the court

had said while granting

M ND-NDE

bail to Mr. Kejriwal.

"The situation becomes

hope of release.

followed by the agency.

It noted that the ED

court noted.

'No link'

**DELHI COURT** 

can be perceived that

<u>Ishita Mishra</u> NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) was acting with bias against Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) founder Arvind Kejriwal, who was booked in the excise policy case, the Delhi court observed on Thursday while granting him bail. The court's order was then put on hold by the Delhi High Court on

Friday. The trial court had said that ED had failed to give any direct evidence linking Mr. Kejriwal with the proceeds of the crime.

It also came down heavily on the ED's arguments that investigation was an art, "... because if it is so, then, any person can be implicated and kept behind bars by artistically procuring the material against him after artistically avoiding/withdrawing exculpatory material from the record. This very scenario constrains the court to draw an inference against the investigating agency that it is not acting without bias."

The court's statements came on the arguments made by the ED, through Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju, in which the agency had said that an approver cannot be discredited for the reason that he had been given an inducement in respect of bail or pardon. Special Judge Niyay Bin-

du also said that the agency remained silent on the fact that Mr. Kejriwal was not named by the Central Bureau of Investigation in its First Information Report or the Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) registered by the

The court noted that the allegations against Mr. Kejriwal surfaced only in the subsequent statements of certain co-accused. It noted that Mr. Kejriwal had not been summoned by the court to date but was lying in judicial custody on the insistence of the ED. "ED has not shown

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS IN MEDICAL

**SCIENCES** NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar,

New Delhi - 110029

National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) - Post Graduate 2024

# **CAUTION ADVISORY**

- The National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall be conducting the NEET-PG 2024 on 23rd June 2024 (9AM to 12:30 PM) on a computer based platform across the country at 1038 test centres in 292 test cities.
- Applicants for NEET-PG 2024 can download their admit cads using their applicant login accounts on NEET-PG 2024 index page at NBEMS website <a href="https://natboard.edu.in">https://natboard.edu.in</a>
- All applicants for NEET-PG 2024 are once again cautioned that:
- NBEMS does not send any email or SMS to candidates regarding securing good marks/merit position in any of the exams conducted by NBEMS. Candidates are advised not to be allured or mislead by unscrupulous agents /touts making such false and bogus claims.
- NBEMS does not make any phone calls to any candidate or issues any communication regarding any unfair assistance during the exam in any of the exams conducted by NBEMS or for any other such thing which is against the provisions of law.
- Beware of fraudulent persons trying to deceive candidates through social media platforms. The aforesaid cozeners on such social media platforms are claiming to provide NEET-PG 2024 questions in exchange for a considerable amount of money. All aspirants for NEET-PG 2024 are hereby cautioned not to be allured or misled by such unscrupulous elements who are befooling the aspirants by claiming to have questions of these examinations accessed through "the authority"
- Candidates are advised to familiarize themselves with the location of test center and plan travel time accordingly. Candidates may note that late entry to the examination premises is not permitted under any circumstances.
- Candidates who will fail to produce any of the following documents will NOT BE ALLOWED **ENTRY** inside the test centre:
  - Print out of admit card issued by NBEMS.
  - Government issued photo identification proof in original & in hard copy. • Photocopy of Permanent/ Provisional SMC/MCI/NMC registration of MBBS qualification
- Candidates will not be allowed to take prohibited items inside the examination center under
- any circumstances. Should a candidate need to carry any medicine or a medical assistance device inside the
- exam centre, it is essential to carry supportive medical documents. Should a PwD candidate require assistance of scribe to write the examination, it is required to seek prior approval of NBEMS by way of submitting a query at NBEMS Communication Web
- Portal along with documents in support as per provisions of RPwD Act, 2016. Any candidate found guilty of having adopted any unfair means/misconduct during NEET-PG
- 2024 is liable for criminal and/or academic penalty as per applicable provisions & guidelines.

10. NBEMS wish you the very best of luck and success in NEET-PG 2024 NBEMS Website: https/natboard.edu.in

# From Kashmir, PM attempts to shed religious connections with yoga

Kallol Bhattacherjee NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh arrived here on Friday for a two-day visit that is being watched keenly as it is the first state visit by a foreign head of government just 10 days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi was sworn in for a third term in office. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar was the first to call on Ms. Hasina soon after she reached Delhi. "Her state visit to India

nderlines our close and abiding ties. Appreciate her guidance on the further development of our special partnership," said Dr. Jaishankar. Ms. Hasina has maintained cordial relations with the Modi government and the two sides have often worked together on critical issues such as combating the pandemic or security matters, but in this visit, the presence of the Governor of the Bangladesh



Central Bank Abdur Rouf Talukdar in the delegation of the Bangladesh side has heightened curiosity about the substance of the visit. Bangladesh currently combating a financial crisis including high inflation and banking sector li-

quidity crunch. The delegation also includes Secretary of Economic Relations Depart-Mohammad ment Shahriar Quader Siddiqui. Notably, Kazi Zafrullah, one of the biggest bankers in Bangladesh and a leading light of Awami League, is also part of the

visiting delegation.

SRINAGAR

Posing for pictures amid scarf-wearing students, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday positioned yoga for global Muslims from the country's Muslimmajority Jammu and Kash-

Addressing the 10th International Day of Yoga (IYD) event at Srinagar's Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), with the Dal Lake in its backdrop, the PM said those who practice yoga could use any incantations, "whether it's Allah. Ishwar or Waheguru".

The PM made an elaborate statement on how Muslims globally were



the adoption of voga therapy in Turkmenistan medical universities, as well as bia's education system and yoga-specific schools in

"Yoga's utility is being recognised globally. There is barely any world leader who has not discussed voga during his interactions. Yoga has become a part of daily life in every corner of come a major source of employment in J&K too". "Yoga is not only a discipline but also a science," he added. **Events across J&K** An official estimate sug-

come a topic of research

today and multiple re-

search papers have already

been published," the PM

He suggested that yoga

and tourism could "be-

gested that 50,000 to 60,000 locals of J&K participated in yoga programmes across the Union Territory on Friday. Scores in several districts, along the Line of Control, and at the tourist spots of Kashmir Valley on the occasion.

# Narendra Modi interacts with students after the voga session on International Yoga Day celebrations, in Srinagar on Friday. ANI adopting yoga and cited

its inclusion in Saudi Ara-Mongolia.

the world. Yoga has be-

Chief Engineer (KSTPS

# IndianOil

IOCL intends to assess the availability of Waste

commercial scale for supply to petrole efineries for procurement planning. An EOI i refer the Tender ID: 2024\_RND\_178082\_1 following given weblink https://iocletenders.nic.in/nicgep/app

Plastic Pyrolysis Oil / Waste Tyre Pyrolysis Oil in floated in this regard. Last date for participation in EOI is 05/07/2024. For further details kindly

# Research & Development Centre, Faridabad EXPRESSION OF INTEREST(EOI)

# **INC®IS**

भारतीय राष्ट्रीय महासागर सूचना सेवा केंद्र (इंकॉइस) Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)

(पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन एक स्वायत्त निकाय) (an autonomous body under Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Govt. of India) हैदराबाद / Hyderabad -500090

भारतीय राष्ट्रीय मामागर मूचना सेवा केंद्र (इंकोइस), पूर्वी विद्यान मेमालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन एक स्वायत निकाय में सीची भर्ती घर निमलिशित निवमित पदी हेतु पान अमीदवारी के लिए अवेदन Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for filling up of the following Regular Positions on Direct Recruitment at Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, an autonomous body under Ministry of Earth Sciences,

पद कोड Post Code	पद् का नाम Name of the Post	पद्में की संख्या यूव आरक्षण No. of Posts & Reserved for	7 वे केंद्रीय वेतन आयोग के अनुसार वेतन एवं भर्ते Pay & Allowances as per7 <sup>th</sup> CPC	आपु सीमा (आवेदन तिथि के समाप्ति के अनुसार) Age Limit (as on date of closure of application)
01	वैज्ञानिक - एफ Scientist- F	एक (अनारक्षित) One (UR)	स्तर – 13 ए, वेतन मेड्रिक्स (रु.1,31,100 - 2,16,600) Level - 13A of pay matrix (Rs.1,31,100 - 2,16,600)	50 वर्ष / years
02	वैज्ञानिक - र्ष Scientist - E	एक (अनारक्षित) One (UR)	स्तर - 13, वेतन मैट्टिक्स (क.1,23,100- 2,15,900) Level - 13 of pay matrix (Rs.1,23,100- 2,15,900)	50 वर्ष / years
03	वैज्ञानिक - सी Scientist - C	एक (अनारक्षित) One (UR)	स्तर - 11, वेतन मैट्टिनस् (७.67,700-2,08,700) Level - 11 of pay matrix (Rs.67,700-2,08,700)	40 वर्षे / years

च्द, बोगवल, शैक्षणिक अर्तुलाएं, जिम्मेदारियाँ, अनुभव, आवेदन प्रक्रिया एवं अन्य सामान्य शर्तों के बारे में अधिक जानकारी वेवलिक <u>https://yacancies.incois.gov.in</u> पर उचलका है। Further details about the positions, eligibility, academic qualifications, responsibilities, experience, application procedure and other general conditions are available at weblink https://vacancies.incois.gov.in

रंजगार समाचार पत में विद्यापन प्रकारन की राजीय से निर्वारित प्रोत्कानों में 42 (बारानीम) दिनों (असम, नेपालप, अलगापत प्रदेश, मिलोरा, मणिपुर, बाजतीय, लिपुत, सिक्किम, लागुव, लाहील और सीति जिले और हिम्मचल प्रदेश के चला जिले के पानी जयमंत्रल अंकदान और निर्वारण देशिय सुन्न था लक्षद्वीय होतों को 60 (बार) दिनों) के भीतर जीनसहन माध्यम से <u>https://vacancies.incois.gov.in</u> अविदर भरना आवश्यक है।

Applications should be submitted online through https://vacancies.incois.gov.in in the prescribed format within 42 (forty-two) days (60 (sixty) days for areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, Ladakh, Lahaul and Spiti district and Pangi Sub Division of Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands or Lakshadweep from the date of publication of this advertisement in Employment Newspaper

gellgst/srxqseft/02/2024 / INCOIS/RMT/02/2024

निदेशक, इसोइस / Director, INCOIS

# KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No: (1).177/2023-24/KWA/PHC/D3/TVM/RT2 (2).178/2023-24/KWA/PHC/D3/TVM/RT2 (3).170/2023-24/KWA/ PHC/D1/TVM/RT3, (4)152/2023-24/KWA/PHC/D1/TVM/RT5) (1). (JJM)-CWSS To Vellanad Auvikkara and Karakulan Pt-C-construction of 10 LLOHSR, Construction of pump house, Providing and laying Transmission main from vellaripate to Kuthirakulam and Mathalampara, (2)CWSS to Kallara-Construction of 15 LL GLSR, Transmission Main and main Distribution main from KT Kunnu-Gerneral Civil Work, (3)KIFB-Mudakkal Gp-Construction of 6 mld WTP.19 LL OHSR, Supply and Laying o CW & RNPM, (4)JJM-CWSS to Falkickal-Supplying and Commissioning of Idear Water Pumping Main to Desentinuktu OHSP in Navaikulam Pt. EMD: 18. 5000007-each, Tender fee: Rs. 19518/- each, Last Date for submitting Tender: 17-07-202-0300-0m, Phone C4712322303

Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LIMITED CIN- U40102RJ2000SGC016484 (A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking)

KOTA SUPER THERMAL POWER STATION, Kota-324008 <u>E-TENDER NOTICE</u> nline Tenders are invited for TN-15253 (RVU2425GLOB00398) Supply of worm gear wit thaft wheel and lock nut & key for bowl mill XRP-763/803 stage - I & II. J.5258(RVU2425GLOB00396) Supply of Hot End, Hot Intermediate End and Cold End Baskets mbedded with Heating Elements for Air Pre Heaters & 20190(RVU2425GLOB00407) Supply of lew Ring with ETC on turnkey basis for stacker reclaimer No.1 in CHP area. Tender details a vailable on http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in (for e-tender), www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvu

Raj.samwad/C/24/965

www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.

RVUN/PR-4014 Punjab State Power Corporation Limited Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001

Phone No. - 0175-2207649, Email id:- se-it-os@pspcl.in

Corporate Identity No. U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in Tender Enquiry No. 315/DIT-947 Vol-I dated: 20.06.2024

Dy Chief Engineer/IT (O&S), Ground floor PSPCL Head Office, The Mall, Patiala invites e-tender for Renewal of warranty/licenses of network devices of Cisco make installed at Data Centre Patiala. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <a href="https://eproc.punjab.gov.in">https://eproc.punjab.gov.in</a> from 20.06.2024m 5:00pm

Note:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in. C - 352/24 76155/12/3002/2023/34835



(A Joint Venture of Government of Karnataka & Ministry of Railways) Regd. Office: K-RIDE, Samparka Soudha, 1st Floor, Opp. Orion Mall, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar, 1st Block, Bengaluru - 560010 **BENGALURU SUBURBAN RAIL PROJECT** 

# NOTICE

In continuation to the Public Consultation on Environment & Social Impact Study of Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project, held on 14.06.2024 at M.G. Railway Colony, Bengaluru, the feedback, issues, and suggestions are being invited till 30.06.2024. The same may either be written to us at email@kride.in (or) the hard copy may be submitted/ sent to this office. The ESIA reports are available at https://kride.in/sub-urban-rail-project/. Sd/-

General Manager (Civil)

Candidate Care Support: +91-7996165333 / +91-1145593000



### **Gujarat HC allows Netflix** to release movie *Maharaj*

The Gujarat High Court on Friday allowed the release of film Maharaj on Netflix. The court concluded that it does not hurt the sentiments of the followers of Vaishnav Pushtimarg sect like the petitioners had claimed. The film, starring Junaid Khan, produced by Yash Raj Films, based on an 1862 libel case involving Karsandas Mulji, was earlier slated to be released on June 18 but the court had granted an interim stay after concerns were raised that the film may hurt religious sentiments of the influential group in Gujarat.

# Panchayat offers bribe to rape victim, NHRC issues notice

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Friday issued notices to authorities in a case where a village panchayat in Baghpat district of Uttar Pradesh asked the mother of a sexual assault victim to take a sum of ₹5,000 from her daughter's tormentors and terminate her pregnancy. The family of the victim, who is a minor, was also threatened at the behest of the harassers. The NHRC said it was painful to note that the panchayat connived with the accused belonging to a dominant section of society, instead of protecting the victim.

# **Zonal Railways seek clarity** on signal-failure protocols

Confusion prevails over operation of trains during signal glitches, especially on automatic signalling stretches; Western Railway asks for clarification, Eastern Railway withdraws order banning TA-912

S. Vijay Kumar **Shiv Sahay Singh** CHENNAI/KOLKATA

frequent train accidents causing multiple deaths, confusion prevails in the railways over the operation of trains during signal failures, especially in the automatic signalling territory.

Investigation is on into the horrific collision of three trains, including the Shalimar-Chennai Coromandel Express, in South Eastern Railway on June 2, 2023 that left about 300 passengers dead and over 900 injured; the rear-end collision of two passenger trains in East Coast Railway in Andhra Pradesh on October 29, 2023, which caused the deaths of 17 passengers; and the Kanchanjungha train accident in the Katihar Division of Northeast Frontier Railway in West Bengal on June 17 in which 10 people died and many others became injured. The primary cause of these major accidents is suspected to be signal fai-



Mangled remains of the Kanchanjunga Express train after a goods train rammed into it on June 17. PTI

lure or confusion in train operating protocols during such situations.

With increasing fatal accidents, Zonal Railways are confused over the Standard Operating Procedures.

The Eastern Railway on Wednesday issued an order banning TA-912, a travel authority issued during signal failures by Station Masters to loco pilots authorising them to cross the signal in red. However, the very next day the order was withdrawn.

A senior official of Eastern Railway told The Hindu that the order was issued by a junior official and was rectified by the Senior Divisional Operations Manager (SDOM).

In another case, the Western Railway, headquartered in Mumbai. sought clarifications on confusion regarding certain situations.

In a note, the SDOM, Ahmedabad Division, referring to the norms pertaining to train operations during failures in automatic signalling system, said the rules mentioned in Chapter IX Automatic Block System in General and Subsidiary Rules 2008 edition were "contradictory and the same are required to be critically assessed. The necessary corrections, as required, may be effected to avoid any confusion among the staff."

### TV interview

While one of the loco pilots of the goods train that hit Kanchanjunga Express on June 17, Anil Kumar, died in the accident, assistant loco pilot Manu Kumar was admitted to a hospital in Siliguri with severe injuries. Mr. Manu Kumar told a private television news channel that by the time both the drivers spotted the express train, it was too late to apply brakes.

He said the loco pilot told him to apply brakes and also pulled the lever. According to the assistant loco pilot, Anil Kumar's last words were to "apply brakes... even if the bogies derail".

# Peace will return to Manipur in three months: Biren Singh

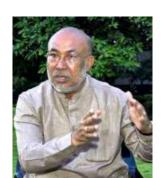
<u>The Hindu Bureau</u> **GUWAHATI** 

Manipur Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh on Friday said peace would return to the State in two or three months' time, as the new National Democratic Alliance government at the Centre has given priority to resolving the 14month-long conflict here.

He also claimed that with businesses opening up, Manipur has been slowly returning normal.

"Although the State has been going through a crisis for 14 months, the actual violence happened for only half this period. This indicates that there were seven months of peace with schools and business establishments reopening," Mr. Singh told journalists during an event to mark International Yoga Day in the State's capital Imphal.

He admitted that there have been incidents of violence in some pockets of the State owing to a lack of security personnel, many of whom had left for election duty. They have been deployed once again in the vulnerable areas, he said.



"The situation will be better now. We hope to arrive at a solution to the crisis within two-three months," he said, attributing the optimism to the "top priority" given by the "Narendra Modi 3.0 government" to ensure a reign of peace in Manipur.

An action plan is being worked on following a high-security meeting chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah a few days ago, he added.

Mr. Singh asserted that influx from Myanmar and the drug menace from outside the region were responsible for the unrest in Manipur.

Addressing these issues would lead to faster resolution of the State's crisis, Mr. Singh said.

# 'Peer support from TB survivors aids treatment of over four lakh patients'

The Hindu Bureau

Over four lakh people with tuberculosis across India received essential peer support and personcentred care from 2,000 TB survivors trained as 'champions', said the Resource Group for Education and Advocacy for Community (REACH), a non-profit organisation working on TB, at the national dissemination meeting of the Unite to ACT Project in New Delhi on Friday.

At the meeting, former NITI Aayog member Vinod Kumar Paul emphasised the vital role of community engagement in eliminating TB in India and appreciated REACH for developing a model worthy of emulation, with the 'TB Champions' at the forefront, said a press release from REACH. As part of the Unite to Act project, 'TB



Dignitaries releasing the National Impact Report on Unite to ACT project in New Delhi on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Champions' or survivors work as community role models to raise awareness about the disease and provide valuable care and support to the affected people.

REACH director Ramya Ananthakrishnan said. "Through the Unite to ACT project, we have witnessed first-hand the commitment of TB Champions in transforming lives and reducing stigma within communities, by drawing on their own personal experiences of TB and driven by the motivation that no one should suffer like they did.

As a result, we have been able to improve the overall treatment success rates for people with TB."

Arun Kumar Jha, former Economic Adviser, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare; Raghuram Rao, Assistant Director General, Central TB Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; Nishant Kumar, Joint Director, Central TB Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; and Sarabjit Chadha, Regional Technical Director (India & South-East Asia), FIND, participated.

# NIA chargesheets five in human trafficking and cyber fraud case

**Abhinay Deshpande** 

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday chargesheeted five accused, including two foreign nationals, in alleged international human trafficking and cyber fraud syndicates operating within and outside the country.

The accused, Jerry Jacob and Godfrey Alvares, are under arrest, while three others, Sunny Gonsalves, foreign nationals Niu Niu and Elvis Du, are absconding, the officials said. The chargesheet filed before NIA Special Court, Mumbai, has exposed the involvement of several foreign nationals in the case.

As per the probe, the accused were allegedly targeting Indian youth proficient in computer and English, and coercing them into working in fraudulent call centres on tourist visa for pecuniary gains. The victims were being recruited, transported

and transferred from India to the Golden Triangle SEZ in Lao PDR via Thailand.

Upon arrival, the victims were trained in the use of Facebook, Telegram, basics of Cryptocurrency, and handling of Apps created by the scam company, the agency officials said.

"The powerful syndicates also used victim control tactics in case any of the trafficked youth refused to continue with the online fraud work. These tactics included isolation and restriction of movement, confiscation of personal travel documents and physical abuse, arbitrary fines, threat to kill, threat to rape in case of women, threat to arraign in false case of drugs in local police station," the offi-

cials said. The racket was being operated with complete audacity, with the accused even deleting the data of the victims' mobile phones to destroy evidence.

# Manipur tribal bodies urge people to boycott ADC polls

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Kuki-Zo tribal bodies from across several hill districts in Manipur issued a joint statement on Friday opposing elections to the Autonomous District Council, which the State Cabinet said last week would be held in September this vear. The tribal bodies urged members of the public not to participate in the elections "unless political demands are met".

In the joint statement, signed by representatives of the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (Churachandpur), the Committee on Tribal Unity (COTU), the Indigenous Tribes Advocacy Council (Jiribam and Pherzawal), and Kuki Inpi Manipur of Chandel and Tengnoupal districts, the groups said holding the elections in the middle of the ongoing ethnic conflict was nothing but an attempt to "create division among us by pitting us

They also sought a buffer zone in Jiribam for protection from 'further attacks'

against each other". The Kuki-Zo tribal people of Manipur have been demanding a separate administration since the ethnic conflict broke out, insisting that this had to be the first step to solving the crisis. Meanwhile, days after

top officials in the security establishment asserted that no buffer zones would be allowed in Jiribam district, like in other parts of Manipur, tribal bodies insisted that a buffer zone was needed in Jiribam to protect the Kuki-Zo-Hmar people from further attacks.

They said the recent violence in the district had already led to a "complete separation" between the Kuki-Zo-Hmar people and the Meitei people.

# Approach road to Atal Setu develops 'minor' cracks

Ateeq Shaikh

Cracks have appeared on an approach road to India's longest sea bridge, Atal Setu, within six months of its opening, raising questions on the construction quality.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated the 21.8 km-long Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sewri-Nhava Sheva Atal Setu, built at a cost of ₹17,843 crore, on January 12 this year.

Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee president Nana Patole inspected the affected site on Friday and accused the State government of corruption to fill its own coffers.

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority, which is responsible for the upkeep, said, "Minor cracks were found on the road surface at three locations on the ramp towards Mumbai." It said the cracks could be easily repaired.

# TH CROSSWORD + 14208

@ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn 13 Playing with money, group wins thousand by end of game (9)

What one maintaining a campfire might do to worsen a tense situation (3,3,6) 18 Desire to save sick woman with case of exceptional weakness

21 Reveller in wild orgy, consuming ecstasy after knocking back 23 Detach firewall at first in computer operating system (5)

24 Character's new concoction of rum and ale (7) 25 That is containing very superior form of chemical element (7)

26 Language of harridan is horrible (6)

27 Dug a hole finally, turned to keep small plant (8)

1 Remains extremely sanctimonious in defeat (6)

2 Occasionally start to rise early, for a change (6) Sexual invitation in Indian hill station by head of company

Where old dad, smashed after drinking shot is sleeping very soundly (4,2,3,5)

Fresh after drinking bit of tea or coffee (5) 7 Proves criminals control corporation (8)

8 English singer popped ecstasy to perk up (8) Perfect beau in pic - romancing her, freely expressing love (6,8) Questionable value, cease to have sugar (9)

Disheartened author cuddled by lady on date (8) Simple switches in fine electronic musical instrument (8)

**19** Distinguished head of orthopaedics, often busy (2,4) 20 Reach out, start to eagerly kiss nurse (6)

22 Dilapidated, rusty nomadic dwellings (5)

### To solve this puzzle online. get across to our crossword site.

### 5 5 9 4 8 8 9 9 3 8 6 6 4 DIFFICULTY RATING:

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku Solution to previous puzzle 6 5 9 4 8 1 3 2 7 1 2 3 5 7 9 4 6 37296815 8 174623598 298715634



# The essence of Vedas

Learning period is called "celibacy", and married life is called "Gruhastha ashrama" – the period of implementing and following the rituals and righteous deeds learned during the previous period. Smt. Suryapriya said in a discourse that Vedic verses highlight the necessity of living without worldly desires, with righteous principles. This would be a healthy attitude. What various scriptures say in umpteen verses can be told in just half a line - "Paropakaraya Punyaya" - helping others and giving charity will yield all good.

The essence of Vedas contains three aspects – rituals, values, and attitudes. People who cannot learn Vedas can learn Sri Bhagavad Gita, the essence of Vedas. Ritual is a physical expression of emotions. They may be classified as family-centric, society-centric, nation-centric and international-centric. They all aim to create unity among people and signify humanity's brotherhood. It helps create a symbiotic relationship. We should not be self-centred.

Nature's elements such as water, earth, sky, plants, air, and sun contribute to and support our growth and welfare. We should reciprocate by propitiating these, which form part of God. Lord Krishna says: By nourishing one another, may you obtain the highest good (moksha), Chapter III Sloka 11.

# Across

1 Divine food with beer at sea (8)

**5** Bell-shaped hat of lady in company, revolutionary (6) Stupor following damage - no cure primarily for malignant

**11** Train ride on vacation enthrals retired couple (7) **12** Decayed mainly, wants money for dental filling (5)





# Sun Pharma to unveil Takeda gastrointestinal drug in India

Drugmaker Sun Pharmaceutical Industries has entered into a non-exclusive patent licensing agreement with Takeda Pharmaceutical Company to commercialise the latter's gastrointestinal drug Vonoprazan tablets 10 mg, 20 mg in India under the brand name Voltapraz. Discovered and developed by Takeda, Vonoprazan is a novel, orally active potassium competitive acid blocker, used to treat reflux esophagitis and other acid peptic disorders.

# Zepto raises \$665 million at a valuation of \$3.6 billion

Consumer internet company Zepto said it had raised \$665 million at a valuation of \$3.6 billion, nine months after it had raised \$235 million at a \$1.4 billion valuation. Avenir, Lightspeed, and Avra had joined as new investors, among others, the company said in a statement. Existing investors Glade Brook, Nexus and StepStone co-led the round with Goodwater and Lachy Groom doubling down as well, the consumer internet firm added.

# Samrat appointed convenor of GST rate rationalisation panel

Bihar Deputy CM Samrat Chaudhary has been appointed as convenor of the GoM on GST rate rationalisation. Other members of the reconstituted panel are U.P. FM Suresh Kumar Khanna, Goa Transport Minister Mauvin Godinho, and Rajasthan Medical and Health Services Minister Gajendra Singh, West Bengal FM Chandrima Bhattacharya, Karnataka Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, and Kerala FM K.N. Balagopal, according to a memorandum. PTI

# 'Growth sacrifice' view grows in MPC

External member Goyal cautions MPC against repeating the mistake of 2015, when policymakers avoided cutting interest rates on fears that crude prices could rise again and thus hurt growth; joins Varma in voting for a 25 bps rate reduction

# Lalatendu Mishra

MUMBAI

shima Goyal joined Jayanth R. Varma as the two external members of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted as a minority for a 0.25% rate cut at the latest MPC meeting, warning against the rising risks of quosim' and 'growth sacrifice' as a result of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) persisting with its tight monetary policy approach, the minutes of the June 5-7 meeting released on Friday show.

"Headline inflation has

### Debate widens

MPC member Goyal joins Varma in voting for a rate cut, cites risks to growth from keeping policy restrictive for unduly long

- MPC's headline inflation projection of 4.5% gives an average real repo rate of 2%, says Goyal
- This implies the real repo rate will be above neutral for too long if the repo rate stays unchanged, she argues
- Policy must stay focused on aligning inflation to target or risk undermining medium-term growth: RBI's Patra

been around 5% since January... while core inflation has been below 4% since December 2023," Dr. Goyal noted. "The headline inflation projection

of 4.5% for 2024-25 gives an average real repo rate of 2% implying that the real repo rate will be above neutral for too long if the changed," she pointed out. Stating that slowing in-

flation had raised real repo above unity, she said this would reduce real growth rate with a lag. "Expected growth is around 7% in 2024-25 below the 8% achieved in 2023-24. Status quoism is praised as being cautious. But if doing nothing distorts real variables it aggravates shocks instead of smoothing them and raises risk," she asserted.

Dr. Goyal stressed that it was necessary to avoid the mistake of 2015 when global crude oil prices fell substantially but the fear that they would rise again prevented an adequate cut in the policy rate. "Real interest rates rose substantially and hurt growth."

Mr. Varma said: "I expressed concern about the growth sacrifice in 2024-25 induced by restrictive monetary policy. It now appears that the maintenance of restrictive policy for unwarrantedly long will lead to a growth sacrifice in 2025-26 as well."

RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra, however, said policy needed to stay focused on aligning inflation to the target or risk undermining mediumterm growth.

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	77,210	-0.35
US Dollar	83.57	0.04
Gold	73,350	1.10
Brent oil	85.61	0.29

oo bollar	03.31	0.04
Gold	73,350	1.10
Brent oil	85.61	0.29
NIFTY 50		
1411 11 30		
		CHANGE
Adani Enter	3189.30	70.15
Adani Ports	1485.50	16.10
Apollo Hosp	6170.00	5.85
Asian Paints	2890.85	24.65
Axis Bank	1237.45	2.05
Bajaj Auto	9602.25	29.75
Bajaj Finserv	1578.90	7.10
Bajaj Finance	7134.25	72.85
Bharti Airtel	1416.05	34.90
PDCI	207.60	E E2

III Fallits		
Bank		
aj Auto		
aj Finserv	1578.90	7.10
aj Finance	7134.25	72.85
rti Airtel	1416.05	34.90
L	307.60	-5.53
annia Ind	5330.30	-48.15
la		
l India	480.20	2.95
s Lab	4522.15	18.10
Reddys Lab	6011.45	40.65
ner Motors		
sim Ind		
Tech		
C Bank		
C Life		
o MotoCorp		
dalco		
d Unilever	2441.30	-40.90
I Bank		
usInd Bank		
sys	1532.70	17.30
/ Steel	936.90	7.25
ak Bank		
	3535.00	-59.45
Mindtree Ltd		
М	2839.95	31.25
uti Suzuki	12201.50	52.00
tleIndia	2498.40	-41.35
·C	359.80	2.15
GC	269.65	2.20
verGrid Corp	325.95	1.40
ance Ind	2908.40	-39.00
Life		
te Bank	836.30	7.45
iram Finance		
	2821.65	16.45
Pharma	1467.25	3.75
aConsumerPro-		
t	1084.90	18.35
Motors	961.80	-16.45
Steel	179.94	-2.34
i		
h Mahindra	1399.80	6.70
n.	2200.75	26.20

### **EXCHANGE RATES**

Indicative direct rates in r p.m. on June 21	upees a unit	except yen at
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.33	83.65
Euro	89.02	89.36
British Pound	105.33	105.74
Japanese Yen (100)	52.42	52.62
Chinese Yuan	11.48	11.52
Swiss Franc	93.38	93.75
Singapore Dollar	61.51	61.75
Canadian Dollar	60.84	61.08
Malaysian Ringitt	17.68	17.76
Australian Dollar	55.42	55.64

.10662.40..... -240.80

# 'Private sector activity perks up; business optimism falls'

**The Hindu Bureau** NEW DELHI

Manufacturing as well as services activity picked up pace in June, as per the HSBC Flash India Purchasing Managers' Indices (PMI) released on Friday, but business optimism levels slumped sharply despite an improvement in margins amid a marked reduction in input costs.

Rising demand and capacity pressures compelled manufacturing as well as services businesses surveyed for the PMI to ramp up staffing levels and input buying, with hiring reckoned to have grown at the fastest pace in 18 years.



Manufacturing sector activity recovered after slipping to a three-month low in May, as per the Flash PMI that serves as an advance indicator for a month's economic momentum, and rose to 58.5 from 57.5 last month.

Gains in the services sector were not as sharp,

with the PMI rising marginally, from 60.2 in May, to 60.4. However, services players did better than goods producers in terms of global demand, with fresh orders reported.

While input costs moderated, manufacturers raised output prices, while services firms tempered charges to customers.

"However, we should remain slightly cautious as the future output index fell sharply," HSBC economists Pranjul Bhandari and Maitreyi Das wrote in a note. "The overall degree of optimism weakened to a threemonth low, but remained above the series average," they added.

# RBI's Rao stresses on customer protection in NBFC sector

The Hindu Bureau

Executive Director R. Lakshmi Kanth Rao on Friday stressed the importance of compliance and customer protection in the non-banking financial

"NBFCs are a critical part of the financial system, contributing to diversification and innovation. However, their growing size necessitates a shift from pure activity-based regulation to a framework that considers both activity and scale to effectively

There could be lesser importance given to compliance due to lighter regulations in

10th National Summit on NBFCs & Infrastructure Financing in Mumbai.

lations in the past. However, with creased scale, NBFCs are required to meet stricter compliance

No: F/Engg/Empanelment/RHA/2024-25/4347

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.33	83.65
Euro	89.02	89.36
British Pound	105.33	105.74
Japanese Yen (100)	52.42	52.62
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Swiss Franc	93.38	93.75
Singapore Dollar	61.51	61.75
Canadian Dollar	60.84	61.08
Malaysian Ringitt	17.68	17.76
Australian Dollar	55.42	55.64
Source:Indian Bank		

# Centre unveils 10th tranche of commercial coal mine auction

The Hindu Bureau HYDERABAD

The Union Coal Ministry on Friday unveiled the 10th tranche of commercial coal mine auction.

As many as 67 coal mines, including a few that were offered under previous rounds across Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, West Bengal and Telangana, will be auctioned. Fully explored and partially explored as well as three coking coal mines figure in the list.

Union Minister of Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy and senior officials of the Coal Ministry said here that the auction would be

**Fully explored and** partially explored, as well as three coking coal mines figure in the list

conducted online through a transparent two stage process, based on percentage revenue share.

Prime Minister Narening the dependency on coal imports.

### TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE MARKETING DEPARTMENT

e-Tenders are invited for supply of '36,00,000 Nos of Paper Food Bowls, 90,00,000 Nos of Paper cups (150 ml), 8,400 kgs of Almonds, 45,00,000 Nos of Leaf Food Bowls, 5,400 kgs of Asafoetida Powder, 10,000 kgs of Atta (Aashirvaad MP Superior), 3,15,00,000 Nos. of Lea Cups, 1,00,000 Kgs of Black Gram Dhall Splits with Husk 50,00,000 Nos. of Plate Leaves through e-tenders" to the Marketing Department, T.T. Devasthanams. For Tender notice and tender details log on to the web site http://www.tirumala.org and https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in. For 2264079, 2264555, Fax No. 0877-2264554,

TTD-40021(31)/1/2024-PRO SEC (Adv.No.35), Date:21-06-2024 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

# AJMER VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या ०२ (२०२४-२५)

केन्द्र / राज्य सरकार के विभागों में 'ए' व 'एए' श्रेणी तथा अ वि.वि.नि.लि. के उपयुक्त श्रेण पंजीकृत, अनुभवी तथा माल एवं सेवाकर विभाग से पंजीकृत निविदाकारों से अधिशा अभियता (सिविल / सिविल-QC), अजमेर / उदयपुर / सीकर / चितौडगढ के अधीन सिवि कार्यों के लिए निविदाएं UBN No. AVV2425WSOB00068 to AVV2425WSOB0011 AVV2425SLOB00112, AVV2425WSOB00113 to AVV2425WSOB00118 AVV2425GSOB00119, AVV2425WSOB00120 to AVV2425WSOB00133 आमन्त्रित व जाती है। निविदा सम्बन्धित समस्त विवरण वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.ir http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in व http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/avvnl ਧर ਰਧਕ

Office of Project Director (A unit of RUDSICO) AVS Building, Jawahar Circle, JLN Marg, Jaipur - 302 Tel No.: 0141-2721966, Fax No.: 0141-2721919

Email: mail.ruidp@rajasthan.gov.in; web site: www.ruidp.rajasthan.gov.in Invitation for Bids No: RSTDSP/OCB/NTL/43

RSTDSP/MTB/CTYBF/01: City Beautification works at Mount Abu - Rebid Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project (RUIDP) invites online bids on e-proc website from eligible bidders for the contract package named above Online bidding is invited under Open Competitive Bidding (OCB) - National procedure of ADB which is open to all bidders from eligible source countries of ADB. Bid document would be available at e proc website <a href="https://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in">www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in</a> starting from 19th June, 2024. Deadline for bid submission is 15:00 hours on

Pre-bid Meeting will be held at 11:00 hours on 27th June, 2024. All the prospective bidders are advised to participate in the Pre-bid meeting. Any addendum, clarification to the bidder's queries and corrigendum etc. will be

oublished on the e-proc web sites and will not be published in Newspapers Bidders may contact Additional Project Director, RUIDP (0141-2548404), Jaipu for any information on bidding process. Project Director, RUIDP

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, जन स्वा. अभि. विभाग,वृत उदयपुर फोन एवं फैक्स नं. 0294-2940419 E-Mai - secircle uda phed@rejsaffwn.gov.in/sephedudai

# निविदा सूचना संख्या 01 से 18/2024-25

अनु0 लागत रू० 172.30 लाख NIT No. 01 (UBN No. PHE2425WSOB01643 NIT No. 02 (UBN No. PHE2425WSOB01644 अनु0 लागत रू० 200.76 लाख NIT No. 03 (UBN No. PHE2425WSOB01645 अनु० लागत रू० 123.90 लाख NIT No. 04 (UBN No. PHE2425WSOB01646 NIT No. 05 (UBN No. PHE2425WSOB01647 अनु0 लागत ७० 155.14 लाख NIT No. 06 (UBN No. PHE2425WSOB01648 अनु० लागत रू० 174.30 लाख NIT No. 07 (UBN No. PHE2425WSOB01649 NIT No. 08 (UBN No. PHE2425WSOB01651 अनु0 लागत ७० 144.57 लाख NIT No. 09 (UBN No. PHE2425WSOB01652 अनु० लागत रू० १५६.३७ लाख NIT No. 10 (UBN No. PHE2425WSOB01653 11. NIT No. 11 (UBN No. PHE2425WSOB01654 अनु0 लागत ७० 126.53 लाख NIT No. 12 (UBN No. PHE2425WSOB01655 अनु० लागत रू० 199.17 लाख 13. NIT No. 13 (UBN No. PHE2425WSOB01661 14. NIT No. 14 (UBN No. PHE2425W5OB01662 अनु० लागत ७० 123.65 लाख NIT No. 15 (UBN No. PHE2425WSOB01664 16. NIT No. 16 (UBN No. PHE2425WSOB01666 अनु० लागत २०० 142.88 लाख 17. NIT No. 17 (UBN No. PHE2425WSOB01667 अनु० लागत ७० 140.94 लाख निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण व शर्ते वेबसाईट http://sppp.raj.nic.in,

> (मोहन लाल मीणा ) जन स्वा.अभि. विभाग वृत उदयपु

# Notice Inviting Bid (NIB Code-WRN2425A0012)

Rehabilitation of different reaches of various canals of sub-project, Tehsil Nohar & Bhadra District - Hanumangarh are invited from prospective bidders up to 17.07.2024 at 6.00 PM. Other particulars of the bids may be visited on the proc http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, of t www.water.rajasthan.gov.in departmental website.

UBN No.- WRN2425WLOB00052, WRN2425WLOB00053, WRN2425WLOB00054 WRN2425WLOB00055, WRN2425WLOB00056, WRN2425WLOB00057

DIPR/C/4587/2024

(Amarjeet Singh) sources (North

Date: 22.06.202

आपणी धरोहर

Bids for Empanelment for the work **A. Sculpturor**, **Painters and Artists** are invited from interested bidders up to 5.00 pm on 09.07.2024. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<a href="http://eproc.rajasthan.gov/inttp://sppp.raj.nic.in/">http://sppp.raj.nic.in/</a> of the state. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 4.90 crore. **UBN**: HPP2425SLOB00003

राजस्थान-सरकार

Chief Executive Officer

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD. Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala (Corporate Identification Number(CIN): 140109PB2010SGC033813) Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact Number 9646118754)

Dy. CE/Hydel Projects, PSPCL, Shed A-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-Tender for Design, Engineering, Manufacturing, Supply, Erection,

Tender Enquiry No. 320/HPs/ED-I/S-422

Testing & Commissioning at site of Hydraulic Butterfly Penstock Protection Valve along with associated equipment and dismantling of existing old Butterfly Valve installed at penstock for 50MW Unit of Shanan Power House PSPCL, Joginder Nagar, Distt- Mandi(HP).

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online a https://eproc.punjab.gov.in C - 355/24 76155/12/3006/2023/3484

V.O. CHIDAMBARANAR PORT AUTHORITY Civil Engineering Department Tuticorin-628 004.

SAGARMALA

# INVITATION OF TENDER

				100
#	Name of the work	Estimated cost Put to tender value (Amount in INR)	Cost of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (Amount in INR)	Online Tender opening date
1.	Rectification of damage in compound wall at Port Guest House during the flood in VOC Port	4,01,700	8,035	28.06.2024
2.	Renovation of existing lawn at Port Guest House	13,63,159	27,263	03.07.2024
3.	Cleaning the garbages around Administrative office area, by sweeping, collection, conveyance and disposal for a period of Two years (2024-2026) in V.O.C Port	1,13,64,120	2,27,285	03.07.2024
4.	Repairing of Warehouse No: 1-15 near World Trade Avenue	3,76,90,644	7,54,000	03.07.2024

at VOCPA

For eligible tenderers, downloading of bid documents from the NIC e-tendering website:

Sd/- 20.06.2024

**CHIEF ENGINEER** 

Maruti Suzuki India said it will explore all technologies to cover its entire fleet hybridisation, which comprises electrification and alternative fuel options. Partho Banerjee, Senior

Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, told The Hindu that these technologies would include a wide range of pure electric and alternative fuel combos comprising battery EVs, strong hybrids, strong biofuels like ethanol, or even be CNG-based.

The company would also explore another bio-fuel dra Modi had unveiled the first round in 2020. In the nine rounds, a total of 107 coal mines had been successfully auctioned and involved an investment of ₹38,400 crore, the Minister said, adding that the initiative was aimed at reduc-

# 'Maruti Suzuki to scout for all technologies to make entire fleet hybrid'

Mini Tejaswi BENGALARU

called compressed biogas within CNG, he added.

According to Mr. Banerjee, hybrid is such a powerful technology that it improves energy efficiency and reduces Co2 consumption at least by about 30% with the help of a lithiumion battery and a motor.

"The other advantage of hybrid is that it offers high torque, fuel efficiency, and peppiness at the same time," he said, adding, "The biggest advantage is you don't need charging. it's like a self-charging machine. So we already have the Grand Vitara and Invicto, and the market and people who have driven them swear by them."

क्रमांक : एसई/उदय/अंके-जिला/2024-25/

www.rajwater.gov.in and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है

DIPR/C/4519/2024

Office of the Chief Engineer Water Resources(North) Hanumangarh

No JIP/Admn.4(FW)/1(12)/2024

जवाहरलाल स्नातकोत्तर आयुर्विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान JAWAHARLAL INSTITUTE OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH (स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय भारत सरकार के अधीन राष्ट्रीय महत्व का संस्थान)

(An Institution of National Importance under Ministry of Health & Family welfare) भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA धन्वतरि नगर, पुदुच्चेरी / Dhanvantari Nagar, Puducherry- 605 006 वेबसाइट / Website: www.jipmer.edu.in ई-मेल / Email: rect2024@jipmer.ac.in

**ADVERTISEMENT NOTIFICATION** 

Applications are invited from Citizens of India and Overseas Citizens of India for the post of Director, Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research (JIPMER) on or before August 12, 2024 by 4:30 PM. The eligibility criteria are as follows: **ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS:** A high postgraduate qualification in Medicine or Surgery or Public Health and their branches.

Teaching and, or research experience of not less than ten years. Twenty-five years standing in the profession. Extensive practical and administrative experience in the field of medical relief, medical research, medical education or public health organization and adequate experience of running an important scientific educational institution either as its Head or Head of a

PAY LEVEL & ALLOWANCES:

Level-17 as per 7th CPC [₹2,25,000 (fixed) plus non-practicing allowance of 20% of basic pay; Pay plus NPA does not exceed ₹2,37,500]. Residential accommodation will be provided in the Institute's campus on payment of license fee at standard rate under F.R. 45 or 10% of pay, whichever is less.

Other allowances as admissible. UPPER AGE LIMIT: Not exceeding sixty years. Relaxable for government servants or retired government servants or serving or retired persons from autonomous institutions or statutory institutions of state or central government or exceptionally qualified candidates. TENURE: The appointment of Director shall be a tenure appointment for a period of five years from the date on which the official enters upon the office (or) till the official attains the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier.

MAILING ADDRESS: Eligible candidates may apply in the prescribed proforma along with self-attested photocopies of all relevant certificates and documents to the address below through Registered/Speed Post, in an envelope super-scribed as

"Application for the post of Director, JIPMER"
Deputy Director (Admn.)
First Floor, Administrative Block, JIPMER
Dhanvantari Nagar, Puducherry 605 006 OTHER INFORMATIONS: Government servants in service may be appointed on deputation/ foreign service basis up to a period of five years.

Employees of the Institute including Director are not government servants

Retired government servants can be considered.

Other terms and conditions will be governed by the relevant rules and orders that are in force and amended from time to time. eneral conditions The last date of receipt of application in the prescribed proforma along with copies of self-attested certificates and documents is on or before August 12, 2024 by 4:30 PM.

Applicant must submit self-attested copies of certificates with regard to proof of age, educational qualifications, experience etc. Applicant must **forward the application** in the prescribed proforma along with the following documents **through proper channel** (wherever applicable): A certificate to the effect that the present employer/parent organization has "No Objection" to his/her applying for the post of Director, JIPMER so that, in case of selection, he/she will be relieved by the present employer/parent organization to join the post of Director, IJPMER

he post of Director JIPMER APARs of the applicant for the last five years. If any of the APARs is not available, then he APAR of the preceding year(s) must be submitted so that five APARs of the applicant are available.

A certificate of Vigilance Clearance in respect of applicant duly signed by a

Age, qualification and experience will be computed as on the closing date for applications.

Late and incomplete application will not be considered. The prescribed proforma to apply for the post of Director, JIPMER is available on the institute's website https://jipmer.edu.in/announcement/jobs

Applicant who had applied previously in response to the advertisement issued in June 2023, in case wishes to apply again, he/she must apply afresh in the prescribed proforma with all relevant documents/certificates. In case of any discrepancy between the English and the Hindi versions of advertisement or the application form, English version shall prevail. Deputy Director (Admn.), JIPMER

Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

company (NBFC) sector.

the past manage risk," he said, addressing the Assocham

"There could be lesser importance given to compliance due to lighter regu-

ments," he added.

UltraTech Cement...

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राजस्थान धरोहर प्राधिकरण मूतल पर्यटन भवन, संजय मार्ग (विद्यायकपुरी थाने के सामने) खासा काठी, जयपुर—302001 Tel:-0141-2615648/40 Email: rhppa.jaipur@gmail.com

> **INVITATION FOR EMPANELMENT** (NIT No. 03/2024-25)

For detailed NIT & Tender specification, please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.ir

i) https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app ii) https://www.vocport.gov.in

# World

THE HINDU

### WASHINGTON

U.S. Supreme Court upholds ban on domestic abusers owning guns



The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday upheld a federal law prohibiting a person subject to a domestic violence restraining order from possessing a firearm. The case was the first involving gun rights to come before the court, where conservatives hold a 6-3 majority, since a major ruling it issued last year loosening curbs on guns. AFP

### **ISLAMABAD**

Former Pakistan Prime Minister Abbasi launches political party



Former Pakistan Prime Minister Shahid Khagan Abbasi on Friday formed a new political party named Awaam Pakistan after parting ways with the ruling PML-N. Mr. Abbasi, who was Prime Minister from August 2017 to May 2018, was joined by former Finance Minister Miftah Ismail who also parted ways with the PML-N. PTI

### **BEIJING**

Heavy rainfall in China leads to flood, mudslides, killing 47 people



REUTERS

At least 47 people have died as downpours in southern China's Guangdong province caused historic flooding and mudslides, while authorities warned of more extreme weather ahead in other parts of the country. The heaviest rains were on Sunday, with an average rainfall of 199 mm, and one town seeing 365.7 mm. AP

### WINDHOEK

Namibian court strikes down law criminalising same-sex relations



A top Namibian court on Friday struck down colonial-era laws criminalising same-sex relationships in a "historic" verdict. The high court in the capital, Windhoek, declared the crimes of "sodomy" and "unnatural sexual offences" as "unconstitutional and invalid" in its ruling on the case brought by a local LGBTQ activist. AFP

# South Korea summons Russian **Ambassador**

**Associated Press** 

South Korea summoned the Russian Ambassador to protest the country's new defence pact with North Korea on Friday, as border tensions continued to rise with vague threats and brief, seemingly accidental incursions by North Korean troops.

Earlier on Friday, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un issued a vague threat of retaliation after South Korean activists flew balloons carrying anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets across the border, and South Korea's military said it had fired warning shots the previous day to repel North Korean soldiers who briefly crossed the rivals' land border.

That came two days after Moscow and Pyongyang reached a pact vowmutual defence assistance if either is attacked, and a day after Seoul responded by saying it would consider providing arms to Ukraine to fight Russia's invasion.

South Korean Vice Foeign Minister Kim Hong Kyun summoned Russian Ambassador Georgy Zinoviev to protest the deal and called for Moscow to immediately halt its alleged military cooperation with Pyongyang.

Mr. Kim, the South Korean diplomat, stressed that any cooperation that helps the North build up its military capabilities would violate UN Security Council resolutions and pose a threat to the South's security, and warned of consequences for Seoul's relations with Moscow.

# Armenia becomes the latest nation to recognise Palestine

With the move, Yerevan joins the ranks of Spain, Ireland, and Norway who officially recognised Palestine last month; the former Soviet republic also condemns Hamas's kidnapping of civilians

**Agence France-Presse** YEREVAN

rmenia announced on Friday it was recognising the State of Palestine, the latest country to do so during the war in Gaza, saying it was against "violence towards civilian populations." A series of nations have

recognised the State of Palestine amid the war between Israel and Hamas, drawing strong rebukes from Israeli officials.

### **Envoy summoned**

Shortly after the former Soviet republic announced the recognition, Israel's Foreign Ministry said it summoned Yerevan's Ambas-



**Sorry state:** Armenia also criticised Israel's military conduct in Gaza where more than 37,000 people have been killed. REUTERS

sador for a "severe reprimand".

Yerevan noted it is "genuinely interested in establishing long-term peace and stability in the Middle East [West Asia]."

"Confirming its commitment to international law, equality of nations, sovereignty and peaceful coexistence, the Republic of Armenia recognises the State of Palestine," Armenia added. Yerevan, which has itself been ridden by conflict with neighbouring Azerbaijan for decades, slammed Israel's military conduct in Gaza.

### Call for freedom

It also criticised Hamas for "the captivity of civilian persons" and said Armenia "joins the demands of international community on freeing them."

In late May, Spain, Ireland, and Norway officially recognised the State of Palestine, stating they saw the move as a step towards peace in the region.

Israeli authorities accused the European trio of "rewarding terrorism" with their actions.

# Hinduja family members get jail term for exploiting staff

**Agence France-Presse** 

A Swiss court handed jail sentences to four members of Britain's richest family on Friday for exploiting Indian staff at their Geneva mansion.

The Hindujas – who were not present in court – were acquitted of human trafficking, but convicted on other charges in a stunning verdict for the family whose fortune is estimated at 37 billion pounds (\$47 billion).

Prakash Hinduja and his wife Kamal Hinduja each got four years and six months, while their son Ajay and his wife Namrata received four-year terms, the presiding judge in Geneva ruled.

The cases stem from the family's practice of bringing servants from their na-



Prakash Hinduja

tive India and included accusations of confiscating their passports once they were flown to Switzerland.

Prosecutors argued the Hindujas paid their staff a pittance and gave them little freedom to leave the house. The family denied the allegations, claiming the prosecutors wanted to "do in the Hindujas".

The Hindujas reached a confidential out-of-court settlement with the three employees who made the

accusations against them. Despite this, the prosecution decided to pursue the case due to the gravity of the charges.

Geneva prosecutor Yves Bertossa had requested a custodial sentence of fiveand-a-half years against Prakash and Kamal Hinduja.

Aged 78 and 75 respectively, both had been absent since the start of the trial for health reasons.

In his closing address, the prosecutor accused the family of abusing the "asymmetrical situation" between powerful employer and vulnerable employee to save money.

But the Hinduja family's defence lawyers argued that the three plaintiffs received ample benefits, were not kept in isolation and were free to leave the

# Hong Kong charges two under the new national security law

Hong Kong has charged two persons in the span of a week with "sedition" over social media posts and clothing slogans, under a new national security law.

The city passed a homegrown security law in March, commonly known as Article 23, which the United States and Britain have criticised for curbing

The legislation is Hong Kong's second national security law and follows the

Agence France-Presse one imposed by Beijing in 2020 after huge, sometimes violent pro-democracy protests a year earlier.

On Friday, authorities charged Au Kin-wai, 58, with publishing "seditious" posts on social media platforms such as Facebook, YouTube and X.

Authorities separately charged Chu Kai-pong on June 14 with sedition, saying the 27-year-old wore a t-shirt calling for Hong Kong's "liberation" and a mask with a design suggestive of a protest slogan, local media reported.

# Mob kills tourist in Pakistan for 'desecrating' the Koran

**Press Trust of India** 

An enraged mob in the picturesque Pakistani town of Swat has gunned down a tourist, dragged him through the town and later hanged him in full public view for allegedly committing desecration of the Koran.

The incident happened on Thursday night when Muhammad Ismail, a resident of Sialkot in Punjab province, was visiting the northwestern Pakistan hill resort town of Swat and was accused of having burnt the pages of Islam's The man was gunned down, dragged through the town of Swat and hanged in public view

holy book in Madyan tehsil of Swat district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

District Police Officer (DPO), Swat, Zahidullah said that initially the police had taken Ismail in custody and locked him up in the police station when the alleged desecration incident was reported.

However, the incident was announced from mosques through loudspeakers in the market, prompting thousands of gather outside the police station.

Soon after, the angry mob demanded that the police hand over the suspect to them. On refusal, a fierce exchange of fire took place between the local people and the police in which eight persons were injured.

After that the mob torched the police station, forcing the cops on duty to flee for their lives.

Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has sought a report from the police.

# Russia fires Deputy **Defence Minister** jailed for corruption

Russian authorities have formally dismissed a Deputy Defence Minister jailed on bribery charges and accused by Kremlin critics of living a lavish lifestyle, Russian media reported on Thursday. A court ordered that his pretrial detention be extended for three more months.

Timur Ivanov, 48, is one of several senior military officers arrested on corruption charges in recent months. He was a close associate of Sergei Shoigu,

whom President Vladimir Putin replaced as Defence Minister last month.

Ivanov, arrested April, was charged with taking an especially large bribe. His lawyers said he maintains his innocence.

Other officials arrested in recent months include deputy chief of military general staff Lt. Gen. Vadim Shamarin: Gen. Ivan Popov, a former top commander in Russia's offensive in Ukraine; and Lt. Gen. Yurv Kuznetsov, head of the Defense Ministry's personnel directorate.

knock-out rounds.

Robert Lewandowski re-

turned from a thigh injury as a substitute for Poland, now on the brink of elimination from Group D after two defeats, but could not help his team make inroads against Ralf Rangnick's sturdy side. Poland striker Krzysztof

Piatek levelled Gernot

Trauner's opener, but Chris-

toph Baumgartner and Marko Arnautovic's second-half

goals earned Austria three

Earlier in the day, Ukraine

vital points.

# Sport

# Exquisite Spain too good for Italy as it advances into the pre-quarters



**Associated Press** GELSENKIRCHEN

Europe beware -Spain might just be back.

The three-time European champion advanced to the round of 16 at Euro 2024 after a 1-0 win against holder Italy on Thursday.

A 55th-minute own goal by Riccardo Calafiori settled the Group B game at the Veltins Arena. But that didn't begin to tell the story of a statement performance from Spain, which surely marks it as one of



**Unlucky:** For all of Spain's dominance it took an own-goal from Italian defender Calafiori to secure the

taken charge of," coach

cord-extending fourth European Championship.

the favourites to win a re-

"I think it was the best Spain performance I have

Luis de la Fuente said-.Spain totally dominated defending champion Italy, with 16-year-old winger Lamine Yamal further enhancing his reputation as one of soccer's most exciting young stars. Player of the match Nico

GEO 1-3 TUR Match 1 CZE 1-2 POR

UEFA Euro 2024

Georgia v Czechia

Italy's defenders and was the width of the crossbar away from scoring.

Gianluigi Donnarumma to keep the score down with a string of fine saves until inadvertently pushing the



Williams also tormented It took Italy goalkeeper

> ball into the legs of Calafiori, who couldn't prevent it from ricocheting into his own goal.



UEFA Euro 2024

On Friday, Austria claimed a convincing 3-1 win over Poland in Berlin to take a step towards the

came from behind to beat Slovakia 2-1 to move second in Group E. The results: Group B: Spain 1 (Calafiori 55-og) bt Italy 0.

Group D: Poland 1 (Piatek) lost to

Austria 3 (Trauner 9, Baumgartner

66, Arnautovic 78-pen). **Group E:** Slovakia 1 (Schranz 17) lost to Ukraine 2 (Shaparenko 54, Yaremchuk 80).

# **Weekend Sport**

THE HINDU



### S. Dipak Ragav

errari has been Formula One's pre-eminent force. A competitive Ferrari has always helped the health of motorsport's most prestigious category, with a passionate, worldwide fanbase tuning in.

But every sport needs a fierce rivalry to get the buzz going. Ferrari's closest historical competitor is McLaren, F1's second-most-successful outfit in terms of wins and championships.

The eponymous team, founded by Bruce McLaren, has powered the likes of Niki Lauda, Alain Prost, Mika Hakkinen and Lewis Hamilton to titles. More importantly, it is best known as the outfit with which Ayrton Senna, one of F1's greatest-ever drivers, won his three championships.

# A part of F1 folklore

The Ferrari-McLaren battles – Senna vs. Prost, Schumacher vs. Hakkinen, and later Raikkonen/ Massa/Alonso vs. Hamilton - are part of F1

However, the eight-time constructors' champion, which also has 12 drivers' titles, has endured a decade of underperformance since 2013. In 2024, though, things are finally looking up for the British team, as it fights for wins and podiums consistently, raising the fans' excite-

"It is important for F1 to have a competitive McLaren. After Ferrari, it is the team with the most loval fanbase, and these are the two teams where the fanbase for them is bigger than their drivers," says Karun Chandhok, India's second F1 driver, now a TV pundit.

The team's decline started when it adopted a new car concept in 2013, after fighting for the titIt is important for F1 to have a competitive

McLaren. After Ferrari, it is the team with the most loyal fanbase

KARUN CHANDHOK Former F1 drive le in 2012. Its ill-fated switch in 2015 to Honda power units, which were uncompetitive and unreliable, exacerbated the problem. From 2015 to 2018, the team was in the bottom half of the standings. There was also turmoil off the track due to management and ownership changes.

"When they went to the Honda engine, they struggled. There was a cultural clash between McLaren and the Japanese side. There was a lot of blame on the engine front, but they also took their eyes off the chassis. So when they went to Renault [2018-2020], it was a shock and an eyeopener for them that it wasn't all the [fault of the] Honda engine, but there were deficiencies on the chassis side, which had to be addressed," says Chandhok.

It was only in 2019 that McLaren started laying down the building blocks for its recovery under former team principal Andreas Seidl. Since then, the team has been bouncing around to be the best of the rest behind Mercedes, Red Bull and Ferrari. The highlight was the 2021 Italian GP, where Daniel Ricciardo led Lando Norris to a 1-2 finish, McLaren's first win since 2012.

# Closing the gap

Over the last two years, there has been a growing belief that good days are on the horizon, as the Woking-based team has started to close the gap to the top.

After starting the 2022 rules cycle on the back foot, the team missed the initial targets for 2023 and struggled even to score points in the early part of last year. In the background, there was another management shake-up, with Andrea Stella becoming team principal, and changes to the technical structure, including the departure of technical director James Key.

Fortunately, the team has methodically put

the pieces together under Stella. McLaren fashioned a sensational turnaround last year, becoming the second-fastest car at some weekends during the season's second half. The progress has continued this year, with Norris registering his maiden victory in Miami and the team notching up five other podium finishes.

In the recent Canadian GP, Norris finished second and teammate Oscar Piastri came home fifth. A year ago, McLaren would have taken the result gladly, but now, the race will go down as a missed opportunity, showing how far the team has come.

Chandhok credits Stella and CEO Zak Brown with getting the team back on track. "He [Stella] is a pragmatic leader. His core belief is about engineering success and being honest about things when they are not working. There is a no-blame culture, and he ensures that people are empowered to speak up and highlight any weakness in the collective system that helps them move forward. He has been a fantastic asset for McLaren," says Chandhok.

"Zak [Brown] has gone on and found the money, and the team has more than 40 partners to give the financial muscle to invest in the factory and people to grow the team."

# Strong driver pairing

Apart from the technical talent and resources, McLaren also has one of the stronger driver pairings in Norris and Piastri, both of whom made their F1 debut with the team.

In 2021 and 2022, Norris blew away the experienced Ricciardo, showing how well he could adapt to a tricky car.

His consistent ability to extract the most from his car has led to him being considered one of the grid's elite drivers, alongside Max Verstappen, Hamilton and Charles Leclerc.

Piastri, meanwhile, has impressed everyone in only his second year and even won a sprint race last year in Qatar. Though he has areas to work on, like his tyre management in races, the Australian has kept Norris on his toes and has often been quicker over one lap in qualifying.

"Apart from Lewis and Charles in what Ferrari will have next year, this is the best line-up in F1. Oscar is incredibly fast, calm, methodical and a good team player. He and Lando are fast drivers but have similar styles, wanting the same thing from a car. It means that the team can develop the car in the same direction. Lando has good experience now but is also maturing. There is a difference between a guy scoring points and someone fighting for podiums and wins. It takes a different level of maturity, and we are seeing that," says Chandhok.

At the same time, the engineering group has also made the car more of an all-rounder. "Over the last few years, the car had a lot of drag, making it slow on the straight line. Last year, they also struggled in slow corners. But now, they have widened the envelope of the car's performance, reducing drag without losing downforce. There is no real weakness, and it is competitive on most tracks," explains Chandhok

As the F1 circus prepares for the triple-header in Spain, Austria and Britain, McLaren will hope to be right up there at the sharp end of the grid.

While the team is not far off leader Red Bull, a title fight may not be on the cards this year. But if McLaren can finish runner-up - it trails secondplaced Ferrari by just 40 points in the constructors' standings, and Norris is third, seven points behind Leclerc, among the drivers – it will mark a critical inflection point in its quest to reclaim its glory days.

> R. Ashwir Jasprit Bumrah Kagiso Rabada Pat Cummins

Nathan Lvon

### STACKING UP



AII	b weu.s tob 12			
#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Jannik Sinner	22	9,480	18
2	Carlos Alcaraz	21	8,580	17
3	Novak Djokovic	37	8,360	18
4	Alexander Zverev	27	6,885	25
5	Daniil Medvedev	28	6,485	18
6	Andrey Rublev	26	4,710	24
7	Alex de Minaur	25	4,085	25
8	Casper Ruud	25	4,025	24
9	Hubert Hurkacz	27	3,950	23
10	Grigor Dimitrov	33	3,775	21
11	Stefanos Tsitsipas	25	3,740	24
12	Taylor Fritz	26	3,090	24
13	Tommy Paul	27	2,750	24
14	Ben Shelton	21	2,590	25
15	Holger Rune	21	2,540	23







١	WTA Women's Top 15					
	#	Player	Age	Points	Events	
	1	Iga Swiatek	23	11,695	19	
	2	Coco Gauff	20	7,988	19	
	3	Aryna Sabalenka	26	7,788	17	
	4	Elena Rybakina	25	5,973	19	
	5	Jessica Pegula	30	4,625	21	
	6	Marketa Vondrousova	24	4,503	18	
	7	Jasmine Paolini	28	4,068	26	
	8	Qinwen Zheng	21	4,005	21	
	9	Maria Sakkari	28	3,980	23	
	10	Ons Jabeur	29	3,748	24	
	11	Danielle Collins	30	3,532	20	
	12	Madison Keys	29	3,343	16	
	13	Jelena Ostapenko	27	3,318	23	
	14	Daria Kasatkina	27	3,088	24	
	15	Liudmila Samsonova	25	2,830	25	







F1	Drivers' standing	gs			
#	Driver	Team	Points	Wins	
1	Max Verstappen	Red Bull	194	6	
2	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	138	1	
3	Lando Norris	McLaren	131	1	
4	Carlos Sainz	Ferrari	108	1	
5	Sergio Perez	Red Bull	107	0	
6	Oscar Piastri	McLaren	81	0	
7	George Russell	Mercedes	69	0	
8	Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes	55	0	
9	Fernando Alonso	Aston Martin	41	0	
10	Yuki Tsunoda	RB	19	0	
11	Lance Stroll	Aston Martin	17	0	
12	Daniel Ricciardo	RB	9	0	
13	Oliver Bearman	Ferrari	6	0	
14	Nico Hulkenberg	Haas	6	0	
15	Pierre Gasly	Alpine	3	0	
16	Alex Albon	Williams	2	0	
17	Esteban Ocon	Alpine	2	0	
18	Kevin Magnusser	ı Haas	1	0	



19 Zhou Guanyu

20 Valtteri Bottas



Sauber

Sauber

F1 Constructors' standings					
Pos	Team	Points	Wins		
1	Red Bull	301	6		
2	Ferrari	252	2		
3	McLaren	212	1		
4	Mercedes	124	0		
5	Aston Martin	58	0		
6	RB	28	0		
7	Haas	7	0		
8	Alpine	5	0		
9	Williams	2	0		

#	Player	Points	Events
1	Shi Yu Qi	102,415	18
2	Viktor Axelsen	96,470	16
3	Jonatan Christie	89,447	18
4	Anders Antonsen	89,241	23
5	Li Shi Feng	86,756	20
6	Kodai Naraoka	83,697	21
7	Lee Zii Jia	78,816	24
8	Kunlavut Vitidsarn	77,508	19
9	Anthony Sinisuka Ginting	70,485	18
10	Kenta Nishimoto	66,232	26
11	Loh Kean Yew	65,193	24
12	Chou Tien Chen	64,567	31
13	Prannoy H. S.	63,792	20
14	Lakshya Sen	63,518	20
15	Lin Chun-Yi	60 261	32







Bad	Badminton Women's ranking					
#	Player	Points	Events			
1	An Se Young	113,217	16			
2	Chen Yu Fei	104,282	18			
3	Tai Tzu Ying	92,221	19			
4	Carolina Marin	91,936	17			
5	Akane Yamaguchi	86,427	13			
6	Wang Zhi Yi	83,215	21			
7	Han Yue	77,609	24			
8	He Bing Jiao	74,868	17			
9	Gregoria Mariska Tunjung	73,862	22			
10	Aya Ohori	66,267	24			
11	Beiwen Zhang	64,556	23			
12	P.V. Sindhu	61,882	18			
13	Supanida Katethong	60,494	27			
14	Nozomi Okuhara	60,341	23			



Zhang Yi Man





59,734



19

# **Test Batting**

	rtayer	Rating	Career best
	Kane Williamson	859	919
2	Joe Root	824	923
3	Babar Azam	768	882
3	Daryl Mitchell	768	804
;	Steve Smith	757	947
5	Rohit Sharma	751	813
,	Yashasvi Jaiswal	740	740
3	Dimuth Karunaratne	739	783
)	Virat Kohli	737	937

735

773

# **ODI Batting**

10 Harry Brook

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Babar Azam	824	898
2	Shubman Gill	801	847
3	Virat Kohli	768	909
4	Harry Tector	746	767
4	Rohit Sharma	746	882
6	Daryl Mitchell	728	750
7	David Warner	723	869
8	Pathum Nissanka	711	728
9	Dawid Malan	707	730
10	D:	701	706

# **ODI Bowling**

10 Kyle Jamiesor

Babar Azam	824	898
Shubman Gill	801	847
Virat Kohli	768	909
Harry Tector	746	767
Rohit Sharma	746	882
Daryl Mitchell	728	750
David Warner	723	869
Pathum Nissanka	711	728
Dawid Malan	707	730
Rassie van der Dussen	701	796

# Player

2	Josh Hazlewood	688	727	
3	Adam Zampa	686	695	
4	Mohammed Siraj	678	736	
5	Jasprit Bumrah	665	838	
6	Mohammad Nabi	656	657	
7	Shaheen Afridi	650	688	
8	Kuldeep Yadav	645	760	
9	Trent Boult	643	775	
10	Bernard Scholtz	642	642	

820

801 788 733

729

Rating Career best

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Suryakumar Yadav	837	910
2	Philip Salt	771	807
3	Babar Azam	755	896
4	Mohammad Rizwan	746	875
5	Travis Head	742	742
6	Jos Buttler	710	720
7	Yashasvi Jaiswal	693	739
8	Aiden Markram	674	796
9	Brandon King	668	704
10	Pooza Hondricks	661	700

### **T20I Bowling** # Player

1	Adil Rashid	696	746	
2	Akeal Hosein	675	683	
3	Wanindu Hasaranga	674	797	
4	Rashid Khan	657	816	
5	Anrich Nortje	656	695	
6	Fazalhaq Farooqi	653	692	
7	Josh Hazlewood	652	806	
8	Adam Zampa	648	743	
9	Axar Patel	646	667	
10	Maheesh Theekshana	644	684	

# **Weekend Sport**

# 'Viswanathan Anand as the role model has worked for India'

FIDE president Arkady Dvorkovich talks about the rise of India and Asia, the upcoming World championship match, the game's governing body taking chess places it has never been, the need to bring more women to the sport and the suspension of the Russian federation

### **INTERVIEW**

### Arkady Dvorkovich

### P.K. Ajith Kumar

rkady Dvorkovich took over as FIDE president in 2018 from Kirsan Ilyumzhinov. The Russian is now in his second term, which he won during the Chennai Chess Olympiad two years ago. He was back in India recently for the closing ceremony of the World junior chess championship at Gandhinagar. The head of the world chess governing body sat down for an exclusive interview with The Hindu. Excerpts:

This year's World championship match has attracted three bids, two of them - Chennai, New Delhi – from the same country.

Yes, we have received three strong, very competitive bids. It is quite unique, having three bids and two of them from the same country. We haven't had such a situation for a long period of time. There are of course some big pluses in all bids, strong government support and really good venues. I think it is important to understand the official government position in this respect. For international sports federations, it is important to have the national government's support. I understand the specifics of India, of course, and the role of the States.

How exciting is it for world chess to have someone as young as D. Gukesh as the challenger in that match against Ding Liren? He turned 18 a few weeks ago.

Now all the youngsters around the world know they have a chance if they work hard. I have been watching his progress as a player for a long time. I am also impressed by India's other young players. I think Viswanathan Anand as the role model particularly worked for India. At the Chess Olympiad in Chennai, two Indians teams were strong but the younger one did better. And we saw so many Indians competing at the recent Candidates tournament. Arjun Erigaisi, who didn't play at the Candidates, is doing very well in open tournaments. I think now he will get invitations to play in closed tournaments.

The defending women's World champion is also Chinese, like Ding. The next one is guaranteed to be from China too, as Ju Wenjun's challenger is her compatriot Tan Thonovi Are you surprised by Asia's rise in

No, I am not surprised. I think numbers matter. And the world's top-ranked country is the United States. So given the population, it is not a surprise. But, the Soviet chess school is still very strong, if you take the whole thing [countries that used to form the USSR].

A small country like Uzbekistan won the gold at the last Olympiad...



Asia, no doubt, is very strong now, very competitive. The infrastructure is modern and there is government support, too



Then there are also countries such as Kazakhstan, Armenia, Georgia, Russia, Ukraine... Asia, no doubt, is very strong now, very competitive. The infrastructure is modern and there is government support, too.

Chess was probably the only truly global sport that grew during the pandemic. And FIDE did some quite good work by organising so many online events, including the Online Chess Olympiad.

Yes, we tried to use the opportunity to boost the interest in chess. Of course we were helped by things in the media like the series, The Queen's Gambit. But I am not surprised by the rise in popularity of chess. It is the oldest game in the world, but at the same time, it is also modern. Everyone who starts learning chess finds an excitement and intellectual challenge in playing the

Anand is deputy president at FIDE. How do you find working with the five-time World champion in this administrative role?

He is a very good friend and one of the best players in the world. He is a very comfortable person to work with. His opinions are always very important for me, since he has huge experience. And his reputation helps our team in our efforts to increase the popularity of chess around

As FIDE president, what areas would you like to work on?

I want more women to play chess. We are working on equal opportunities. I am happy to see more women playing in the open tournament [and not just the events for women]

I want more women to play chess. We are working on equal opportunities. I am happy to see more women playing in the open tournament [and not just the events for women]. I see some Chinese players, like Ju Wenjun, doing it of late.

The recent tournament she won in Norway had equal prize money, as did the Tata Steel Chess India tournament in Kolkata last year.

The parity in pay for women may not be achieved quickly. But we need to make sure that the opportunities are there for them. Apart from the focus on women, we also are looking closely at chess in the universities and schools. And we also want to make the World corporate chess championship bigger. We are also thinking about new formats in terms of time control and combinations to make chess more interesting.

# FIDE has also taken chess to prisons.

We are working with new communities like prisons, slums, families and seniors. We are also bringing chess to new countries and regions. Some regions in different parts of the world like

Africa, Latin America and countries in South East Asia require more development in chess. And Indian coaches can actually help in some of the countries there.

Along with India's rapid rise as a major power in international chess, it is also building a reputation as a capable organiser of big events. Its conduct of the Chennai Chess Olympiad two years ago had won much praise.

Yes, of course. I am sure that during the next 12 months we will have more international events here in India.

How do you look back at your time so far as FIDE president?

Well, I am always ambitious. I always want to do more, but the trend is positive anyway. Our team is quite strong and I feel the support from national federations, including India. This support gives us a boost.

Your comment on the suspension of the Russian Chess Federation by FIDE's Chess **Ethics and Disciplinary Commission?** 

I cannot comment on the legal issues. It was a decision of the first panel of the commission. I was a part of that and I presented my arguments in my defence. The Chess Federation of Russia did the same. We will appeal. We will see what will happen. I think a fair decision will be made. We have to defend the interests of the players.

# **GAME THEORY**

# Formula One's elite race winners

With his 60th victory in his 194th Grand Prix start in Canada, Max Verstappen improved his win% to 30.93%. Where does he rank on the all-time list of the most frequent winners in Formula 1? And among those with the most F1 wins, which drivers have won most frequently? We take a look at both tables:

# **BEST WINNING PERCENTAGE (MINIMUM: 15 STARTS)**

Rank	Driver	Span	Starts	Wins	Win%
1	Juan Manuel Fangio	1950–1951, 1953–1958	51	24	47.06%
2	Alberto Ascari	1950–1955	32	13	40.63%
3	Jim Clark	1960-1968	72	25	34.72%
4	Max Verstappen	2015-2024	194	60	30.93%
5	Lewis Hamilton	2007-2024	341	103	30.21%
6	Michael Schumacher	1991–2006, 2010–2012	306	91	29.74%
7	Jackie Stewart	1965-1973	99	27	27.27%
8	Alain Prost	1980-1993	199	51	25.63%
9	Ayrton Senna	1984-1994	161	41	25.47%
10	Stirling Moss	1951-1961	66	16	24.24%

WINNING PERCENTAGE FOR DRIVERS WITH MOST WINS								
Rank	Driver	Span	Starts	Wins	Win%			
1	Lewis Hamilton	2007-2024	341	103	30.21%			
2	Michael Schumacher	1991–2006, 2010–2012	306	91	29.74%			
3	Max Verstappen	2015-2024	194	60	30.93%			
4	Sebastian Vettel	2007-2022	299	53	17.73%			
5	Alain Prost	1980–1991, 1993	199	51	25.63%			
6	Ayrton Senna	1984-1994	161	41	25.47%			
7	Fernando Alonso	2001, 2003–2018, 2021–2024	386	32	8.29%			
8	Nigel Mansell	1980–1992, 1994–1995	187	31	16.58%			
9	Jackie Stewart	1965-1973	99	27	27.27%			
10	Jim Clark	1960-1968	72	25	34.72%			
10	Niki Lauda	1971–1979,	171	25	14.62%			



# PICTURE THIS



# Aquatic ballet?

Synchronised swimming or artistic swimming is a discipline in which competitors perform choreographed routines,

accompanied by music. Traditionally a women's sport, artistic swimming has diversified since: mixed-gender

duets and men's individual events have been introduced and added to major competitions over the last decade. The discipline has been a part of the Summer Olympics program since 1984 and the **World Aquatics Championships** since the beginning (1973).

Known as water ballet in its

earliest days, artistic swimming has drawn from dance choreography, film-making principles and robust swimming techniques. Sculls — hand movements used to propel and support the body, especially critical when a swimmer is performing upside down — and eggbeater kicks — a form of

treading water that contributes to the competitor's stability are important techniques in the sport. Swimmers wear rubber nose-clips to prevent water from entering their noses and protective earplugs when performing. Performances are judged on execution, artistic impression and difficulty.

### **MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

Survakumar changed the tempo of the game: Afghanistan's Rashid



K.R. DEEPAK

Suryakumar Yadav's brilliant knock turned the game in India's favour, Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan said. "We started well with the ball, but in the middle, Survakumar changed the tempo of the game. He played his shots. That is what makes him unique and great," Rashid said.

### DIFFERENT LEVEL

Bumrah gets his execution perfect, hails Kumble



Anil Kumble hailed Jasprit Bumrah on his brilliant performance against Afghanistan. "He gets the execution perfect. You know, that's what it is. For each batter, he would have figured that out and then did it right in a big game. This doesn't come easy," Kumble told

### **HORSES FOR COURSES**

Hat-trick hero Cummins says the bowling line-up has to adapt



Pat Cummins admits that even taking the first hat-trick of the T20 World Cup may not save him from the axe when Australia faces Afghanistan. "Yes, potentially. We've been pretty open with that, that anyone in the squad's ready to play and the bowling line-up might change at different times," said Cummins.

### **FALLING SHORT**

Should have made at least 170, feels Bangladesh skipper Shanto



Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto said his side should have scored at least 170 runs in the Super 8 encounter against Australia. "The wicket was good, a bit slow, but we should have made at least 170. Playing against this team, we should have gambled," Shanto said.

# High-flying India takes on struggling Bangladesh

A win against Shanto's men, who are coming off a loss, will go a long way in clinching a semifinal spot for the Men in Blue; Rohit, Kohli will be keen on providing a strong start with the bat



Lot to cherish: Rohit's men had almost everything going in their favour in the match against Afghanistan. K.R. DEEPAK

# **T20 WORLD CUP**

**Press Trust of India** NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

takes on a faltering Bangladesh, both teams desperately hoping for their batting stars to strike form in a Super 8 clash of the T20 World

Cup, here on Saturday. The Men in Blue produced a clinical performance against Afghanistan. With only a travel day separating their remaining two games, they would be hoping that the players who have not performed as per expectations so far,

deliver the goods. Top of that list would be the opening pair of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma. They have made a conscious effort to force the pace but have ended with minimal returns.

Another under team member is left-hander Shivam Dube, who was picked in the squad to hammer sixes in the middle and death overs.

On the bowling front, India is expected to retain the combination having given the first opportunity of the tournament to crafty left-arm spinner Kuldeep

India's sole aim in the Caribbean is to win the trophy and a solid performance against Bangladesh will be another step forward in that context.

Bangladesh finds itself in a must-win situation after the loss to Australia. The lack of power-hitters is hurting the side and there is no quick fix to that pro-

The under-performance of opener Litton Das and Tanzid Khan has also com-Bangladesh's pounded

The side will need to find a way to tackle Jasprit Bumrah, who has been sensational thus far, taking eight wickets at an unparalleled economy rate of 3.46.

The pacers, led by Mustafizur Rahman, have done alright but leg-spinner Hossain needs more support in the spin department.

# Today's matches









First Meeting



# Having three left-arm spinners is an advantage on the wickets here: Axar

**Ashwin Achal** BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS)

The Indian bowling attack in the Super 8 fixture against Afghanistan here on Thursday was unique. It is not too often you see three left-arm spinners in the eleven.

Kuldeep Yadav offers variety as a wrist spinner, while Axar Patel and Ravindra Jadeja come on with a stifling line and length. Axar, in particular, is adept at changing it up according to the match situation. Legspinner Yuzvendra Chahal is waiting in the wings.

The trio formed an effective combination on a slow, dry Kensington Oval pitch. Kuldeep, playing his first match of the tournament, took two wickets. Axar (1/15 in 3 overs) and Jadeja gave nothing away and applied the choke on the Afghan chase.

**Active communication** Axar believes that active communication makes for a good partnership. "Havbowl in the PowerPlay, middle or towards the end. I can be called by the captain in any situation. If I feel that I need to attack, then I plan accordingly. In the Pakistan match, when I came to bowl the 16th over, I felt that if I give less runs it will be very good for the team," said Axar. Axar described pace

ing three left-arm spinners is an advantage on the

wickets here. Our combi-

nation is very good. We communicate well. For ex-

ample, whoever comes on

to bowl first will communi-

cate to the others on what

is working and what is not.

This is important when

you bowl as a unit," Axar

said at the press confe-

rence after India eased

past Afghanistan by 47

Being versatile to satisfy

the needs of the team is

crucial, Axar added. "I can

runs.

spearhead Jasprit Bumrah as a "world class bowler", and that the quality of the Indian attack can "get us out of a tough situation".



Left is right: India's spin trio of Jadeja, Kuldeep and Axar is expected to play a key role again. K.R. DEEPAK

# Proteas prevail over England in nail-biter



Turning it on: de Kock raced to 65 off 38 deliveries with four fours and as many sixes. PTI

<u>Ayan Acharya</u> GROS ISLET (ST. LUCIA)

In a thrilling T20 World Cup Super 8 match at the Daren Sammy ground here on Friday, England fell agonisingly short against South Africa, losing by seven runs. Chasing 164, Jos Buttler's men were in deep trouble at 63 for four in 11 overs. However, Harry Brook and Liam Livingignited hopes, stone smashing 52 in three overs at one stage.

The turning point came in the 17th over when Ottniel Baartman's full tosses allowed Livingstone to smash three consecutive boundaries. But, with 25 needed off 18 balls. Kagiso Rabada dismissed Livingstone for 33 off 17 in an over that cost just four runs. Marco Jansen's tight penultimate over followed, leaving England needing 14 off the final six.

Brook, having reached his first T20 World Cup fifty, went for a boundary shot off Anrich Nortje, but Aiden Markram's stunning catch at mid-off dented England's hopes. The final over went for just six runs, extending South Africa's unbeaten run in the tournament. Keshav Maharaj's masterful two for 25 on a slow pitch set the stage.

England must now secure a big win against the USA and hope that the Net Run Rate (NRR) works in its favour in case the West Indies prevails in its remaining matches.

Earlier, Reece Topley and Moeen Ali sought to leverage their favourable match-ups against Quinton de Kock (65 off 38 balls). de Kock first broke free against Moeen with consecutive boundaries before hitting Jofra Archer for three sixes in a 21-run over.

Archer made amends, giving away just eight in his final over and taking two wickets. England's spin duo of Adil Rashid Moeen Ali excelled, maintaining an economy rate of 6.42. Buttler shone with the big gloves, jumping high to take a one-handed catch to send back de Kock and making a direct hit to run out Heinrich Klaasen. David Miller's 43 off 28 helped South Africa post a total that proved just enough.

The scores: South Africa 163/6 in 20 overs (de Kock 65, Miller 43, Archer 3/40) bt England 156/6 in 20 overs (Brook 53, Livingstone 33, Rabada 2/32, Maharaj 2/25); Toss: England; PoM: de Kock.

# Cummins' 'trick and Zampa's | Bangladesh could be another warm-up for India artistry win it for Australia

**Press Trust of India** NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

Premier pacer Pat Cummins grabbed the tournament's first hat-trick and spinner Adam Zampa showcased his artistry to fashion Australia's 28-run win over Bangladesh via the Duckworth Lewis method in its Super 8 fixture of the T20 World Cup.

If Zampa (two for 24) operated with precision in the middle overs, Cummins (three for 29) claimed three wickets off successive balls at the back end, as Australia restricted Bangladesh to 140 for eight after Mitchell Marsh opted to bowl first in the rain-interrupted game.

Australia was in a hurry to finish the game with openers David Warner and Travis Head going hammer and tongs from the very first ball.



Australia restrict Bangladesh to 140. GETTY IMAGES The pair raced to 60/0

rain

before rain interrupted play. Once play resumed, the Aussies lost a bit of momentum as Rishad Hossain

removed Head and Marsh in quick succession. Despite the twin blow, Australia never looked in

When

trouble.

stopped play again, Australia was 28 runs ahead of the DLS par score.

The scores: Bangladesh 140/8 in 20 overs (Shanto 41, Hridoy 40, Cummins 3/29, Zampa 2/24) lost to Australia 100/2 in 11.2 overs (Warner 53 n.o., Head 31, Hossain 2/23) by DLS method; Toss: Australia; PoM: Cummins.



The easy win over Afghanistan in the first game of the Super Eight stage would have boosted the Indian team's morale even more. They were unbeaten in the American stage of the league - that too on pitches about which the less said the better. Then, when they would have looked to get some good match time in their last group game in Miami against Canada, the wet outfield put paid to those plans too as the game was washed off.

Therefore, the match against Afghanistan became a bit more crucial as it would not give the players the time to ease into the Super Eight stage of the tournament.

The next game against Bangladesh could well be another warmup for the Indians. Mind you, in recent times, the clashes between the junior teams of the two countries have been pretty spicy with loads of aggro between the players. It's not necessarily the same as the senior players like Shakib, Mustafizur play in the Indian Premier League and so know the Indian players well and have a very good equation

They have had an up and down tournament so far, but the Super Eight stage gives the players a fresh start and a new page to write on.

Indias batters, especially the openers, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, will look to get more runs and time out in the middle before the clash against Australia.

Pant played a lovely cameo against Afghanistan and is looking dangerous with every outing. Suryakumar was simply SKY as he batted as only he can and even toyed with Rashid Khan, who bowled so well to the other Indian bat-

Then it was Boom Boom Bumrah who tied up the Afghan top-order with his extraordinary skill and reading of the batters' mind. There is no one remotely close to the Indian pacer in the way he sets batters up and sends them back to the change room. The spinners bowled well too and didn't allow the Af-

ghan batters any leeway. A win against Bangladesh will assure India a place in the semis and also give them more confidence to

take on the impressive Aussies to see who finishes top of the table. (Professional Group)





### Poonawalla's car wins 'Best In Show' at Valletta Concours

Yohan Poonawalla's 1928 boat-tailed Rolls-Royce Experimental Sports Phantom '17EX' won the prestigious 'Best in Show' Award at the Valletta Concours, held in Valletta, Malta, earlier this month. This unique vehicle was developed under the supervision of Sir Henry Royce as a prototype sports car designed to reach speeds of 100 mph.

# Odisha government extends hockey sponsorship till 2036

The new government in Odisha has decided to continue the State's sponsorship of the Indian hockey team, extending it on Friday by three vears till 2036 with Odisha chief minister Mohan Charan Mohan Majhi announcing the same as part of the state's Vision Odisha: 2036. "In 2036, Odisha will complete 100 years of formation. The year will also see a probability of Gujarat hosting the Olympics. Odisha's role in the rise of hockey has been instrumental and this extension of sponsorship could prove to be a game changer for the state in sports," Majhi said after meeting Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey and other officials. The meeting was attended by, among others, HI secretary-general Bhola Nath Singh, Odisha Sports Minister Suryabanshi Suraj, chief secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena and commissioner-cum-secretary R. Vineel Krishna. "We had a productive meeting with the Hon'ble CM. We are thankful to the Odisha Government for their support and commitment to Indian hockey. As an Odia and a former hockey player, I am immensely proud," Tirkey said.

### LIVE TELECAST

Football: Euro 2024: Sony Sports Ten 2, 3, 5 & Hotstar, 6.30, 9.30 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Sunday)

F-1: Spanish GP, (qualifying), F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode,

Hockey: Pro League, Sports 18-1 & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m. T20 WC: Star Sports 1 & Hotstar, 8 p.m. & 6 a.m. (Sunday)

# Igor Stimac lashes out at 'power-hungry' officials

The sacked coach of the Indian National team attacks AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey, saying that the sooner he leaves his post, the better it will be for the future of Indian football

**Amitabha Das Sharma** KOLKATA

gor Stimac came down heavily on the football administrators in the calling them country, "power-hungry people who look after their own personal interests."

At an online interaction after his contract was terminated by the All India Football Federation following the Indian team's failure to reach the third round of the World Cup qualifiers, Stimac said that while football is growing across the globe, it is stagnating in India due to the inefficiency of those running the show.



Stimac. FILE PHOTO

"They don't have a clue about how to run the football house (AIFF headquarters) and they don't care. The only thing they care about is power, their own positions and how to put

the blame on the others so that they stay as long as possible," said Stimac.

He added that he will seek monetary compensation from the AIFF for the rest of his contract period (till June 2026).

Stimac launched a sharp attack on AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey, saying that the sooner he leaves his post, the better it will be for the future of Indian football.

"The sooner Kalyan leaves the AIFF, the better it is for Indian football. The only way he knows to run football in the country is through how the social media thinks.

"It is a totally wrong ap-

proach and cannot happen with any serious institution," Stimac said.

The former coach also revealed that he received little support from the AIFF technical committee, chaired by the legendary I.M. Vijayan.

"Vijayan was a fantastic player but he should not be presiding over the technical committee," said Sti-

The Croatian said that since the AIFF officials did not extend any cooperation, the job of coaching the Indian team became so stressful that he had to undergo a heart surgery before the Asian Cup cam-

### **Dhiraj and Ankita stay** in the hunt for medals

B. Dhiraj and Ankita Bhakat remained in the hunt for medals after reaching the men's and women's individual semifinals in the Archery World Cup Stage-3 in Antalya, Turkey, on Friday. Dhiraj set up a semifinal clash with Korea's Kim Woojin while Ankita will face China's topranked Yang Xiaolei.

The Indian recurve mixed team, comprising Bhajan and Dhiraj, received a bve and defeated Great Britain 5-1 and Brazil 5-1 before being beaten 5-3 by Korea in the semifinals.

### Balaji-Johnson duo exits in the last eight

Sriram Balaii and Luke Johnson lost 7-6(3), 6-4 to Marcus Daniell and Matwe Middelkoop in the €148.625 Challenger tennis Other results: \$15,000 ITF men, Hillcrest, South Africa: Quarterfinals: Alec Beckley bt Aryan Shah 6-3, 6-2. **Doubles: Semifinals: Alec** Beckley & Alexander Donski bt Kabir Hans & Aryan Shah 6-4, 6-3. \$15,000 ITF men, Koszalin, **Poland: Doubles:** Quarterfinals: Jakub

the doubles quarterfinals

in Ilkley, Britain.

Jedrzejczak & LLeon Zaorski bt Manas Dhamne & Daniele Rapagnetta 7-5, 6-2. \$15,000 ITF men, Hong Kong: Quarterfinals: Thanapat Chanta bt S.D. Prajwal Dev 6-4 (retired).

Doubles: Semifinals: Yuichiro

Inui & Kazuki Nishiwaki bt Praiwal

Dev & Adil Kalyanpur 6-4, 1-6, [12-10]. \$15,000 ITF men, Monastir: Doubles: Quarterfinals: Mateo Matulovich & Paulo Santos w.o.

Sureshkumar \$25,000 ITF women, Wichita, USA: Pre-quarterfinals: Sahaja Yamalapalli bt Victoria Flores 6-2,

Amr Elsayed & Manish

Doubles: Quarterfinals: Ashton Bowers & Sophia Webster bt

Chieh-Yu Hsu & Sahaja 6-3, 7-5.

# Shreyasi gets green signal for Paris

### **SHOOTING**

**Sports Bureau** NEW DELHI

The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) got the green signal from the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) to swap one of the women's pistol Olympic quota places for women's trap, and field Shreyasi Singh for the Paris Games.

With Manu Bhaker finishing on top in both women's air pistol and sports pistol, emerging as the only shooter to compete in two events, one of the air

pistol quota places fell va-

While Esha Singh and Rhythm Sangwan gained entry for Olympics in sports pistol and air pistol events, swapping their position from the Olympic quota that they had won, the Olympic quota won by Asian Games gold medallist Palak Gulia's quota in air pistol was swapped for women's trap.

The NRAI chose to seek a women's trap quota place, as all other women's events had already been filled with maximum possible two Olympic quota

# Individuals need to be treated fairly in a team game: says Gautam Gambhir

### **CRICKET**

Y.B. Sarangi KOLKATA

Gautam Gambhir, the front-runner for the post of the Indian cricket team's next head coach, parried the question of him taking over from Rahul Dravid. He, however, underlined that individuals could not be the "be-all-and-end-all" in a team sport.

Gambhir, who mentored Kolkata Knight Rid-



I am in a happy space having just finished the journey with KKR

ers to its third title triumph this season, said, "It is difficult to answer that (the coach question). Right now, I am in a happy space having just finished the journey with KKR. He was speaking at the 'Rise to Leadership' event organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce here.

Gambhir said individuals needed to be treated fairly in a team game. "The team is the most important thing and individuals can't be the be-all-and-end-all in a team. If you focus on two or three people, just imagine what will happen to the others.

"From the captain to the masseur, you cannot discriminate between people. You have to treat people equally. That's the most important culture and I will always have this philosophy," he said.

Talking about white-ball cricket which is heavily tilted in favour of the batters, Gambhir said it was the job of the International Cricket Council (ICC) to see that all kinds of cricketers, including the finger spinners, received an equal chance.

About his rapport with KKR co-owner Shah Rukh Khan, Gambhir said, "I've the privilege of working with the best IPL owner.

"There has been no conversation of cricket with him in the eight years we've known each other."

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# **DELHI ROUND-UP**

# **Ankit slams century**

Ankit Kausnik smasned an unbeaten 62-ball 109 as Delhi Wonders beat Pioneer Club by five wickets in the DDCA T20 League.

The scores: Pioneer Club 181/6 in 20 overs (Yaias Sharma 47, Yash Bhatia 46, Ankit Kaushik 2/24) lost to Delhi Wonders 186/5 in 19 overs (Ankit Kaushik 109 n.o.). Delhi Audit 123/9 in 20 overs (Himanshu Rana 33, Arun Pundir 2/22, Nishant Thakur 2/12) lost to Young Cricketers 126/6 in 16 overs (Ashish Sehrawat 35). Harsha Sports 116/9 in 20 overs (Sispal 2/24, Shivam Sharma 2/22) lost to LB Shastri Coaching Center 120/3 in 9 overs (Ankit Chillier 71 n.o., Mahi Chopra 36). Lala Ramcharan Aggarwal Club 122 in 19 overs (Gulzar Sandhu 51, Anirudh 4/40, Manan Bhardwaj 2/13) lost to Sonnet

Club 125/8 in 19 overs (Sagar Roop Nagar Colts 141/9 in 20 overs (Lakshay Malik 45, Vishal 3/21, Yugantar Mehta 3/40) lost to Darling 147/4 in 18 overs (Parwan Dhaiya 46).

Malviya 184/5 in 20 overs (Tushar Kansari 55, Pushpendra Vimal 2/23, Gaurav 2/26) lost to Canara Bank 188/4 in 17 overs (Arvind 75, Anoop Yadav 51).

Alpine 156/5 in 20 overs (Aman Choudhary 60, Mrinal Gulati 3/30) lost to Pusa Youngster 160/5 in 19 overs (Rajdeep Jain 73, Shourya Pratap Singh 56, Jatin Rajput Bank of India 171/5 in 20 overs

(Vikas Boi 46, Alam Mohd. Saif 33, Swapnil 2/44) bt EIL 106 in 19 overs (Pradeep Meena 3/14, Dinesh Meena 2/5)

Harriman sets up Noida Wonder Club's easy win Vasu Dev picked up four

Azad Club beat Golden Eagle Club by six wickets in the Harcourt Butler tournament. In another match, Harriman Kapoor scored a match-winning century to help Noida Wonder Club beat Mount Club by 165 runs.

wickets and Anurag Pal

The scores: GEC 111 in 29 overs (Mayank Chopra 35, Vasu Dev 4/26, Anurag Pal 3/20) lost to MAC 115/4 in 16 overs (Lakshay Nagpal 46 n.o.).

NWC 257 in 39 overs (Harriman Kapoor 147) bt Mount Club 92 in

### Shivansh and Shailu shine

Four wickets by Shivansh Bakshi and an unbeaten 44 by Shailu Dhakad saw

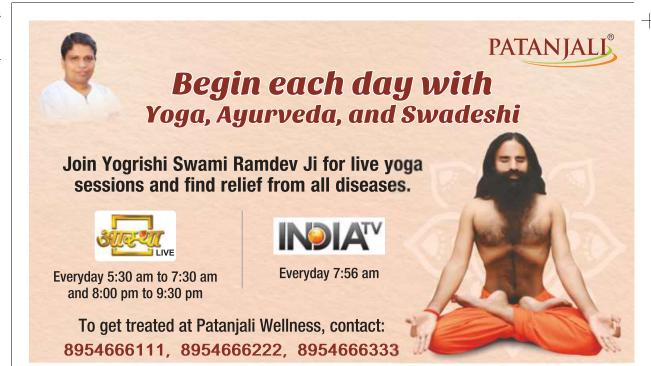
**UGC Academy defeat SMC** the Vidya Devi memorial tournament.

The scores: SMCA 58 in 19 overs (Shivansh Bakshi 4/21) lost to UGCA 64/0 in 7 overs (Shailu Dhakad 44 n.o.).

### RKYA beats Kanchi, enters final

Man-of-the-Match Vicky Mahto picked up five wickets for five runs as Radhey Kishan Youth Academy beat Kanchi Academy by nine wickets in the semifinal of the Shri Chamanlal Asiwal memorial under-14 tournament.

The scores: Kanchi Academy 51 in 15.5 overs (Vicky Mahto 5/5, Shivansh 2/7) lost to RKYA 52/1 in







# Argentina beats Canada

**COPA AMERICA** 

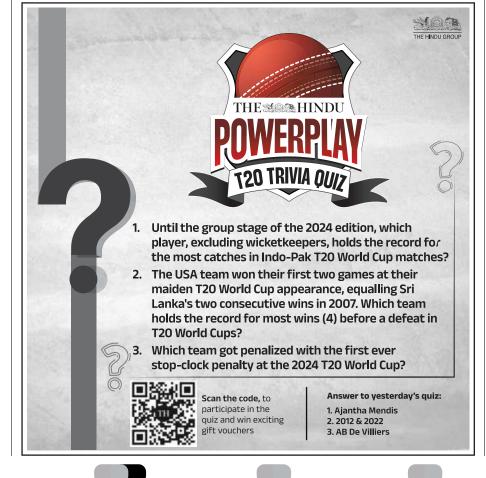
**Associated Press** ATLANTA

Lionel Messi's passing brilliance got Argentina off to a winning start in the defence of its Copa America title, overcoming Canada and a poor playing surface here on Thursday.

Messi's through ball led to Julian Alvarez's 49th-minute goal and the eighttime Ballon d'Or winner assisted on Lautaro Martinez's 88th-minute score in a 2-0 victory on Thursday night.

Held scoreless in the first half, Argentina outshot Canada 12-3 in the second.

The result: Argentina 2 (Alvarez 49, Martinez 88) bt Canada 0.





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