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<b>136</b> AIR अमित कुमार ऑल इंडिया 08 टेस्ट, निबंध टेस्ट, मेनर 365 अम्पास, लखन, इंदरव्यू, गाइडेंस, CSAT टेस्ट, एथिक्स केस स्टडीज, मासिक करंट अफेयर्स क्लास	<b>238</b> AIR विपिन दुबे ऑल इंडिया 08 टेस्ट, अम्पास	<b>257</b> AIR मनीषा धार्वे ऑल इंडिया 08 टेस्ट, अम्पास, इंदरव्यू, गाइडेंस	<b>313</b> AIR मयंक दुबे ऑल इंडिया 08 टेस्ट, अम्पास, इंदरव्यू, गाइडेंस	<b>517</b> AIR देवेश पाराशर ऑल इंडिया 08 टेस्ट, अम्पास, PT 365 वर्तमानाफेयर्स टेस्ट, निबंध टेस्ट, इंदरव्यू, गाइडेंस	<b>541</b> AIR शिवम अग्रवाल ऑल इंडिया 08 टेस्ट, अम्पास, इंदरव्यू, गाइडेंस	<b>551</b> AIR मोहन मंगवा अम्पास, इंदरव्यू, गाइडेंस	<b>555</b> AIR ईश्वर लाल गुर्जर ऑल इंडिया 08 टेस्ट, अम्पास, PT 365, निबंध टेस्ट, इंदरव्यू, गाइडेंस	<b>556</b> AIR रामम रघुवंशी लखन, अम्पास, इंदरव्यू, गाइडेंस	<b>563</b> AIR अजित सिंह खन्ना ऑल इंडिया 08 टेस्ट
<b>596</b> AIR के परीक्षित ऑल इंडिया 08 टेस्ट, एथिक्स केस स्टडीज	<b>616</b> AIR रवि मंगवार ऑल इंडिया 08 टेस्ट, इंदरव्यू, गाइडेंस	<b>619</b> AIR भानु प्रताप सिंह ऑल इंडिया 08 टेस्ट, लखन, इंदरव्यू, गाइडेंस	<b>633</b> AIR सैत्रेय कुमार शुक्ला अम्पास, इंदरव्यू, गाइडेंस	<b>642</b> AIR शशांक चौहान अम्पास, लखन, इंदरव्यू, गाइडेंस, CSAT टेस्ट सीरीज	<b>697</b> AIR प्रीतेय सिंह राजपूत अम्पास, इंदरव्यू, गाइडेंस	<b>747</b> AIR नीरज धाकड़ ऑल इंडिया 08 टेस्ट, लखन, इंदरव्यू, गाइडेंस	<b>758</b> AIR सोफिया सिद्दीकी ऑल इंडिया 08 टेस्ट, अम्पास, लखन, इंदरव्यू, गाइडेंस	<b>776</b> AIR पटेल दीप राजेशकुमार इंदरव्यू, गाइडेंस	<b>793</b> AIR अशोक सोनी ऑल इंडिया 08 टेस्ट, मेनर 365 अम्पास, एथिक्स केस स्टडीज

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**BIGGER ROLE**  
**More onus on LoP as Opposition grows in new Lok Sabha**

**Rahul must take cues from 2024 poll verdict**

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**SPECTRUM AUCTION**  
**Telecoms buy radio waves worth over ₹11,300 cr.**



BUSINESS » PAGE 13

## LS erupts as Birla reads resolution on Emergency

Bonhomie that prevailed after his election as Speaker shattered over reminder of the excesses committed during the period; Opposition had not pressed for a division of votes for the election

**Devesh K. Pandey**  
**Sandeep Phukan**  
NEW DELHI

The bonhomie that prevailed in the Lok Sabha following Om Birla's election as Speaker by a voice vote on Wednesday, with the Opposition not pressing for a division of votes in support of Congress candidate Kodikunnil Suresh, proved short-lived when Mr. Birla read out a resolution on the 1975 Emergency, triggering huge protests by the Opposition.

The resolution said the Congress had crushed the spirit of the Constitution, and dictatorship had been imposed in 1975. "The Emergency is a black spot in history. The aim of these amendments made by the Congress go-



**Fresh start:** Narendra Modi, Rahul Gandhi and Kiren Rijiju escort Om Birla to the Speaker's chair in the Parliament House. PTI

vernment was to bring all the powers to one person, to control the judiciary, and to destroy the basic principles of the Constitution. By doing this, the rights of citizens were suppressed and the principles of democracy attacked," Mr. Birla said, reading out the resolution. "The then-Prime Minis-

ter Indira Gandhi also talked about committed bureaucracy and committed judiciary, which is an example of her anti-democratic attitude," he said. Amid sloganeering by a large number of Opposition members, the House was adjourned for the day after observing a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the Emergency. Earlier, after the Speaker's election, Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded Mr. Birla for the skill he showed in maintaining the decorum of the House during his previous term. In keeping with parliamentary tradition, newly appointed Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi walked across the aisle to congratulate Mr. Birla, shook hands with Mr. Modi and escorted the Speaker to his Chair along with the Prime Minister and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju. Mr. Gandhi stressed the importance of "impartiality" from the Speaker's chair.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 10  
**LIP SERVICE**  
» PAGE 6

## As CBI arrests him, Kejriwal withdraws petition from SC

us every day... On a 2022 interrogation and notice by the CBI, I [Mr. Kejriwal] have been arrested while still under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act [PMLA]," he said.

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
**Ishita Mishra**  
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) formally arrested Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the excise policy case on Wednesday, and was granted three days to interrogate him in its custody. The day also saw Mr. Kejriwal withdraw his petition from the Supreme Court, promising to return with a fresh challenge against the stay of his statutory bail by the Delhi High Court on June 25.

Appearing before a Vacation Bench of Justices Manoj Misra and S.V.N. Bhatti, Mr. Kejriwal's counsel, senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, conveyed his client's angst at the flurry of events occurring over the past two days which have kept him in custody. "Events are overtaking



Arvind Kejriwal

Mr. Singhvi was given the liberty to file a fresh and substantive petition against the High Court's interim order to pause the operation of the bail granted to him by a trial court on June 20.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 10  
**SEE ALSO**  
» PAGE 2

### South safari



**On the trail:** A leopard, seen cautiously lounging at the Bannerghatta Biological Park, was photographed during the inaugural run of south India's first leopard safari. The safari will showcase several leopards rescued from across Karnataka. K. MURALI KUMAR (REPORT ON PAGE 5)

### IN BRIEF

#### SC calls cutting of 'valuable' trees in Delhi 'brazen act'

**NEW DELHI**  
The Supreme Court on Wednesday found the inability of the Delhi Development Authority to find information or official records to shed light on whether the L-G ordered the cutting of valuable trees in the protected ridge area as sheer disingenuity. The court termed it a "brazen act". » Page 12

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## TMC vs Governor plays out on the steps of Bengal Assembly with protest by MLAs-elect

**Shiv Sahay Singh**  
KOLKATA

The ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) and West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose are at loggerheads again, this time over administering oath to two newly elected legislators. Sayantika Bandyopadhyay and Rayat Hossain Sarkar, elected from Baranagar and Bhagwangola Assembly seats, respectively, in the recent bypolls, held a protest on the steps of the Assembly on Wednesday demanding the presence of the Governor. The MLAs-elect held placards reading "Waiting for the arrival of Hon. Governor for oath" and sat on the stairs of the Assembly till 4 p.m. The Governor, however, did not turn up. Raj Bhavan had invited the two to take oath at the Governor's House on Wednesday. However, both of them insisted that they be sworn in at the Assembly and not at Raj Bhavan. "Declined both options" Ms. Bandyopadhyay said it was unfortunate that after getting the mandate of the people "we have to beg to be administered oath". Mr. Hossain said the Go-



Trinamool Congress MLAs-elect Rayat Hossain Sarkar and Sayantika Banerjee wait for Governor C.V. Ananda Bose on the stairs of the

and it is very unfortunate that we are facing this situation. If the Governor is willing, he can come to the Assembly and administer the oath. We will make all necessary arrangements. We have no objection. But there should not be an impasse," Mr. Bandyopadhyay said. **Frosty relations** Relations between Mr. Bose and the government have been frosty over the past few months, but after allegations of harassment were levelled by a woman Raj Bhavan employee against the Governor, the ties turned sour. The Ministers of the State government, including the Chief Minister, have refrained from visiting Raj Bhavan since May 2, when the allegations by the employee against the Governor became public.

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Protests at Jantar Mantar on Wednesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

## NEET, UGC-NET row: student outfits begin indefinite protest

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Several student outfits on Wednesday started an indefinite protest at Jantar Mantar here over the alleged irregularities in the conduct of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) and UGC-NET examination.

They also demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and the dissolution of the National Testing Agency (NTA) over the issue.

The call for the protest was given by the All India Students' Association (AIS-A) and it was joined by several NEET aspirants and university professors.

Both exams are conducted by the NTA every year. While NEET is held

for admissions to undergraduate courses at medical colleges across the country, the UGC-NET is conducted twice a year for the selection of junior research fellows, assistant professors and PhD scholars.

Jitender Meena, an Assistant Professor at Delhi University, said they demanded the scrapping of the testing agency to "save the country's education system".

Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) president Dhananjay said the "irregularities" in the exams have shattered dreams of lakhs of students. "We have come here with the demand that the NTA should be scrapped and it should no longer be conducting exams," he said.

# This is dictatorship: Sunita Kejriwal; AAP slams BJP over CM's 'unconstitutional' arrest

People convinced about corruption by ruling party, says BJP; CM's wife calls arrest by CBI in excise policy case akin to 'undeclared emergency'; probe agencies are 'political mouthpiece of BJP': AAP

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Shortly after Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday, his wife Sunita said the whole system was "trying to ensure" that her husband doesn't get bail and that is akin to "dictatorship".

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) too called the leader's arrest "unconstitutional" and an undeclared "emergency".

Ms. Kejriwal took to X (formerly Twitter) and said, "Arvind Kejriwal got bail on 20th June. Immediately, the ED got a stay. The very next day, the CBI made him an accused. And today, he was arrested. The whole system is trying to ensure that the man does not come out of jail. This is not law. This is dictatorship, this is emergency."

Senior AAP leader Jasmine Shah also termed as "fake" the case against the Chief Minister. "The CBI



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal at a Rouse Avenue court in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

and the ED are filing false cases at the behest of the BJP only to finish off AAP and to keep him in jail. Time and again, we have said this with facts that the ED and the CBI are filing their chargesheets and putting AAP leaders in jail based on fake witnesses," he said at a press conference.

He alleged that the CBI was "caught making politi-

cal statements in the court" while seeking approval for Mr. Kejriwal's arrest. "The CBI wanted him to give such a statement that would have created a sensation in the media," Mr. Shah said, terming the probe agencies as "political mouthpiece of the BJP".

Senior AAP leader Sanjay Singh said that the CBI is acting against AAP with "ill-will" and "political malice".

The Rajya Sabha member said he will talk to other leaders of the INDIA bloc and request them to raise the issue in Parliament.

AAP also got the backing of its INDIA bloc partner Samajwadi Party (SP), whose chief Akhilesh Yadav said on Wednesday after he met Delhi Water Minister Atishi at Lok Nayak Hospital.

"Delhi did not get the help that it should have got from the Centre, which has constantly discriminated against the Opposition-ruled States," said Mr. Yadav.

Senior Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Brinda Karat also met the Minister, who was admitted to the hospital on Tuesday after her health deteriorated due to an indefinite fast she had undertaken to get the city's "rightful share" of the Yamuna water from BJP-ruled Haryana.

After the Trinamool Congress (TMC), the SP and the CPI (M) are the other two INDIA bloc partners who have backed AAP, contrary to their alliance partner Congress's stance. Meanwhile, Delhi Congress chief Devender Yadav

## Akhilesh meets Atishi at hospital, blames Centre for water crisis

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The BJP-led Centre has always discriminated against Opposition-ruled States due to which the Delhi government did not get the required help to resolve the Capital's water crisis, Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav said on Wednesday after he met Delhi Water Minister Atishi at Lok Nayak Hospital.

"Delhi did not get the help that it should have got from the Centre, which has constantly discriminated against the Opposition-ruled States," said Mr. Yadav.

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Meanwhile, Delhi Congress chief Devender Yadav



SP chief Akhilesh Yadav with Water Minister Atishi at Lok Nayak Hospital. ANI

said Ms. Atishi's "jal satyagraha" ended in a whimper without helping the parched city get potable water. "Delhi is facing an acute water scarcity due to the negligence and corruption of the AAP government," he said, adding that it pushed the Delhi Jal Board into a huge debt trap while failing to improve the supply.

### 'Planned visit'

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva accused the Delhi government of "enacting a drama" over the issue. "Since yesterday, none of their Ministers has spoken on the water crisis. Today, under a plan, they fielded the SP chief and Ms. Karat to praise their government," he said.

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सर्व साधारण को एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 840 अनु 0 दिनांक 12.06.2024 के द्वारा जो निविदा आमंत्रित की गई थी, जिसका पी 0 आर 0 नं 001430(भवन) / 2024-25 है जिसमें क्रमांक 01 में अंकित शंकरपुर प्रखंड के रामपुरलाही एवं क्रमांक 06 में अंकित चौसा प्रखंड के मोरसंडा पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन निर्माण कार्य को अपरिहार्य कारणवश रद्द किया जाता है।

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**Bharat Nirman through Rural Roads**  
Chief Engineer (Shimla Zone) HPPWD Nirman Bhawan  
Nigam Vihar Shimla H.P., 171002  
UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)  
Notice Inviting Tender

1. The Superintending Engineer, 11<sup>th</sup> Circle, HPPWD, Rampur Distt. Shimla (HP)-172001 on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system, for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for each of the following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved contractors registered with CPWD, HPPWD, P&T, Railway and other State Govt. or Central Govt. Non-registered bidders may submit bids; however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

Sr. No.	Name of Distt.	Package No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (in lacs)		Total cost (in lacs)	Period of completion (in days)	Bid security
				Const. cost	Maint. cost			
1.	Kullu	HP-06-323	Balance work of link road from Kutal (Bashad) to Sharshah Km 0/000 to 10/000 (SH- C/O Retaining walls, breast walls, Parapets PCC side drain, metalling & tarring and routine maintenance for five year after completion).	10606767	5881386	16488153	180	330000

2. Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement 24.06.2024.  
3. Cost of Form: Rs. 5000/- per package (non-refundable) only in form of Demand Draft in favour of Executive Engineer, Outer Seraj Division Nirmanad.  
4. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website [www.pmgstenders.gov.in](http://www.pmgstenders.gov.in) the bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: [www.pmgstenders.gov.in](http://www.pmgstenders.gov.in)."  
5. Submission of Original Documents. The bidders are required to submit (a) online print towards the cost of bid document and (b) online print bid security and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provision of Clause 4.4B(ii) of ITB with Superintending Engineer, 11<sup>th</sup> Circle, HPPWD, Rampur Bsr Distt. Shimla HP-172001, on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand.  
6. Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering: 29.06.2024 upto 1000 hours.  
7. The site for the work is available.  
8. Only online submission of bids is permitted, therefore; bids must be submitted online on website [www.pmgstenders.gov.in](http://www.pmgstenders.gov.in). The technical qualification part of the bids will be opened online at 1100 hours on 29.06.2024 by the authorized officers. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bid as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day at the same time.  
9. The bidder is not required to quote his rate for routine maintenance. The rates to be paid for routine maintenance are indicated in the Bill of Quantities. Further, the payment for routine maintenance to the contractor shall be regulated bases on his performance of maintenance activities.  
10. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than ninety days after the deadline date for bid submission.  
11. Bidders may bid for any one or more of the works mentioned in the Table above. To qualify for a package of contracts made up of this and other contracts for which bids are invited in the same NIT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts.  
12. Other detail can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

The undersigned has right to extend or cancel the tender without declaring any reason.

Signature and Designation of the authority inviting bids for and on behalf of Governor of H.P.

Superintending Engineer,  
11<sup>th</sup> Circle HPPWD,  
Rampur Buhshar, Distt. Shimla (HP)  
Fax: 01782-233167  
Tel: 01782-233044

HP / 0362/24-25 HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

**GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB**  
TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK/ NOTICE/TENDER	OPENING DATE/ CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN LACS	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/ EMAIL
1.	Office of The Resident Commissioner, Punjab Bhawan, New Delhi	Providing 10 Nos. Manpower/ Personnel Management Services for Facilitation Centre at T-3, IGI Airport, Delhi on outsource basis in the O/o The Resident Commissioner, Punjab Bhawan, New Delhi for three years.	27.06.2024/ 04.07.2024	70.00 THOUSAND	9810315802 punjabbhawan@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND CORRIGENDUM & ADDENDUM IF ANY, KINDLY VISIT : [www.eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in), [www.punjab.gov.in](http://www.punjab.gov.in)

RO Code : 26/12/982/2023/35036

**MADHYA PRADESH PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.**  
(A Government of Madhya Pradesh Undertaking)  
Oil Fed Building, 01, Arera Hills, Bhopal  
URL : <https://mppscl.mp.gov.in>, Phone : 0755-2578915  
Dated : 26.06.2024

**TENDER NOTICE**

Tenders for following item/Services floated on website and portal form dated 26.06.2024 to next 30 days:

- Online Tender Document T-588/MPPHSC/Blood Bank Refrigerator (200 bags)/RC/2024 uploaded on dated 26.06.2024 Portal and Website.
- RFP for Establishment of PET-CT & Nuclear Medicine Centers at Various Medical Colleges.
- Tender(s) for Bone Marrow Transplant Unit Equipment.
- Tender(s) for Microdrill Machine.
- Tender(s) for USG Machine.
- Tender(s) for Uterine Balloon Tamponed.
- Tender(s) for Various Equipment.
- Tender(s) for Various Drugs.
- Tender(s) for Various Consumables.

All prospective bidders are requested to visit "[www.mptenders.gov.in](http://www.mptenders.gov.in)," <https://mppscl.mp.gov.in>" for further details.  
M.P. Madhyam/115092/2024 CGM (TECHNICAL)-II

**THE HINDU**  
POWERPLAY  
T20 TRIVIA QUIZ

Turn to the sports pages to participate in today's quiz

Yesterday's winners:

- Dibakar Banerjee, Bengaluru
- Vignesh Kumar R, Chennai
- Surinder Kumar Jindal, Delhi

THE HINDU  
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## NHRC seeks report from govt. on death of homeless people due to heatwave

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought a detailed report within four weeks from the Delhi government about the death of homeless people and the steps taken to prevent such incidents during the ongoing heatwave.

A notice in this regard was issued on Tuesday, days after a report citing the Zonal Integrated Police Network data said at least 192 homeless people died between June 11 and 19 due to the severe heatwave in the national capital. The report was compiled by the non-profit Centre for Holistic Development (CHD).

The Zonal Integrated Police Network is an initiative launched by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in association with States to share real-time data about crime.

**According to a report, at least 192 homeless people died between June 11 and 19 in the city due to heatwave**

The NHRC move came after a complaint in this regard was filed by social activist Sunil Kumar Aledia. Referring to it, the notice said the lack of basic amenities, limited healthcare, air pollution, pre-existing health conditions among homeless people, and financial constraints are among the reasons behind such deaths.

"The Commission has perused the complaint. The contents are indeed shocking and if true, raise serious issue of violation of human rights," it said.

"The Commission takes cognisance of the complaint and directs to issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of NCT

of Delhi, calling for a detailed report in the matter within four weeks, including the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the government to deal with the subject," the notice read.

### 'Officers unresponsive'

A Delhi government official said Urban Development Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj had given verbal directions to Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) officials to make water dispensers and air coolers available in shelter homes.

"The same directions were reiterated in a note, where the DUSIB CEO was directed to depute three senior officers and submit a report to the Minister. However, despite several reminders, the three DUSIB officers did not submit any report to the Minister," he said, adding that a report over the officers' conduct will be sent to the NHRC and the MHA for action.

**Timings**  
DELHI

THURSDAY, JUN. 27  
RISE 05:26 SET 19:23  
RISE 23:39 SET 10:42

FRIDAY, JUN. 28  
RISE 05:27 SET 19:24  
RISE 00:00 SET 11:46

SATURDAY, JUN. 29  
RISE 05:27 SET 19:24  
RISE 00:11 SET 12:49

**Delhi Weather** max min  
Delhi City 39 32  
Safdarjang 39 32  
Palam 37 30

**Delhi Palam Today**  
41°C Morning will be slight warm. The day will be hot and uneasy. Chances of duststorm and thundershower with strong winds.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
40°C A hot and humid with uneasy afternoon to prevail. Spell of duststorm and thundershower with strong winds to occur.

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India's National Newspaper

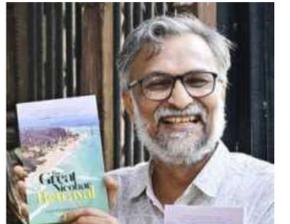
## 'NITI Aayog's tourism project in Nicobar islands a threat to ecology, indigenous people'

**Alisha Dutta**  
NEW DELHI

Speaking about his new book *The Great Nicobar Betrayal*, published by Frontline, author Pankaj Sekhsaria on Wednesday said that NITI Aayog's soon-to-be-launched tourism and real estate project is a "tremendously destructive" threat to the Great Nicobar island's ecology and indigenous population.

"The present government has gone to great lengths to deny certain stretches of the island previously marked as protected areas for leatherback turtles in order to enable transfer of land for commercial purposes," said Mr. Sekhsaria, who has spent close to two decades studying the contemporary issues in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. He was speaking at the book launch in Delhi while in conversation with chief guest Amita Bavaskar, a sociologist and professor of anthropology at Ashoka University.

Ms. Bavaskar added that the rich ecology of the island will experience "one of the worst kinds of colonisation" purely for an accumulation of profit by political parties and corporates. "Since economic



Pankaj Sekhsaria with his new book, published by Frontline. FILE PHOTO

liberalisation, all political parties have endorsed a model of development that equates the grandness of a project with development and the betterment of the native population. However, all these projects have turned out to be destructive," she said.

Mr. Sekhsaria said the book contains chapters by various journalists on the possibility of wide-ranging ecological damage, the consequences of large-scale construction on an island that falls in a zone of seismic activity, and the impact of a population boom. Urging readers to buy the book, he said the contribution of every reader is crucial in stopping the NITI Aayog project on the island.

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7<sup>th</sup> JULY | 5:00PM Onwards



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## IN BRIEF



## High turnout for Nagaland civic polls held after 20 years

A majority of more than 2.23 lakh voters in Nagaland exercised their franchise in the elections to the urban local bodies held on Wednesday after a 20-year gap. The highlight of the electoral exercise was the reservation of 33% of the seats or wards for women, a touchy issue that had stalled the civic polls for two decades. Officials of the State Election Commission said the polls passed off peacefully amid heightened security due to fears of violence. "The turnout was on the higher side. We are yet to get the data from all the centres," an official said.

## Uttarakhand BJP leader booked for rape and murder

The Uttarakhand police have booked a BJP Minority Morcha leader in connection with rape and murder of a 13-year-old girl in Haridwar. A nominated member of the Other Backward Classes Commission of BJP, Aditya Raj Saini, the main accused, has been expelled from the party after the incident came to light. According to the police, the girl had gone missing last Sunday. The family called on her mobile which was picked by the BJP leader who told the family that the girl was with him. The minor's body was found along the highway in the Bahadradab area on Tuesday. Victim's mother alleged that she was gangraped by the BJP leader and his accomplice.

## Action continues on illegal structures at Pune pubs, bars

The Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) continued its crackdown on unauthorised structures at pubs and bars in the city for the second day on Wednesday in the wake of alleged consumption of drugs at a local bar, officials said. As part of the action, the PMC demolished illegal structures of some prominent bars, including Eskobar and FML Resto Bar in Baner during the day, they said. Following timing-related violations at Liquid Leisure Lounge (L3) bar on Ferguson College Road and alleged drug use at the establishment, CM Eknath Shinde had instructed to run a bulldozer on the unauthorised structures linked to narcotic substance. PTI

## HC dismisses plea against imposing ban on headgear

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday dismissed a writ petition filed by nine women students from Mumbai's Chembur Trombay Education Society's N.G. Acharya and D.K. Marathe College of Art, Science and Commerce, challenging a directive issued by their college imposing a ban on all headgear, including *hijab*, *burqa*, stoles, caps and *naqaabs* in classroom. "For the aforesaid reasons, we are not inclined to interfere in the said decision," a Bench of Justice A.S. Chandurkar and Justice Rajesh Patil said. The students had approached the High Court on June 14, challenging the notice-cum-direction instructing them to follow the dress code.

## Local police received specific alert on main suspects before Kallakurichi tragedy struck

S. Vijay Kumar  
CHENNAI

Weeks before the spurious liquor tragedy in Tamil Nadu's Kallakurichi district, which has claimed 63 lives so far, the police had received a specific alert to act against habitual bootleggers: Joseph Raja, Chinnadurai, Govindaraj, alias Kanukutty, among others.

Explaining how the suspects were transporting and selling illicit arrack in the region, the Central Intelligence Unit (CIU) of the Enforcement Wing here had written to the local police to restrain them from their involvement in bootlegging, police sources told *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

Acknowledging the in-

telligence shared, the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Prohibition Enforcement Wing, Kallakurichi, replied that the persons mentioned in the report were not to be found in the specified addresses, and their movements would be closely watched. However, no further action was taken till the tragedy unfolded on June 18, the sources added.

The CIU is led by one Superintendent of Police and assisted by two DSPs, six Inspectors, and eight Sub-Inspectors, among others. The Additional Director-General of Police, Enforcement Wing, and a handful of senior police officers under him at the headquarters provide policy directions pertaining to the

Tamil Nadu Prohibition Act and share inputs with Prohibition Enforcement Wing (PEW) officers and personnel in all cities/districts who are under the administrative control of the respective Commissioner/Superintendent of Police (SP).

## Intelligence shared

A senior police officer said before the hooch tragedy, the CIU gathered inputs that specific persons were actively engaged in procuring, transporting, and selling illicit arrack, and informed the local police.

"After the hooch tragedy in May 2023 in Marakkannam and Chengalpattu that killed 23 people, inputs on specific activities of prime suspects Joseph

Raja, Chinnadurai, and Govindaraj were shared. Of them, Joseph Raja was detained under the Bootleggers Act in November 2021 and Chinnadurai under the same Act in February 2022. The main accused who sold methanol-laced illicit liquor, Govindaraj, was booked in multiple cases in the last two years," the officer said.

On the progress of the investigation in the case by the Crime Branch-CID, he said the agency has registered three cases and arrested 21 persons so far.

Asked whether there was a possibility of a sabotage in the incident considering the business rivalry in the region, the officer said the CB-CID was probing all angles.

Vikas Vasudeva  
CHANDIGARH

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Wednesday said its working committee reposed full faith in the "determined and committed leadership of party president Sukhbir Singh Badal".

The statement came a day after a section of leaders revolted against Mr. Badal following the party's rout in the Lok Sabha election in Punjab. In a meeting in Jalandhar, around 60 prominent party leaders passed a resolution, asking Mr. Badal to step down from his post.

The members of the working committee condemned attempts to tarnish the image of the party president. "Shiromani Akali Dal Working Committee reposes complete faith in the leadership of Sukhbir Singh Badal and urges detractors



Sukhbir Badal

not to play into the hands of the enemies of Panth [Sikh community]. The committee asks the president to lead the efforts to expose conspiracies against the party, Panth and Punjab," the party said on X.

In the Lok Sabha poll, the Akali Dal won only one out of the 13 seats in the State and lost its deposit in 10 seats, triggering internal bickering that has been brewing for a while. The loss has come as a grim reminder of previous crises following poll drubbings in

the 2017 and 2022 Assembly polls as well as in the 2019 Lok Sabha election and subsequent bypolls. After the SAD's dismal performances in 2017 and the 2022 Assembly elections, a section of senior leaders felt that during the Akali Dal's 10-year (2007-2017) rule in Punjab, the party had come under the sway of the "Badal family".

"To revive the Akali Dal, we need to take bold steps. On July 1, we will go to the Akal Takht, the highest Sikh temporal seat, and tender an apology for all the mistakes of the party. We will then start a campaign - 'SAD Bachao Lehar'. We plan to set up a committee involving intellectuals on Sikh issues and deliberate on the name of the new Akali Dal president," senior party leader and former MP Prem Singh Chandumajra told *The Hindu*.

Snehal Mutha  
MUMBAI

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) took possession of 120 acres of Mahalakshmi Race Course land on Wednesday, following the State government's approval for the takeover. The civic body plans to utilise the land to create a theme park and recreational facilities.

The lease of the Mahalakshmi Race Course, originally given to the Royal Western India Turf Club (RWITC) in 1914, expired in 2013 and has since not been renewed. The sea-facing 225 acres was originally donated by Sir Cusrow N. Wadia and modelled on the lines of the Melbourne Race Course.

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday granted interim bail for six weeks on medical grounds to Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad's close aide Amit Katyal, who was arrested in a money laundering case linked to the alleged land-for-job 'scam' in the Indian Railways.

Mr. Katyal was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on November 11, 2023 under various provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

He had urged the High Court that after undergoing bariatric surgery, he required further treatment and care, which was not available in Tihar Jail.

The court observed that dietary requirements of Mr. Katyal are such that

## T.N. House urges Centre to take up caste-based census

The Hindu Bureau  
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Assembly on Wednesday unanimously adopted a resolution, proposed by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, urging the Union government to conduct a caste-based census along with the general population census.

"This House considers a caste-based population census essential for formulating policies to ensure equal rights and equal opportunities in education, economy, and employment to every citizen of India. This House, therefore, unanimously urges the Union government to immediately commence the census work, which has been due since 2021, along with a caste-based population census this time," the resolution said.

PMK member R. Arul, who spoke at the debate, said he would not agree with the resolution because the State government itself could conduct a caste-based census. Law Minister S. Regupathy, however, replied that though the State could conduct a caste-based census under the Collection of Statistics Act, 2008, the law allows only collection of socio-economic data.

Earlier, Mr. Stalin recalled the letter he had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2023, demanding a caste-based census along with the general census. "The decisions and acts of a State government can get legal protection only if they are done on the basis of the data collected by the Centre. If the State governments collect data through surveys, they may be stayed by courts..." he reasoned.

Mr. Stalin said under Section 3 of the Census Act, only the Union government could conduct a census. He explained that though there was a perception that a State government could carry out a caste-based census under the Collection of Statistics Act, 2008, the law allows only collection of socio-economic data.



The Assembly unanimously adopted the resolution on census proposed by CM Stalin.

Earlier, Mr. Stalin recalled the letter he had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2023, demanding a caste-based census along with the general census. "The decisions and acts of a State government can get legal protection only if they are done on the basis of the data collected by the Centre. If the State governments collect data through surveys, they may be stayed by courts..." he reasoned.

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## SAD working committee reposes faith in Sukhbir Badal's leadership amid growing voices of rebellion

## Delhi HC grants bail to Lalu's close aide in land-for-job 'scam'

## Congress holds meeting on Assembly poll in Haryana

The Hindu Bureau  
CHANDIGARH

Ahead of the Haryana Assembly election due later this year, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday met its State unit leaders in New Delhi to discuss poll preparations.

Mr. Kharge said the Congress has performed exceedingly well in Haryana in the Lok Sabha election and added that the party will work towards gaining trust of all people across the State.

He alleged that the ruling BJP has betrayed the farmers and youth of Haryana, and development has come to a standstill during its 10-year rule. The misgovernance has resulted in the State straying from the path of development, Mr. Kharge added.

## After govt. nod, BMC takes over 120 acres of Mahalakshmi Race Course to build park



The race course, leased to the Royal Western India Turf Club in 1914, saw its lease expire in 2013 and was not renewed since. FILE PHOTO

With the State government's nod, 120 acres of the racecourse land got transferred to the municipality, while RWITC retains the remaining 91 acres for equestrian-related activities.

"The State government has approved the handov-

elopment, saying, "We have not received any information about this. No lease has been signed so far. Discussions have been going on with civic officials, but we haven't been informed about the takeover."

**Sena (UBT) flays move** Criticising the government's decision, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray posted on X, "It is disgraceful to see the BJP regime attempting to seize open spaces for their favorite builders and contractors."

In response, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde assured that "only a New York-like Central Park-themed garden will be developed on the land".

### Court rejects bail petition of Prajwal Revanna

The Hindu Bureau  
BENGALURU

A special court here rejected the bail petition of former Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna on Wednesday.

Mr. Prajwal, who was arrested in four sexual abuse cases, had moved the Special Court of Magistrate for criminal cases against former and present MPs and MLAs for bail in the first case.

He was initially booked for sexual harassment in the case registered on April 27, hours after he fled to Germany. His father H.D. Revanna, JD(S) leader and former Minister, was also an accused in the case that was registered based on a complaint by their former domestic help. Mr. Revanna was also booked for sexual harassment and was granted bail in the case.

Mr. Prajwal is now in the custody of the SIT, which is probing his alleged crimes.

# Heavy rain lashes Kerala, seawater enters houses in many parts of State

Reinvigorated monsoon hits normal life in State with several houses partially destroyed and trees uprooted; mother and child injured in collapse of roof in Alappuzha; situation under control but heavy rain to continue for 48 hours, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Reinvigorated monsoon lashed the State on Wednesday with parts of north and central Kerala experiencing heavy rain, bringing life to a halt in many places.

A 15-year-old youth went missing in Kuthirappuzha, near Chokkad, in Malappuram.

A mother and child sustained injuries when the roof of their house collapsed in the heavy rain near Amabalappuzha in Alappuzha.

Scores of houses were partially destroyed in many places across the State due to mudslides, uprooted trees, and broken branches falling on houses, as per initial reports. The shutters of the Poringalkuthu, Kallarkutty, Pambala and Ma-



Caught in downpour: Commuters during heavy rain in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday. The rain, triggered by an offshore trough, also caused rough seas in many places in Kerala. PTI

lankara dams were opened following heavy rain in the catchment areas.

The heavy rain, triggered by an offshore trough, also caused rough seas in many places, like

Chavakkad in Thiruvananthapuram, Ponnani in Malappuram, and Kannamali in Ernakulam.

A makeshift causeway constructed as part of a bridge work across the Bharathapuzha was dam-

aged in the heavy rain near Alathur in Palakkad.

Seawater entered the houses along the coast at Kannamali and Njarakkal in Ernakulam, Veliancode and Palapetti in Ponnani,

parts of Punnappra in Alappuzha, and Kadappuram and Anjagadi near Chavakkad in Thrissur. A relief camp was opened at Kanayannur in Ernakulam accommodating 20 people from seven families.

However, the situation is under control, said State Revenue Minister K. Rajan. Speaking to the media, the Minister said nine teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) had already been deployed in various parts of the State.

Heavy rain is likely to continue for the next 48 hours, the Minister added.

The IMD has issued an orange alert warning of very heavy rainfall in Wayanad and Kannur and a yellow alert for seven districts from Ernakulam to Kasargod, forecasting heavy rain in the range of 64.5 mm to 115.6 mm in 24 hours.

# Elections to 4 Council seats in Maharashtra witness poor turnout



Voters waiting to cast their votes during the election to Konkani Graduates constituency of the Maharashtra Legislative Council, in Thane on Wednesday. PTI

The Hindu Bureau  
MUMBAI

Voting for the biennial elections to four Maharashtra Legislative Council seats — Mumbai Graduates, Konkani Graduates, Mumbai Teachers and Nashik Teachers — was held on Wednesday with just over half of the registered 4.29 lakh voters casting their ballot.

Results for the four seats will be announced on July 1. Maharashtra has 78 seats in the Legislative Council and elections for another 11 seats is scheduled for July 27 when the six-year term of the members expires.

Post Lok Sabha election results in Maharashtra, these two MLC elections will set the tone for the upcoming Assembly election due to be held later this year. The Assembly term ends in October.

Unlike the Lok Sabha election, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray has not appealed to his voters to con-

tinue its support to the Mahayuti coalition for the four MLC seats.

Nashik Teachers seat witnessed the highest turnout among all the four seats at just over 93%.

MNS had fielded filmmaker Abhijit Panse from the Konkani Graduates constituency, but withdrew later to set up a direct contest between BJP's sitting MLC Niranjan Davhare and Congress nominee Ramesh Keer. The voter turnout here was 63%.

"There is no specific order from Raj Thackeray to vote for any particular candidate or party. The eligible voters can cast their vote as per their own choice," MNS general secretary Sandeep Deshpande said while the polling was under way.

In the Mumbai Graduates constituency, Shiv Sena (UBT)'s sitting MLC Anil Parab is contesting against BJP's Kiran Shelar.

There are six more candidates in the fray from this seat which recorded 56% voting.

# MPs seek review of Thiruvananthapuram airport tariff hike

Jagriti Chandra  
NEW DELHI

The Centre must review the "astronomical" tariff hike at Thiruvananthapuram airport as these could hamper the promise of affordable air travel for people of Kerala and impact the economic growth of the State, two Rajya Sabha members from the Left parties in the State have said.

Communist Party of India (Marxist) MP John Brittas and Communist Party of India leader Binoy Viswam have written to the Minister for Civil Aviation K. Rammoan Naidu after the airport tariff regulator issued its latest tariff order for Thiruvananthapuram airport owned by Adani Enterprises Ltd., which will come into effect from July 1.

Mr. Brittas has sought a

CPI(M) RS member John Brittas, CPI's Binoy Viswam write to the Minister of Civil Aviation

review on the ground that the increase has raised apprehensions among passengers and airlines and the government must "safeguard" their interests and protect them from

"disproportionate financial strain". "The economic repercussions, especially in a post-pandemic recovery phase, could be detrimental to both the aviation sector and the broader economy of the State," he said.

Incessant privatisation of airports and allied services has only made air travel costlier, Mr. Viswam said in his letter. "The entry of Adani group in the ci-

vil aviation sector was adding difficulties and financial burdens on passengers...and the government decision should be in favour of the ordinary people of Kerala and not one benefiting the Adani group," he added.

The Hindu on June 26 reported on a recent tariff order issued by the Airport Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA), which said the user develop-

ment fee has been raised by 50% from ₹506 to ₹770 for domestic travellers flying out of the airport until March 31, 2025. Thereafter, it will be raised to ₹840 for the financial year 2025-26 and ₹910 for the financial year 2026-27. The landing charges for aircraft have been raised three-fold for the first year from ₹309 to ₹890 a tonne of aircraft weight. Parking charges have also been increased.

# India's largest leopard safari opens at Bannerghatta

The Hindu Bureau  
BENGALURU

South India's first and the country's largest leopard safari was inaugurated by Karnataka Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre on Wednesday at the Bannerghatta Biological Park.

As per Central Zoo Authority guidelines for safaris, an area of 20 hectares has been demarcated and fenced for the safari. Eight leopards have been released for the safari in the open forest area.

According to park officials, Bannerghatta is home to a good population of free ranging leopards (Panthera pardus), and highlighting these predators is vital.

The facility has been created at a cost of ₹4.5 crore. The leopard safari area is made up of undulating terrain with natural rocky outcrops and semi-deciduous forest. This whole area is covered with a vertical chain-link mesh which is 4.5 metres high, and MS sheets have been placed at a 30 degree inclined angle of 1.5 metres.

The officials added that owing to increasing human-animal conflict in recent times, the park receives many leopard cubs rescued across the Karnataka. "These cubs will be raised and shifted to the leopard safari to help visitors learn about these big cats, the reasons for the growing human-animal conflicts, and the ways to protect the animals," said the officials.

The officials added that four acres within the safari area have been separated, using a solar fence, to help the animals accli-



In focus: A leopard clicked during the inaugural safari ride at Bannerghatta in Bengaluru on Wednesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

matise to their new environment.

During his visit to the park, Mr. Khandre also inaugurated a number of initiatives, which included a renovated elephant weaning centre, a babycare room at the butterfly park, a children's play area, an entrance arch, and he also flagged off electric buggies and zoo installations.

The Minister also named a male elephant calf Swaraj and set free six hamadryas baboons for public display.

The park officials said that during this financial year new naturalistic enclosures have been proposed for emus and rheas at a cost of ₹50 lakh.

A hunting cheetah enclosure at an estimated cost of ₹1.5 crore; a hamadrya and olive baboon enclosure at ₹1.5 crore, and an Indian grey wolf enclosure at ₹1.5 crore have also been proposed. Skywalks are also being developed to establish connectivity between the zoo and the butterfly park, they added.

# Senior citizen from Kerala dies as berth above him in train coach falls

Press Trust of India  
HYDERABAD

A 60-year-old man from Kerala died on June 24 while undergoing treatment at a hospital in Hyderabad for injuries he sustained after the upper berth in a train coach in which he was travelling fell on him due to improper chaining by

another passenger, the Government Railway Police said on Wednesday.

The incident happened on June 16 when Ali Khan C.K. from Kerala was travelling to Agra along with his friend on the lower berth in the sleeper coach of the Ernakulam-Hazrat Nizamuddin Millennium Superfast Express.

**भारतीय सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान कोट्टायम**  
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY KOTTAYAM  
(An Institution under Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, governed by an Act of Parliament)  
Regd. Office: Karoor, Valavoor (P.O), Palla, Kottayam (Dist.), Kerala - 686635, India.  
Tel: 0422-292101 (Office), 292115 (Academics), 292110 (Security), 292102 (Accounts)  
Email: registrar@iiitkottayam.ac.in, Website: www.iiitkottayam.ac.in

Advt.No.IITK/01/12/2024/1177 Date: June 25, 2024

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR AD-HOC FACULTY POSITIONS**

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Interested candidates may apply online through <https://adhocrecruit.iiitkottayam.ac.in/> on or before **5.00 pm on 08.07.2024**.  
**The online interview is scheduled on 10.07.2024 from 10.00 AM onwards.**

REGISTRAR

**HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
e-mail ee-rob-hp@nic.in E-Procurement Notice  
**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

The Executive Engineer HPPWD Rohru Distt Shimla H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P invites item rate, bids, in electronic tendering system, in 2 cover system for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs)	Starting Date for downloading BID	Earnest money	Deadline for submission of bid
1.	Balance work from Basha Antapu Saraidhar road km 0/00 to 12/00 (Portion km 0/00 to 7/00) (SH- C/o R/wall & B/wall, Cross drainage works, P/L Kharianja stone soling, M/T works, road side V-shape drain, in Km 0/00 to 7/00) UNDER NABARD RIDF-XXIV	35056277/-	29.06.2024	701126/-	05.07.2024

The Bidders are advised to note other details for tenders and letter No.PWD(B)A(3) /1/2020 dated 12.01.2023 issued by secretary (PW) to the Govt. of himachal Pradesh Public Works Department from the department website [www.hpptenders.gov.in](http://www.hpptenders.gov.in), and any corrigendum will be uploaded on the website only.

Executive Engineer  
HP / 0392/24-25 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK HPPWD Division Rohru, Distt Shimla HP

**GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA**  
Maharashtra Medical Goods Procurement Authority, Mumbai  
e-mail maha.mmgsa2023@gmail.com  
MMGPA, 1st Floor, Arogya Bhavan, St. Georges Hospital Compound, MUMBAI - 400 001.

**TENDER NOTICE**  
Date: 25.06.2024

Chief Executive Officer, Maharashtra Medical Goods Procurement Authority, Mumbai invites tender in two Envelope system from the eligible bidders for the following items for purchase of medicines.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of Item(s)	Prebid Meeting	Period of sale, download & submission of bid	Bid Opening
1	E-113	Digital Radiography Machine with Turnkey	Dt.02.07.2024 At 3.00 PM	Dt. 25-06-2024 at 05.30 PM to Dt. 16-07-2024 Upto 02.00 PM.	Dt. 18-07-2024 at 02:00 PM.

1. For detailed information, the interested bidders may visit the **website https://mahatenders.gov.in.**  
2. The Chief Executive Officer reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantity to be purchased and also reserves the right to cancel all the tenders without giving any reason to.

For e-tendering help/ information, please contact.  
Website:- <https://mahatenders.gov.in> Sd/-  
Contact No. 022-22621886/022-22621973 Chief Executive Officer,  
Email maha.mmgsa2023@gmail.com Maharashtra Medical Goods Procurement Authority, Mumbai

DGIPR/2024-2025/466

**झारखण्ड राज्य ग्रामीण पथ विकास प्राधिकरण (JSRRDA)**  
एफ०एफ०पी० भवन, तृतीय तल्ला, धुर्वा, राँची -834004, झारखण्ड

**अति अल्पकालीन ई-पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (2<sup>nd</sup> Call)**  
PR No.- 318081 Dated : 06.02.2024

अति अल्पकालीन ई-पुनर्निविदा संख्या:- 21 /2024-25 दिनांक :- 26.06.2024

मुख्य अभियंता, जे०एस०आर०आर०डी०ए०, राँची द्वारा निम्नविषय के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र० सं०	आई०डी०फ़िकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	प्रमाण्ड का नाम	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि		कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
				अंक में (लाख में)	अक्षर में (रुपये में)	
1	JH-M-RAN-07/2023-24	राजु	1. एन०एच०-75 नगड़ी सुन्दर नगर भागा साहंर तक पथ का सुदुद्रीकरण कार्य (लं० - 5.350 कि०मी०) 2. एन०एच०-23 पी०अ०एच०डी० रोड से अगडू आहंर भागा अक्षरों तक पथ का सुदुद्रीकरण कार्य। (लं० - 2.350 कि०मी०) 3. छोटकाटोली से एन०एच०-75 मुरगू तक पथ का सुदुद्रीकरण कार्य। (लं० - 2.030 कि०मी०) 4. बाजपुर किराही से चेली मोड तक पथ का सुदुद्रीकरण कार्य (लं० - 1,500 कि०मी०) 5. भौडा से विपरा गडू भागा पतराटोली पंचकीह तक पथ का सुदुद्रीकरण कार्य (लं० - 9.000कि०मी०) 6. दलाटोली रिम रोड से सिमलिया नगराटोली भागा आइ०डी०एफ०पी०आइ० सुनिर्माणी तक पथ का सुदुद्रीकरण कार्य (लं० - 2.860 कि०मी०)	1112.871	ग्यारह करोड़ बारह लाख सतासी हजार एक सौ रु० मात्र	15 महीना

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि-02.07.2024  
3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय- 11.07.2024 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।  
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय-12.07.2024 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे।  
5. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता- मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, जे०एस०आर०आर०डी०ए०, राँची, एफ०एफ०पी० भवन, तृतीय तल्ला, धुर्वा, राँची -834004, झारखण्ड।  
6. ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं०- विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट [jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in) में देखा जा सकता है। अति अल्पकालीन ई-पुनर्निविदा संख्या:- 21/2024-25 दिनांक :- 26.06.2024

PR 327779 (Rural Work Department) 24-25 (D)

**झारखण्ड राज्य ग्रामीण पथ विकास प्राधिकरण (JSRRDA)**  
एफ०एफ०पी० भवन, तृतीय तल्ला, धुर्वा, राँची -834004, झारखण्ड

**अल्पकालीन ई-पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (6<sup>th</sup> Call)**  
PR No. 314104 Dated 22.12.2023

अल्पकालीन ई-पुनर्निविदा संख्या:- 12/2024-25 दिनांक :- 25.06.24

मुख्य अभियंता, जे०एस०आर०आर०डी०ए०, राँची द्वारा निम्नविषय के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र० सं०	आई०डी०फ़िकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	प्रमाण्ड का नाम	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि		कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
				अंक में (लाख में)	अक्षर में (रुपये में)	
1	JH-M-SRK-08 /2023-24	खरसावाँ	1. तेलगजुडी से महादेवबडा तक पथ का सुदुद्रीकरण कार्य। (लं०-1,700 कि०मी०) 2. पोटाबेडा चौक से गितिलता चौक तक पथ का सुदुद्रीकरण कार्य। (लं०-1,500 कि०मी०) 3. पदमपुर चौक से बड़ासाईं होते हुए कभिरान तक पथ का सुदुद्रीकरण कार्य। (लं०-2,150 कि०मी०) 4. बड़ाबमो आरई०ओ पथ से कोटोलसाईं तक पथ का सुदुद्रीकरण कार्य। (लं०-3,200 कि०मी०) 5. गोपालपुर पकी सड़क से उधुडिया गुडसाईं होते हुए राजाबासा तक पथ का सुदुद्रीकरण कार्य। (लं०-4,300 कि०मी०) 6. कोवा से जोलतापुर तक पथ का सुदुद्रीकरण कार्य। (लं०-2,800 कि०मी०) 7. खामरडीह से कुशापुर भागा कुवासिनी तक पथ का सुदुद्रीकरण कार्य। (लं०- 3,985 कि०मी०) 8. लेसादिकी तीन मोड चौक से नदी तक पथ का सुदुद्रीकरण कार्य। (लं०- 1,200 कि०मी०)	1326.398	तेरह करोड़ छब्बीस लाख उनचासी स हजार आठ सौ रु० मात्र	15 महीना
2	JH-M-SRK-11 /2023-24	खरसावाँ	1. टंकोडीह से झुंझकी भागा कटाडीह तक पथ का सुदुद्रीकरण कार्य। (लं०-6,700 कि०मी०) 2. घालकीडीह से खेजुरदा भागा सिनुडीह प्रधानडीह तक पथ का सुदुद्रीकरण कार्य। (लं०-3,800 कि०मी०) 3. बेदिना से उदलखाम भागा कियामचलम देवली पोटाक तक पथ का सुदुद्रीकरण कार्य। (लं०-11,050 कि०मी०)	1387.075	तेरह करोड़ सतासी लाख सात हजार पाँच सौ रु० मात्र	15 महीना

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि-02.07.2024  
3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय- 11.07.2024 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।  
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय-12.07.2024 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे।  
5. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता- मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, जे०एस०आर०आर०डी०ए०, राँची, एफ०एफ०पी० भवन, तृतीय तल्ला, धुर्वा, राँची -834004, झारखण्ड।  
6. ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं०- विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट [jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in) में देखा जा सकता है। अति अल्पकालीन ई-पुनर्निविदा संख्या:- 12/2024-25 दिनांक :- 25.06.24

PR 327701 Rural Work Department(24-25).D



## Lip service

Ruling party cannot critique Emergency while promoting authoritarianism

The Emergency, imposed on June 25, 1975 by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, and which lasted 21 months till March 21, 1977, remains a blot on the history of democratic India. The rule by decree, the suspension of civil liberties and free speech, the arbitrariness of government actions, and the indiscriminate arrests of dissenters and Opposition figures using draconian preventive detention laws, among other measures, continue to haunt Indians who experienced it in all its vicious forms. The traumatic episode is a reminder of the responsibility of democratic institutions in always safeguarding the freedoms and rights of citizens. When freshly elected and returning Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla read out a resolution, on Wednesday, “condemning the imposition of Emergency” and termed it as an attack on the Constitution, one could have considered this as a note of caution about the perils of suspending civil liberties, and as a pledge that this would never be allowed to happen again. But seen in the light of Mr. Birla's actions, when, as Speaker in the 17th Lok Sabha, he indiscriminately used his powers to suspend several Opposition MPs, and the executive's use of draconian laws to stifle dissent from civil society, the polity and the media, the resolution seems not much more than lip service against the Emergency. It seems more a political ploy to target the Congress party. Indeed, the ruling BJP in the recent past resorted to similar excesses without even the fig leaf of a declaration of Emergency.

If the government of the day is truly committed to undo the damages of the Emergency and not repeat its grave errors, it would have not taken recourse to the same measures in the recent past, seen in the attack on the free press, the use of enforcement and investigative agencies to selectively target Opposition representatives, and draconian preventive detention laws to keep political prisoners, activists and journalists in jail without trial, including by the foisting of charges against them. The BJP's authoritarian actions are one reason why its electoral representation in the 18th Lok Sabha has been trimmed to below the majority mark. The 2024 general election verdict might not have been a decisive rejection of the ruling party – as it was in 1977 – but it is no less significant as it empowers those in responsible positions in Indian democratic institutions to resist authoritarianism. A more thoroughgoing Opposition in Parliament that questions ruling party high-handedness; a vigilant judiciary that ensures justice to the many unjustly held dissidents; and a civil society that pushes for the withdrawal of draconian preventive detention laws and a ruling party that coheres with these – only such substantive steps will enable India to decisively move on from the dark period of the Emergency.

## Ending defections

Engineering defections goes against the spirit of the people's mandate

With the defection of MLA M. Sanjay Kumar, who represents the Jagtial constituency in Telangana, from the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) to the ruling Congress, the strength of the principal Opposition has come down from 39 to 33 in the State Assembly. True, such defections have plagued India, and several States, including Telangana, since its inception in 2014, have seen mass defections. Despite winning 63 of the 119 Assembly seats, Telangana's first Chief Minister, the BRS's K. Chandrashekhara Rao, effected a series of defections across the political opposition, until he was able to garner a brute majority of 90 MLAs and the dissolution of the State unit of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) by the end of his first term in office in 2018. Such defections, much like the current case, violated the 10th Schedule of India's 1985 Anti Defection Law, which was amended in 2003 to provide an exception to disqualifications if the defectors formed two-thirds of a party and merged with another party. This rule and the absolute power vested with the Speaker of the Assembly and the Chair of the Council to decide on members' disqualifications, without setting any time limit to do so, have often rendered the law ineffective. The Telangana Assembly Speaker is the ruling party's Vikarabad MLA, Gaddam Prasad Kumar. While he must serve in the interest of fostering principled democratic practices, seldom have Speakers, in the States or at the Centre, risen above their party's diktats.

Mr. Kumar's defection has particularly caused some disquiet in the Congress, as it has slighted T. Jeevan Reddy, the candidate who lost the Jagtial Assembly seat. Mr. Reddy now serves as a Congress MLC. The Telangana Chief Minister, A. Revanth Reddy, has been accused of attempting defections in the past, the most infamous being his attempt in 2015 – when he was a TDP member – to bribe a nominated member of the House, Elvis Stephenson, to vote in favour of the TDP. These defections go against the spirit of participatory democracy, where the existence of a strong Opposition enhances governance and acts as a check on unilateral decisions taken by the ruling government. The experience of the past 10 years, both in New Delhi and in Hyderabad, has made apparent the dangers of parties with brute majorities. With a stronger Opposition at the Centre in 2024, perhaps it is time to seek more amendments to the anti-defection law. Prescribing a timeline for Speakers and Chairpersons to decide on disqualifications might not be enough; the power must be vested with an independent Election Commission.

# Opposition's larger demography, LoP's big responsibility

The 2024 general election is historic in as much as it resulted in the numerically largest Opposition in the Lok Sabha. It is perhaps the largest in the history of the House. With the Opposition securing over 234 seats, one also saw the debate on the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) come alive. In the 16th and 17th Lok Sabhas, there was no LoP because under a direction of the Speaker issued in the 1950s, in order to get recognition as a party in the House, it should have a minimum of 10% members in that House (Direction 121).

This direction was issued for the recognition and categorisation of parliamentary parties for the sake of providing them certain facilities in Parliament. But this direction does not deal with the recognition of the LoP. Later, Parliament enacted the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977, which for the first time, defined the term Leader of the Opposition as “the Leader in that House of the party in opposition to the Government having the greatest numerical strength and recognised as such by the Chairman of the Council of States or the Speaker of the House of the People, as the case may be”.

The definition shows that in order to recognise a person as LoP, there are two conditions that need to be fulfilled. First, the party should be numerically the biggest one in opposition to the government. Second, that party should be recognised by the Speaker as a party. As mentioned earlier, the Speaker can recognise a party as such only if it has 10% of the strength of the House. In other words, only a party which has 10% of the strength of the House can put forth its claim to the post of LoP. Under the direction cited, a party which has less than 10% members shall be categorised as a group which cannot claim the post of LoP. Thus, the Congress parliamentary party which had only 52 members, in 2019, in the Lok Sabha, two less than 54 which is the threshold, could not get this post.

However the enactment of the 10th Schedule has, in a way, rendered the categorisation of parties into parties and groups by the Speaker/Chairman (Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha) irrelevant. Under this schedule, all political parties, irrespective of the number of Members that they have in the Houses, are “parties”. The term ‘group’ is not recognised by the Schedule. So, in tune with the Schedule, necessary changes in the Leaders of Opposition Act should have been made to enable the Speaker to recognise the leader of the largest Opposition party in the House, irrespective of whether it has 10% Members or not. Anyway, the leader of the Congress party is now the Leader of the Opposition in the 18th Lok Sabha.

### In the Westminster system

The post of Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha has great political significance. In the British parliamentary tradition, he is called the Prime Minister-in-waiting as he is the one who the



**P.D.T. Achary**

former Secretary General, Lok Sabha

king turns to when the incumbent government falls, to form an alternative government. He, therefore, forms a shadow cabinet of his colleagues in his party. It is an interesting feature of the Westminster system of government.

The shadow cabinet is formed under the leadership of the leader of opposition who will be called the shadow prime minister. According to this tradition, the shadow cabinet scrutinises the policies and actions of the government and offers alternative policy. It is called the shadow cabinet because its members mirror the positions of the individual member of the real cabinet. As members of the shadow cabinet, these Opposition members familiarise themselves fully with the operations of the government. They can seek all relevant information about the entire gamut of the activities of the government. Erskine May, an international authority on parliamentary system says, “The Leader of the Opposition and some of the Leader's principal colleagues in both Houses form a group, known as ‘the Shadow Cabinet’, each member of which is given a particular range of activities on which it is their task to direct criticism of the Government's policy and administration and to outline alternative policies...”

Although we have adopted the Westminster system, the practice of forming a shadow cabinet does not exist in Parliament or State legislatures. The post of the Leader of the Opposition in the Indian Parliament has been a statutory position since 1977. However, this statute does not define the functions of the Leader of the Opposition. Traditionally, he will be a very senior member of the principal Opposition in the House who commands great respect and has wider acceptability among the parties in the Opposition.

### With change in 2024, the challenges

Since the Opposition in the Indian Parliament is not monolithic and is composed of multiple parties with divergent ideologies and programmes, the role of the Leader of the Opposition is full of challenges. The biggest problem he faces is that he has no power. It is easy for a party in power to attract other parties and keep the alliance together through a power-sharing arrangement. The opposition to the policies and programmes of the government is a major factor which keeps them together. In certain situations, the hope of bringing down the government acts as a unifying factor. In fact, the traditional role of the Opposition is to “oppose the government, to criticize it and to seek to replace it”.

In the past 10 years, the Lok Sabha has seen a rather lean Opposition which could not mount any serious challenge to the government. A large majority enjoyed by the ruling party and its intimidatory postures overawed the Opposition which often felt helpless. But the 2024 general election has brought about a sea change in the political atmosphere and the demography of the

The Leader of the Opposition in the 18th Lok Sabha must take his cue from the verdict of the 2024 general election – to restore normalcy in Parliament and highlight the government's failures

# Read the rocks to improve India's geological literacy

With landscapes that range from the world's greatest peaks to low-lying coastal plains, India showcases a diverse morphology that has evolved over billions of years. In several places, we find a variety of rocks and minerals and distinctive fossil assemblages. These geological features and landscapes tell us the spectacular ‘origin’ stories derived not from mythology but from scientific interpretations. India's tumultuous geological past is recorded in its rocks and terrains and should be considered as our non-cultural heritage. India offers many such examples. Geo-heritage sites are educational spaces where people acquire much needed geological literacy, especially when India's collective regard for this legacy is abysmal.

### Scant traction in India

Geological conservation seeks to ensure the survival of the best representative examples of India's geological features and events so that present and future generations can appreciate more of the world's best natural laboratories. Despite international progress in this field, geo-conservation has not found much traction in India. Many fossil-bearing sites have been destroyed in the name of development and real estate growth. Destructive stone mining activities also add to this misery. The magnitude of these activities is evident from the fact that the area covered under stone-mining operations exceeds more than 10% of the total area of India.

These geological features tell us how the land we are so familiar with came to be, and are part of an evolutionary history that has made Indian terrane what it is today. Ironically, on the one hand, we reach out to Mars in search of evidence for early life but on the other, we destroy such proof that is so precious and right in our backyard. How many of us know about the little-known Dhalu meteoritic impact crater in Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh? This between 1.5 billion to 2.5 billion-year-old crater is evidence of a celestial collision when life must have begun. The more famous Lonar crater in Buldhana



**C.P. Rajendran**

an adjunct professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru and the Director of the Consortium for Sustainable Development, Connecticut, U.S.

district of Maharashtra was earlier dated to be about 50,000 years old, and a recent study suggests its origin around 5,76,000 years ago.

The importance of the shared geological heritage of our planet was first recognised in 1991 at a UNESCO-sponsored event, ‘First International Symposium on the Conservation of our Geological Heritage’. The delegates assembled in Digne, France, endorsed the concept of a shared legacy: “Man and the Earth share a common heritage, of which we and our governments are but the custodians”. This declaration foresaw the establishment of geo-parks as sites that commemorate unique geological features and landscapes within their assigned territories; and as spaces that educate the public on geological importance.

Geo-heritage sites in many countries such as Canada, China, Spain, the United States and the United Kingdom have been developed as national parks. UNESCO has also prepared guidelines for the development of geo-parks. Many countries also have the necessary legislation to build, protect and designate geo-parks. Europe celebrates its geological heritage across 73 zones. Japan offers another good lesson in such conservation. Today, there are 169 Global Geoparks across 44 countries. Thailand and Vietnam have also implemented laws to conserve their geological and natural heritage. Though a signatory, India has no such legislation or policy for geo-heritage conservation.

This situation calls for sustainable conservation approaches, such as those we have been able to formulate to protect biodiversity. The Biological Diversity Act was implemented in 2002 and there are now 18 notified biosphere reserves in India. Although the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has notified 34 geological monuments, it lacks the regulatory powers to implement the preservation measures. A recent development in the case of a cliff in Varkala in Thiruvananthapuram district, Kerala, is a typical example. This cliff which overlooks the Arabian Sea is made up of rocks deposited millions of years ago and has been declared by the GSI as a

geological heritage site. To save some unauthorised structures, the district administration recently demolished a part of this cliff citing landslide hazards. Many such features around the country face such survival threats.

House. It is perhaps for the first time that the Lok Sabha has such a huge number in the Opposition. With over 234 Members in the Opposition benches, the House is almost evenly divided. This has, no doubt, boosted the morale of the Opposition which, to a great extent, can influence the running of the House. It would be reflected in the admission of questions, the content of the answers, debate on Bills, general debates such as the debate on the motion of thanks, urgent matters of public interest, admission of adjournment motions, and reference of Bills to the committees for detailed scrutiny, to name a few.

### The past has lessons

In India too, this healthy tradition can be followed, which will certainly strengthen democracy. Jawaharlal Nehru had created certain traditions such as being present in the House during Question Hour on most of the dates and supplementing the replies given by Ministers whenever he felt that such replies were inadequate. Nehru is said to have pleaded with the Speaker to grant more time to the leaders of the Opposition and he would invariably be present in the House to listen to them. He used to say that it is only from the Opposition members that he would come to know about the real situation in the country, and not from his own party members who would only praise him and not speak the truth. The Indian Parliament evolved in its early stages in such an environment. There is much in the past which can be learned and emulated by the new generation of parliamentarians. Repudiation of the past will take us nowhere. Intolerance towards dissent was never a part of that tradition. The people of India have given the political class a great opportunity to restore normalcy in Parliament. The main function of the Leader of the Opposition is to constantly remind the ruling Benches of the need to normalise Parliament.

Half-hearted measures

The Government of India has attempted to address these concerns on some occasions. In 2009, there was a half-hearted attempt to constitute a National Commission for Heritage Sites through a Bill introduced in the Rajya Sabha. Though it was eventually referred to the Standing Committee, the government backtracked on it for some unstated reasons and the Bill was withdrawn. The Bill was meant to constitute a national commission to implement the stipulations of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention 1972 and to create a national roster of heritage sites. More recently, in 2022, the Ministry of Mines has prepared a draft Bill for preservation and maintenance, but no further progress on this has been heard. As the annexure to the Draft Geoheritage Sites and Geo-relics (Preservation and Maintenance) Bill, 2022 says, “In sharp contrast to the well laid out protection and conservation measures addressed with relevant legislation on archaeological and historical monuments and cultural heritage sites, India does not have any specific and specialized policy or law to conserve and preserve the geoheritage sites and geo-relics for future generations.”

Specifically, India needs the following at the earliest: first, create an inventory of all prospective geo-sites in the country (in addition to the 34 sites identified by the GSI); second, frame geo-conservation legislation for the country along the lines of the Biological Diversity Act 2002; and third, have a ‘National Geo-Conservation Authority’ along the lines of the National Biodiversity Authority, with independent observers, while ensuring that the establishment will not lead to red tape and encroach on the autonomy of researchers and academically-inclined private collectors.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The Speaker

The words by the top leader in the country, of there to be consultations and consensus in running the government, seem to have gone up in thin air. In the

17th Lok Sabha, the present Speaker was seen to be acting in a partisan manner. Given his past conduct in the august House, where the Opposition was hardly given a chance to air its

views, it remains to be seen how Parliament will run in the days ahead. It is utopian to expect a leopard to change its spots.

**Tharcus S. Fernando,**  
Chennai

### Governor's view

One is in agreement with the sentiment expressed by the Tamil Nadu Governor, R.N. Ravi — “We must not be in denial over drug abuse, illicit liquor in T.N.”

(Chennai, Inside pages, June 26).  
The ruling party in the State needs to act. The Chief Minister must issue a comprehensive statement on the subject without any

delay. The State elections are not far away and this is an issue that can be used as a plank by the Opposition to reap political dividends.  
**Mani Natarajan,**  
Chennai

# It's time for India to reclaim its voice on Tibet

The timing of the visit by a delegation of U.S. lawmakers to Dharamshala made it clear what it would be about. The delegation arrived just days after the passage of the 'Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Dispute Act' in both Houses of U.S. Congress, which now awaits U.S. President Joe Biden's signature. Both Democrat and Republican co-authors of the Bill were part of the delegation, invited by the Central Tibetan Administration that manages affairs of the Tibetan diaspora-in-exile worldwide, for a special facilitation. Given the circumstances, New Delhi would have been more than aware of the content of the speeches they would make, slamming China for its repression of the Tibetan people, calling for talks between the Dalai Lama's representatives and Beijing that were suspended in 2010 to be restarted, and for a Free Tibet. "This bill is a message to the Chinese government that we have clarity in our thinking on this issue, for the freedom of Tibet," said former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. "[The Dalai Lama's] legacy will live forever, but you, the President of China, will be gone, and no one will give you credit for anything."



Suhasini Haidar

to allow American politicians to take centre stage amongst the Tibetan refugee population in India in order to promote a U.S. law and pitch U.S. policy is not a show of strength, but could convey weakness. It also denotes the danger of letting a carefully calibrated foreign policy narrative on Tibet spin out of its control.

To begin with, India has not joined the U.S. in publicly articulating its concerns on the treatment of Tibetans simply because its actions since 1959, of offering the Dalai Lama refuge and allowing Tibetan refugees to settle in India, speak much louder. To this day, people from Tibet trek across the Himalayas to seek refuge in India. Often, parents send just their children over, fearing for their future as Tibetan curriculum gets more standardised to the mainland's system, rigorously enforced by the Chinese Communist Party.

Given India's own sensitivities on sovereignty and territorial integrity, New Delhi has worked out its own formulation on the Tibet issue and ties with China. It has "recognised" the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) as part of the territory of the People's Republic of China since 1954. Since 2010, however, given China's refusal to respect India's territorial integrity, its renaming of places in Arunachal Pradesh, and its issuance of stapled visas to residents of Jammu and Kashmir, India stopped articulating a 'One China' policy or making references to Tibet in official statements. It contends that the Dalai Lama is a revered spiritual leader, despite China's protests that he is a "separatist" or "splittist".

India also does not officially recognise the Tibetan Government in Exile or Parliament in Exile as more than organising mechanisms for the Tibetan people based here and abroad. Even though Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited the Tibetan Sikyong (elected leader) to his swearing-in ceremony in 2014, he did not do so in 2019 or this month. In 2018, a government circular reminded

officials of India's policy, asking them not to attend events commemorating the 60th year since the Dalai Lama's flight to India. New Delhi has become more sensitive on such issues, as is evident from its objections to U.S. Ambassadors visiting Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, or to the space given for political or extremist Khalistani separatist rallies and referendums in the U.S., U.K., Canada, and Australia.

### Moving out of the picture

If the government wishes to change its line to mirror the more strident position on Tibet adopted by the U.S., then Indian officials and leaders should have made the statements that were addressed instead by U.S. lawmakers to Tibetans in Dharamshala, who were all waving U.S. flags (Indian flags were far fewer). The superfluosity of allowing the U.S. delegation to do so is underlined by the fact that the Dalai Lama travelled to the U.S. for medical treatment just days after their visit, and all the U.S. lawmakers could have met him in Washington DC instead.

Above all, the problem with allowing U.S. leaders to aim messages at Beijing from a pulpit in India, and then have Beijing respond to those directly, is that India is getting cut out of a picture where it has been the most important external figure. This is not unlike its predicament in other parts of South Asia, including the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and the Indian Ocean islands where its space is being diminished by growing U.S.-China contestations. With the U.S. giving the Karmapa a home and accepting more Tibetan refugees on the one hand, and China's ever-tightening control of Tibetan Buddhist monasteries in the TAR on the other, India must consider the future of its own policy, especially with regard to the question of the Dalai Lama's succession. New Delhi must move more decisively to reclaim its own policy narrative without being "bigfooted" by others.

India must avoid ceding the centre stage in its own region on foreign policy and on Tibet issues

### Weakness, not strength

While the sharp tone of these comments and even the presence of U.S. officials and lawmakers in Dharamshala is not new, this is the first time in recent years that a public rally of this kind has been held in India. India's External Affairs Minister hosted the delegation for a late dinner the same evening as the rally, and the Prime Minister met them the next day, indicating that this was a more considered decision by New Delhi. Some people have even interpreted it as a strong message from New Delhi to Beijing amidst continuing tensions between the two countries, as a resolution to the Line of Actual Control military stand-off eludes them since the deadly 2020 Galwan clash.

However, New Delhi's decision

# Capital changes, changing prices

With the change in government, real estate may once again shift to Amaravati

### STATE OF PLAY

G.V.R. Subba Rao

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA)'s landslide victory in Andhra Pradesh is expected to give clarity to the real estate sector. The realtors, who were awaiting the results on June 4, are now planning investments and businesses more in Visakhapatnam and Amaravati than in other parts of the State. A correction in investments in Visakhapatnam is likely, while the real estate sector in Amaravati is expected to witness a sudden surge.

The realtors in Amaravati and Visakhapatnam invested hundreds of crores of rupees between 2014 and 2023. During those 10 years, real estate growth was not natural either in Amaravati or Visakhapatnam. It was a bubble created by the players, and supported by successive governments.

Soon after the bifurcation of combined Andhra Pradesh in 2014, the realtors and investors looked for greener pastures in residual Andhra Pradesh. They made huge investments in the expectation that there would be phenomenal demand for housing as the capital was to move to Amaravati from Hyderabad.

However, there was an inordinate delay in constructing the capital of Amaravati. The foundation was laid in October 2015, but the real estate market failed to gain traction, and real estate players and investors returned to Hyderabad. During the same period, the government changed in Andhra Pradesh. The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), led by Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, accused the previous Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government of insider trading concerning



Amaravati, and floated a three-capital formula for the development of the State.

Investments began flowing towards Visakhapatnam, which was touted as the executive capital. Many ventures on the outskirts of Visakhapatnam city, such as Madhurawada, Pendurthi, Naidu Thota, Sujatha Nagar, Vepagunta, Narava, and BHPV, have come up, even though they remain incomplete for various reasons including financial difficulties faced by the builders. Today, a double bedroom flat in these areas costs more than ₹50 lakh, compared to just over ₹33 lakh five years ago. More than 1.5 crore sq ft of built-up space, both residential and commercial, is available in Visakhapatnam, but there are hardly any takers.

Amaravati and Vijayawada face the same problem. A huge inventory is piled up in Tadepalli and other areas that are close to Amaravati. There are at least 5,000 unsold flats. The same situation prevails in areas such as Poranki, and other suburbs of Vijayawada. About 2,500 flats are available in the outskirts of Vijayawada.

A double bedroom flat in areas surrounding Visakhapatnam now costs more than ₹50 lakh compared to just over ₹33 lakh five years ago. While a two-bedroom house (2BHK) costs around ₹35 lakh-₹45 lakh on the outskirts of Vijayawada, a 3BHK costs ₹50 lakh-₹80 lakh. Though there is not much inventory in Vijaya-

wada city, a 3 BHK costs ₹1.5 crore-₹2.5 crore in the city. Most people in Visakhapatnam are salaried middle-class income groups. They do not buy properties for investment purposes; they buy it for residential purposes. In comparison, investments were made in Amaravati predominantly for investment purposes.

Now, in both Amaravati and Visakhapatnam, realtors are optimistic about the sector's growth in the coming months. Though deals have not been closed, they have been getting enquiries.

The policies of the TDP or the YSRCP governments did not fuel the real boom; instead, a bubble was created. The realtors recalling South Korea's experience in the late 1990s say that the governments should take corrective measures in Andhra Pradesh. Though the registration fee is one of the main revenue sources, the government should focus on the gradual development of the real estate sector for sustained development. The industry and services sectors must be developed so that there are more buyers for both residential and commercial spaces. Industry-led development and the creation of new jobs will bring in new buyers.

Real estate growth depends on other factors also. It is important to develop basic infrastructure facilities such as roads apart from strengthening flight and railway connectivity. Hyderabad gained from the uncertainty over the capital issue in Andhra Pradesh. But other factors also played a role, such as the robust growth of the industrial and services sectors, as well as infrastructure. The new government should start constructing the capital and focus on the same areas in which Hyderabad is doing well.

# Alcaraz, the youngest male tennis player to master all three courts

Among women, Serena Williams and Steffi Graf managed the feat at a much younger age

### DATA POINT

Chandni Tekwani  
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

When Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz won the French Open final for the first time this June, he became the youngest male tennis player to win a Grand Slam title on all three surfaces: hard, grass, and clay. Only six other male tennis players have achieved this feat: Mats Wilander, Jimmy Connors, Andre Agassi, Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer, and Novak Djokovic.

However, what sets Alcaraz apart is that he mastered all the surfaces by the age of 21, which makes him the youngest of the seven men. Nadal was 22 when he achieved this feat and Wilander was 23. All the others in the list were aged 26 or more when they managed to become all-surface elites.

Among women, five players have made three-surface history: Serena Williams, Steffi Graf, Martina Navratilova, Maria Sharapova, and Ashleigh Barty. Notably, Graf did so as a teenager, the only player to do so across both genders. Williams was 20, a year older than Graf and a year younger than Alcaraz, when she achieved this milestone.

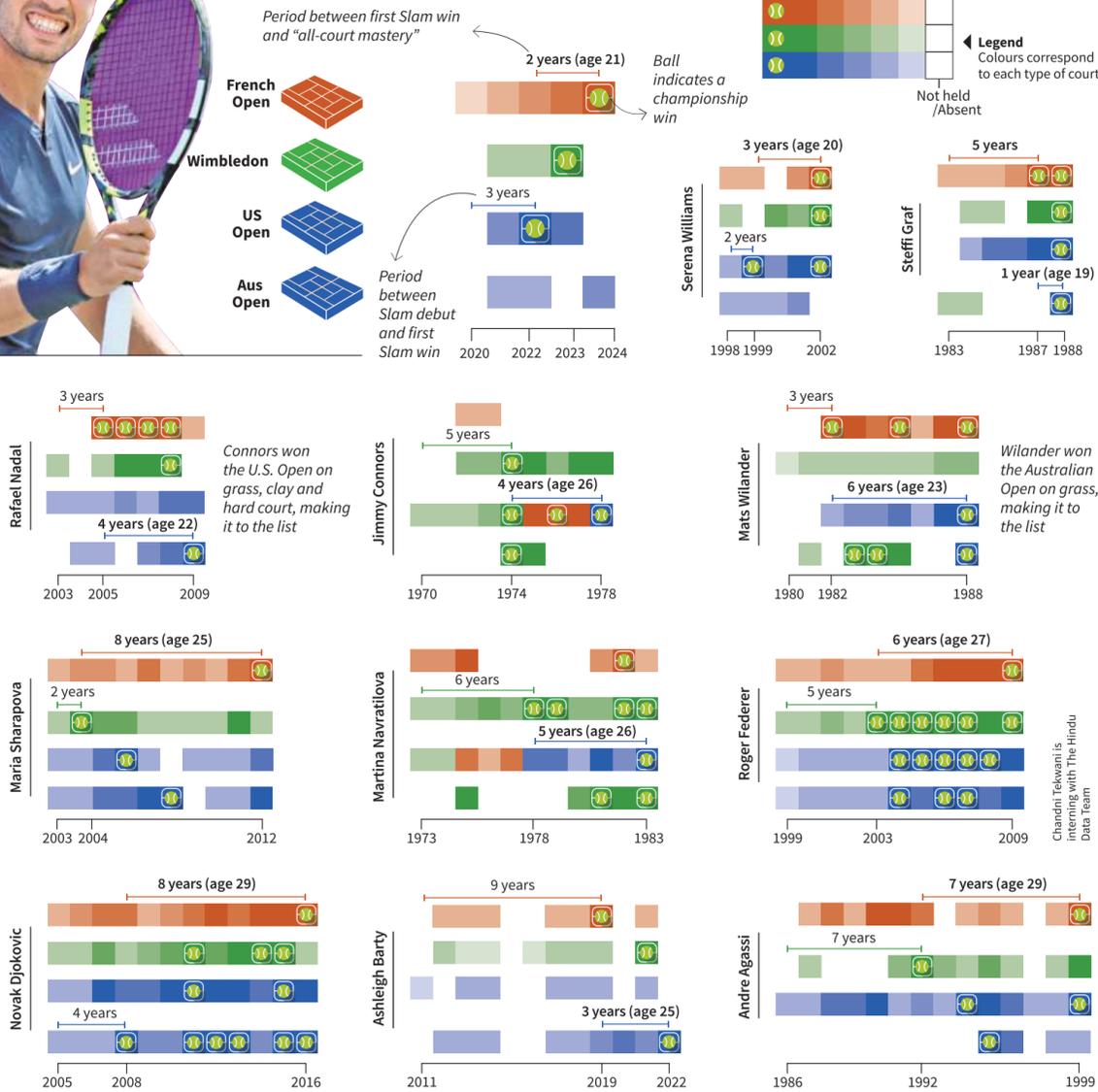
It is important to note that the Australian Open and the US Open have not always been played on hard courts. The US Open was first played on grass and then on clay for three years before it began being played on hard courts from 1978. The Australian Open was played on grass and has been played on hard courts since 1988.

The graphic depicts all the 12 players who won at least one Grand Slam on all three courts. The number of years they took to win their first Slam is mentioned. The time taken in years between their first Slam win and the victory that made them all-court masters is also mentioned.



## All-rounder Alcaraz

The data for the charts were sourced from the ATP and WTA websites



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 27, 1974

## Return to Gandhian ideals urged

Chandigarh, June 26: The President, Mr. V.V. Giri, to-day called for gearing up of the educational system to meet the social needs of the society. "Unless we give the youth a stake in the future by assuring them of job prospects, the outlook is indeed gloomy," the President warned.

Mr. Giri was speaking after laying the foundation stone of Lala Achint Ram auditorium in the premises of Lala Lajpat Rai Bhavan here.

He said the energies of the youth and their enthusiasm were being diverted to "wrong channels". In convocations students shout "we want jobs and not degrees." Have we ever thought of the significance of this genuine demand?" Mr. Giri asked.

Mr. Giri repeated his suggestion that there should be a one-year holiday from the university after they completed their matriculation. The students should be made to work on the land and also learn to operate cottage industries during this period, he said.

"The divorce between intellect and labour is the bane of our agriculture and we must end this by making more and more of our educated people take to agriculture," he said and added once the youth saw the opportunity of a new and meaningful life they would like to settle down in villages.

Mr. Giri said he was of the firm belief that a return to the Gandhian ideals was the only way to solve the crisis the country was facing to-day.

Mr. Giri said these sins were present in the society in a virulent form and called for steps to remove them.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 27, 1924

## Preventive vaccine for tubercle

Paris, June 26: The Havas Agency says Professor Calmette of the Pasteur Institute has invented a vaccine for the prevention of tuberculosis composed of bacilli carefully enfeebled by 230 successive processes. A hundred experiments have already been made on animals and 217 new-born children showing symptoms of likelihood of tuberculosis were administered the vaccine. All babies were under observation for 18 months and so far none has showed any sign of the disease developing.

# Text & Context

THE HINDU

**NEWS IN NUMBERS**

**Number of Palestinians killed in Gaza since October 7**

**37,718** The health ministry in Gaza said that at least 86,377 people had been wounded in the Gaza Strip since the war began when Hamas attacked Israel on October 7. AFP

**Gap after which Nagaland civic bodies went to the polls**

**20** In years. The polling for 25 civic bodies in the State was held on June 26, after a gap of two decades. The last elections were held in 2004. Three municipalities and 22 town councils went to the polls. PTI

**The partial debt deal sealed by Sri Lanka with bilateral lenders**

**5.80** In \$ billion. The country sealed a partial debt deal by reaching a final restructuring agreement for \$5.8 billion of debt with its bilateral lenders. AFP

**Length of the first plastic road of Jaipur Military Station**

**100** In metres. The Jaipur Military Station is the second military station to construct the plastic waste road and the first to make it part of its maintenance programme. PTI

**Grassroots workers trained on new criminal laws**

**40** In lakh. Over 5.65 lakh police, prison, forensics, judicial and prosecution officials have also been trained about the laws to ensure that people are aware of the legislation. PTI  
COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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## The row over Delhi's water crisis

Why is the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led Delhi government blaming the Haryana government for the capital's water shortage? Is Delhi dependent on its neighbouring States for water? What has the Lieutenant Governor's (L-G) office said?

**EXPLAINER**

Satvika Mahajan

**The story so far:**

Amidst a heat wave in several parts of north India, the national capital has been struck with an acute water shortage over the past couple of weeks sparking a battle in the Supreme Court with its neighbouring States including Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led Delhi government has alleged that Haryana is blocking water to Delhi and has asked them to release it.

**Why is there water shortage in Delhi?** Delhi depends heavily on its neighbouring States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh to fulfil its drinking water needs. The capital's raw water supply comes from four sources with approximately 40% of it coming via Yamuna through Haryana. The raw water is treated in Delhi's Water Treatment Plants (WTPs) and sent across through its pipelines that covers over 15,000 kilometres.

In the past couple of weeks, the Delhi government has blamed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for blocking Delhi's share of water through the Munak Canal, which is one of the primary sources of water for the capital. The canal, which falls under the Haryana government, starts from Haryana and enters Delhi with raw water. If there are any problems, the Delhi Government is responsible for notifying the issue and financing the problem. Delhi's Water Minister Atishi has claimed that Haryana is purposely blocking water, in an already difficult situation due to the heat, which is resulting in the residents of Delhi being forced to go waterless for days.

However, the Lieutenant Governor's (L-G) office has maintained that Haryana and other neighbouring States are releasing adequate supplies of water, and that the shortage is due to a leakage in the



**Scorching heat:** Residents fill containers with water from a tanker in New Delhi, on June 24. REUTERS

Munak Canal, and the lack of cleaning of pipelines and WTPs. Additionally, the L-G office has claimed that the presence of privately run tankers which are finding illegal sources of water and selling them at high rates is adding to the issue.

**What is happening in the SC?**

The Delhi government had moved the Supreme Court to seek a direction to Haryana to supply more water to the crisis-hit national capital on May 31. The AAP government in Delhi has told the top court that the water demand in the city has risen significantly due to heatwave conditions, and that Haryana be directed to release extra water for a month. The Supreme Court on June 3 directed the Centre to hold an emergency meeting of its Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB) with the States of Delhi, Haryana, and

Himachal Pradesh to address water scarcity in the national capital amid soaring temperatures. On June 6, the Congress-led Himachal Pradesh government agreed to share water resources with the capital in the Supreme Court, promising to release 137 cusecs of water through the Hathnikund barrage in Haryana into the Wazirabad barrage in Delhi. However, Haryana, through which the water must pass to reach Delhi, raised objections. And later on, even the Himachal Pradesh government went back on its statements, stating that water was already flowing in the Yamuna, and that it had made an incorrect statement of being able to spare Delhi 137 cusecs of water.

**What has been the court's response?**

The SC has now bowed out of the row, stating that it does not want to interfere

with the proceedings of the UYRB. The Bench headed by Justice P.K. Mishra said it did not want to either violate or tinker with the MoU settled among the States by even passing an interim order. "The issue should be left to be considered by the Upper Yamuna River Board, a body constituted with the agreement of parties in the MoU of May 12, 1994," the Bench observed in its order. The board was directed to hold a meeting with stakeholders and was asked to take a call on the matter. Delhi MLAs have since written to Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil seeking help on humanitarian grounds. The main function of the UYRB is to regulate the allocation of available flows amongst the beneficiary States.

**What is next for Delhi?**

With an acute water shortage in Delhi, the powers in the capital need to focus beyond politics, be it the Centre or the State government, Rajendra Singh, a water conservationist who is popularly referred to as the 'Waterman of India' said. He explained that Delhi must focus on three solutions to the problem. "First, drinking water in the capital needs to be made its top priority; water for irrigation and other works needs to be redirected for drinking water."

He further stated that "Delhi needs to thoroughly re-examine its water resources and work on the principles of 'retreat, recycle and reuse'." The capital needs to look closely at its WTPs and build successful models to sustain its needs. The water flowing through Delhi needs to go into the cycle of reuse.

Additionally, instead of depending on other States, Delhi should investigate its harvesting methods. The spaces in Asola Bhatti mines can be made into water harvesting structures, Mr. Singh suggested. Ground water resources used to be recharged in Delhi by the water in the Aravalli belt, but that is not the case anymore which is leading to wastage. The Aravalli belt should be modelled into a water sanctuary and the Yamuna flood plain banks into a water bank.

**THE GIST**

New Delhi depends heavily on its neighbouring States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh to fulfil its drinking water needs.

Delhi's Water Minister Atishi has claimed that Haryana is purposely blocking water, in an already difficult situation due to the heat, which is resulting in the residents of Delhi being forced to go waterless for days.

The Delhi government had moved the Supreme Court to seek a direction to Haryana to supply more water to the crisis-hit national capital on May 31.

## How well is India tapping its rooftop solar potential?

Which are the States with the highest RTS capacities? How can more awareness be spread?

Shantanu Roy

**The story so far:**

India's installed rooftop solar (RTS) capacity increased by 2.99 GW in 2023-2024, the highest growth in a year. As of March 31, the total installed RTS capacity in India was 11.87 GW, according to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. To meet rising energy demand, India needs to double down on its efforts to expand its RTS potential.

**What is the RTS programme?**

India launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission in January 2010. Its main objective was to produce 20 GW of solar energy (including RTS) in three phases: 2010-2013, 2013-2017, and 2017-2022. In 2015, the government revised this target to 100 GW by 2022, including a 40-GW RTS component, with yearly targets for each State and Union Territory. In December 2022, India had an installed RTS capacity of 7.5 GW and extended the deadline for the 40-GW

target to 2026. While financial incentives, technological advances, awareness, and training have improved RTS installation numbers, there is a long way to go. India's overall RTS potential is approximately 796 GW. To meet India's target of installing 500 GW of renewable energy capacity, with a solar component of 280 GW, by 2030, RTS alone needs to contribute about 100 GW by 2030.

**How are States faring?**

As of March 31, 2024, the RTS capacities of Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan had taken big strides while some others were behind the curve. An installed RTS capacity of 3,456 MW in Gujarat is the result of its government's quick approval process, a large number of RTS installers, and high consumer awareness. Similarly, Maharashtra, with an RTS capacity of 2,072 MW, is one of the top-performing States owing to its robust solar policies and conducive regulatory environment.

Thanks to its land area and high solar irradiance, Rajasthan boasts of the

highest RTS potential in the country: 1,154 MW. Its efforts to streamline approvals, provide financial incentives, and promote RTS through public-private partnerships have spurred this growth.

Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka, with respective installed capacities of 675, 599, and 594 MW, have also performed reasonably well. However, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Jharkhand, among others, are yet to fully explore their RTS potential. Their challenges include bureaucratic hurdles, inadequate infrastructure, and lack of public awareness.

The 'Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana' is a flagship initiative to fit one crore households with RTS systems and help them get up to 300 units of free electricity every month. An average system size of 2 kW for targeted households will result in a total RTS capacity addition of 20 GW. The scheme has a financial outlay of ₹75,021 crore, which includes financial assistance for consumers (₹65,700 crore), incentives for distribution companies (₹4,950 crore),

incentives for local bodies and model solar villages in each district, payment security mechanisms, capacity building (₹657 crore), and awareness and outreach (₹657 crore). The scheme also encourages the adoption of advanced solar technologies, energy storage solutions, and smart grid infrastructure.

**How can we ensure RTS growth?**

Creating awareness is key to getting consumers on board. In addition, RTS needs to be economically viable for households. While government subsidies are helping, multiple low-cost financing options are required. The number of banks and non-bank financial companies providing RTS loans has increased of late. Access to low-cost RTS loans should be as easy as getting a bike or car loan.

Promoting R&D in solar technology, energy storage solutions, and smart-grid infrastructure can lower costs, improve performance, and enhance the reliability of RTS systems. Investments in training programmes, (like the 'Suryamitra' solar PV technician programme initiated in 2015), vocational courses, and skill development initiatives will help build a skilled workforce.

As the scheme's implementation enters full swing, net-metering regulations, grid-integration standards, and building codes should be reviewed and updated to help address emerging challenges and facilitate smooth implementation.

Shantanu Roy works with the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy.

**THE GIST**

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As of March 31, 2024, the RTS capacities of Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan had taken big strides while some others were behind the curve. An installed RTS capacity of 3,456 MW in Gujarat is the result of its government's quick approval process, a large number of RTS installers, and high consumer awareness.

Creating awareness is key to getting consumers on board. In addition, RTS needs to be economically viable for households.

BIBLIOGRAPHY



ISTOCKPHOTO

# On C.J. Sansom, and why his crime series, set in Tudor England, endures

The crime novel has often been held up as the perfect way to study society and the novels featuring Matthew Shardlake do that elegantly. A reluctant player in the politics of Tudor England, Shardlake provides a millennial perspective, which does not come across as anachronistic

Mini Anthikad Chhibber

When C.J. Sansom, one of Britain's best-selling historical novelists, passed away on April 27, four days before the television adaptation of his well-known crime fiction, *Dissolution*, dropped, there was an outpouring of grief for the reclusive writer. Thankfully, he has left behind a rich legacy of work, which will endure. We first meet Matthew Shardlake in Sansom's *Dissolution* (2003), in which the 35-year-old lawyer is disillusioned with the direction the reform is taking. Over seven novels of increasing girth, that does not sacrifice an iota of pace or thrills, we see the idealistic Shardlake stubbornly try and make sense of his violent world where one could be killed for one's religious beliefs as easily as for a penny.

### Holding a mirror to society

The novels, spread over 12 years from 1537 in *Dissolution* to 1549 in *Tombland*, evoke the public and personal. The crime novel has often been held up as the perfect way to study society and the Shardlake novels do that elegantly. Shardlake, the reluctant player in the "gilded sewer pit" that is politics in Tudor England, provides a millennial perspective, which does not come across as anachronistic. There is no reason why 16th century England could not have a forward thinking person as much as say ancient Greece or Bengaluru circa 2024!

Each of the novels is set against seismic changes and show the effect of these changes on common people. *Dissolution*, which brings to mind Umberto Eco's

brilliant monastic murder mystery, *The Name of the Rose*, is set against the dissolution of the monasteries. When one of Thomas Cromwell's commissioners is killed at a monastery in the port town of Scarsea, he orders Shardlake to find out who the killer is. The more Shardlake uncovers, the more he learns about his patron, Cromwell, and how far he has gone from the idealism of the early days.

### Outsider, insider

*Dark Fire* (2004) is set in 1540 and introduces many of the series regulars, including the nasty lawyer, Stephen Beaknap, and Jack Barak, Cromwell's strong arm man. Guy Molton, the Moor from Malta, who was a monk at Scarsea, comes to London after the dissolution. Guy starts as an apothecary and is later accepted into the physician's guild. Like many detectives, Shardlake too is an outsider on account of his hunchback as are Barak because of his Jewish roots and Guy for his colour.

*Dark Fire* sees the introduction of the pattern of Shardlake working on two cases concurrently, which while not related, have a profound effect on his world view. In the book, Shardlake defends a young orphan girl, Elizabeth Wentworth, accused of drowning her cousin while Cromwell sets him the task of finding the missing formula for Greek fire. Cromwell, who is out of favour with Henry VIII for the so-called Anne of Cleves debacle, hopes the formula will find him back in the King's good graces.

*Sovereign* (2006) is set in 1541 and features Shardlake's first meeting with the King, who is revealed to have a high voice and not above petty cruelty as he taunts

Shardlake for his hunchback. Set against the backdrop of the Great Progress, Shardlake is working for Bishop Cranmer, officially dealing with the petitions brought to the King while secretly ensuring the good health of a prisoner. The commission forces Shardlake to wonder at the justness of his cause as he is protecting a prisoner only so that he can withstand torture at the tower.

In *Revelation* (2008), the King wants to marry Catherine Parr, there is a serial killer on the loose and Shardlake is fighting to keep a young boy, Adam Kite, suffering from religious mania from being burnt as a heretic. Adam in Bedlam introduces Shardlake to Ellen Fettiplace whose secret is revealed in book 5, *Heartstone* (2010).

### Murders most foul

Shardlake sets out to help Queen Catherine's servant and gets involved in the preparations for the King's ruinous Battle of Solent. A young Queen Elizabeth makes a guest appearance in *Heartstone*, impressing Shardlake with her intelligence. *Lamentations* (2014) features a dying King and a beleaguered Queen with power struggles going on behind the scenes for who will be regent after the king's death. When her book, *The Lamentation of a Sinner*, goes missing and the printer is found dead, the queen seeks Shardlake's help. There is also a vexatious case between siblings that Shardlake is fighting.

In the final Shardlake novel, 2018's *Tombland*, Shardlake is working for the 15-year-old Lady Elizabeth in 1549 when a murder once again drags him into the Ketts rebellion. While the mysteries are

brilliantly plotted and the research, well detailed, it is the everyday details, that effortlessly transport the reader into another time.

Whether it is the shark or (is it a whale?) that floats up the Thames in *Revelation* or the security procedures, that include pricking the name on the visitor's list with a pin and London constables recognising seals as part of their training, or sending rat catchers ahead of the King to Hampton Court, it brings the hurly burly of Tudor times alive. While there is the pomp and glory of the royal progress, with the clothes and codpieces, there is also the ready humour of the streets and Barak's inventive swearing providing a counterpoint.

The most vulnerable, children and animals, do not have a very good time in Shardlake's England. Barak was rescued from the streets by Cromwell and there is little gap-toothed Timothy who did not have a friend in the world apart from the horse he was caring for, till Shardlake took him into his household. Exploitation and privation twists children as Shardlake discovers to his horror in a couple of cases. Animals, whether bear baiting, or the cruel practice of sewing a falcon's eyes shut, suffered in 16th century England as they do around the world today. For each of Queen Catherine's spaniels there were dogs kicked to death and horses dying on the street like the glazer's or Shardlake's Chancery.

Sansom had plans to continue the series with Shardlake working for Queen Elizabeth and it is the greatest tragedy that he passed away four days before the television adaptation of *Dissolution*, Shardlake, dropped.



### FROM THE ARCHIVES

## Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Enlarge on (K.T. Raju. Vijayawada)."  
"Enlarge on" means 'to expand on'. When you enlarge on something, you give more details about it. This is used with reference to a topic.

*He enlarged on the problem of AIDS. I asked him to enlarge on what he had said earlier.*

When you enlarge on something, you dwell at length on it."

"Gum up (S. Srikala, Hyderabad)."  
"Gum up" means to become 'clogged or obstructed with stickiness'.

*I have a bad cold and my nose is all gummied up.*

"Gum up the works" means 'make a machine or system unable to operate.'

*He meddled with the generator yesterday and gummied up the works.*

"Gum up the works" is used colloquially. 'Up a gum-tree' is also a colloquial expression, it means 'in great difficulties.'

*Don't bother him now. Poor fellow! He is up a gum-tree."*

"Panegyric (S. K. Bannerjee, Calcutta)."  
"Panegyric" means 'a speech or piece

of writing praising something or somebody.' Ministers in our country are so used to panegyrics almost every day that they cannot take even mild criticism. 'To panegyricize' is to write or speak in praise of somebody or something.

'Panegyric' is a formal word. The word connotes excessive praise, uncritical adulation. The 'a' in the word is pronounced like the 'a' in man, the 'e', the 'y' and the 'i' like the 'i' in 'sit'; 'c' is pronounced 'k', 'g' as in 'gender'. So it is 'panijirik.' The stress is on the third syllable. In 'panegyricize', the stress is on the first syllable."

"Lucre (U. J. Simmons, Shillong)."

"Lucre" means "financial profit or gain," 'money-making' as a motive for doing something. 'Lucre' is related to the word 'lucrative,' which means 'profitable'. Both are from Latin *lucrari*, to gain. The spelling of 'lucre' is the same both in British and American English. The word does not have a good sense. Very often it goes with filthy."

*I am not after filthy lucre.*

The 'u' in the word is pronounced like the 'oo' in 'boost,' 'c' as in 'cat' and 're' as in 'father.' The stress is on the first syllable."

"Swot (T. S. Muralidharan, Bangalore)."  
"Swot" means to study something very hard, especially in preparation for an examination.

*I am tired as I swotted for today's test for the last two days.*

'Swot up', 'swot on' and 'swot up on' are also used.

*I swotted up my English yesterday.*

*I must swot up on my maths.*

"Swot" is an informal word and has a derogatory sense.

You swot not to acquire knowledge but to pass an examination. When you swot, you 'mug up.' 'Mug up' also does not have a good connotation. 'Swot' is also used as a noun. It means (a) a person who swots (b) any hard study (c) anything that requires hard study. A person who swots is also called a swotter. 'Swot' is another form of 'sweat'. When you swot you sweat a great deal!  
*Published in The Hindu on July 7, 1992.*

## THE DAILY QUIZ

### On June 27, 1954, the Obninsk Nuclear Power Plant became the world's first nuclear power plant to produce industrial electricity. A quiz about nuclear power generation

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

Vasudevan Mukunth

#### QUESTION 1

Many of the world's first generation of nuclear power plants had twin responsibilities: to generate power for the electrical grid and to produce \_\_\_\_\_ for the national nuclear weapons programme. Fill in the blank with the identity of a particular isotope.

#### QUESTION 2

The last first-generation nuclear power station to halt operations was the Wylfa facility on the Isle of Anglesey (Wales), on December 30, 2015, following 44 years of operation. Why did its operator, Magnox Ltd., have the facility built on the coast of the island?

#### QUESTION 3

The world's oldest commercial nuclear

reactor design still in use is the RBMK, conceived by engineers in the Soviet Union. Its advantages are its large size, power output, and ease of construction. Name the 1986 event involving an RBMK reactor that brought international attention to its disadvantages, in particular its tendency to become unstable at low power.

#### QUESTION 4

The International Atomic Energy Agency published the INES scale in 1990 to describe the severity of accidents at a nuclear power generation facility. On this scale the Three Mile Island incident in 1979 scored 5 whereas the Fukushima disaster of 2011 scored 7, the highest. What does INES stand for?

#### QUESTION 5

Name the country in whose power generation mix nuclear power has the greatest contribution today, and has been the case since the 1980s. This power comes from 58 reactors and a large fraction of it is exported.



#### Visual question:

This is a view of the world's largest nuclear power plant in terms of net electric power, although not all of its reactors are operational at this time. Name it. IAEA (CC BY-SA 2.0)

#### Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

- This character travels to Harry's house to deliver the Hogwarts acceptance letter. **Ans: Rubeus Hagrid**
  - This filmmaker had become a fan of the book series after his daughter persuaded him to read the first three books. **Ans: Chris Columbus**
  - The platform number on which one boards the Hogwarts Express. **Ans: Platform 9+3/4**
  - This previous work of Daniel Radcliffe had impressed the director to cast him for the role. **Ans: BBC's production of David Copperfield**
  - This character is a poltergeist who causes trouble in Hogwarts. **Ans: Peeves**
- Visual: This actor essayed the role of one of the most famous characters in the whole series. After he passed away, this actor took on the role. **Ans: Richard Harris and Michael Gambon portrayed the role of Albus Dumbledore**
- Early Birds:** Aishwarya Srivastava| Debarati Kar| Prerana Chakraborty| Aaradhya Yadav| Krishna

## Word of the day

### Fastidious:

giving careful attention to detail; hard to please; excessively concerned with cleanliness

**Synonym:** exacting

**Usage:** *She dressed with fastidious care.*

**Pronunciation:** bit.ly/fastidiouspro

### International Phonetic Alphabet:

/fæ'stɪdi.əs/, /fə'stɪdi.əs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to [letters@thehindu.co.in](mailto:letters@thehindu.co.in) with the subject 'Text & Context'

## From Page One

## Lok Sabha erupts as Birla reads resolution

He noted that “the idea that you can run the House efficiently by silencing the voice of the Opposition is a non-democratic idea”.

The end of the day's Lok Sabha's proceedings was in stark contrast to the mood of the House at the beginning of the day. Though the Opposition INDIA bloc nominated Mr. Suresh to contest the election for the Speaker's post, it did not ask for any division of votes, prompting *pro tem* Speaker Bhartruhari Mahtab to announce that Mr. Birla was elected by a voice vote.

This also led to the Trinamool Congress and the Congress taking opposing views; Trinamool leader Abhishek Banerjee claimed that Mr. Mahtab did not allow a count of votes, while the Congress's Jairam Ramesh asserted that the party did not seek a division for the sake of “creating an atmosphere of consensus”.

The Lower House's proceedings began with Mr. Modi moving a motion to elect Mr. Birla as the Speaker, a position that the three-term MP for Kota had held in the 17th Lok Sabha as well. All partners of the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) also moved identical proposals in favour of Mr. Birla to convey a message of unity.

Similarly, the proposal for Mr. Suresh was moved by the Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Arvind Sawant, and was supported by Congress leaders and their allies.

## ‘Landmark legislation’

Once Mr. Birla assumed his Chair, the Prime Minister praised him for ensuring that the Lok Sabha functioned even during the COVID-19 period and for maintaining the dignity and decorum of the House, at times by taking difficult decisions. “When people analyse the significance of the 17th Lok Sabha under your leadership in the future, the role of the House in giving a new direction will prominently feature,” Mr. Modi said.

Highlighting “landmark legislation” such as the Constitutional amendment to provide for women's reservation in the parliamentary and State polls, the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, and the three new criminal laws, the Prime Minister noted that the 17th Lok Sabha had achieved 97% productivity, the highest rate in 25 years.

“Speaker Sir, the question is not how efficiently the House is run, the question is how much of India's voice is being allowed to be heard in this House,” Mr. Gandhi said, speaking after Mr. Modi. “The Opposition would like to assist you in your work. I am confident you will allow us to speak in the House,” he added. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav hoped that MPs would not be suspended under the new Speaker's watch, warning that this hurt the dignity of the House.

## Kejriwal withdraws plea from Supreme Court

The CBI arrest had followed the High Court judgment.

Remanding the Chief Minister, Special Judge Amitabh Rawat of the Delhi Rouse Avenue Court asked the CBI to produce him back in court at 7 p.m. on June 29.

“Investigation is the prerogative of the investigating agency. There are certain safeguards provided in the law and at this stage, on the material on record, it cannot be said that the arrest is illegal. The agency, however, should not be overzealous,” the Special Court observed.

## ‘Sisodia is innocent’

Mr. Kejriwal chose to address the court in person, submitting that he and other leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party, including Delhi's former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, were falsely implicated in the case.

He accused the Central agencies of manipulating the media by spreading false information to create a wedge in the party leadership, especially between him and Mr. Sisodia.

“I have never testified that Manish Sisodia is guilty in this matter. He is innocent and the entire AAP is innocent. I am innocent. The aim of such rumours that I have put all the onus on Sisodia is false and the agency is trying to malign us through the media,” Mr. Kejriwal said.

Mr. Kejriwal explained in court that the CBI had asked him about who had pitched for privatisation. “On this, I had said that the idea was not mine. That is all,” he said.

## Custodial interrogation

The Delhi Chief Minister was initially arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on March 21 on money laundering charges linked to the liquor policy case. The ED had alleged that he was the “key conspirator” in framing the now-defunct excise policy and accused him of diverting the monetary profits gained from the policy into the AAP's coffers for the Goa Assembly election.

CBI counsel, advocate D.P. Singh, argued that a custodial interrogation of Mr. Kejriwal was necessary as the investigation had reached a crucial stage.

Mr. Kejriwal countered that his remand was unnecessary, pointing out that his name did not figure in any of the CBI chargesheets. His lawyers termed the arrest as an abuse of power.

“My client got bail from this court on June 20. This was stayed by the Delhi High Court. When did you [CBI] make me [Mr. Kejriwal] an accused? Why do you require me now? Why were you waiting for so long?” said senior advocate Vikram Chaudhari, Mr. Kejriwal's lawyer, challenging the CBI's plea for remand in the Special Court.

## India is looking at ‘potential’ institutional reforms: U.S. official

U.S. has sought ‘accountability’ from the Indian govt. on the Pannun issue and has ‘consistently’ asked for updates on the committee probing the matter, says Campbell; he adds that both countries are seeking to develop deeper technological ties

**Dinakar Peri**  
NEW DELHI

India is looking at “potential” institutional reforms against the backdrop of the Pannun issue and alleged assassination attempts, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Kurt M. Campbell said on Wednesday, adding that the U.S. seeks “accountability” from the Indian government and has “consistently” asked for updates on the committee investigating the matter.

“We have had constructive dialogue with India on this topic and they have been responsive to our concerns. We raised this issue directly with the Indian government at the most senior levels between our two countries,” Mr. Campbell said.

“We also believe that Indian colleagues are looking carefully at what potential institutional reforms might be necessary in the wake of some of these allegations and reports... Those discussions continue between the U.S. and India.”

Mr. Campbell was speaking at a virtual brief-



We have had constructive dialogue with India on this topic and they have been responsive to our concerns... We raised this issue directly with the Indian government

**KURT M. CAMPBELL**  
U.S. Deputy Secretary of State

ing on the second India-U.S. initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) dialogue that was chaired by the National Security Advisers of both countries last week.

The External Affairs Ministry set up a “high-level” inquiry committee on November 18 into the alleged assassination plot against U.S.-Canadian Khalistani separatist leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannun in May 2023.

The investigation into the case by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has led to a chargesheet against an Indian national, Nikhil Gupta, 52, who allegedly hired a hitman to target Khalistani separatists in the U.S. and Canada at the behest of a senior Indian security official.

Mr. Gupta was extradited to the U.S. from the Czech Republic last week and has since been produced in a New York court.

## India-Russia ties

To a question on India-Russia ties amid the deepening India-U.S. technological cooperation, Mr. Campbell said the U.S. and India have a “full and frank” dialogue and also discuss mutual relationships, including India's relationship

with Russia.

“We are seeking to develop a much deeper and stronger technological relationship between the U.S. and India. We have been clear which areas are affected by the continuing relationship between India and Russia, militarily and technologically... We have expressed some concerns. But at the same time we have confidence and trust in India,” Mr. Campbell stated.

Further, he underscored that that the U.S. and India are both “great powers” and have many areas of alignment.

The U.S. Deputy Secretary said the U.S.-India relationship has reached escape velocity and India will be a key U.S. partner in the 21st century, while noting the broad, bipartisan support for ties with India.

## Italy asked to take action against Indian worker's death

**Press Trust of India**  
LONDON/ROME

India on Wednesday asked Italy to take prompt action against those responsible for the death of a 31-year-old Indian worker who died after he was dumped on the road without medical assistance by his employer after his arm was severed by heavy farm machinery.

Muktesh Pardeshi, Secretary (CPV & OIA), conveyed to Luigi Maria Vignali, the Director-General for Italian Citizens Abroad and Migration Policies, India's “deep concern” about the death of Satnam Singh, the Indian Embassy in Italy said in a post on X (previously Twitter).

Calling for prompt action against those responsible, the mission stated that the Embassy is in contact with the family of Satnam Singh for consular help and transportation of the mortal remains.

During the communications in the Chamber ahead of the European Council, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on Wednesday recalled “the horrible and inhuman death of Satnam Singh”, a news agency reported.



Continued violence: Army personnel stand guard in Gandoh after a jawan was injured in an exchange of fire with terrorists. FILE PHOTO

## Three militants killed in day-long operation in J&amp;K's Doda: officials

**Peerzada Ashiq**  
JAMMU

Three militants were killed and a policeman was injured in a day-long anti-militancy operation in Doda district of the Jammu region on Wednesday.

“Three terrorists have been neutralised in an ongoing joint operation in the Gandoh, Bhaderwah sector of district Doda. Arms and ammunition have been recovered from their possession,” Additional Director-General of Police Anand Jain said.

Arms and ammunition, including U.S.-made M4 rifle, were recovered from the slain militants. “A large cache of warlike stores, including automatic assault rifles, has been recovered,” an Army spokesman said.

The spokesman said the hiding militants were engaged in “an intense firefight”.

Security forces engaged the hiding militants in a firefight in Doda district since Wednesday morning. Heavy gunfire resounded in the Gandoh area of Doda after the security forces spotted and established contact with militants hiding in a mud house in the forest area in Bajaan village.

The hiding militants were encircled at Bajaan village around 9.50 a.m. Major search operations were launched in Doda district following two militant attacks on checkpoints at Gandoh and Chattergala areas on June 11 and 12, which left seven security personnel injured.

## With dummy FIRs, pocket guides, police get ready to switch to new criminal laws

**Vijaita Singh**  
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the implementation of the new criminal laws from July 1, at least 23 modifications have been made to the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network Systems (CCTNS), an online platform used by more than 16,000 police stations across the country to register first information reports.

With the new laws coming into force, the FIRs will be registered under Section 173 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), instead of Section 154 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

A senior government official said all the States were on board and prepared to switch to the new system from July 1.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) replaces the Indian Penal Code, 1860; the Bharatiya Sakshya (BS) replaces the Indian Evidence Act, 1872; and the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) replaces the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.

The Delhi Police, which was one of the first police



Delhi Police officials attend a training session on the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at the police headquarters in New Delhi. FILE PHOTO

forces across the country to roll out training and educational modules for the new laws, aims to sensitise all the 90,000 police personnel by August.

“Dummy FIRs are being filed to accustom the police officials to the new format. We have given pocket-sized books compressing the three laws to all ranks as a ready reckoner. The sections of laws being used for years are being changed, the books will come in handy while registering a case as they mention old and new sections on the same page,” Chhaya Sharma, Special Commissioner of Police (Training), Delhi, told *The Hindu*.

Another police official said the old laws such as

the IPC and CrPC will still be in use. “If a case is registered after July 1 but the crime occurred before the date, it will be registered under the BNSS and relevant sections of the IPC. The existing cases in court, where chargesheets are yet to be filed or the trial is still on, will be held under the old system. The CCTNS will have both the old and new provisions,” official said.

A total of 20 new crimes have been added, and the period of imprisonment has been increased for 33 offences. The penalty of community service has been introduced for six crimes and a mandatory minimum punishment has been introduced in 23 crimes.

## U.S. slams India over religious freedom

**Agence France-Presse**  
WASHINGTON

The United States offered rare criticism of close partner India in a report published on Wednesday on religious freedom, while also voicing alarm over rising bigotry worldwide against both Jews and Muslims.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken unveiled the annual report and said that the United States was also facing its own sharp increase of both anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in connection to the Gaza war.

“In India, we see a concerning increase in anti-conversion laws, hate speech, demolitions of homes and places of worship for members of minority faith communities,”

Mr. Blinken said.

The U.S. Ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom, Rashad Hussain, faulted efforts by Indian police. In India, “Christian communities reported that local police aided mobs that disrupted worship services over accusations of conversion activities, or stood by while mobs attacked them and then arrested the victims on conversion charges,” he said.

Despite the public criticism in the report, few expect the State Department to take action on India when it drafts its annual blacklist of countries over religious freedom later this year.

The State Department also raised concerns about countries that are on the list, including Pakistan.

## Muchkund Dubey, India's top diplomat at the end of Cold War, passes away

**Kallol Bhattacharjee**  
NEW DELHI

Former Foreign Secretary Muchkund Dubey, who steered India's foreign affairs establishment towards the end of the Cold War and the post-Cold War phase in the early 1990s, passed away at a private hospital here on Wednesday, said Research and Information System for Developing Countries, a think tank he was associated with.

Mr. Dubey entered the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) during the Prime Ministership of Jawaharlal Nehru in 1957 and worked closely with several Prime Ministers including Rajiv Gandhi, Vishwanath Pratap Singh and P.V. Narasimha Rao. He was India's 17th Foreign Secretary during



Muchkund Dubey

1990-91.

“He served as Secretary (East) and then took charge as the Foreign Secretary and worked side by side with External Affairs Minister I.K. Gujral when the war began in the Gulf and India had to evacuate a large number of citizens from the region,” said his former colleague K.P. Fabian.

Mr. Dubey was born in 1933 in Jasidih, which was

then part of the Santhal Pargana of Bihar (now Jharkhand). Recollecting his life for *The Hindu* in 2017, Mr. Dubey had said that he grew up in a multilingual environment as his childhood was spent near the pilgrimage centre of Deoghar which attracts a sizeable number of pilgrims from all parts of India, especially Bengal. As a result, Mr. Dubey acquired fluency in Hindi, Bengali, and English during his childhood.

Subsequently, upon joining the service, Mr. Dubey also learnt French and Persian. He was part of the IFS officers who joined the service during the first decade (1948-58) of the service and benefited from the elaborate training that the Government of India had mandated for the IFS

officers of that era.

He was trained abroad as part of this policy and underwent district-level and language training. The specific six-part training module for the Indian diplomats that Mr. Dubey underwent was discontinued after 1958.

Mr. Dubey's diplomatic career took off after the 1956 Suez crisis which left a mark on the foreign policy orientation of India.

The end of his career in 1991 coincided with multiple global developments including the dissolution of the USSR, end of the Cold War, the Mandal agitation, and, at home, with the economic liberalisation of India.

Apart from being a foreign affairs expert, he was a renowned translator and literary critic.

## U.P. court seeks Rahul's appearance on July 2

Press Trust of India  
SULTANPUR

An MP-MLA court in Sultanpur of Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday asked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to appear before it on July 2 in a defamation case filed against him for alleged objectionable remarks against Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

The complainant's lawyer, Santosh Kumar Pandey, said that one Ram Pratap had demanded that he be made a party in the case. Opposing the plea, Mr. Pandey said Mr. Pratap was neither a victim nor had anything to do with the matter.

Mr. Gandhi's lawyer, Kashi Prasad Shukla, who was present in the court, also opposed the petitioner's plea. However, the court dismissed the prayer and called for personal appearance of Mr. Gandhi on the next date of hearing.

The case was filed by BJP leader Vijay Mishra in 2018.

Mr. Gandhi had halted his "Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra" in Amethi on February 20 this year and appeared in court, which had granted him bail.

# Joint combing operations held in violence-hit Jiribam

Personnel of Assam Rifles, CRPF and the local police patrol sensitive areas after reports that miscreants had tried to torch a house; security forces hold river patrols, press drones into service

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Assam Rifles on Wednesday conducted a large-scale joint combing operation in Jiribam district of Manipur which saw the most recent spate of violence in the ongoing ethnic conflict. Personnel from the Assam Rifles, CRPF, and police patrolled sensitive areas such as Guwahati and Harinagar, after reports that miscreants had tried to torch an abandoned house in the area earlier in the day.

In a statement, the Assam Rifles said that these combing operations were conducted to "reinforce security and stability in Jiribam" and that the coordinated effort also "demonstrated a united front of security forces in making it unequivocally clear that even isolated incidents of violence or arson will not be tolerated".

In its statement, the Assam Rifles said that the security forces were coordinating with the police in



Reinforcing stability: The police and other security forces during a combing operation in Imphal. FILE PHOTO

Assam, which borders Jiribam on the West, to "check and restrict movement of miscreants from Cachar to Jiribam". It added that river patrols were held and drones are also being used to dominate the areas concerned in the district.

The Assam Rifles stated, "Locals have been appreciative of efforts of security forces to restore peace and normalcy."

L. Ranjan Singh, general secretary of Leeching, an apex body of the Meitei community in Jiribam, told *The Hindu*, "Three homes of Bishnupriya Manipuri families and one home of a

Meitei family were burned down around Borobekra sub-division in the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday. The homes were empty but it appeared as if they were looted before being torched."

The joint combing operations of the security forces came hours after reports of arson came up on Wednesday morning.

This comes just as a group of Meitei civil society organisations, Meira Paibi outfits, and apex bodies of Meitei communities in Jiribam held a march from the Jiri Ema Market to the De-

puty Commissioner's office, protesting against the lack of adequate "State forces" in the Borobekra sub-division, blaming this for the "inability" of security forces to protect their homes and lives. Around 1,300 women from the community took part in the march.

In a memorandum submitted to the Deputy Commissioner in Jiribam, the Meitei bodies demanded that more personnel from the State security forces be deployed in the Borobekra sub-division area.

Ever since the conflict broke out, while the Kuki-Zo people have accused State security forces of being complicit in attacks against them, the Meitei people have accused Central security forces of allegedly siding with the Kuki-Zo community.

However, in their statement issued on Wednesday, the Assam Rifles reiterated that the security forces are in "constant talks" with various CSOs to ensure that the displaced people return to homes.

## In second term, Om Birla will preside over a more evenly balanced Lok Sabha

Nistula Hebbar  
NEW DELHI



Om Birla occupies the Chair of Lok Sabha Speaker after being elected by a voice vote on Wednesday. ANI

Much has been written about the fact that Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's record-breaking second term as presiding officer is part of a message of continuity being reinforced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and yet, Mr. Birla's tenure has seen individualistic flourishes as the Parliament's keeper of records as well as a record-breaker.

He went from being a back-bencher in the large Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ranks in Parliament since 2014 to breaking the long-held record by Balram Jakhar of being elected Lok Sabha Speaker for two successive terms.

This rise has seen other records being broken as well - in the very first session he presided over as Speaker, in 2019, all first-time members got an opportunity to speak, and during the first session's Zero Hour, members raised 1,066 subjects - a record for any one session in the history of the Lok Sabha.

His tenure also saw a record number of Opposition

MPs being suspended in the Parliament's Winter Session of 2023.

He is the Speaker who oversaw the shift from the old Parliament building to the new one. He also sought out Pramila Bisoyi, a Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP who was fluent only in Odia, and arranged a Hindi-to-Odia translator for her to overcome her hesitancy in speaking.

Mr. Birla, born in 1962 in Kota, Rajasthan started early in public life, having been active in student politics in school, and later as district president in the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), the youth wing of the BJP, and still later serving as the State unit president of the outfit. He

first entered the Rajasthan Assembly in 2003, repeating the feat twice more before contesting his first Lok Sabha election from Kota in 2014, holding on to the seat for a third term in the current Lok Sabha.

Known for his philanthropic work in his constituency, Mr. Birla, despite the Treasury benches having an overwhelming majority in his previous term, presided over a turbulent period of dealing with a pandemic, the construction of a new Parliament House, and a feisty Opposition.

With the numbers more evenly balanced in the 18th Lok Sabha, it will likely be a tougher term for Mr. Birla this time around.

## Chinese woman arrested at Nepal border for trying to enter without documents

Vijaita Singh  
NEW DELHI

A 49-year-old Chinese woman was arrested near the Sunauli India-Nepal border crossing in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday for allegedly entering India without any documents, an Uttar Pradesh police official said.

The woman identified as Cai Xiaohong, aka Helen, was arrested by the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) when she was trying to enter India from Nepal without a passport and visa. She had been staying in Nepal since April and was alone at the time of arrest.

The police official said a case was registered and the woman was arrested under provisions of the Foreigners Act.

"She was not entering India through the authorised checkpoint on the border; instead she was using

Embassy in India said that "recently, there have been a number of cases of Chinese citizens being arrested for entering Indian territory from Nepal".

In a statement, it reminded Chinese citizens "to pay attention to the Indian border signs to avoid entering the Indian territory due to personal negligence, misleading or fluke, so as to avoid legal consequences and personal losses" while engaging in tourism, business and other activities on the Nepal side of the India-Nepal border area.

"If you really need to go to India, please apply for the Indian visa in advance as required, and after checking your passport and visa at the Indian immigration checkpoint, enter India from the open port of India," the Chinese Embassy said.

On June 17, the Chinese

one of the side tracks near Sunauli border when she was spotted by the SSB personnel. *Prima facie* it appears that she came here for tourism, but agencies are investigating," said the police official.

The official said there have been many occasions when foreigners, including those from China, were caught while entering India without a visa. "Every month, we get two or three cases where foreigners who have been staying in Nepal are caught at the land border while coming to India for tourism," the official said.

On June 17, the Chinese

## Government and Opposition yet to come to terms with the message of the poll verdict?

NEWS ANALYSIS

Nistula Hebbar  
NEW DELHI

The political drama that surrounded the election of the Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha has many indications of how both the government and the Opposition view the mandate of the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

For the BJP and specifically Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the renomination of Om Birla for the post and the government being non-committal on the issue of giving the Deputy Speaker's post to the Opposition are part of a series of moves made to signal that Mr. Modi is determined to be at 240 Lok Sabha seats what he had been with 303 in 2019.

Continuity in selection of Ministers, a refusal to cut deals with the Opposi-



Rocky start: NDA MPs raise slogans on the 49th anniversary of the Emergency, at Parliament House in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

tion, and the endorsement of the statement by Mr. Birla on the Emergency, with its attendant references to the subversion of the Constitution by the Indira Gandhi-led Congress government in 1975, incontrovertibly signalled this attitude.

Direct fallout

The emphasis on marking the 49th anniversary of the imposition of Emergency is a direct fallout of the

election results and the feedback that the BJP has received on how much the narrative that the BJP wanted a brute majority of "400-plus seats" to make radical changes to the Constitution, especially the provisions dealing with reservation, cost the party.

For the Opposition, exuberant over its performance in Uttar Pradesh, this entire episode has also been a learning process.

While the INDIA bloc

Both sides seem to continue from where they left off in the Lok Sabha before the election took place

came together on the issue of contesting for the Speaker's post, there were differences on the issue of pressing for a division of votes on the floor of the House on Wednesday after Mr. Birla was elected by voice vote.

Trinamool leader Abhishek Banerjee said *pro tem* Speaker Bhartruhari Mahtab did not allow a count of votes. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said the party did not seek a division to create "an atmosphere of consensus".

On Tuesday, the Trinamool had raised the issue that Congress leader K. Suresh's nomination for the Speaker's post had been decided without any dis-

cussions with it, an oversight that rankled the ruling party in West Bengal especially since the Trinamool's strike rate against the BJP in the election was much higher than that of the Congress, which had taken the lead on the Speaker's issue.

Effective weapons

For the INDIA bloc, the damage control came a little late and did not help much in the end. For an Opposition striving against the numerical superiority of the Treasury benches, unity and solidarity in its ranks are its most effective weapons. The Opposition in the 18th Lok Sabha will have to strive towards that.

As for the BJP, the desire to project a full majority despite the cut in numbers may help its morale, but it does not adhere to the nature of the mandate, that of a return to coalition politics.

## NIA offers ₹10 lakh for arrest of Goldy Brar, another gangster

Devesh K Pandey  
NEW DELHI



Goldy Brar is accused of masterminding the killing of singer Sidhu Moosewala.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday offered ₹10 lakh each for the arrest of "designated terrorist" Satwinderjit Singh alias Goldy Brar, and another alleged gangster. They are wanted for extortion and firing at the home of a businessman in Chandigarh on March 8. A case has been registered under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, and the Arms Act against Goldy Brar and Gurpreet Singh alias Goldy Dhullian.

Though Goldy Brar is reportedly based in Canada's Brampton, it is learnt that he was recently spotted in the U.S. He was declared a terrorist under the UAPA by the Union Home Minis-

try in January. Goldy Brar is accused of masterminding the killing of singer and rapper Sidhu Moosewala on May 29, 2022.

Born in 1994 in Punjab's Muktsar Sahib, Goldy Brar went to Canada on a student visa in 2017.

He came in contact with gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, who is currently lodged in jail in India, and started working with him.

**Government of Punjab**  
Municipal Corporation Ludhiana  
**NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (SBM)**  
NIT No. 21/SE(TIC), dated 24.06.2024

The department of Municipal Corporation Ludhiana (B&R) invites online double bids for "Selection of Concessionaire for Execution/Installation and Operation & Maintenance of a 200 TPD Waste to CBG (WTG) Plant based on Segregated Municipal Solid Waste (organic) and other Biodegradable Waste as feed under PPP mode on Design, Build, Finance, Operate & Transfer at Jamalpur site, Ludhiana, Punjab". (2<sup>nd</sup> time) as per schedule given below:-

Closing date & time : 18.07.2024 up to 05:00 PM

For details log on to: [eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in)

**Note:** Detail of works, other terms & conditions & tender documents any corrigendum/addendum to the tender notice shall be published on above website only.

Executive Engineer (TIC)  
Municipal Corporation Ludhiana  
NA/12/23674/2023/35030

**ANDHRA PRADESH MEDICAL SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Plot No.9, Survey No.49, IT Park, Mangalagiri-522503.  
email : [aphmhidc@gmail.com](mailto:aphmhidc@gmail.com) & [ed.apmsidc16@gmail.com](mailto:ed.apmsidc16@gmail.com)

**Tender Notice No.2/APMSIDC/2024-25, Dated: 25-06-2024**

APMSIDC invites tenders through e-procurement platform (<https://tender.approcurement.gov.in>) for

**Equipment Wing:** 1) Identification of vendor for procurement & supply of turnkey food laboratory to Guntur, Tirupati, Visakhapatnam. Procurement & Supply of 2) Equipment and other items to various Govt. Hospitals in A.P under NHM Funds. 3) Equipment & other items to DSH Hospitals in Andhra Pradesh. 4) Equipment & other items to DME Hospitals in Andhra Pradesh. 5) Equipment and other items under CSS Scheme. 6) Equipment and furniture items to APSACS. 7) Equipment to cancer care centers for 5 Districts (Kurnool, Kakinada, Anantapur, Visakhapatnam, Guntur). 8) Equipment and other items to new medical colleges / Hospitals. 9) Equipment to Existing Medical Colleges under PG Seats. 10) Equipment and other items under 15<sup>th</sup> Finance commission. 11) Identification of the service provider to implement the Tele-Radiology services at DSH Hospitals. 12) Procurement of 20-seater buses to establish the preventive oncology units. 13) Medical equipment for Kidney care Palasa research center.

For detailed notification and further details please visit the web site <http://msidc.ap.nic.in> & [www.tender.approcurement.gov.in](http://www.tender.approcurement.gov.in)

APMSIDC will reserve the right to cancel the tenders at any time without assigning any reasons.

DIPR 3049PP/CL, Dt: 26-06-2024

Sd/- Managing Director

**Government of Kerala - IMPACT Kerala Ltd**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL & QUOTATION**

IKL invites RFP for empanelment of Engineering Consultants for DPR preparation & PMC Services and RFQ for (i) DPR preparation for Market Building at Mattanur Municipality, (ii) PMC for FSTP at Shornur Municipality, (iii) PMC for Gas Crematorium Construction at Ezhome GP.

For details visit <https://impactkerala.lsgkerala.gov.in/>.  
Last date is 20-July-2024, 5:00 pm

Sd/-  
Managing Director  
RO No. D3/359/2024/I&PRD

**TOURISM CORPORATION OF GUJARAT LIMITED (TCGL)**  
(A Government of Gujarat undertaking)  
Udyog Bhavan, Block No. 16, 4th Floor,  
Sector - 11, Gandhinagar - 382 011  
Website: <https://www.gujarattourism.com>

**TENDER NOTICE**

Bids are invited from reputed and experienced parties for "Selection of an Agency for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of 30 Bhungas located at Dhordo, Gujarat"

The project requirements, technical specifications, eligibility criteria, selection process, etc. are included in the Tender documents, which shall be available for download from the websites: <https://tender.nprocure.com/> and [www.gujarattourism.com](http://www.gujarattourism.com) from 27/06/2024 onwards.

The last date for online submission of the Technical and Financial Bid is 18/07/2024 up to 6:00 pm, and physical submission of Technical Bid only is 20/07/2024 up to 3:00 pm.

Managing Director

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
P.W.D. CIRCLE SAWAI MADHOPUR

क्रमांक प./वि.स./2024-25/552 **Notice Inviting Bid** दिनांक -21-6-2024  
02/2024-25

01 No. Bids for Construction of Various Road Under CRIF Scheme Widening & Strengthening of Tater to Daulatpura via Sultanpura Itawa Khatoli Kethuda (Khandar) up to NH-552 Km. 95/500 to 101/0 During Year 2024-25, Circle Sawai Madhopur (Provision of Defect liability period is 5 Years) are invited from interested bidders upto 15.07.2024 Time 6.00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>), <http://sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in> of the state, and Public Works department Rajasthan website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs.1052.00 Lacs.

NIB CODE :-PWD24250342  
UBN NO.-: PWD2425WLOB01287  
DIPR/C/4876/2024

**Udgir Municipal Council, Udgir**  
(Water Supply Department)  
O.NO.2024/UMC/WSS Date 25/06/2024  
e-Tender Notice No.01 for 2023-2024

Udgir M.C. invites e-Tender for the work of UNDERGROUND SEWERAGE SCHEME PHASE-1 FOR UDGIR CITY UNDER MAHARASHTRA SUVARNA JAYANTI NAGAROTHAN MAHABHIYAN. Please visit website [www.mahatenders.gov.in](http://www.mahatenders.gov.in) for detailed information from 27/06/2024 to 26/07/2024.  
Date: 25/06/2024

Sd/-  
Shri Bondar S. A.  
Chief Officer,  
Municipal Council, Udgir  
Tal. Udgir Dist. Latur

**IN BRIEF**



**Encroachments bulldozed for second day in West Bengal**

Following West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's scathing criticism of encroachments on footpaths and roads by unauthorised hawkers, the police and civic authorities across the State continued eviction drives on Tuesday, bulldozing temporary stalls and issuing warnings to hawkers. In localities across Kolkata and its suburbs, such as Alipore, New Town, and Behala, and in neighbourhoods of other districts, such as Alipurduar and Siuri, authorities engaged bulldozers to clear the encroachments. Kolkata City Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal said the eviction drives were being carried out on the directives of the Chief Minister.

**'Britannia not moving its corporate office out of W.B.'**

Allaying fears that Britannia Industries Limited was moving out of West Bengal, Amit Mitra, Special Advisor to Chief Minister of West Bengal on Finance, said on Wednesday that the FMCG major's management has informed him that the company was not moving its corporate office out of the State. Dr. Mitra told *The Hindu* that Britannia MD and CEO Varun Bery reached out to him and said, "Britannia as a company is fully committed to West Bengal." The remarks assume significance amid reports that the company was closing its iconic Taratala factory which has been functional since 1947. Dr. Mitra described the reports as "ill-informed and false".

**CBI questions principal and bank officials in NEET case**

Staff of a courier firm that transported question papers were also questioned; two of the accused are now in the custody of the CBI for interrogation; special court grants remand for three days

**Amit Bhelari**  
PATNA/GODHRA

A Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) team on Wednesday visited a school at Kallu Chowk in Hazaribagh of Jharkhand as part of the probe in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test paper leak case.

Another team of the agency visited two private schools in Kheda and Panchmahal districts of Gujarat where too alleged irregularities related to NEET were reported.

An eight-member team visited the residence of Oasis School principal Ahsanul Haque in Hazaribagh and took him to the institution, one of the centres for the May 5 test.

The Economic Offences Unit of the Bihar Police had earlier said a partially burnt question paper found at a play school in the Khemnichak area of Patna matched the series of question papers sent to the school in Hazaribagh.

Two days ago, Mr. Haque had told *The Hindu* that an envelope with the NEET question paper was found tampered with and there was a "precise cut" in it. He said the digital lock



**Under lens:** Oasis School principal Ahsanul Haque being taken for questioning by CBI officials in Hazaribagh on Wednesday. PTI

on a box in which the question papers were stored did not open by itself at 1.15 p.m. in the school as expected and had to be opened using a cutter.

After leaving the school, the CBI team split into two groups and visited a State Bank of India branch and an office of the courier company Blue Dart. The office had delivered the question papers on May 3 to the bank using an e-rickshaw.

The CBI team questioned the bank manager and other employees responsible for safeguarding the question papers.

The officials questioned

the employees of the courier office. Its manager is said to be absconding.

The Special CBI Court in Patna on Wednesday remanded two of the accused, Baldev Kumar, alias Chintu, and Mukesh Kumar in CBI custody for three days.

**Eight named in FIR**

In the FIR registered by the CBI, eight persons have been named as accused. One more person has been made an accused.

Those who have been named are Amit Anand, Ayush Raj, Nitish Kumar, Rakhi, Akhilesh, Sikandar Prasad Yadavendu, Bittu

and Sanjeev.

According to the agency, Mr. Chintu had revealed the involvement of an organised inter-State gang. He was arrested from Deogarh and was a close aide of Sanjiv Mukhiya, the key accused in the case currently absconding.

Mr. Chintu allegedly received a solved NEET question paper on his mobile phone in the PDF format and prints of the paper were taken through a Wi-Fi-enabled printer and distributed among candidates at the play school.

Mr. Mukesh Kumar is being accused of picking up and dropping the candidates after they memorised the answers at the play school.

Both Mr. Chintu and Mr. Mukesh are residents of Nalanda district.

In Gujarat, the CBI team visited Jay Jalaram International School on the Sevaliya-Balasinor highway near the Wanakbori thermal power plant in Kheda district, officials said.

School owner Dixit Patel confirmed the visit.

From Kheda, the team visited Jay Jalaram School, 100 km from Godhra town in Panchmahal. (With PTI inputs)

**SC calls cutting of 'valuable' trees in Delhi a 'brazen act'**

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI



The green cover at the central ridge and Sardar Patel Marg in New Delhi. FILE PHOTO

The Supreme Court on Wednesday found the inability of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), an autonomous body under the Union government, to unearth information or official records to shed light on whether Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) of Delhi V.K. Saxena ordered the cutting of valuable trees in the protected ridge area as sheer disingenuity.

A Vacation Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan said the DDA's request for more time to collect details about his February 3 visit to the site where the trees were later felled was rather hard to believe.

Mr. Saxena is also the DDA Chairman.

On June 24, the Bench directed DDA Vice-Chairman Subhashish Panda, who is facing contempt for felling the trees, to go through official records about Mr. Saxena's visit and collect details of the officers who were present at the time to help the court know if "the felling of trees were done under the directions issued by the L-G on February 3, 2024. We expect the DDA to come clean on this aspect".

However, the Vice-

Chairman returned blank to the court on Wednesday.

"We do not think that this request for time [by the DDA] for such simple information is bona fide," the Bench reacted.

Undeterred and firm to get to the bottom of the issue, the court turned to Ashok Kumar Gupta, Member (Engineering), DDA, who was present during the Lieutenant-Governor's visit, to file an affidavit in 10 days, as an officer of the court, making a clean breast of what happened on the occasion.

Justice Oka termed the cutting of the protected trees a "brazen act which showed a complete lack of understanding of the importance of the environment".

**Prolonged exposure to coal mining causes respiratory, skin diseases in workers: study**

**Jacob Koshy**  
NEW DELHI



**Unmindful of the risk:** Workers at an open-cast coal mine in Jharia on the outskirts of Dhanbad in Jharkhand. AFP

Prolonged exposure to pollutants from coal mining has resulted in widespread respiratory and skin diseases among mine workers and other inhabitants of six districts in India where coal extraction is a major occupation, says a survey of 1,200 households published by the National Foundation for India, an organisation that works on social justice issues.

The six districts are Koriya and Raigarh (Chhattisgarh), Dhanbad and Ramgarh (Jharkhand), and Angul and Jajpur (Odisha).

**Medical expenses**

At least 65% of the participants interviewed reported health issues such as chronic bronchitis, asthma, and skin ailments such as eczema, dermatitis and

fungal infections. On an average, a household in these districts spent ₹300 to ₹1,000 on monthly medical bills.

The average annual hospitalisation expenses in Dhanbad were the highest at ₹28,461 for a household. The survey, on an average, spanned 18 to 20 villages in each district.

People living closer to

the mines are relatively more vulnerable. Dhanbad and Ramgarh, which have more people living in such zones, have higher incidence of lung and breathing-related diseases and skin infections.

**Shift from coal**

The broader thrust of the study was to investigate a 'just transition' – or how

those who are directly dependent on coal mining may be effectively and sensitively transitioned from these jobs.

The world's shift away from coal is expected to result in significant job losses and economic downturn in coal-dependent regions. This will impact not only the coal miners and workers directly but also the broader local economy.

"Social and economic disparities were evident across districts, with varying income levels and irregular wage receipt patterns," said Pooja Gupta, co-author of the study and research associate at the NFI.

"Dhanbad (Jharkhand) and Koriya (Chhattisgarh) are solely reliant on coal production, and reported lower incomes than the more diversified industrial districts like Angul (Od-

isha)," she said in a press statement.

**Renewable energy**

While India has committed to source nearly 500 GW of electricity – nearly half its projected installed capacity for 2030 – from renewable energy sources, coal is expected to be the mainstay of power generation in India for decades.

Nearly half of India's installed power generation capacity, or about 205 GW, are coal-powered thermal plants.

Change, however, is in the air as renewable energy accounted for 71.5% of the record 13.6 GW power generation capacity added by India for the first time in the January-March quarter this year, while coal's share, including lignite, of the total power capacity dropped below 50% for the first time since the 1960s.

**Minister's promise to look into Nicobar project 'mildly' encouraging, says Congress**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI



Jai Ram Ramesh

Calling Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jai Ram Ramesh's promise to look into the clearances granted for the ₹72,000-crore Great Nicobar Island Project only "mildly" encouraging, Congress leader Jai Ram Ramesh on Wednesday raised doubt over how much power Union Ministers had over their own portfolios in a government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

**Oram's remarks**

Mr. Ramesh, Congress general secretary (communications), was responding to Mr. Oram's remarks to the *The Hindu*, published on Monday. In the interaction, Mr. Oram had said the

project and have a ground-up review of it, citing complaints that it would be detrimental to the environment on the island and the people who reside there – including the Shompen – a particularly vulnerable tribal group.

Responding to Mr. Oram's promise, Mr. Ramesh said in a post on X, "The very first interview given by the Minister of Tribal Affairs Jai Ram Ramesh indicates that he is not averse to a review of the ₹72,000-crore project on the Greater Nicobar Islands that is a perfect recipe for ecological and humanitarian disaster. This is mildly encouraging. I say 'mildly' because the REAL decisions are taken for him by the non-biological PM and his band."

Tribal Affairs Ministry would be looking into the forest clearances granted for the mega infrastructure project while highlighting his intent to focus on forest and land rights issues of tribal communities during his term.

Mr. Oram's remarks had come as the Congress pushed hard to withdraw clearances granted for the

**THE CROSSWORD+ 14212** (set by Hypatia)

To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site. @ <https://qrqo.page.link/jjpTn>

**Across**

- Fitful pet's cold near empty hallway (6)
- Flower vase uncovered in Jack's store (7)
- Fresh green fluid essentially separating Iron and Potassium in plant! (9)
- Sea creature stealing power from wizard (5)
- Cold potato in chaat's fine (5)

**Down**

- Garments basically free to all in prisons (7)
- First of two joining a private charity dance (5)
- Top Gun's rifle (4-5)
- Capital of Japan also known as Roppongi to all, originally (7)
- Serenely tranquil or innately calm, basically (5)
- Part of main test in engineering (9)
- Outlet in Zen gardens is regularly ignored (6)
- One who succeeds holding extremely fine young female (6)
- Breaking point for the ultimate sucker (4,5)
- Engineer and soldier run into celebrity - a record holder (9)
- Taking advantage of class conducted in China (7)
- Friend had reformed for religious leader (6)
- Author in demand, mostly hides abroad (7)
- Fine sections of fibre pushed from below (6)
- Tips of these are rather small inter-connected bones (5)
- Certain to be honoured, say (5)

**SUDOKU**

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

**Solution to previous puzzle**

M	S	I	C	A	L	D	E	S	P	I	T	E
O	C	A	O	A	U	N	I	Y				
S	H	A	S	T	R	A	R	E	F	U	G	E
E	L	A	F	J	I	E	L					
S	T	E	N	G	H	E	L	S	I	N	K	I
L	O	E										
E	A	R	L									
N	O	S	E	I	E	U	R					
D	E	C	A	M	E	R	O	N	C	A	S	K
E	K											
A	S	I	J	M	I	N	G	S	C	R	A	W
V	O	A	D	C	H	B	L					
O	R	L	A	N	D	O	R	E	A	D	I	N
U	I	G	U	O	I	D	H					
R	E	D	F	O	R	T						

**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

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

**MADGALDEEP** SCENT 3in1

**FAITH**

**Examples of Krishna bhakti**

Devotion to Krishna is a time-tested, sure means of salvation. Vaishnavite saint Andal and Rajput princess Mirabai are prominent examples of Krishna bhakti, said Va Ve Su in a discourse.

Although both lived during different ages, under different cultures, what is common is that both were exposed to Krishna through their close contacts. Andal was raised with stories of Krishna by her father, the Vasihnavite saint, Periyazhwar. Mira, on the other hand, heard of Krishna through her guru and treated the statue of Giridhar, gifted to her, as her spouse. Both Andal and Mira considered themselves as His spouse at a metaphysical level. Both broke conventions in their devotion. Andal donned on herself the flower garland she strung for her Ranganatha, before offering it to him; an offering the Lord accepted forthwith. Her bhakti was like an arrow shot by an expert archer like Arjuna, hitting the bull's eye unerringly.

Mirabai's devotion was tested more, showing devotees that trials and tribulations are part of the journey to attain God consciousness. She was made to wed a prince, despite informing everyone that she was 'wedded' to Giridhar. She was personally tested and humiliated for constantly singing and dancing over the exploits of her dark beau, Krishna, Giridhara.

**IN BRIEF**



**Repco Bank sets credit growth target of ₹21,750 cr. for FY25**

Repco Bank Ltd. (RBL) has set for itself a credit growth target of ₹21,750 crore for FY25, said MD in-charge O.M. Gokul. According to him, the bank performed remarkably well across all parameters in FY24, with total income crossing ₹1,000 crore. Net profit rose to ₹70 crore from ₹67 crore, while net worth increased to ₹850 crore from ₹829 crore. The bank's gross non-performing assets declined to 8.46% from 9.43%. The board has recommended a dividend of 25%.

**Shriram AMC unveils Nifty exchange traded fund**

Shriram Asset Management Company (Shriram AMC) has announced the introduction of an open-ended exchange traded fund 'Shriram Nifty ID Rate Liquid ETF (Growth)' for subscriptions from July 1 to 3 with a minimum amount of ₹1,000 or in multiples thereof. The new fund offer will track the Nifty ID Rate Index. It will provide investors with easy cash management with high liquidity, low interest rate risk, and low credit risk, the company said in a statement.

**Dr. Reddy's to buy Haleon's NRT portfolio for £500 mn**

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories is acquiring British consumer healthcare company Haleon's global portfolio of consumer healthcare brands in the nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) category outside of the U.S. The drugmaker on Wednesday announced the signing of a definitive agreement by subsidiary Dr. Reddy's Laboratories SA for purchase of Haleon group company Northstar Switzerland SARL's shares for £GBP 500 million, which will pave the way for the acquisition.

**Telcos bid ₹11,340 cr. for spectrum**

Bharti Airtel bids the highest amount of ₹6,856 crore, followed by Vodafone Idea putting in ₹3,510 crore and Reliance Jio the lowest with ₹973.62 crore; the difference is due to Bharti Airtel renewing spectrum that is about to expire this year

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

**B**harti Airtel Ltd. spent the most on retaining and acquiring new spectrum in the latest auction of airwaves concluded on Wednesday after seven rounds of bids. The auction raked in ₹11,340.78 crore.

Bharti bid a total of ₹6,856.76 crore in the auction, whereas Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. only bid ₹973.62 crore, while Vodafone Idea Ltd. (VIL) bid ₹3,510.40 crore. The vast difference is largely due to Bharti renewing spectrum

**Lukewarm response**

The bidding took place in the 900MHz, 1800MHz, 2100MHz and 2500 MHz bands



■ Jio showed modest interest, picking up 14.4MHz worth spectrum; VIL picked up 30MHz

■ 141.4MHz was sold from 533.6 MHz spectrum left over from 2022 auctions

■ As auction for 5G spectrum was held recently, no bidding took place in 800MHz, 2300MHz, 3300MHz and 26GHz bands

due to expire this year. Much of the other airwaves were unsold in 2022. "As auction for 5G spectrum was held recently and 5G monetisation is still in progress, no bidding took place in 800MHz, 2300MHz, 3300MHz and 26GHz bands," the Department of Telecommunications said in a statement.

"A total of 141.4MHz (26.5%) was sold from the balance 533.6 MHz spectrum" left over from the 2022 auctions, the government added. The 2022 auction was nine times larger in terms of quantum of spectrum put to sale.

The bidding took place in the 900MHz, 1800MHz, 2100MHz and 2500 MHz bands; Jio showed modest interest in the auction, picking up 14.4MHz worth spectrum, and VIL picked up 30MHz. The total value of the fresh spectrum purchased by the three telcos was ₹6,164.88 crore.

Bharti Airtel CEO Gopal

Vittal said in a statement that the firm was acquiring airwaves "judiciously" and that its acquisitions would improve indoor coverage.

VIL said, "In addition to renewal of 900 MHz spectrum in UP West and West Bengal circles, [the] company has also enhanced its 900 MHz spectrum holding in 7 circles, namely Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan, UP East and Kolkata, enabling it to dedicate adequate 900 MHz band spectrum for 4G thereby enhancing the experience of its 4G customers in these large markets."

**SBI raises ₹10,000 crore through infrastructure bond**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MUMBAI

State Bank of India (SBI) said on Wednesday it had raised ₹10,000 crore at a coupon rate of 7.36% through its fifth infrastructure bond issuance.

"The issue attracted overwhelming response from investors with bids in excess of ₹19,884 crore and was oversubscribed by around four times against the base issue size of ₹5,000 crore," the lender said in a statement.

"The total number of bids received was 143 indicating wider participation with heterogeneity of bids. The investors were across



provident funds, pension funds, insurance companies, mutual funds and corporates," it added.

**'Affordable housing'**

The proceeds of the bond sale would be utilised in enhancing long-term resources for funding infrastructure and affordable

housing, SBI said.

"Based on the response, the bank has decided to accept ₹10,000 crore at a coupon rate of 7.36% payable annually. This represents a spread of 21 bps over the corresponding FBIL G-Sec par curve," SBI said, referring to the relevant benchmark government bond yield curve.

With this issuance, the total outstanding Long-Term Bonds issued by SBI amount to ₹49,718 crore.

SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara said that this issuance would help in developing a long-term bond curve and encourage other banks to issue bonds of longer tenor.

**'L&T group facing shortage of 45,000 labourers, engineers'**

**Press Trust of India**  
MUMBAI

L&T Group is facing a manpower shortage of over 45,000 labourers and engineers across its businesses, Chairman S. N. Subrahmanyan said on Wednesday.

The engineering, procurement and construction business is grappling with a shortage of 25,000-30,000 workers, while the information technology services business is facing a shortage of 20,000 engineers, he told reporters.

The prospect of higher earnings is leading Indians

to go to hostile places like Russia-Ukraine or Israel in search of opportunities, L&T's chairman emeritus A. M. Naik said.

Mr. Subrahmanyan attributed the labour shortage to issues like demand for certain skill sets where there might be lack of availability, events like elections and changes in weather patterns.

He said the adverse weather events have led to changes in working hours in some projects wherein no work is happening during the afternoons except essential or critical works.

**MARKETS**

**MARKET WATCH**

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	78,674	0.80
US Dollar	83.57	-0.16
Gold	72,300	-0.34
Brent oil	84.94	-0.73

**NIFTY 50**

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter.	3170.50	-0.60
Adani Ports	1467.80	11.65
Apollo Hosp.	6136.80	-158.55
Asian Paints	2863.35	-4.90
Axis Bank	1285.40	13.95
Bajaj Auto	9474.65	-185.30
Bajaj Finserv	1600.25	-3.10
Bajaj Finance	1758.20	83.75
Bharti Airtel	1459.50	44.55
BPCL	298.40	2.10
Britannia Ind.	5421.70	69.65
Cipla	1479.10	-20.60
Coal India	468.75	-0.50
Divis Lab	4545.35	-6.05
Dr Reddys Lab	6070.05	-4.35
Eicher Motors	4739.70	-35.35
Grasim Ind.	2552.25	35.30
HCL Tech	1443.70	-4.25
HDFC Bank	1701.50	-9.85
HDFC Life	589.05	-1.90
Hera Motocorp	5453.00	-57.00
Hindalco	674.70	-10.80
Hind Unilever	2445.60	13.40
ICI Bank	1218.00	20.05
IndusInd Bank	1497.90	2.35
Infosys	1540.70	-1.25
ITC	423.95	0.65
JSW Steel	919.20	-10.70
Kotak Bank	1798.15	16.25
L&T	3602.95	15.15
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5177.50	53.65
M&M	2851.50	-57.90
Maruti Suzuki	12198.25	81.65
NestleIndia	2534.25	18.80
NTPC	365.05	4.20
ONGC	267.75	0.75
PowerGrid Corp	326.70	-0.70
Reliance Ind.	3028.05	119.75
SBI Life	1450.90	-11.10
State Bank	845.35	-3.10
Shriram Finance Ltd.	2989.05	-0.80
Sun Pharma	1521.15	15.95
TataConsumerProduct	1086.90	-7.70
Tata Motors	951.85	-3.15
Tata Steel	172.56	-3.12
TCS	3855.85	17.40
Tech Mahindra	1413.05	-14.70
Titan	3372.75	-29.70
UltraTech Cement	11143.10	296.90
Wipro	495.20	-1.65

**EXCHANGE RATES**

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 26

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.37	83.69
Euro	89.09	89.43
British Pound	105.56	105.97
Japanese Yen (100)	52.06	52.26
Chinese Yuan	11.47	11.52
Swiss Franc	92.84	93.21
Singapore Dollar	61.42	61.67
Canadian Dollar	60.93	61.17
Malaysian Ringgit	17.67	17.75
Australian Dollar	55.54	55.75

Source: Indian Bank

**AI has huge potential but guardrails crucial: Nilekani**

**Mini Tejaswi**  
BENGALURU



Nandan Nilekani.

Infosys is now into the second year of the generative artificial intelligence (Gen AI) revolution and the initial AI 'doomerism' has quietened down, said Infosys Chairman Nandan Nilekani on Wednesday.

Addressing shareholders at the 43rd Annual General Meeting of Infosys, he said, people have accepted AI like any other general-purpose technology be it electricity, nuclear energy, the Internet or even a discovery like fire, as they understood Gen AI has enormous potential for good when advanced within the guardrails of responsibility.

However, he said, "It is also clear there won't be a scenario where we'll have 'one model to rule them all'. Every day brings new advances in large-language models. These range from very large models which need massive computing infrastructure to small ones that can run locally on the phone."

The real power of AI will come from configuring all

the different models and tools to get the best solutions. The rise of powerful, open-source AI models has accelerated AI deployment to resolve tough business and societal challenges.

"A big challenge of our time is to unleash AI for the next wave of productivity for enterprises. We have had a headstart on the journey. As we move into more use cases, a thousand flowers will bloom," Mr. Nilekani anticipated.

He further said fiscal 2024 had been a year of steady performance for Infosys in a volatile macroeconomic environment. Large deal TCV (total contract value) for FY24 was the highest at \$17.7 billion, with 52% being net new.

**Vedanta parent to sell 2.6% stake in Indian miner**

**Reuters**  
BENGALURU

Vedanta Resources will sell a 2.6% stake in Indian metals-to-oil firm Vedanta to a group of institutional investors, the parent said in a statement on Wednesday.

The move marks an about-turn from a week ago when Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal said there were no plans for a stake sale by the company's controlling shareholders. Vedanta Resources will sell the stake through its unit Finsider International, which held a 2.63% stake in Mumbai-listed Vedanta as of March-end, according to exchange data.

**'Tata Motors eyeing 18-20% of PV market share by 2030'**

**Press Trust of India**  
MUMBAI

Tata Motors said it expects the Indian passenger vehicle market to touch 60 lakh units annually by 2030.

The company is targeting to increase its share to 18-20% by FY30 as it is gearing up to introduce new models in both conventional engine and EV segments. With the stricter CAFE III norms set to kick in from 2027, share of EVs and CNG vehicles will increase while ICE vehicles will witness an inflationary trend, said Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility MD Shailesh Chandra.

**MM Forgings, Super Auto Forge celebrate golden jubilee**

**N. Anand**  
CHENNAI



Vidyashankar Krishnan

Home-grown MM Forgings Ltd. (MMFL) and Super Auto Forge Pvt. Ltd. (SAF) are celebrating their golden jubilees this year.

The year-long celebrations began at MMFL in April with the announcement of 1:1 bonus for shareholders while Super Auto Forge will hold events towards the end of July to mark the occasion.

Having tasted success over the years, the two firms have many similarities and are gearing up to maintain the growth momentum. While MMFL forayed into the emerging EV space, SAF continues to focus on existing business. "The opportunity in the

MMFL is also scouting for attractive investment and partnering opportunities to turn into a significant industry participant in this emerging sector, he said.

"EV adoption in the West is slowing down," said SAF MD S. Muralishankar. "We are going to focus on existing business."

MMFL is a leading manufacturer of closed die hot forgings whereas SAF is one of the largest manufacturers of cold and warm forged components in India. Both are focused on export markets with the former earning 50% of revenue and the latter, more than 80%. The revenue of each of the firms is about ₹1,600 crore. They are now headed by second-generation family members.

**SAFEENA FACED MANY ROADBLOCKS IN HER EDUCATION. SO SHE PAVED A NEW WAY FOR THE FUTURE GENERATION.**

The Hindu businessline celebrated her achievements by honouring her with the prestigious Changemaker: Social Transformation Award in 2023. Her non-profit organisation, Educate Girls, helps many young girls secure a bright future. This year, she received an honorary doctorate from her alma mater, London School of Economics, for her work in the field of education.

The Hindu businessline Changemaker Awards change the world of those who change the world.

If you know someone who has created a positive impact, nominate them for the Changemaker Awards 2024.

Scan the QR code or visit [newsth.live/BLCM2024THP](https://newsth.live/BLCM2024THP) to nominate a Changemaker. Last date for nomination: June 30, 2024

**CHANGE MAKER awards**

RECOGNISING HUMAN CATALYSTS

Knowledge Partners

Validation Partner

## NEW YORK

## U.S. jails ex-Honduras President for 45 years on drugs charges



A court in New York sentenced former Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez to 45 years in prison after he was convicted of trafficking hundreds of tonnes of cocaine into the U.S. Prosecutors said he used the drug money to enrich himself and finance his campaign, and commit electoral fraud in the presidential polls. AFP

## DUBAI

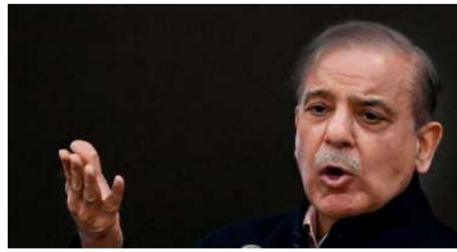
## Houthi target ship in Gulf of Aden, Iraq-based militants claim Eilat hit



Suspected attacks by Yemen's Houthis targeted a ship in the Gulf of Aden, while a separate attack claimed by Iraqi militants targeted the Israeli port city of Eilat. The attacks follow the departure of the USS Dwight D Eisenhower after an eight-month deployment in which it led the American response to the Houthi assaults. AP

## ISLAMABAD

## Pakistan PM Shehbaz extends olive branch to jailed leader Imran Khan



Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday extended an olive branch to his predecessor and political rival Imran Khan, offering to hold talks if he was facing "troubles" in jail. "Let us sit together to take the country ahead. Let us talk for the betterment of the country," he said while addressing the National Assembly. PTI

## BEIJING

## China denies U.S. envoy's claims that Beijing is hindering relations



China hit back at remarks by the U.S. Ambassador that Beijing was making it "impossible" to boost ties between Chinese and American citizens, calling them "factually inaccurate". Nicholas Burns told WSJ that Beijing was intimidating Chinese participants in embassy events and fuelling anti-American fervour online. AFP

## Secret talks led to Assange deal, says Australia PM

Agence France-Presse  
CANBERRA

Australia's Prime Minister said on Wednesday a string of recent non-disclosed missions to the U.S. helped forge the plea deal that freed Julian Assange.

The U.S. Department of Justice had to make a "range of decisions" for the plea deal to proceed, Anthony Albanese told a news conference in Canberra, stressing that the U.S. department was independent and "not subject to political influence".

A "whole range of people" had visited the U.S. as the deal was worked out.

Australia's high commissioner to the United Kingdom, Stephen Smith, also acted as a conduit for communication, he said.

## Assange returns home a free man after legal battle ends

The WikiLeaks founder pleaded guilty in a district court in Saipan to obtaining and publishing military secrets in a deal with U.S. govt.; his lawyer says Assange will remain 'a force for freedom'

Associated Press  
CANBERRA

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange returned to his homeland Australia aboard a charter jet on Wednesday, hours after pleading guilty to obtaining and publishing U.S. military secrets in a deal with Justice Department prosecutors that concludes a drawn-out legal saga.

The criminal case of international intrigue came to a surprise end in a most unusual setting with Mr. Assange, 52, entering his plea in a U.S. district court in Saipan, the capital of the Northern Mariana Islands. The American common-



Victory lap: Julian Assange waves after landing at the RAAF air base Fairbairn in Canberra in Australia on Wednesday. AP

wealth in the Pacific is relatively close to Mr. Assange's native Australia.

Mr. Assange was accused of receiving and publishing hundreds of thousands of U.S. war logs and

diplomatic cables.

Mr. Assange raised his right fist as he emerged from the plane and his supporters at the Canberra airport cheered from a distance. Dressed in the same

suit and tie he wore during his earlier court appearance, he embraced his wife Stella and father John Shipton.

Mr. Assange was accompanied on the flights by the Australian Ambassador to the U.S., Kevin Rudd, and High Commissioner to the U.K. Stephen Smith, both of whom played key roles in negotiating his freedom with London and Washington.

"WikiLeaks's work will continue and Mr. Assange, I have no doubt, will be a continuing force for freedom of speech and transparency in government," his lawyer Barry Pollack, told reporters outside the Saipan court.

## NATO names Dutch PM Mark Rutte as next chief

Agence France-Presse  
BRUSSELS

NATO's 32 nations on Wednesday appointed outgoing Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte as the alliance's next head, handing him the job at a crucial moment with Russia on the march in Ukraine and U.S. elections looming.

Mr. Rutte will take over from Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg on October 1 after major powers — spearheaded by the United States — wrapped up his nomination ahead of a summit of NATO leaders in Washington next month.

"Mark is a true transatlanticist, a strong leader and a consensus-builder," Mr. Stoltenberg said on social media after NATO ambassadors approved the appointment. "I know I am leaving NATO in good



Mark Rutte

of hands capable of stewarding NATO through perilous times.

His appointment was welcomed by leaders across the 75-year-old alliance, including British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who called it "a good choice for freedom and security".

The 57-year-old faces the spectre of a possible return by former U.S. President Donald Trump to the White House.

After staking a claim for the NATO post following the collapse of his coalition last year, Mr. Rutte had to use all his diplomatic skills to win over reluctant allies Turkey and Hungary. He finally clinched the race last week when his sole challenger, Romanian President Klaus Iohannis, dropped out.

## Sri Lanka seals debt deal with Official Creditor Committee



Minor breather: The agreement worth \$5.8 billion will allow Sri Lanka to allocate funds to essential public services. AFP

Meera Srinivasan  
COLOMBO

In what it termed a significant milestone, Sri Lanka on Wednesday sealed a deal with the Official Creditor Committee [OCC], to restructure the debt owed to its bilateral lenders, including India, and signed a separate agreement with China for debt treatment.

"Sri Lanka reached a final restructuring agreement for \$5.8 billion of debt with its bilateral lenders' Official Creditor Committee in Paris... This agreement grants significant debt relief, allowing Sri Lanka to allocate funds to essential public services & secure concessional financing for development needs," President Ranil Wickremesinghe's office said.

The OCC is a platform comprising 17 countries, including India and members of the Paris Club such as Japan, that have extended loans to Sri Lanka. It was formed in May 2023 with the aim of simplifying Sri Lanka's debt negotiations after the country defaulted on its external debt, in the wake of a financial crash in 2022.

China, Sri Lanka's lar-

gest bilateral lender, opted to stay out of the platform, but attended the discussions as an observer. Colombo has been negotiating its debt treatment with Beijing bilaterally and has clinched a deal, the President's office said.

"Sri Lanka signed debt treatment agreements in Beijing with the China Exim Bank to restructure \$4.2 billion of debt," a statement said. Sri Lankan authorities are yet to share details of the terms of the restructuring deal with OCC and China.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka is yet to reach an agreement with its bond holders. A recent Bloomberg report said the second round of direct talks between the two parties is scheduled this week, to finalise treatment of \$12 billion owed to private creditors, who hold the largest chunk of Sri Lanka's external debt in international sovereign bonds.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has underscored the need for "timely debt restructuring" in Sri Lanka's economic recovery programme, even as large sections of the population continue to reel under the impact of the debilitating crisis.

## U.S. journalist goes on trial in Russia for 'espionage'

Associated Press  
YEKATERINBURG

Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich went on trial behind closed doors in Yekaterinburg on Wednesday, 15 months after his arrest in the Russian city on espionage charges that he, his employer and the U.S. government vehemently deny.

The 32-year-old appeared in the court in a glass defendants' cage, his head shaved and wearing a black-and-blue plaid shirt. A yellow padlock latched the cage.

Authorities arrested Mr. Gershkovich on March 29, 2023, while on a reporting trip to Yekaterinburg, in the Ural Mountains, and claimed without offering any evidence that he was gathering secret information for the U.S.

Journalists were allowed into the courtroom for a few minutes on Wednesday before the proceedings were closed. The hearing ended after about two hours, and the next one was scheduled for August 13, court officials said.

"Evan's wrongful detention continues to be a devastating assault on his freedom and his work and an unfathomable attack on the free press," the Wall Street Journal said in a statement. They noted he has already spent 455 days behind bars.

The U.S.-born son of immigrants from the USSR, Mr. Gershkovich is the first Western journalist arrested on espionage charges in post-Soviet Russia. The State Department has declared him "wrongfully detained," thereby committing the government to assertively seek his release.

## Kenya President puts off signing controversial Bill

Associated Press  
NAIROBI

Kenya's President said on Wednesday he will not sign into law a finance Bill proposing new taxes that prompted thousands of

protesters to storm parliament the previous day, leaving several people killed as police opened fire. It was the biggest assault on Kenya's government in decades.

The government want-

ed to raise funds to pay off its debt, but Kenyans said the Bill would have caused more economic pain as millions struggle to get by. Tuesday's chaos led authorities to deploy the military, and Kenyan President

William Ruto called protesters' actions "treasonous."

He now says the proposed Bill caused "widespread dissatisfaction" and that he has listened and "conceded."

At least 22 people were

killed, the Kenya National Human Rights Commission said, and police were accused of some shooting deaths. The group's chairperson, Roseline Odede, said 50 people were arrested.

**MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED**  
(Government of Karnataka undertaking)  
Corporate Office, MESCOM Bhavana, Bejai, Mangaluru-575 004  
Phone: 0824-2885795 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No. E-121883/I/94946/2024 Date: 19.06.2024

**TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)**

MESCOM invites tender for Manufacture & Supply of following material as per technical specification:

Tender No	Name of the Material proposed for Procurement	Quantity (Nos)
MESCOM/2024-25/IND0075	63 kVA CRGO Core Star-1 Transformers	1,120
MESCOM/2024-25/IND0076	100 kVA CRGO Core Star-1 Transformers	120
MESCOM/2024-25/IND0077	25 kVA CRGO Core Star-2 Transformers	200
MESCOM/2024-25/IND0078	63 kVA CRGO Core Star-2 Transformers	320
MESCOM/2024-25/IND0079	100 kVA CRGO Core Star-2 Transformers	240

The interested eligible bidders may log on to [www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in](http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) on or after 28.06.2024

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Phone No.-0175-2207649, Email id: se-it-os@pspcpl.in  
Corporate Identity No. U40109PB2010SGC033813,  
Website: [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in)

**Tender Enquiry No. 316/DIT-1118(Vol-1) dated 25.06.2024**

Dy. CE/IT (O&S) Ground Floor PSPCL Head Office, The Mall, Patiala invites e-tender for AMC of VMware software for PSPCL. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 25.06.2024, 5:00 pm onwards.

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

C - 380/24 76155/12/3036/2023/35024

**कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड**  
(एक महारत्न कंपनी)

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd [www.coalindia.in](http://www.coalindia.in) / respective Subsidiary Company, CIL e-procurement portal <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and Central Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in>. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in>."

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**SOUTHERN RAILWAY**  
(Construction Organisation)  
Deputy Chief Engineer  
(Construction-I) Trivandrum  
02-DYCE-CN-TVC-2024 dt 24-06-2024

**Name of work:** Doubling of Track between Trivandrum and Kanniyakumari - Flash Butt Welding of Track for Track Linking and other ancillary works for New Track between Thiruvananthapuram Central and Neyyattinkara Stations, Eraneli and Nagercoil Town Stations including all yards. [RDSO approved firms only shall apply]

**Tender Value:** Rs. 1,62,71,848.00

**Period of Completion:** 18 months

**Tender Closing date:** 24-07-2024 15.00 hrs

**Earnest Money Deposit:** Rs. 2,31,400.00

Complete details and tender document will be available at <https://www.ireps.gov.in>

**KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice**

Tender No: R-16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21/2024-25/EP/CMVPA, UJM in Kuttai Diat (16) VSS TO Chakkulattim - Supply Erection, Testing and Commissioning of RW & CW Pump Sets and Transformers (17) VSS TO Pampakkuda - Providing Feeder Line from Melippara to Pampakkuda Line (18) Providing and Laying CWM from Kalyanathandu to Nedumkandam SPH and Construction of SPH (19) Supplying and Laying of CWM, SPH and Steel Tank at Nedumkandam (20) Providing and Laying CWMs, CWP, Construction of SPH, 6.5 LL GLSR in Upputhara, 0.65 LL GLSR in Ambalambettu (21) VSS TO Nedumkandam - Supply and Commissioning of Transformer and Pump Sets, Power Connection and Electrification, EMD : Rs. Rs 200000/- to 500000/-, Tender fee : Rs. Rs.11,025/- to 16,540/-, Last Date for submitting Tender: 17-07-2024 04:00 pm, Phone: 04852835637, Website : [www.kwa.kerala.gov.in](http://www.kwa.kerala.gov.in) & [www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in)

KWA-JB-GL-6-12-2024-25  
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**EXTENSION OF RFQ SUBMISSION DATE**

**FOR EMPANELMENT OF DIFFERENT CATEGORY OF HOSPITALS / PATHOLOGICAL LABS / CLINICS / PHYSIOTHERAPY CENTERS**

The last date of submission of offer for RFQ Ref No. TNCC-021/2024 for empanelment of different category of Hospitals / Pathological Labs / Clinics / Physiotherapy Centers etc is hereby further extended upto 30/06/2024. For details and further updates visit [www.nalcoindia.com](http://www.nalcoindia.com) (under Menu / Active Tender).

**Dy. General Manager (T&C)**

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE  
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE  
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तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 22 / फोन नं. / Ph. No. 0471 - 2564568 / 5669 / 4537)

**ई-निविदा की अवधि बढ़ाना / EXTENSION OF E-TENDER**

उत्सर्ग, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में इवंचलित दाब परीक्षण सुविधा के लिए भवन का निर्माण (सिंथिल तथा पीएच कार्ब) / Construction of building for Hydraulic Pressure Test Facility at TERLS, VSSC, Thumba (Civil & PH works), NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/05/2024-25 Dt. 03.06.2024

डाउनलोड करने की अवधि/Period for downloading निविदा 03.07.2024 को 23:00 बजे तक बढ़ाए गए/Extended upto 23:00 hrs. on 03.07.2024  
निविदाओं की प्राप्ति / Receipt of tenders निविदा 08.07.2024 को 23:00 बजे तक बढ़ाए गए/Extended upto 23:00 hrs. on 08.07.2024

योग्यता मानदंड तथा अन्य शर्तों को पाने के लिए इच्छुक निविदाकार ई-निविदा आरंभित करते हुए विस्तृत सूचना (ई-पत्रआदृती) का अवलोकन करें, जिसे [www.tenderwizard.in](http://www.tenderwizard.in)/ISRO से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। / Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (E-NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website [www.tenderwizard.in](http://www.tenderwizard.in)/ISRO.

Sd/- ग्रुप निदेशक, सौरमज्जी, वीएसएससी / Group Director, CMG, VSSC

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website : [www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in](http://www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in), CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No.KMSCL/ED/35/2024 Date : 26.06.2024

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Online bids are invited from manufacturers/direct importers/ loan licensees on behalf of Department of Health, Govt of Kerala for the Procurement of Test Kits for NVBDCP for the year 2024-25.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	Category	No. of items
1.	KMSCL/ED/NVBDCP-TEST KITS/ RC/2024/014 dt. 26.06.2024	Test Kits	02

The last date and time of online uploading of tender will be 20.07.2024, 5.00 pm. The date and time of opening of Technical bid will be 24.07.2024 11.00 am. Tender shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal [www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in). (Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

**GAMEPLAN**

**Play smart and keep things simple: Rohit's mantra for the semifinal**



K.R. DEEPAK

Rohit Sharma said his team was focused on staying calm and keeping things simple in the semifinal against England. "We want to be a smart cricket team. I have kept things simple personally and for the players as well. We have done well with role clarity, and rely on the players making good decisions on the field," he said.

**COACHSPEAK**

**'We've been galvanised; we were sweating on weather, other results'**



AP

England's arduous route to the T20 World Cup semifinal has galvanised the side, coach Matthew Mott said. "We've actually been galvanised. We were sweating on weather and other results. But now we can play with some freedom in this semifinal and really show our skills," Mott said.

**BIZARRE**

**All teams are getting reverse swing: Rohit rubbishes Inzamam's claim**



K.R. DEEPAK

India skipper Rohit Sharma on Wednesday rejected former Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Haq's accusation that his team had "worked on the ball" to generate reverse swing in the Super 8 match against Australia. "The wickets are so dry and all teams are getting reverse (swing). Need to open your mind sometimes," said Rohit.

**LOCAL CONNECTION**

**Having Pollard on board has been valuable: England coach Mott**



GETTY IMAGES

England coach Matthew Mott said having Kieron Pollard on board as assistant coach was an advantage for England. "Having Pollard share his intel on various islands and venues in the West Indies has been very valuable. We are very happy to have him around," said Mott ahead of the semifinal against India.

# Rohit's India will look to banish the ghosts of Adelaide 2022

The Men In Blue seem to be the team to beat in this edition, with the roles reversed from down under two years ago; India likely to stick with three spinners; defending champ England needs to lift its game if it has to stop the juggernaut

**T20 WORLD CUP**

**Ashwin Achal**  
GEORGETOWN

The first time India and England faced each other in a T20I, Yuvraj Singh shocked the world with six sixes in an over off Stuart Broad in an ICC World T20 match in South Africa in 2007.

But in the last meeting, there were no celebrations for India. It was the semifinal of the 2022 ICC Men's T20 World Cup, when Jos Buttler and Alex Hales hammered the Indian attack on the way to a 10-wicket blowout.

This was a new chapter in English cricket, one where players shed all inhibitions and embraced a no holds barred approach to T20 cricket. A few days after the semifinal wipe-out, England became the first men's team to hold both the limited-overs World Cups.

The humiliating loss at Adelaide forced India to introspect. Changes in personnel and mindset had to be made.

Two years on, lessons have been learnt, and the house has been set in order. When the sides meet in the 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup semifinal here on Thursday, it is India that holds the gold standard.

Unbeaten in the tournament, India has all bases covered. Up top, Rohit Sharma has come into



**Raring to go:** India will look to come out all guns blazing against Buttler's men in the all-important semifinal clash. K.R. DEEPAK

form when it matters. His 41-ball 92 against Australia on Monday allowed India to let loose in the PowerPlay - an area which had proved troublesome earlier in the campaign.

Suryakumar Yadav and Rishabh Pant complete a power-packed top-order. Hardik Pandya's clean hitting in the last three outings has reinforced his value as a finisher.

Kuldeep Yadav's inclusion in the eleven for the Super 8 leg has turned out

to be a master-stroke. With seven wickets in three matches, the left-arm wrist spinner has emerged as the standout wicket-taker in the attack. The stuttering form of Virat Kohli and Shivam Dube are the only cracks in the wall.

The Guyana National Stadium pitch assists seamers, but India is likely to stick to its three spinner combination.

England has had a bumpy ride to the last-four. A washed-out game with

Scotland and a loss to Australia sent the side close to a group stage exit. There was a seven-run defeat at the hands of South Africa in the Super 8 stage.

A win against West Indies stands as the lone positive result over a top team. In effect, England has reached here on the back of whippings given to minnows. There is no doubt that Buttler's men have to raise the bar a few notches to challenge the marauding Indians.

**The teams (from):**

**India:** Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Hardik Pandya, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Sanju Samson, Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, and Mohammed Siraj.

**England:** Jos Buttler (Capt.), Moeen Ali, Jofra Archer, Jonny Bairstow, Harry Brook, Sam Curran, Ben Duckett, Tom Hartley, Will Jacks, Chris Jordan, Liam Livingstone, Adil Rashid, Phil Salt, Reece Topley, and Mark Wood.

**Eye on the sky ahead of the big game**

**Ashwin Achal**  
GEORGETOWN

Rain threat looms large over the India-England T20 World Cup semifinal to be held here on Thursday. The city has witnessed persistent showers over the last few days. The sun, however, did come out for a short while on Wednesday morning.

If the match is called off, India will progress to the final by virtue of finishing higher than England in the Super 8 pool. India topped Group 1 while England was second in Group 2.

Unlike the first semifinal at Trinidad and Tobago, the second semifinal does not have a reserve day. The short turnaround time between this match and the final at Barbados (on Saturday) does not allow for a reserve day. However, an additional 250 minutes can be utilised to extend play on Thursday. Each innings in the semifinal and final must witness 10 overs of action for a result.

**Today's matches**

Semifinals	
South Africa	Afghanistan
Tarouba, 6 a.m.	
HEAD-TO-HEAD T20Is	
Played: 2	
South Africa   Afghanistan	2   0
India	England
Guyana, 8 p.m.	
HEAD-TO-HEAD T20Is	
Played: 23	
India   England	12   11

**Australia win has given India great confidence: Rohit**



**Thriving:** Rohit's men will want to sustain the momentum and go the distance. K.R. DEEPAK

**Ashwin Achal**  
GEORGETOWN

India's win over Australia on Monday in the Super 8 game saw Rohit Sharma come into form. The victory also played a big role in ushering Australia's exit from the tournament.

Captain Rohit paused and smiled when asked for one big takeaway from India's fine performance against Australia. "The big takeaway is) That the Australian team is no more in the tournament," said the opener.

Australia has been a tough nut to crack for India. The Baggies out-gunned India in the 2023 Cricket World Cup final and the 2023 ICC World Test Championship final.

To get a win over a quality side has given the team a great confidence boost, noted Rohit. "Australia is a great side - that is why they have won so many championships. We can take a lot of confidence from our win. This format is all about confidence," the ace batter added.

The skipper was pleased to have found his attacking instinct in St. Lucia. "I have been trying to do this for a number of years, which is to put pressure on the bowlers.

"In this format, when you put the opposition under pressure, things fall apart. This was greatly satisfying, especially since the result went in our favour," said the Indian captain.

For a little over a decade now, India has faltered in the knockout stages of ICC events. The trick this time around is to forget the past and take it one step at a time, Rohit added.

"We want to treat this as just another game. We don't want to think about what lies ahead, what is the context of this game, or the past. Everyone knows it is a semifinal, but we don't want to keep talking about it.

"The group is in a good frame of mind. We're enjoying each other's success and company. It is important to carry on in this same mindset," said Rohit.

# Afghanistan vs South Africa: battle between the tweekers

**Avan Acharya**  
TAROUBA (TRINIDAD)

On Wednesday evening at the Brian Lara Stadium in Tarouba, Trinidad, Rashid Khan's motley crew will play South Africa in the semifinal of ICC T20 World Cup.

Expect South Africa to stick with two spinners, with skipper Aiden Markram bowling his full quota, like he did in the last match against West Indies, should he feel the pitch is ripe for turn.

Afghanistan has a vaunted spin arsenal of its own, with Rashid, Noor Ahmad and Mohammad Nabi having collectively gone for under seven runs per over so far and picking 18 wickets.

Afghanistan's spin vs South Africa's spin-hitters could decide the contest.

Quinton de Kock has identified the PowerPlay as



**Spinner takes all:** Both South Africa and Afghanistan will rely on their slow bowlers to give them the winning edge. GETTY IMAGES

the best time for run-scoring and has not held back. But left-arm pacer Fazal-haq Farooqi's ability to swing the ball both ways will test his gumption.

Of course, Anrich Nortje and Kagiso Rabada are high-quality fast bowlers; Marco Jansen offers a left-arm angle and Otneil Baartman's variations

could come handy against an Afghanistan batting line-up that can drop into a shell if the ball isn't coming on nicely.

One of these two teams must lose and, for the romantic, the idea of seeing either signing off from this World Cup on an ellipsis is anathema. An emotional roller-coaster awaits.

# Both semifinals truly could be anyone's game



**Sunil Gavaskar**

For the first time since the 2003 World Cup in South Africa, the usual suspects haven't made it to the semifinals. That time, Kenya made it to the semis and, while that did not do much for the sport in the country, Afghanistan's entry into the semis will sky rocket the game there to another level.

There used to be a time when the talk used to be how West Indies had the most natural players in the world, uncoached but sheer raw talent that was explosive. Then it was Pakistan, about whom the same sentiment was expressed and for the last decade and half, it has been India where raw talent is bursting at the seams, allowing the National selectors to pick two or three teams capable of beating the best in the world.

Afghanistan is another country where there is so much talent and, if guided properly, they can beat

the world too. They take on South Africa who also are playing a brand of cricket not seen before. There are no superstar players in this South African team and they are not panicking in tight situations as they used to earlier.

The other semis is between the defending champions England and India and that also promises to be a thriller. England have come roaring back, seemingly stung by the defeat to the old enemy in the group game. They swept past India last time without losing a wicket. This time though the pitch could well play a role. The turn could help the spinners of both teams. They also have great new ball attacks so batters may not find it easy.

India will be super confident after the memorable knock by skipper Rohit Sharma where he treated the Aussie bowlers as if they were net bowlers. Suryakumar Yadav, Shivam Dube, Hardik Pandya - all played their part and then Kuldeep bowled a fine tight spell that strangled the Aussie batters in the middle overs. India fielding was outstanding too with Axar Patel taking a truly incredible catch, tim-

ing his jump to perfection. It's hard to predict who will get to the final. That said, the two semis could actually produce the

most thrills in the tournament so far. (Professional Management Group)

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## INBRIEF



## Srihari, Dhinidhi to compete in Paris through 'Universality quota'

Srihari Nataraj and Dhinidhi Desinghu (in pic) will compete at the Paris Olympics via the Universality places qualification system, which allows countries to recommend their two highest-ranked swimmers for the showpiece if none makes the cut through the regulation process. The Swimming Federation of India (SFI) claimed the "universality places" for both genders after no Indian swimmer qualified for the Paris Olympic Games or received a FINA invite based on his or her Olympic Selection time (B time).



## Kapil Dev takes over as president of PGTI

World Cup-winning former India cricket captain Kapil Dev has taken over as the new president of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI). The 65-year-old, who was already a member of the PGTI board as its vice president, was chosen unanimously and will take over from incumbent H.R. Srinivasan. "It is an honour to become the president of PGTI, an organisation with which I have now been associated for quite a few years. It is of a players body, and I am great friends with all of them and with whom I often play," Kapil said on his new position.

## Romania takes top spot in Group E ahead of Belgium and Slovakia

Dour England makes the grade as leader from Group C, Denmark pips Slovenia to the runner-up spot virtue of a better disciplinary record



Agence France-Presse  
COLOGNE

Belgium qualified for the last 16 of Euro 2024 on Wednesday after a 0-0 draw with Ukraine, which exited the tournament despite all four teams in Group E finishing level on four points.

Romania took top spot ahead of Belgium after scoring more goals in the group following its 1-1 draw with Slovakia, which also goes through as one of the four best third-placed sides.

Belgium supporters reacted furiously at the final whistle in Stuttgart, with captain Kevin De Bruyne appearing to tell his team-mates not to go over to acknowledge them as the whistles and jeers grew louder.

It will play France in the next round and has landed itself on the tougher side of the draw which also features host Germany, Spain and Portugal.

Ukraine's brave run came to an agonising end



Big miss: Lukaku's poor tournament for Belgium continues as he scuffs a weak shot straight at Ukraine's goalkeeper Trubin. AP

as it became the first team since the tournament increased to 24 teams not to progress with four points.

It had been the first time ever at the European Championship all four teams in the same group had gone into the final round of games locked on the same number of points.

England ground out a 0-0 draw with Slovenia to claim top spot in Group C and avoid a last-16 meeting with Germany.

Gareth Southgate's side has struggled to find its best form in the tournament and delivered another unimpressive perfor-

mance in Cologne, one that will do little to silence the mounting criticism back home.

It was still enough to advance as group winner though after an equally turgid 0-0 draw between Denmark and Serbia in Munich, which saw the Danes finish second ahead of Slovenia despite an identical record.

"That was the aim before the start of the tournament, to come top of the group," England captain Harry Kane told ITV.

England must wait to find out which of the four best third-placed teams it will meet in Gelsenkirchen

on Sunday for a place in the quarterfinals.

Denmark pipped Slovenia to the runners-up spot by virtue of a better disciplinary record after both nations finished with three draws, the same goal difference and number of goals scored.

Slovenia picked up one more yellow card than Denmark, which takes on Germany in the last 16.

"It's a great team but we're a great team as well," said Denmark coach Kasper Hjulmand.

Slovenia celebrated reaching the knockout phase of a major tournament for the first time,

## Points table

Team	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	GD	Pts
<b>Group A</b>								
Germany (Q)	3	2	0	1	8	2	6	7
Switzerland (Q)	3	1	0	2	5	3	2	5
Hungary	3	1	2	0	2	5	-3	3
Scotland	3	0	2	1	2	7	-5	1
<b>Group B</b>								
Spain (Q)	3	3	0	0	5	0	5	9
Italy (Q)	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	4
Croatia	3	0	1	2	3	6	-3	2
Albania	3	0	2	1	3	5	-2	1
<b>Group C</b>								
England (Q)	3	1	0	2	2	1	1	5
Denmark (Q)	3	0	0	3	2	2	0	3
Slovenia (Q)	3	0	0	3	2	2	0	3
Serbia	3	0	1	2	1	2	-1	2
<b>Group D</b>								
Austria (Q)	3	2	1	0	6	4	2	6
France (Q)	3	1	0	2	2	1	1	5
Netherlands (Q)	3	1	1	1	4	4	0	4
Poland	3	0	2	1	3	6	-3	1
<b>Group E</b>								
Romania (Q)	3	1	1	1	4	3	1	4
Belgium (Q)	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	4
Slovakia (Q)	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	4
Ukraine	3	1	1	1	2	4	-2	4
<b>Group F</b>								
Portugal (Q)	2	2	0	0	5	1	4	6
Turkiye	2	1	1	0	3	4	-1	3
Czechia	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1
Georgia	2	0	1	1	2	4	-2	1

(As on June 26)

while Serbia was eliminated after coming last in the section. Croatia's exit was also confirmed.

The results: Group C: England 0

drew with Slovenia 0; Denmark 0 drew with Serbia 0.

Group E: Slovakia 1 (Duda 24) drew with Romania 1 (Razvan Marin 37-pen); Ukraine 0 drew with Belgium 0.

## We enjoy playing all three formats of the game, but Test cricket is always special: coach Muzumdar

## SA IN INDIA

S. Dipak Ragav  
CHENNAI

India coach Amol Muzumdar expressed confidence in continuing the winning momentum in the one-off Test against South Africa starting here on Friday.

"We do have the momentum. We won in Bangladesh (5-0 in T20Is), and we won against South Africa (3-0) in the 50-over format. But at the same time, we are trying to focus on every game as it comes. (This) being a different format, the demands are different, but I think the team is up for it," said Muzumdar.

The former Mumbai batter said the team is excited to play all three formats of the game and welcomed the revival of the inter-zonal multi-day tournament



Buzzing again: Smriti will look to continue her purple patch while the other Indians will be keen to catch everything that comes their way and make coach Muzumdar happy. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

earlier this year. "There is no doubt we enjoy playing all three formats of the game, but Test cricket is always special. Against England and Australia, we played back-to-back Test matches in December.

"After that, it was great on the part of the BCCI to include the inter-zonal,



which happened in the multi-day format," said the 49-year-old.

Muzumdar also said that a World Test Championship would be good for the women's game going forward, as it would give more context to these Test matches.

"Test cricket is always special, so every game is

important to us. And that is how it's been drilled into the dressing room. We want to keep it that way, that every game is important, whether it's an ODI, T20 or Test match.

Now, they are getting used to playing all the formats. It's not a bad idea to have the Test championships, so that's something

to look forward to.

"But that is for the board to decide. And if it happens, it's even better for the game."

Muzumdar also said a few players like top-order batter Subha Sathesh and bowlers Sneha Rana, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Meghna Singh, who have been included for only the one-off Test, were preparing at the NCA and expected them to hit the ground running despite a lack of game-time.

"We had a bowler's camp that happened at the NCA about 15 days back, and the players were specifically given the red-ball stuff to be done in the camp. So, they already have had the workload.

"Also, when they returned home, they were told a few things to do, and their weekly chart was organised and given to them. So they are completely fresh and ready to go."

## Eyeing a Paris ticket, India's top athletes gear up one last time

## ATHLETICS

Uthra Ganesan  
PANCHKULA

With qualifications for the Paris Olympics on the line, several top Indian athletes will hope to make the most of their last chance over the next four days at the 63rd National Inter-State senior athletics championships, starting here on Thursday.

Barring Neeraj Chopra, almost every Indian athlete will be in action at the Tau Devi Lal Stadium, with some having more at stake than others, none more so than the jumpers who have been off-colour all through the season.

On Wednesday evening, the track and field was packed with participants, local regulars and even some kids running around as the organisers scurried to get things in place. The big names – Hima Das, the men and women quarter-milers, and the sprint stars Animesh Kujur, Tejas Shirse and Gurindervir Singh – meanwhile went about getting into rhythm for their respective events.

The biggest spotlight will be on the 4x400m mixed relay team – the men and women have respectively already qualified. The team needs to finish in 3:11:87 or less to make sure it is in the top-16 in the qualifying rankings, and the Athletics Federation of India is hopeful of making the cut.

"We need international participation to be considered legible and so have requested the Sri Lankan and Maldives teams to participate," AFI president Adille Sumariwalla said on the eve of the competition.

Among other big names, the AFI hopes to get one more qualifier in Ja-



Jyothi.  
FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

velin and see the triple jumpers Abdulla Aboobacker (21st) and Praveen Chittravel (24th) improve on their performances.

Thirty-two spots are available in each event, with hurdler Jyothi Yarraji and javelin thrower Annu Rani expected to make the cut. Others, including high jumper Sarvesh Kushare and Tejaswin Shankar and women long jumper Shailli Singh, will have to get their season's bests and hope to breach the qualifying marks.

Asian Games champion shot-putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor, still recovering from an ankle injury and initially expected to skip the event, has been exempted by the AFI, but figures in the final entry list updated late on Wednesday – as does Avinash Sable in the 3000m Steeplechase after being named only in the 1500m earlier.

"Neeraj is participating in the Paris DL (July 7) while Rajesh Ramesh (400m) is still recovering from his recent injury and has been given exemption from participation. Some race walkers who qualified early have also been allowed to skip, but other than that, everyone is here," Sumariwalla said.



Head... on top of the pile.  
K.R. DEEPAK

## Head replaces Suryakumar as No. 1 T20I batter

Press Trust of India  
DUBAI

Australia opener Travis Head on Wednesday topped India's Suryakumar Yadav as the number one batter in the latest ICC T20I rankings.

Suryakumar was holding the top spot since December 2023 but Head's splendid run at the T20 World Cup catapulted him to the top. Head scored 255 runs with two half-centuries. The Australian is two points ahead of Suryakumar (842 points) who dropped a spot to second. He has a chance to reclaim the numero uno position as India's campaign is still alive.

England's Phil Salt, Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan round up the top five.

Jasprit Bumrah jumped a whopping 44 places to zoom to 24th spot. Axar Patel, who has moved up to eighth, remains the top-ranked Indian bowler.

Adil Rashid remains on top of the bowling rankings, Rashid Khan is up to second with Josh Hazlewood moving up three places into fourth, behind Wanindu Hasaranga.

Wanindu Hasaranga is back to the top spot in the all-rounders' rankings.

## Every shot counts and it is a game of precision: Cheema

## SHOOTING

Y.B. Sarangi  
KOLKATA

"I will look forward to (the performance of) Arjun Singh Cheema," said 10m air pistol shooter Cheema, completely focussed on his training for the Paris Olympics.

Cheema, a non-quota place winner who excelled in the selection trials to get selected along with quota holder Sarabjot Singh, is working on technical and psychological areas of his game in Austria in order to peak in about a month's time. Approaching his Olympics debut, the 23-year-old Punjab shooter,



Crack shots: Cheema and Sarabjot will go for gold in the 10m air pistol at the Paris Olympics. PTI

who missed out on a berth in the Tokyo Games, said he would take the Games as another event.

"I am not taking it as my first Games. I am just considering it as a regular even-

t...Every shot counts and it is a game of precision. Being in your process is what matters," said Cheema during an interaction organised by the Sports Authority of India on Wednesday.

According to Cheema, the pressure of competing along with world-class Indian shooters in the four-phase National selection trials was beneficial. "Sticking to the process made me improve my confidence which is definitely going to help in the Games."

Cheema, a former World junior gold medalist, an Asian Games team gold medalist and a double Asian championships silver medalist of 2024, stressed the importance of training abroad.

"The is a reason to train abroad is we get similar weather, food and sleep cycles to that of the venue, Paris, so that our body and mind adapts well."

On a typical day Chee-

ma starts his day with yoga and meditation followed by a shooting session of up to four to five hours in the morning and physical workout, prehab and mental recovery sessions in the evening.

## Session with Bindra

The young shooter shared how a virtual session involving the Olympic probables and Olympic gold medalist Abhinav Bindra helped the shooters.

"It was really great. He spoke about his pattern and preparation and it is helping us in our preparations," said Cheema, who will compete in the men's individual event and mixed team event (with Rhythm Sangwan).

**IN BRIEF**



**Undisputed heavyweight champ Usyk vacates IBF belt**

Oleksandr Usyk has vacated the International Boxing Federation (IBF) heavyweight belt, the Ukrainian said on X on Tuesday, five weeks after becoming the undisputed heavyweight champion. The 37-year-old requested not to be stripped of his IBF belt to contest the undisputed champion title when he takes on Tyson Fury in their December rematch, where only the WBC, WBO and WBA titles will now be on the line. The IBF title will be up for grabs when Anthony Joshua takes on Daniel Dubois in September.

**Yusha Nafees makes the quarterfinals**

Yusha Nafees led a strong Indian challenge into the quarterfinals of the 31st Asian junior individual squash championships in Islamabad on Wednesday as seven of his compatriots also won their second-round matches across various age-groups.

**Other Indian results, second round: Boys: U-13:** Dhruv Bopana lost to Huzaifa Shahid (Pak) 9-11, 9-11, 4-11. **Girls: U-13:** M. Goushika bt Maliha Shah (Pak) 11-3, 11-3, 11-3; Aadya Budhia bt Sadiya Zahoor Khan (Pak) 11-2, 11-6, 11-1; **U-15:** Anika Dubey bt Wong Suet Ling (HKG) 11-5, 11-1, 11-4; Diva Shah bt Chung Ka Yau (HKG) 9-11, 11-6, 11-3, 11-9; **U-17:** Unnati Tripathi bt Kavitha Senomi Silva (SL) 11-3, 11-4, 11-4; **U-19:** Nirupama Dubey bt Abhitha Shanmuganathan (Mas) 11-4, 11-9, 11-8; Shameena Riaz lost to Anrie Goh (Mas) 5-11, 1-11, 2-11.

**LIVE TELECAST**

**Hockey:** Pro League, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 5.30 & 10.30 p.m.  
**T20 World Cup:** 2nd semifinal, England vs India, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m.

**Harmanpreet to lead as HI names team for Paris Games**

Sreejesh expectedly takes the sole goalkeeper's spot; coach Fulton hopes a mix of youth and experience will help India manage a second successive podium finish

**HOCKEY**

**Uthra Ganesan**  
PANCHKULA

**H**armanpreet Singh will be in charge as the final 16-member Indian men's hockey squad for the Paris Olympics was announced on Wednesday with coach Craig Fulton hoping a mix of youth and experience will help the team manage a second successive podium finish.

P.R. Sreejesh expectedly took the sole goalkeeper's spot as the veteran, along with Manpreet Singh, joined an elite club of Indian hockey players to appear in four Olympics each – the others being Leslie Claudius, Udhay Singh and Dhanraj Pillay.

Harmanpreet, who made his Olympics debut in 2016 as the youngest member of the side, will be appearing in his third outing.

**Five Olympic debutants** At the other end of the spectrum will be five Olympic debutants as the Indian team hopes to emulate, or go one better, on the Tokyo bronze-winning side.

Hardik Singh will continue to be Harmanpreet's deputy as the team was announced after two days of trials at the SAI Centre, Bengaluru watched by the selection committee.



**Seasoned player:** Harmanpreet, who made his Olympics debut in 2016, will be appearing in his third outing. GETTY IMAGES

Our focus has been on building a cohesive team that can adapt to different playing styles and situation – FULTON

are Sanjay and Jarmanpreet Singh in defence, Rajkumar Pal in the midfield and Abhishek and Sukhjeet Singh in the attack. Goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak, Tokyo medalist Nilakanta Sharma and Jugraj Singh have been named as alternatives.

Youngsters Arajit Singh Hundal and Mohd. Raheel Mauseen, impressive in

petitive due to the depth of talent within our ranks, however, I am confident that every player chosen will bring their best. Each player selected has demonstrated exceptional skill, dedication, and resilience throughout our rigorous preparation phase," Fulton said.

"This squad embodies a perfect blend of experienced players and promising young talents, giving us the versatility and energy required to tackle the challenges ahead. Our focus has been on building a cohesive team that can adapt to different playing styles and situations, and I believe we have achieved that," he added.

India is in Pool B alongside defending champion Belgium, Australia, Argentina, New Zealand and Ireland, needing a top-four finish to advance. India will begin its campaign on July 27 against New Zealand, followed by Argentina (July 29), Ireland (July 30), Belgium (August 1) and Australia (August 2).

**The squad: Goalkeeper:** P.R. Sreejesh. **Defenders:** Jarmanpreet Singh, Amit Rohidas, Harmanpreet Singh, Sumit, Sanjay. **Midfielders:** Rajkumar Pal, Shamsher Singh, Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad. **Forwards:** Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Mandeep Singh, Gurjant Singh.

**Reserves:** Nilakanta Sharma, Jugraj Singh, Krishan Bahadur Pathak.

**Yuki-Albano combine exits in quarterfinals**

**TENNIS**

**Sports Bureau**

Yuki Bhambri and Albano Olivetti went down fighting 6-7(2), 4-6 to the top seeds Nathaniel Lammons and Jackson Withrow of USA in the doubles quarterfinals of the €1,005,340 ATP tennis tournament in Calvia, Spain, on Wednesday. The Indo-French pair won €8,630 and 45 ATP points.

**Other results: \$25,000 ITF men, Hillcrest, South Africa: Singles (first round):** Alec Beckley (RSA) bt Aditya Balsekar 6-2, 6-0. **\$15,000 ITF men, Ust-Kamenogorsk, Kazakhstan: Singles (first round):** Cengiz Aksu (Tur) bt Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-3, 6-1; Siddharth Vishwakarma bt Boris Pokotilov 7-6(3), 6-0; S.D. Prajwal Dev bt Maxim Shin (Uzb) 6-4, 6-4; Alexander Chepik bt Karan Singh

6-2, 6-7(8), 7-6(7). **\$40,000 ITF women, Palma Del Rio, Spain: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Rutuja Bhosale & Sophie Chang (USA) bt Ruth Llaverias (Esp) & Demi Tran (Ned) 7-5, 6-1.

**\$15,000 ITF women, Los Angeles: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Olivia Center & Kate Fakih (USA) bt Jessical Failla (USA) & Sahaja Yamalapalli 6-4, 6-4.

**\$15,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Gala Arangio (Arg) & Izabelle Persson (Swe) bt Aaddi Gupta & Dilana Rsovac (Aus) 6-0, 6-3.

**\$15,000 ITF women, Hong Kong: Singles (first round):** Zhang Ying (Chn) bt Vanshita Pathania 6-1, 6-1; Hiromi Abe (Jpn) bt Saumya Vig 6-1, 6-0.

**Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Dang Yiming (Chn) & Anastasia Zolotareva bt Svetlana Shusteva & Saumya Vig 6-2, 6-2; Yuyun Chen (Tpe) & Gaeul Jang (Kor) bt Shefali Arora & Nnaomi Hagi (Hkg) 6-3, 6-1.

**SNAPSHOTS**

**Chandril and Lakshit in Indian Masters team**

The Sood twins – Chandril and Lakshit – will represent the Indian team in the over-30 section, along with Pulkit Mishra and Arun Bhosale in the ITF World Masters tennis to be staged in Portugal from August 4.

**The team: Men: Over-30:** Pulkit Mishra, Chandril Sood, Arun Bhosale, Lakshit Sood. **Over-35:** Ketan Dhumal, Rahul Belwal, Shrikant Kumawat, Rahul Vora. **Over-40:** Mandar Wakankar, Abhijeet Muzumdar, Ravindra Pandey, Girish Mishra. **Women:** Over-30: Monica Menon, Meenu Shukla, Jyoti, Sanjana Raval.

**Over-35:** Nikunj Kamal, Tulsi Mehta, Harpreet Bajpal, Rinku Kumari. **Over-40:** Priyanka Mehta, Mansi Sharma, Kapila Parekh.

**AICF to decide World Chess C'ship host**

The All India Chess Federation (AICF) is expected to conduct a meeting to finalise a venue for the upcoming FIDE World Championship after Chennai and Delhi made separate bids to claim hosting rights.

While Chennai is backed by the Tamil Nadu government, Delhi has emerged as AICF's choice.

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Date: 26.06.2024

**INVITATION FOR TENDER**  
(Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders in two cover system from eligible tenderers for the work of **Project Monitoring Consultancy Services** for the (i) Work of Providing and Laying of 1200mm dia RCC NP-3 pipeline from Outer Ring Road, Laggere Bridge to Sumanahalli bridge, Magadi Main Road, (ii) Work of Providing & Laying of 1200 & 1600 mm dia RCC NP-3 pipeline from SMV layout near Hosakere Lake to Vidhyapeeta common chamber near Kengeri bridge. (iii) Work of Providing & Laying of 2000mm, 2200mm and 2400mm dia RCC NP-3 pipeline from Mylasandra STP to Doddabele STP. (iv) Work of providing and laying of 1600mm RCC NP-3 pipeline from Outer Ring Road near Hennur Police Station to Rajacanal STP.

Amount put to tender: **Rs. 336.53 Lakhs.** Bid Security: **Rs. 5.05 Lakhs.** The last date for submission of completed tender document: **26.07.2024 at 15:30Hrs.** The Bids will be opened on: **29.07.2024 at 11:00Hrs.** The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours. Sd/-  
Chief Engineer (WWM-West),  
DIPR/CP/RA/605/2024-25

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENT OF SPACE**  
Construction & Maintenance Group,  
ISRO Head Quarters, Antariksh Bhavan, New BEL Road, Bengaluru-560094 Phone: 080-2217 2476/2479/2033, Fax No.: 080-2351 3126

**BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE**  
On behalf of the President of India, online item rate tenders are invited through e-Tendering for the following work:

Title of work	Annual Maintenance Service Contract for Operation & Maintenance of Civil, PH, Electrical, HVAC, Mechanical, Horticulture and Housekeeping Works at Antariksh Bhavan, Sadiq nagar, Guest House at Greater Kailash-II, OSD Quarters and CISF Barracks, New Delhi
e-Tender Notice No.	CMG/ISRO-HQ/C/AMC/07/P/DEL/2024-25 Dtd: 26.06.2024
Estimated Cost put to tender	Rs. 134.86 Lakhs
Period of Completion	Twelve (12) Months
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	From: 18:10 hrs on 26.06.2024 To: 23:59 hrs on 15.07.2024
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	Up to 15:30 hrs on 19.07.2024
Due date and time for opening of tenders (Technical Bid)	16:30 hrs onwards on 19.07.2024
EMD	Rs. 2,69,720/- (Valid for 180 days)

For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) on websites <https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html> and <https://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO> at tender free view. Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) and tender documents can be downloaded from e-tendering website: <https://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO>  
Sd/- Group Head, CMG, ISRO HQ

**ENTERPRISE CONNECT** A Business Initiative

**The 10th International Day of Yoga celebrated at Patanjali Yogpeeth with a commitment to a Healthy India and a Healthy World**  
Under the guidance of YogaRishi Swami Ramdev Ji Maharaj and Acharya Balkrishna Ji Maharaj, the 10th International Day of Yoga was celebrated on 21 June 24 with the theme of 'Yoga for self, society as well as for the universe' at the Yog Bhawan Auditorium, Patanjali Wellness, Patanjali Yogpeeth - 2. On this occasion, Swami Ramdev Ji Maharaj emphasised that both treatable and untreatable diseases can be reversed through yoga and yoga-based integrated treatments. He stated that incorporating yoga, pranayama, sahadh yoga, advanced yoga, and yoga in daily life can make life meaningful. Yoga is part of our daily life and the solution to all our life's problems. It is self-discipline, self-vision, self-treatment, and self-realization. He clarified that yoga practice is not merely physical exercise or a set of postures and breathing techniques but a life philosophy that offers solutions to all issues of the body, mind, life, and the world. Acharya Balkrishna Ji Maharaj remarked that yoga is India's greatest gift to the world. He mentioned that yoga is a way of life and a method of life transformation. This transformation was witnessed as real-world evidence on this sacred occasion of International Yoga Day. If patients can become healthy through yoga, you can also develop the belief that if others can recover with yoga, you can too. Yoga is not a religion, sect, or creed. It is a universal, scientific, and all-beneficial science free from caste, religion and political boundaries.

**POWERGRID's Corporate Communications Team features in India's 30 Top Corporate Communications Team**  
POWERGRID's Team Corporate Communications has been featured in India's 30 Top Corporate Communications Teams for the fourth time by Reputation Today. The team led by Sh. Anshuman Tandon, CGM Corporate Communications POWERGRID, along with Shri Ravi Kumar, DGM (Corp. Comm.) and Shri Akshat Chopra, Asst. Manager (Corp. Comm.) received the award at an event held in Bengaluru. POWERGRID is the only PSU to feature in this prestigious list. POWERGRID has jumped 5 places from its last ranking. To arrive at the list of Top Corporate Communication Teams, a jury independently evaluated the Top 30 teams scoring each one of them on set parameters like team responsibilities, team budgets, award-winning campaigns, learning initiatives and so on. Reputation Today partnered with Asia-Pacific Communications and Public Relations Directors (APACD), who in turn invited four of its chapter chairs - 2 from India, 1 each from Singapore and the Middle East to judge the submissions.

**SEIL Energy raises Rs 250 cr through maiden bonds issue**  
SEIL Energy India Limited, a leading independent power producer, has raised Rs 250 crore in debt through its maiden 5-year bonds issue on the BSE. According to

information available on BSE, the five-year bond issue (Non-Convertible Debentures or NCDs) carry a coupon of 8.45 per cent and would mature on June 18, 2029. The bond issue was fully subscribed through private placement, reflecting investor confidence.

**National Reading Day Celebrated Across the Country**  
National Book Trust, India celebrated National Reading Day across the country in remembrance of P.N. Panicker, the father of India's library movement. On this occasion, creative reading activities were organized for children, teachers, trainers, and mentors at various locations including New Delhi, Dehradun, Patna, Lucknow, Bhopal, Varanasi, Mumbai, Guwahati, Agartala, Cuttack, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Kochi. Thousands of children, teachers, and parents participated in this initiative to promote a reading culture, both offline and online. Children were engaged in reading practices in programs held at different locations. Child specialists asked children to read stories and poems, they explained how to present them with appropriate expressions. These programs helped improve children's reading habits. Emphasis was also given on reading books and digital reading through the Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya. Children were taught how to remember their favorite subjects in a fun way by reading them.

**WPPS announces Global CEO Conclave on Wheat and Wheat Products on June 27 and June 28, 2024, at Delhi**  
Wheat Products Promotion Society (WPPS) is delighted to announce the Global CEO Conclave on Wheat and Wheat Products. This landmark event aims to bring together influential stakeholders from the global wheat industry, including CEOs, industry experts, policymakers, and academicians, to discuss and shape the future of wheat production, processing, and trade worldwide. The agenda for the WPPS Global CEO Conclave on Wheat and Wheat Products, held from June 27-28, 2024, showcases a dynamic lineup of sessions designed to explore and shape the future of the wheat industry. The two-day conclave promises a comprehensive exploration of key themes impacting the wheat sector, ranging from technological innovations in milling and baking to global economic dynamics, food security, and sustainable supply chain management. Participants will engage in insightful discussions, panel sessions, and networking opportunities designed to foster collaboration and innovation across the industry.

**IndianOil and GPS Renewables Pvt. Ltd. form Joint Venture for Sustainable Energy Solutions**  
IndianOil, has entered into a Joint Venture Agreement with GPS Renewables Private Limited. This association will pave the way for the formation of a 50:50 joint venture company dedicated to advancing biofuel adoption across the country. The agreement was signed by Mr Mainak Chakraborty, CEO & Co-Founder, GPS Renewables Pvt Ltd. and Mr Santanu Gupta, ED (Alternative Energy), IndianOil in the presence of

IndianOil dignitaries Mr Sujoy Choudhury, Director (P&BD), Mr Senthil Kumar N., Director (Pipelines) with Addl. Charge of Director (Refineries) and Mr Alok Sharma, Director (R&D). Mr. V Subramanian, Chairman of GPS Renewables was also present besides other senior officials from both the organizations. The joint venture will focus on integrating advanced biogas technologies to convert organic waste into Compressed Biogas (CBG), a cleaner and renewable energy source. This will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions while providing a sustainable alternative to traditional fossil fuels. By leveraging their combined expertise, IndianOil and GPS Renewables aim to accelerate the deployment of CBG plants nationwide.

**Jalkheri Power Generation Plant in its new 'Avatar'. Biomass based plant to provide 10MW of eco-friendly, green power to the state.**  
Power Minister S. Harbhajan Singh announced the successful recommissioning of the 10MW Biomass Power Plant at Village Jalkheri, District Fatehgarh Sahib, highlighting its significant environmental and economic benefits for Punjab. PSPCL's 1x10MW Biomass Plant at Village Jalkheri was originally commissioned in June 1992. The plant remained operational till July 1995 after which it was given on lease to M/s Jalkheri Power Plant Ltd (JPL) in July 2001. The plant was recommissioned in July 2002 and remained operational till September 2007. In 2012, efforts were made to restart the project by giving a licence to a private developer to run it for a specific period by giving it on lease. In 2018, the plant was re-tendered to be leased out on a ROT basis. Now the renovated plant has been recommissioned on June 21, 2024 and officially commenced operations. It utilizes advanced Denmark Technology boilers and is designed to generate electricity using 100% paddy straw. This state-of-the-art facility biomass plant will consume approximately 1 lakh tons of paddy straw annually. Which will help the state government to curb the problem of stubble burning in nearly 50 thousand acres of area in Punjab. This initiative will provide direct and indirect employment to 400-500 individuals, fostering economic growth in the region. The project brings multiple benefits including environmental protection by mitigating air pollution caused by the burning of paddy straw in fields, supporting sustainable energy by reducing dependence on fossil fuels and effectively utilizing the abundant paddy straw available in Punjab. The term of Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for this plant is 20 years starting from June 21, 2024 after which the facility will be transferred to Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL). Minister Harbhajan Singh E.T.O. emphasized the multi-faceted benefits of the project: "This initiative not only increases our green energy capacity and provides employment but also offers a solution to the persistent problem of stubble burning. It aligns perfectly with our government's commitment to energy security, environmental protection, and economic growth."

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FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR THE HINDU

# Argentina in quarterfinals with a late win over Chile

Canada beats Peru for its first victory over a South American opponent in 24 years



Lautaro Martinez celebrates. AP

## COPA AMERICA

**Associated Press**  
EAST RUTHERFORD (USA)

Lautaro Martinez scored off a rebound in the 88th minute, giving defending champion Argentina a 1-0 victory over Chile that guaranteed it a berth in the Copa America quarterfinals. Messi's corner kick led to a shot blocked by goalkeeper Claudio Bravo, and Martinez scored his second goal of the tournament on Argentina's 21st shot of the

match. Players stood and waited for three minutes while the goal, Martinez's 26th for the national team, was confirmed in a video review.

Argentina leads Group A with six points, followed by Canada with six, and Chile and Peru with one each.

Argentina outshot Chile 17-0 before Rodrigo Echeverria's 72nd-minute effort following a turnover was saved by Emiliano Martinez.

The goalkeeper then made another diving save

on Echeverria in the 76th.

Meanwhile, in Kansas City, Jonathan David scored in the 74th minute as Canada beat Peru 1-0 for its first victory over a South American opponent in 24 years.

Peru played a man short after Miguel Araujo was given a red card in the 59th minute for a studs-up tackle on Jacob Shaffelburg, a call made after a video review.

**The results:** Chile 0 lost to Argentina 1 (Lautaro 88); Peru 0 lost to Canada 1 (David 74).

## Robinson's unwanted record

**Press Trust of India**  
BRIGHTON (ENGLAND)

Ollie Robinson on Wednesday bowled the second-costliest over in First Class cricket history – as he gave away 43 runs for Sussex off nine balls during a county match against Leicestershire.

The figures from Robinson's 13th over in the game read 6, 6nb, 4, 6, 4, 6nb, 4, 6nb, 1.

The costliest over is by former New Zealand offie Vert Vance – 77 runs during a Shell Trophy game between Wellington and Canterbury in 1990.

Vance bowled 17 no-balls in that over.

**THE HINDU POWERPLAY T20 TRIVIA QUIZ**

- Among the 16 innings that took place at New York Stadium in the 2024 T20 World Cup, which was the only innings where the batting team scored at more than 7 runs per over?
- Virat Kohli has scored 300+ runs in Indo-Pak encounters in T20 World Cups. Prior to the start of the 2024 T20 World Cup, identify the next highest run-scorer, a player who played three innings and scored ducks in two of them.
- Which batter scored the highest individual score in the New York leg of the 2024 T20 World Cup games?

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- Canada
- Ravichandran Ashwin
- South Africa

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# Fringes to focal point: Kuldeep's rags to riches story

He is an integral part again of India's limited-overs set-ups, having emphatically supplanted Chahal as the No. 1 wrist-spinner; for the first time since his Test debut, he played more than two games in a row during the home series against England earlier this year, taking 19 wickets in four matches and helping translate a 0-1 deficit to a 4-1 rout



Out of nowhere: Leg beats off as Maxwell is bamboozled by Kuldeep's googly. K.R. DEEPAK

**R. Kaushik**  
BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS)

**B**eyond the fact that they both bowl left-arm spin, there are few similarities between Ravi Shastri and Kuldeep Yadav. Shastri was a tall and rangy orthodox spinner, using his height to procure substantial bounce; he could also turn the ball away from the right-hand batter, and became the first spinner to pick up a five-wicket haul at the WACA ground in Perth and finished his 80-Test career with 151 wickets, though within a couple of years of his debut in 1981, he had gone from a No. 10 batter to opening the innings.

Kuldeep is much shorter and a rarity in Indian cricket - a left-arm wrist spinner or, at the risk of political incorrectness, a Chinaman bowler. He is skiddy, understandably a little round-armish, his stock delivery is the one that breaks into the right-hander; Kuldeep is the practitioner of a difficult and unique craft, one that demands greater attention to detail than bowling of other ilk and where things can go awry if even one part of the body goes out of sync.

What is the common thread you ask? Their celebration. In the past, Kuldeep used a semi-chainsaw when he picked up a wicket, or defied gravity to leap high in the air. Now, as if taking wickets has become a matter of fact, he merely raises his left index finger - much like Shastri used to, but with greater drama and a more pronounced flourish to herald each of his 280 international wickets.

## More than a celebration

The Kuldeep-Shastri connect doesn't end with their celebratory routines, though. It was during Shastri's second stint with the national side, between 2017 and 2021, that Kuldeep broke into the limited-overs firmament. An abortive campaign in the final of the 2017 Champions Trophy - when Anil Kumble was the head coach - was the catalyst for Virat Kohli and Shastri to veer away from the finger spin duo of R Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja in white-ball cricket and invest in wrist-spin. Thus was born an exceptional partnership between Kuldeep and Yuzvendra Chahal that bamboozled all in the two years leading up to the 2019 50-over World Cup, but was found wanting when it came to the crunch.

Kuldeep was an aspiring medium-pacer until his early coach convinced him to turn to spin; after all, much like Sachin Tendulkar who wanted to be a fast bowler and even attempted to impress the great Dennis Lillee at the MRF Pace Foundation, Kuldeep didn't have the physical attributes to run in from a distance and

## In this T20 World Cup, Kuldeep made a belated entry into the fray but has already reiterated his value with three excellent spells

hurl the cherry rapidly. The wisdom of that switch became apparent at the 2014 Under-19 World Cup when Kuldeep finished as the leading wicket-taker and took a hat-trick against Scotland. Before long, he was knocking on the doors of Test selection, but funnily enough, the usually attack-minded Kohli wasn't convinced he was ready for the rigours of five-day cricket.

## Sporadic

It was when Kohli missed the Dharamshala Test against Australia in March 2017 through a shoulder injury that the Test door opened for Kuldeep. Kumble convinced stand-in skipper Ajinkya Rahane of the benefits of plumping for an additional, wicket-taking bowling option with the series square 1-1 heading into the final Test. Kuldeep repaid his coach's faith with four for 68 in Australia's first-innings 300, his victims including David Warner, Peter Handscomb and Glenn Maxwell, all excellent players of spin.

That ought to have been Kuldeep's coming-of-age moment. Instead, over the next year and a half, he played a mere four Tests. Then, in Sydney against Australia in January 2019, he took a five-for in a rain-ruined encounter, prompting Shastri to proclaim that Kuldeep could well be India's No. 1 Test spinner everywhere in the world. Strangely enough, in the next two and a half years that Shastri was in charge, Kuldeep played only one Test match.

It was in the limited-overs ecosystem that Kuldeep flourished. He wasn't a mystery bowler, so there was no real danger of him being 'sorted' with time. He was unconventional in that he was a left-arm wrist-spinner, but unlike Ajantha Mendis or Sunil Narine or Varun Chakravarthy, he wasn't unorthodox. He was a mirror image of a right-arm leggie, nothing more, nothing less. That's why he and Chahal complemented each other superbly, hunting as a pair in the middle overs of ODIs, bowling in tandem between overs 7 and 16 or so in T20 games and picking up wickets by the bushel until the pitches in England in 2019 threw a wicked curveball.

## Testing times

Kuldeep quickly went out of commission, and it wasn't just his bowling that hastened his exit from the national set-up. There were whispers of non-cricketing

indiscretions, he developed the yips and was even dropped by Kolkata Knight Riders. The phase between 2019 and 2021 was the darkest of his career, with a terrible knee injury adding to his unending woes. It was a test of his mettle and character as much as of his resolve and his faith in his skills. Which tack would he take? Would he fade away, or would he dig his heels in and find his way back to the stage where he belonged? Did he have it in him?

Oh, he sure did. He sure does. Today, Kuldeep is an integral part again of India's limited-overs set-ups, having emphatically supplanted Chahal as the No. 1 wrist-spinner; for the first time since his Test debut, he played more than two Tests in a row during the home series against England earlier this year, taking 19 wickets in four matches and helping translate a 0-1 deficit to a 4-1 rout.

It's in white-ball cricket, though, that his pre-eminence has been nurtured and bolstered by Rohit Sharma and Rahul Dravid. Kuldeep's stuttering career received a boost when he moved to Delhi Capitals at the beginning of the 2022 season; under Rishabh Pant and Ricky Ponting, he regained his zing, his zip, his confidence and his belief. That was further harnessed by Rohit and Dravid, aided by the fact that Kuldeep made minor changes that have increased his efficiency and made him a very potent threat on almost all surfaces.

In the last couple of years, he has added nearly seven kilometres per hour to his stock delivery. Because he is quicker through the air, he naturally reduces the batters' reaction time. He has started to run in a little faster, gets closer to the stumps and has worked on his length, taking a cue from the magical EAS Prasanna's treatises on bowling - 'Line is optional but length is mandatory'. Kuldeep is reluctant to dissect his bowling at length, pun unintended, and harps on keeping it simple and not trying too hard. Simplistic as it might sound, that is the beauty of success in any field.

In this T20 World Cup, Kuldeep made a belated entry into the fray but has already reiterated his value with three excellent spells. When India embarked for the Americas, he was earmarked, alongside Jasprit Bumrah, as Rohit's go-to weapons, but the pitches at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium discouraged three spinners and India plumped for left-arm-spinning all-rounders Axar Patel and Ravindra Jadeja as insurance against batting collapses on treacherous decks. Clear channels of communication meant Kuldeep knew that once the team reached the Caribbean islands, he would instantly be pressed into service.

He used the two weeks in New York to

keep plugging away at the nets at Cantigua Park, probing here, teasing there, testing his wares against Rohit and Kohli, Pant and Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya and Shivam Dube, Sanju Samson and Yashasvi Jaiswal, among the best players of the turning ball in business currently.

## Best for the last

Kuldeep was shoo-in for the Super Eights, pitchforked into battle at the first time of asking against Afghanistan, at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown. No amount of time spent in the nets can equate to bowling in a match, and Kuldeep looked a little rusty, maybe even nervy. His first ball was an illegal delivery - horror of horrors, he overstepped! - but he bounced back to finish with two for 32. Better off for that bowl, he tied Bangladesh up in knots in North Sound on his way to three for 19 in a mesmerizing, magical spell of leg-break and googly bowling. The Daren Sammy National Cricket Stadium, and Australia, presented him his biggest challenge of the competition on an excellent batting deck and with a marauding Travis Head and Mitchell Marsh having already got their eye in when he came on in the seventh over, with 65 on the board. Bowling with and then into a stiff wind, he finished with two for 24 (economy rate 6) in a fixture that produced 386 runs in 40 overs (ER: 9.65). Bumrah up top and during the death, Kuldeep in the middle stages - Rohit's wicket-taking as well as run-denying options haven't let him down.

Two victories stand between India and a first global title since 2013. Up first, on Thursday in Providence, are England, among Kuldeep's favourite opponents. In 15 international games across formats, he has 38 wickets; two T20Is have yielded five sticks at a strike-rate of 9.6 and an economy of 7.25, and it's against the English that he boasts one of his two five-fors in T20Is. India have a score to settle with Jos Buttler's men, having been pounded by ten wickets at the same stage in the last T20 World Cup, in November 2022. Kuldeep didn't play then; this is his time to show them who the boss is.

## THE GIST

It was when Kohli missed the Dharamshala Test against Australia in March 2017 through a shoulder injury that the Test door opened for Kuldeep

Kuldeep quickly went out of commission, and it wasn't just his bowling that hastened his exit from the national set-up





Genomics and metagenomics are coming in handy to analyse antimicrobial resistance. Representative illustration. GETTY IMAGES

# 'Multi-omics' is transforming how India spots and treats TB, cancers

Researchers are building datasets to address health problems at the individual level. They have extracted more value from these data using AI and machine learning, and combining their output with proteomic, transcriptomic, and epigenomic information to develop 'multi-omics' approaches

T.V. Padma

In the last decade, India's use of genomics has undergone a significant transformation, so much so that the diagnoses, management, and treatment of many diseases – including tuberculosis, cancers, and those caused by antimicrobial resistance – stand on the cusp of a revolution.

Most recently, in January 2024, the Department of Biotechnology said it had completed sequencing 10,000 genomes from 99 ethnic groups under its 'Genome India' project. This national initiative aims at developing a reference genome for Indian people, which will help design genome-wide and disease-specific 'genetic chips' for low-cost diagnostics and research.

Earlier, in October 2020, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) had reportedly sequenced the entire genomes of 1,008 individuals in India representing diverse ethnic groups in six months. This effort was part of a mission called 'IndiGen' – to create a pilot dataset with which researchers could analyse the epidemiology of genetic diseases and help develop affordable screening approaches, optimise treatment, and minimise adverse events for them.

Other, more disease-specific consortia have also sprung up around the country and efforts are underway to create new datasets to address individual health problems, ranging from the age-old scourge of tuberculosis to cancers, rare genetic disorders in children, and even antimicrobial resistance. Researchers have also been able to extract more value from these using artificial intelligence and machine learning, and by combining their contents with other extensive datasets on proteins (proteomics), gene expression in cells (transcriptomics), and chemical changes that regulate gene expression (epigenomics) to develop a 'multi-omics' approach to tackle diseases.

## Tuberculosis

A recent consortium concerns tuberculosis, a disease that continues to pose significant challenges to its eradication, in India and around the world. The Indian Tuberculosis Genomic Surveillance Consortium (InTGS) comprises 10 Report India sites covering eight states for tuberculosis, with the goal of sequencing around 32,000 tuberculosis clinical strains from active patients, and develop a centralised Mycobacterium tuberculosis strains in India.

Other major objectives vis-à-vis tuberculosis include mapping the genetic diversity of pulmonary and extra-pulmonary isolates of the

tuberculosis bacterium from newly reported active cases in India, the associated treatment outcomes, and correlating mutations with drug resistance patterns, according to Vinay Nandicoori, director of the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad. The project's ultimate goal is to validate identified mutations to develop a sequence-based method to determine drug resistance, and to combine the epidemiological data with results from whole-genome sequencing to develop working solutions.

Scientists from a mix of leading research institutes have divided the various parts of the project thus. In the first stage, scientists from the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry; the National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis, Bhagwan Mahavir Medical Research Centre, Hyderabad; the Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Government Medical College, Pune; and the P.D. Hinduja Hospital, Mumbai, will collect the clinical samples, including the patients' metadata. Next, scientists at the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi, will isolate the genetic material from the samples and set up a strain repository. In the third stage, scientists at CCMB and the National Institute of Biomedical Genomics, Kalyani, will conduct whole genome sequencing. In the fourth and final stage, a team at the National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi, will conduct RNA sequencing data analysis, and develop artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) models to predict drug resistance and take cognisance of the metadata to detect resistance patterns, according to Dr. Nandicoori.

"This is a huge, huge, huge project," he added. The starting point is to generate baseline data – a relatively ignored task in India compared to several other countries.

## Rare genetic disorders

India has also launched a pan-country mission for Paediatric Rare Genetic Disorders (PRaGeD), which, despite their rarity, have become a common public health concern. Mission PRaGeD is planning to create awareness, perform genetic diagnosis, discover and characterise new genes or variants, provide counselling, and develop new therapies for rare genetic diseases that afflict India's children.

The mission will incorporate IndiGen data in its in-house bioinformatic pipelines it will use to analyse the parts of a genome that code for proteins (exome). The CSIR-Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD), Hyderabad, in collaboration with 15 centres across India, plans to recruit patients and their families with rare genetic disorders.



In January, the Department of Biotechnology said it had completed sequencing 10,000 genomes from 99 ethnic groups under its 'Genome India' project. The aim is to develop a reference genome for Indian people

"The study aims to identify novel genes for various known as well as unexplained inherited phenotypes (observable traits) but also help the patient and family with management of disease and prenatal diagnosis," Ashwin Dalal, group leader for diagnostics and a scientist at CDFD said. The team will also characterise novel genes or variants thereof to determine their function or role in the disorder, using cell lines and/or model organisms such as mice, fruit flies, and zebrafish. Also on the anvil in the mission is the use of next-generation sequencing, one of the latest tools to manage rare diseases and to assess the probability of developing several chronic ailments, especially when conventional tests give negative results. "Implementing newborn genetic testing at a national level can contribute to the management of rare genetic conditions through faster and more accurate diagnoses," Dr. Dalal said.

## Cancers

The Indian Cancer Genome Consortium (ICGC-India), part of the larger International Cancer Genome Consortium (ICGC) and supported by the Department of Biotechnology, plans to characterise genomic abnormalities in different types of cancers in Indian patients and identify population-specific genetic variations that are linked to cancer risk and treatment response. Such population-wide genome sequencing projects can facilitate the discovery of novel biomarkers, potential new treatment targets, and personalised treatment strategies, according to Dinesh Gupta, group leader of translational bioinformatics at the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi.

Several Indian institutions have established ICGC-like genomic data repositories to facilitate cancer research and precision medicine initiatives that cater to the genetic makeup of Indian people, Dr. Gupta said. Another example is the Indian Cancer Genome Atlas project, a not-for-profit public-private-philanthropic initiative that is trying to create a comprehensive catalogue of genomic alterations across various cancer types prevalent in India. This could help researchers identify novel biomarkers and treatment targets. The Atlas collects and generates detailed genomics with linked clinical data. Clinical trials in cancer are also

beginning to incorporate genomics in the country, Dr. Gupta added. Indian cancer centres classify patients using genomic profiling for clinical trials that are based on their molecular subtypes, and match potential responders with targeted therapies.

## Antimicrobial resistance

Genomics and metagenomics are coming in handy to analyse antimicrobial resistance and understand the possibility of rapid spread of any antibiotic resistance functions between bacterial species. Some of the microbes, such as the bacteria that cause tuberculosis, grow very slowly, even in laboratory conditions, Bhabhatosh Das, associate professor at the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute, Faridabad, explained. "So clinicians prescribe antibiotics without knowing the actual resistance profile of the infectious agents."

In such cases, genome sequencing is very helpful because it can provide information about the resistance profile of microbes without researchers having to grow them in the lab, he said. "Such information helps clinicians make judicious use of antibiotics." In tuberculosis, pathogen-specific resistance signatures "should add immense value to antimicrobial-resistance diagnostics and the selection of appropriate drug combinations for successful antimicrobial therapy."

## AI, ML, and multi-omics

Meanwhile, AI and ML algorithms are lending a helping hand to genomics in analysing the extensive datasets. These technologies can help predict an individual's risk of developing cancer, develop diagnostic tools to detect some cancers early, classify them, and develop treatment strategies, Dr. Gupta said.

Researchers have also started using AI and ML to help with analysing genome-sequencing data in cases of rare genetic disorders. A single instance of sequencing the entire exome of an individual can yield 5 GB of data and whole-genome sequencing can yield 90 GB, Dr. Dalal explained: "Analysis of such massive sequencing is impossible without use of computational tools." Technicians are using AI- and ML-based approaches in the in-house bioinformatic pipelines as well as part of commercial tools for analysis of the sequencing data to identify disease-causing variants.

With the rapid expansion of AI, it is now easy to access multi-omics and analyse Big Data products rapidly, even with only standard computational facilities, according to Dr. Das, adding that multi-omics is today an emerging technology in the field of clinical science in India.

(T.V. Padma is a science journalist in New Delhi.)



James Larkin (left) from the University of the Witwatersrand implants radioisotopes into a sedated rhinoceros' horns, along with other Rhisotope Project members in the Waterbury UNESCO biosphere in Mokopane, on Tuesday. AFP

## Radioactive implant for rhino horns to curb poaching

Agence France Presse

South African scientists on Tuesday injected radioactive material into live rhinoceros horns to make them easier to detect at border posts in a pioneering project aimed at curbing poaching.

The country is home to a large majority of the world's rhinoceroses and, is a hotspot for poaching driven by demand from Asia, where horns are used in traditional medicine for their supposed therapeutic effect.

At the Limpopo rhinoceros orphanage in the Waterberg area, in the country's northeast, a few of the thick-skinned herbivores grazed in the low savannah.

James Larkin, director of the University of the Witwatersrand's radiation and health physics unit who spearheaded the initiative, said he had put "two tiny little radioactive chips in the horn" as he administered the radioisotopes on one of the large animals' horns.

The radioactive material would "render the horn useless... essentially poisonous for human consumption," added Nithaya Chetty, professor and dean of science at the same university.

The dusty rhinoceros, put to sleep and crouched on the ground, wouldn't feel any pain, Mr. Larkin said. The radioactive material's dose was so low that it wouldn't affect the animal's health or the environment in any way, he added.

In February, the environment ministry said that despite government efforts to tackle the illicit trade, 499 of the giant mammals were killed in 2023, mostly in state-run parks, an 11% increase over 2022 figures.

## The radioactive material would render the horn poisonous for human consumption and trigger alarms at international borders

Twenty five rhinos in total are part of the pilot 'Rhisotope' project, whereby they will be administered a dose "strong enough to set off detectors installed globally" at international border posts, originally "to prevent nuclear terrorism," Mr. Larkin said.

Rhinoceros horns are highly sought after on black markets, where their price by weight rivals that of gold and cocaine.

According to Arrie Van Deventer, the orphanage's founder, dehorning the rhinoceros and poisoning the horns have failed to deter poachers.

"Maybe this is the thing that will stop poaching," the conservationist said. "This is the best idea I've ever heard."

Wildebeest, warthogs, and giraffe roamed the vast conservation area as more than a dozen team members performed the delicate process on another rhinoceros.

Mr. Larkin drilled a small hole into the horn, hammered in the radioisotope, and finished off by spraying 11,000 microdots over the horn.

About 15,000 rhinoceroses live in the southern African nation, according to an estimate by the International Foundation.

The last phase of the project will be the animal's aftercare following "proper scientific protocol and ethical protocol," project COO Jessica Babich said.

The team will then take follow-up blood samples to ensure the rhinoceroses are effectively protected. The material itself will last five years on the horn, resulting in a cost lower than dehorning every 18 months, Mr. Larkin said.

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