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NEW DELHI/METRO
Thursday, **June** 27, 2024

Hindustan Times

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Om Birla is Speaker after voice vote amid govt, Oppn jousting

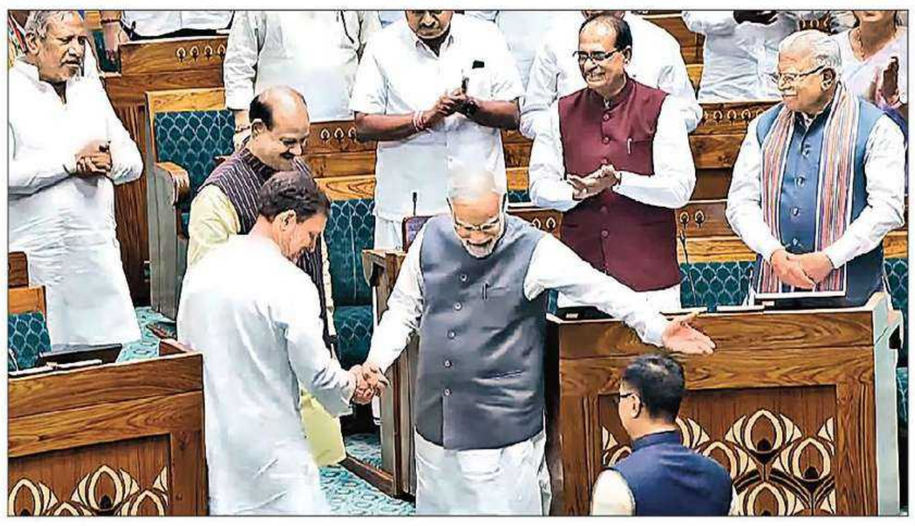
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NEW DELHI: The National Democratic Alliance's (NDA's) numbers ensured the election of Om Birla as the presiding officer of the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, but Opposition leaders made a strong point by repeatedly mentioning their increased strength in the House and exhorting the speaker to be neutral and impartial, and Birla himself ended proceedings by reading out a resolution on the Emergency, much to the discomfiture of the Congress — all glimpses of what could follow in a House where the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) numbers are significantly diminished.

There was also some initial confusion over the voting, with the Congress not pressing for a division of votes but ally Trinamool Congress suggesting that the pro-tem speaker had ignored demands for one, suggesting that there needs to be better coordination between members of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA).

The Opposition fielded Kodikunnil Suresh as its candidate against Birla, but there was really no chance of him winning – all parties, including the BJP issued three-line whips ahead of the election – and Birla was elected after a voice vote. Speaking soon after, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the increased

continued on →7



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi shake hands as they escort newly elected Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla to his chair at Parliament House on Wednesday. ANI

Speaker reading resolution on Emergency sparks din in House

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NEW DELHI: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Wednesday condemned the imposition of Emergency in 1975 and described it as a "dark day in the history" of the country, setting off a political firestorm during the first session of the House as Congress members raised slogans and termed the remarks "unfortunate".

Birla, who was re-elected as speaker earlier in the day, also said India was subjected to dictatorship by former prime minister Indira Gandhi and its "democratic values were crushed and freedom of expression was stifled" during the Emergency, and urged members to observe a two-minute silence in the House.

While Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) members welcomed the Speaker's reference to the Emergency, opposition members condemned the reference, prompting Birla to adjourn the House. →P8

MODI CONFIDENT OF BIRLA'S ROLE IN 'AMRIT KAAL' PATH

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NEW DELHI: As India makes efforts to become modern and fulfil its aspirations, the new Parliament House, under the leadership of Om Birla, is ready to "write the future of Amrit Kaal", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said, as he congratulated the former on his re-election as Lok Sabha speaker for a second term. Modi also said the Lower House will benefit from the speaker's insights and experience. →P8

HOPE SPEAKER LETS OPPN BE HEARD: RAHUL, AKHILESH

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday emphasised the Opposition's role in Parliament as the representative of the voice of India and hoped speaker Om Birla "will do his duty to defend the Constitution" by allowing the Opposition to speak. Similarly, Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav said, "We all expect from you that the voice of any public representative should not be suppressed." →P8

CBI arrests Kejriwal, gets three-day custody

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NEW DELHI: Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday in connection with corruption charges pertaining to alleged irregularities in the 2021-22 excise policy after a sequence of dramatic developments in court on Wednesday.

The agency was granted three days to question the CM after the defence counsels pushed back, especially against a particular contention from the federal agency that Kejriwal had ostensibly passed on the blame to his then cabinet colleagues.

Kejriwal addressed the court in Hindi, stating, "A false narrative is being spread by CBI sources in media that I have put the blame of liquor policy scam on Manish Sisodia. I have not given such a statement that Manish Sisodia is guilty."

Vacation judge Amitabh Rawat, acting as the special judge under the Prevention of Corruption Act, agreed that the Delhi CM made no such remark but allowed CBI to interrogate Kejriwal until June 29. The CBI argued it needed to confront Kejriwal with documents to conclude its investigation by July 3.

The developments came after a dramatic start to the day when, at 10.30am, the federal agency briefly questioned Kejriwal in court premises before arresting him.

In the remand note, the agency called Kejriwal "one of the main conspirators of the criminal conspiracy" and said that Vijay Nair, a former party functionary, was contacting various liquor manufacturers and traders and demanding undue gratification since March 2021.

continued on →13



Arvind Kejriwal being escorted out of a courtroom in Rouse Avenue court after his sugar level dropped on Wednesday. PTI

Don't shield anyone, SC tells DDA on LG's role in felling of trees

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NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Delhi government and the Tree Authority under the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act (DPTA) to initiate action against the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) for illegal felling of trees at the south Delhi ridge area and further deepened its probe to ascertain the role of the Lieutenant Governor (LG) Vinai Kumar Saxena in ordering the felling of trees, keeping the matter for further consideration on July 12.

Probing deeper into who ordered the felling of the trees, the court pulled up DDA for not producing records of the LG's visit to the site on February 3 as an email written by a senior DDA official claimed that orders for felling trees were given by Saxena following the visit.

Granting the body a week's time to produce the records, the bench of justices AS Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan said, "There should not be any attempt to shield anybody. You (DDA) admit there was a visit by LG and now it seems there is an effort to conceal information. The manner in which the entire thing has happened, we are entitled to have doubts. It is very difficult to believe there was no record kept of the LG visit. We are not happy with this approach."

DDA vice-chairman Subhash-

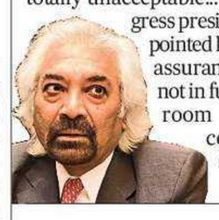
continued on →13

> The manner in which the entire thing has happened, we are entitled to have doubts.
> **SUPREME COURT**

PITRODA RETURNS AS CHAIRMAN OF OVERSEAS UNIT OF THE CONGRESS

NEW DELHI: Sam Pitroda, the former chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress (IOC), was re-appointed to the position on Wednesday, nearly two months after he resigned following racist remarks in an interview.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said: "During the recent election campaign Sam Pitroda had made some statements.. that were totally unacceptable... The Congress president reappointed him on the assurance he will not in future leave room for such controversies." →P10



U.S. FAULTS INDIA OVER RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS, NOTES FLAWS AT HOME

WASHINGTON: The US criticised the state of religious freedom in India in a report published Wednesday and unveiled by secretary of state Antony Blinken, while also voicing alarm over rising anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in the US and across the world.

"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," Blinken said.

The US ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom, Rashad Hussain, faulted efforts by Indian police. →P11

Principal detained in NEET leak case

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RANCHI/PATNA/AHMEDABAD: A Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) team on Wednesday visited a school in Hazaribagh in Jharkhand and detained its principal after questioning as it intensified its probe into alleged irregularities in this year's National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG).

The CBI team interrogated the principal of Oasis School, Ehsanul Haque, in Hazaribagh for several hours and later detained him and took him to Patna for further investigation, a senior police officer confirmed to HT, even as another team visited two private schools in Kheda and Panchmahal districts of Gujarat.

Some officials of the CBI team — comprising officials from Delhi, Bokaro and Dhanbad — also visited the main branch of the State Bank of India (SBI) in Hazaribagh, around 2km from the school, as the manager of the bank was reportedly the custodian of the NEET question papers, the officer added. →P10

Calling Governor Bose



Two newly elected TMC legislators in West Bengal, Sayantika Bandyopadhyay and Rayat Hossain Sarkar, hold a protest on the assembly premises after West Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose refused to accept their request that their swearing-in be held in the assembly. Related story on page 8 ANI

FOXCONN NOT HIRING MARRIED WOMEN? CENTRE SEEKS TN REPORT

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NEW DELHI: The Union labour ministry on Wednesday said it had sought a report from the Tamil Nadu government on a media report that Apple supplier Foxconn rejected married women when hiring for its iPhone assembly plant in the southern state.

The labour ministry has taken note of the "media reports on married women not being allowed to work at Foxconn India Apple iPhone plant" and "requested a detailed report" from the state's labour department, it said in an official statement.

The report has been sought to verify the allegations and the state government is the appropriate authority to enforce the equal pay law, it said, citing the Equal Remuneration Act 1976 that bars discrimination between men and women when recruiting workers.

It has also asked the regional chief labour commissioner, a federal authority, to provide a "factual report", it added.

Both Apple and Foxconn did not respond to request for com-

continued on →7

U'khand BJP leader, aide rape & kill teen; expelled from party

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DEHRADUN: A Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and an associate have been charged with the alleged gang-rape and murder of a 13-year-old-girl, whose body was found along the Roorkee-Haridwar highway in Haridwar on June 24. Both Aditya Raj Saini, a serving member of the state's OBC commission and the BJP's state OBC Morcha and Amit Saini, the second accused, have yet to be arrested, but the political leader has been removed from both posts, and has been expelled from primary membership of the BJP.

In her complaint, the 13-year-old victim's mother alleged that Amit Saini lured her daughter on June 23. "When she didn't come back home ... I called my daughter and Amit Saini picked up her phone and said my daughter was with him. When I tried again, the phone was switched off," she wrote in the complaint. It adds that Saini had lured her daughter into a relationship for the past six months, had raped her in this period.

> POLICE SAID THAT THE 13-YEAR-OLD VICTIM'S BODY WAS FOUND ALONG A MAJOR HIGHWAY EARLY ON MONDAY

On June 24, the victim's mother went to the residence of Aditya Raj Saini. "When I told him about the matter, Aditya Raj Saini asked me not to approach the police and said he would handle the situation."

Haridwar senior superintendent of police Pramendra Dobhal said they recovered the victim's body at 4.45am on June 24 on the Roorkee-Haridwar highway. "We couldn't ascertain her identity initially, but the woman later identified her as her daughter. On her complaint, we have registered the FIR against Amit Saini and Aditya Raj Saini under relevant sections of IPC and Pocso Act." →P10

IMD: VERY HEAVY RAIN LIKELY TO HIT NORTHWEST INDIA

NEW DELHI: The monsoon, delayed by around a week at this point in time (with June rainfall being significantly deficient), is expected to pick up over north India, meteorologists said on Wednesday. Rainfall activity is likely to increase over Northwest India with heavy to very heavy rainfall likely between June 28 and June 30, the India Meteorological Department said. →P9

3 terrorists killed, hunt on for militants after Doda gunbattle

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SRINAGAR: Three terrorists have been killed in an encounter with security forces in Jammu's Doda district on Wednesday, with one Jammu and Kashmir police jawan suffering injuries in the gunbattle. The multi-agency operation, called "Operation Lagor", was launched on Wednesday morning, in an area that has seen a spike in terrorist attacks, and counteroffensives over the past two years.

The security personnel are searching the forest to look whether more terrorists are hiding in the forest area.

The joint operation was launched on Wednesday morning, senior officials said, after security agencies received an input of a group of three to four terrorists hiding inside a wooden hut in the Sinno forests.

As teams of the police, army and the CRPF encircled the hideout, an exchange of fire broke out at 9 am. →P9

{ WHISTLEBLOWER } RETURNS TO AUSTRALIA

Back home, Assange thanks govt for its stance

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA: WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange returned to his homeland Australia aboard a charter jet and raised a celebratory clenched fist as his supporters cheered 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.

Assange told Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in a phone call from the capital Canberra's airport tarmac that Australian government intervention in the U.S. prosecution had saved his life, Assange lawyer Jennifer Robinson said.

He embraced his wife Stella Assange and father John Shipton who were waiting on the tarmac, but avoided media at a news conference less than than two hours after he landed.

"Julian wanted me to sincerely thank everyone. He wanted to be here. But you have to understand what he's been through. He needs time. He needs to recuperate and this is a process." Stella Assange told reporters. →P17



Julian Assange gestures after landing in Canberra, Australia on Wednesday. AP

HC DISMISSES PLEA AGAINST MUMBAI COLLEGE'S BAN ON HIJAB, BURQA

MUMBAI: The Bombay high court on Wednesday dismissed the plea filed by women students of a city-based college challenging the ban on wearing hijab, burka and naqab, observing that such rules do not violate students' fundamental rights.

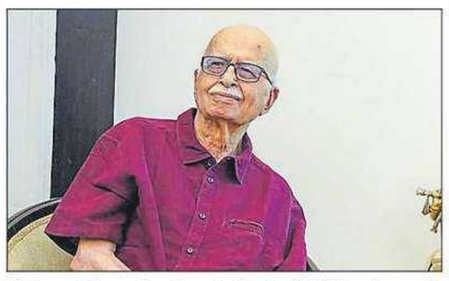
"A dress code is meant to maintain discipline which is part of the college's fundamental right to establish and administer an educational institution", observed the division bench.

"The dress code was applicable to all students irrespective of religion or caste," the HC said. →P10

PAGE ONE PLUS

{ MY INDIA } 'CONDITION STABLE'

BJP veteran Advani admitted to AIIMS



Veteran Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former deputy prime minister LK Advani was on Wednesday admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) hospital in Delhi, the facility said in a statement. "LK Advani is admitted at AIIMS, New Delhi. He is stable and under observation," the hospital said. While it did not give any more details about the his condition, people familiar with the matter said the 96-year-old was undergoing treatment under specialists from the geriatric department. He is suffering from age-related health conditions. Advani was on March 31 conferred India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna, by President Droupadi Murmu. The President had described Advani as a "doyen of Indian politics", who has served India with "unwavering dedication and distinction" at the time. HTC

{ MY INDIA } HOUSE FLAGS CENSUS

Conduct natl caste census: TN assembly



The Tamil Nadu assembly on Wednesday passed a unanimous resolution urging the Centre to take up caste-based census soon. The opposition AIADMK claimed that its previous party-led government initiated the process in 2020 but could not complete the task due regime change. The resolution piloted by chief minister MK Stalin said the central government should immediately commence the census work, which has been due since 2021, along with a caste-based population census. "This House considers that caste-based population census is essential to formulate policies in order to ensure equal rights and equal opportunities in education, economy and employment to every citizen of India," the resolution said. PTI

{ SPORT } GROUP E

Romania, Belgium, Slovakia qualify for knockout stages



Romania and Slovakia got the 1-1 draw Wednesday that sent both teams into the round of 16 at the European Championship, with the Romanians topping Group E ahead of Belgium. During a thunderstorm and pounding rain midway through the second half, both teams chased a winning goal in a frenetic spell of play despite the tied score suiting them both. Romania advances atop the group with Slovakia in third because second-place Belgium drew 0-0 with last-place Ukraine which is eliminated. Belgium will play France in the round of 16. Slovakia led in the 24th minute when Ondrej Duda directed a powerful header down into the corner of the net. Răzvan Marin leveled in the 37th from a penalty awarded after a two-minute video review to decide if Ianis Hagi was tripped inside the area. Romania will now play in the knockout rounds for the first time since Euro 2000. →P21

{ WORLD } FROM 8 DAYS TO 1 MONTH?

Sunita Williams still on ISS amid glitches



Problems with Boeing's Starliner capsule, still docked at the International Space Station (ISS), have upended the original plans for its return of its two astronauts — Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore — to Earth, as last-minute fixes and tests draw out a mission crucial to the future of Boeing's space division. Since its June 5 lift-off, the capsule has had five helium leaks, five manoeuvring thrusters go dead and a propellant valve fail to close completely. Internally at Nasa, Starliner's latest targeted return date is July 6, according to a person familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity. Such a return date would mean that the Starliner's first crewed mission to the ISS, originally planned for eight days, instead would last a month. AGENCIES

{ MY INDIA } 83% TURNOUT

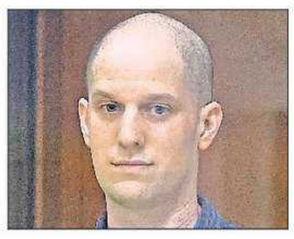
Nagaland holds local polls after 2 decades



Elections to urban local bodies (ULBs) in Nagaland were held Wednesday, after a gap of two decades, and by 4pm, the state had seen a turnout of 83%, said the state election commission (SEC). A total of 523 candidates are in the fray. Voting took place in 420 polling stations under 214 wards with 223,636 voters registered for the 25 ULBs in polls. The SEC in a statement said that voting was largely peaceful in the state barring a few minor incidents being reported from some districts. "No report for repoll is received," it added. The state has 39 ULBs in total, but 14 ULBs under six eastern districts of Mon, Tuensang, Kiphire, Longleng, Noklak and Shamator have pulled out of the polls as Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO) has resolved to abstain from any central or state election over the pending creation of autonomous Frontier Nagaland Territory. →P9

Russia begins secret trial for WSJ journo on charges of spying

Agencies
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Evan Gershkovich

YEKATERINBURG: Wall Street Journal journalist Evan Gershkovich went on trial behind closed doors on Wednesday in the Russian city of Yekaterinburg, where he faces charges of espionage and a likely sentence of up to 20 years in prison.

Prosecutors say the reporter gathered secret information on the orders of the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) about a company that manufactures tanks for Russia's war in Ukraine. Gershkovich, his newspaper and the US government all reject the allegations and say that he was just doing his job as a reporter accredited by the foreign ministry to work in Russia.

"This bogus accusation of espionage will inevitably lead to a bogus conviction for an innocent man," Wall Street Journal editor-in-chief Emma Tucker said in a letter to readers.

The US embassy said in a statement: "His case is not about evidence, procedural norms, or the rule of law. It is about the Kremlin using American citizens to achieve its political objectives."

The Kremlin declined to comment on the opening of the trial. Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters: "We know that this topic is very, very resonant in the United States, but it is not so resonant within our country."

After several hours of closed proceedings, the court said the next session would take place on August 13 - an indication the case will drag on for months.

Journalists were briefly allowed to film the 32-year-old before the start of the trial, from which the media are barred. The reporter was shaven-headed, in contrast to previous court appearances.

Prosecutor Mikael Ozdoyev spoke briefly to journalists to summarise the charges. "Gershkovich carried out the illegal actions while observing painstaking conspiratorial measures," he said. He has already spent 455 days in prison.

The American-born son of immigrants from the USSR, Gershkovich is the first Western journalist arrested on espionage charges in post-Soviet Russia. Authorities arrested Gershkovich when he was on a reporting trip to Yekaterinburg, in the Ural Mountains.

Russia said that it has sent the US "signals" about a possible prisoner swap involving Evan Gershkovich. "We have repeatedly emphasised that the US administration, which shows such interest and activity with regard to his fate, should still seriously consider the signals that they in Washington received through the relevant channels," deputy foreign minister Sergei Ryabkov told Russian news agencies.

{ T20 WORLD CUP } THE PENULTIMATE SHOWDOWN

Finally, the knockouts are here

Four teams remain standing for the semi-finals after 26 days of the tournament that started for the first time with 20 teams. Giant-killers Afghanistan take on in-form South Africa in the first semi-final. Unbeaten India, meanwhile, face defending champions England in the second semi-final. Here's what you need to know



SF 1 AFG vs SA — Brian Lara Stadium in Trinidad — Thursday, 6am (IST)

SF 2 IND vs ENG — Providence Stadium in Guyana — Thursday, 8pm (IST)





For India, ending an 11-year wait

India, under skipper Rohit Sharma, are looking to end an 11-year wait to clinch an ICC trophy. The last time India won an ICC trophy was in 2013 when they lifted the Champions Trophy in England. The 2007 T20 World Cup champions are now two wins away from laying their hands on the trophy and first up will be England.

Head-to-head

11 India won — **23** Total Matches — **12** England won

Rohit Sharma (India)

The Indian skipper hit a blistering 41-balls 92 in the Super 8s match against Australia with seven fours and eight sixes. India will hope for another flying start to their innings led from the front by their skipper.



Jasprit Bumrah has been India's standout performer with the ball having bagged 11 wickets in six matches at an average of 8.55. His economy rate is a miserly 4.09. Bumrah is expected to get much help from the surface in Guyana.

ROAD TO THE SEMIS

India enter the semis with a perfect win record, while England have lost twice in the tournament so far – to Australia and to South Africa.

INDIA	ENGLAND
Bt Ireland by 8 wkts	NR against Scotland
Bt Pakistan by 6 runs	Lost to Australia by 36 runs
Bt USA by 7 wkts	Bt Oman by 8 wkts
NR against Canada	Bt Namibia by 41 runs (DLS)
Bt Afghanistan by 47 runs	Bt West Indies by 8 wkts
Bt Bangladesh by 50 runs	Lost to South Africa by 7 runs
Bt Australia by 24 runs	Bt USA by 10 wkts



Adil Rashid On a wicket that is likely to offer sharp turn and low bounce, leg-spinner Adil Rashid could just be England's game changer. With 9 wickets at an economy rate of 6.70, Rashid can make accelerating difficult for India in the middle overs.

Jos Buttler (England)

The skipper is in good form hitting an unbeaten 83 off 38 balls in their chase against USA that was instrumental for his team making it to the last-four stage on a better net run rate. That NRR eventually did not come into play as West Indies lost their final group match to South Africa.

Pitch report — In the five matches played at the Providence Stadium in this World Cup, the average first innings score has been 146. Three games have been won by teams batting first, while two have been won by chasing teams. According to reports, chasing can be difficult at this venue as the pitch slows down as the game progresses.

Rain threat — The weather forecast at both venues is not encouraging with rain predicted. "...If the match is abandoned, the team that finished first in the Super 8s will progress to the final," ICC's playing conditions for the tournament states.

{ LEAKED QUESTION PAPER? } THE BIG EXAM MESS

Did the Bihar Police already crack the NEET case?

Avinash Kumar
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PATNA: It was Sunday, the morning of May 5; a day when 2.4 million students thronged examination halls across the country to sit for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Undergraduate), or NEET-UG, a national examination for admission to medical programmes. The Patna division of the Bihar Police received a phone call from colleagues in Jharkhand with a tip-off. There was a car moving around in the city, they were told, and they suspected that there was something amiss—its occupants were possibly working to circumvent the examination process. They had no description of the car, but crucially, had four digits of a vehicle registration number — 0019.

PICK OF THE DAY

Acting on that information, deputy inspector general Rajeev Mishra, who also holds the charge of senior superintendent of police (SSP) Patna, told SHO's across the city to track the vehicle down. At 2.45pm, they had some luck. At a police barricade near Shastri Nagar, they found a white Renault Duster bearing the number plate they were looking for — JH 01 BW 0019. Inside, were three men, four different admit cards of NEET aspirants, the PAN card of another applicant and passport size photographs.

Thus began a Bihar Police investigation that lasted well over a month, and put together the pieces of one of India's most coveted competitive examinations being compromised, leading to a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe that began on June 24, raised questions about the functioning of the National Testing Agency (NTA) that has seen its Director General removed, and prompted growing calls for the examination to be cancelled.

It is an investigation that clearly established irregularities in the conduct of NEET, including a possible leak of the paper itself, and, more importantly, tracked the origin of the leak to a Jharkhand school.

In the car on Sunday, the Bihar Police found three men—Sikandar Prasad Yadavendu (56), a junior engineer employed with the Danapur Nagar Parishad, his driver Bittu Kumar, and Akhilesh Kumar, the father of NEET aspirant Ayush Raj.

Senior Bihar police officers said that Yadavendu told them during interrogation that two people, identified as Amit Anand and Nitish Kumar, met him in the days leading up to the examination, claiming that they could arrange for examination papers to be leaked 24 hours in advance. Anand (29) is an IT engineer by profession who ostensibly works in Bengaluru; his mother Chandan Kumari is the vice-president of the Janata Dal (United)'s Khagaria unit. His associate Nitish Kumar, works as a contractor based out of Bihar.

Yadavendu told the police that Amit Anand and Nitish Kumar demanded ₹30-32 lakh per candidate. "Yadavendu in turn, demanded ₹40 lakh from each candidate so he could pocket ₹8 lakh," one police officer said.

Yadavendu told the Bihar Police that he brought four aspirants—Ayush, Anurag Kumar, Shivanandan Kumar, and Abhishek Kumar—and their families in touch with the two men. On May 4, they met Amit Anand and Nitish Kumar, who in turn took them to the Learn Boys Hostel and Play School in Patna's Khemnichak.

"We identified their examination centres and detained the four aspirants for the investigation," one investigator said.

An FIR was registered at the Shastri Nagar police station at 6:30 pm on May 5, with the Patna SSP forming a Special Investigation Team (SIT) that very day. That evening, the SIT raided the Learn Boys Hostel and Play School, where the modus operandi was that applicants were made to memorise the answers from a question paper that was already in their possession. "When police searched the place, we found a bundle of half burnt papers. We sent it to the Forensic Science Laboratory. The FSL team somehow managed to discover the booklet number," DIG Rajeev Mishra said.



So far 18 people have been arrested in the case. SANTOSH KUMAR/HT

Six days later, the case was handed over to the Economic Offences Unit (EOU), which arrested five more people—identified as Baldeo Kumar, Mukesh Kumar, Panku Kumar, Rajeev Kumar and Paramjeet Singh--from Deoghar in Jharkhand. Overall, 18 people have been arrested in the case so far.

EOU officials said that Baldev Kumar and the other four men, received the paper as a PDF document on May 4, used a printer at the Learn Boys Hostel and Play school to print it out, after which they distributed them among the candidates. NH Khan, additional director general of police EOU, said that the gang created a "drop-off point" two kilometres away from the Learn Boys Hostel, where aspirants were asked to disembark from a rented vehicle and make their way to the hostel.

The one man that the EOU had yet to arrest before the CBI took over the case is 53-year-old Sanjeev Mukhia, reportedly the kingpin of the "solver gang", ostensibly a technical assistant employed at a government college in Nalanda and someone who has faced arrest in another examination leak case by the Uttarakhand Police in 2016. On that occasion too, the allegation against him was of leaking the NEET-UG question paper, and he spent 14 months in Nainital jail, before being released on bail in 2018. His son, Shiv Kumar, is currently in jail after being arrested from Ujjain for his role in the paper leak of the BPSC TRE competitive examination in April 2024. "It is Mukhia who arranged the NEET question paper and handed it over in turn to a man identified as Rocky, who we are looking into," one officer said.

The question of how the paper was leaked led the EOU team to Jharkhand's Hazaribagh, with the serial code on the seized papers from Patna, leading to examination centre at the Oasis School. EOU officials travelled to the school on June 20. "We traced the box and envelope in which the T3 set of the papers was dispatched from the examination centre. Preliminary investigations showed it was torn at the back, and resealed to resemble an original sheet," the EOU official said.

The Bihar Police team in Hazaribagh, led by an additional superintendent of police, have also inspected two boxes in which the question papers were transported to the examination centre, senior officials said. "It seems like the two boxes were tampered with. The superintendent at the exam centre said that digital locks on both boxes could not be opened because of a technical issue and they had to be broken open," the officer said.

"Our suspicions have grown after we found that the latches and hinges had been tampered with as well as the seal. The envelopes inside the boxes had also been tampered with from the rear end, while the upper portion was intact. We have sent all this evidence to the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL)," the officer said.

Oasis School principal Dr Ehsan Ul Haq denied any wrongdoing. "The NEET-UG examination was conducted on May 5, 2024 at five centres in Hazaribagh as per the norms of NTA. We received the sealed question papers in a total of 9 boxes at SBI Bank on 5 May 2024 at 7:30 am, and handed over the sealed boxes to the centre superintendent and the posted observer of all the five examination centres of Hazaribagh in the presence of the bank manager," Haq said in a press statement on Monday.

On Wednesday, he was detained by the CBI which took over the case on June 25 from the Bihar Police.

Haq said that they were only alerted to any possible wrongdoing on June 21, when the Bihar Police team arrived. "As per the standard operating procedure of NTA, the boxes of question papers were received on May 5, 2024, whereas according to the information allegedly received, the copy of the question paper was available in Patna on May 4. How am I responsible in such a situation? After receiving the boxes of questions after 7:30 am on May 5, 2024, I discharged my responsibility with full responsibility. I and my team also fully supported the EOU team in the investigation," Haq said.

Bihar EOU officials have also laid blame at the door of the NTA for stymieing their investigations, alleging that the agency delayed sending them question paper samples in May when the probe had first begun. "It was not sent to us despite requests and we could only get the paper on June 20, when the EOU was called to Delhi and the issue was raised as to why the samples were not sent despite three reminders. When we got the sample, we discovered immediately that the burnt booklet was from the Oasis school in Hazaribagh. We were able to match 68 questions—from the NTA samples we received to those in the burnt booklet—right there," one EOU officer said.

NH Khan, ADG EOU, said the matter was now with CBI and all the evidence that the Bihar Police has collected will now be handed over. "We also have to submit our report to the Supreme Court and that we will do in a sealed envelope with the up-to-date status of our investigation and evidence gathered thus far," Khan said.

(With inputs from Arun Kumar)

MCD proposes hike in parking rates at its lots, plans to impose differential levy

Paras Singh
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NEW DELHI: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has put forward a proposal to make a slew of changes in the parking policy, from introducing separate charges for parking lots in upscale colonies (categories A to D), to tripling parking charges in spaces located within a 500m radius of multilevel parking lots, to discourage street parking.

Effectively, this will end the practice of uniform parking rates, incentivise shorter parking periods, and discourage street parking, officials said, adding that the changes were proposed in view of congested spaces and increasing vehicular pollution in the Capital. The proposal will need to be approved by councillors to take effect.

The proposal, moved by the municipal commissioner via a letter dated June 19, said: "Differential parking pricing is important as land price is inextricably linked with parking sites. MCD is running 420 paid parking sites across the city, of which RFID parking features are being added to 39 sites and 17 locations are multilevel parking sites."

HT has seen a copy of the letter, detailing the proposal by the remunerative projects cell that has been accepted by the finance department.

Currently, MCD charges ₹20 per hour for cars for the first five hours, ₹100 for five to 24 hours and ₹2,000 for a monthly day-and-night pass. For two-wheelers, ₹10 per hour is charged for the first five hours, and ₹50 for five to 24 hours. The civic body now plans to introduce two separate groupings for such charges -- the first comprising category A-D colonies and the second group comprising category E-H colonies (see box).

Atul Goyal, who heads the United RWAs Joint Action, a collective body of residents' welfare associations, said that parking lots must not be allowed near multilevel parking sites in the first place. He also disagreed with the proposal to increase the parking rates based on colony categorisation.

"People do not remain stationary in one locality. You may be residing in one area and may be using parking lots in another part of the city," he said.

Streamlining parking

CURRENT PARKING RATES

DURATION	CARS	TWO-WHEELERS
1-5 hours	₹20	₹10
5-24 hours	₹100	₹50
Monthly	₹2,000	₹1,000

PROPOSED PARKING RATES

CATEGORY 1: Colonies A-D (Such as Sunder Nagar, Vasant Vihar, Defence Colony, Greater Kailash, Saket, Vasant Kunj, Jangpura Extension and Paschim Vihar)
CATEGORY 2: Colonies E-H (Unplanned areas, such as Dakshinpuri and Dashrath Puri)
As categorised by Municipal Valuation Committee reports

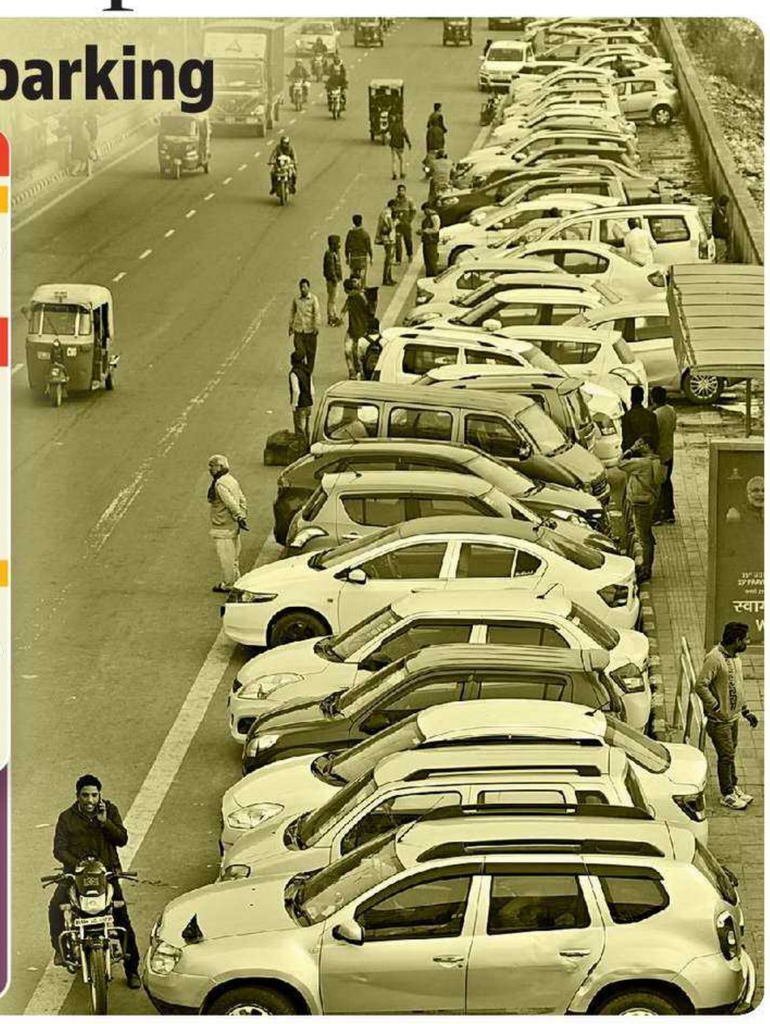
***FOR CARS**

DURATION	CATEGORY 1	CATEGORY 2
0-1 hour	₹30	₹20
1-3 hours	₹75	₹50
>3 hours	₹30/hr	₹20/hr
Monthly	₹5,000	₹3,000

* Rates for two-wheelers are half the car charges, according to respective categories

KEY POINTS

- **2007** was the last time parking rates in city were revised
- **420** parking lots operated by MCD at present
- **17** multilevel parking sites in operation
- **39** RFID-enabled parking lots to come up
- **14.2** million vehicles are registered in Delhi



Delhi's parking problem

Delhi has more than 20 million residents, 17,882 kilometres of roads and 14.2 million registered vehicles, but just 420 public parking sites. Together, this adds up to a big parking problem. The annual growth of the registered vehicles, year on year, was 32% in 2021-2022.

The draft Master Plan-2041 for Delhi says it is crucial to disincentivise private transport to complement initiatives aimed at increasing the use of shared modes.

In 2014, a special task force set up by the Delhi high court to decongest the city also recommended a complete overhaul of the parking pricing.

In 2019, facing a lot of heat from the Supreme Court, the Delhi government notified the Delhi Maintenance and Management of Parking Places Rules to address the crisis in the Capital, through area-specific planning.

Anumita Roychowdhury, the executive director of research and advocacy, Centre for Science and Environment who worked on the parking policy for Delhi said the proposal was a good move.

"This will not only help to improve usage of multilevel parking but also reduce parking congestion on street. Also, as per the Delhi parking rules, the augmented revenue from the increased rates can be invested for local area improvement. However, this will require physical demarcation of legal parking areas on street in each ward to prevent illegal parking and revenue leakages," she said.

CITIZENS' VIEW

If a multilevel parking has been set up with so much resources, the municipality should ideally not allow parking around it.

ATUL GOYAL, head of URJA



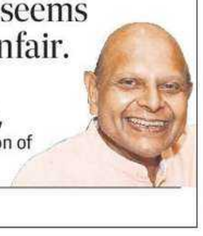
The parking problem can't be solved by hiking rates. It has to be tackled at the point of sale of vehicles. This is only a revenue increasing proposal.

BS VOHRA, East Delhi RWA



There is movement of residents all through the city and differential parking to charge upscale colonies higher seems to be unfair.

CHETAN SHARMA, Confederation of NCR RWAs



Minister to hold meet on Ridge tree cutting

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NEW DELHI: Delhi environment and forest minister Gopal Rai held a meeting with the state forest and wildlife department on Wednesday and sought a detailed status report on the felling of over 1,100 trees in the Southern Ridge by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to build a road.

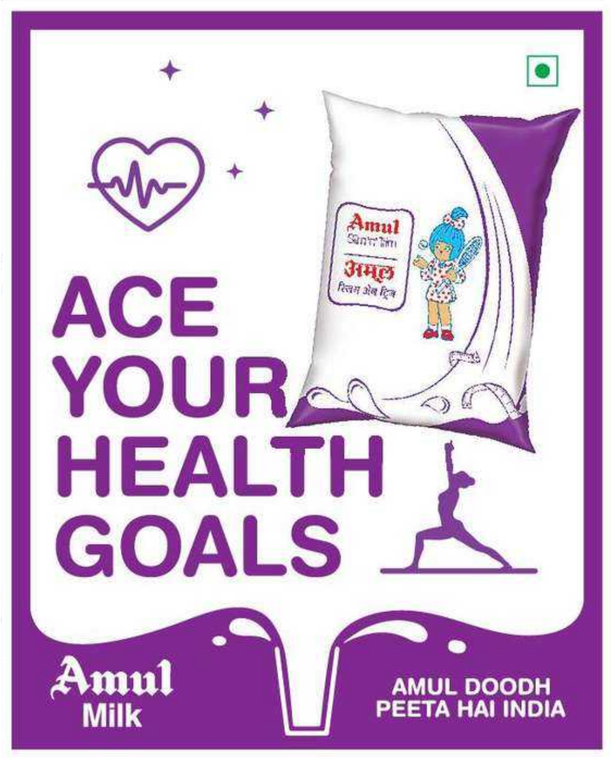
Rai has sought the report by 11am on Thursday, detailing the action taken by the forest department so far in this regard, officials aware of the matter said. The Supreme Court has been hearing a contempt plea filed by Delhi resident Bindu Kapurea, who alleged trees were cut despite a March 4 court order for the permission being denied.

To fell trees in Delhi's Ridge areas, permission has to be sought from the Ridge Management Board (RMB), followed by a nod from the Supreme Court-appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC). The top court on Wednesday hit out at DDA for not sharing information regarding a visit of the Delhi lieutenant governor to the area where 1,110 trees were cut. Earlier, it reprimanded DDA for felling trees without seeking its permission.

The top court also questioned the Delhi government on Wednesday, asking how such a "fantastic lapse" could occur since the Delhi Tree Authority and the forest department came under it. Delhi cabinet minister Saurabh Bharadwaj also hit out at DDA, saying its lawyers lied in court and failed to provide correct information regarding the LG's visit to the reserve forest. Bharadwaj said despite emails showing the LG visited the forest on February 3, DDA was still protecting the LG, who is the chairman of the body.

"In top court, DDA's lawyers are still evading the topic and say they still don't know who gave directions to cut trees, or where the LG went for an inspection that day," he said on Wednesday.

HT reached out to the LG's office, which did not respond to queries seeking comments.



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CBI says CM 'main conspirator'; not named in charge sheet yet

Neeraj Chauhan
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal asked then YSRCP Lok Sabha MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy to provide "monetary funding to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)" while assuring support in the liquor business in the national capital, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has claimed, while adding that this fact has been corroborated from the "contemporaneous documentary material".

The agency has called Kejriwal "one of the main conspirators" in irregularities linked to the excise policy 2021-22.

"Arvind Kejriwal....is one of the main conspirators of the criminal conspiracy in the commission of offences herein (referring to excise policy). It has been revealed that Vijay Nair (former media in-charge of AAP), a close associate of Kejriwal, was contacting various liquor manufacturers and traders and demanding undue gratification since March 2021, for incorporation of provisions favourable to them in the upcoming Delhi excise policy 2021-22," CBI said in a Delhi court on Wednesday while seeking the CM's remand.

The agency said on Wednesday that Reddy — who retained the Ongole seat in Andhra Pradesh in the 2024 general elections, but on a Telugu Desam Party (TDP) ticket — met Kejriwal on March 16, 2021, in his office in the Delhi secretariat and requested him to provide support in liquor business in Delhi. Kejriwal assured him of support and asked him to contact Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader K Kavitha in this regard as she was working with Kejriwal's team, it claimed.

"Kejriwal also told Reddy to provide monetary funding to AAP. The said fact duly finds corroboration from the contemporaneous documentary material on record," the agency said.

The AAP and Kejriwal have denied all charges of irregularities in the excise regime, and have called the case a "witch-hunt" and "political vendetta" at the behest of the Union government.

HT reached out to Reddy, who did not comment on the matter.

With the court remanding him to three-day CBI custody on Wednesday, Kejriwal is likely to be confronted with the "documentary evidence" collected by the anti-corruption agency as well as key witnesses, said an officer who asked not to be named.

Kavitha, according to CBI, told Reddy in a meeting on March 20, 2021 at her residence in Hyderabad that a total amount of Rs 100 crore must be arranged for AAP as upfront money to be given by March 2021.

Kavitha, who is currently lodged in Tihar jail, has denied the allegations.

CBI has further alleged that the L1 (wholesale) licence given to Indospirits (a company in which K Kavitha and Reddy's son Raghav Magunta had stakes, and got nine zones in Delhi) was "in violation of the rules and despite pendency of complaints of cartelization and blacklisting against the partners of Indospirits – on the explicit direction and coercion of co-accused (former deputy chief minister) Manish Sisodia".

Kejriwal was first questioned by the CBI in April 2023.

The agency has, so far, filed four charge sheets in the case against 17 accused persons including Sisodia and Kavitha. To be sure, it has not named Kejriwal as an accused in any of the charge sheets.

The agency claimed in its previous charge sheet that out of Rs 100 crore received by AAP as kickbacks, Rs 44.45 crore was transferred to Goa during June 2021 to January 2022 through "hawala channels" and was used for the AAP's election campaign.

CBI has claimed the new policy was formulated on May 20 and 21, 2021, and it was "processed and approved by the council of ministers (in Delhi government) through circulation on May 21, 2021, in a very hurried manner despite it being the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic".

Earlier, ED arrested Kejriwal on March 21 and filed a charge sheet against him on May 17.

The Delhi government's 2021-22 excise policy aimed to revitalise the city's flagging liquor business. It aimed to replace a sales-volume based regime with a license fee one for traders, and promised swankier stores, free of the infamous metal grilles, ultimately giving customers a better buying experience. The policy also introduced discounts and offers on the purchase of liquor.

The plan, however, came to an abrupt end, with Delhi's lieutenant governor VK Saxena recommending a probe into alleged irregularities in the regime.

What agencies allege, and AAP denies



ED'S CHARGES

ARRESTED: MARCH 21
CHARGES FILED: MAY 17

ED arrested Kejriwal under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), and filed a charge sheet around two months later.

A LOOK AT WHAT ED HAS CLAIMED

1. **₹45 crore** out of **₹100 crore** bribe taken in lieu of favouring certain liquor traders **used for the AAP's Goa poll campaign**.
2. Kejriwal is not only the brain behind the AAP and **was involved in the decision making of policy** as evident from the statements of the witnesses.
3. He's **involved in demand for kickbacks** which have inter-alia generated further proceeds of crime.
4. Kejriwal is linked to generation and use of kickbacks; he was "in-charge of and is responsible" for said "company", that is, AAP. ED also named AAP as accused .
5. **Vijay Nair is Kejriwal's "very close associate"** who acted as a broker and middleman on behalf of top AAP leaders.
6. Proceeds of crime worth **₹1,100 crore have been identified** in the Delhi excise policy.

CBI'S ALLEGATIONS

CBI is yet to file charge sheet against him, and first questioned him in April 2023.

CBI'S ALLEGATIONS AGAINST HIM

1. Kejriwal is **"one of main conspirators of criminal conspiracy (in excise policy)".**
2. Nair was **contacting liquor manufacturers and traders to demand gratification** since March 2021 to include provisions favourable to them.
3. Ongole MP MS Reddy met Kejriwal on **March 16, 2021,** and sought **support in liquor business in Delhi. Kejriwal** asked him to contact K Kavitha.
4. Kejriwal told Reddy to provide funding to AAP. This fact is **"corroborated from... material on record".**
5. On March 20, 2021, Kavitha met Reddy and said that **₹100 crore be arranged as upfront money** .
6. L1 (wholesale) licence given to Indospirits (a firm in which Kavitha and Reddy's son Raghav Magunta had stakes) was **in violation of rules** and was done at **explicit direction and coercion of Manish Sisodia**. Licence was granted despite the Indospirits being blacklisted over pending complaints of cartelisation.
7. In Feb 2021, 8-10 meetings of a Delhi govt GoM were held in which data was sought from excise dept; however "no proper minutes or record of discussions ... were prepared."

'ALL CHARGES FABRICATED' AAP has denied all charges, and said that Kejriwal is being framed

1. **"The entire opposition believes that ED and CBI have become weapons to destroy the opposition... Time and again the AAP has said that the whole case is fake and fabricated. The CBI and ED are filing false cases at the behest of the BJP only to finish AAP and to keep CM Arvind Kejriwal in jail."** — AAP leader Jasmine Shah
2. **NO MONEY TRAIL FOUND:** AAP's lawyers have argued that probe agencies have failed to prove a money trail linked to Kejriwal or substantiate claims of AAP leaders receiving kickbacks through the policy.
3. **TIMING OF CBI ARREST:** AAP said that CBI interrogated Kejriwal in April 2023, but was silent on the matter since then. However, CBI sprung into action after the trial court granted Kejriwal bail last week.

Emergency-like situation: CM's wife; AAP says CBI left exposed in city court

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday alleged that the country was in an "emergency-like situation", and claimed that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was left "exposed" while attempting to tarnish the image of party leaders.

The allegations came hours after CBI arrested Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal in connection with alleged irregularities in the Delhi excise policy 2021-22.

The CM's wife Sunita Kejriwal, in a post on X, claimed that the "whole system" is trying to ensure that her husband does not come out of jail.

"Arvind Kejriwal got bail on June 20. Immediately ED (Enforcement Directorate) got a stay. The very next day 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," she said in a post in Hindi.

AAP leader Jasmine Shah later accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Central government of using federal investigative agencies as "weapons" in order to "destroy" the Opposition.

"The entire opposition believes that ED and CBI have become weapons to destroy the opposition. In this war, we will fight the court battle in the court and the parliamentary battle in the Parliament," he said at a press conference.

Shah said Kejriwal's arrest has revealed the BJP's "panic", and claimed that CBI was left "exposed" in court while trying to allege that the CM blamed his former deputy Manish Sisodia for alleged irregularities in the regime.

"In April 2023, CBI interrogated Arvind Kejriwal for nine hours. After this, the CBI remained silent on this... When it came to know that the trial court granted bail to Arvind Kejriwal in the ED case, CBI woke up... They immediately arrested him by making him an accused. This shows the panic of the BJP," he said.

"During the hearing in the court, the CBI lawyer, out of the blue, said Arvind Kejriwal had washed his hands off the matter and had put the entire blame on Manish Sisodia. On this, Arvind Kejriwal immediately protested and told the judge that CBI is lying and he has never given such a statement... The judge examined his statement and clearly said that Arvind Kejriwal has not given any such statement and that the CBI is lying... Kejriwal exposed the intention of the CBI in the court," Shah said.

Separately, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said, "When the trial court had already granted bail to Kejriwal, and the Supreme Court was about to grant bail to Kejriwal, then CBI remembered..."

Responding to the AAP allegations, the Bharatiya Janata Party said that Kejriwal's arrest is not a surprise for the residents of Delhi.

"CBI had already filed the primary case in which Kejriwal was previously summoned... After Manish Sisodia, the arrest of Arvind Kejriwal in the case filed by Congress was a demand of justice. Therefore, this arrest of Kejriwal and his presentation in court is not surprising and is merely the final stage of the legal process," Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said.



Atishi and Akhilesh Yadav in LNJP Hospital on Wednesday. HT

AKHILESH YADAV EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR DELHI GOVT

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party-led central government over alleged "misuse" of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) after Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal was arrested by the federal agency in the excise policy case on Wednesday.

Yadav made the remarks after visiting the Lok Nayak Hospital on Wednesday morning to meet water minister Atishi, who was admitted as her health deteriorated during the indefinite fast over water shortage in the Capital. Senior CPI (M) leader Brinda Karat also met Atishi.

"When CM Arvind Kejriwal started getting relief... he has been trapped in another case so that he does not come out of jail and does not properly run his government," said Yadav.

"This is not the first time that CBI is trapping people. BJP traps those who pose a threat to them through CBI. The use of CBI... is not a new thing. The result of this was that people voted against BJP in the elections. Fortunately, these people were saved from losing power, otherwise, the BJP would have been wiped out from the central government," Yadav added.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Hanif S/o Nawab Jaan Sefi, R/o Village Keshopur Bhandi, P.S. Nakhasa, Distt. Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh** has committed the offences (or is suspected to have committed) in case **FIR No. 451/13, U/s 379/411/34 IPC, P.S. South Rohini, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Hanif** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Hanif** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Hanif** accused of **FIR No. 451/13, U/s 379/411/34 IPC, P.S. South Rohini, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **26.07.2024.**

By Order
Ms. Ritika Kansal
Metropolitan Magistrate (N/W)
Room No. 208
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/8123/RD/2024

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr.PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Mohsin, S/o Jahir R/o H.No.555, New Bharti Chaudhary Bada Gali No.06, Sikandrabad, Bulandsahar, U.P.** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No.354/2017 u/s 399/402 IPC, P.S. Seemapuri, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Mohsin** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Mohsin** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Mohsin** of **FIR No.354/2017 u/s 399/402 IPC, P.S. Seemapuri, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **02.08.2024.**

By Order,
Ms. Aishwarya Singh Kashyap
Ld. Metropolitan Magistrate-06, Room No.25, 1st Floor
Karkardooma Courts, Shahdara, Delhi

DP/7866/SHD/2024

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that a unidentified dead body of a man namely **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown was found unconscious on dated 20.06.2024 at Near Entry Gate Ajmeri Gate side, New Delhi Railway Station, New Delhi. He was admitted to LHMC Hospital, New Delhi. Where the doctor declared him dead on MLC No. 1480/2024.** In this regard **DD No. 18A, dated 20.06.2024** has been lodged at Police Station, New Delhi Railway Station, New Delhi. Dead body preserve in LHMC Hospital mortuary for 72 hrs. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: 45 Years, Height: 5'8", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Medium, Face: Long, Beard: Light, Wearing: White Colour Shirt, Green Colour Pant and Bare Feet.

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

SHO
Police Station, New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23744073, 8750871305

DP/8075/RLY/2024

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P. C.

Whereas a complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Sarthak Sachdeva S/o Vijay Sacdeva** R/o H.No. 4/80, Subhash Nagar, Delhi, have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under **FIR No. 530/20 U/s 188/269 IPC.,** has been registered at **P.S. Rajouri Garden, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said, **Sarthak Sachdeva** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said, **Sarthak Sachdeva** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Sarthak Sachdeva of FIR No. 530/20 U/s 188/269 IPC., registered at PS. Rajouri Garden, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **17.08.2024.**

By Order
Sh. Shashank Nandan Bhatt, Ld. MM,
WD Room No.356,Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/7788/WD/2024

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Kundan Tiwari

General public is hereby informed that a male namely **Kundan Tiwari, S/o: Maheshwer Tiwari, R/o: H. No. F-2/331, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi has been missing since 15.05.2024 at about 10:30 AM from his home.** In this regard **DD No. 94 A, dated 09.06.2024**, has been lodged at Police Station Sangam Vihar, New Delhi. The description of missing male is as under:

Name: Kundan Tiwari, Age: 26 Years, Height: 5'8", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Grey Colour Lower.

If anyone has any information about this missing male please inform P.S. Sangam Vihar, New Delhi.

Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

SHO
Police Station, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi
Ph: 011-26042188, 8750870833

DP/7795/SD/2024

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age:** Approx 48 years, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Height:** 5', **Built:** Medium, was wearing Brown colour Cehck Shirt and Black colour Lower, was found at H.No. A-318-N, B-Block, Gyan Deep School, Sangam Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a **DD No. 60A, dated 16.06.2024, has been lodged at P.S. Tigri, New Delhi.**

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO
P.S. Tigri, New Delhi
Ph.: 011-26042188, 8750870834

DP/8192/SD/2024

AAP chief to file fresh challenge to denial of bail

Abraham Thomas
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal to withdraw his petition against the interim stay on his bail granted by Delhi high court last week and file a fresh petition to include challenge to the high court's final order of June 25 order reversing the bail in the Delhi excise case being investigated by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

A vacation bench of justices Manoj Misra and SVN Bhatti passed the order after a request for withdrawal was made by senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi. He pointed out that since the passing of the June 21 order by the high court when an interim stay was granted on the bail order passed by the trial court on June 20, the high court has pronounced its final order on June 25 and Kejriwal has been arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with the Delhi excise policy case.

"There will be no option for me but to withdraw and challenge both the June 21 order and the June 25 order of the high court in a new special leave petition (SLP)," Singhvi said. Referring to the latest development involving CBI arrest, he pointed out, "Events are overtaking us everyday. In the case where CBI interrogated us last in 2022, we are now being arrested."

Additional solicitor general (ASG) SV Raju appearing for ED pointed out that the petitioner can only challenge the June 25 order as the challenge to June 21 order will not survive. However, Raju had no objection to the petition being withdrawn.

The court said, "The petition is allowed to be withdrawn," allowing Kejriwal to file a fresh petition repeating the same prayers contained in the present petition as well as challenging the fresh order of June 25 setting aside the bail granted by the trial court.

Singhvi said that the June 21 order staying the bail order was wrong in law as no reasons were given and even without the trial court order being produced before the HC, the order was stayed, initially by an oral observation and later by a written order while reserving the judgment.

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta, also appearing for ED, informed the court that a response has been filed by the agency to Kejriwal's petition. ED's reply justified the stay granted by the HC claiming that the trial court order was "perverse" as it failed to satisfy the requirements for grant of bail under Section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and not allowing the ED counsel to make complete submissions.

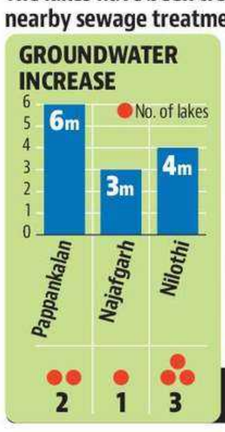
The response filed by ED said, "The order (of the trial court) reflects that the order has been passed hurriedly and admittedly without perusing the records of the case." To be sure, this ground was cited by the high court as one of the grounds for setting aside the bail on Tuesday. The agency further claimed, "Undisputed facts stated in the petition regarding the court requiring the ASG (SV Raju) to cut short his arguments and the order itself reflecting the fact that the judge chose not to go into the record shows complete non-compliance with the mandatory pre-requisite contained in Section 45 of the Act."

The high court vacation bench of justice Sudhir Kumar Jain on Tuesday said, "There is factual force in the arguments advanced by (ASG) SV Raju that the vacation judge (of trial court) has not passed the order after due consideration of the entire material on record."

The high court noted the trial court order did not make any mention of federal agency's contention that Kejriwal, being the in charge of AAP, was vicariously liable for the offence of money laundering committed by the political party. Further, it said, the trial court did not "sufficiently" and "adequately" deal with federal agency's contentions on the aspect of recovering the proceeds of crime qua the CM.

Lakes revived

The lakes have been created using treated wastewater from nearby sewage treatment plants



HOW WERE THESE LAKES CREATED AND MAINTAINED?

- All sites have a piezometer installed, which calculates the groundwater pressure
- Water treated at multiple levels before being sent to the lake
- Biological oxygen demand, total dissolved solids brought down to permissible limits
- Percolation improved with additional sand layer at the base

The lakes were commissioned in 2021; latest data collected by DJB from 2024.

Groundwater in SW Delhi rose by at least 3m: Data

Jasjeev Gandhiok
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Delhi's lake revival project, based on recycling treated wastewater, has been successful in southwest Delhi, where groundwater table has increased by up to 6 metres in the last three years, a new study by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has found.

The study, which looked at successful lake rejuvenation models across the country, found the groundwater table had increased by around 6 metres at Pappankalan, by around 4 metres at Nilothi and by 3 metres and at Najafgarh through the artificial lakes created there by the government in 2021.

The report, titled "Back from the Brink: Rejuvenating India's Lakes, Ponds, and Tanks – A Compendium of Success Stories", looked at around 250 water bodies from 22 different states.

The report said the idea in Delhi was to fill water bodies with treated effluents. "To ensure lakes and water bodies remain filled, which has just 50-odd rainy days a year, DJB connected revived and new water bodies to sewage treatment plants," said the report, adding that efforts have also been made to ensure high percolation into the ground.

These efforts include adding a sandy layer at the base where clay content was high. The model highlights how Delhi created lakes next to existing STPs that treat the water at multiple levels before pumping it.

Two lakes have been created near the Pappankalan STP, one next to Najafgarh STP and three near Nilothi STP. Though a lake has also been created next to the Dwarka STP, no groundwater data was available as a piezometer was installed only recently.

"The lakes have been designed so there is effective percolation into ground," the report added.

No. of 'safe' tehsils up

The increase in the groundwater table has recently been highlighted by the Central Groundwater Board (CGWB), which in its latest report from January 2024, revealed that the number of "safe" tehsils in Delhi had gone up between 2022 and 2023 and the number of zones classified as "over-exploited" dropped.

Of Delhi's 34 tehsils, 13 were classified as "over-exploited" in 2023, the CGWB report said, down from the 15 such tehsils recorded in 2022. The number of safe tehsils is now five, compared to four in 2022.

Sushmita Sengupta, senior programme manager of water programme at CSE, said, "The project includes filling water bodies with treated wastewater which was mixed with nearby drain. This helps recharge groundwater in nearby borewells."

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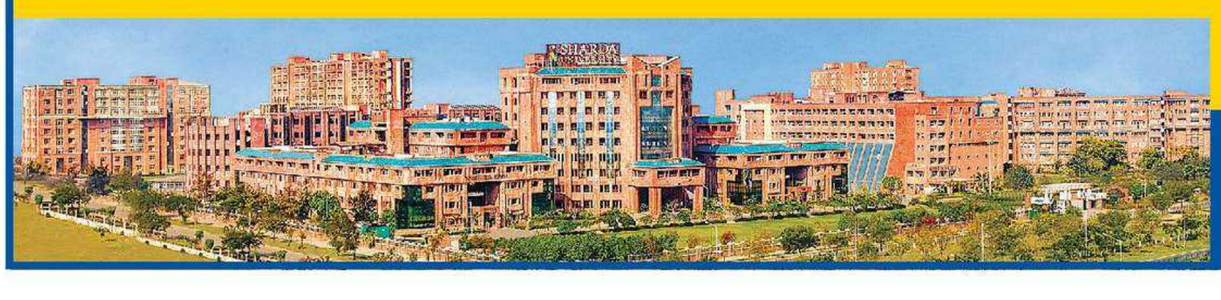
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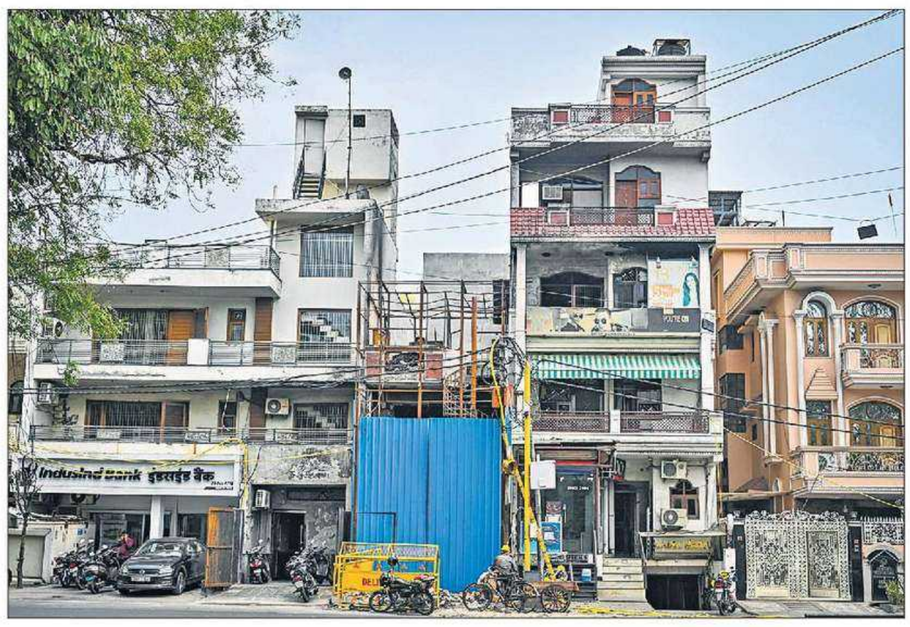


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Kin of Vivek Vihar fire victims struggle to cope with loss, pain

Jignasa Sinha and Hemani Bhandari
letters@hindustantimes.com





(Left) The site of fire at Vivek Vihar; (Above) Vinod Kumar, father of one of the newborns who died in the fire that broke out at the health care facility on May 25. SANCHIT KHANNA/HT

NEW DELHI: Over a month after a fire at the Baby Care New Born Hospital in Vivek Vihar left six newborns dead and four injured, families of the victims and survivors continue to struggle with an array of issues, ranging from trauma and debt to anxiety and health complications.

The incident took place on May 25, when 32 oxygen cylinders exploded due to the fire in the building, blocking access. The infants had to be rescued by locals through a window in the rear of the building, using ladders. Of the 12 babies, six died in the fire. A report by investigating authorities said the nursing home was functioning on an expired health licence and had no fire exit, equipment or safety measures.

Hospital owner Dr Naveen Khichi and caretaker doctor Dr Akash Singh were arrested a day later, and are still in judicial custody, with Delhi Police in the process of filing a charge sheet against Khichi and his staff.

While the process of law takes its course, families continue to suffer from the aftermath of the tragedy. HT spoke to the families of two victims and two survivors to take stock of their condition.

'Costly hospitals forced treatment here'

In Sonia Vihar in northeast Delhi, 32-year-old Mithilesh Kumar and his wife Richa Devi held their one-month-old son in their arms and called him "Agniveer" due to his "miraculous survival". The baby, Shiv Kumar, was only six days old when the fire broke out. The couple has still not taken Shiv to their home town as they are scared that travel would impact his health.

Kumar, a food delivery executive, said they were trying to have a baby for 15 years and that they are now constantly worried and scared for Shiv.

"While Shiv was admitted to the nursing home, my wife was admitted to a clinic. We found out about the incident next day around noon from the news. My wife started shouting and crying. We made several calls but nobody responded. I first rushed to the mortuary and then went to the hospital to check on my baby. We thought we had lost him. I still can't believe the doctors didn't call us," he said.

The family had admitted Shiv to the nursing home because he weighed only 1.2kg at the time of the birth and needed to be monitored in a neonatal intensive care unit. "We looked for multiple hospitals in Rohini, Karawal Nagar and Ghaziabad but they were charging over ₹18,000 per day," he said.

Devi said a nurse told them about the Vivek Vihar nursing home and they decided to admit their baby there due to a relatively lower charge of ₹7,000 per day. The family said they have spent over ₹5 lakh on their baby since birth and Kumar, who is already in debt, had to go back home to Patna to take more loans from his friends.

'Fire made us distrustful of pvt hospitals'

In Ghaziabad, 36-year-old Madhuraj Singh and his wife 30-year-old Suman Devi said they live in constant fear as their one-month-old baby, Shivansh, still suffers from breathing issues due to the smoke.

"I do painting work at commercial buildings in Noida. After the delivery in Ghaziabad, even before naming him, we had to scout for hospitals in Delhi. There is no affordable neonatal care facility in Ghaziabad. We admitted Shivansh to the Vivek Vihar unit because a friend recommended it. We had tried a private hospital in Lajpat Nagar but they asked for ₹5 lakh; I earn less than ₹20,000 a month...how could I afford it?" Singh said.

He said his wife didn't wake up for a day after she found that their baby was in the fire. "She kept weeping for days till she was allowed to see our boy. She is still in shock. She is not able to work and keeps falling sick. We don't trust private hospitals now, but it is difficult to get beds at government facilities," he said.

'Ease of admission shouldn't be a factor'

Thirty-four-year-old Pawan Kumar, a constable with the UP Police, said their newborn, Laxmi, had almost recovered and was going to be discharged within a day before the fire claimed her life. The baby was only a week old when she was admitted to the NICU because of a stomach infection.

Kumar lives in Ghaziabad, where the baby was born on May 19 at a private hospital. "There was no space in the two hospitals doctors had shared. They then told us about the Vivek Vihar centre," Kumar said.

The family visited the baby every day and were satisfied with the treatment.

Kumar pointed out that he didn't want to visit a government facility because of long queues and time-consuming formalities. "We didn't even consider a government facility because one has to stand in long queues for admission and there is no transparency about treatment, even though there are good government facilities in Delhi," he said, adding that the Vivek Vihar facility charged them about ₹13,000-₹14,000 a day.

Their baby died after inhaling a lot of smoke, he said, adding that the family was trying to move on but they kept thinking about how a different hospital could have saved Laxmi's life.

'Strictest punishment must for wrongdoers'

Thirty-two-year-old Jyoti Kumar says not a day has gone by when she doesn't miss her one-day-old son, who died in the fire. Her husband, Vinod Kumar, said he told Jyoti about the baby's death after a week because she was hospitalised after the baby's delivery and that she had yet to come to terms with the incident. The couple hardly talks about the incident as it saddens them.

Kumar is a businessman and the couple lives with their four children in Shahdara. He alleged that they were not given a choice by the private hospital to choose a neonatal centre for the baby's care.

"The baby faced respiratory problems due to which the doctors there asked us to shift him to the Vivek Vivek nursing home, since the hospital did not have an NICU. At that time, all we cared about was saving our son and took him there. I never meet Dr Khichi. I hadn't seen him till I saw his face on TV," he said.

Inside the hospital, Kumar said, he remembered seeing multiple oxygen cylinders but didn't bother at the time.

Kumar, demanding the "strictest punishment" for Khichi, said: "He played with the lives of many kids... broke families... he deserves to stay in jail."

The couple broke down as they spoke about their one-day-old, who died before they could even name him.

Heavy rain forecast for June 29-30; no word yet on arrival of monsoon

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Pre-monsoon showers on Wednesday kept Delhi's maximum temperature below 40°C for the second successive day, but kept humidity levels high, said the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The weather agency also announced the arrival of monsoon over large parts of northwest India over the next three to four days, but the list did not specify a date for Delhi, indicating that monsoon will not arrive on its usual date of June 27.

In a seven-day forecast for the Capital, the Met department has forecast rain till the end of the month, with the showers expected to intensify on the last two days of the month, which could signify the arrival of monsoon, said weather experts.

The weather agency has forecast light to moderate rain in Delhi on June 29, issuing a yellow alert for the day, and moderate to heavy rain on June 30, issuing an orange alert.

"We are expecting an increase in rain intensity in northwest India from June 28 and monsoon could reach Delhi on June 29 or 30. Delhi-NCR may see heavy rainfall spell during this period, based on which the onset of the monsoon could be declared," said Mahesh Palawat, vice president at Skymet, a private weather forecasting service.

An IMD official, however, said they will declare the likelihood of monsoon onset over Delhi as and when it draws nearer.

Although no rainfall was recorded at the Safdarjung station, which is representative of Delhi's weather, Palam station recorded 2.3mm of rainfall between 8.30am and 5.30pm and Ayanagar station recorded 1.8mm of rainfall in the nine-hour period.

The Lodhi Road and Ridge stations both recorded "trace" rainfall.

In its monsoon bulletin on Wednesday evening, IMD said conditions were currently favourable for the southwest monsoon to advance into "the remaining parts of the North Arabian Sea, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh; some more parts of Rajasthan; remaining parts of Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Bihar; most parts of East Uttar Pradesh; some more parts of West Uttar Pradesh; some parts of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu-Kashmir-Ladakh-Gilgit-Baltistan-Muzaffarabad, the northern parts of Punjab and northern parts of Haryana during next three to four days."

Delhi recorded a maximum temperature of 39°C on Wednesday, which was two degrees above normal, but the heat index (HI) or "real feel" temperature was 52°C, the same as the past two days. Delhi's maximum temperature was 39.7°C on Tuesday and 40.4°C on Monday.

The minimum temperature on Wednesday, meanwhile, was 31.6°C, which was four degrees above normal and marking a difference of only 8°C between the two extremes.

"We saw cloudiness both during the day and at nighttime. During the day, it keeps the maximum low, but at night, the same cloudiness does not allow a lot of heat to be lost either," the IMD official cited above said.

Delhi's humidity remained high, between 51% and 71%, on Wednesday, keeping the wet-bulb temperature — a measure of how difficult or easy it is for the human body to be outdoors — at 29.3°C, which was marginally lower than the 29.6°C recorded on Tuesday.

The higher the humidity, the more difficult it is for the human body to sweat and thus, cool itself effectively.

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

The IMD forecast a maximum temperature of 38°C and a minimum of 29°C for Thursday.



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Letter No:539 **E-Tender Cancellation Notice** Date: 25/06/2024
Due to unavoidable reason Tender number 01/EE/PCM/Dhalipur/2024-25 invited by the Office of the Executive Engineer, Project Civil Maintenance-Dhalipur, which is related to the work of "Refurbishment of damage road on right side of power channel from Court Bridge to Skew bridge Dhalipur, Dehradun" is hereby canceled.
View tender cancellation notice on e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in" **Executive Engineer**
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dposamba@jkpolice.gov.in
01923-246100 (O), 01923-246740 (F)
"Hue and Cry Notice"
As intimated by SDPO Vijaypur vide his office letter No. SDPOV/2024/2285 Dated 07.06.2024, that the notorious accused person namely Vikas Slathia @ Vicky @ Vicky Khouf S/O Ravinder Singh R/O Garota Mandi, Gurha Slathia A/P Gurah Morh Tehsil Vijaypur, District Samba (Head of Khouf Gang) is involved in various cases registered in District Jammu, Samba and Kathua and also wanted in case FIR No 93/2023 U/S 302/147/148 IPC, 3/4/25 Arms Act of P/S Ramgarh of District Samba. The photograph of the said accused persons is required to be published/telecast in print/electronic media for his identification/arrest.
As such, a hue and cry notice of above mentioned accused person is being published/telecast on Print/Electronic media for information of Police Establishments so that they could be identified and any information related to them may be communicated on following contacts:-
1. **PCR Samba - 01923-246333, 9541649001**
2. **SSP Samba's email ID: sspsamba@jkpolice.gov.in**
3. **SHO P/S Ramgarh- 88037-83308**
The description roll along with photographs of accused persons is as under:-
Name:- Vikas Slathia @ Vicky @ Vicky Khouf
Address - R/O Garota Mandi Gurha Slathia A/P Gurah Morh Tehsil Vijaypur
Age: 31 years
Height : 5 feet 7" inch (approx)

No. CB/Look/2024/
Dated: .06.2024
Sd/-
Sr. Superintendent of Police
Samba
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Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813
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Short Term E-Tender Enq. No. 7564/P-3/EMP-12694 dated 25.06.24
Dy. Chief Engineer/Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024_POWER_122811_1 for Procurement of Special steel Sail Hard/Tiscral or equivalent 6 mm carbon steel for gas ducts for unit #6. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 25.06.2024/ 05.00 PM onwards.
Note: Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
RTP-55/24 35028

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Sub-: NIT No. 18-DyCEE-GSU-DLI-24-25
The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Gati Shakti Unit/Delhi, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055 invites e-tender for the under noted work, hence it has been uploaded to IREPS website on date 27.06.2024.

1	Name of work and location	Augmentation & Improvement in electrical infrastructure at Freight Examination Points at Tughlakabad & Shakurbasti
2	Tender Notice no.	18-DyCEE-GSU-DLI-24-25
3	Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online) Now	Rs. 2,45,400.00/-
4	Approximate cost earlier	Rs. 1,90,81,337.00/-
5	Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tenders uploaded on date 27/06/2024 on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11:30 Hrs on 18.07.2024
6	Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document now	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway web site i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in. Above tender document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 03.07.2024 to 18.07.2024 All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

No. 18-Dy.CEE-GSU-DLI-24-25 Dated: 26.06.2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1916/24

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE (G&P) DEPARTMENT KASHMIR
Tel- 0194-2474234, Fax -2482032 – email: - kashflori@rediffmail.com
GIST of e-Tender Notice No.12 of 2024 Dated:- 25.06.2024
For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of J&K UT, bids are invited from interested bidders for **Outsourcing of entry ticketing system of Mughal Garden Nishat, Srinagar** of Floriculture Department Kashmir as per details given below: -
The bidders have to quote their bid amount in the concerned BOQ: -

S. No.	Period of contract	Reserve Bid (Rs. in Lakhs)	Value of security deposit @ 10%	Cost of tender document
1.	**(01) One year** from the date of award of contract	Rs. 2,82,79,700.00	Rs. 28,27,970.00	**Rs. 3000.00** in the shape of e-challan

The bidding document(s) consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded through the Departmental website **www.dofkashmir.com / www.jktenders.gov.in** as per schedule of date given below:-

1.	Period of downloading of bidding document	25.06.2024 from 03.00 PM to 15.07.2024 up to 02.00 PM
2.	Bid submission Start Date	25.06.2024 from 03.30 PM
3.	Bid submission End date	15.07.2024 up to 02.00 PM
4.	Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online)	18.07.2024 at 02.00 PM

In case of any eventuality, the date of opening will be considered on any other convenient working day.
Sd/-
Accounts Officer,
(Member Secretary)
DIPK-1878-24

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A quiz on the week's development.


Delhiwale
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Mayank Austen Soofi



A life in Connaught Place

Portrait of a vendor of jhumke

PRIVATE CAPITAL

The woman clad in a sari is among the regular faces of N Block, Outer Circle, Connaught Place. No matter how unbearable the weather, Rani is sighted everyday, sitting on the floor of the colonial-era colonnade, a white chaadar spread by her side, with dozens of jhumke, or ear-danglers on display.

This afternoon, the discomfort of late June's high temperature is worsened by the pre-monsoon's high humidity. The colonnade is lined with air-conditioned showrooms and cafés, and people behind the glass walls look at ease. Now, a person walking along the corridor slows down to gaze at the jhumke. Rani greets her with a smile. The smile is fleeting and restrained, yet it exudes such transparent sincerity that the person instinctively responds back with a smile.

Whatever, there are long gaps when no Connaught Place stroller pauses to examine the jhumke, obliging Rani to sit patiently through those idle intervals. Her mind stays astir with thoughts though, as she murmurs, "I think of the same things... I think of my late husband, I think of my late son, I think of my little grandchildren, and of my zimmedari of raising them at this age..."

Rani's husband, Kamta Prasad, succumbed to Covid. Her elder son, Rajesh, too is no more. Her household in Dwarka comprises of her daughter-in-law, two grandchildren, and her other son Rakesh who, like his father, works as a "beldar."

The loss of the husband wasn't the only transformative change that Covid brought to Rani. For 30 years, she sold fruit in Connaught Place, but "on returning after the (Covid-triggered) lockdowns, I realised that most people were avoiding the outside food, and I wasn't managing to sell as much fruit as I used to sell."

One afternoon during that uncertain period, Rani noticed a vendor of jhumke at Janpath. "Unlike the fruit, those jhumke would not rot if I could not sell them in time. I talked to the vendor, discussed with him the advantages and disadvantages of his trade, enquired about his supplier walla..."

Cupping her chin with her hand, Rani thoughtfully answers a query on her smile with which she always welcomes shoppers. "I think of my husband and my son, and I feel sad, I have tension... but I have to work, I have to earn, and when I smile, my heart feels light."

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

{ FROM PAGE 1 }

OM BIRLA

efficiency of the House under Birla's leadership between 2019 and 2024.

"This Parliament building is not just four walls. In your five years, the productivity of this House was 97%, which is the highest in 25 years. During Covid, you didn't allow the work of Parliament to stop. Your decisions helped us to work during that difficult period. And the Lok Sabha had a 170% productivity in the Covid years."

On his first day as Leader of the Opposition, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, however, reminded the House that its effectiveness needs to be measured by the space it allowed to Opposition voices. "I am confident that you will allow us to speak; the question is not how efficiently the House is run. The question is how much of India's voice can be heard. The idea that you can run the House efficiently by silencing the Opposition is a non-democratic idea," Gandhi said.

And Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam leader TR Baalu asked Birla to ensure the Opposition gets to be heard in the House. "Actions like the suspension of MPs would not be taken as they hurt the dignity of the House...The House should function on your directions and not otherwise," Yadav said.

With 236 members in the Lok Sabha, the Opposition bloc's strength is greatly enhanced – especially if one were to add some of the unaligned parties – but the NDA, with 292 members (excluding Birla) has a clear majority.

It remains to be seen whether it can effectively use this majority to push through bills, especially because it remains in a minority in the Rajya Sabha, and the Biju Janata Dal and YSR Congress Party which previously supported, it are unlikely to do so this time (the BJD has said as much).

But as Wednesday's proceedings showed, confrontation is likely to be the prevailing theme. The NDA's response to the Opposition's comments following the Speaker's election was the resolution on Emergency (49-years-old yesterday) read out by Birla.

"This House strongly condemns the decision to impose Emergency in 1975. We appreciate the determination of all those people who opposed the Emergency, fought and fulfilled the responsibility of protecting India's democracy," he said amid vociferous protests by opposition parties.

Birla — only the fourth man to win a speaker's election and the first this millennium — himself was sharp, cutting short some members, reminding others that lawmakers must sit down when the speaker was standing, and invoking the Emergency in his address. Leaders cutting across political lines vowed to help him run the House smoothly but also reminded him about the Opposition's due space.

"Honourable members, the 18th Lok Sabha should be the assembly of our new vision, new resolve. The 18th Lok Sabha should be the assembly of our creative platform and new ideas, in which the high level parliamentary tradition is established, there is a limited expression of agreement and disagreement between the ruling and the opposition parties. There should be meaningful discussions and dialogues on the burning issues before the country and this assembly should work with the will to fulfil the vision of a developed India," Birla said.

The unprecedented election – the first in nearly half a century – was conducted after talks between the government and Opposition broke down on Tuesday over the deputy speaker's post. The ruling NDA picked Birla to take on senior Congress MP Suresh, who filed his nomination just minutes before the 12 pm deadline. A battery of top leaders led by PM Modi, moved a total of 16 motions —13 in favour of Birla — and the remaining three for Suresh. Pro-tem speaker Bhartruhari Mahtab conducted a voice vote for the motion moved by the PM and declared it adopted by voice vote.

"Since the first motion moved by Narendra Modi has been adopted, other motions are infructuous," Mahtab said.

When Union minister Lalan Singh enquired about the division (voting by ballots), parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju said the Opposition didn't push for it. Mahtab, who had declared that Birla won the election, replied, "We have passed that stage."

In a long-lasting tradition of parliamentary practices, Modi, LoP Rahul Gandhi and parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju accompanied Birla to the speaker's seat where Mahtab was waiting for him.

"It's your chair, you handle it," Mahtab quipped as Birla took charge.

TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee said the pro-tem speaker did not allow division even though several opposition MPs sought it. "This is a clear testament to the fact that the ruling dispensation, the BJP, does not have the numbers ... This government is running without the numbers," he added.

The Congress later said it didn't press for a division of votes out of a sense of cooperation. "INDIA parties exercised their democratic right and moved motions in support of Kodikunnil Suresh as Lok Sabha Speaker. Voice vote was taken. Thereafter, INDIA parties could have insisted on division," Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said on X.

"They did not do so. This is because they wanted a spirit of consensus and cooperation to prevail, a spirit singularly lacking in the actions of the PM and the NDA," he added.

Modi lauded Birla's first tenure and expressed confidence that he will continue to create new benchmarks. The PM pointed out that, "In this important phase of Amrit Kaal, this is the second time you have been elected. This is a major responsibility."

He expressed confidence that Birla will set more records. "In the past 20 years, most of the Speakers didn't contest or didn't win. One can understand how difficult the speaker's work is! You won and created a new history. Most of the MPs know you and know your life. As an MP, the way you work is a lesson for all of us. In the last five years, we have worked with you and you know us."

But the Opposition hit back. Gandhi mentioned the Opposition's increased strength in the 18th Lok Sabha.

"The Opposition would like to assist you in doing your work. We want the House to function often and well. It is very important that cooperation happens on the basis of trust. It is very important that the voice of the Opposition is allowed to be represented in this House," he said.

Yadav, who is the Samajwadi Party floor leader for the first time, also quipped that he was under the impression that the speaker's chair was very high and reminded everyone that the House he had left – the Uttar Pradesh assembly – the Chair was very high.

Birla said he would try to give all members "enough time and opportunity". "This Parliament is a House where views of all parties are considered. Views of all parties should be expressed here. Agreement and disagreement is the strength of our democracy...I hope that you will express your disagreement loudly on the issues and ideology of your respective parties," he said.

"My expectation will be that I run the House with everyone's consent. Even if a person is from one party, he will get enough time, enough opportunity, because the people of the country have elected him. In my last tenure, I tried to give all the honourable members an opportunity to speak in the first session...but my expectation will be that the House runs in a peaceful manner."

Opposition leaders earlier argued that in the 17th Lok Sabha— presided by Birla— 35% of the laws were passed with less than an hour of discussion in the Lower House and only 16% of the bills were referred to House panels for review. According to PRS Legislative Research, this was lower than corresponding figures for the previous three Lok Sabhas.

TMC leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay said the functioning of the House always depended on the attitude of the treasury benches and the House belonged to the Opposition. He mentioned the suspension of opposition MPs in the 17th Lok Sabha and said it was "not desirable".

Baalu said that now that Birla was the speaker, he did not belong to any party anymore.

"You might have been elected by my BJP friends (but) hereafter there is no politics between you and the powers. You don't have any colour also. You have to treat the opposition and the ruling party in the same manner. Kindly be impartial," he said.

TN REPORT



The bus was removed from the crater by 12.30pm on Wednesday. PTI

Part of MB road caves in, triggers traffic jam

NEW DELHI: A section of the Mehrauli-Badarpur road near the Saket Metro station caved in around 7am on Wednesday, trapping a Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) bus in the crater and causing a five-and-a-half-hours-long traffic jam on the carriageway going from Khanpur to Mehrauli.

While the bus was removed at 12.30pm, the traffic disruptions continued till late evening due to repairs on the damaged section. Traffic jams were observed on Ignou Road and MB Road from Saket Metro station to the Mandir Marg intersection.

In an advisory, the Delhi traffic police said: "Traffic is affected on MB Road in the carriageway from Khanpur towards Mehrauli due to the breakdown of a bus near the Saket Metro station. Kindly plan your journey accordingly." Police added that traffic movement resumed after the bus was removed.

A Delhi Jal Board (DJB) official said that a new sewer line was laid down at the site two days ago. "The layering of the filling material was not carried out properly and the water flow led to erosion of the fresh soil. When the bus passed over the weakened section, the road caved in," the official said.

"We are helping DJB with repairs," said a PWD official. HTC

Mumbai murder accused fled Gzb home in 2012, say police

Megha Sood
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MUMBAI: A week after a 29-year-old man was arrested for clobbering his girlfriend to death with a spanner on a busy road at Vasai in Maharashtra, the police investigation has revealed that the accused was originally from Ghaziabad, but was declared missing by his parents after he ran away from home around 12 years ago, officers aware of the matter said on Wednesday.

Rohit Pal, the accused, had earlier claimed that he is an orphan from a village in Haryana, the officers said.

The murder in question took place on June 18, when Pal intercepted Aarti Yadav, 22, when she was on her way to work, and started assaulting her with a heavy spanner in the middle of the road. He continued battering her with the tool until she collapsed and lay motionless in a pool of blood, even as passersby watched and shot videos of the attack, said police.

Police said he attacked Yadav after seeing her talking to her male colleagues, and suspected she was cheating on him. Although Pal's lawyer claimed he was provoked, police said the murder was planned — the accused was walking around with the spanner with him for several days before the attack on Yadav.



Rohit Pal



Aarti Yadav



OBJECTED TO HER TALKING TO OTHER MEN

Man beats girlfriend to death on busy road as passersby watch, make videos

Megha Sood

MUMBAI: The Vasai police have arrested a 29-year-old man for allegedly killing his 22-year-old girlfriend by clobbering her repeatedly with a spanner on a busy road in Vasai Eastern Express day morning. Although several people watched the brutal attack, no one tried to rescue the woman, according to the police.

THE 29-YEAR-OLD MAN INTERCEPTED THE WOMAN ON HER WAY TO WORK AND HIT HER WITH A SPANNER UNTIL SHE COLLAPSED

JUNE 19: HT had reported that the accused beat his girlfriend to death on a busy road in Vasai as passersby made videos of the incident

A senior investigator associated with the case said after his arrest, Pal initially claimed that his name was Rohit Yadav, that he was originally from Haryana, and that he dropped out of school and moved to Vadodara in 2015 after his family died.

However, after interrogation, the investigator said, the accused revealed that his surname is actually Pal, and his parents and two sisters are still alive. "Pal also confessed that he had lied to his girlfriend about his surname," the investigator said.

Armed with the new information, officers then shared Pal's photo on their WhatsApp groups which police use to locate missing persons across the country, and got a hit from the Ghaziabad police, who said a missing person complaint was filed in 2012.

The investigator quoted above said complaint was filed by Pal's father, who works as a security guard in Ghaziabad. "We have requested our counterparts in Ghaziabad to get Pal's parents to contact us, and reach Mumbai to record their statements. We also want to find out why Pal ran away from home," the investigator said.

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- Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



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- 73.57 lakh credit guarantees worth Rs. 5.56 lakh crore provided for Micro and Small enterprises in the last 10 years under the Credit Guarantee Scheme.
- Under PMEGP, 6.93 lakh new micro enterprises established with margin money subsidy of Rs. 19,800 crore, generating employment for more than 55 lakh persons.
- Through Public Procurement Policy, efforts for inclusive growth made. Further, National SC-ST Hub committed for providing holistic support and handholding of SC-ST. 15 fold increase in procurement from SC-ST MSEs.
- More than five-fold increase in Khadi sales. Boost to Khadi and Gramodyog products generating employment opportunities in rural areas.

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CBC 25113/15/0004/2425

Shri Jitan Ram Manjhi, Union Minister for MSME, in presence of Ms. Shobha Karandlaje, Union Minister of State(MSME), will preside over 'Udyami Bharat Programme' on the occasion of 'International MSME Day 2024'

On 27th June, 2024 at 11:00 AM

Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi

(With inputs from Reuters)

Birla's reference to Emergency sparks face-off with Oppn in LS

Vrinda Tulsian
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NEW DELHI: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Wednesday condemned the imposition of Emergency in 1975 and described it as a "dark day in the history" of the country, setting off a political firestorm during the first session of the House as Congress members shouted slogans and termed the remarks "unfortunate".

Birla, who was re-elected as speaker earlier in the day, also said the country was subjected to dictatorship by former prime minister Indira Gandhi and its "democratic values were crushed and freedom of expression was stifled" during Emergency, and urged members to observe a two-minute silence in the House.

While Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP members welcomed Birla's reference to Emergency, opposition members condemned the reference, prompting Birla to adjourn the House.

Birla recalled that it was on June 25, 1975 that the country woke up to the cruel realities of Emergency, when the Congress government, under then PM Indira Gandhi, jailed opposition leaders, imposed many restrictions on the media and curbed the autonomy of the judiciary.

"This House deeply condemns the imposition of national Emergency in 1975 by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. June 25, 1975, would always be written down as a dark day in the history of India. During the Emergency, people had to suffer the brunt of compulsory sterilisation imposed by the Congress government, arbitrariness in the name of removing encroachment in cities and the evil policies of the government. This House would like to express its condolences to all those people," Birla said as he read out a resolution in this regard.

He said Gandhi talked about committed bureaucracy and committed judiciary, which was an example of her anti-democratic attitude. Emergency brought with it terrible antisocial and dictatorial policies that destroyed the lives of the poor, Dalits and deprived, he added. Birla said the House "extends its respect to those who fought... to protect Democracy..."

As the country marks the 50th year of the Emergency, the 18th Lok Sabha "reiterates its commitment to uphold, protect and preserve the Constitution built by Babasaheb Ambedkar", he said.

"India has always promoted democratic values and the spirit of discussion and debate. Democratic values have always been protected, they have always been encouraged. Such an India was subjected to dictatorship by Indira Gandhi, India's democratic values were crushed and freedom of expression was stifled," he said.


Om Birla

While Congress members shouted slogans against the reference to Emergency in the Lower House, BJP MPs gathered in huge numbers on the footsteps of the Parliament building to protest against the suspension of civil liberties 49 years ago.

In a post on X, Modi lauded Birla for his condemnation of the Emergency and said it was a wonderful gesture to stand in silence in honour of all those who suffered during those days. "I am glad that the honourable speaker strongly condemned the Emergency, highlighted the excesses committed during that time and also mentioned the manner in which democracy was strangled," he wrote on the micro-blogging site.

He also said the Emergency was imposed many years ago but it is important for today's young people to know about it because it remains a fitting example of what happens when the Constitution is trampled over, public opinion is stifled, and institutions are destroyed. Union home minister Amit Shah also hailed Birla for moving the resolution, saying it exposed the "anti-democratic" thinking of the Congress.

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, however, termed the remarks "unfortunate". "It was 49 years ago. If you have to go to such lengths on a day on which the message was to be one of cooperation and consensus, that is unfortunate." He described the proceedings as a "dramatic start". "What we saw was the Speaker, unfortunately, raising a matter that had not been discussed in the House and in a manner that came across as confrontational which was not the right note on which to start the session..," he said.



Union ministers Kiren Rijiju and Pralhad Joshi and other BJP lawmakers stage a protest against Emergency, at Parliament House in New Delhi, on Wednesday. ANI

Parl set to write Amrit Kaal's future under Om Birla: Modi

Saubhadra Chatterji
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: As India makes efforts to modernise and fulfill its aspirations, the Parliament under Om Birla's leadership is ready to "write the future of Amrit Kaal", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday as he congratulated the Rajasthan lawmaker on his election as Lok Sabha Speaker for a second consecutive term.

Modi, who moved the motion for Birla's re-election, expressed confidence that the Lower House will greatly benefit from the Speaker's insights and experience. He also lauded the speaker for his condemnation of the Emergency.

"Today, the country is making all efforts to make India modern to fulfill its aspirations. I believe that the new Parliament House, under your (Birla's) leadership, will also write the future of Amrit Kaal," Modi said.

"We entered the new Parliament House under your chairmanship and you took many effective and important decisions to make the parliamentary working system effective and responsible and hence, helped in strengthening democracy," he added.

On Wednesday, Birla became the speaker for a second consecutive time after defeating the Opposition's candidate Kodikunnil Suresh in a voice vote, scripting history as only the fourth man ever and the first this millennium to win the rare poll.

> You (Birla) created a new record by assuming the responsibility of the Speaker for the second time
> **NARENDRA MODI,** PM

"Being appointed to this post for the second time in this important period of Amrit Kaal is a huge responsibility for you (Birla)," Modi said. "With your five years of experience and our five years of experience with you, we are confident you will guide us in the coming five years and you will play a very important role in fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the country in this House," he added.

"You have been setting new standards and values at every step. You created a new record by assuming the responsibility of the Speaker for the second time. After Balram Jakhar, you got the opportunity to hold this post again after completing five years," he added.

Modi also said that there was a period of 20 years when most of the speakers either did not contest the election or did not win again. "You can understand how difficult the job of a speaker is that it becomes difficult for him to win again. You have come back victorious, you have created a new history," he told Birla.

From GMC Balayogi (who died in a helicopter crash) to Sumitra Mahajan, no Lok Sabha speaker got re-elected to the House in the last 20 years.

Recounting the achievements of the 17th Lok Sabha, Modi said: "This Parliament building is not just four walls. In your five years, the productivity of this House was 97%, which was the highest in 25 years. During Covid-19, you did not allow the work of Parliament to stop. Your decisions helped us to work during that difficult period. The Lok Sabha recorded 170% productivity during Covid pandemic."

He also said that under Birla's tenure, Parliament shifted to a new building and the House passed several key legislations.

{ RAHUL'S FIRST SPEECH AS LoP }

'India expects Oppn to defend Constitution'

Saubhadra Chatterji
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday emphasised on the Opposition's role in Parliament as the representative of the voice of India and hoped that Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla "will do his duty to defend the Constitution" by allowing the Opposition to speak, marking his first speech as Leader of the Opposition in the Lower House.

This is the first time in a decade that the Leader of the Opposition position in the Lok Sabha has been filled. "India expects the Opposition to defend the Constitution of this country and we are confident that by allowing the Opposition to speak, by allowing us to represent the people of India, you will do your duty of defending the Constitution of India," Gandhi told Birla while congratulating the latter for his election as the Speaker.

Gandhi appeared in a kurta-pajama instead of the white T-shirt and trousers that had become his de-facto uniform since the Bharat Jodo Yatra days two years, as he assumed the role of the LoP for the first time in his parliamentary career spanning two decades.

His speech, right after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, also tried to counter the PM's assertion on the 17th Lok Sabha's record-breaking performance under Birla's leadership. "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. Speaker sir, so the idea that you can run the House efficiently by silencing the voice of the Opposition is a non-democratic idea," he said.

But the Congress leader also took the first opportunity in the House to remind how the Opposition is stronger this time and capable to assert itself better than the previous two Lok Sabhas. "This House represents the voice of India's people and you (speaker) are the final arbiter of that voice. Of course, the government has political power, but the Opposition also represents the voice of India's people and this time, the Opposition represents significantly more voice of the Indian people than it did the last time," Gandhi said.

Gandhi escorted Birla, soon after he was re-elected as the Speaker, to the Chair along with PM Narendra Modi and parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju.


Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge felicitates Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Wednesday. ANI

Impartiality is the main responsibility: Akhilesh to Lok Sabha Speaker

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: Former Uttar Pradesh chief minister and Samajwadi Party (SP)'s floor leader Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday led a host of leaders to seek more parliamentary space for the Opposition from Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and referred to suspension of lawmakers in the previous Lok Sabha.

"You are like the chief justice of democratic system. We all expect from you that the voice of any public representative should not be suppressed, nor the dignity of the House should be hurt by repeating the actions such as expulsion," he said during the discussion after Birla's election. The SP chief, whose party emerged as the single-largest party in Uttar Pradesh with 37 MPs, called for equal space and opportunity.

"The House should run as per your instructions, not otherwise. We stand by your every just decision," he said, indicating that the Opposition doesn't want the writ of the government to dictate House proceedings. He hoped that Birla "will carry forward the glorious tradition of this post without any discrimination" and "give equal opportunity and respect to every MP and every party."

"Impartiality is the great responsibility of this great post," Yadav added, reminding everyone that the stone wall behind the speaker's chair is built beautifully but has a gap (the rift between the ruling side and the Opposition). The SP leader also quipped that he expected the Speaker's seat at greater height and said, "Whom should I ask to make this chair higher?"


Akhilesh Yadav

Trinamool Congress leader Sudip Bandopadhyay, too, urged the Speaker not to expel MPs. "It is my firm belief that somehow the floor of the House always depends on the attitude of the treasury benches. So far as the parliamentary democratic process is concerned, the House belongs to the Opposition. This attitude is to be adopted by the ruling party."

Bandopadhyay, who enjoys a good rapport with Birla, said, "You may have your good intention but sometimes, you bow down to the ruling party's pressure. My experience says this. Suspension of 150 MPs in one day has happened in this House. It is not desirable."

DMK's TR Baalu spoke about impartiality. "You might have been elected on the lotus symbol, which always floats in the water but it would not allow the water to stick. Likewise, you might have been elected by my BJP friends but hereafter there should be no politics between you and this House. You do not have any colour also."

Nationalist Congress Party leader Supriya Sule pitched for more discussion.

President Murmu to address joint sitting of Parliament today

NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu will address the joint sitting of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, where she is expected to unveil the priorities of the newly-elected government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Murmu's address to the joint sitting of Parliament will also be the first after the constitution of the 18th Lok Sabha. The first session of the 18th Lok Sabha began on Monday and the 264th session of the Rajya Sabha will begin on June 27. Murmu will arrive in a procession from the Rashtrapati Bhavan, escorted by the horse-mounted presidential bodyguards. She will be received by Modi and the presiding officers of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha at the Gaja Dwar of the Parliament building from where she will be escorted to the Lower House chamber.

Stir held against displacement of Ambedkar, Gandhi statues

NEW DELHI: Dalit, OBC and Minorities Parisangh (DOM Parisangh) and Samta Sainik Dal, along with other organisations, on Wednesday held a demonstration at Jantar Mantar in the Capital against the displacement of Ambedkar and Gandhi statues from Parliament premises. In a statement, former MP and national chairman of DOM Parisangh Udit Raj described the government's move to relocate the statues of BR Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi from the main place in Parliament as "arbitrary and unilateral". In the last few years, many MPs have protested near the statues of Gandhi and Ambedkar. In the last 10 years, many dharnas were organised near the Gandhi statue. Opposition leaders also gathered near Ambedkar's statue to celebrate the Constitution Day, he said.

Dy Speaker's post may be new point of contention

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NEW DELHI: The ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chose to maintain a stoic silence on the issue of appointing a Deputy Speaker in the Lok Sabha, even as the Opposition announced it will put up a candidate for the election, if and when it happens.

In the 17th Lok Sabha, the position of the Deputy Speaker remained vacant.

Soon after NDA nominee Om Birla was elected as the Lok Sabha Speaker on Wednesday for a second consecutive term, the focus shifted to the Deputy Speaker's post.

The government and the Opposition have locked horns over the position, with the latter asserting that a member from the opposition bloc should be elected to the post as per convention. The stalemate led to the Opposition not giving unconditional support to Birla and an election was held after Congress's K Suresh filed his nomination for the Speaker's post.

Union ministers Rajnath Singh and Kiren Rijiju, who reached out to the Opposition for securing support for Birla's election, did not say whether

> IN THE 17TH LOK SABHA, THE POSITION OF THE DEPUTY SPEAKER REMAINED VACANT

the Opposition's demand will be met.

Several opposition bloc leaders said they were told that a discussion on the deputy's position would be held separately later.

Shiv Sena's (UBT) Arvind Sawant said the government is yet to convey its stance on the issue.

Responding to a question on when the process is likely to begin, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader said the party leadership will take a call on the issue.

In the 17th Lok Sabha, the position of the Deputy Speaker remained vacant. Prior to that AIADMK's M Thambi Durai was Deputy Speaker of the 16th Lok Sabha when BJP's Sumitra Mahajan was the Speaker. The AIADMK was then an ally of the BJP.

With their numbers having gone up, a resurgent Opposition has been underscoring the need to stick to convention and offer the Deputy Speaker's post to them. From the 6th to the 16th Lok Sabha, the Deputy Speaker's position was held by leaders from the Opposition.

According to Article 95(1), the Deputy Speaker performs the duties of the Speaker when the latter isn't around. The Deputy Speaker has the same general powers as the Speaker when presiding over the House.

While there is no time frame for the appointment of the Deputy Speaker, the rules call for the appointment "as soon as may be".

Just as the Speaker, the deputy too is elected from among the Lok Sabha members by a simple majority of members present and voting.

Day after revolt over poll debacle, SAD panel 'reposes faith' in Badal

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CHANDIGARH: A day after a section of senior Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leaders revolted against its chief Sukhbir Singh Badal over the party's drubbing in the Lok Sabha elections, the party's working committee on Wednesday reposed "complete faith" in the 61-year-old's leadership and asked "detractors" not to play into the hands of enemies of "panth (community)".

According to senior Akali leader Daljit Singh Cheema, all the committee members reposed "complete faith" in Badal's leadership during a meeting, even as the latter offered to step down from his post. "The working committee also passed a resolution, asking SAD leaders to put forth their views at the party platform only. It also said if anybody violates party discipline, then it will mean that he or she does not have faith in the party," Cheema said. The committee, Cheema added, further asked "detractors" not to play into the hands of enemies of 'panth'.


Sukhbir Singh Badal

The SAD faced a drubbing in the Lok Sabha polls as it managed to win only one of the 13 seats in Punjab.

Badal's wife and former Union minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal retained the Bathinda seat. The party also faced defeats in back-to-back assembly polls in 2017 and 2022.

On Tuesday, Badal held a meeting with party's district unit chiefs and assembly in-charges at party headquarters in Chandigarh and later alleged that "frustrated elements sponsored by the BJP" were trying to weaken the party.

According to Cheema, Badal on Wednesday shared his feelings with an open heart before the committee and said "the working committee should first decide whether it has faith in him or not".

Former minister Mahesh Inder Singh Grewal alleged leaders who rebelled are in touch with the BJP, which, he claimed, wants "a repeat of what happened with the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra". He said the working committee seeks to carry out a rejig in the party.

Punjab BJP chief Sunil Jakhar dismissed the allegation, saying: "I think they (SAD leaders) are unable to read the writing on the wall, particularly the Parliament poll results which shows that the people have no trust in Sukhbir's leadership. Instead of blaming the BJP, Sukhbir should introspect as to what led to such poor results."

{ OVER CONDUCT IN HOUSE }

Sanjay Singh tenders apology to RS panel

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NEW DELHI: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) lawmaker Sanjay Singh on Wednesday offered an "unconditional apology" to the Rajya Sabha privileges committee that met to hear four complaints against him, people aware of the details said.

Following the apology, the complaints against Singh were disposed of by the panel. The panel will also place its report in the Upper House on Thursday, the people added.

The committee, headed by Rajya Sabha deputy chairperson Harivansh, was hearing complaints against Singh pertaining to "alleged deliberate disregard of directions of the Chairman Rajya Sabha by Sanjay Singh, alleged deliberate disregard of direction of Chairman by 12 Members during 259th Session; allegedly making willful misleading statement in the House and casting aspersions on the Leader of House, Rajya Sabha by Singh and matter arising out of the motion moved by Piyush Goyal, the then Leader of the House for reference of an alleged question of privilege against Sanjay Singh."


Sanjay Singh

The AAP lawmaker was suspended on July 24 and August 11 last year after the House passed an order, saying the "council disapproves the repeated violation of rules, directives of the Chair and unruly conduct" of Singh.

2 TMC MLAs stage stir awaiting Guv's arrival in Bengal assembly

HT Correspondent
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KOLKATA: Two newly elected Trinamool Congress (TMC) legislators on Wednesday staged a sit-in protest at the West Bengal Legislative Assembly after governor CV Ananda Bose refused to administer the oath of office to them in the premises, or delegate the responsibility to the speaker, in a fresh standoff that is likely to further strain ties between Raj Bhavan and the state government.

MLAs Sayantika Banerjee and Rayat Hossain Sarkar, who were recently elected in the assembly bypolls from Baranaga and Bhagwangola, respectively, had urged the governor to hold the swearing-in ceremony at the assembly.

The governor, however, had invited the two to take the oath at Raj Bhavan. He also left for Delhi later in the day.

"We are not nominated. We are elected representatives. What wrong have we done that despite being elected by the people, we are not able to take the oath (in the assembly) and we have to beg for that," Banerjee told reporters, as the two MLAs sat on the staircase of the assembly, holding placards which said "Waiting for the arrival of Hon. Governor for oath".



TMC legislators Sayantika Bandyopadhyay and Rayat Hossain Sarkar at the West Bengal Legislative assembly on Wednesday. ANI

While there was no immediate response from the Raj Bhavan, with Bose leaving for Delhi later in the day, the governor's house on Tuesday had cited Article 188 of the Constitution, which states that every legislator shall take an oath before the governor or some other persons appointed by him.

Senior Calcutta high court advocate and former Kolkata mayor Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya said it is usually the speaker who administers the oath. "Elected representatives usually take oaths in the assembly before the speaker. The chief minister and other ministers usually take their oath before the governor," he said.

Bharatiya Janata Party legislator Suvendu Adhikari hit out at the TMC, saying: "The governor has exercised his constitutional rights. He can delegate the powers. He can even delegate that power to me and I can administer the oath."

3 terrorists gunned down in Doda encounter: Police

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SRINAGAR: Three terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces in Jammu's Doda district on Wednesday, with one Jammu and Kashmir police jawan suffering injuries in the gunbattle. The multi-agency operation, called "Operation Lagor", was launched on Wednesday morning in an area that has seen a spike in terrorist attacks and counter-offensives over the past two years.

The security personnel are searching the forest to look whether more terrorists are hiding in the forest area.

The joint operation was launched on Wednesday, senior officials said, after security agencies received an input of a group of three to four terrorists hiding inside a wooden hut in the Sinno forests. As teams of the police, army and the CRPF encircled the hideout, an exchange of fire broke out at 9 am.

At 4 pm, Anand Jain, additional director general of police, Jammu first said, "One terrorist has been gunned down. Based on specific intelligence inputs, a joint operation of J&K Police and security forces was launched in the Gandoh, Bhaderwah Sector of district Doda. The contact was established with the terrorists and firefight is going on."

Senior officers added that the body of the terrorist lying on the ground had been spotted by drones that were carrying out surveillance of the forest area.



J&K police and CRPF personnel stand guard outside Amarnath Yatra base camp in Jammu on Wednesday. ANI

The police jawan is undergoing treatment at the Government Medical College, Doda.

Three hours later, Jain said that two more terrorists had been killed. "Two more terrorists have been neutralized in an ongoing joint operation in the Gandoh, Bhaderwah sector of district Doda. Arms and ammunition have been recovered from their possession," he wrote on X.

The official handle of the Indian Army posted on X: "After an intense firefight, three hardcore terrorists have been neutralized in a joint operation of #IndianArmy and #JKP. A large cache of warlike stores, including automatic assault rifles, has been recovered.Operations are currently in progress."

Senior officials said the army and the police have stepped up their operations in the region after an attack on an army camp at Kota Top on the night of June 11 that left six soldiers injured. Soon after, J&K director general of police had said that militants operating in Doda, Poonch and Rajouri belts of Jammu would be acted against.

"Terrorists will be finished in two to three months, like we did in past," the DGP had said.

The increased terrorist presence in Jammu has been a growing concern, with the Union home ministry monitoring the situation. Between June 9 and June 12, there were three terror attacks that left both civilians and police personnel dead. One of those attacks involved terrorists opening fire on a bus of devotees which subsequently lost control and fell into a gorge, with nine killed and 42 injured.

Officials have said there is now growing acknowledgement of a pattern, first spotted in 2023, that terrorists from across the border are targeting Jammu's Pir Panjal and Rajouri belts, with a series of attacks in the past two years.

In 2024 for instance, a social welfare department employee was killed in Rajouri by terrorists in April; six days later, a village defence guard was killed in a gunfight with infiltrators in Udhampur, and on May 4, militants ambushed a security convoy, killing an IAF officer and injuring four others in Poonch.

In July 2023, officials involved in counter terrorism efforts had told HT that terror groups from Pakistan were now targeting Jammu, Rajouri, Poonch and Reasi districts, forcing security agencies to "recalibrate their responses." One officer had said there were between 30 and 40 highly trained terrorists that had crossed over into Jammu. "While trained terrorists appear to be using the LoC to enter India and hide inside the forests; their commanders are also trying to establish their bases in Jammu region. In fact, one or two senior commanders of terror group Al-Badr may have already come to Jammu either via Nepal or Bangladesh," one officer said.

HOUSES OF 2 MEN ACCUSED OF COW SLAUGHTER IN M.P DEMOLISHED: COPS

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BHOPAL: The houses of two men accused of cow slaughter and illegally selling beef were demolished by police and civic authorities in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday, officers said.

A joint team of police and district administration demolished the houses of Jaffar Khan and Asgar Khan in Bengali Colony of Noorabad, alleging they were illegally constructed.

"On June 21, a Bajrang Dal activist had complained that beef were being sold from a house in Bengali Colony. People had blocked the National Highway demanding action, after which the police registered a case against Jaffar Khan, Asgar Khan, Shammi, Afsar, Retua Khan, Iqrar, Bunty Sahu and two others," Noorabad police station in-charge OP Rawat said.

The stringent National Security Act (NSA) was slapped against the main accused Asgar and his father-in-law Retua, the officer said.

According to the police, they have identified nine accused in connection with the case in Morena, of which six have been arrested while three accused are still absconding.

"The sample of meat which was collected from the refrigerator of the accused has been sent for testing in the laboratory of Hyderabad," Rawat said.

After a lull, monsoon likely to pick up over north India

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NEW DELHI: The monsoon, delayed by around a week at this point in time (with June rainfall being significantly deficient), is expected to pick up over north India, meteorologists said on Wednesday.

Rainfall activity is likely to increase over Northwest India with heavy to very heavy rainfall likely between June 28 and June 30, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

Private weather forecaster, Skymet Weather said monsoon is likely to arrive in Delhi over the weekend. "We can expect heavy to very heavy rain over northwest India from June 28 onwards. We expect that monsoon will make onset over Delhi also during that period ," said Mahesh Palawat, vice president, climate and meteorology, Skymet Weather. IMD has not indicated when monsoon will arrive over Delhi.

The monsoon is presently delayed by about a week compared its normal trajectory. It went into a lull for around 9 days after June 11. There is a 19% rain deficiency over the country with 57% rain deficiency over northwest India; 23% deficiency over central India; 16% over east and northeast India and 9% excess over peninsular India. Delay in monsoon led to further intensification of extreme heat over northwest India in June and caused at least 100 deaths. The region recorded severe heat wave and warm night conditions almost throughout June.



Commuters pass on a road during rain in Kanpur. ANI

"After its revival, monsoon will progress further and cover whole country by 5 July. Active monsoon phase is expected in the next 2-3 weeks with heavy rains along west coast and north India. High probability of extreme rains and flooding in north India," M Rajeevan, former secretary, ministry of earth sciences wrote on X.

IMD has issued an orange alert for isolated very heavy rainfall over Uttarakhand during June 28 to 30; East Uttar Pradesh during June 28 to 29; and over Haryana and West Uttar Pradesh on June 29 to 30. HT reported on June 22 that monsoon is expected to pick up over northwest India and cover most parts of the region between June 27 and July 3, according to the IMD's extended range forecast.

Polling held for Nagaland civic bodies after 20 yrs

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KOHIMA: Elections to urban local bodies (ULBs) in Nagaland were held Wednesday, after a gap of two decades, and by 4pm, the state had seen a turnout of 83%, the state election commission (SEC) said. A total of 523 candidates, including 198 women, are in the fray. Voting took place in 420 polling stations under 214 wards with 223,636 voters registered for the 25 ULBs in polls.

The SEC in a statement said that voting was largely peaceful in the state barring a few minor incidents being reported from some districts. "No report for repoll is received," it added.

The state has 39 ULBs in total, but 14 ULBs under six eastern districts of Mon, Tuensang, Kiphire, Longleng, Noklak and Shamator have pulled out of the polls as Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO) has resolved to abstain from any central or state election over the pending creation of autonomous Frontier Nagaland Territory. Residents of the six districts did not participate in the recently held Lok Sabha elections in April for the same reason. In the current ULB polls which are being conducted with 33% reservation for women, 17 women and 47 men have already been declared elected unopposed by the SEC earlier last week.

A TOTAL OF 523 CANDIDATES, INCLUDING 198 WOMEN, ARE IN THE FRAY FOR 25 URBAN LOCAL BODIES IN POLLS

The state has not been able to hold the civic polls after 2004 due to issues surrounding quota for women and property taxation, which tribal and civil society organisations said were against the customary practices of the Nagas protected under Article 371A of the Constitution of India. Attempts made by the state government in the past to conduct the ULB polls resulted in bandhs and violent uprisings.

In 2023, Neiphiu Rio government repealed the state's contentious municipal act of 2001 and put in place a new law which completed necessary official procedures in March this year.

The matter finally landed up in the Supreme Court where the state promised that the ULB election would be completed by June this year with 33% of seats reserved for women.

The reservation for women in local bodies came after the 74th Amendment to the Constitution. This was followed by the Nagaland Municipal Act, 2001, which implemented these quotas. But tribal organisations opposed this for two reasons: one, they argued it violated the special provisions granted by Article 371A to Nagaland; and two, they claimed that women had never been part of such bodies in the state.

MBBS student undergoes dialysis 4 times after ragging in Raj; 7 booked

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JAIPUR: A first-year MBBS student of Dungarpur medical college in Rajasthan had to undergo dialysis four times after allegedly being ragged by some senior students last month, which caused an infection in his kidney, police said on Wednesday.

"Seven second-year students of the institution made the victim do 350 sit-ups at a place near the college on May 15. This exerted severe pressure on his kidney, leading to a malfunction and an infection," Girdhari Singh, SHO of Dungarpur Sadar police station said. "The victim is stable now."

An FIR has been registered against the seven seniors based on a complaint lodged by the college principal on Tuesday night after they were found guilty in an investigation by the anti-ragging committee of the institute, the SHO said. "We will record the statements of the 20-year-old victim and accused. Necessary action will be taken against the culprits," Singh added.

THE ACCUSED MADE THE VICTIM DO 350 SIT-UPS, WHICH EXERTED SEVERE PRESSURE ON HIS KIDNEY

The victim took admission in the college in September last year, police said. "He had faced ragging earlier too but did not complain. The latest incident came to light after the college authority received a complaint through the online portal on June 20...," the SHO added.

20 ASSAULTED ON SCHOOL PREMISES IN ARUNACHAL

SILCHAR: Authorities of the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at Bordumsa in Arunachal Pradesh suspended five students of class 11 for allegedly ragging their juniors on campus.

Police said at least 20 students of Class 8 were found injured on the campus of the residential school on Tuesday.

"Some of them revealed they were tortured by seniors inside a room. No official complaint has been lodged yet," a senior police officer said.

School principal Rajeev Rajan said: "We have suspended five students after the disciplinary committee found them guilty. We have sent the injured students to hospital..." HTC

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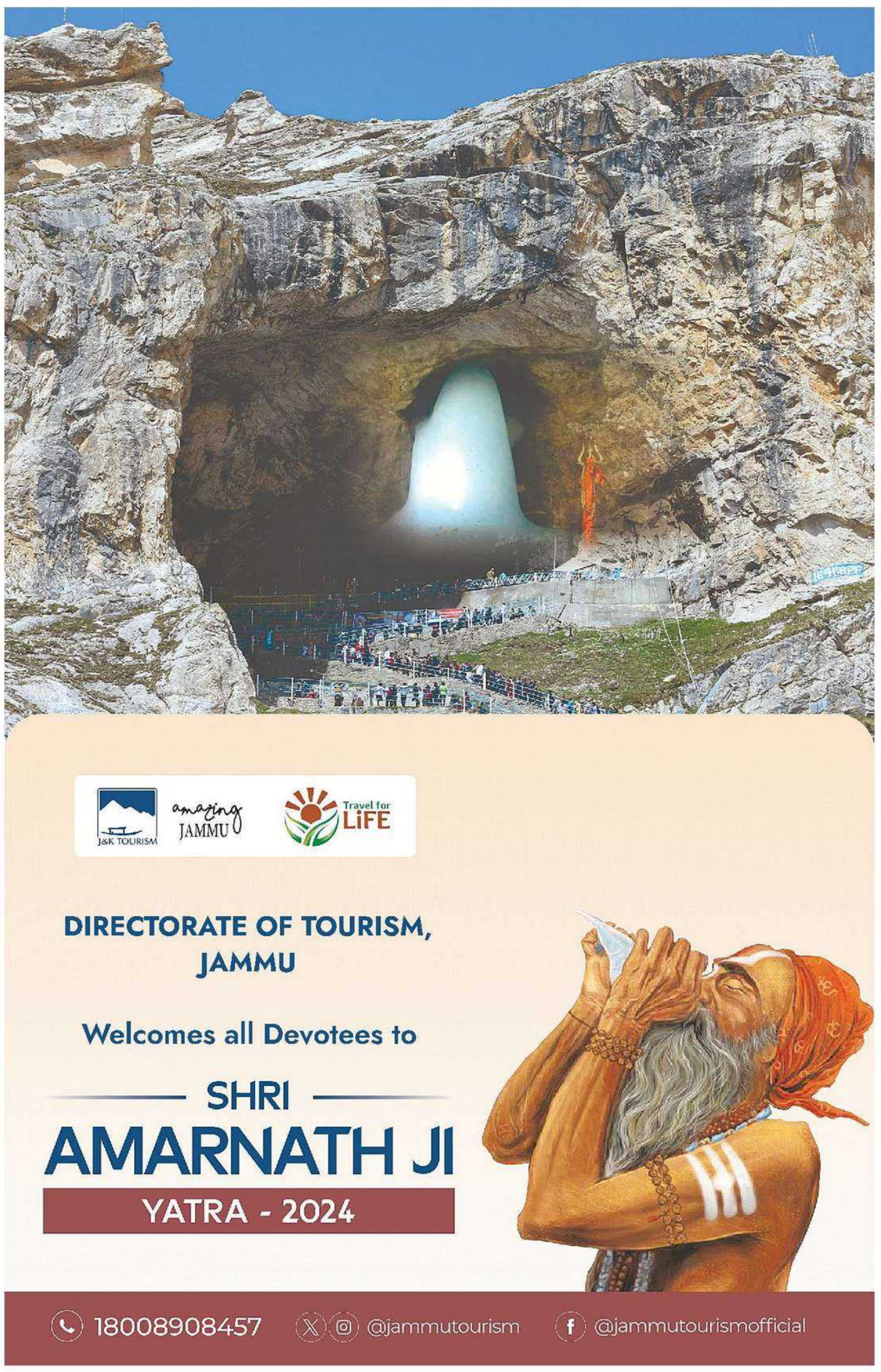
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1.	Office of The Resident Commissioner, Punjab Bhawan, New Delhi	Providing 10 Nos. Manpower/Personnel Management Services for Facilitation Centre at T-3, IGI Airport, Delhi on outsources basis in the O/o The Resident Commissioner, Punjab Bhawan, New Delhi for three years.	27.06.2024 / 04.07.2024	70.00 THOUSAND	9810315802 punjabbhawan@gmail.com

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TN hooch tragedy toll reaches 63; 88 still hospitalised

KALLAKURICHI: The death toll in the hooch tragedy in Tamil Nadu's Kallakurichi district rose to 63 with four more people dying at Government Mohan Kumaramangalam Medical College and Hospital in Salem and Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research on Wednesday, the District Collectorate said. Currently, 88 people are undergoing treatment in five hospitals, out of which 47 are admitted to the Government Kallakurichi Medical College and Hospital.

People travelling like cattle: HC on Mumbai trains

MUMBAI: The Bombay High Court said it was ashamed to see commuters forced to travel like cattle in the local trains, the lifeline of the Mumbai region. Hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) on rising number of deaths of commuters due to falling from overcrowded trains, the high court said this "very serious" issue must be dealt with. A division bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Amit Borkar said it will hold the top officials of both the Central and Western Railways accountable as the "situation in Mumbai is pathetic".

J'khand school principal quizzed in NEET leak case

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RANCHI/ PATNA/AHMEDABAD: Intensifying its probe into alleged irregularities in this year's National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate or NEET-UG, a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) team on Wednesday visited a school in Hazaribagh in Jharkhand and detained its principal after questioning while another team visited two private schools in Kheda and Panchmahal districts of Gujarat, officials said.

Meanwhile, a court in Patna sent two accused in the NEET "paper leak" to three-day CBI remand for questioning. It came a day after the federal agency sought the custody of suspects who were arrested by the Bihar police's Economic Offences Unit (EOU).

The developments come close on the heels of the federal agency on Monday taking over the probe into five cases of alleged malpractices in NEET-UG that were being probed by police in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Bihar, besides registering its own first information report (FIR) on Sunday based on a complaint from the Union education ministry.

In Hazaribagh, the CBI team interrogated the principal of Oasis School, Dr Ehsanul Haque, for several hours and later detained him and took him to Patna for further investigation, a senior police officer confirmed HT.

"The CBI team landed in the district around 9.30am and questioned Haque for a long time. The team first took him to the school's campus at Kallu Chowk, before taking him to his Hasmia Colony-based residence, about 1km from the school, at around 1pm," the officer said, requesting anonymity.



The closed gate of Oasis school where CBI conducted inspection in connection with the alleged NEET paper leak. PTI

Some members of the CBI team — comprising of officials from Delhi, Bokaro and Dhanbad — also visited the main branch of the State Bank of India (SBI) in Hazaribagh, around two km from the Oasis School, as the manager of the bank was reportedly custodian of the NEET question papers, the officer added. "Before taking the principal with them, the team also visited the office of Blue Dart Express at Nutan Nagar," the officer said.

Hazaribagh superintendent of police (SP) Arvind Kumar Singh denied any information regarding the CBI action. "I do not have any official information in this regard... I have also come to know that CBI has taken away the school principal. Any investigating agency can question any person," he said.

Haque, who was the district coordinator of the NEET-UG in Hazaribagh, while talking to reporters on Tuesday, had denied any tempering of question paper in Hazaribagh and termed the allegations as baseless.

On June 23, a three-member probe team of EOU of Bihar police visited the school and inquired about the conduct of the test and the mechanism to open digital locks of question paper boxes. It came two days after the Bihar Police detained six people from Deoghar in connection with the alleged irregularities in the exam.

"The action was taken as half-burnt question paper of NEET-UG 2024 was recovered from a private school located in Ramakrishna Nagar, Patna, which had the serial code of the exam centre, Oasis School," an official privy to the CBI probe said, also declining to be named.

In all 2.4 million students sat for this year's NEET-UG at 4,750 centres spread across 571 cities around the world on May 5.

In Patna, a city court allowed CBI to take two accused — Baldev Kumar alias Chintu and Mukesh Kumar — under its remand for further questioning. Baldev, associated with the notorious Sanjeev Kumar alias Lutan Mukhiya gang, allegedly received the solved answer sheet of the NEET-UG in PDF format on his mobile phone a day before the exam, officials said. Mukesh is also associated with the gang.

Resolution in Kerala House seeks probe

KOCHI: The Kerala Assembly on Wednesday passed a unanimous resolution condemning the alleged irregularities in the conduct of entrance exams like NEET and NET by the NTA and demanded that the Centre take urgent steps to conduct a comprehensive investigation and to alleviate the fear of the affected candidates.

The resolution, moved by the state's higher education minister R Bindu and supported by all MLAs of the governing LDF and opposition UDF, was passed in the House unanimously. HTC

{ 13-YEAR-OLD'S BODY FOUND IN HARIDWAR } EXPELLED FROM PARTY

BJP leader, aide booked for gang-rape, murder

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DEHRADUN: A Bharatiya Janata Party(BJP) leader and an associate have been charged with the alleged gang-rape and murder of a 13-year-old-girl, whose body was found along the Roorkee-Haridwar highway in Haridwar on June 24. Both Aditya Raj Saini, a serving member of the state's OBC commission and the BJP's state OBC Morcha and Amit Saini, the second accused, have yet to be arrested, but the political leader has been removed from both posts, and has been expelled from primary membership of the BJP.

In her complaint to the Uttarakhand police, the 13-year-old victim's mother alleged that Amit Saini lured her daughter away from their home at around 7 pm on June 23. "When she didn't come back till late at night, I called my daughter on her mobile phone. Amit Saini picked up who said my daughter was with him. When I tried again, the phone was switched off," she wrote in the complaint. It adds that Saini had lured her daughter into a relationship for the past six months, had raped her in this period, and had even threatened the family previously.

On the morning of June 24, the victim's mother then went to the residence of Aditya Raj Saini, who she alleged, worked with him. "When I told him about the matter, Aditya Raj Saini asked me not to approach the police and said he would handle the situation.

THE VICTIM'S MOTHER ALLEGED THE BJP LEADER HAD LURED HER DAUGHTER INTO A RELATIONSHIP FOR PAST SIX MONTHS AND RAPED HER IN THIS PERIOD

He is involved in the case. They have gang-raped my daughter and murdered her," she said in her complaint.

Haridwar Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Pramendra Dobhal said that the police recovered the victims body at 4:45 am on June 24 on the Roorkee-Haridwar National Highway. "We couldn't ascertain her identity initially, but the woman later in the evening identified her as her daughter. On her complaint, we have registered the FIR against Amit Saini and Aditya Raj Saini under relevant sections of the IPC and POCSO Act." Swatantra Kumar, superintendent of police (city), said, "We are in regular touch with the victim's family. We have been trying to connect the dots—when and where she left her home and how the incident took place."

The incident has led to a political uproar, with the Congress alleging that the law and order situation in Uttarakhand was worrisome. Party state chief spokesperson Garima Mehra Dasauni said, "The news that has come from Haridwar is terrifying. A minor girl has been gang-raped and murdered. The involvement of a member of the State OBC Commission, Aditya Raj Saini has come to light. CM Dhami should come out of his self-obsession and take cognisance of what is going on in the state, whether it is the corruption in the departments or the crimes against women."

".....Uttarakhand Other Backward Commission's nominated member Aditya Raj Saini has been dropped from his position with immediate effect under subsection (3) of section 4 of the Uttarakhand Other Backward Classes Commission Act, 2003 (Act No. 07, 2003). Along with this, the facilities given to Aditya Raj Saini have also been terminated with immediate effect," a government order signed by secretary of social welfare department, Brijesh Kumar Sant stated.

Manveer Singh Chauhan, state BJP media in-charge however said that the police have started investigating the matter and the party had taken decisive action in expelling Aditya Raj Saini from primary membership of the party. "BJP never tolerates such acts."

HC refuses to interfere in college's hijab ban

HT Correspondent
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MUMBAI: The Bombay High Court on Wednesday dismissed the plea filed by women students of a city-based college challenging the ban on wearing hijab, burka and naqab, observing that such rules do not violate students' fundamental rights.

"A dress code is meant to maintain discipline which is part of the college's fundamental right to establish and administer an educational institution", observed the division bench of Justices A S Chandurkar and Rajesh Patil. "The dress code was applicable to all students irrespective of religion or caste," the HC said.

The students, who are in the second and third year of the science degree course, had moved the high court earlier this month, challenging a directive issued by the Chembur Trombay Education Society's N G Acharya and D K Marathe College imposing a dress code under which students cannot wear a hijab, naqab, burka, stoles, caps and badges on the premises.

The petition stated that the dress code was against their fundamental right to practice religion, the right to privacy and right to choice and that the college's action was "arbitrary, unreasonable, bad-in-law and perverse".


Students of a college had moved Bombay high court.

The court, however, said it could not see how the prescription of dress code by the college violated Articles 19(1)(a) (freedom of speech and expression) and 25 (freedom to practice religion) of the Constitution.

"In our view, the dress code as prescribed cannot be held to violate the petitioners' rights claimed under Article 19(1) (a) and Article 25 of the Constitution of India," the judges said.

"The dress code was mandatory only within the college premises and the petitioners' freedom of choice and expression was not otherwise affected," the Bombay High Court said.

2nd FIR against Suraj Revanna alleges intimidation, coercion

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BENGALURU: Janata Dal (Secular) leader Suraj Revanna sexually abused a close aide several times years ago at his farmhouse and confined, harassed and threatened the man into registering a fake case against another party worker who accused the Karnataka MLC of sexual assault last week, said a first information report (FIR) that the state police filed against the politician on Wednesday.

The aide had earlier filed an extortion case against the party worker on whose FIR Revanna was arrested on charges of sexual assault on Sunday.

The latest revelations in the murky case come weeks after Suraj's brother and former Hasan MP Prajwal Revanna was arrested on charges of widespread sexual abuse. According to the FIR, the aide received a distressed WhatsApp call on the night of June 16 from the party worker. The latter alleged that Suraj had sexually assaulted him at his Ghani Kada Estate farmhouse, setting off a series of threats and attempts to suppress the incident.


Suraj Revanna

The aide forwarded the worker's messages to Suraj, who dismissed the concerns. "Around 9pm, I called him to ask how he was doing, and he sent me a screenshot of a message he had sent to Suraj Revanna on WhatsApp." "Around an hour later, he called me back and said not to worry and that nothing had happened. He said he would call me on WhatsApp and mentioned that [the victim] was just trying to scare me and that I shouldn't take it seriously," added the aide.

Suraj's attempts to manage the situation involved him roping in a close friend from Channarayapatna and a local councillor. Eventually, Suraj then coerced the aide into filing a fake complaint against the worker at the Hole Narasipura Rural police station in Hasan.

COURT DENIES BAIL TO PRAJWAL IN SEXUAL ABUSE CASE

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BENGALURU: The Special People Representative Court has denied bail to suspended JD(S) leader Prajwal Revanna, in connection with a sexual harassment complaint registered at Holenarasipura police station.

The bail was applied in connection with the first case, in which his father, former Karnataka minister HD Revanna and Prajwal were accused of raping a house help.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, in response to a fresh complaint from a woman, the SIT brought Prajwal to his residence, 'Chennambika Nivasa,' in Holenarsipur town, Hassan district, for a spot inquiry, overseen by Hassan additional superintendent of police Thammaiah and other SIT officers. Prajwal, who was initially under judicial custody, has been remanded to four days of police custody following the new complaint.

2 months after he quit, Pitroda returns as head of Cong's overseas unit

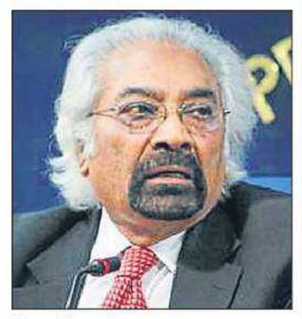
Naresh Chander
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NEW DELHI: Sam Pitroda, the former chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress (IOC), was re-appointed to the position on Wednesday, nearly two months after he resigned following racist remarks made in an interview.

"Hon'ble Congress president has reappointed Shri Sam Pitroda as chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress with immediate effect," said a press release issued by the AICC.

In a post on X, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said: "During the recent election campaign Sam Pitroda had made some statements and comments that were totally unacceptable to the Indian National Congress. By mutual consent he stepped down as chairman of Overseas Indian Congress. Subsequently he clarified the context in which statements were made and how they were later distorted by the Modi campaign. The Congress president has reappointed him on the assurance that he will not in future leave room for such controversies to arise."

Pitroda resigned on May 8, after his interview with The Statesman went viral. In the interview, he, while discussing India's diversity, said: "We could hold the country as diverse as India together. Where people in the east look like the Chinese, people in the west look like the Arabs, people in the north look like, maybe, white and people in the south look like Africans. It does not matter. All of us are brothers and sisters. We respect different languages, different religions, different customs, different food."


Sam Pitroda

After these remarks went viral, BJP leaders protested and criticised the Congress party, calling his comments racist and divisive.

"Sam brother, I am from the North East and I look like an Indian. We are a diverse country - we may look different but we are all one. Please learn something about our country," BJP leader Himanta Biswa Sarma wrote on X.


Rahul Gandhi

PIL IN HC CLAIMS RAHUL IS A U.K. CITIZEN, WANTS POLL SET ASIDE

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NEW DELHI: The Allahabad high court on Wednesday adjourned hearing in a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) plea seeking to set aside Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's election from the Rae Bareli Lok Sabha seat on the ground that he is not an Indian Citizen but a British citizen and thus ineligible to contest the polls, livelaw has reported.

It added that the matter will now be heard by a regular bench on July 1.

Gandhi won the Rae Bareli Lok Sabha seat in Uttar Pradesh by a margin of 390,030 votes while his margin of victory in Kerala's Wayanad seat was 364,422. The Rae Bareli Lok Sabha constituency has been held by the Congress since 1999 and was won by Sonia Gandhi in 2019. There was intense speculation about the seat since Sonia Gandhi moved to the Rajya Sabha earlier this year. Rae Bareli is the only Lok Sabha constituency the Congress won in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections in UP.

According to the news portal, during the course of the hearing, a vacation bench of Justice Alok Mathur and Justice Arun Kumar Singh Deshwal asked its reporter to stop reporting court proceedings and leave the courtroom.

Defamation case: UP court orders personal appearance of Rahul

An MP-MLA court in Sultanpur 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.

Complaint lawyer Santosh Kumar Pandey said that one Ram Pratap had demanded that he be made a party in the case.

Opposing the plea, Pandey said Pratap is neither a victim nor has anything to do with the matter.

Staff training, tech support: MHA gears up to roll out 3 criminal laws

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NEW DELHI: Over 565,000 police, prison, forensic, judicial and prosecution officers across the country have been trained in the new criminal laws as law-enforcement agencies across the country get ready for a shift to the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) from July 1 onwards, according to people aware of the matter.

Nearly 4 million grassroots-level functionaries have also participated in webinars organised by different ministries to ensure that the citizens are aware of the new laws and their impact on their lives, the people added.

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) is providing technical assistance to states and Union territories for a seamless transition to the new system, and has formed 36 support teams and call centres for review and handholding during the implementation of the new criminal laws, they added.

"The ministry of home affairs (MHA) has commenced various initiatives immediately after the new laws were notified, to ensure the effective implementation and generating awareness amongst all stakeholders including police, prison, prosecutors, judicial, forensic personnel as well as public. As the new criminal laws emphasise on use of technology in investigation, trial and court proceedings, NCRB has made 23 functional modifications in the existing Crime and Criminal Tracking Networks and Systems (CCTNS) application. It is also providing technical assistance to the states/UTs for seamless transition to the new system," said an officer involved in the process who asked not to be named.

NEARLY 4 MILLION GRASSROOTS-LEVEL WORKERS HAVE TAKEN PART IN WEBINARS TO ENSURE THAT THE CITIZENS ARE AWARE OF THE NEW LAWS

"NCRB has also formed 36 support teams and call centres for constant review and handholding of the States/UTs for implementation of the new criminal laws. The National Informatics Centre (NIC) has developed applications -- eSakshya, NyayShruti and eSummon -- for facilitating videography and photography of crime scenes, judicial hearings and delivery court summons electronically," the officer said.

A second officer said that MHA held regular meetings with states and UTs on the new laws. "The states and UTs are fully geared up in terms of technology, capacity building and awareness generation to implement the new criminal Laws from July 1," he said.

On capacity-building, a third officer said that the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) has developed training modules and shared them with all the stakeholders. It has also conducted 250 training courses, webinars and seminars in which 40,317 officers/personnel have been trained. "Under its handholding, the states/UTs have also undertaken capacity building of 5,84,174 individuals, including 5,65746 police officers and personnel from prison, forensics, judicial and prosecution. iGOT- Karmayogi Bharat and BPR&D are also offering three training courses each on the new criminal laws in which 2,17,985 officials have enrolled so far," the third officer said.

To ensure public awareness, the ministries of women & children development, rural development and panchayati raj have undertaken dissemination of the new laws through webinars in which nearly 4 million grassroots functionaries participated, according to the first officer.

{ JALANDHAR-LUDHIANA NATIONAL HIGHWAY }

3 arrested for raping 21-year-old in Jalandhar

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JALANDHAR: A 21-year-old student of a private university was allegedly gang-raped near Dokaha railway crossing on the Jalandhar-Ludhiana national highway, police said on Wednesday.

According to the police, the incident took place around lam on Wednesday when the survivor, a resident of Odisha, was returning to her paying guest accommodation with two friends.

POLICE SAY THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE EARLY ON WEDNESDAY WHEN THE SURVIVOR WAS RETURNING TO HER PAYING GUEST ACCOMMODATION

The accused, identified as Amanjot Singh, Ranveer Singh and Manjit Singh, intercepted the survivor and her friends and attacked them with a sword, a police officer familiar with the matter said.

"They overpowered the survivor's friends, dragged her to a secluded place near the railway crossing and took turns to rape her," said investigation officer Sandeep Kaur, who is the Jalandhar women cell in-charge.

The accused were arrested within hours and booked under sections 376 (rape), 366 (abduction), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code, Kaur added.

Following the incident, the survivor called up her friends, who immediately reached the spot and rescued her. They informed the police and the case was registered. The survivor was taken to a local hospital for medical examination, and she's currently undergoing treatment.

The survivor also told the police that the accused had made a video of the sexual assault and threatened her with dire consequences, if she reported the matter, an officer aware of the matter said.

62-year-old Kerala man dies after train seat falls on him

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KOCHI: A 62-year-old man from Kerala succumbed to his injuries sustained after the middle berth seat in a sleeper coach of a train he was travelling in fell on him allegedly due to improper chaining, his family said on Wednesday.

The deceased, identified as Malappuram resident Ali Khan, boarded the Ernakulam-Hazrat Nizamuddin Millennium Superfast Express on June 15 and was travelling to Agra with a friend in the S6 sleeper coach.

Around 5.30 pm on June 16, when the train was near the Ramagundam station in Warangal district of Telangana, the middle berth seat fell on Khan, who was sitting in the lower berth, purportedly due to improper chaining. His family said the middle berth was unoccupied at the time of the incident.

Khan, who suffered a cervical spine injury in the process, was rushed to a local hospital in Ramagundam before being taken to a private hospital in Hyderabad, where he died while undergoing treatment.

"The doctors said the injuries were quite severe and that they would perform a surgery on him. The first day after the surgery, he looked better and was even responding to us by nodding his head. But subsequently, his condition became critical and he passed away on June 24 (Monday)," Ali's elder brother Bakkar told HT. "His funeral was conducted on Wednesday."


Malappuram resident Ali Khan

Rubin, a relative of Khan who had rushed to Warangal upon hearing about the accident, said: "The berth had hit his neck leading to fracture of the vertebrae. It was basically a cervical spine injury. He was paralysed neck down."

The Government Railway Police (GRP) in Warangal have registered an FIR and an inquiry is on, Bakkar added.

The Railways, meanwhile, rejected allegations that the berth was damaged or broken in any way.

"The upper berth seat fell down due to improper placement of chain of the upper berth. Due to improper chaining of seat of upper berth by passenger, the seat fell down. It is clarified that the seat was not in damaged condition...the seat was checked at Nizamuddin station and was found ok," it said in a post on X.

The Railways added that the on-duty station master arranged for assistance by the 108 ambulance and shifted Khan to the hospital.

Khan is survived by his wife, a school teacher, and a daughter who works in a private firm.

Hit during Covid, textile corp may be closed down by govt

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NEW DELHI: The government is considering various options including closure of state-run National Textiles Corporation Ltd (NTC) along with its 23 mills as commercial production in these units has been suspended since Covid, at least three officials with direct knowledge of the matter said.

"NTC has a land bank of around 3,661 acres in prime locations, hence any such action would require proper planning," one of them said.

"The ministry of textiles is expected to prepare an action plan on this matter soon after consulting the NITI Aayog and the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE)," he said.

Email queries sent to the government's spokespersons, senior textiles ministry officials and the CMD of NTC on this matter elicited no response.

AN OFFICIAL SAID THE PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES IN THE 23 MILLS OF NTC WERE ON UNTIL COVID-19 PANDEMIC HIT THE COUNTRY IN MARCH 2020

"This is a work in progress as per the new PSE (public sector enterprise) policy, which stipulates that a final decision will be taken by the competent authority," a second official said.

Although the new government at the Centre is "by-and-large" expected to maintain the policy continuity, the matter could be placed before the Cabinet after a review, he added.

The government on February 4, 2021 notified the new PSE policy, which asked DPE to identify central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) for closure or privatisation in non-strategic sectors as per the recommendation of the administrative ministry, he said.

NTC is a non-strategic enterprise, he added.

According to a third person, production activities in the 23 mills of NTC were on until Covid-19 pandemic hit the country in March 2020.

Work was suspended in these mills due the nationwide lockdown.

After the lockdown was lifted, work at 14 mills were restored with the available raw materials from January 2021. Then the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic hit again, leading to the closure of all NTC mills in April 2021.

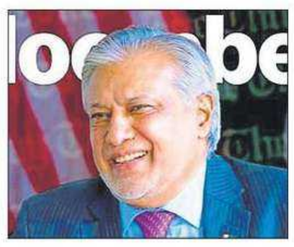
After that operations could not be restored to the normal level because of unavailability of working capital and other financial issues.

According to available data, the company had been posting net loss of over ₹300 crore annually since 2018-19 till 2022-23.

"The mills are sick because they are facing technical obsolescence, excess manpower, financial crunch and poor productivity," he said.

The 23 National Textiles Corporation Ltd mills are located in the states of Tamil Nadu (seven mills) Maharashtra (five), Kerala (four), Madhya Pradesh (two) and one each in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, and Puducherry.

According to the textile ministry's annual report for 2022-23, NTC's provisional net worth (the value of the company after deducting liabilities) was ₹920.10 crore.



Ishaq Dar

PAK DY PM CALLS FOR REFLECTION ON FUTURE OF TIES WITH INDIA

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NEW DELHI: Pakistan needs to reflect on the future of its relations with India as a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government begins a new term in New Delhi, and the onus is on the Indian side to create an environment for purposeful engagement, Pakistani deputy prime minister Ishaq Dar has said.

Dar, who is also the foreign minister and a close aide of PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif, told a gathering in Islamabad on Tuesday that Pakistan has always been receptive to constructive engagement with India but will take all steps to maintain strategic stability in South Asia. He made the remarks while addressing an event to mark the 51st anniversary of the establishment of the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), a think tank backed by Pakistan's foreign ministry.

While speaking on Islamabad's relations with countries in the neighbourhood, Dar said the relationship with India has historically remained troubled but Pakistan does not believe in "perpetual hostility". "In our view, as the BJP-led NDA government starts a new term, it is high time for a sober reflection on the future of India-Pakistan relations and the cross-cutting issues affecting the entire region," he said. India's decision of August 5, 2019 to scrap Jammu & Kashmir's special status adversely affected bilateral relations, he said.

"The onus remains on India to take necessary steps to create an enabling environment for purposeful engagement and result-oriented dialogue on all issues."

There was no immediate response from Indian officials to Dar's comments. Since scrapping Jammu & Kashmir's special status, the Indian side has maintained this is an internal matter. India has also linked any dialogue with Pakistan to Islamabad ending its support for cross-border terrorism.

Want accountability in Pannun 'murder plot' probe, says US

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NEW DELHI: The US has consistently asked for updates on the probe by an Indian inquiry committee into an alleged plot to assassinate pro-Khalistan leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannun and sought accountability from the Indian government, US deputy secretary of state Kurt Campbell said on Wednesday.

The "murder for hire" plot against Pannun, already declared a terrorist by New Delhi, has emerged as an irritant in an otherwise robust India-US relationship. The Indian government set up the high-level inquiry committee, whose composition and findings have not been made public, to investigate inputs provided by the US last year. "We've made clear that we seek accountability from the government of India and we have consistently asked for updates on the Indian committee of inquiry's investigations...," Campbell told an online media briefing.



Kurt Campbell

The US has raised the issue directly with the Indian government "at the most senior levels", he said in response to a question on whether he and US National Security Adviser (NSA) Jake Sullivan had raised the alleged plot to target Pannun on American soil during their visit to New Delhi last week. The US has had a "constructive dialogue" with India on this topic and the Indian side has "been responsive to our concerns", Campbell said. "I will say that 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 US and India and I think anything further is likely to come through law enforcement channels," he said.

An indictment filed by US prosecutors in a federal court in Manhattan had alleged that an Indian government employee, a field operative responsible for intelligence and identified only as "CC-1", had directed Indian national Nikhil Gupta to arrange the assassination of Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) leader Pannun in New York. The SFJ has been outlawed by India.

Indian officials have said the high-level inquiry committee was set up to investigate certain inputs provided by the US as they affected national security.

{ HIT-AND-RUN CASE }

'No prudent person drives drunk': HC denies bail

MUMBAI: The Nagpur bench of the Bombay high court on Wednesday refused pre-arrest bail to a woman accused of driving her Mercedes car after getting drunk and causing two deaths, saying no prudent person drives under the influence of alcohol.

A single bench of Justice Urmila Joshi Phalke said nobody can be permitted to drive a vehicle after consuming alcohol, which it termed a serious misconduct.

The court rejected Ritu Maloo's plea seeking anticipatory bail. Maloo is accused of driving her Mercedes car in an inebriated state and ramming it into a bike on Nagpur's Ram Jhula bridge in February, killing the two persons on the two-wheeler.

The bench noted that when a motor vehicle is driven after consuming alcohol, road accidents become a predictable consequence. "In such a scenario, attributing knowledge to the driver of the vehicle that death can be a likely consequence of drunken driving is legally tenable," HC said.

"A prudent person will not drive a vehicle under the influence of alcohol," the court said.

The bench said the woman is "highly educated" and belongs to a "highly respectable family". It also noted that she had fled from the accident spot and later tried to claim before the police that she was not the one at the wheel.

Initially, Maloo was booked under the offence of causing death by negligence, rash and negligent driving and causing hurt to a person by a rash act. However, police invoked section 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the Indian Penal Code after the death of the two motorists.

Maloo had contended that she had consumed alcohol within the permissible limits and it was a mere accident. She claimed that no custodial interrogation was required in the case. HTC

20-year-old stabbed to death by stalker in MP

Ritesh Mishra
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RAIPUR: A 20-year-old woman was allegedly stabbed to death by her stalker in Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi district of Madhya Pradesh, police said on Wednesday, adding that the accused has been arrested.

"The incident took place at around 11.30am in front of an ATM in Gaurela town. The accused, Durgesh Prajapati (28) fled the spot after the incident, and was later arrested from Marwahi area," inspector general of police (Bilaspur) Sanjeev Shukla said.

He added that the victim, who was pursuing graduation and worked at a salon in the district, was in a relationship with the accused for the last three years.

The accused, identified as Durgesh Prajapati, works at a petrol pump and lives with his second wife. "Initial probe has revealed that the victim stopped talking to him two months back and blocked his number after a fight. On Wednesday, the accused intercepted the victim while she was going somewhere with her cousin. The two entered into an argument, following which Prajapati stabbed her multiple times and fled the spot," the IG said.

POLICE SAY THE VICTIM AND ACCUSED WERE IN A RELATIONSHIP AND LATER PARTED WAYS, BUT THE ACCUSED STARTED STALKING HER

He added that the CCTV footage from the area shows a masked man attacking the victim in the abdomen.

Later, the victim's cousin identified Prajapati.

"We have arrested the accused and booked him under relevant sections of Indian Penal Code," said the IG.

US religious freedom report criticises India

WASHINGTON: The United States on Wednesday criticised close partner India in a report published 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," he said.

The US 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.

To be sure, the report on religious freedom has often taken such a line and few expect the State Department to take action on India when it drafts its annual blacklist of countries over religious freedom later this year.

US AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE FOR INT'L RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FAULTED EFFORTS BY THE INDIAN POLICE

The Indian government has maintained that the report's conclusions are inaccurate.

The State Department also raised concerns about Pakistan, where Blinken condemned blasphemy laws that "help foster a climate of intolerance and hatred that can lead to vigilantism and mob violence."

He also singled out EU member Hungary, led by nationalist Viktor Orban, saying that "officials continue to use anti-Semitic tropes and anti-Muslim rhetoric and they penalize members of religious groups who criticise the government." AGENCIES

NIA DECLARES ₹10L REWARD ON GANGSTER BRAR

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday declared a cash reward of ₹10 lakh on Canada based gangster-turned-terrorist Satwinder Singh, alias Goldy Brar.

A similar reward has been announced for another gangster Gurpreet Singh alias Goldy Dhillon. The two are wanted in a case related to firing at the house of a businessman as part of an extortion bid on March 8 this year.

"NIA on Wednesday spread its dragnet further in search of designated terrorist Goldy Brar and one other gangster wanted in a case of extortion and firing at the house of a businessman in Chandigarh with the declaration of a cash reward for their arrest," NIA said in a statement.

Last month, NIA filed a charge sheet against Goldy Brar in connection with the murder of Karni Sena chief Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi in December 2023. Brar, deputy of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, is also wanted for organising a hit on Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala in 2022. He was declared as a "terrorist" under the unlawful activities prevention act (UAPA) in January this year. HTC

GMDC

TENDER NOTICE
E-Tender Notice : GMDC/ENV/01/2024-25

RFP for Selection of Service Provider for Design and Construction of Retaining Gabion Wall along the mine dump of Surkha (North) Lignite Mine, Bhavnagar, Gujarat, India.

GMDC is a leading Public Sector Mining and Minerals Company of Gujarat. GMDC intends to Select Service Provider for Design and Construction of Retaining Gabion Wall along the mine dump of Surkha (North) Lignite Mine, Bhavnagar, Gujarat, India. Interested Parties shall download RFP from below mentioned website **from 26/06/2024** and submit their proposal online on **https://gmdc.nprocure.com on or before 06/08/2024 up-to 17:00 hrs.**

For Further Details Please visit our Website
www.gmdcltd.com & https://gmdc.nprocure.com

General Manager (Environment)
Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.
(A Government of Gujarat Enterprise)
Khanij Bhawan, 132 Feet Ring Road,
Near University Ground, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad-380052

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY G20

TENDER NOTICE

Chief Engineer/Construction (North), North Central Railway, Prayagraj on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following works with closing date/time as mentioned below. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Brief Description of work: Construction of 2 lane ROB with approached in lieu of LC No. 48 at km 38/2-3 and LC No. 61 at km 49/2-3 between Barhan- Etah section under Dy.CE/C/Kanpur on Prayagraj division of North Central Railway.

Tender No.	Approximate cost	Amount of EMD	Cost of Tender Document
CNB2024202510	₹93.79 Crore	₹48,39,300/-	Nil

Tender closing date: 22.07.2024 at **15.00** hours. **Completion period:** 18 months. **Note: 1.** The complete information along with tender document of above E-works tender will be available on website on **https://ireps.gov.in** up to **13.30 hrs** on the due date of tender opening. **2.** Bids, other than in the form of E-Bids, shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Class-III Digital Signature Certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. **3.** Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form / letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. **4.** Documents being attached should be signed by the tenderer. **5.** In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached.

1100/24 FA

North central railways | @CPRONCR | @northcentralrailway | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this Person **Named:** Ram Swaroop, **S/o:** Shiv Prakash, **R/o:** Rain Basera Geeta Ghat Civil Lines, Delhi, **Age:** About 55 years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'10", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Build:** Thin, **Face:** Oval, **ID Mark:** Not known, **Wearing:** White color Lower. The body has been preserved in Subzi Mandi Mortuary, Delhi for 72 hours, Delhi on 22.06.2024. In this regard **DD NO 44A Dated: 22.06.2024,** has been registered at P.S.: Civil Lines, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. If any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S.: Civil Lines, Delhi,
Ph.: 011-23815444

DP/8152/N/2024

DEFENCE SERVICES OFFICERS INSTITUTE (DSOI)
H-Block, Palam Vihar, Gurgaon-122017

PURCHASE OF FURNITURE ITEMS DSOI, Palam Vihar, Gurgaon
intends to purchase the following items :-

(a) Sofa Sets: 90 Seats
(b) Chairs : 40 Nos
(c) Peg tables: 60 Nos

Desirous furnishers/ furnishing firms are requested to submit their bids. Details may be checked after visit of site area(s) on all working days including Sunday except (Tuesday) between 10.00am to 04.00 pm

For any query contact - 0124-4554700 & 2365228

INSTITUTE OF NANO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MOHALI
(An Autonomous Institute of Department of Science and Technology, GoI)
Knowledge City, Sector 81, SAS Nagar, Mohali-140306, Punjab

No. 14(8)/2023-INST **Date: 26.06.2024**

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POSITION OF RESEARCH ASSOCIATE-I (RA-I) UNDER "DBT" FUNDED PROJECT

Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali invites applications for engagement of RA-I on contractual basis under project entitled "Lignin valorization via biomaterial development, depolymerization and green technology". **Last date of receipt of application: 30/7/2024.** For details, candidate may visit **https://inst.ac.in/careers**

OIL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas)
OIDB Bhawan, Plot No.-02, Sector-73
Noida-201301

No. AD-14/3/2022-ADM-Part-I

Applications in prescribed proforma are invited from eligible candidates through proper channel for filling up of one post of Deputy Chief Finance & Accounts Officer in Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) in Pay Level -12 of 7th CPC pay matrix, on deputation basis.

Last date for receipt of applications in OIDB is 30th day from the date of publishing of this advertisement in Employment News. For detailed vacancy circular, please visit OIDB's website: **www.oidb.gov.in**

Manager (P&A)
Tel: 0120-2594613

CBC 33113/12/0003/2425

आईआरईएल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड **IREL (India) Limited**
Formerly Indian Rare Earths Limited
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)
(A Government of India Undertaking)
CIN: U15100MH1950GOI008187, Website: www.irel.co.in
ISO 9001: 2015, ISO 14001: 2015 & ISO 45001 : 2018 Company

Ref: ADVT. NO. 24-25/5 **Date: 27.06.2024**

TENDER NOTICE

IREL OSCOM invites request for proposal for the following items/job descriptions:-

Bid No.	Job/Item Description
GEM/2024/B/5022872	Supply of Coal (13000MT)
GEM/2024/B/5047063	AMC for Mechanical Maintenance REEP.
2024_IREL_198404_1	Construction of 200 seated Auditorium at OSCOM Housing Colony.

Bidder may download tender document from **http://irel.co.in, http://gem.gov.in, http://etenders.gov.in** and **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app**.

Any corrigendum/extension to above tenders shall be hosted in above website only.

CBC 48146/12/0005/2425 **Sd/- GM & HEAD, MMD, OSCOM**

TOURISM CORPORATION OF GUJARAT LIMITED (TCGL)
(A Government of Gujarat undertaking)
Udyog Bhavan, Block No. 16, 4thFloor,
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** 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

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PNIT NO.: 11/EE/MNP/PWD(R&B)/2024-25 Date 21/06/2024

The Executive Engineer, Mohanpur Division, PWD(R&B), Mohanpur, West Tripura on behalf of the 'Governor of Tripura', invites online percentage rate e-tender for the following work :

Sl. No.	PNIeT No & DNIeT No	Last Date and time for document downloading and Bidding	Time and date of Opening of Bid/Technical Bid
1. i)	PNIT No. 11/EE/MNP/PWD(R&B)/2024-25 & DNIT No. 08/CE/PWD(R&B)/SE(P&DU)/2024-25	Upto 3.00 pm On 20/07/2024	At 4.00 pm on 20/07/2024 (If possible)

Note : The bid forms and other details including online activities should be done in the e-procurement portal **https://tripuratenders.gov.in**

(For & on behalf of the Governor of Tripura)
(Er. Nihar Rn. Debbarma)
Executive Engineer
Mohanpur Division, PWD(R&B),
Mohanpu, west Tripura

ICA/C-514/2024-25

स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, लखीमपुर खीरी, उत्तर प्रदेश

कार्यालय पता: सैदापुर भाऊअलीगंज रोड नियर देवकली मन्दिर, मनोरा, लखीमपुर खीरी, उ0प्र0-262701
E-mail: Principalasmclakhimpurkheri@gmail.com
Website:- www.asmclakhimpurkheri.in

पत्रांक संख्या– ASMC/लखीमपुर खीरी/2024/1011 दिनांक: 20.06.2024

Advertisement for Contractual Vacancy

Office of the Principal, Autonomous State Medical College, Lakhimpur Kheri, U.P Applications are invited for various faculty positions of Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor on a contract basis in various departments of ASMC Lakhimpur Kheri. For detailed information and Application form visit college website www.asmclakhimpurkheri.in and DGME Website http://dgme.up.gov.in. Selection on these posts will be done by selection committee through walk-in-interviews on every Tuesday and Friday. For interviews candidates are requested to report at the Medical College Campus, ASMC Lakhimpur Kheri, near Deokali tample, at 10:00 a.m. with biodata, all original documents, experience certificate, research publications, along with two self-attested photocopies of the same.

प्रधानाचार्य,
स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय,
लखीमपुर खीरी

UP 216634 Dt. 25.06.2024
Website: www.upgov.nic.in

"e" Tender Notice **i-10**
PANCHAYAT SAMITI, BHUBANESWAR
E-mail- ori-Bhubaneswar@nic.in
No-2881 Date : 26.06.2024
DETAIL TENDER CALL NOTICE NO. 01 /BPS/2024-25

1. Number of Civil works : **01(One)**
2. Estimated Cost : **650.65344 Lakh**
3. Period of completion : **18(Eighteen)Calender Months**
4. Availabiity of Tender online for bidding: **28.06.2024 at 11.00 AM to 18.07.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.**
5. Last Date/Time of seekingTender Clarification: **18.07.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.**
6. Date & time of opening of Tender : **19.07.2024 at 11.00 A.M.**
7. Further the details can be seen from the web site (http://www.tenderodisha.gov.in)

Sd/-
Block Development Officer
Bhubaneswar

OIPR - 19005/11/0001/2425

INSTITUTE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT CATERING TECHNOLOGY AND APPLIED NUTRITION, DEHRADUN

(Affiliated to National Council for Hotel Management & Catering Technology, Nodia Under the aegis of Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India)
Near Tapkeshwar Temple, Adjacent to ONGC Helipad, Garhi Cantt., Dehradun-248 003, Uttarakhand

EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION

IHM Dehradun has been established on similar pattern of other IHMs under Ministry of Tourism, Government of India which is managed by a registered Society. IHM Dehradun invites Applications from interested and eligible candidates for the following post.

"IHM Dehradun requires Principal (01 post - Direct Recruitment). For details regarding eligibility criteria, educational qualifications, experience, general notification and application format please visit IHM Dehradun Website: www.ihmddn.com. The last date of submission of complete application is 26.07.2024 by 05.00 p.m."

Chairman
IHM Dehradun Society

Prayagraj Nagar Nigam

1, Sarojini Naidu Marg, Prayagraj-211001, Uttar Pradesh

NIT NO 201 ENV/2024 DATE 26.06.2024

E-TENDER NOTICE, 2nd Call

This is to inform to all prospective bidders having the required qualification mentioned in the RFP document that Municipal Corporation Prayagraj invites Request for Proposal (RFP) for "Selection of Agency for Miyawaki Plantation and Maintenance in Baswar Solid Waste Plan, Prayagraj.

Schedule for Tender

S. No.	Activity	Date	Time
1	Tender Document Availability	27/06/2024	14:00 hrs onwards
2	Last date of Bid submission	08/07/2024	up to 15:00 hrs
3	Technical Bid opening Date	08/07/2024	16:00 hrs onwards

For more details, please visit the website at http://www.etender.up.nic.in

(Uttam Kumar Verma)
Environment Engineer
Prayagraj Nagar Nigam

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. AGC-EL-GSU-T-07R-24 **Date: 25.06.2024**

E- Tender Notice

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (GatiShakti), North Central Railway, Agra on behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through on line only (E-Tendering) for the following works.

Name of work with its location & Completion Period : Electrical TRD work related to 12 meter FOBs under Amrit stations scheme in PWL-DHO section of Agra Division. **Completion Period:** 06 Months.

Approximate Cost of work : ₹12397790.55, **Closing date of Tender:** 17.07.2024 @12:00 Hrs. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website **www.ireps.gov.in.** Tender can only be submitted through web portal **www.ireps.gov.in** upto 12.00 Hrs. on **17.07.2024.** **1111/24(DG)**

North central railways @CPRONCR @northcentralrailway www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

NORTHERN RAILWAY

'E'-TENDER NOTICE

Dy.CSTE/SPL, Northern Railway, Tilak Bridge, New Delhi-110002 acting for & on behalf of President of India invites E-tenders in **Two packet system** from the experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria for the under noted work:

1	**Name of work :** "Provision of Electronic Interlocking (EI) based Automatic Signaling in Delhi-Rewari section, along with Replacement of 6 EI's at Palam, Gurgaon, Jataula Jauri Sampka, Pataudi Road, Inchhapuri & Khalilpur (Delhi-Rewari Section length-75 Kms approx.)"
2	**Approximate cost of the work :** Rs. 45,11,77,647.70 (Rs. Fourty-Five Crore Eleven Lakh Seventy-Seven Thousand Six Hundred And Forty-Seven Rupees And Seventy Paise Only)
3	**Earnest money/Bid Security (INR) :** Rs. 24,05,900.00/- (As on **www.ireps.gov.in**)
4	**Completion period :** 12 Months from the date of issue of Letter of Acceptance
5	**Website address and Date and Time where tender available : www.ireps.gov.in**
6	**Closing date :** 11.00 Hrs. on date: 22.07.2024
7	**Date of Opening of tender :** 11.30 Hrs. on date: 22.07.2024
8	**Validity of offer :** 90 days from the date of opening of tender.

(Tenders without earnest money will be summarily rejected)
Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date & time only. Bids are to be submitted online only. Manual bids/offers are not allowed against this tender, and any manual offer received shall be ignored. The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in** for participating in the e-tender system. Necessary changes, Corrigendum/addendum, if required, would be posted on this webiste only.
No.: 256Sig-SPL-TKJ-230-DLI-RE Dated: 26.06.2024 **1924/2024**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice **B-46**
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Bid Identification No. CCEKC - 02 / 2024-25
e-mail : ccekeonjharpwdcircle@gmail.com / sekcpwd_keonjhar@yahoo.com
Letter No. 2570 dt. 24.06.2024 .

1.	Name of the work:	: Construction of Triple-Storied Fire Station Building in the New Govt. Medical College/P.G. Institute, Sundargarh.
2.	Estimated cost	:- Rs. 281.70 Lakhs
3.	Class of Contractor	:- "B" Class & "A" Class
4.	Period of completion	:- 09 (Nine) Calendar Months
5.	Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal	:- From 11.00 Hours of 03.07.2024 to 16.00 Hours of 18.07.2024
6.	Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal	:- 16.00 Hours of 18.07.2024
7.	Date of opening of Bid from Portal	:- 11.30 Hours on 19.07.2024
8.	Name and address of the officer inviting Bid	:- Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar-758001.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **"http://tendersodisha.gov.in"**

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar

OIPR - 34033/11/0009/2425

Patna Smart City Limited (PSCL)

Govt. of Bihar

NOTICE INVITING TENDER *FOR*

Selection of Agency for the Rights of AD Slots on Messaging Display LEDs & PA System Installed by Patna Smart City on Revenue Sharing Basis.

(Throughe-procurement modeonly- www.eproc2bihar.gov.in)

NIT No. – 02/MD/PSCL/2024-25

1. Patna Smart City Limited (PSCL) invites bids from eligible experienced Firms/ /Contractors / Agencies / Bidders registered in appropriate category in any Government Organization/PSUs for execution of works as given below:-

Name of Work	Bid Document (Non-Refundable)	Bid Security (EMD)	Bid Processing Fee
Selection of Agency for the Rights of AD Slots on Messaging Display LEDs & PA System Installed by Patna Smart City on Revenue Sharing Basis.	Rs. 11,800/-	10.00 lakh	As per Eproc2 website

2.	Date of Downloading of Bid Document	:	From 25.06.2024 to 19 .07.2024 up to 1500 hours. Through website : www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in
3.	Place & Date of pre-bid meeting	:	Date: 03.07.2024, Time 1300 hours; Patna Smart City Limited,4th Floor, ICCC -cum- PSCL Building, SSP Office Campus, Gandhi Maidan, Patna-800001
4.	Last date of Receiving Queries (Online)	:	Date: 03.07.2024, Time 1700 hours (through e-mail)
5.	Last Date and time for uploading of bid.	:	Date: 19 .07.2024 up to 1500 hours through website -www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in
6.	Last Date and time for submission of hard copy of bid	:	Date: 19 .07.2024, Time 1700 hours
7.	Time & Date of opening technical bids	:	Date: 07.07.2024, Time 1700 hours
8.	Time & date of opening financial bids	:	To be communicated later on
9.	Place of opening of Bid	:	Through website : www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in
10.	Periods of bids validity	:	120 Days.
11.	Officer inviting bids	:	Managing Director, PSCL,Patna.
12.	For participation in E-tendering proc. the contractor shall have to get themselves registered to get User ID, Password & digital signature. This will enable accessing the website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in & download/participate in E-tender.		
13.	The tender documents can be obtained through our website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in & http://www.smartpatna.co.in.		

For further details please visit : **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar** **Managing Director**
PR- 002637 (B & C) 2024-25 Patna Smart City Limited

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

HIMACHAL PRADESH
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail: ee-roh-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 HP.PWD Department.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Starting date for downloading Bid	Earnest money	Deadline for submission bid
	Balance work from Bashla 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 Kharanja 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 issed by secretary PW) to the Govt. of himachal Pradesh Public Works Department from the department website **www.hptenders.gov.in**. and any corrigendum will be uploaded on the website only.

Executive Engineer
DPR HP-0392 **HPPWD Division Rohru, Distt Shimla HP**

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE (G&P) DEPARTMENT KASHMIR

Tel- 0194-2474234, Fax -2482032 – email: - kashflori@rediffmail.com

GIST of e-Tender Notice No.14 of 2024 Dated:- 25.06.2024

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of J&K UT, bids are invited from interested bidders for **Outsourcing of entry ticketing system of Mughal Garden Verinag** of Floriculture Department Kashmir as per details given below: -

The bidders have to quote their bid amount in the concerned BOQ: -

S. No.	Period of contract	Reserve Bid (Rs. in Lakhs)	Value of security deposit @ 10%	Cost of tender document
1.	**(01) One year** from the date of award of contract	Rs. 43,23,200.00	Rs. 4,32,320.00	Rs.1000.00 in the shape of e-challan

The bidding document(s) consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded through the Departmental website **www.dofkashmir.com / www.jktenders.gov.in** as per schedule of date given below:-

1.	Period of downloading of bidding document	25.06.2024 from 04.00 PM to 15.07.2024 up to 02.00 PM
2.	Bid submission Start Date	25.06.2024 from 04.30 PM
3.	Bid submission End date	15.07.2024 up to 02.00 PM
4.	Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online)	18.07.2024 at 02.00 PM

In case of any eventuality, the date of opening will be considered on any other convenient working day.

Sd/-
Accounts Officer,
DIPK-1881-24 **(Member Secretary)**

Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC)

Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Operator for managing water meter reading, on spot billing, user charge collection and improving coverage of water connections. (Second Call)

E-Tender Notice No 1/2024-25

Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation invites online RFP for " Selection of Operator for managing water meter reading, on spot billing, user charge collection and improving coverage of water connections (Second Call) within the limits of Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation,", The detailed e-tender document for the above is available at https://mahatenders.gov.in The duration of work is 36 months for implementation phase and Operations to enhance its water billing system and integrating it with SCADA, GIS database of consumers / property connections for the citizens in the city & use of AI & ML for Data Analytics for strategic informed decision

In that context, PCMC invites interested entities having experience as envisaged in the RFP document, to submit their proposal. Interested entities can download the RFP document from the website https://mahatenders.gov.in Interested entities shall make **online payment of Rs. 37,430/-** towards the cost of RFP document and bid security/ earnest money deposit of **Rs. 20,50,615/-** at the time of submission of its proposal through the e- tendering system.

The last date of submission of bid will be dt. 11/07/2024

Sd/-
Addl. Commissioner (1)
ADV NO-38 **Pimpri Chinchwad Muncipal Corporation**

ECO-TOURISM SOCIETY OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
UNDER THE AEGIS OF
HIMACHAL PRADESH FOREST DEPARTMENT
(GOVT. OF HIMACHAL PRADESH)

Invites
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
for
SELECTION OF OPERATORS FOR DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT/ PROVIDING SERVICES TO RUN ECO-TOURISM ACTIVITIES AT 20 ECO- TOURISM POTENTIAL SITES IN THE STATE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

"We are not above nature, we are a part of nature"

The Eco-Tourism Society of Himachal Pradesh (**"HPECOSOC"**) under the aegis of Himachal Pradesh Forest Department (**"HPFD"**) is desirous of developing 20 eco-tourism sites in the State of Himachal Pradesh which have a huge potential for eco-tourism activities.

As such, HPECOSOC under HPFD invites bids from interested and eligible bidders for designing/ developing, operating, managing, providing services and maintaining ecotourism facilities & activities at the following eco-tourism sites, for a period of 10 (ten) years, extendable by 5 (five) years subject to certain conditions:

Eco-tourism sites at **(1) Near FRH Kaisdhar, (2) Solang Nallah (3) Gorudugh** under Kullu Forest Division; **(4) Kasol (5) Khirganga (Bindravani) (6) Sumaropa (7) Shonda Dhar (8) Dhara (9) Garsa Bihal under Parvati Forest Division; (10) Shojha (11)** Pundrik Rishi Lake under Banjar Forest Division of Kullu Forest Circle;

Eco-tourism sites at **(12) Swar, (13) Sourav Van Vihar (14) Neugal park ,(15) Bir-Billing (16) Rajgundha and (17) Tatwani** under Palampur Forest Division of Dharamshala Forest Circle and

Eco-tourism sites at **(18) Ichhaser (19) Mangla Mata temple (20) Kawaliya Top, Koti** under Shimla Forest Division of Shimla Forest Circle

For further details regarding the detailed scope of work, minimum eligibility criteria, bidding procedure etc. for eco-tourism sites, the interested bidders are required to refer to the RFP/Bidding Document for eco-tourism sites which will be hosted on the e-procurement portal **http://hptenders.gov.in/** on **26.06.2024 and the interested Bidders can download the RFP document from 26.06.2024 onward up to 18.07.2024 1700 hrs. For further updates, please visit the portal http://hptenders.gov.in/ and the website https://himachalecotourism.hp.gov.in periodically as all updates shall be posted there only.**

For queries (if any), please contact

O/o CEO cum APCCF (Eco-Tourism)
Ecotourism Society of Himachal Pradesh
Mist Chamber, Khalini,
Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India
Phone: 0177-2623036, +91-7018504629
DPR HP-0103 **Email: hpecosoc@gmail.com**

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division No.2, Nagpur

E-mail: div2nagpur.ee@mahapwd.com **Telephone No. 0712-2565048**

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 02 / 2024-2025

Online E-tenders in **'B-1'** Forms are invited by **Executive Engineer, Public Works Division No. 2, "Bandhkam Sankul" Civil Lines, Nagpur** for the following works from the registered contractor who satisfy the qualifying criteria. The tender documents should be downloaded from the Government Website https://mahatenders.gov.in The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders. Conditional tenders will not be accepted.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rupees in Lakhs)
1	2	3
1	Reconstruction of Major Bridge at Ch. 2/200 on from SH-293 Khutamba Subkund Nandora join to NH-6 (MDR 55) in Tahasil Katol Dist.Nagpur	Rs. 500.00 Lakh
2	Improvement of road NH-07 to Wathoda Kanhalgaon (Pathar) MDR-48 in Km.0/00 to 7/00 in Tahasil and Distt.Nagpur (Rural)	Rs.400.00 Lakh
3	Reconstruction of Minor Bridge at Ch.5/400 on Panjara Dodki Jatlapur Bopapur road MDR-62 in Tahasil Katol Dist.Nagpur	Rs.400.00 Lakh
4	Construction of Multi Sport area at Ward No.04 Revati Nagar Besa in Tahasil and Distt.Nagpur (Rural)	Rs.300.00 Lakh
5	Construction of Multi Sport area behind Poonam Mangal Karyalay at Ward No.02 Sonegaon (Kondhali) Amrawati road Tahasil Katol Distt Nagpur.	Rs.300.00 Lakh
6	Construction of Multi Sport area at Ward No. 02 Raut Nagar Kharbi Bahadura Tahasil and Distt.Nagpur (Rural)	Rs.300.00 Lakh
7	Construction of Multi Sports area for Open Space at Tajeshwar Nagar ground near Hanuman Mandir Hudkeshwar (Bu.) Tahasil and Distt.Nagpur (Rural)	Rs.300.00 Lakh
8	Construction of remaining work of building at Village Hospital, Kondhali Tahasil Katol Distt Nagpur	Rs.271.00 Lakh
9	Improvement to Ambola Yenikoni Ambada Mannatkhedi Km.8/00 to 13/00 (MDR-73) in Tahasil Narkhed Distt. Nagpur.	Rs.200.00 Lakh
10	Construction of Futsal Ground at open space of Kondhali, Kalmeshwar and Saoner in Distt.Nagpur	Rs.195.00 Lakh
11	Construction of Minor Bridge on SH-324 to Junona (Fuke) road at Mouza Junona (Fuke) in Tahasil Narkhed Distt.Nagpur	Rs.100.00 Lakh

१	ई-निविदा उपलब्ध कालावधी	As per e-tender schedule uploaded on e-portal
२	निविदापूर्व बैठक	As per e-tender schedule uploaded on e-portal
३	ई-निविदा उघडणे	ऑनलाईन नमुद केलेले वेळापत्रक लागू व अंतिम राहील.

All information of e-tendering is available on the following website / Notice Board.

Terms & Conditions :- 1. https://mahatenders.gov.in 2. https://mahapwd.com
(If there is any changes in the notice, then the information will be communicated on the above website)
3. Executive Engineer, Public Works Division No.2, Nagpur Office Notice Board.
4. For any correspondence contact. Above mention e-mail & Telephone No.

Notice:-1) All eligible / interested Contractor are downloading and mandated to get enrolled on e-tendering portal https://mahatenders.gov.in in and further need to empanelled online on sub portal https://mahatenders.gov.in in the appropriate bidder applicable to them.
2) Bidders are requested to contact on following telephone numbers for any doubts / information / difficulty regarding online enrollment or obtaining digital certificate. Help Desk Number-0120-4200462, 0120-4001002.
3) Tender Document Fee and EMD. is to be paid via Online E-payment Gateway mode only. EMD. Exemption Certificate shall not be considered. The information of E-payment Gateway is available on E-tendering website https://mahatenders.gov.in

Outward No. 4233/Tender/Dt. 25.06.2024

Sd/-
(Chandrashekar Giri)
Executive Engineer,
Public Works Division No. 2, Nagpur

ROC-2024-25/No-5/C474

F.No. 1/25/2023/G.II
UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
DHOLPUR HOUSE, SHAHJAHAN ROAD, NEW DELHI-110069

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

Online bids are invited on GeM portal for Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of the following items from authorized vendors/partners of the proposed OEMS:-

S. No.	Name of the Items	Quantity
1.	Rack Server	4
2.	NAS of 100 TB usable Capacity	2
3.	Network Switch 24*10GB	2
4.	42U Rack 800X 1000 mm with smart PDU	1
5.	Red Hat Enterprise Linux for Virtual Datacenters	2

2. Detailed advertisement along with tender document may be downloaded from UPSC website **https://www.upsc.gov.in/tenders**. Bids shall be submitted only on GeM portal at **https://gem.gov.in**. The GeM Bid No. for the above bidding is **GEM/2024/B/5084306.**
3. Manual bids shall not be accepted. The last date for submission of bids is 15.07.2024 (1700 hrs).

Sd/-
(Rakesh Kumar Dixit)
Under Secretary
CBC 55103/14/0009/2425 **Telephone: 011-23388418**

{ FROM PAGE 1 }

KEJRIWAL ARRESTED

Kejriwal's lawyers questioned the necessity and timing of the arrest, noting that the CBI probe is nearing its end. Already arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the same case but in connection with alleged money laundering, the CM's bail was revoked by the Delhi high court on Tuesday.

CBI special public prosecutor DP Singh told the court that it refrained from arresting him earlier, referring to the period when Kejriwal had been granted bail to campaign for the general elections by the Supreme Court. "We showed restraint.... Now it is absolutely mandatory because now we want to conclude (the investigation) by July 3."

The agency cited two grounds to press for Kejriwal's custody — first, it said it needed his custody since the CM distanced himself from former AAP communications-in-charge Vijay Nair by stating Nair worked with ministers Saurabh Bhardwaj and Atishi, and, second, that he had suggested the plan to privatise the retail liquor business was Sisodia's idea.

Responding to this later, in direct remarks made in Hindi, Kejriwal said: "In my CBI statement, I had said that the excise policy had three objectives: increasing the revenue, reducing the long lines and ensuring equitable distribution. I had called Manish Sisodia and given him these three directions. They (CBI) had asked me, "whose idea was it to privatise? I said it was 'not mine'."

He added: "I have not given such statement that Manish Sisodia is guilty. I have always given statements that Manish Sisodia is innocent, AAP is innocent, I am innocent."

After hearing the CM's contentions, the court rejected CBI's claims on CM trying to shift the onus on Sisodia and said, "We have read his (Kejriwal's) statement and he has said no such thing."

AAP leaders later seized on this and targeted the agency for being "caught red-handed lying in court".

"This is happening for the first time that the judge himself has said that there is no coordination between what the CBI is saying and the evidence it has," said party leader Jasmine Shah.

"Time and again the AAP has said that the whole case is fake and fabricated. The CBI and ED are filing false cases at the behest of the BJP only to finish AAP and to keep CM Arvind Kejriwal in jail," he added.

Kejriwal's lawyer, Vikram Chaudhary, called latest the arrest "sham," "malafide," and "the biggest abuse of process of law" since the agency acted shortly after the Delhi CM was given bail by a lower court in the case being pursued by the other federal agency, ED.

That bail order was stayed by the high court last Friday and then overturned on Tuesday. The party said it will challenge it in the Supreme Court.

The CM's lawyers also said that the arrest was in violation of Section 41 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), which allows police to make arrests with a warrant or permission from a magistrate in cases where the police fears it is necessary to prevent a person from committing a further offence or for proper investigation.

Even "non-cooperation with the investigation" was not a valid ground in this case, Chaudhary said.

On this, the court said in its order that "based upon the interrogation report and the evidence collected during investigation", the court accepted the necessity to arrest the accused. "At this stage of investigation, statement of witnesses and documentary evidence will be considered as it is. The police remand of the accused is therefore, warranted," it added.

Outside, the party lashed out at the two agencies for "becoming only a mouthpiece of the BJP". "In April 2023, the CBI interrogated CM Kejriwal for nine hours. After this, the CBI remained silent on this matter till June, 2024, but when it came to know that the trial court granted bail to CM in the ED case," said Shah.

Kejriwal, the agency claimed, asked YSRCP's Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy, who is now an MP, to provide "monetary funding to the AAP" while assuring support in the liquor business in the national capital. CBI said it had corroboration of these moves from "contemporaneous documentary material".

According to the agency, Reddy, YSRCP Lok Sabha MP from Ongole, met Kejriwal on March 16, 2021, requesting support in Delhi's liquor business. Kejriwal allegedly assured support and asked Reddy to contact Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader K Kavitha, who was reportedly working with Kejriwal's team. The CBI claims Kejriwal also asked Reddy to provide monetary funding to AAP, a fact they say is corroborated by "contemporaneous documentary material."

K Kavitha allegedly told Reddy that ₹100 crore must be arranged for AAP as upfront money by March 2021, the agency claimed.

(With inputs from Neeraj Chauhan)

FELLING OF TREES

ish Panda, who is facing contempt before the court in a petition filed by a Delhi resident Bindu Kapurea, submitted to the court through senior advocates Maninder Singh and Mahesh Jethmalani that the records could not be traced and that to avoid any omission on his part, he was seeking additional time to find them. Singh said that the Member (Engineering) Ashok Kumar Gupta accompanied LG during the site visit.

The court said, "We direct the Member (Engineering) to file a detailed affidavit within 10 days on exactly what transpired during the visit of LG. He will also state if any oral direction or instruction was issued for cutting of trees," while reminding the officer, "He will file the affidavit as an officer of the court and not as officer of DDA."

The court also noted a letter written by DDA officer to the project contractor on December 29, 2023 for starting work on the road. Wondering how the go-ahead could be given when permissions under Forest Conservation Act, DPTA, and from the Supreme Court were pending, the bench asked DDA if this fact was considered by the enquiry constitute constituted to ascertain who commissioned the felling of trees.

The enquiry committee had identified three officers, including an executive engineer Manoj Kumar Yadav, for ordering the felling of trees. The court said, "Has the enquiry committee seen this letter? There was also an email about LG visiting and ordering cutting of trees. When such material comes to the committee, was it not its duty to find out LG's role? Is the objective of the committee to save the higher ups and put the blame on some officers?

The court told DDA lawyers, "We have issued notice in contempt, that does not mean we want to send the DDA VC to jail, but he must come clean on who issued the direction to fell trees. He still must tell us if there is a cover-up to shield higher authorities. We are not going to run with a hammer against the authority, but we want truth to come out."

A report by a three-member expert committee constituted by the court to examine the environmental harm caused by the road widening project undertaken by DDA recommended that work undertaken on the extended road be removed immediately and the ridge site restored by planting of saplings ahead of the monsoon season.

DDA pointed out that there was a suggestion by the committee to keep the road in question as a major hospital for central armed police force is coming up in the vicinity. The court rejected this. "We were aware one day you will make this submission to permit you to construct the road. There is enough land available elsewhere."

The bench directed DDA to urgently implement the expert committee's recommendations and said, "We are sure this is the tip of the iceberg. There would be hundreds of cases where trees would have been illegally felled that we are not aware of. A signal must go so that this does not go on."

Singh told the court that the case has helped DDA identify its loopholes. But the bench remarked, "These are not loopholes. But this is a brazen act showing complete lack of understanding about the environment."

On going through the report, the court realised there were lapses not just on part of DDA, but on the part of other authorities including the Delhi government's environment and forests department and the Tree Officer under the DPTA, 1994. The court observed that on February 14, 2024 the principal secretary of Delhi's forest department issued notification under DPTA for felling of 422 trees. The court directed notice on the contempt petition to be issued to the Delhi forest department through principal secretary and said, "Exemption was only for 422 trees, and by DDA's own admission 633 trees were cut. Our impression is that many more trees beyond 633 were cut. It is an admitted position that DDA indulged in cutting 200 more trees than the purported 422 trees." The court sought an affidavit from the principal secretary by July 11 on why no penal action was initiated against DDA on this count.

The bench noted an urgent need to enhance forest cover in Delhi considering the unbearable summer this year. Passing an order, the court said, "Considering the illegal and high-handed acts of felling of trees as brought out in the contempt petition, we direct the Delhi government, DDA, and all civic agencies to convene a meeting with the three-member expert committee (comprising Ishwar Singh, Sunil Limaye and Pradip Kishen) to discuss comprehensive measures for enhancing green cover of national capital territory of Delhi." The court posted the matter for further hearing on July 12.



Government of Rajasthan
Department of Information Technology & Communication
IT Building, Yojana Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur

Notice Inviting Bid

NIB no. F15(6)/DoIT HQ/2024-11317/02272/2024 **Dated: 20.06.2024**

[SPPP UBN ref. No.- ITC2425SLOB00006]

DoIT&C invites bids from the eligible bidders for RFP "Selection of Agency for Design, Development, Implementation and Maintenance of iStart Portal 2.0 for DoIT&C, GoR" till 30.07.2024 at 04.00 PM with pre-bid on 26.06.2024 with an estimated cost is Rs. 5.00 Crores (excl. taxes). For more details please visit on the websites: **https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**, **https://doitc.rajasthan.gov.in**

Dipr/c/4861/2024 **AD, DoIT&C**

कार्यालय नगरपरिषद झालावाड़ (राज.)

क्रमांक : न.परि.झा./SBM/2024/1895 दिनांक: 24.06.2024

–: ई–निविदा :–
(Nit No. 02 /2024-25)

UBN No :- DLB2425GSOB00943, DLB2425GLOB00944, DLB2425SLOB00946, DLB2425SLOB00947
NIB Code : DLB2425A0315

नगरपरिषद झालावाड़ द्वारा वित्तिय वर्ष 2024–25 में कार्य विशेष का अनुभव रखने वाले पंजीकृत संवेदको से उपरोक्त कार्यो हेतु निम्नानुसार ऑनलाईन निविदायें दिनांक 11.07.2024 को दोपहर 3.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। संवेदक द्वारा निविदा प्रपत्र एवं शर्तो का विवरण वेबसाईट **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**, **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** से प्राप्त किये जा सकेंगे।

राज.संवाद/सी/24/1278 आयुक्त, नगरपरिषद् झालावाड़

SEARCH FOR MISSING


IRAM @ AFREEN


ANAM

General Public is hereby informed that two girls **(1) Namely:** Iram @ Afreen, **D/o:** Mohd Ahsan Ansari, **R/o:** H. No. Z-2nd/307, Welcome, Delhi, **Sex:** Female, **Age:** 23 Years, **Height:** 5'3", **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Thin, **Face :** Round, **Wearing:** Green Colour Suit & Salwar and **(2) Namely:** Anam, **D/o:** Mohd. Ahsan Ansari, **R/o:** H. No. Z-2nd/307, Welcome, Delhi, **Sex:** Female, **Age:** 20 Years, **Height:** 5'0", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Thin, **Face :** Round, **Wearing:** White Colour Frock and Black Colour Pajama and both the girls wore slippers in their feet have been missing since 21.06.2024 from their residence. In this regard **DD No. 53A, Dated: 22.06.2024** has been registered at **P.S.: Welcome, Delhi.**

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

Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Website : http://cbi.nic.in
E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
DP/8031/NE/2024

SHO
P.S.: Welcome, Delhi
Ph.: 9560220539

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this person (depicted in the photo) **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** about 50-55 Years, **Sex**: Male, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Yellow color T-shirt and Blue color Pant, found dead at KM Pole No. 15/01, UP Line, Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi on 24.06.2024 by 1.21 pm under area of P.S. Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi.

In this regard a **DD No. 19A, dated 24.06.2024** has been lodged at P.S. Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Dead Body has been preserved in Subzi Mandi Mortuary, Delhi for 72 Hours if any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S.- Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi
Ph.: 011-28711697, 8750871308

DP/8135/Rly/2024 (UIDB)

International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB)
ICGEB Campus, Aruna Asaf Ali Marg
New Delhi – 110067

TENDER NOTICE

Name of Work: Comprehensive Operation and Maintenance of TACF Facility, BSL-3 and BSL-2 Facility.

Sealed quotes are invited for the work of "Comprehensive Operation and Maintenance of TACF Facility, BSL-3 and BSL-2 Facility". Details regarding the scope of work, terms and conditions, eligibility criteria and any other updates like corrigendum can be viewed at http://www.icgeb.res.in/ndinfo.htm. Sealed quotes should be received by **3:00 PM on 12th July, 2024.**

Reserve Bank of India

Estate Department, New Delhi

E-Tender Notice Dismantling and Re-Construction of New Boundary Wall at Bank's colony at HauzKhas, New-Delhi. E-tender No-RBI/Delhi Regional Office/Estate/1/24-25/ET/98

RBI invites online e-tenders for above mentioned work. For full details, please visit tender section at our website www.rbi.org.in and www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/rbi. Online bidding will only be done at MSTC e-procurement portal. All future communications for above tender will be available only on www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/rbi.

Details	Time	Date
e-Tender can be viewed from	11.00 am	18/07/2024
Last date for submitting e-tenders	02.00 pm	06/08/2024

Regional Director

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused person **Vakeel Yadav** S/o Ramdhani Yadav R/o C-2/851,Sector 27 Rohini, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No. 497/13, U/s 420/468/471/34 IPC PS Shahbad Dairy, Delhi and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused person **Vakeel Yadav** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Vakeel Yadav,** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said person **Vakeel Yadav accused FIR No. 497/13, U/s 420/468/471/34 IPC PS Shahbad Dairy, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **26.08.2024.**

By order
Shri Saurabh Goyal
Metropolitan Magistrate-05 (North),
Room No.114
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/8140/ON/2024

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Md. Asif, S/o:** Md. Kadil, **R/o:** 20 Foota Road, Prem Nagar, Loni, Ghaziabad, U.P. has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 57/2018, U/s 356/379/411/34 IPC, P.S.: Khajuri Khas, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Md. Asif** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Md. Asif** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Md. Asif** accused of case **FIR No. 57/2018, U/s 356/379/411/34 IPC, P.S.: Khajuri Khas, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **22.08.2024**.

By Order
Sh. Sukhjeet Singh
Metropolitan Magistrate
Room No. 22, Karkardooma Court, Delhi

DP/8175/NE/2024
(Court Matter)

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No.U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website:www.ujvnl.com

Letter No: 544 **Tender Notice** Date: 26/06/2024

Office of the Executive Engineer, Maintenance Chilla (Pauri- Garhwal), invites sealed tenders from experienced firms for following works/supply for Chilla Power House:-

1- T-07/EEM/2024-25:- SITC of 3 Ton (Remote Operated) Electric hoist Crane at Central Store at Chilla.
2- Estimated Cost - Rs 9,89,660.00 (Taxes Extra)
3- Date of availability of Tender document on website - 27-06-2024 (17:00 Hrs)
4 - Date of Receipt of the tender - 18-07-2024 up to 11:00 Hrs

For all details, bidders are advised to visit our website **www.ujvnl.com**

Executive Engineer (M), Chilla Power House

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) (LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

SRM e-Tender No. T-2430/MSETCL/CO/Projects/T/Pre-Tender (RFx No. 6000001191)

MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.

"Establishment of 132/33 kV Kanashi substation Dist. Nashik along with associated line under Nashik Zone in Maharashtra"

Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website.**https://srmetender.mahatransco.in**

The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from 18.06.2024.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a Male namely **Unknown, S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, was found dead on 23.06.2024 at 15:07 PM from the area in near Flag Park, Ajmeri Gate Side, New Delhi. In this regard **DD No.: 32A, Dated 23.06.2024,** has been lodged at **Police Station New Delhi Railway Station.**

Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:
Sex : Male**, Age:** 40 years, **Height :** 5'4", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** Red & Black Colour Stripped Shirt & Black Pant and he was barefoot. The dead body of deceased preserved for 72 hours in LHMC Hospital Mortuary for identification.

If any one having any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be informed undersigned.

SHO
P.S. New Delhi Railway Station
Ph.: 011-23744073, 8750871305 and 9811598008

DP/8147/Rly/2024

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Namely Unknown **S/o** Unknown, **R/o** Unknown **Age:** about 65 years, **Height:** 5'4", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** White coloured Checked shirt and Blue coloured pant, was found dead on 12.06.2024 at 07:30 PM from Near Phool Park, A-Block, in front of Gate, Sultanpuri. In this regard a **DD No.80A, dated 12.06.2024** has been lodged at P.S. Sultanpuri, Delhi.

If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

SHO
P.S. Sultanpuri, Delhi
Ph.: 011-25472166, 25472410
Mob.: 8376084003, 7065036134

DP/8050/OD/2024

Public Works Division Chh. Sambhajinagar
E-Tender Notice No. 158 Of 2023-2024
Corrigendum No-02

E-Tender for the following works in B-1 Form" for the (01) Works is invited via online E- Tendering system from Contractor/Agency/Firm/Company of Eligible Class by Executive Engineer Public Works Division Aurangabad (PH No.0240-2331174) on behalf of Public Works Department of Government of Maharashtra.

All details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-Tendering Portal https://mahatenders.gov.in on sub Portal of public works Department also on www.mahapwd.com portal as per online tender Schedules.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division
Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age:** About 60 years, **Height :** 5'6", **Face:** Square, **Built:** Thin, **Hair:** Black and white & White beard, **Complexion:** Shallow, wearing Grey colour kurta & paijama in dirty condition and bare footed was dead found on 24.06.2024 at Patri Auliya Masjid, 2914, Sir Syed Ahmed Road, Daryaganj, Delhi. In this regard G.D. No. 46A dated 24.06.2024 has been lodged at P.S. Daryaganj, Delhi. Dead body has been preserved in the mortuary of MAMC for 72 hours.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone numbers.

SHO - P.S. Daryaganj, Delhi.
Tel. No. 011-23274683, 23279331, 8750870421

DP/8122/CD/2024

U.P. Projects Corporation Ltd.
(ISO 9001:2015 Certified Company)
Gomti Barrage, Left Bank, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow

Notice No.: 28/PCL/GM/Zone-6/Noida/2024-25 Dated: 25.06.2024

e-Tender Notice

On behalf of UPPCL e-tenders are invited on percentage rate under two bid system from eligible contractors/firms registered in U.P. Projects Corporation Ltd. for the *Construction work of Proposed Medical Gas Pipe Line System for Emergency, General, I.C.U & Pediatric Block of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Hospital Bijnor attached with* **MVASMC BIJNOR. Details can be downloaded from the website "etender.up.nic.in" & UPPCL website www.uprojects.org.**

General Manager
Zone-6, UPPCL, Noida

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Phone No.- 0175-2207649, Email ID:- se-it-os@pspcl.in
Corporate Identity No. U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in

Tender Enquiry No. 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**

C380/24 35024

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", (2nd 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**

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

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (TIC)
35030 **Municipal Corporation Ludhiana**

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in, E-tendering portal: https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
Contact No.: 96461-19383, 96461-11036

Tender Enquiry No. QQ-252/PO-C Date: 25.06.2024

Chief Purchase Officer/MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd Floor Multistory Building, The Mall Road, Patiala, invites E-tender for procurement of **20 MT** ISI Marked Polypropylene yellow coloured rope, 3 strand, Hawser Laid, conforming to IS:5175-1992 (with latest amendments) and PSPCL Specification **QQ-252** for 10mm, 16mm & 20mm sizes.

For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 01.07.2024 from 03.00 PM onwards.

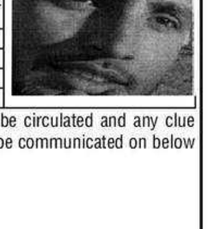
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

C381/24 35026

DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS RAJOURI
Crime Section
Phone No. 01962-262240, Fax No. 01962-264068
E-mail ID: dporajouri@jkpolice.gov.in

HUE AND CRY NOTICE

Station House Officer Police Station Thanamandi vide letter No. 563/S-1/PSTMD dated 14.06.2024 has communicated that the Hon'ble Court has issued a warrant U/S 25 Police Act 1983 against accused namely Javid Iqbal S/O Mohd Afzal R/O Village Chowkina Nagrota District Rajouri for his involvement in case FIR No. 103/2023 U/S 67-B/ IT Act r/w 3/4/6 POCSO Act, 376/354-C IPC of P/S Thanamandi. The accused is evading his arrest in the case Description of the absconding accused is as under:-

DESCRIPTION		Photograph
Name	Javid Iqbal	
Parentage	Mohd Afzal	
Permanent Address	R/O Chowkian, Nagrota Tehsil Rajouri District Rajouri.	
Age	21 Yrs	
Height	5'-7"	
Built	Normal	
Face	Oval	

It is therefore, requested that he same may kindly be circulated and any clue regarding the accused mentioned above may kindly be communicated on below mentioned telephone numbers/mail address:-

PCR, Rajouri : :01962262515
SDPO, Thanamandi : 9541900728
SHO P/S, Thanamandi : 9419183139
DPO Rajouri : 01962262240
E-Mail Address : dporajouri@jkpolice.gov.in

No. CB/F-55-1/LOC/2024/22850-56/DPO
Dated: 20.06.2024

Sd/-
Sr. Superintendent of Police
DIP-J-1855-24 **Rajouri**

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
E-TENDER NOTICE

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

1	Name of Work	Scrapping, Cleaning & Painting of Underframes of 1600 LHB (1552 POH and 48 NPOH) and Washing of Underframes of 1600 LHB coaches, 1200 ICF POH coaches and 500 IOH Bogie Sets of ICF Coaches for Two Years at Jagadhri Workshop.
2	Location	Northern Railway, Carriage & Wagon Repair Shop, Jagadhri Workshop, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana - 135002
3	Tender Value	Rs. 7928783.30
4	Quantity	As per scope
5	Cost of Tender form	Nil
6	Earnest money amount	₹158600.00
7	Completion period of the work	24 months from the date of issuance of Letter of Acceptance
8	Date & Time for submission of tender form	17.07.2024 till 15:30 hrs.
9	Opening of tender	17.07.2024 till 15:35 hrs. Tender opening will be done any time after the tender closing time. The tenderers are not required to be present during the opening. Railway reserves the right to open the tender any time after closing of tender.
10	Website particulars	www.ireps.gov.in

No : 6-S/42/Tender/2023-24/P2 Dt: 26.06.2024
1912/24

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Paschimanchal Vidyut Vitran, Nigam Ltd.
Victoria Park Meerut

E-TENDER INVITING NOTICE Open tender is invited through e-tendering MRI based billing of consumers having load from 5 kW to 9 kW (below 10 kW) in PVVNL against tender specification no. PVVNL-MT/COM/01/24-25. Last Date and time of tender submission:26-07-24 at 17:00 hrs. Date and time of tender opening (Part-1): 27-07-24 at 17.00 hrs. Note: In case of any amendment & detailed information in tender specification or date of extension, the same shall be uploaded on e-tender website www.etender.up.nic.in and www.pvvnl.org. "Help line Number For Information of Theft of Electricity: "1800-180-3002 (Meerut), 1800-180-8752 (Lucknow) & 9412207451" Superintending Engineer (Commercial-III) For Managing Director paschimanchal vidyut vitran, nigam ltd victoria park meerut "SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION" पत्रांक : 278 दिनांक : 26.06.2024

Government of Punjab
(Department of Health & Family Welfare)
Bid Ref No:- E-tender/ PHSC/Proc/2024/147

The Punjab Health Systems Corporation, SAS Nagar (Mohali) invites online bids for the Rate Contract of two years of **Dental Implants: Fixtures, Abutments, Impression Copings and Analogues for Advanced Dental Implant Centres** as per list enumerated in the tender document available on the website **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**.

Date, time and place of pre bid conference	:	09.07.2024 at 11.30 am in the Committee Room of Punjab Health Systems Corporation, Punjab School Education Board Building, 2nd Floor, E-Block, Mohali-160062. Phone No. 0172-2232245, 2232247
Closing Date and Time	:	30.07.2024 till 3.00 pm

For details log on (**https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**).

Note: Any Corrigendum(s) to the tender notice shall be published on the above website only.

Sd/-
MANAGING DIRECTOR
34981 **PHSC Mohali**

MPMETRO
MADHYA PRADESH METRO RAIL CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India and Govt. of Madhya Pradesh)
2nd Floor, Smart City Development Corporation Office Building,
Kalibadi Road, BHEL, Sector-A, Barkheda, Bhopal-462022

ADVERTISEMENT FOR RECRUITMENT

Madhya Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MPMRCL), a joint venture of Government of India and Government of Madhya Pradesh is implementing Bhopal Metro Rail Project & Indore Metro Rail Project in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
To meet with the immediate requirement, MPMRCL invites application for the post of

Director (System)
AGM (Safety)

This Advertisement is only indicative. The detailed vacancy notifications and particulars are available in the Career sections of MPMRCL website i.e. **www.mpmetrorail.com.**
Please refer Advt. No. 2798/HRD/MPMRCL-053/2024, dated 26.06.2024 & Advt. No. 2799/HRD/MPMRCL-054/2024, dated 26.06.2024 for more details.
Please visit career section of MPMRCL website **www.mpmetrorail.com**. Applicants may regularly visit website for latest updates.
Last date for submission of applications through offline mode for both the posts is 30 July 2024 till 05:00 PM.
M.P. Madhyam/115099/2024 **MD, MPMRCL**

JAMMU AND KASHMIR POLICE
DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU
0191-2561578 (O), 0191-254780 (F)
email:- sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in

Hue and Cry Notice
Rule No. 712/191

Learned 1st Additional Sessions Judge Jammu, vide order dated 08.06.2024, directed to issue look out notice against **Gagandeep Singh S/O S. Jaswant Singh R/O Lane No. 06, Preet Nagar Digiana, Jammu**, who is evading his arrest in case FIR No. 71/2024 U/S 302/307/148/149/447/201 RPC, 4/25 A. Act of P/S Miran Sahib, as he jumped over the bail.

Pursuant to the directions of Hon'ble Court, photograph of above named person is being circulated to all the States/Union Territories Chiefs of Police for further circulation/ wide publicity in their respective States/UTs. Besides, aforesaid Hue and cry notice with photograph of the person is being published for wide publicity, for the information of Police establishments/public in general, having any clue related to the whereabouts/ present location of above named accused, kindly communicate the same on the below mentioned contact/Telephone numbers. The identity of the informer will be kept secret:-

Description Roll:-

Name : Gagandeep Singh
S/O : S. Jaswant Singh
Address : Lane No. 06, Preet Nagar Digiana, Jammu
Age : 29 years
Height : 05 ft 08 Inch
Complexion : Fair
Built : Average
Face : Round
Eyes : Black


WANTED

Contacts/Telephone Numbers:-

1. DPO, Jammu : 0191-2547807, 0191-2561578
2. SSP Jammu Mail I.D : sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in
3. PCR Jammu : 0191-2542000
4. SP Hqrs., Jammu : 0191-2439919
5. SDPO R.S. Pura : 01923-250240
6. Landline of P/S Arnia : 01923-263259

No. CRB/2024/ /DPOJ Date: **Sr. Superintendent of Police**
DIP-J-1853-24 **Jammu**

INDIAN RAILWAYS
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
"PUBLIC NOTIFICATION"

Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on the Complete section of the under noted section of the Northern Railway that the 25000 Volt, 50Hz, AC overhead traction wires will be energized on or after the date specified against the section. On and from the same date the overhead traction line shall be treated as live at all time and no unauthorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said overhead line.

Section	Date
Sub- Energisation of 25 KV, Single phase AC newly electrified Line no. 5 (Common Loop Line), Line no.6 (goods line) and TMC sidings in Roorkee Yard including modification in existing lines, associated turnouts & x-overs from location no. 1555/17N (Ch: 1555/555.90) to location no. 1559/5(Ch: 1559/181.00) along with energisation of Auxiliary Transformers under Moradabad Division".	26.06.2024

INDIAN RAILWAY
INTRODUCTION OF AC 25 KV TRACTION
"WARNING TO ROAD USERS"

It is notified for information of the Public that in connection with introduction of 2.2 KV AC electric traction over **"Energisation of 25 KV, Single phase AC newly electrified Line no. 5 (Common Loop Line), Line no.6 (goods line) and TMC sidings in Roorkee Yard including modification in existing lines, associated turnouts & x- overs from location no. 1555/17N (Ch: 1555/555.90) to location no. 1559/5(Ch: 1559/181.00) along with energisation of Auxiliary Transformer under Moradabad Division".** Height gauges have been erected at all the level crossings with clear maximum height 4.78 m and contact wire shall be at a height of minimum 5.5 m above road level with a view to prevent loads of excessive height from coming into contact or dangerous proximity to live traction wire. Public are hereby notified to observe the height specified above for the purpose of loading vehicles and to see that the loads carried in road vehicles do not infringe the height gauges under any circumstances.

The dangers of a load of excessive height are as follows:-

i) Danger to the height gauge and consequent obstruction to the road as well as the railway line.

ii) Danger to the materials or equipment carried or the vehicle itself.

iii) Danger of fire and risk of life due to contact with or dangerous proximity to the conductors.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1919/24

Hindustan Times FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

COMMITTED TO UNVEILING THE TRUTH


02
From HT Archives
BHAKRA-NANGAL INAUGURATED, 1954
'Temple of modern India' thrown open
HT's report on the day the Bhakra-Nangal canal heralded a new irrigation era for India

Relive the iconic moments that shaped our country with HT Archives every Saturday.

Hindustan Times FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

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VIOLENCE IN MANIPUR LINKED TO DRUGS, POPPY CULTIVATION: CM

Thomas Ngangom
letters@hindustantimes.com

IMPHAL: The ongoing conflict in Manipur, which began in May last year, is linked to drug trafficking and poppy cultivation in the state, chief minister N Biren Singh said on Wednesday.

Addressing the media outside his residence in Babupara, Imphal, Singh alleged that the state's "War on Drugs" campaign had fuelled the violence but added that the government remains committed to cracking down the drug menace. He was speaking on the occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illegal Trafficking when he made the remarks.

On a query on whether the ongoing violence was linked to the government's campaign against drugs, Singh said: "Yes, it is correlated. The Manipur government launched 'War on Drugs' in 2018 and the state police have destroyed a total of 18,000 hectares of illegal poppy cultivation. Around 297 drug smugglers were convicted. These are the causes of the present crisis."

Manipur has been roiled by ethnic clashes, primarily between the Meiteis and Kukis, since May 3 last year, leaving at least 219 people dead and more than 50,000 displaced so far.

Singh had earlier also suggested that a central motif at the root of the conflict is his government's move to limit the alleged drug trade in the forested hills of the northeastern state. Kuki organisations, however, accused the government of displaying its bias in the garb of the "War on Drugs" campaign. They claimed that the state's stance homogenises the tribe, and has created a rift between their community, which largely lives in the hills, and the majority Meiteis, who live in and around the Imphal valley.

EAM meets Myanmar dy PM



External affairs minister S Jaishankar meets deputy PM and FM of Myanmar U Than Shwe, in New Delhi on Wednesday. In a post on X later, the EAM said: "Discussed our deep concern at the impact of continuing violence and instability in Myanmar on our border. India is open to engaging all stakeholders in addressing this situation." S JAISHANAKAR - X

Former foreign secy Dubey dies at 90

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Veteran diplomat Muchkund Dubey, who served as foreign secretary during 1990-1991, died of age-related ailments at a hospital in New Delhi on Wednesday. He was 90.

Dubey started his career as a lecturer in economics before joining the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) in 1957. He went on to serve as the high commissioner to Bangladesh and as the permanent representative to the United Nations in Geneva.

His friend Manoranjan Mohanty told PTI: "He was not keeping well for the past few weeks and had been admitted at Fortis (Escorts) hospital in Delhi earlier this month. He had heart-related complications and some other health issues. Professor Dubey died at the hospital [on Wednesday] afternoon."

Dubey was survived by his wife and two daughters, Mohanty said. His funeral will be held at Lodhi Road Crematorium on Thursday evening.



Muchkund Dubey

After retiring from the IFS, Dubey joined as a professor at the School of International Studies at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, where he taught for nearly eight years. He also served as president of the New Delhi-based Council for Social Development (CSD) and was about to complete his fifth term in the position.

As an international civil servant, he served at the headquarters of the United Nations and the UNDP. He was the Indian member on the executive board of Unesco, chairman of the Common School System Commission of Bihar, and deputy chairman of the Planning Commission of Sikkim.

Hindustan Times
HT City
IS HUMA QURESHI DATING ACTING COACH RACHIT SINGH?
CHECK OUT TODAY'S EDITION

आईआरईएल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड IREL (India) Limited
Formerly Indian Rare Earths Limited
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)
(A Government of India Undertaking)
CIN: U15100MH1950GOI008187, Website: www.irel.co.in
ISO 9001: 2015, ISO 14001: 2015 & ISO 45001 : 2018 Company

संदर्भ - विज्ञा. 24-25/6 निविदा नोटिस दि. 22.06.2024/Ref: ADVT. NO. 24-25/6 Date: 22.06.2024

TENDER NOTICE

IREL (India) Limited, Chavara invites Bid for the following items/job descriptions:-

कार्य नं./Event No. (CPPP)	काम/मद विवरण/Job/Item Description
2024_IREL_199142_1	Construction of new Security cum Training Complex (Civil works) at IREL, Chavara

विडूर निविदा फार्म http://irel.co.in or CPPP वेबसाइट से डाउनलोड कर सकते है। निविदा मे कोई शुद्धिपत्र/विस्तार वेबसाइट में ही डाल सकते हैं।

Bidder may download tender document from http://irel.co.in or CPPP website. Any corrigendum/extension to above tenders shall be hosted in above website only.

CBC 48139/12/0006/2425 ह0/- प्रधान, चवरा/Sd/- Head, Chavara

DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS UDHAMPUR
Email: sspoudh@jkpolice.gov.in
Fax: 01992-270027, Phone: 01992-270210

Look Out Notice

As reported by Dy. SP Hqrs. Udhampur vide his office letter No. HQU/2024/6565-66 dated 24.06.2024 that on 22.06.2024 complainant namely Bansi Lal S/O Late Baba Ram R/O Seen Brahmana Tehsil and District Udhampur lodged a missing report at PP Tikri (PS Rehambal), alleging therein that his son namely Rakesh Kumar is missing from home since 18.06.2024. On this, a missing report has been entered vide DDR No.14 dated 22.06.2024 at PP Tikri (PS Rehambal) The Photograph/descriptive roll of missing person is as under-

Photo	Description
	Name = Rakesh Kumar
	Son of = Bansi Lal
	Residence = Seen Brahmana Tehsil and District Udhampur
	Age = 33 years
	Complexion = Wheatish
	Body Built = Healthy
	Height = 5 feet
	Face = Round
	Wearing = Blue colour pent & Shirt

It is therefore requested that sharp lookout may please be maintained and if traced out or any clue leading to the whereabouts of the said missing person is received, an information may kindly be shared on below mentioned Telephone Nos./Fax/e-mail addresses for further course of action.

Email: sspoudh@jkpolice.gov.in
Fax: 01992-270027, Phone: 01992-270210
Police Station Rehambal Phone No.: 01992-224212.
SHO P/S Rehambal: 7006676152, Incharge PP Tikri: 9797802097
PCR Udhampur: 01992-276915

No.:Rdr/Look out Notice/2024/39781-802 Dated 24.06.2024
DIP-J-1957-24

Sd/-
Sr. Superintendent of Police
District Udhampur (J&K)

WESTERN RAILWAY - AHMEDABAD DIVISION
SCHEDULE MAINTENANCE AND ESCORTING CONTRACT

E- TENDER - NOTICE No.: Sr.DEE/ADI/ 18 (24-25) dt.- 21.06.2024 **Tender No.:** EL-50-1-ADI- T-29-2024-25 **Name of work:** Schedule maintenance and escorting contract of Greaves make diesel engine Alternator set and accessories installed in power cars in trains of Ahmedabad division for 2 years. **Estimated cost:** ₹79145707.5

Earnest Money: ₹5,45,700/- **Date and time of submission:** Not later than 15:00 Hrs. of 18.07.2024 **Date and time of opening:** 18.07.2024 at 15.30 Hrs. **Address of the office:** Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, D.R.M. Office (W.R.), Near Chamunda bridge; Opp: G.C.S. hospital, Naroda road, Amdupura, Ahmedabad- 382345. **Website details:** www.ireps.gov.in 86

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WESTERN RAILWAY - AHMEDABAD DIVISION
PROVIDING PROJECT SUPERVISION SERVICES (Gati Shakti Unit)

E-Tender Notice No. GS/ADI/PSSA/24-25/04-R1 Deputy Chief Engineer (Gati Shakti), Western Railway, Ahmedabad for and on behalf of President of Union of India invites e-Tender for following work. **(1) Name of work with its location :** E Tender No. GS/ADI/PSSA/24-25/04-R1 Request for Proposal (RFP) for providing Project Supervision Services (PSS) for the works "Various Construction Sites on Ahmedabad jurisdiction of Chief Project Manager (Gati Shakti) Unit Ahmedabad Division in Western Railway." being executed by Chief Project Manager (GS) ADI's unit. **(2)Approx cost of work :** ₹5,47,28,094.00 Rs.Five Crores Forty Seven Lakhs Twenty Eight Thousand Ninety Four only) **(3)Earnest money to be deposited :** ₹4,23,700.00 **(4)Tender form fees :** Nil **(5)Completion period of work :** 24 months of Construction Period and 24 months of Defects Liability Period] **(6)Closing date & time of E-tender :** Date-25.07.2024 Time-15:00 Hrs **(7)Website particulars Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen & address of the office :** Office of Chief Project Manager /Gati Shakti, "A" Wing, 4th Floor, Nirman Bhavan, Near DRM office, Western Railway, Ahmedabad-382345. Website :www.ireps.gov.in 84

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राजीव गांधी प्रौद्योगिकी विश्वविद्यालय
एयरपोर्ट रोड, भोपाल-462033
दूरभाष : 0755-2678899, फैक्स : 0755-2742006
एफ-3/रागांप्रौवि/प्रशा./2024/1918 भोपाल, दिनांक : 26.06.2024

दिव्यांगजनों के रिक्त पदों की पूर्ति हेतु विज्ञप्ति

राजीव गांधी प्रौद्योगिकी विश्वविद्यालय, भोपाल विशेष भर्ती अभियान अंतर्गत दिव्यांगजनों के रिक्त पदों की पूर्ति हेतु आरक्षित सहायक ग्रेड-3, प्रयोगशाला परिचालक एवं चतुर्थ श्रेणी/भृत्य के लिए पात्र उम्मीदवारों से आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है। सम्पूर्ण विवरण विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट **www.rgpv.ac.in** पर उपलब्ध है।

म.प्र. माध्यम/115073/2024 **कुलसचिव**

उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग
हरिद्वार
पिन कोड- 249404

पत्रांकः 104/46/ई-1/डी0आर0(पी0सी0एस0)/2020-21 दिनांकः 26 जून, 2024

विज्ञप्ति

'उत्तराखण्ड सम्मिलित राज्य सिविल/प्रवर अधीनस्थ सेवा परीक्षा-2021' एतद्द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि 'उत्तराखण्ड सम्मिलित राज्य सिविल/प्रवर अधीनस्थ सेवा परीक्षा-2021' हेतु प्रकाशित विज्ञापन संख्या : A-1/E-1/PCS-2021/2021-22 दिनांक 10 अगस्त, 2021, अतिरिक्त विज्ञापन/शुद्धि-पत्र दिनांक 07 दिसम्बर, 2021 एवं शुद्धि पत्र दिनांक 12 जनवरी, 2022 के सापेक्ष दिनांक 23 से 26 फरवरी, 2023 तक सम्पन्न मुख्य परीक्षा का परिणाम विज्ञप्ति संख्या : 186/11/PCM(M)-21/G-1/2023-24 दिनांक 27 फरवरी 2024 एवं विज्ञप्ति संख्या : 01/11/PCM(M)-21/G-1/2023-24 दिनांक 05 अप्रैल, 2024 द्वारा जारी किया गया है, जिसके माध्यम से कुल 902 (889+13) अभ्यर्थियों को औपबन्धिक रूप से सफल घोषित किया गया है। उक्त अभ्यर्थियों में से समेकित पद एवं विशेष अर्हता वाले पदों के सापेक्ष सफल अवशेष 59 अभ्यर्थियों का साक्षात्कार दिनांक 03 व 04 जुलाई, 2024 को निर्धारित है।

2. अभ्यर्थियों का अनुक्रमांकवार एवं तिथिवार साक्षात्कार कार्यक्रम, साक्षात्कार-ज्ञाप आयोग की वेबसाईट **psc.uk.gov.in** पर उपलब्ध है। अभ्यर्थी निर्धारित तिथि को साक्षात्कार कार्यक्रम में उल्लिखित समयानुसार मूल अभिलेखों एवं साक्षात्कार शुल्क के साथ साक्षात्कार हेतु उपस्थित होना सुनिश्चित करें। अभ्यर्थियों को पृथक से डाक द्वारा साक्षात्कार ज्ञाप प्रेषित नहीं किये जायेंगे।

3. प्रश्नगत मुख्य परीक्षा के परिणाम में साक्षात्कार हेतु औपबन्धिक रूप से सफल घोषित अभ्यर्थियों में से विज्ञापन की शर्तानुसार विभिन्न कारणों से अनर्ह अभ्यर्थियों की सूची भी आयोग की वेबसाईट **psc.uk.gov.in** पर प्रसारित कर दी गयी है। अभ्यर्थी उक्त सूची का आयोग की वेबसाईट पर अवलोकन अवश्य कर लें। अनर्ह घोषित अभ्यर्थियों को अपना प्रत्यावेदन **दिनांक 03 जुलाई, 2024 (बुधवार)** तक आयोग कार्यालय में पुष्ट साक्ष्य सहित प्रस्तुत करना आवश्यक होगा। उक्त तिथि के पश्चात् किसी भी माध्यम से प्राप्त प्रत्यावेदन पर आयोग द्वारा विचार नहीं किया जाएगा। **आयोग कार्यालय द्वारा जारी अनर्ह सूची के सापेक्ष अभ्यर्थी द्वारा प्रस्तुत साक्ष्य सहित प्रत्यावेदन के क्रम में मा0 आयोग द्वारा यदि उन्हें अर्ह किया जाता है तो ऐसे अभ्यर्थियों का साक्षात्कार दिनांक 10.07.2024 को आयोजित किया जायेगा।**

(जी0 एस0 रावत) सचिव

यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
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सार्वजनिक सूचना

निम्नलिखित भूमि यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण द्वारा अपनी सहमति के आधार पर काश्तकारों से क्रय किया जाना प्रस्तावित है:-

ग्राम चकजलालाबाद, तकीपुर बांगर, मौहम्मदाबाद खेडा सैक्टर 22ई व भुन्नातगा सैक्टर 33 के अन्तर्गत

क्र. सं.	सैक्टर/ग्राम का नाम	खाता संख्या	खसरा संख्या	खसरे का कुल क्षेत्रफल (हे0 में)	खातेदार का नाम व पता	तहसील से प्राप्त रिपोर्ट के आधार पर काश्तकार का हिस्सा	काश्तकार का विक्रय हेतु क्षेत्रफल (हे0 में)
1.	22ई चकजलालाबाद	28	83 84 86/1	0.2910 0.2530 0.2020	चन्द्रदत्त सिंह पुत्र डम्बर सिंह निवासी रौनीजा, हाल नि0 रबुपुरा परगना व तहसील जेवर, जनपद गौतमबुद्धनगर।	1/2 1/2 1/2	0.1455 0.1265 0.1010
2.	22ई चकजलालाबाद	28	83 84 86/1	0.2910 0.2530 0.2020	अशोक कुमार पुत्र डम्बर सिंह निवासी रौनीजा, हाल नि0 रबुपुरा परगना व तहसील जेवर, जनपद गौतमबुद्धनगर।	1/2 1/2 1/2	0.1455 0.1265 0.1010
3.	22ई चकजलालाबाद	23	80/2 81स 84/2स	0.2400 0.0890 0.3130	चन्द्रपाल पुत्र सिकन्दर निवासी रौनीजा, तहसील जेवर, जनपद गौतमबुद्धनगर।	1/2 1/2 1/2	0.1200 0.0445 0.1565
4.	22ई चकजलालाबाद	23	80/2 81स 84/2स	0.2400 0.0890 0.3130	इन्द्रपाल पुत्र सिकन्दर निवासी रौनीजा, तहसील जेवर, जनपद गौतमबुद्धनगर।	1/2 1/2 1/2	0.1200 0.0445 0.1565
5.	22ई चकजलालाबाद	21 22	122 130	0.4050 0.9480	सुरेश पाल पुत्र चन्द्रपाल सिंह नि0 रौनीजा, तहसील जेवर, जनपद गौतमबुद्धनगर।	1/16 1/16	0.0253 0.0593
6.	22ई चकजलालाबाद	21 22	122 130	0.4050 0.9480	लक्ष्मण सिंह पुत्र चन्द्रपाल सिंह नि0 रौनीजा, तहसील जेवर, जनपद गौतमबुद्धनगर।	1/16 1/16	0.0253 0.0593
7.	22ई चकजलालाबाद	22 21	130 122	0.9480 0.4050	सत्यपाल पुत्र कुंवरपाल नि0 रौनीजा, तहसील जेवर, जनपद गौतमबुद्धनगर।	1/16 1/16	0.0593 0.0253
8.	22ई चकजलालाबाद	78 13	81म 89स	0.6070 1.2140	कल्लू व नेत्रपाल पुत्रगण भगत सिंह, गौरव भाटी व योगेश भाटी पुत्रगण नेत्रपाल नि0 रौनीजा, तहसील जेवर, जनपद गौतमबुद्धनगर।	2/3 4/9	0.4047 0.5396
9.	22ई तकीपुर बांगर	15	304/5	0.2530	आसमा पत्नी तौहीद नि0 खेरली भाव, तहसील सदर, जनपद गौतमबुद्धनगर।	सम्पूर्ण भाग	0.2530
10.	22ई तकीपुर बांगर	61	306	1.0210	कु0 रजनी पुत्री वेदपाल सिंह, गौरव व सौरभ पुत्रगण वेदपाल सिंह व सत्यवती पत्नी वेदपाल सिंह नि0 मौहम्मदाबाद खेडा, तहसील जेवर, जनपद गौतमबुद्धनगर।	1/2	0.5105
11.	22ई तकीपुर बांगर	209 61	305 306	0.2530 1.0210	कैलाश सिंह, लकेश सिंह व हरकेश सिंह पुत्रगण राजेन्द्र सिंह व श्रीमती मिथलेश देवी पत्नी राजेन्द्र सिंह नि0 मौहम्मदाबाद खेडा, तहसील जेवर, जनपद गौतमबुद्धनगर।	सम्पूर्ण भाग 1/2	0.2530 0.5105
12.	22ई तकीपुर बांगर	85	299	0.6700	श्रीमती शीला पत्नी हरिशचन्द नि0 मौहम्मदाबाद खेडा, तहसील जेवर, जनपद गौतमबुद्धनगर।	1/6	0.1116
13.	22ई तकीपुर बांगर	85	299	0.6700	मीना देवी पत्नी तेजप्रकाश नि0 मौहम्मदाबाद खेडा, तहसील जेवर, जनपद गौतमबुद्धनगर।	1/6	0.1117
14.	22ई तकीपुर बांगर	174	283	1.2240	विक्रम पुत्र महेश कुमार नि0 ए-30, सैक्टर-26, नौएडा जनपद गौतमबुद्धनगर।	1/4	0.3060
15.	22ई मौहम्मदाबाद खेडा	02	35	1.6090	मेघराज पुत्र पूरन नि0 मौहम्मदाबाद खेडा, तहसील जेवर, जनपद गौतमबुद्धनगर।	में से	0.3676
16.	33 भुन्नातगा	247	401	4.1400	ज्ञानेन्द्र शर्मा पुत्र सुरेश चन्द शर्मा नि0 पचोकरा, तहसील जेवर, जनपद गौतमबुद्धनगर।	में से	0.1265
17.	33 भुन्नातगा	91	430/1	0.4050	मुकेश कुमार पुत्र विक्रम सिंह नि0 भुन्नातगा, तहसील जेवर, जनपद गौतमबुद्धनगर।	में से	0.0632
18.	33 भुन्नातगा	208 209	408 400	1.4160 2.4810	मुकेश कुमार शर्मा व उमेश शर्मा पुत्रगण मदनला व शीला देवी पत्नी मदनलाल नि0 भुन्नातगा, तहसील जेवर, जनपद गौतमबुद्धनगर।	1/5 1/5	0.2832 0.4962
19.	33 भुन्नातगा	31	484स	0.3160	हरपाल पुत्र कल्लू नि0 भुन्नातगा, तहसील जेवर, जनपद गौतमबुद्धनगर।	सम्पूर्ण भाग	0.3160
20.	33 भुन्नातगा	213	470	3.2720	श्रीमती सीमा शर्मा पत्नी अशोक कुमार व श्रीमती देवी पत्नी जयप्रकाश नि0 भुन्नातगा, तहसील जेवर, जनपद गौतमबुद्धनगर।	में से	0.2220

उपरोक्त भूमि क्रय किये जाने में यदि किसी व्यक्ति को कोई आपत्ति है तो वह लिखित रूप में 15 दिन के अन्दर अधोहस्ताक्षरी को अपनी आपत्ति प्रस्तुत कर सकता है।

डिप्टी कलेक्टर

दिल्ली प्रौद्योगिकी विश्वविद्यालय
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क्रमांकः 1345 दिनांकः 24.06.2024

ई-निविदा सूचना सं. 01/2024-25

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(माधव शर्मा)
निदेशक - तकनीकी

Samwad/c/0000/2024

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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICES

9th Corrigendum to e-N.I.B. No. 12 of 2023-2024 of The Superintending Engineer & Project Director, Project Implementation Unit-I, circulated vide This office Memo No. **70-R/PIU-I,** Dated. 04.03.2024. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_679492_1. Bid Submission/Upload End Date/BID Due Date: **03.07.2024 upto 3.00 P.M.** in place of 25.06.2024 upto 3.00 P.M. Submission of Hard Copy of Bid (Technical only) /Bid Security/Power of Attorney etc: **04.07.2024 upto 3.00 P.M.** in place of 26.06.2024 upto 3.00 P.M. Opening of Technical BIDs: **05.07.2024 at 3.00 P.M.** In place of 27.06.2024 at 3.00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T. and Tender documents may be downloaded from: https://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- SE & PD, PIU-I, PWRD, GOVT. OF W.B.

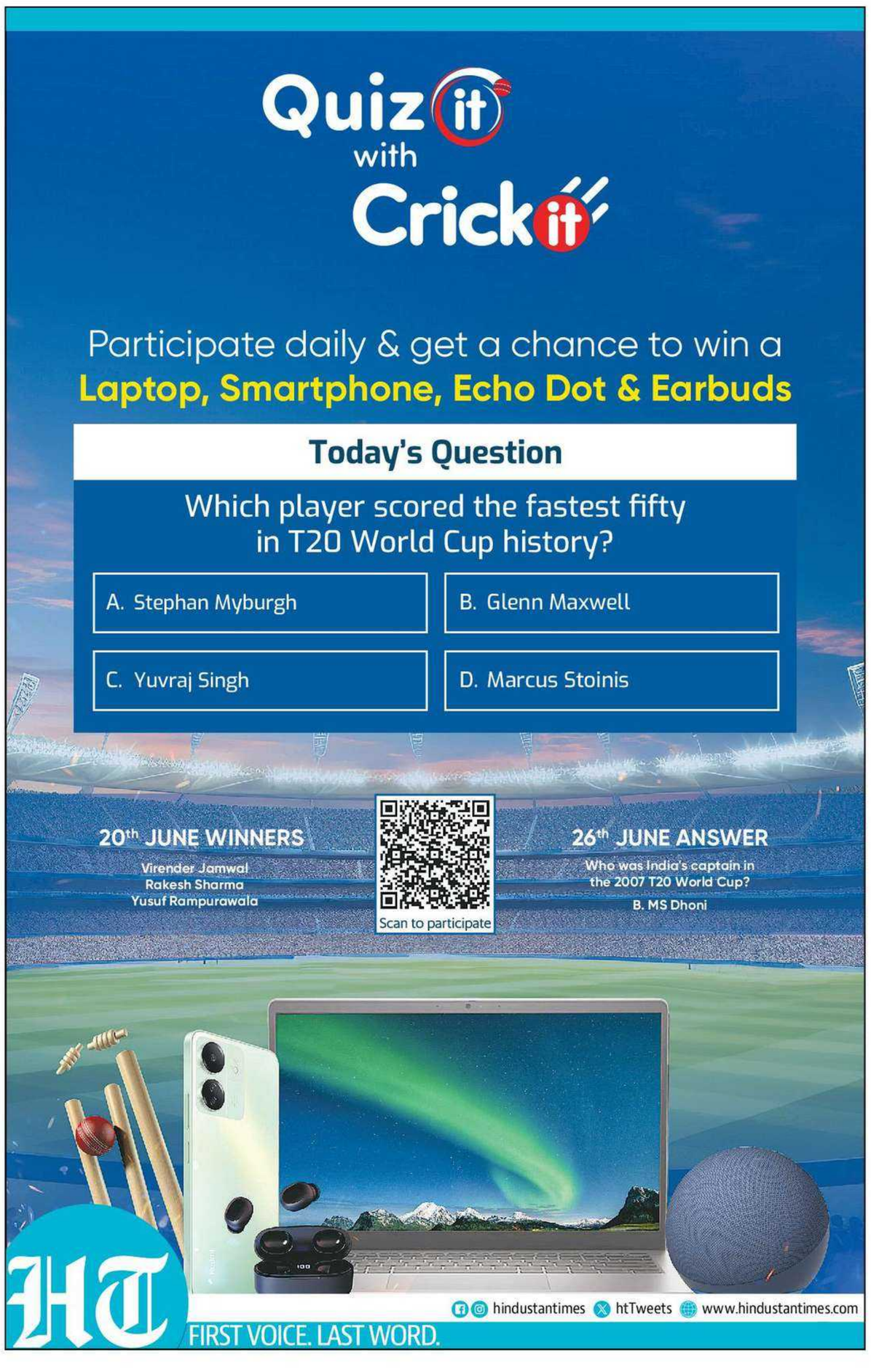
ICA- T9833(1)/2024

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION CIRCLE
U.P. JAL NIGAM (URBAN)
220, CIVIL LINES, MEERUT-250001
E-mail: gmypcugzb@gmail.com

Letter No.: 783 / NIVIDA / 93
Dated : 24.06.2024

E-TENDER NOTICE

U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) invites E-bids for execution of **"Supply soil investigation, design drawing, Supply of all materials, Labour, T&P etc. required for construction, erection, completion, testing and commissioning of water supply work such as CWR, Feeder main, Pumping main, related E&M work for Connection of 01 no. OHT (T.P. Nagar) from existing Ganga Jal feeder main and appurtenant works in Transport Nagar under Nagar Nigam Meerut Deposit Work as per specifications in tender document. The scope of work also includes trial run of 03 months and defect liability period of 12 months for civil works & 24 months for E&M works after completion of successful trial run. All completed and commissioned work shall be handed over to Nagar Nigam Meerut after 03 months successful trial run period."** are invited in two bid system on percentage basis from eligible, reputed and experienced bidder. E-bid documents will be available on U.P. Govt. e-procurement portal **https://etender.up.nic.in** and U.P.J.N. (Urban) website **www.jn.upsdc.gov.in** for download **from dated 27.06.2024 from 17:00 Hrs.** Pre-bid meeting will be held on **dated 08.07.2024 at 11:00 Hrs** in undersigned office. E-bids can be submitted **till 24.07.2024 up to 17:00 Hrs.** and technical bid shall be opened **on 25.07.2024 at 15:00 Hrs.** in the office of Superintending Engineer, Construction Circle, U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban), Meerut in presence of contractor or their authorized representative, E-tender Cost is **Rs. 10000.00 + GST @ 18%** for tender. Details are available on U.P. Govt. e-procurement portal **http://etender.up.nic.in** & U.P.J.N website **www.jn.upsdc.gov.in.**



The Hindustan Times
ESTABLISHED IN 1924

{ OUR TAKE }

House keys with Speaker Om Birla

He — and the treasury benches — need to gain the trust of a revitalised Opposition

The decision of the BJP to repeat Om Birla, the Speaker of the 17th Lok Sabha, for the office is of a piece with its intent to project stability and continuity in government. He was elected on Wednesday by a voice vote, a rare event for the last time an election was held for the office of the Speaker was in 1976 when the nation was under the dark blanket of the Emergency. The election, a departure from the convention of nearly half a century, also marks a lost opportunity for the government to build bridges with the Opposition. All that the treasury benches needed to do was to assure the Opposition that it would concede to the latter's choice for the office of the deputy speaker, a convention followed until 2014. Such a gesture would have helped the new House to begin on a clean slate and bury the bitterness that defined relations between the government and the Opposition in the last term.

Speaker Birla would do well to recognise the sentiment in the speeches of the Opposition leaders who congratulated him on his appointment. Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav may have spoken for all of the Opposition when he said, "We expect that the Opposition's voice won't be crushed in the House." And the new Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi offered a hand of friendship: "Opposition would like to assist you in your work. I am confident you will allow us to speak in the House." The 17th Lok Sabha witnessed many acrimonious scenes and the perception of the Speaker as a non-partisan arbitrator of parliamentary proceedings took a hit following a flurry of suspensions of members: The last winter session of Parliament saw 146 MPs, all from the emaciated Opposition, getting suspended, 78 of them in a single day. In this chaos, many important legislations were turned into law without necessary debate or scrutiny.

The new House has a completely different look: A 236-member strong Opposition will be a different challenge for a 293-member NDA. It will require skillful floor management by the treasury benches if the House is to deliver on its mandate. Speaker Birla's inaugural address to the House was ominous as he invoked the Emergency to say that the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had imposed dictatorship on the country. The government can still retrieve lost ground — the onus on ensuring the smooth running of Parliament rests with the treasury benches — by inviting the Opposition to nominate the deputy speaker. A harmonious Parliament with bipartisan consensus is a welcome, and possible, idea.

Julian Assange and the battle for open society

Julian Assange walked free on Wednesday after a breakthrough plea deal with the United States that ended years of legal drama. Assange has long been a cause célèbre for founding WikiLeaks, a hacktivism operation that has been as revered as it has been reviled. WikiLeaks became best known in 2010 with the release of classified US military information, including chilling footage of a helicopter gunning down people in Baghdad and the airmen laughing about the "dead bastards". The people they killed included two *Reuters* journalists. Several such leaks exposed military excesses and abuse of power by religious and political leaders. On the other hand, WikiLeaks was also indicted for its role in leaking a tranche of Democratic emails, which was seen to have tilted the scales against the then presidential candidate Hilary Clinton.

WikiLeaks and Assange are a reminder of the intractable tension between the governed and the governors even in open, liberal democracies. Assange was helped by or, in turn, helped other whistle-blowers such as Chelsea Manning (who sourced the Iraq footage) and Edward Snowden. Then US President Barack Obama commuted Manning's sentence, while Snowden lives in self-imposed exile in Russia, fearing arrest for having exposed a sweeping American surveillance operation.

Whistle-blowing can be tricky — technology has changed the scale of data and care must be taken to protect the innocent. But as long as asymmetries remain between the State's power and its obligations, there is a moral imperative to protect those who expose wrongdoing. It is reassuring that Assange's ordeal has come to an end.

Delhi must act now to beat extreme heat

A modified definition of a heatwave to incorporate humidity would be a key first step to correctly quantify the scale of the problem in summer



By 2050, parts of India are projected to be too hot to be habitable AFP

Summer arrived early this year in India, bringing 50 degrees Celsius temperatures in several parts of the country. While India is no stranger to high heat and humidity during the summer months, the climate crisis is causing heatwaves to be longer, more frequent, and more intense. By 2050, parts of India are projected to be too hot in the summer to be habitable. Heat stress can cause a spectrum of health impacts, from reduced productivity to headache, nausea, cramps, increased heart rate to, eventually, heat stroke, organ failure and death. With less than 10% of Indians having access to air conditioning today, there have been several reports of deaths, and thousands have been hospitalised due to heat stroke during the May-June heatwaves.

Humid heat can be more lethal than dry heat as the body is unable to cool down by sweating. The combination of temperature and humidity is captured in the heat index, which gives an indication of "perceived heat stress as experienced by a healthy adult resting in the shade with access to water". Revised heat index calculations by University of California, Berkeley, professor David Romps have demonstrated that a temperature of 39 degrees Celsius in conjunction with 70% humidity and above, or 45 degrees Celsius with 45% humidity and above, could result in heat exhaustion, stroke, and even death. In Patna, Bihar, the afternoon of May 30 saw a temperature of 37 degrees Celsius with humidity reaching 80%. These conditions are equivalent to a heat index of 74, when the body's core temperature begins to rise due to heat retention. And in direct sunlight, the heat index was deadly at 82.

In such conditions, it is critical to protect vulnerable groups such as outdoor manual workers, the homeless, children, the elderly, or those without access to cooling. About half of India's adult workforce (over 300 million individuals) is engaged in labour-intensive jobs such as agriculture, manufacturing, construction and street vending that involve direct exposure to heat stress. These manual workers are disproportionately affected by the heatwaves and currently are left to fend for themselves. Projections by the International Labour Organization, assuming a conservative global temperature rise of 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of this century, indicate that India could see a 5% loss to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2030 due to the impact of heat stress on labour productivity unless measures are taken.



Shruti M Deorah



Ashok Gadgil

There is sufficient evidence to suggest that the deaths due to heat stress are undercounted, as the cause of death could present as heart attack, kidney failure, etc. Recent research by Jeroen de Bont of the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden and others quantifies additional deaths due to heatwaves across India's ten largest cities. They find that two-day heatwaves can cause a bump of 15% in daily average deaths, while a five-day intense heatwave can push up daily deaths by over 30%. This would amount to tens of thousands of additional deaths if an intense five-day heatwave occurred everywhere in India just once during the summer season, making a single intense heatwave the most lethal annual disaster.

Over the last decade, both the Union and several state governments have devised programmes to increase awareness of and deploy early warning systems for heatwaves, as well as enhance the preparedness of public health infrastructure during the summer months. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued guidelines for the prediction and management of heatwaves, based on which 17 states have prepared Heat Action Plans (HAPs) for responding to extreme heat. However, most HAPs fall short on several fronts, including accounting for humid heat, hot nights and urban heat island effects, delineating adequate funding, and long-term infrastructure interventions to prevent heat deaths.

A modified definition of a heatwave to incorporate humidity would be a key first step to quantifying the scale of the problem correctly. A revised heat index that accounts for thermal load from direct exposure to the sun, as well as internal heat generation due to manual labour, should be assessed. The HAPs should be based on heat index projections to prepare for a warmer future. Secondly, a district-level vulnerability assessment to prioritise interventions for high-risk regions is urgently needed. This mapping should include variables such as population density, temperature and humidity patterns, per capita income and the share of the population employed in manual casual work. In the medium-term, HAPs must expand their interventions to include access to cooling shelters. Public spaces such as community centres, schools and libraries, can be fitted with air conditioning and stocked with water and electrolytes for a low-cost upgrade to function as a cooling shelter. For example, in the United States, 80-plus cities have put in place 1,400-plus cooling shelters to protect the vulnerable during heatwaves. In the long-run, creating a network of cooling shelters that use passive cooling methods in times of grid failures would be critical.

Long-term interventions have to combine regulatory measures with local heat resilience and investment in research and development (R&D). For instance, increasing green cover in urban spaces that are suffering from the heat island effect could help assuage the situation. However, cities must select the tree species for planting today that can withstand the projected temperatures 20 years hence and are drought-resistant. Light-coloured concrete or reflective paint on footpaths, roads and building roofs can reduce the ambient temperature during the day and night. Regulatory enforcement would be key as landlords are unlikely to invest on their own for the benefit of tenants and renters. Lastly, attention is also needed in urban slums where roofing materials such as corrugated galvanised iron sheets create oven-like conditions inside the informal settlements. Modular roofing slabs made of agricultural and packaging waste can help reduce indoor temperatures by over 5 degrees Celsius.

Institutions and the public infrastructure in India are not ready for the monstrous beast of extreme heat that will mark the climate crisis. The government needs to prioritise the allocation of the R&D budget for developing, validating and disseminating creative and cost-effective solutions to minimise loss of life, productivity, and GDP due to heat stress and other impacts of the climate crisis. Significant investment in institutional preparedness and adaptive measures are urgent and critical for India to build resilience to the new grave threats from a warming planet.

Shruti M Deorah and Ashok Gadgil are with the India Energy & Climate Center, University of California, Berkeley. The views expressed are personal

Reaching for the sky on a wing and a prayer

On June 13, Madhya Pradesh (MP)'s newly appointed chief minister (CM) Mohan Yadav announced the PM Shri Vayu Seva, a new air service connecting eight cities in the culturally rich and geographically vast state. The Dil Se Dil Ki Yatra, under the aegis of the MP tourism board, promised to connect Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Rewa, Ujjain, Gwalior, Singrauli and Khajuraho through an air service starting June 16 to improve access between tourist spots in the state. The press release that followed the announcement carried a photograph of the two aircraft that will fly on the routes. The release added that travellers can book tickets and get information about the offers, schedules and fare details at www.flyola.in.



Anjuli Bhargava

The idea seemed a good one. However, there wasn't much available on the website that could validate the antecedents and credentials of those offering this new intra-state air service. After talking to industry insiders and officials at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) officials, I learnt that S Ram Ola, the managing director of FlyOla, had landed on the Indian aviation scene after outbidding rivals by a large margin to win the bid to set up a flying training organisation (FTO) at Khajuraho. His firm was one of the eight private players selected by the government — a majority of which are yet to take off — when the Airport Authority of India liberalised the flying training policy back in 2021.

Although the FTO he bid and won is yet to see the light of day, Ola, with a never-say-die attitude, has now opted to launch this latest service, probably realising that this might be easier to get off the ground than a certified flying school with instructors and students. As a former Jet captain pointed out wryly: "It is easier to become a Member of Parliament in India than set up a flying school or any aviation-related business." At first glance, FlyOla appears to be one of many examples of organisations with little or no proven track record to speak of being given clearances and licences that entrust them to undertake operations such as passenger flights.

FlyOla is not unique. Sometime last year, I was approached by public relations executives who were seeking coverage for their client Zooom (yes, triple "o"; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zooom_Air) which had been given a permit to operate flights as a scheduled operator. Later I learnt that this was the rechristened avatar of Zoom Air (presumably with an additional letter "o" inserted for good luck), promoted by Zexus Air Services which had started services in February 2017 but faced suspension of its licence in July 2018. The permit was revived in December 2019 and the airline operated very briefly until it went bankrupt and was declared insolvent, which led to the revocation of its flying permit.

Post Covid-19, a fresh licence to operate was issued to the airline in September 2023, and Zooom took to the skies at the end of January 2024. At the time I was contacted by the PR team, I made attempts to reach the airline CEO Atul Gambhir to get a better understanding of their plans but to no avail.

Nonetheless, in its new avatar, the operator began flying thrice a week between Delhi and Ayodhya, which had for a short time become the hotspot for all Indian carriers following the inauguration of the Ram mandir. At the time of writing this article, the service had been discontinued for reasons yet unknown although industry watchers and insiders speculated that Ayodhya's own fall from grace in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections might have played a role!

Although these are two very recent instances, the history of aviation in India has been littered with such examples, where the abilities, financial worthiness, intentions, credentials and antecedents of the founders of various aviation-related businesses have been more than suspect and which led to many failed ventures, closures and bankruptcies, leaving a trail of unpaid dues and many disillusioned employees in its wake. The sector attracts more than the usual share of fly-by-night players, most of whom are attracted by the glamour, the lure of the (non-existent) lucre, or both.

Both the instances cited above raise larger, regulatory, questions: Can Zooom reapply and hope to reinvent itself yet again, perhaps as Zoooom (with four "o"s)? How exactly do India's safety regulator and other authorities assess and validate these startups? Who will be responsible in case of any mishaps? Who does the public turn to in such situations?

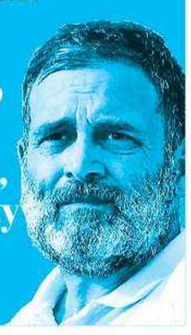


The history of aviation in India has been littered with examples where the abilities, financial worthiness, and credentials of the founders of various aviation-related businesses have been more than suspect and led to many failed ventures HT PHOTO

Anjuli Bhargava is a senior journalist who writes on governance, infrastructure and the social sector. The views expressed are personal

{ RAHUL GANDHI } LEADER OF OPPOSITION IN LOK SABHA

The people expect the Opposition to defend the Constitution of India... By allowing the Opposition to speak, you (the Speaker) will do your duty of defending the Constitution



HT

How WikiLeaks shook up the Western world order

The freeing of Julian Assange, the Australian activist and founder of the whistle-blowing website, WikiLeaks, through a plea bargain after 14 long years in isolation, uncertainty and imprisonment has ended a saga that holds a mirror to defining issues of our time. His high-profile ordeal reflects fundamental debates relating to press freedom and the role of the news media in the internet age, the conflict between national security establishments and anti-war movements, and the alliances and rivalries in international politics that impinge upon acts of individual courage and defiance.

Assange's ordeal began in 2010, when his guerrilla media operation used cyber hacking tactics to publicly release a massive trove of classified American military documents which exposed the dark side of the United States (US)'s then ongoing wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. It was a daring digital strike meant to mobilise public opinion against what Assange and his band of progressives considered Washington's illegal and immoral wars being waged in the name of a "global war against terrorism".



Sreeram Chaulia

Motivated by the ideal of speaking truth to power and uncovering the excesses and abuses of the US's military machine, including killings of innocent civilians, Assange became a global icon for opponents of American neo-imperialism in developing countries. Advocates of press freedom believed that Assange broke through a web of deception and cover-up in which mainstream western news media houses were invested, and heralded a new transparent era where unfiltered information could fulfill citizens' "right to know" about their rulers' misdeeds.

But since WikiLeaks was not a traditional media institution with editorial discretion, and given the indiscriminate and damning military and diplomatic cables and content it kept disclosing, the American establishment went after it on grounds that its recklessness was endangering the lives of US troops, diplomats and their local collaborators in sensitive parts of the world. The so-called American deep State saw in Assange a threat to its viability and sought his arrest and extradition to set a punitive deterrent for other cyber activists who might dare to emulate him.

WikiLeaks also rubbed the entrenched political class in the US up the wrong way by releasing emails that damaged Hillary Clinton's presidential election chances in 2016. If angry "super-empowered individuals", as Thomas Friedman put it, could "increasingly act on the world stage directly, unmediated by a State", the very order in which formal institutions dictate terms could be upended. Hounding Assange was felt to be absolutely necessary to preempt a transnational movement that might undermine America's freedom to intervene globally and challenge the legitimacy of western democracies.

One big ideological division that Assange's troubles revealed was between the Global Right and the Global Left. The US mobilised its allies and partners like Britain and Sweden to apply legal pressure on Assange, who, in turn, found asylum in the embassy of socialist-ruled Ecuador in London for seven years. The line-up of governments and voices demanding that Assange be freed as opposed to those baying for his blood displayed the fault lines of an international order where western dominance was being contested.

Assange was both a victim and a beneficiary of the intense competition to set the terms for a new world order. He could avoid arrest and prison while stranded in the UK until 2019 because his case turned into a cause célèbre for worldwide anti-colonialist sentiment. WikiLeaks allegedly received the help of Russia in its propaganda campaign to sow doubts about the quality of democracy in the US. Ultimately, the plea bargain that enabled his freedom was possible due to internal pressure on the Joe Biden administration from American liberals, and also due to the concerns of the US's ally, Australia, which had been seeking closure on the unending agony of one of its most famous citizens.

In hindsight, did Assange, who suffered greatly in terms of his personal liberties, succeed in his struggle against western hypocrisy and hegemony? Champions of press freedom have decried the dangerous precedent that he was forced to admit guilt for committing conspiracy in order to finally win freedom. But in a political sense, Assange did manage to let the genie out of the bottle. The 2013 leak by Edward Snowden of top-secret information about global surveillance programmes by American intelligence agencies, and continued efforts by online whistle-blowers to unearth dirty truths about western shenanigans, suggest that Assange has lit a fire that is not extinguishable. The hesitation in Washington to directly intervene in costly unwinnable wars abroad, which we see these days, may even be termed a moral victory for Assange. Ultimately, he might be vindicated for contributing in a small way to ushering in a post-western world order.

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WORLD

WARRING SIDES IN SUDAN USING STARVATION AS A WEAPON OF WAR: EXPERTS

Associated Press
letters@hindustantimes.com

CAIRO: Human rights experts working for the United Nations on Wednesday accused Sudan's warring parties of using starvation as a war weapon, amid mounting warnings about imminent famine in the African nation.

Sudan plunged into chaos in April last year when simmering tensions between the country's military and a notorious paramilitary group, the Rapid Support Forces, exploded into open fighting in the capital, Khartoum and elsewhere in the country.

Fourteen months of fighting have killed over 14,000 people and wounded 33,000 others, according to the United Nations, but rights activists say the toll could be much higher.

There were widespread reports of rampant sexual violence and other atrocities that rights groups say amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. The conflict created the world's largest displacement crisis with over 11 million people forced to flee their homes.

"Both the SAF and the RSF are using food as a weapon and starving civilians," the experts said, using initials for the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces. "The extent of hunger and displacement we see in Sudan today is unprecedented and never witnessed before," they said.

The experts warned that famine has become imminent in the country as humanitarian aid has been blocked and harvest season was disrupted because of the war. They added that more than 25 million civilians in Sudan and those who fled the country are being starved and need urgent humanitarian assistance.

A report by Clingendael Institute said last month that around 2.5 million people in Sudan could die from hunger by the end of September, with about 15% of the population in the regions of Darfur and Kordofan being likely the worst affected.

Independent experts stated that local efforts to address Sudan's crisis have been hindered by unprecedented violence on civil society and responders. Dozens of activists and volunteers have been arrested, threatened, and prosecuted in recent weeks.

After long battle, Assange returns home a free man

Assange was accused of receiving and publishing thousands of war logs that included details of US military wrongdoings in Iraq, Afghanistan

Agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com

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

The criminal case of international intrigue, which had played out for years, came to a surprise end in a most unusual setting with Assange, 52, entering his plea in a US district court in Saipan, the capital of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The American commonwealth in the Pacific is relatively close to Assange's native Australia and accommodated his desire to avoid entering the continental United States.

Assange was accused of receiving and publishing hundreds of thousands of war logs and diplomatic cables that included details of US military wrongdoing in Iraq and Afghanistan.

His activities drew an outpouring of support from press freedom advocates, who heralded his role in bringing to light military conduct that might otherwise have been concealed from view and warned of a chilling effect on journalists.

Among the files published by WikiLeaks was a video of a 2007 Apache helicopter attack by American forces in Baghdad that killed 11 people, including two Reuters journalists.

As Assange raised his right fist when he emerged for the plane, 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 Assange and father John Shipton who were waiting on the tarmac.

"He described it as a surreal and happy moment, his landing here in our national capital, Canberra," Prime Minister Anthony Albanese told reporters in Parliament House.

"I had a very warm discussion with him this evening. He was very generous in his praise of the Australian government's efforts." Assange was accompanied on the flights by Australian Ambassador to the United States Kevin Rudd and High Commissioner to the United Kingdom Stephen Smith, both of whom played key roles in negotiating his freedom with London and Washington.

White House was not involved in Assange case

Meanwhile, the White House was not in any way involved in the case of Assange, national security spokesman John Kirby said on Wednesday.

"That was a Department of Justice matter and they're the only ones that can speak to it," he told a briefing call for reporters.

Assange's lawyer Jennifer Robinson, speaking outside the Saipan court, thanked Albanese "for his statesmanship, his principled leadership and his diplomacy, which made this outcome possible."

However, it is unclear where Assange will go from Canberra and what his future plans are.

"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," Pollack told reporters outside the Saipan court.

The plea deal required Assange to admit to one felony, allowing him to return to Australia without serving time in a US prison. The judge sentenced him to the five years he had already spent behind bars in the UK fighting extradition to the US on an Espionage Act indictment that could have carried a lengthy prison sentence in the event of a conviction.



Julian Assange gets off a plane after arriving at Canberra Airport. AFP

Saipan, setting for Assange's last battle, bemused by fuss

Associated Press
letters@hindustantimes.com

SAIPAN: It was a peculiar setting to the final act in a legal drama that has now spanned the globe: a rural Western Pacific island, where visitors are usually tourists — attracted by laid-back resorts, snorkeling, diving and golf — and the furthermost reach of the US.

When Julian Assange stepped from a car on Wednesday to enter the Saipan courthouse, from which he would emerge hours later a free man, it was against a backdrop that could have adorned a travel brochure. Palm trees waved gently and verdant hills stood against a bright blue sky.

If the location felt bizarre to Assange, his sudden arrival — along with dozens of reporters from news outlets across the world — was equally startling to the 43,000 residents of the largest island and capital of the Northern Marianas, a territory of the US.

Fuelled by tourism, Saipan's economy is struggling to rebound after the coronavirus pandemic and a devastating typhoon in 2018, with a declining number of direct flights to the island vexing the local travel industry. Near the courthouse where Assange's spectacle unfolded, Hitomi Matagolai, a wedding planner, had come to windsurf off the beach because her business was slow.

"The hearing was not like, talk of the town here and people are not all that interested," she said. "People here have more important things to worry about, like their work, and that's what we talk about."

The so-called "Caribbean of the Western Pacific" has traditionally been a vacation spot for Japanese, Korean and Chinese tourists escaping wintry weather at home, said Mark Rabago, editor of the Saipan Tribune, a weekday newspaper.

"We haven't had this kind of publicity since the Miura case 15 years ago," Rabago said, referring to the case of businessperson Kazuyoshi Miura, who in 2008 was arrested in Saipan in connection with the death of his wife.

Accommodation providers, restaurants, law enforcement and tourism officials had "literally less than 24 hours" to prepare for the influx, said Christopher Concepcion, managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority. Police officers were deployed to the airport and the courthouse as the WikiLeaks founder arrived there and hotels reported a surge in bookings as reporters scrambled to find places to stay.

"We're used to seeing a bunch of tourists from east Asia, but seeing international media descend on the island all at once, if you will, has been an interesting phenomenon," Concepcion said.



A protester shouts as he tries to advance towards the police during a demonstration in Nairobi on Tuesday. AFP

{ FINANCE REFORM } SEVERAL KILLED

Kenya calls back bill that set off violent protests

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NAIROBI: In an unexpected turnaround, Kenyan president William Ruto announced on Wednesday that he would withhold his signature from a finance bill he previously supported as crucial for stabilising the country's economy.

This decision came in the wake of violent protests the previous day, resulting in the deaths of over two dozen people, The New York Times reported.

Human rights groups reported that, while the exact count was still being determined, 23 people lost their lives and more than 300 others were wounded.

This followed police deployment of tear gas and bullets to disperse demonstrators who had rallied at Parliament in opposition to the tax hikes proposed in the bill.

Following lawmakers' approval of the legislation, some protesters forcibly entered the Parliament building and ignited a fire. The fatalities from Tuesday's unrest mark one of the deadliest days in the nation's recent memory.

"Listening keenly to the people of Kenya who have said loudly that they want nothing to do with this finance bill, I concede, and therefore, I will not sign the 2024 finance bill, and it shall subsequently be withdrawn," Ruto said in an address to the country on Wednesday, as reported by The New York Times.

Seated behind him were lawmakers who, only a day prior, had voted to pass the bill in Parliament, despite facing vocal criticism from their constituents for backing the legislation.

The announcement marked a sudden shift for Ruto, who, in a speech on Tuesday night, referred to the protesters as "dangerous criminals" and "treasonous," and authorised the military to assist the police in suppressing the demonstrations. Last month, Ruto's administration introduced the finance bill to generate revenue through increased taxes.

The government justified the bill as essential to address the country's substantial debt, prevent loan defaults, and fund infrastructure projects such as roads, rural electrification, and agricultural subsidies.

However, the legislation sparked widespread public discontent, with critics contending that it would significantly raise the cost of living. Opponents of the bill also highlighted the extravagant lifestyles of Ruto and his administration, urging officials to curtail their expenditures.

A tense mood gripped major Kenyan cities on Wednesday after protesters stormed and set fire to Parliament the previous day, which Ruto called an "existential danger" to the nation. Some protesters vowed to march again on Thursday to protest the crackdown and mourn the dead.

Wind-driven wildfire spreads in central Oregon



The wind-driven Darlene 3 wildfire, burning on the outskirts of La Pine in central Oregon, US, grew to nearly 10 square kilometers on Wednesday. Officials said it was 30% contained, officials said, urging the continued evacuations of hundreds of homes in the area. AP

Malaysian financier to forfeit Warhol, Monet in 1MDB deal

Associated Press
letters@hindustantimes.com

KUALA LUMPUR: Jho Low, the fugitive Malaysian financier, will forfeit more than $100 million including a luxury Paris apartment and works by Claude Monet and Andy Warhol to settle civil forfeiture cases over his role in the 1MDB bribery and embezzlement scandal.

The US department of justice announced the forfeiture on Wednesday, after US district Judge Dale Fischer in Los Angeles approved a consent agreement with Low and his family on Monday. The forfeited assets are in addition to nearly $1 billion, opens new tab, including a $120 million "superyacht," that Low and his family previously forfeited.

Low still faces criminal money laundering and bribery conspiracy charges in Brooklyn, New York, over 1MDB, a sovereign wealth fund also known as 1Malaysia Development Berhad.

US and Malaysian authorities have said more than $4.5 billion was looted from 1MDB between 2009 and 2015, with some money sent to offshore bank accounts and shell companies linked to Low. The financier had helped former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak set up 1MDB to promote economic development.

Goldman Sachs, opens new tab, which helped 1MDB sell bonds, reached a $2.9 billion settlement in 2020 of a U.S. criminal case concerning 1MDB. The bank is not part of the civil forfeiture. Lawyers for Low did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The justice department said Low paid about $35 million for Monet's "Vetheuil au Soleil," Warhol's "Colored Campbell's Soup Can (Emerald Green), 1965" and the Paris apartment.

Low and his family will also give up $67 million of real estate and bank accounts in Hong Kong, Singapore and Switzerland. The justice department said it has helped return to Malaysia more than $1.5 billion associated with 1MDB, in the department's largest-ever civil forfeiture case.

SRI LANKA INKS FINAL PACTS TO RECAST $10 BILLION OF DEBT

Bloomberg
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COLOMBO: Sri Lanka reached final restructuring agreements worth $10 billion, including with an Official Creditor Committee of bilateral lenders and China's Exim Bank, providing much-needed relief to the beleaguered island nation.

Sri Lankan officials in Paris on Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding to restructure $5.8 billion of debt, finalising an initial agreement struck late last year with the group of official creditors led by France, India and Japan. Local authorities also on Wednesday reached a final agreement on debt treatment between Sri Lanka and China's Exim Bank worth $4.2 billion.

The debt overhaul will allow Sri Lanka to allocate funds to essential public services and secure concessional financing for development needs, the president's media division said in a statement.

Sri Lanka can now delay the payment of debt to foreign countries until 2028, President Ranil Wickremesinghe said in an address to the nation. The South Asian nation will subsequently repay loans on concessional terms until 2043, he said.

Making progress with debt restructuring is a crucial parameter to keep funding flowing from the International Monetary Fund, which has so far disbursed about a third of a $3 billion bailout for the South Asian economy.

Sri Lanka needs to continue securing further tranches of IMF aid to keep its economic recovery on track, with presidential elections expected before mid-October.

Sri Lanka's 6.75% 2028 dollar bond fell about half a cent to 59.6 cents on the dollar, according to indicative pricing compiled by Bloomberg, the most since mid-April. Dollar bonds maturing in 2027 and 2025 also fell by a similar amount.

Israeli lawsuit alleges UN agency aids Hamas by paying Gaza staff

Associated Press
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NEW YORK: Israelis who were taken hostage or lost loved ones during Hamas' October 7 attack are suing the United Nations agency that aids Palestinians, claiming it has helped finance the militants by paying agency staffers in US dollars and thereby funneling them to money-changers in Gaza who allegedly give a cut to Hamas.

But the agency, known as UNWRA, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that the staffers were paid in dollars by their own choice. Gaza and the Israeli-occupied West Bank don't have their own national currency, and primarily use Israeli shekels.

The lawsuit, filed on Monday in a US federal court in New York, marks the latest challenge to the beleaguered UN agency, which has been the main supplier of food, water and shelter to civilians during the Israel-Hamas war. "UNRWA's staff, facilities and ability to truck cash US dollars into Gaza formed a potent pillar of Hamas' plan to undertake the October 7 attack," the lawsuit says, asserting that the UN agency "systematically and deliberately aided and abetted Hamas and its goals."

UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini said on Tuesday that he learned of the case only through the media.

"I don't know what the status of this lawsuit is all about, but for the time being, I see this as an additional way to put pressure on the agency," he said at a press briefing in Geneva.

The suit also targets the agency's practice of paying its 13,000 Gaza staffers in US dollars, which are wired from a New York bank and transported into Gaza. According to the complaint, payroll totaled over $20 million monthly from 2018 to last September. UNRWA employees convert these dollars to Israeli shekels through local money-changers.

NATO NAMES DUTCH PM RUTTE AS NEXT BOSS

Agence France-Presse
letters@hindustantimes.com

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

Rutte will take over from Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg on October 1 after major powers -- spearheaded by the US -- agreed on his nomination.

"I know I am leaving NATO in good hands," Stoltenberg said on social media after NATO ambassadors approved the appointment.

{ SOUTH AFRICA } HOTSPOT FOR POACHING

Radioactive injection in rhino horns to curb poaching

Agence France-Presse
letters@hindustantimes.com

MOKOPANE: South African scientists on Tuesday injected radioactive material into live rhino 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 rhinos and as such 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 rhino 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, told AFP he had put "two tiny little radioactive chips in the horn" as he administered the radioisotopes on one of the large animals' horns.



A sedated rhino lies unconscious as professor James Larkin from the University of Witwatersrand implants radioisotopes into its horns in Mokopane, on Tuesday. AFP

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 rhino, put to sleep and crouched on the ground, did not feel any pain, Larkin said. The radioactive material's dose was so low it would not impact the animal's health or the environment in any way, he said.

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. This represents an 11% increase over the 2022 figures.

Twenty live rhinos in total would be part of the pilot Rhisotope project whereby they would be administered a dose "strong enough to set off detectors that are installed globally" at international border posts originally installed "to prevent nuclear terrorism", a pleased Larkin said, sporting a green hat and a khaki shirt.

Border agents often have handheld radiation detectors which can detect contraband in addition to thousands of radiation detectors installed at ports and airports, the scientists said.

Rhino horns are highly sought after on black markets, where the price by weight rivals that of gold and cocaine.

According to Arrie Van Deventer, the orphanage's founder, dehorning the rhino and poisoning the horns have failed to deter poachers.

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Govt may revive tax sop for new manufacturers

Concessional 15% corporate tax rate may bring investment into manufacturing

Gireesh Chandra Prasad

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NEW DELHI: The Union budget in July is likely to bring back the concessional 15% corporate tax rate for new manufacturing facilities, a scheme that ended on 31 March this year after being open for a little more than four years, two persons aware of the matter said.

The plan now is to extend this scheme by one to two years to facilitate fresh manufacturing investment, which is a priority for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government, one of the two persons cited above said on the condition of anonymity.

The concessional 15% corporate tax rate announced in September 2019 to attract fresh investments into manufacturing and to support "make in India" efforts was in effect from FY20 for businesses starting production till end of FY23, and was extended by a year to the end of FY24.



The lower corporate tax is available to businesses that do not make use of any other tax incentive. HT

The lower corporate tax is available to businesses that do not make use of any other tax incentive. Their effective tax rate, including surcharge and cess, could work out to about 17%. The move to extend the tax benefit goes well with the other policy measures being taken up to boost manufacturing, said experts.

"The concessional 15% corporate tax rate will naturally provide a boost to the manufacturing sector; and in conjunction with production-linked incentives where they are notified, it will give a strong push to investments and job creation, besides helping to achieve self-reliance in those sectors," said Sudhir Kapadia, tax partner at EY.

A spokesperson for the finance ministry did not reply to queries emailed on Tuesday.

The Centre wants to give a strong thrust to the manufacturing sector as it could generate well-paid employment to a large number of people currently engaged in low-paid farm activities. Besides adding jobs, the sector could capitalize on the enhanced public spending on infrastructure, foster innovation, make Indian businesses perform better in global markets and make the economy more resilient, say experts.

Manufacturing sector, which accounts for 14% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), expanded 9.9% in 2023-24, after suffering a 2.2% contraction in the financial year prior. India's manufacturing activity had slipped to a three-month low of 57.5 in May as intense heatwaves led to reduced working hours. But in June, the manufacturing purchasing managers' index increased to 58.5. A reading above 50 signals an expansion, and below that signals contraction.

Sandeep Sehgal, partner-tax at AKM Global, a tax and consulting firm, said that besides fiscal measures, tax proposals can also help in meeting the goals of boosting investments and job creation. Sehgal expressed hopes of a five-year extension of the timeline for commencing production under the concessional tax regime, beyond the previous deadline of 31 March 2024. On the indirect tax side, reducing GST and custom duty on key manufacturing inputs and capital goods can lower production costs and stimulate industrial growth, he said.

Spectrum auction closes early, nets govt ₹11,300 cr

Gulveen Aulakh

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NEW DELHI: India's spectrum auction for 2024 concluded on Wednesday with the government netting ₹11,300 crore from selling airwaves across bands, according to officials aware of the matter.

Bharti Airtel Ltd was the largest buyer of spectrum, winning bids in more than six circles where it was set to renew its spectrum holding.

"Auctions have concluded... Winning bidders are on expected lines since not much has changed since yesterday," said one of the officials, asking not to be named.

The first spectrum sale in two years wrapped up swiftly with just over 150MHz of airwaves sold across seven rounds of bidding, against the 10,523.2MHz of spectrum worth ₹96,320 crore that the government had put up for sale.

Analysts expect about 17% of the spectrum value to be sold this year, which could be the lowest in any auction since 2014. While revenue from spectrum sale was not separately stated in the interim budget for 2024-25, the overall revenue from the telecom sector is estimated at ₹1.2 trillion in the ongoing financial year.



Analysts expect about 17% of the spectrum value to be sold this year. REUTERS

Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea Ltd had collectively submitted ₹4,350 crore as earnest money deposit, allowing them to bid for 10-12 times the bid amount.

Reliance Jio, India's largest telecom firm, has deposited ₹3,000 crore, while Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea deposited ₹1,050 crore and ₹300 crore, respectively.

Airtel said it has acquired 97MHz spectrum in the 900MHz, 1800MHz and 2100MHz frequency bands for ₹6,857 crore, as it renewed spectrum expiring in 2024 and bought additional spectrum to bolster its mid-band holding across key circles.

Of the total, Airtel subsidiary Bharti Hexacom Ltd has acquired 15MHz with an outlay of ₹1,001 crore, the company said in a statement.

"In this auction, we have bolstered our sub giga hertz and mid band holding, which will significantly improve our coverage, especially indoor," Gopal Vittal, managing director and chief executive of Bharti Airtel, said in the statement.

Airtel and Vodafone Idea are bound to renew airwaves. Reliance Jio does not have to renew any spectrum.

This year's spectrum auction is expected to be limited in scale as compared with 2022, when 72,097.85MHz of radio frequencies were sold for a record ₹1.5 trillion.

That year, the government had put up 150,173MHz of airwaves on sale, including 5G spectrum for the first time, which led to record bidding.

According to data issued by the department of telecommunications on Tuesday, bidding was seen in the 900MHz, 1800MHz and 2100MHz bands, while no activity was seen in the 800MHz, 2500MHz, 26GHz and 3.3GHz bands. Analysts tracking the auctions said the 900MHz band, where Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea are present, saw demand in 11 out of 22 circles, with 35% of total available spectrum being won.

RIL, PRIVATE BANKS POWER MKTS TO SECOND STRAIGHT RECORD-HIGH DAY

Reuters

feedback@livemint.com

BENGALURU: Indian benchmarks logged record closing highs for the second straight session on Wednesday, led by gains in heavyweights Reliance Industries and private banks as investors looked for underheated pockets for better valuations and safety.

The NSE Nifty 50 added 0.62% to close the day at 23,868.80, while the S&P BSE Sensex settled 0.8% higher at 78,674.25.

The Nifty has hit record highs in eight out of 11 sessions.

It has gained about 6% in June so far, on course for its best month this year, helped by policy continuity, forecasts for better economic growth and the return of foreign inflows.

Oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance, which has the second-highest weightage on the Nifty, rose 4.1% to hit an all-time high. It has risen about 2% this fiscal year, less than the Nifty's 7% increase.

"Earnings-wise, these large-cap conglomerates like Reliance, most of the public sector banks and large private banks are solid. Institutional money is chasing these segments," said Aishvarya Dadheech, founder and chief investment officer at Fident Asset Management.

ICICI Bank, the country's No.2 private lender by market value, rallied for the seventh session in a row.

It added 1.7% on the day, helping private banks 0.6% higher.

Analysts have also said investors are rotating between sectors in search of valuation comfort and safety ahead of key events like the union budget and earnings season next month.

On the flip side, metals stocks shed 1.45% on soft global prices amid a strong U.S. dollar.

Vedanta declined 2.63% after its parent announced plans to sell a 2.6% stake to a group of institutional investors.

Small-cap stocks rose 0.25% on the day, while mid-cap stocks shed 0.22%.

New infra lender enters PSBs' turf

Shayan Ghosh

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MUMBAI: India's youngest infrastructure financier is elbowing into large project finance that has so far been the preserve of state-run banks, aided by its ability to raise cheap finance and give subsidized loans.

Designed as a development finance institution to support long-term projects, the National Bank For Financing Infrastructure And Development (NaBFID) took birth in 2021. Though it has been in the lending market for a while, it was a recent loan deal that made banks sit up and take note. In March, NaBFID outbid State Bank of India (SBI) for a ₹9,000 crore loan, two bankers aware of the matter said. While SBI, India's largest bank by assets, pitched 8.2% for a proposal by National Highways Authority of India's (NHAI's) infrastructure investment trust (InvIT) to raise ₹9,000 crore, NaBFID offered 8%.

"This made other lenders come to the negotiating table," one of the two bankers cited above said. The one-year NaBFID Lending Rate (NLR)—its benchmark rate—was at 8% in March, as per its website. It has since been raised to 8.2%.

Ultimately, the NHAI InvIT loan was sanctioned jointly by NaBFID and the other banks at a rate closer to 8%.

Emails sent to NaBFID, NHAI and SBI remained unanswered.

According to one of the two bankers cited above, NHAI's InVIT has been borrowing from banks led by SBI for the past couple of years. InvITs are collective investment vehicles to monetize infrastructure assets.

A second banker said the NHAI loan was made to the InvIT which has toll-earning assets. Moreover, NHAI's credentials ensure it gets some of the finest pricing on bank loans.

"For banks, it is a challenge to finance such long-duration projects because most loan agreements by commercial banks in project finance have a clause for



In March, NaBFID outbid SBI for a ₹9,000 crore loan. REUTERS

refinancing after seven to 10 years, whereas a development finance institution like NaBFID can sanction even 30-year loans," the banker said.

The Union road ministry on 19 March said the National Highways Infra Trust (NHIT), the investment trust set up by NHAI, has raised funds for national highway stretches totalling 889 km. "In the third round of monetization, NHIT has raised unit capital of around ₹7,272 crore from marquee domestic and international investors and debt of around ₹9,000 crore from Indian lenders, to fund the acquisition of National Highway stretches...," it said. The push by NaBFID aligns with the government's plan to invest heavily in infrastructure projects to drive economic growth.

To be sure, top lenders such as SBI have much bigger infrastructure loan portfolios. SBI's infrastructure loan book stood at ₹3.95 lakh crore as on 31 March, accounting for 12.2% of its aggregate loans. At Bank of Baroda and Punjab National Bank, infra loans were at ₹1.12 lakh crore and ₹98,494 crore, respectively, as on 31 March.

In comparison, NaBFID had outstanding loans of ₹35,342.4 crore in the same period, though cumulative sanctions of loans stood over ₹1 lakh crore . Rajkiran Rai G., managing director of NaBFID told Financial Express on 10 June that it has already disbursed ₹45,000 crore loans so far, and expects to grow the book to ₹93,000 crore by the end of FY25.

Isro arm NSIL inks $18 mn MoU with Australian govt

Shouvik Das

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NEW DELHI: The Australian government has signed an $18-million memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Space Research Organisation's (Isro's) commercial arm NewSpace India Limited (Nsil).

Under the partnership, announced in New Delhi by Australian high commissioner Philip Green on Wednesday, Australian firm Space Machines will launch a satellite inspection and observation payload aboard Isro's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) in 2026.

Rajat Kulshrestha, co-founder of Space Machines, said the payload will be the biggest Australian satellite launched to date.

S. Somanath, chairman of Isro, said eventual goal is 20-30 SSLV launches a year, based on the expected demand for small satellite launch rockets.

"While Australia has partnerships with multiple nations for space ventures, we are taking our engagement with India to the next level. The partnership will lead to Australian satellites being launched into orbit from Indian soil," Green said at the inaugural keynote at the Indian Space Congress 2024.

> ONCE THE BIDDING IS COMPLETED, SSLV WILL BE MANUFACTURED AND OPERATED BY THE PVT SECTOR

The partnership will involve several stakeholders in India's private space economy including domestic space-engineering firm Ananth Technologies, which has supplied components and engineering services to Isro in many previous missions.

Pawan Goenka, chairman of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (In-Space), a government-affiliated space promotions agency, confirmed that the SSLV was being privatised and that the bidding process was still ongoing.

Six bidders have been identified, but a final decision is yet to be taken, he said. Once completed, SSLV will be manufactured and operated by the private sector.

Somanath said at the event, "The Indian space economy has a long way to go. While Isro has the LVM-3 as its heaviest rocket, we need more capacity and capability to be able to reach the lunar orbit and land back on Earth. The next step after building this would be to further increase capacity and land an Indian on the moon, which will happen by 2040. Going forward, the gap between the strategic and civilian space industries is decreasing. This will be of help as our space economies progress."

The conference also saw Isro and the Australian government announce joint space conferences in November for more collaboration between the two space economies.

Shipping's green shift to get ₹15,000 cr push over 10 years

Subhash Narayan

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NEW DELHI: The shipping ministry is preparing a ₹15,000-crore viability gap funding (VGF) plan for companies to shift to greener vessels for inland water transport over the next 10 years, said two persons aware of the development.

"The concept of VGF and other incentives for turning Indian maritime segment green is under formulation and consideration," one of the people cited above said on the condition of anonymity, adding that the Inland Waterway Development Council (IWDC) is working on finalizing the scheme for this green transition, which would be similar to the FAME scheme for promotion of green automobiles.

Many ambitious projects fail to take off since they are financially unviable, and the government often steps up in such cases to provide so-called viability gap funding to support them.

"It should be rolled out soon after getting the finance ministry's approval," the person added.

Currently, diesel is the primary fuel for vessels, ferries and tugboats plying on inland waterways and certain coastal routes.



The shipping ministry has identified 25 river systems for developing IWT facilities. HT

The financial support to be extended under VGF is based on an estimate done by the shipping ministry, the first person cited above said.

Queries sent to the ministries of ports and finance remained unanswered.

"Converting diesel-run vessels to greener fuels such as LNG/CNG, electricity, green hydrogen, green methanol and more is essential for the sector," said Pushpank Kaushik, CEO of Jassper Shipping, a global logistics and ocean freight shipping company based in Hyderabad. "The VGF will make these projects more viable and attractive for private investors."

Overall, the shipping ministry has envisaged several key interventions, including promoting use of renewable energy, reducing air emissions, optimizing water usage, improving solid waste management and reducing carbon emission per tonne of cargo handled by 30% by 2030 and 70% by 2047, in its plan to de-carbonize the sector.

There are thought to be around 10,000 inland water transport vessels operating on inland waterway and coastal routes in the country, according to the ministry of shipping.

Their numbers are rising every year with the addition of new navigation routes on Indian rivers. The shipping ministry has identified 25 river systems for development of inland water transportation (IWT) facilities, including the Ganga river system, Brahmaputra river system, and the Cauvery river system.

"The shipping ministry also plans to roll out a significant package under this (VGF) scheme to boost the construction of inland vessels, which will enhance domestic maritime transport and aid India in green shipbuilding and become a leader in sustainable and safe maritime sector," said Kaushik of Jassper Shipping.

BPOs turn tech-led, poach senior execs from IT firms

Jas Bardia

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BENGALURU: Business process outsourcing (BPO) companies, including Firstsource Solutions Ltd and Genpact Ltd, have wooed more than a dozen senior executives from top information technology (IT) services companies over the past two years as they seek to scale up operations.

Nine out of 13 executives—ranked senior vice-president and above—joined RP-Sanjiv Goenka-owned Firstsource. Two executives were hired by Nasdaq-listed ExlService Holdings Inc., and one each joined Genpact and WNS (Holdings), per research by Mint based on press statements and LinkedIn searches.



Recruiters are divided over whether the rise of GenAI played a role in these job transitions. MINT

The executives previously worked with Accenture Plc, Tata Consultancy Services Ltd, Infosys Ltd, Tech Mahindra Ltd, Mphasis Ltd, Cognizant Technology Solutions Corp., Persistent Systems Ltd, and DXC Technology Co.

Analysts attributed the shift of senior talent to factors such as more lucrative and bigger roles for the executives at the outsourcing firms, a slowdown in IT services, and BPOs looking to scale up their operations. BPOs offer customer support to clients.

Recruiters were divided over whether the rise of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) played a role in these job transitions.

"The BPO world is becoming tech-oriented and driven by AI," said Navnit Singh, chairman and regional MD of executive search firm Korn Ferry. "In the future, the BPO work will be tech-driven and those companies will need people who understand that technology."

However, the managing director of an executive search firm downplayed the contribution of GenAI in this talent churn as of now, saying there was scope for it in the future.

One analyst said the slowdown in IT services companies led to talent shift from 2022.

"The general slowdown in IT services firms and the senior tenure of many executives present an opportunity for movement across the overall industry," said Ray Wang, CEO and principal analyst at Constellation Research.

Revenue for India's top two IT services companies, TCS and Infosys, grew 4.1% and 1.9% to end FY24 with $29.1 billion and $18.6 billion, respectively. TCS trimmed its headcount by 13,249 and Infosys by 25,994.

Revenue growth varied for BPO firms. EXL and WNS grew in double digits, reporting revenue of $1.6 billion and $1.3 billion in financial years ended December 2023 and March 2024, respectively. But, annual revenue at Genpact and Firstsource grew 2% each.

{ THE CROSSWORDS }

CRYPTIC CLUES

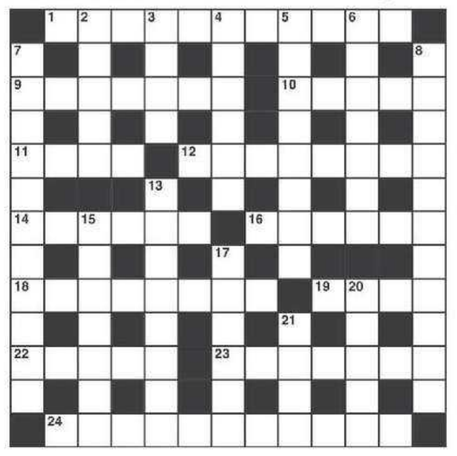
ACROSS

1 Unhappy about dud sterling (11)
9 It is suggested that one member was untruthful (7)
10 Child gets out of bed to do sums (3,2)
11 Note antique - it's valuable (4)
12 More of the same in Latin (2,6)
14 Change roles (6)
16 Well acquainted with the metric system (6)
18 Possibly press one for an answer (8)
19 An overhead light (4)
22 No permission for recesses (5)
23 Ended series having exceeded time allowed (7)
24 This form of state aid can be rather remote (2,1,8)

DOWN

2 Force politician into clumsy lie (5)
3 Once more without a profit (4)
4 Revamp a quiet duet somewhat (6)
5 Visibly in tears (8)
6 Values seem set for a change (7)
7 Only a personal impression but admissible as evidence (11)
8 Vicissitudes rarely encountered in Holland (3,3,5)
13 Uneasy pose employed when married (8)
15 Get rid of players on strike (4,3)
17 Legally prevents a posset being prepared (6)
20 Maurice has a heart of gold (5)
21 Girl getting rave review (4)

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QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

1 The poorer by a transaction (3,2,6)
9 Specialist in eye disorders (7)
10 Diminish gradually (5)
11 Competent (4)
12 Richly coloured (8)
14 To damage (6)
16 Fault-finder (6)
18 Sailor's dance (8)
19 Stimulus (4)
22 Period of darkness (5)
23 Total (7)
24 Precisely (2,3,6)

DOWN

2 Habitual (5)
3 Leave undone (4)
4 Regular customer (6)
5 Class (8)
6 Make productive use of (7)
7 Approach humbly (2,3,2,4)
8 Theatre's first gallery (5,6)
13 Send off (8)
15 Model of excellence (7)
17 Self-assurance (6)
20 Greek philosopher (5)
21 Adroit (4)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS (16896)

CRYPTIC



QUICK



{ SUDOKU }

DIFFICULTY LEVEL ★★★★★

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

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 9X9 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

{ WEATHER }

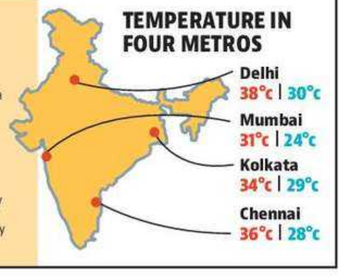
TEMPERATURE ■HIGH ■LOW

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Thunderstorm with rain	Generally cloudy sky with moderate rain	Generally cloudy sky with moderate rain
38°c | 30°c	38°c | 29°c	36°c | 28°c

ALMANAC
Today is 27th June 2024
- 20 Dhul Hijjah, 1445
- 06 Ashadha, Krishna Paksha, 06
- Samvat 2081

Sunset: Thursday at 07:22 p.m.
Sunrise: Friday at 05:25 a.m.
Moonset: Thursday at 10:41 a.m.
Moonrise: Thursday at 11:38 p.m.

TEMPERATURE IN FOUR METROS



NEW DELHI, **THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2024**

TO BOOK YOUR AD CALL **0120-4834999 (9 am to 9 pm, Everyday)**
OR E-MAIL **htclassifieds@hindustantimes.com**

HT Classifieds {Thursday}

SCAN THE CODE TO BOOK YOUR ADS ONLINE

www.htclassifieds.com

EMPLOYMENT/ ACADEMIC

GITARATTAN GLOBAL SCHOOL
(Recognised & Affiliated)
D Block, Sector - 7, Rohini, Delhi - 110085

Require the following female Staff

- **COORDINATORS : FOR ALL LEVEL**
- **PGT's : COMMERCE & ENGLISH**

(Qualifications and Experience must match with their respective posts as per CBSE Norms. Candidates should be fluent in English)
CANDIDATES ALREADY APPLIED, NEED NOT APPLY
Apply within 7 days or Mail your resume at ggshr2023@gmail.com

TAGORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
Paschimi Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057
Tel: 011-26142270, 26149008
For Session 2024-25
Requires trained **LADY TEACHERS**

• SENIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS
Must be fluent in English, with minimum 10 years teaching experience and 5 years administrative experience. Salary commensurate with experience.

• PGT- PSYCHOLOGY CUM COUNSELLOR
Fluency in spoken and written English, basic computer skills are essential. 5 years experience preferred.

Apply with detailed resume and photograph through school email id - **tagoreresume@gmail.com**

DELHI INTERNATIONAL Sec. School Jawahar Ngr, Del-94, Req (Female) Vice Principal, TGT- Eng., Maths, Sci., S.St.,Primary Teacher & Incharge. #9958531377, E: diss.jn@gmail.com

MOTHER KESSARI Public School Required School Incharge,JBT, NPTT, PTT, Diet ., Computer Teacher Fluent in English Apply-Manager immediately, K- 90, Kalkaji, New Delhi-19

RASHTRA SHAKTI VIDYALAYA SENIOR SECONDARY
Gandhi Nidhi, Hastsal Road,Uttam Nagar, N.D-59
E-mail – rsvvacancy2018@gmail.com
1) PGT: HINDI
2) TGT: HINDI, COMPUTER★
3) PRT: ALL SUBJECTS ★
4) NURSERY TEACHER★
(★ FEMALE CANDIDATES C.T.E.T. QUALIFIED)
PLEASE SEND YOUR CV WITHIN 7 DAYS
MANAGER

THE CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
(CBSE Affiliated Sr. Sec. School)
C-198, Jawahar Park
Khanpur-Devli Road, ND-62
Mob. 9953374444
Applications are invited from qualified female candidates for the following Position:-
PGT
Physics, Accountancy
Comp. Sc, Eco, Maths, PET
TGT
Eng, Science, S Sc, PET
Special Educator / Academic Incharge
May apply personally within 7 days with all documents
PRINCIPAL

JESUS MARY JOSEPH SR. SEC. SCHOOL
G-17, Site-10, Paschim Vihar, N.Delhi- 63
REQUIRED TEACHER PREFERABLY FEMALES
PGT
MATHS (M.Sc., B.Ed)
ARTS & CRAFTS (M.F.A)
PRT
COMPUTERS (B.Sc./M.Sc.- COMP / BCA/ MCA)
Candidate should be dedicated, hard working, energetic and well qualified as per C.B.S.E. Norms
Kindly forward your resume at
delhijmj15@gmail.com

VEER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Kapashera, New Delhi-110097
REQUIRES FEMALE TEACHERS:
- PGTs Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Comp.Sc, English, Maths, Hindi, B.St., Economics, Accountancy, Physical Education Teacher
- TGTs English, Mathematics, Hindi, Science, Social Studies Sanskrit
- PRT- All Subjects
- NTT TEACHERS
- LIBRARIAN
- COMPUTER TEACHER
- ART & CRAFT TEACHER
- MUSIC & DANCE TEACHER
- COUNSELLOR MA (Psychology)
- SPECIAL EDUCATOR
- CO-ORDINATOR

Apply now!! For further details contact school office between 9 am to 12 noon on all working days or call:
011-43051660, 25063729

PROFESSOR'S GLOBAL SCHOOL
Jai Vihar, Baprola, West Delhi-110043
PRINCIPAL
Required dynamic female candidate residing in West Delhi areas for a promising & expanding school
Minimum Qualification: MA/MSc./ M. Com, B.Ed. Experience: Min. 5-7 years of Teaching/ Administrative.
Teachers/Staff :
- TGT (All Subjects)
- PRT
- Nursery Teacher
- Special Educator
- Librarian
- Male/Female Sports Coaches
- Art/Craft/Music/Dance Coaches

Apply within 10 Days with detailed resume & recent passport size photo.
Email: pgsbaprola@gmail.com
Mob: 8700588665

DAYANAND MODEL SCHOOL
ARYA SAMAJ PREMISES
WEST PATEL NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110008
Applications are invited for the following posts on Contractual basis for the Secondary Classes:
1. HINDI TEACHER
2. SCIENCE TEACHER
3. COMPUTER TEACHER
4. SPECIAL EDUCATOR
5. OFFICE ASSISTANT

Interested candidates may submit the hard copy of their Resume in the school office latest by **Saturday 29th June 2024.**

ACADEMIC

MOUNT ABU PUBLIC SCHOOL
Pkt-H, Sec-18, Rohini, Delhi-89
Invites Applications for the post of
PGT-BIO, CHEMISTRY
POLITICAL SCIENCE
COMMERCE
ECONOMICS
TGT - SCIENCE
PRT - EVS
DANCE TEACHER
RECEPTIONIST
Walk in Interview 1, 2, 3 July at 10AM

INDIRA IDEAL SCHOOL
C-3, JANAK PURI, ND - 58
PH. : 41587994, 41587995
Email :iisssjp@yahoo.co.in
WALK- IN- INTERVIEW
Qualified & experienced female teachers having good academic record for the post of
PGT:Commerce, Physics
TGT: Science, SST
PRT: English, Computer Music Teacher, Special Educator, NTT
Dates 24th June to 28th June from 9am & 12.30 pm in Principal's office

REQUIRED FEMALES-20 (Salary@ 17500+Perks) For School Promotion Qual: Grad/Under Grad with Good Communication,Fresher's are welcome, Walk in Interview on 27th to 30th June, between 9am to 12 noon) H-102, GF, Lajpat Nagar-1, ND-24 or Whatsapp Resume on -9310373336.

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

A STABILIZER Manufacturing Company Required Experienced Assistant Accountant. Knowing Tally. Meet Personally: B-71/3, Wazirpur Industrial Area, Delhi-52 (Sunday Off)

CA FIRM (1988) requires Qualified OR Semi-Qualified (Fresher/ CA (Inter)/ CA Dropout for Audit Assistant, Good Salary, Audit Location: Gurugram, Haryana. # B.S.Sawhney, F-249, New Rajinder Nagar,Delhi-110060,Ph: 011 -45082854, Email: bssa@bssa83.com

REQD. ACC. cum Admin Assistant experienced of A/c Software s Tally, GST, TDS is must, Salary 20-25k, East Delhi residents preferred, Email: cnick781@gmail.com

REQD. ACCOUNTANT for NCR graduate with 5 to 6 years experience for Greater Noida & Gurugram site office. What s app only # 7217894971, Email CV at : info@hilltopindian.com

SALES & MARKETING

DELHI BASED Medical Devices Mfg Co. require: 1) Area Sales Managers (2) Sales Executives (Freshers can also apply) Whatsapp : 9910660508, Email: syanaindia.jobs@gmail.com

SALES EXECUTIVES Required by a Decorative Poles and LED Lights Mfg. Company, exp of Institutional and Govt. Deptt. Sale of LED lights/ electrical equipments. Location- Lucknow, Delhi NCR. Send resume to- info@homdeclighting.com

REQD. M/F Marketing Executives for Sale of Industrial Salt, Gas Powder, Calcium Carbonate Powder, Lime Powder. Salary+Incentives. Yadavi Chem Industries # 8285227756

SALES EXECUTIVES for alcoholic beverages salary 14000+ Contact Two Friends, 210 S. L House 10 Asaf Ali road New Delhi-110002 lalit@twofriends.in Tel 9716581217.

WANTED EXP. Sales Engineer for Indl. Prod. for a Trading Co. Cand. with Dipl./B. Tech in Mech. Engg and two wheeler may apply to # 9810020682 or sales@orientalgroup.co.in

LIC OF India Need Agents on Stipend+ comm. basis,after certain target a Support to own car, House, Foreign Tour & promotions.You can also continue with present job. # 9810315375.

COMPUTER/IT

REPUTABLE ORGANIZATION Requires Online Digital Marketing (Facebook. Instgram, linkdin) etc. Professional . experience. 2 years. Malviya Nagar, South Delhi. # 8527977888

URGENTLY REQUIRED for experienced Programmers having good knowledge in COBL/FOXpro. Mail Resume at hrdata324@gmail.com

ENGINEER/ PROD/TECHNICAL

Indraprastha
Institute of Medical Sciences
(Hospital & Medical College)
Main GT Road, Opp. Police Line, Panipat (Haryana)
9671557212, 9814441732
Requires the following staff for immediate appointment
CIVIL ENGINEERS
and
CIVIL SUPERVISORS
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW on Sunday 30th June, 2024 between 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

MEDICAL

PHARMACIST
Required for **KUBBA SKIN CLINIC,**
R.K. Puram, Ring Road, New Delhi. Should have Delhi Registration. Good English, Computer knowledge & exp. is must. Excellent work environment & attractive salary.
Cont. 9810214711
arvind_kuba@hotmail.com

KUKREJA HOSPITAL Rajouri Garden requires Medical Suprin, Nursing Supervisor, Nurses, MRD Tech, HR, Store Incharge. 9990021218 between 10-4pm, drgeetukukreja@yahoo.com

STENO-TYPIST/ OFFICE ASST

REQUIRE
PART-TIME STENOGRAPHER
for a reputed Company based in South Delhi. The candidate should be graduate, good at English Shorthand & communication and proficient in Word, Excel and Power Point with minimum 10 years experience in this field. Interested may forward their resume to:
Email
jyotitrading50@gmail.com

WANTED EXP Off Asst for a Trading Co. at Daryaganj. Candidates with good command over English, MS Word & Excel may apply to # 9810020682 or sales@orientalgroup.co.in

GENERAL MULTIPLE VACANCIES

REQ 10 Year Exp (1)Accountant (Tally) (2)Account Asst (Tally) (3)Printing & Binding Supervisor (4)Receptionist. B-27/1, Jhilmil Industrial area near Sai Baba Mandir # 8882971194

GENERAL MULTIPLE VACANCIES

REQUIRED : Delhi : Customer Care Executive, Operation Manager & Account Assistant Kosi U.P. : Mechanical / Chemical Engineer Operation Manager & Account Asst. Apply at: info@myrecycler.com

HAWK EYE PROTECTION SERVICES PVT LTD
An ISO 9001:2015 Certified leading Security Agency
109, 1st FLOOR, C R PARK, NEW DELHI-19
PH NO.011-46267000
E-MAIL – security@hawkeyeprotection.in
REQUIRED SECURITY AGENCY EXP. STAFF FOR Delhi / Noida / Gurugram
ADMIN MANAGER
TRAINING OFFICER (EX MEN)
AREA MANAGER / OPS. MANAGER
FIELD OFFICER
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
TENDER OFFICER (knowledge of Tender through GEM & other online tenders)

KNOWLEDGE PARK-III Gr. Noida Girls Hostel Req (1) Exp. Resident Lady Warden (2) Exp. Bus Driver. Good Salary # 9560845205

SHEET METAL Fac. Req. Prod. Supervisor, QC Inspector, Store incharge, Design Eng., Plant mtc. Eng., 4-6 yrs exp. must for all posts. Email: jobjmc2@gmail.com

REQUIRED
for a Noida based auto parts company
ACCOUNTANT / ACCOUNTS OFFICER
having knowledge of export banking operations, edpms / idpms with 10-15 years exp.
MECHANICAL DESIGN ENGINEER
with exp. of 3-10 years & can work on Solidworks and knowledge of measuring instruments.
Email : purchase@kscengineer.com

Required for a leading Co. in SS Commercial Kitchen Equipment Industries:
ACCOUNT ASSISTANT
OFFICE COORDINATOR
SALES & MARKETING EXECUTIVE
Exp. min. 3 to 5 Yrs for Account assistant / Sales & Marketing and 1 to 3 years for Office Coordinator.
Please email your resume to:
accounts@ransindia.com

REQ CIVIL forman, Electrician, Accnt, Advocate, pattern & Cutting master, fashion Cordintr, 54 West Ave Sainik Farm # 9810454586, 9810040131, 54jaspal@gmail.com

WORK FROM HOME

WORK FROM Phone. Earnings while learnings online Social Media, Digital Marketing, Skill Development etc. If interested, WhatApp Name, Address# 7027924000.

DATA ENTRY OPERATORS

URGENT REQUIREMENT and immediate joining in Delhi Data Entry Operator (12th Pass /3 yrs exp.) and Steno. (Graduate/3 yrs exp.) Share CV or Call- 9643450709 in 2 Days

MAID SERVANT

WANTED A full-time caregiver, male or female, for 55 years old man, living in separation with some medical condition. Must be experienced in:- planning and preparing daily meals, cleaning the household educated enough to be able to read and write physically fit and active dependable, honest, and trustworthy. Driving skills will be advantageous. References required. In Sector-63 Faridabad. Salary negotiable. Call 9718539030 for more info.

EDUCATION/ ADMISSIONS

MEWAR INSTITUTE
Affiliated to C.C.S. University, Meerut
App. by Bar Council of india, N.Delhi
Admission 2024-25 Estd 1997
Premier Institute in NCR
LLB
BA-LLB
LLM
B.Com
BBA
BCA
Other courses available:
B.Sc (Math), M. Sc. (Bio-Tec), B.Ed., BTC
Sec-4C, Vasundhra, Ghaziabad
0120-2698218/19/20, 9818511145

ADMISSIONS

INTEGRATED SCHOOL OF LAW
Affil. to CCS Univ, App'd by BCI, One of the Oldest Self finance Institution in Ghaziabad
College Code: 999
LLB 3- year
BA-LLB 5 year
Delhi-Meerut Expressway (NH-9) Adjoining Dasna Flyover, GZB-201009
Call: +91 8860122262
+91 8595560124
www.inmantec.edu

BUSINESS

FOR SALE

CNC/ MECHANICAL Machines for sale (1) Integrex 50 YB Model turnmill Mazak make-3 meter with automatic tool changer magazine with Mazatrol controller (2) Integrex 40 ATC Model turnmill Mazak make-2 meter with Mazatrol controller (3) VMC- Mazak make 2 meter bed with Mazatrol controller (4) Okuma Howa 2 VSP- double turret. VTL without controller (5) Wotan make horizontal borer-105 mm spindle. Mechanical Machines: (1) VTL TOS make-1 meter spindle. Location of machines Gurugram. Contact: 7982053184

CHANGE OF NAME

I KARUNJIT singh Jatinderpal Singh Gadh S/O Jatinderpal Singh Gurbir Singh R/O J-1164,Palam vihar Gurgaon Haryana 122017 Have changed my name to Karunjit Singh for all future purposes

I, PRADEEP Kumar S/o Mehar Singh R/o R-Z-I D-7, Dabri Extn (East), Dabri PO Palam, Delhi-110045 have changed the name of my minor daughter namely Lokkshita aged 16 year (DOB 02.09.2007) to Lokkshita Duggal for all future purposes.

EDUCATION

9210027962 , 9810582924
LLB (3/5Yrs), LLM, P.HD
B.ED, M.ED, JBT
MBA, MCA, M.SC
D. PHARMACY, B. TECH, M. TECH
BA, B.COM, BBA, BCA, B.SC
MA, M.COM, MPT, BPT
Library Course, Yoga & Naturopathy
Fine Arts, Journalism & Mass Comm
10th &12th(OPEN SCHOOL)
RBA COLLEGE
E- 44, Nehru Ground NIT Faridabad

CHANGE OF NAME

I HAVE Changed My son name from Vihan to Vihaan Singh Malik For all future purposes.His DOB is 6-3-2013. Gaurav Kumar, H. No-42/24 South Civil Lines, Near Mahavir Chowk, Muzaffarnagar U.P. Pin-251001

I, RADHA Aggarwal D/o Shri Bhawani Shankar R/o B-766, Green Field Colony, Faridabad 121003 declare that my correct name is Radha Aggarwal instead of Radha as mentioned in my 10th/12th/CA certificates. And I will be known as Radha Aggarwal for all future purposes.

I, MUKESH S/o Sh Yadram R/o N-77, B-552, Sawan Park Extension, Ashok Vihar Phase-3, Delhi-110052 have changed my name to Mukesh Kumar for all Purposes

I, NARENDER S/o Sh. Mukesh Kumar R/o Village-Abheypur, Tehsil-Sohna, Distt.-Gurugram, HR-122102 declare that my father's name written in my some documents as Mukesh and some documents as Mukesh Kumar. I continue my father's name as Mukesh Kumar for future purposes.

I HITHERTO known as Komal Arora alias Komal Thakral D/o Gulshan Arora W/o Anuj Thakral R/o B-03, Sector-49, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Komal Thakral.

I, KM Mina W/O, Mohd. Ikhlak R/o 3, J - 52 Nehru Nagar Ghaziabad have changed my name to Ameena for all purposes.

TENDER NOTICES

UTILITY POWERTECH LTD.
(A JV of NTPC Ltd. & R.Infra. Ltd.)
Head Office:
UPL House, W -24, Sector - 11, Noida - 201301

Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI)

For Giving on Lease Basis Multistorey Office Building at Plot no.B-16, Sector-153, Noida, U.P. for a minimum period of 05 years or 10 years with likely date will be decided later by UPL.

EOI No.: UPL/HO/C&M/EOI-Lease Bldg./1391 II Date: 27/06/2024

M/s. Utility Powertech Ltd. has constructed its New Multistorey Office Building at Plot no. B-16, Sector-153, Noida, U.P.
UPL-Head Office invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from Interested Bidders who have requirement for taking Office Building on lease basis for a minimum period of 05 years or 10 years. The likely date of commencement of lease will be decided later by UPL.
How to Apply: Interested parties are requested to submit their requirement(s) in the specified standard format to **vipulsharma@uplmail.com/pranav@uplmail.com** latest by **17/07/2024** till **5:30 PM.** For any clarification, please contact **9810474152 or 9350739304.**
'Expression of Interest Documents' can be downloaded from our website **www.utilitypowertech.org** or collected from UPL HO personally.

CHANGE OF NAME

I CONFIRM that Anil Kumar Harjai & Anil Harjai both are names of the same person so I will be known as Anil Harjai for all future purposes.

I, OMPATI mother of No 15190961F Hav (Clk/SD) Samender Kumar Residing of Vill - Sarangpur, PO - Nandgaon, Teh - Charkhi Dadri, Distt - Bhiwani, Haryana, PIN - 127026 have changed my name from Ompati Devi to Ompati vide affiliate dated 08 Jun 24 before Executive Megistrate, Bhiwani.

I, 1806469P RankSPR VIJAY SHARMA S/O NARENDRA SHARMA C/O- 56 APO, R/O- VILLAGE PILANA, BAGPAT. IN MY ARMY RECORDE MY MOTHER NAME WRITTEN AS BIMLESH SHARMA. WHERE AS CORRECT NAME IS BIMLESH . IN FUTURE SHE WILL BE KNOWN BY THIS NAME.

I, AKASH Kumar Bansal R/o House No. B-27, Second Floor,Front Side, Street No.9, Near Dwarka Mod, Sewak Park, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi, New Delhi - 110059, hereby declare that I have changed my minor son's name from Aryan Bansal (Aadhar # 8626 2258 1824 & Passport # W9874958) to Raghav Bansal vide affidavit dated 14-06-2024 sworn before a notary public & should be known as Raghav Bansal for all future purpose(s).

I SARITA W/o Umesh Kumar, R/O B-191 /B-3, 2nd Flr, Nr. Bhati office, Main Shalimar Garden Sahibabad Gzb (U.P)-201005 have changed to Sarita Sharma for all future purposes.

I RAJEEV Kumar Verma S/O, Sh M P Verma R/O, 318-S F, 2 Gyan Khand-1, Indirapuram ghaziabad (U.P) 201014, have changed my name to Rajeev Verma for all future purposes

I, RISHU Kumar Tiwari, S/o Amar Nath Tiwari, R/O A-771, Budha Marg, Mandawali, Fazalpur, Delhi-110092, have changed my name from Rishu Kumar to Rishu Kumar Tiwari for all future purposes.

I, YASH Pal Singh S/o Sh. Ramotar Singh R/o E-99, Gali-3, West Karawal Nagar, Delhi-110094 declare that Me & wife's name wrongly written in my minor son Chirag Tomar's school record as Yash Pal Tomar & Sheetal Tomar. But me & my wife's correct name is Yash Pal Singh & Shyam Wati & Chirag Tomar correct DOB is 25.03.2010. Please amend according.

I, ANJU Rani Singhal W/o. Sh. Raj Kumar R/o. H.No. D-135, Gali No.14A/ 1, Sadh Nagar,Palam Colony Palam Village, New Delhi - 45 have changed my name to Anju for all purposes.

I, SUBODH, S/o Bal Krishn Pandey, resident of B-430 Gaur Green Avenue, Abhay Khand-2, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, 201002, Uttar Pradesh, have changed my name from Subodh to Subodh Pandey. Henceforth I would be known by the name of Subodh Pandey for all future purposes.

I, R. Kumar S/o Mahesh Prasad Shrivastava R/o H. No.- 4062, Sector-B, Pocket- 5&6, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar Shrivastava for all purposes

I, ASHISH Kumar Sakriya S/o Mahesh Kumar R/O Flat No. 65 B, Block B, Express View Apts, Sector 105, Noida, UP-201304 have changed my name to Ashish Kumar Saxena for all future pruposes.

CHANGE OF NAME

I PRADEEP Kumar S/o Mehar Singh R/o R-Z-I D-7, Dabri Extn (East), Dabri PO Palam, Delhi-110045 have changed my name to Pradeep Kumar Duggal for all future purposes.

I, MEHARBAN Singh S/o Darshan Singh R/o J-56-57, Gali No.-3,Sadar Colony, Delhi-110089 My mother name wrongly in my passport No.T7360677 & My educational document 10th or 12 th as Aarti Kaur. I confirm that her actual & correct name is Arti Kaur for all future purposes

I, PRADEEP Kaur (Adhaar 8996 4142 8574) W/o Paramjeet Singh R/o 863 Dr. Mukherjee Nagar Delhi 110009 have changed my name to Pardeep Kaur. Both name Pradeep Kaur & Pardeep Kaur are one & same person.

I, MUKESH Kumar S/o Sh. Bhagwan Deen R/o H.No. 6, Sumeru-3, I.U.A.C., Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110067, have changed my minor daughter's name from Harshita (aged 13 Years) to Harshita Kumari for all future purposes.

I, MEENALOSHINI, R/o D-1003, JM Orchid, Sector-76, Noida, Uttar Pradesh. Changed my name as Meenaloshini Asari for all purposes. Meenaloshini and Meenaloshini Asari are one and same person.

I HAVE Changed My Name from Farida to Farida Saifi, have Also Registered it in Aadhaar Card Farida Saifi W/O Asif Saifi Resident Flat No. 6043 ATS Dolce, Sector Zeta 01 Greater Noida Gautam Budh Nagar

I, TIANA D/o Pradeep Kumar R/o H.No.36, Type-2, North West Moti Bagh, Chanakya Puri Delhi-110021 have changed my name to Tiana Duggal for all future purposes.

I, PRIYA Kela have changed my name to Priya Maheshwari for all future use vide affidavit dated 24-Jun_2024 sworn before Notary Brij Kumar Area-K.K.D. Delhi.

I, LAVANYA W/o Mohamed Iqbal R/o A-149, Sector 2A, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, UP-201010 affirm that Lavanya and Benazir Begum are same person. That is my correct name is Benazir Begum

I HAVE changed my name from Dinesh Goel To Dinesh Kumar Goel For all purposes in future. Dinesh Kumar Goel S/o Late. Sh. Vindraban R/o Mill Road Shiv Ganj Mandi, Shamli UP 247776

I, ANOOP Kumar S/o Baldev Kishan Chhibba R/o 508 1st floor Dr Mukherjee Nager Delhi 110009 have changed my name to Anoop Kumar Chhibba for all purposes

LOST & FOUND

I SHASHI Bala saxena w/o Pardeep Kumar saxena lost original allotment letter dated 24/12/1998 of sector 17A-603 vasundhara Ghaziabad, U.P finder please call 9810841245

I, ARIMARDAN Singh S/o Late. Jai Narayan Singh, R/o of Q-203 Anupam Apartment, East Arjun Nagar, Shahdara Delhi 110032 have lost Original Share Certificate No 512 Issuing by Railway Employees CGHS Ltd known as Anupam Apartments, 4CBD, East Arjun Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032 finder may contact: 9413387002

LOST & FOUND

I, KAMLA Devi W/o Gajraj R/o 28/4, Gali No.1, Sec-24, Faridabad have lost my original sale deed doc. No. 6937 dated 30.08.1996 and original deed of GPA doc No. 4131 dated 30.04.1991 both were duly registered with the office of SR Ballabgarh. Finder contact

AUCTION NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION

A property known as A-58, Kailash Colony, New Delhi 110048, measuring 1003 Sq. Yards (approx.), located near Kailash Colony Metro Station on main Lala Lajpat Rai Road represented to be freehold, is being auctioned for sale pursuant to Order dated 07.06.2024 passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi at New Delhi with the consent of the parties, in Partition Suit bearing CS(OS) No. 150 of 2023 titled *Suchit Tuli v. Deven Tuli & Ors.* on as-is-where-is basis.
The property & title documents can be inspected between 11 AM and 1 PM on 07.07.2024 at the site. The Reserve Price of the property has been fixed by the Hon'ble Court at Rs. 65,00,00,000/- (Rs. Sixty Five Crores). Auction bids are invited and bidders may participate by making Earnest Money Deposit of Rs. 65,00,000/- (Rs. Sixty Five Lakhs) by way of Demand Draft in favour of "Registrar General, Delhi High Court" payable at New Delhi, in the office of the undersigned between 11 AM to 5 PM on 15.07.2024. Inter bidding permitted. For detailed terms & conditions regulating the auction proceedings, a request may be sent by email to auction.A58.KC@gmail.com on or before 14.07.2024.
Date of Auction: 18.07.2024
Time of Auction: 11 AM to 1 PM
Venue of Auction: Holiday Club, Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi 110017
(venue may be changed subject to number of bidders attending)
Nishit Agrawal
(Advocate/ Court Auctioneer)
D-66, 3rd Floor, Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi-110017
+91 7838952060

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Property No G-14/2, DLF City Phase-1, Gurugram, Haryana was registered in the name of Pratik Singh Dang son of Sh. J.S. Dang and Mrs. Sonia Dang wife of Mr. Pratik Singh Dang both residents of 3C/4, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi but 1) Allotment Letter 2) Possession Letter 3) Buyers Agreement 4) Occupation Certificate has been lost. If anybody founds it , he or she may approach Ms/ DLF Ltd or the undersigned within 21 days of publication of this notice.
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Distt Court, Gurugram

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TENDER NOTICE

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EURO 2024

Unlucky Ukraine knocked out after dull draw against Belgium

The goalless draw allows Belgium to qualify as the second team from Group E, behind Romania

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Ukraine's Heorhij Sudakov reacts after their draw against Belgium in Stuttgart on Wednesday. AP

NEW DELHI: For the match against Ukraine, Belgium took to the field wearing a sky-blue shirt and brown shirts, an away kit inspired by Tintin. It was hoped that the character's adventurous spirit would inspire the team at Euro 2024. But for most of the first half, most fans of the Red Devils would have simply been screaming 'Blistering barnacles', 'Cabbage heads' or a bunch of other swear words in what would have been a nod to another beloved Tintin character, Captain Haddock.

The match ended in a goalless draw – it allowed Belgium to finish second in the group, knocking Ukraine out – but a substantial number of Belgium fans were booing their own team at the end.

Going into the match, Group E was the tight affair. All teams were on three points but Ukraine, on account of their poor goal difference, needed a win to advance. This is why Ukraine manager Serhiy Rebrov chose to go with two strikers as against the one we saw in their previous two games.

This move signalled intent but it also meant that Ukraine were looking to commit more men to attack. This was something Belgium's star-studded line-up would be looking to exploit and they almost did that in the seventh minute when Kevin De Bruyne slipped a pass in behind for Romelu Lukaku, who had sprinted to the edge of Ukraine's six-yard box.

The big striker got to the ball before Anatolii Trubin but scuffed his shot, allowing the goalkeeper to make an easy save. It proved to be Belgium's only decent chance of the first half.

No player has registered more shots on target in this tournament than Romelu Lukaku (6). But he is still waiting for the first goal.

Belgium had more of the ball but Ukraine, slowly but surely, started to find their feet. They were still not able to play their preferred possession game but they were getting the better chances and looked more likely to score.

And this was despite De Bruyne seeing a lot of the ball. In the first 40 minutes, he had 45 touches – the most of any player from either side – but it was still not working. Rather, with the Belgium skipper refusing to drop back to defend, there was a gap for Ukraine to exploit and they did that.

Belgium's wingers, usually so dangerous, were restricted and Ukraine were the happier team at half-time but a goal had eluded them.

The second-half saw more of the same. Belgium unable to figure things out and Ukraine going forward, creating chances, but unable to score.

They came closest in the 82nd minute. Ruslan Malinovsky whipped the corner in, low and sharp, almost catching the Belgium goalkeeper Koen Casteels out. But he reacted just in time to prevent the goal. As replays later showed, it was a matter of millimetres.

By this point, Belgium almost seemed to be playing for a draw. It would be enough for them to advance and they knew it. But is this how the world's third best team should be playing?

Georgiy Sudakov had another chance late but he hit it straight at the goalkeeper. Perhaps, placement rather than power might have done the trick.

An increasingly desperate Ukraine kept throwing men forward. It was a win or nothing to them and they gave it a solid shot but they just were unable to breakdown the Belgian defence.

The game stats will show that it was a close game but Ukraine had the better chances and by the end, frustration was writ large on their faces.

The first game, when they lost 3-0 to Romania, was a shocker for Ukraine and they paid the price in the last one. Ukraine become the first team in Euros history to go out at the group stages despite having four points.

Belgium had not lost their final group game in any of their last six appearances at a major tournament and they have kept that run going. But they will run into France next and that is never easy.

The Red Devils will have to rethink their approach and certainly have to find a way to inject more energy into their play. No team wants to be booed by its own fans but that just might shake them out of their stupor. But then maybe, it won't.

GROUP A

TEAM	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
GER	3	2	1	0	6	7
SUI	3	1	2	0	2	5
HUN	3	1	0	2	-3	3
SCO	3	0	1	2	-5	1

GROUP B

TEAM	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
ESP	3	3	0	0	5	9
ITA	3	1	1	1	0	4
CRO	3	0	2	1	-3	2
ALB	3	0	1	2	-2	1

GROUP C

TEAM	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
ENG	3	1	2	0	1	5
DEN	3	0	3	0	0	3
SVN	3	0	3	0	0	3
SRB	3	0	2	1	-1	2

GROUP D

TEAM	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
AUT	3	2	0	1	2	6
FRA	3	1	2	0	1	5
NED	3	1	1	1	0	4
POL	3	0	1	2	-3	1

GROUP E

TEAM	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
ROU	3	1	1	1	1	4
BEL	3	1	1	1	1	4
SVK	3	1	1	1	0	4
UKR	3	1	1	1	-2	4

GROUP F

TEAM	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
POR	2	2	0	0	4	6
TUR	2	1	0	1	-1	3
CZE	2	0	1	1	-1	1
GEO	2	0	1	1	-2	1

Now Hagi junior shines, Romania advance to last 16

Dhiman Sarkar
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Romania's Ianis Hagi. REUTERS

RESULTS

England	0
Slovenia	0
Denmark	0
Serbia	0
Slovakia (Duda 24')	1
Romania (R. Marin 37', pen)	1
Ukraine	0
Belgium	0

KOLKATA: This is a father-son story. The last time Romania qualified from the group stages of the European championship, Gheorghe Hagi had come out of retirement to help. On Wednesday, his son did. To the list that has Marcus Thuram, Federico Chiesa and Francisco Conceciao, sons of illustrious footballer fathers in Euro 2024, add Ianis Hagi.

The 25-year-old has a left foot that inevitably draws comparisons with his father who was known as Maradona of the Carpathians. A peripatetic club career in search of game time has led to him not being a regular starter in the national team and Hagi Senior has made his displeasure clear about that. Can't listen to every parent, Romania coach Edward Iordanescu had said.

But there he was in the first 11 in Frankfurt, a first starting berth in Euro 2024 given by Iordanescu in place of Dennis Man. And there lay another succession story: Edward's father Anghel is one of Romania's best known coaches.

Hagi could have scored in the 11th minute but shanked his shot. Twenty-two minutes later and with Romania chasing the game and risking elimination if things stayed that way, he attacked David Hancko and with a swivel went past the Slovakia left back before being fouled. With everyone looking up at the cube in the stadium that shows replays, it took VAR nearly two minutes to overrule referee Danile Siebert's decision to award a spot-kick.

Up stepped Razvan Marin and fired a shot so hard that even if he had guessed right it would have taken some effort from Martin Dubravka. A moment of magic had fetched a set-piece in the 37th minute for Romania to neutralise Ondrej Duda's smart header in the 24th. The 1-1 result meant celebrations all around as both teams qualified for the round of 16.

Duda's goal had come after a raking ball from the deep from Milan Skriniar found Peter Pekarik on the overlap. The Slovakia right-back played it back to Juraj Kucka whose delivery was aimed in the hole left by Romania at the heart of their defence. By the time Florin Nita gesticulated and Marin arrived, Duda had leapt and directed the header in.

Hagi was substituted in the 66th minute by Man but not before he had set up Marin again.

This time the player who had run his laces through a shot against Ukraine used his outstep and Dubravka saved. Earlier, Denis Dragus had options on left and right, Hagi among them, but had decided to go solo and scuffed it. Late in the first half, Hagi nearly found Florinel Coman with a long-range pass nearly transforming into a chance what had looked like Romania being taken to a cul de sac.

Part of the second half was played in pouring rain. In that time, Slovakia tested Nita through David Strelec, the goalie keeping Romania in the game by sticking a leg out despite having shifted the wrong way. Then, with Nita watching helplessly, Lukas Haraslin saw his shot didn't bend enough.

Both teams had promised to go for a win and as Romania again tried from range, a Duda delivery was cleared before Ivan Schranz could head. Taken off in the 78th, Schranz missed being among nine players in the history of the competition to score in all group league games.

KICKING OFF

FODEN TEMPORARILY LEAVES ENGLAND BASE IN GERMANY



BLANKENHAIN: Phil Foden has temporarily left England's base in Germany to return home due to a "pressing family matter," the English FA said on Thursday. Foden, who won Premier League player of the year accolades for his starring role in Manchester City's title triumph this season, has started all three of England's games at the tournament so far. BBC reported that Foden has returned to the UK for the birth of his third child. It is hoped Foden will be back with the squad by Sunday, the day of England's last-16 match. In April, Foden and his partner Rebecca Cooke announced on Instagram they were expecting a third child.

VARGA BACK HOME AFTER SURGERY

SIMMERBERG: Hungary forward Barnabás Varga has been released from hospital and is already back in his home country, two days after undergoing surgery on facial fractures he sustained in a collision at the Euro. Varga returned to Hungary as his teammates waited in Germany to find out if they have reached the round of 16 as one of the four best third-place teams. The 29-year-old will take no further part at Euro 2024. His club Ferencváros posted a picture of Varga on X, formerly Twitter, with the caption: "Barnabás is back at home!". The injury occurred midway through the second half of Sunday's match against Scotland when Varga collided with goalkeeper Angus Gunn. Hungary went on to win 1-0 thanks to a stoppage-time goal from substitute Kevin Csoboth.



GERMANY FOR CAMPO BAHIA FEEL

HERZOGENAURACH: Germany's Euro 2024 base camp, located in the Bavarian village headquarters of kit manufacturer Adidas, was designed to 'awaken the spirit' of their last great triumph — the 2014 World Cup. Germany's base in Brazil was Campo Bahia, a secluded island resort accessible only by ferry which had been specifically designed to host the team. The host nation still views Campo Bahia as a key factor in building the camaraderie and team spirit to lay a winning foundation. Now on home soil, the DFB have chosen Herzogenaurach. Former team director Oliver Bierhoff played a key role in developing the base known as the 'Home Ground'. Bierhoff said the camp was designed to "awaken a spirit, a determination, a will to win" just as Campo Bahia had done a decade ago.

Present imperfect, future tense for England despite topping their group

Dhiman Sarkar
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England captain Harry Kane during their group league match against Slovenia on Tuesday. AFP

KOLKATA: Poor. Podcast. Pedestrian. The sequence sums up England's time between the insipid draws with Denmark and Slovenia in the European Championship. The best thing in between was Harry Kane's measured response to Gary Lineker.

For those who came in late, here's what happened: last Thursday's 1-1 result got Lineker in his podcast with Alan Shearer – between the two there are 78 England goals in 143 matches – to say England were s**t. Kane responded saying it has been a while since the men's team won anything but beyond that subtle dig, he urged former stars to get behind the team as a lot of players look up to them. It was a masterclass in de-escalation. Problem is: Kane's time in Euro 2024 has had little else to gloat about.

He had seven touches in Cologne. It would have been eight but in an attempt to stay on-side, Kane was a step slower to Phil Foden's pass in the 27th minute. There was a 30th minute shot that didn't trouble Jan Oblak in Slovenia's goal much and a late involvement with Kobbie Mainoo to find Cole Palmer, who fired straight to the goalkeeper.

To say that you would expect more from a generational talent who scored 44 goals in 45 games for Bayern Munich last term would be understating the obvious. In over 250 minutes of Group C football, Kane, who also has a passing range of a No.10, has one goal and little else. He touched the ball once in the penalty area against Denmark and had two touches in the first half against Serbia. And it was from Kane's mispass that Denmark started the move that fetched the equaliser.

Maybe listlessness is contagious and starts from the skipper. Jude Bellingham came to Germany after a dream first season with Real Madrid but it seems like yesterday for this Beatles fan. In the 65th minute, Bellingham let his frustration show with a push. It would have been preposterous to think of substituting Bellingham on form before Euro 2024 began. It wouldn't have on Tuesday.

That would also have meant Phil Foden operating through the middle, a position he made his own at Manchester City, especially when Kevin de Bruyne was injured. Foden did drift in oftener than in the opening game and England did channel 42% of all attacks down the left, neither of which they had done much of in Germany so far, but they needed more to break down a team well drilled in 4-4-2 and with a number of players in Europe's top five.

England's slickest move came in the 20th minute when Declan Rice and Foden found Bukayo Saka, who put the ball in the net but Foden was off-side. It summed up the night.

Between them, Foden, Saka, Bellingham and Kane have scored 114 club goals in 2023-24 but none has looked nearly as good. You could say that for most barring Marc Guehi, Kyle Walker, John Stones, Jordan Pickford and Mainoo. Mainoo was on because only seven of Connor Gallagher's 20 passes were forward. In a match where England had 74% possession, the midfield needed a player who could calm things, control play. Not one for whom, as the Germans say, the ball was not a friend. Gallagher had zero dribbles, zero chances created and zero shots.

Playing Gallagher also meant the Trent Alexander-Arnold experiment in midfield was put on hold. Replacing him with Mainoo showed England have a Plan C but equally a team far from settled. England had become fun over the past six-seven years, Gareth Southgate said after the match. It was the coach's way of acknowledging another sub-par performance that sparked boos from England fans.

But even after a performance this shackled and ponderous – they had four shots on target, half of what France managed against Poland – England have topped the group from where Denmark and Slovenia have also qualified. Two clean sheets in three games took Pickford's tally to 11 in majors, the most by an England keeper.

"That was the aim before the start of the tournament. Come top of the group and control our destiny," Kane told ITV. "You can't go into every game with such pressure and score four goals. Football doesn't work like that," said Southgate.

France, Spain, Portugal and Germany are in the other half of the draw meaning England could yet have a smooth run in this campaign. Portugal in 2016 Euros, Italy in the 1982 World Cup, Argentina in the 2022 World Cup are but some examples of teams winning tournaments with worse starts. Question is: will the dour give way to delight in the knockout rounds?

DENMARK AVOID YELLOW PERIL TO CLAIM SECOND PLACE IN GROUP C

Agencies
sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

MUNICH: The tense climax of Group C came down to the disciplinary records of Denmark and Slovenia, with the Danes going through in second place due to fewer yellow cards, leaving Slovenia in third, in part due to a booking for an assistant coach.

England finished top of the group on five points, with the Danes and Slovenia on three each, with the same goal difference and two goals scored and conceded. UEFA confirmed on Wednesday morning that yellow cards for technical staff counted towards the disciplinary total, giving the Danes second spot.

A booking for Slovenia coach Milvoje Novakovic earlier in the tournament contributed to their total of seven yellow cards to Denmark's six, setting the Danes up for a last 16 meeting with Germany, while the Slovenians qualified as one of the four best third-placed teams.

Novakovic's booking did not appear on UEFA's disciplinary list, so at one point on Tuesday, after two early Danish bookings, Slovenia were sitting in second. When the cautions levelled out on the night, Denmark were still placed second, on the back of their superior qualifying record.

Slovenia will find out their opponents when the last round of group games is played.

Denmark manager Kasper Hjulmand said that his team was well aware that the final placings in the group might come down to yellow cards, but that he didn't warn them about picking up bookings.

SPORT



Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott (L) and senior all-rounder Mohammad Nabi arrive in Trinidad ahead of the semi-final. X

South Africa, Afghans seek the final push

Somshuvra Laha
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KOLKATA: South Africa are in another World Cup semi-final. But that can't be news anymore, not for a nation that has won only one in 10 knockout games in both formats and never reached the final. This side feels a bit different though, having won all their seven matches so far, some by the skin of their teeth. Not precociously talented, if you go by previous class-stamping, freakishly athletic South African teams. But most importantly, it doesn't seem burdened by its past.

Marco Jansen is no Lance Klusener but the way he took charge of the chase against West Indies in the absence of a specialist batter, or how they beat Netherlands after being 12/4 at one stage, shows how far they have come along. Probably they have learnt well. You ought to when two of your colleagues are Quinton de Kock and David Miller, only survivors of South Africa's sole success in World Cup knockout —beating Sri Lanka in the 2015 quarter-final. None of this will matter though if they fail to win a World Cup, which can't even be called a pipedream now.

Which is why head coach Rob Walter made no bones about what was at stake for South Africa yet again, in another World Cup. "It's never just another game," he said. "I think that sort of rhetoric around semifinals is always untrue, or people trying to downplay the occasion. Certainly, we don't do that. It is a semifinal of a World Cup, and we appreciate that and we're looking forward to it.

"I think there's always an energy that you can feel that's tangible when it comes to a semi-final. There'll be a mixture of emotions which is with anxiety but excitement and I think anyone in any sport, if they get to this phase of a competition, feels that. And so really, it's just acknowledging that and accepting it and then just understanding what you'll do with that. We still want to play our best cricket in the key moments of the game tomorrow."

Afghanistan are in uncharted territory though. And they are expectedly not daunted by it. Their T20 specialists are hot property at IPL auctions, Rashid Khan is the best spinner in this format, and not too long ago Mohammad Nabi was ranked the best all-rounder. That they have thrice dismissed sides — including New Zealand — under 100 before defending 148 against Australia and 115 against Bangladesh is indicative of Afghanistan's phenomenal bowling skills. However, batting is a concern once openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran — they have put up four fifty-run stands so far — are dismissed. So expect South Africa to deploy Keshav Maharaj and wrist spinner Tabraiz Shamsi and exploit this weakness on a Tarouba pitch that might have variable bounce. Toss will become a factor since Afghanistan prefer defending and South Africa don't have a glittering Cup record batting second.

No one knows that better than South Africa-born former England opener and current Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott. "We go into the semi-final with no scarring or no history with regards to semi-finals," said Trott in a veiled dig at South Africa just after their win against Bangladesh. "This is uncharted territory for us. We're just going to go out there and give it our all. There's no preconceived ideas on it all, or history of failure or success in semi-finals in past years. For us it's a new challenge, and I think that makes us dangerous in the semi-finals as a side with nothing to lose and obviously a lot of pressure on the opposition."

ICC T20 WORLD CUP
JUNE 2 TO JUNE 29

India's batting mantra set for the England semis challenge

Rohit has constantly pushed for a good batting tempo and the test of that will come in Guyana

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NEW DELHI: "We want to play freely. We want to focus on what we can do as a team and take the game on."

This was Rohit Sharma speaking after India's victory over Australia in their final Super Eight clash of the T20 World Cup in Gros Islet on Monday. But this could have been from any time since he took over as India captain in November 2021. For he has been consistent with his messaging to the players — "take the game on and play freely" — in white-ball cricket in these three years. In Mumbai street lingo, Rohit's clarion call would perhaps read something like, "bindaas khelna yaar".

It's not led to execution, however, from India's players on the big day. The most prominent examples of timidity with the bat hurting them were the ODI World Cup final against Australia last year and the T20 World Cup semi-final against England in 2022.

To Rohit's credit, he hasn't wavered from his demand. Whether it was the ODI World Cup at home or the ongoing T20 extravaganza in the Caribbean, Rohit has walked the talk himself, often blazing away and setting the tempo for India's batting. Where he erred in the 50-over event was in not carrying on and notching up bigger scores. It's easier said than done when one is constantly looking for the attacking option, but Rohit was able to crack the code against Australia on Monday — he found a way to unleash his shots from ball one and yet stay till the 12th over to contribute a match-winning 92 off 41 deliveries as India went on to pile up 205/5.

The litmus test of India's approach with the bat, however, will come against defending champions England in the semi-final in Guyana on Thursday. The ODI World Cup final defeat to Australia may have caused more heartache for India, but it was against England in the semi-final two years ago that Rohit and coach Rahul Dravid suffered their most resounding loss. Sent into bat, India thought they had a competitive score on the board after making 168/6. England knocked off the runs in 16 overs without losing a wicket.

We haven't witnessed England's batters exploding against the big teams in the Caribbean quite like they did to India's misfortune in Australia. But make no mistake about the ammunition they possess. In Jos Buttler, Phil Salt, Jonny Bairstow, Moeen Ali, Harry Brook and Liam Livingstone, they have a top six as destructive as any going around. India's batters, therefore, cannot afford to go into their shell at any stage on Thursday. To be fair, they haven't so far. It's inappropriate to dwell on their games in the initial phase because the tracks in New York were antithetical to aggressive strokeplay. But ever since they moved to the Caribbean for the Super Eights, their batters have adhered to a desirable tempo. In all three fixtures, against Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Australia, India batted first and scored 181/8, 196/5 and 205/5 respectively.

"Honestly, not a lot has changed since 2022. We have tried to play with a free mind, T20s and ODIs as well," Rohit told reporters on the eve of the semi-final. "We want to be a smart team. Everyone knows they need to get the job done."

India's approach in this tournament has been embodied by how Virat Kohli has gone about his business. He may not have the scores to show for it, but his intent can't be faulted. If he was to nitpick and live up to his high standards, he would have wanted to capitalise on the starts he had against Afghanistan (24) and Bangladesh (38). Getting out while looking for a boundary, however, comes with the territory in this format.

Another facet of this contest is India's greater firepower with the ball. Jasprit Bumrah and Kuldeep Yadav weren't around in Australia. With both back in the mix, India's attack carries considerable wicket-taking threat, compelling opponents to sometimes be watchful for as many as eight of the 20 overs. While Bumrah's phenomenal show isn't surprising — he is simply a genius — Kuldeep, too, has become a bowler for all formats and conditions. The left-arm wrist spinner wasn't used in the New York leg in conditions that were loaded in favour of the pacers, but that is no reflection on his ability — greater batting depth called for left-arm orthodox spinners Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel to be used. In the Caribbean, Kuldeep's guile and control have come to the fore. Provided the inclement weather doesn't severely hamper proceedings in Guyana, the fundamental question though remains this — can India play the brand of cricket that has got them to the business end without losing a game? The answer is likely to define India's fate over the next few days.



India vs Eng: A test of batting might

Both India and England have explosive batting units. Who will come out on top on Thursday?

Overall run rates of India and England

2024 T20 World Cup		Since T20 WC in 2022	
9.34 England (6 Mat)	7.84 India (6 Mat)	8.58 England (20 Mat)	8.64 India (31 Mat)

Run rates in different phases at this event (6 matches in total) — England / India

	England	India
Powerplay	9.46	7.83
Middle overs (Only 5 matches where they got to this phase)	9.98	
Middle overs (Only 3 matches where they got to this phase)		7.98
Death overs (Only 5 matches where they got to this phase)	10.40	9.71

Run rates in different phases since the last T20 World Cup in 2022 — England (20 matches) / India (31 matches)

	England	India
Powerplay	9.44	8.13
Middle overs (Only 19 matches where they got to this phase)	8.67	
Middle overs (Only 28 matches where they got to this phase)		8.80
Death overs (Only 16 matches where they got to this phase)	9.39	
Death overs (Only 28 matches where they got to this phase)		11.11

Fours and sixes hit at this T20 World Cup (6 matches in total) — England / India

	England	India
4s	66	66
6s	36	46

Fours and sixes hit per match since the last T20 World Cup in 2022

	England	India
4s	12.35	14.74
6s	7.6	8.6

INDIA SETTLE FOR FAMILIAR NAMES IN HOCKEY SQUAD FOR PARIS GAMES

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NEW DELHI: Coach Craig Fulton and the Hockey India (HI) selection committee have gone in for a tried and tested 16-member squad, led by Harmanpreet Singh, for the Paris Olympics.

There are only a couple of surprises, the main one being the choice of Sanjay as the penalty corner (PC) specialist alongside Harmanpreet in place of Jugraj Singh. The other notable exclusion is Nilakanta Sharma, who was in the 2021 Tokyo squad that won bronze to end a 41-year wait for an Olympic hockey medal. He has been replaced by Rajkumar Pal in the midfield. Fulton has chosen the experienced PR Sreejesh in the goal and he will be playing in his fourth Olympics. He got the vote over Krishan Bahadur Pathak and Suraj Karkera.

The defence includes India's primary drag-flicker Harmanpreet, who is set to play his third Olympics — having debuted as the youngest member of the Indian squad at 2016 Rio — the skilful Jarmanpreet Singh, first-rusher Amit Rohidas, Sumit and Sanjay. India's midfield will be manned by Manpreet Singh, 32, who captained the team to a historic bronze three years ago in Tokyo and will be playing his fourth Olympics. The exciting Rajkumar Pal, Shamsher Singh, vice-captain Hardik Singh and Vivek Sagar Prasad are the other midfielders. The RP Singh-headed selection committee has gone for experience in the forward line – Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Mandeep Singh and Gurjant Singh. "The selection process for the Olympics was incredibly competitive due to the depth of talent. I am confident every player chosen will bring their best to Paris," said Fulton. "Each player selected has demonstrated skill, dedication and resilience throughout our rigorous preparation phase."

Pathak, Nilakanta and Jugraj Singh have been named as alternates, who can come into the squad only as an injury replacement for the July 26-August 11 tournament. Jarmanpreet, Sanjay, Raj Kumar, Abhishek and Sukhjeet will make their Olympic debuts.

India squad

- **Goalkeeper:** PR 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
- **Alternate athletes:** Nilakanta Sharma, Jugraj Singh, Krishan Bahadur Pathak

Mixed relay team chases last-gasp Olympics berth

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PANCHKULA: India's track and field athletes will be looking to go all out at the Inter-State Athletics Championships to make the cut for the Paris Olympics. The competition starting at the Tau Devi Lal Stadium here on Thursday is the final qualification event before the June 30 cut-off date.

All eyes will be on the mixed relay team (4x400m) which will have to put its best foot forward to qualify. For that to happen, India, currently occupying the 22nd place in the Race-to-Paris rankings with a timing of 3:14.12 secs, will have to go past 16th placed Kenya (3:11.88 secs) and hope that no other team is able to topple them. The first 14 teams have directly qualified through the World Athletics Relays in Bahamas.

Only two spots are up for grabs though through rankings. Italy is placed 15th (3:10.69). At the Asian Relay Championships in May, the 4x400m mixed team of Muhammad Ajmal, Amoj Jacob, Jyothika Sri Dandi and Subha Venkatesan broke the national record to win gold, clocking 3:14.12.

"We are capable of running 3:11.00 and that's going to be our target here. We're hopeful of qualifying. Everyone in the relay team is looking forward to the race," Amoj Jacob said.



Jyothi Yarraji. GETTY IMAGES

The Athletics Federation of India has invited the Sri Lanka and Maldives quartets to participate in the race as it is a qualifying event for the Paris Olympics.

"We have invited Sri Lanka and Maldives for the mixed 4x400m relay race and we are hoping that our team can run below 3 minutes 11.87 seconds to qualify for the Olympics," AFI president Adille Sumariwalla said.

"It may look difficult to run 3:11.87, but it's not. We can do it if our runners run flat out. I am very hopeful of our mixed relay team booking a Paris berth. If they do, they will reach the final at the Olympics, you can take this from me. I also feel the mixed 4x400m relay will be the next big thing after the men's longer relay, though many people may not agree with this."

The men's and women's 4x400m relay teams have already qualified for the Olympics.

AFI is expecting a squad of 30 to compete in Paris. Many athletes who are just outside the qualification berth in the Race-to-Paris rankings would need to produce a strong showing at this meet. There are some injury concerns as well.

In long jump Jeswin Aldrin, lying 32nd and in the last spot in world rankings, would be looking for a big jump to cement his place. High jumper Sarvesh Anil Kushare is currently 36th, which is four places off the qualification spot. The 29-year-old with a personal best of 2.27m will be keen to make the home conditions count.

Shot putter Tajinder Pal Singh Toor (25th in the rankings), currently within the qualification cut-off, is nursing an ankle injury and is doubtful for the meet.

Woman high hurdler Jyothi Yarraji also has fitness concerns, rebuilding after a hip flexor problem. The 100m hurdles national record holder came close to breaching the qualification standard when she clocked 12.78 secs at last month's Motonet GP in Finland. The qualification standard is 12.77 secs.

Jyothi though is well placed in the rankings to qualify and would be looking to test her fitness.

LAUTARO'S LATE STRIKE SENDS ARGENTINA INTO QUARTER-FINALS OF COPA AMERICA

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EAST RUTHERFORD: Substitute Lautaro Martinez grabbed an 88th-minute winner as Argentina finally overcame Chile 1-0 to book their place in the quarter-finals of the Copa America on Tuesday. Lionel Messi hit the post for Argentina in the first half but the World Cup winners had their goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez to thank for keeping them on level terms before Lautaro's late strike settled a pulsating clash in front of 82,000 fans at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey.

There were enough openings for the 15-time Copa America champions to get the breakthrough much earlier but a combination of poor finishing and an inspired performance from Chile's 41-year-old goalkeeper Claudio Bravo left the score deadlocked. The home of the NFL's New York Jets and New York Giants — and venue for the 2026 World Cup final — was transformed into a home venue for Argentina and the expectant crowd saw Messi and company dictate proceedings in the early stages.

Canada down Peru

In other Copa America action, Jonathan David scored the only goal as Canada beat Peru 1-0 in sweltering Kansas City.

New PGTI president Kapil Dev to push for more events, golf's growth

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DUBAI: Kapil Dev, and his magnificent captaincy in winning the 1983 World Cup, is said to be the seminal moment for Indian cricket and its commercial success. Now 65, the Haryana Hurricane is hoping to do something similar with professional golf in the country as he takes over as president of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI).

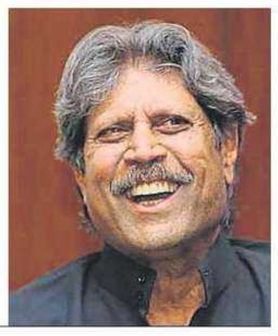
A passionate golfer, Kapil was unanimously elected to the position after the previous president H Srinivasan resigned due to personal reasons.

Kapil was vice-president and member of PGTI's governing body — as well as host of the Kapil Dev-Grant Thornton Invitational — for the past three years, and felt the time was right for him to step up in the hierarchy.

"The players have often asked me to play a more active role in PGTI, but I thought the time wasn't right. I understand the commercial aspects of sport, but wasn't well-versed with the nitty-gritty of professional golf. Srini did an excellent job with PGTI but has stepped down now and I thought I was ready," Kapil told HT.

"The most important thing for me is that I remain connected to sports. There are so many people who are helping cricket and BCCI. I thought it would be great if I can do something for golf. Cricket is my first love, but golf is a beautiful sport and I have loved its unique challenges ever since I swung the club for the first time. I was asked by the players...and if other people understand and appreciate the value I bring, I am honoured to become their new president."

> There are so many people who are helping cricket and BCCI. I thought it would be great if I can do something for golf
>
> **KAPIL DEV,** ex-India captain



Very popular with most professional golfers in the country, Kapil said he has had several chats with them and felt there were two key areas he needed to prioritise.

"The first thing I want to do is increase the number of tournaments. We have about 20 now and I'd want it to be ideally around 30-35. That would be wonderful from a sportsperson's perspective. Players don't want to sit idle. You saw with cricket how they were happy just to be able to play during the lockdown even without spectators. Our golfers must also get a schedule like the PGA Tour or the DP World Tour," said Kapil, a regular invitee to ProAms in some of the biggest tournaments around the world.

"I know a lot of influential people and would like to go to the corporates and say "you spend money on cricket, which is wonderful. I played cricket, and today that game has become so big". But I would tell them that these golfers, or our hockey and football players, also work equally hard. And these sports are becoming very popular. The Tatas have been great supporters of golf, but I would like to get the Ambanis and the Adanis and the Mahindras into it.

"Athletes have a very short window to make money and I hate it when they worry about finances and about their family once the 15-20 years of playing career is over.

"The other thing I want to do is approach every golf club and request them to open up their facilities for professional golfers. Why should they pay to practice? And many clubs don't even let the pros play. I don't want to approach the government for this...they have enough things to take care of. I urge the clubs to embrace the professionals and make things easy for them."

Though PGTI has an alliance with DP World Tour, Kapil is open to having the Asian Tour return to India and have tournaments.

"It is important if we can bring the European Tour events as well as Asian Tour events here. Having bigger tournaments, prize money and players is wonderful. Having said that, we still need corporate support to bring these tournaments," said Kapil, who was also on the Asian Tour board for a couple of years in the mid-2000s.

Golf is a rage among former cricketers, and many of them are serious in their pursuit of birdies and eagles, including Sachin Tendulkar, MS Dhoni and Yuvraj Singh. Kapil said he'd be happy to tap that group to help Indian golf grow. "They are all busy people, so I have to approach them in a different way. I will invite them to play the ProAms in their respective cities. I had requested Dhoni to play my Grant Thornton Invitational and everybody loved him. There are guys like (Ajit) Agarkar, Harbhajan (Singh), Roger (Binny) and many more who love their golf and can help us make the tournaments bigger and better," he said.