

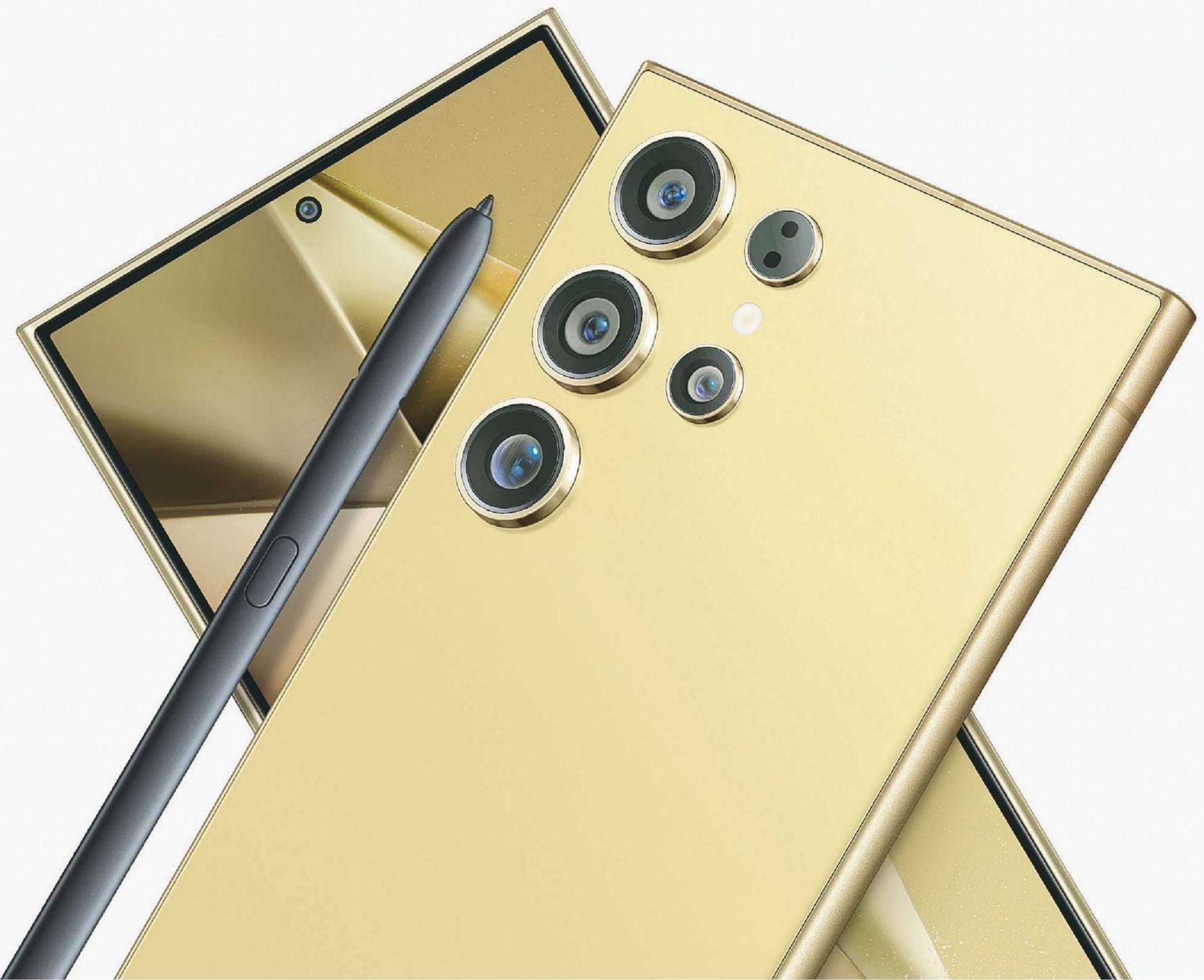


# SAMSUNG

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Image simulated for representational purpose, actual may vary. S Pen embedded in Galaxy S24 Ultra. Works on compatible apps and surfaces. Samsung account login is required for certain AI features. T&C apply. \*Offer price shown for 1 unit of Galaxy S24 Ultra 12 GB | 256 GB inclusive of exchange value of old device and additional upgrade bonus. Final pricing subject to dealer discretion. \*\*Retail price of 1 Unit of Galaxy S24 Ultra 12GB | 256GB. Price inclusive of taxes. ~Approximate value on exchange of 1 Unit of Galaxy S23 Ultra 12GB | 256GB. Exchange value varies basis model & condition of old device. Exchange at the sole discretion of dealer. ^Upgrade bonus as per Samsung Upgrade program, provided by brand/dealer at their sole discretion upon exchange of select devices. Upgrade Bonus varies model wise and EMI offer taken by the customer. Up to ₹ 12000 upgrade bonus is applicable only where customer does not avail the 24 months no cost EMI offer. The Upgrade Bonus shall be upto ₹ 6000 only when availed with 24 months no cost EMI offer. \*\*Eligibility for EMI at the sole discretion of the financiers including those listed on Samsung Finance+ (Financier T&C applies). Samsung disclaims any liabilities with the same. Offers may be revised or withdrawn without prior notice. All third party logos/brands are trademarks/registered trademarks of the respective brand/company. Samsung promotes responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) features.

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# Hindustan Times

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**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE**

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP/AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL PALWAL	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD AND DRAIN FROM HO PRAHLAD PANCHAL TO HO PAPPU IN PRAKASH COLONY WARD NO 03. + 8 works	24.06.2024 01.07.2024	1.45 CRORES	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416410674 secymc.palwal@gmail.com
2.	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL PALWAL	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD BY MASTIC ASPHALT FROM SUKHRAM HOSPITAL TO RAILWAY LINE IN WARD NO 15 + 12 WORKS	24.06.2024 08.07.2024	4.91 CRORES	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416410674 secymc.palwal@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaprocmnt.gov.in](http://www.haryanaprocmnt.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)  
RO No. 13/2025/40/27216/1/19/7

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE**

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP/AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	THE PANIPAT CO-OP SUGAR MILLS LTD., PANIPAT	SALE OF OLD AND USED PLANT AND MACHINERY OF THE PANIPAT CO-OP SUGAR MILLS LTD., PANIPAT + 37 OTHERS	25.06.2024 06.07.2024	2164.58 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	913853300 panipatsugarmills@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaprocmnt.gov.in](http://www.haryanaprocmnt.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)  
RO No. 13/2025/40/27220/1/19/7

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KENDRAPARA-JAJPUR. AT-CHANDIKHOL, PO-SUNGUDA, JAJPUR -754296, Email - serw\_kpd@yahoo.com**

No. Tender Online RCK- 16/24 Letter No - 2148 Date :- 26.6.24

**e-Procurement NOTICE**

- Name of the work :- Repair / Maintenance of Rural Roads Constructed under PMGSY works in the Dist. of Kendrapara-Jajpur
- Total No. of Package :- 6 (Six) nos. of Road Packages.
- Estimated cost :- 5.70 Crores for 6 (Six) nos. of Road Packages.
- Other Details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur	Tender Online RCK- 16/24	01.07.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	16.07.2024 at 5.00 P.M.	16.07.2024 up to 2.00 P.M.	18.07.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimate later

Further details can be seen from the website [www.pmgstenders.gov.in](http://www.pmgstenders.gov.in)

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur  
OIPR - 25129/11/0001/24/25

**GOVT. OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KEONJHAR Tel. 06766-25830(O) / email: se\_serwkrj@rediffmail.com**

**e-Procurement Notice for Road Work under CMRL**  
Identification No. NCB-03/RWCKJR/2024-25 No. 2120 / Date : 26.6.2024 /

- Name of the work :- Construction and Maintenance of road under CMRL in the District of Keonjhar
- No. of work :- 01 (One) No.
- Estimated Cost :- As per Annexure in NIT.
- Class of Contractor (Eligible) :- As per Annexure in NIT.
- Period of Completion :- As per Annexure in NIT.
- Other details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O.S.E.N. E.R.W. Circle, Keonjhar	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	NCB-03/RWCKJR/2024-25	DL 04.07.24 at 11.00 A.M.	DL 18.07.24 up to 5.00 P.M.	DL 16.07.24 up to 5.00 P.M.	DL 19.07.24 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

\* Further details can be seen from the website: [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)

Chief Engineer, R.W. Circle, Keonjhar  
OIPR - 25177/11/0002/24/25

**SPECIAL BRANCH POLICE HEADQUARTER M.P., BHOPAL**

No. SB/Store/2024-25 (207), Bhopal, Dated 19.06.2024

**"ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE"**

E-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Special Branch (G) M.P. Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgp/app> :-

S. No.	Name of Item(s)	Qty.	Tender Fees (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Tender No.
1	Monocular	50	10,000/-	3,00,000/-	1 <sup>st</sup> Tender
2	Ground Penetrating Rader (GPR) (Hand Held)	23	5,000/-	2,07,000/-	1 <sup>st</sup> Tender
3	VHF Interceptor	39	10,000/-	5,85,000/-	1 <sup>st</sup> Tender
4	Long Range UAV	06	10,000/-	14,40,000/-	1 <sup>st</sup> Tender

- Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & must submit online through website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgp/app>.
- Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police ([www.mppolice.gov.in](http://www.mppolice.gov.in))
- Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website : <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgp/app>
- Tender Schedule :**

No.	Tender Activity	Date & Time
i	Submission of written queries- through e-mail : <a href="mailto:sec25-sb@mppolice.gov.in">sec25-sb@mppolice.gov.in</a>	01/07/2024 up to 17.00 hrs.
ii	Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries	02/07/2024 at 11.00 hrs.
iii	Bid Submission Start Date	10/07/2024 at 10.00 hrs.
iv	Last date of online e-Tender submission	18/07/2024 up to 16.00 hrs.
v	Bid will be opened on	19/07/2024 up to 16.00 hrs.
vi	Demonstration from Item No. 1 to 2	29/07/2024 at 11.00 hrs.
	Item No. 3 to 4	30/07/2024 at 11.00 hrs.

D.I.G. of Police (Intelligence) M.P. Bhopal  
Tel.No. 0755-2443654

G-12462/24

**Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice WORKS DEPARTMENT Bid Identification No. CCEKC - 03 / 2024-25 Letter No. 2615 dt. 25.06.2024**

e-mail : [ccekeonjharpcircle@gmail.com](mailto:ccekeonjharpcircle@gmail.com) / [sekcpwd\\_keonjhar@yahoo.com](mailto:sekcpwd_keonjhar@yahoo.com)

- No. of the work :- 4 nos. Road Works
- Estimated cost :- Rs. 194.65 Lakhs to Rs. 393.55 Lakhs
- Class of Contractor :- "B" Class & "A" Class
- Period of completion :- 04 (Four) Calendar Months to 06 (Six) Calendar Months
- Date and Time of availability of Bid document :- From 11.30 Hours of 05.07.2024 to 16.00 Hours of 19.07.2024
- Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal :- 16.00 Hours of 19.07.2024
- Date of opening of Bid from Portal :- 11.30 Hours on 20.07.2024
- 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>"

Chief Construction Engineer Keonjhar (R & B) Circle, Keonjhar  
OIPR - 34033/11/0011/24/25

**OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)**

E-mail ID: [cebuidings\\_orissa@yahoo.co.in](mailto:cebuidings_orissa@yahoo.co.in) / [cebuidings@rediffmail.com](mailto:cebuidings@rediffmail.com) / Tel. (0674)- 2391523

File No- B-I-Home-42/2023 25840 / Bhubaneswar, the 26th Jun 2024

**Invitation for Bids 1st Corrigendum.**

Tender Reference No. C.E.-CUM-ADDL. SECY. (B) - 01 / 2024-25  
Name of the Work - Improvement to erstwhile OAT Building, Cuttack along with Construction of 4th Floor for shifting of the District Court Complex, Cuttack.

The following changes have been made in Bid Identification No. C.E.-CUM-ADDL. SECY. (B) - 01 / 2024-25

- Bid documents such as DTCN / BOQ etc. can be seen / downloaded from the Govt. Website i.e. [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in) during the period from dt.29.06.2024 to 17.00 hours of dt.16.07.2024 instead of dt.26.06.2024 to dt.10.07.2024 for ONLINE BIDDING respectively.
- Online bids shall be received till 17.00 Hours of dt.16.07.2024 instead of dt.10.07.2024.
- The technical bids will be opened at 11.30 A.M. of dt.18.07.2024 instead of dt.11.07.2024

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

C.E.-Cum-Addl. Secretary to Govt., Works Department, Odisha  
OIPR - 34117/11/0004/24/25

**Govt. of Bihar Bihar Medical Services & Infrastructure Corporation Limited 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Swasthya Bhawan, Behind IGIMS, Sheikhpura, Adjacent to State Health Society, Patna- 800014, Bihar Phone/Fax: +91612 2283287, +91612 2283289**

**(Notice Inviting E-Bids)**

**Re-Tender for the Procurement, Rate Contract and Supply & Installation of Medical Equipment for different Govt. Health Institutions of Bihar.**

**Notice Inviting Tender No.-BMSICL/2024-25/ME-362 (Only through E- Tender on website:-<https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)**

The Bihar Medical Services and Infrastructure Corporation Limited, Patna invites e-bids from interested parties for Procurement, Rate Contract, Supply & Installation of Medical Equipment for different Government Health Institutions of Bihar as listed below:-

Sl. No.	Name of Medical Equipment	Sl. No.	Name of Medical Equipment
1.	Ophthalmic OT Table	9	Flash Autoclave
2.	Schiotz Tonometer	10	A-Scan
3.	Gonio Lens	11	B-Scan
4.	Small Incision Cataract Surgery (SICS) Set	12	Retinoscope
5.	Distance Vision Chart	13	Nd- Yag Laser
6.	Near Vision Chart	14	Indirect Ophthalmoscope
7.	Applanation Tonometer	15	Direct Ophthalmoscope
8.	Trial lens set with Trial Frame Adult & Children	16	Examination Light

**Tender Schedule**

Tender Reference No.	BMSICL/2024-25/ME-362
Date of Pre- Bid Meeting	05 <sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 15:00 Hrs in Conference hall of BMSICL, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, Swasthya Bhawan, Behind IGIMS, Sheikhpura, Adjacent to State Health Society, Bihar. All pre-bid queries (as per form-16, Section -IV of bid document) to be submitted through e-mail on <a href="mailto:bmsictenderequipment@gmail.com">bmsictenderequipment@gmail.com</a> upto 02 <sup>nd</sup> July 2024 till 15:00 Hrs (Note:- No pre-bid queries would be entertained after the above mentioned dead line)
Last date and time of submission of online bids	30 <sup>th</sup> July 2024 upto 17:00 Hrs.
Last date and time for submission of original document of EMD	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2024 till 14:00 Hrs.
Date, Time and Place of opening of Technical Bid	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2024 (at 15:00 Hrs.) on the website of <a href="https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in">https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a> in the office of BMSICL
Date and time of opening of financial Bids	To be announced later on <a href="https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in">https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a>
Validity of Tender	180 Days
Cost of the tender document	Rs.11,800/- (Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred only) Non- refundable.
Bid Processing Fee	Rs 590/- (on the website of <a href="https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in">https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a> )

- To participate in E-Tendering the tenderer will have to be registered with E-Tendering service provider. For this, help desk -mjunctionservices limited RJ complex, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Canara Bank, Campus, khajpura, Ashiana road, P.S -Shastri Nagar, Patna-800014, Toll Free No.-18005726571, Email-ID: [eproc2support@bihar.gov.in](mailto:eproc2support@bihar.gov.in) can be approached.

For further details please visit website [state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar)

PR- 002721 ( B & C ) 2024-25 GM (Procurement) BMSICL, Patna

नरो की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

**BRIDCUL (ब्रिडकुल)**

Ref No: 997/BRIDCUL-933/24 Dated: 27/06/2024

**E-Tendering**

On behalf of Hon'ble, Governor of Uttarakhand, E-Tender is invited by Managing Director BRIDCUL, from the Contractors registered with BRIDCUL only in Category-III (Upto 2 Cr.) for the work given as below:-

S. No.	Ref No.	Name of Project	Estimated Cost (In lac Including GST)	Earnest Money (In Lac)	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs.)	Time Period
1	BRIDCUL/HQ DDN/23/2024 -25	Electrification & Allied works of Administrative and Academic Block, Transit Hostel, Reception Cum Canteen, Residential (Type-6 & Type- 5) at Sridev Suman University Campus, Badshahithaul, Tehri Garhwal.	124.98	2.50	5000 + 18% GST	18 Months
2	BRIDCUL/HQ DDN/24/2024 -25	External Electrification works of Sridev Suman University Campus, Badshahithaul, Tehri Garhwal.	72.57	1.45	5000 + 18% GST	18 Months

For above tenders, document download start date is 29.06.2024 and Bid submission end date is 13.07.2024 at 1500 Hrs. The details of e-tender of above work can be obtained directly from website <https://uktenders.gov.in>

Changes, if any will be intimated only through website <https://uktenders.gov.in>

DGM (HQ)

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PWD BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION DIVISION, BHOPAL Tender Notice**

NIT No- 01/Setu/2024-25/E.E.(Bridge Division.) Date : 14.06.2024

Online Tender for mentioned below are being invited. The Tender have been uploaded on the mptenders. system of Public Works Department on the Portal [www.mptenders.gov.in](http://www.mptenders.gov.in) Tender details are as below :-

S. N o.	Tender No.	District	Nature of work	Name of work	Call No.	Cost of Project (PAC) (Rs. in Lack)	Remarks
1	2024_PWDRB_350900_1	Betul	Bridge Work	CONSTRUCTION OF SUBMERSIBLE BRIDGE ACROSS DHARAKHOH RIVER ON CHARGAON TO ANKAWADI ROAD, DISTT. BETUL.	First	445.24	Original FDR payment will be online and all documents will be submitted online.
2	2024_PWDRB_350933_1	Betul	Bridge Work	CONSTRUCTION OF SUBMERSIBLE BRIDGE ACROSS BHAJI RIVER ON MANDHWADAH TO RAJAJAMUN ROAD, DISTT. BETUL.	First	457.00	Original FDR payment will be online and all documents will be submitted online.
3	2024_PWDRB_350952_1	Betul	Bridge Work	CONSTRUCTION OF SUBMERSIBLE BRIDGE ACROSS JHIRI NALLA ON PATHAKHEDA TO IMLIDHANA ROAD, DISTT. BETUL.	First	285.29	Original FDR payment will be online and all documents will be submitted online.
						Total	1187.53

The document can only be purchased online from the above website after making online payment. The last date & time for purchase of Document online is Dated 03-07-2024 up to (17:30). Detailed NIT and other details can be viewed on the above mentioned portal. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper.

The Original FDR payment will be online and all documents will be submitted online. Physically, any type of documents will not be submitted in the office.

Executive Engineer  
PWD, Bridge Construction Division, Bhopal  
G-12448/24

**कार्यालय नगर निगम, बरेली।**

फ़ॉर्म नं: 174/30अभि/30जि/2024-25 दिनांक: 27 जून 2024

**TENDER NOTICE**

Online bids are invited for following Work. Tender forms may be purchased online by the bidders, having relevant experience.

Work Description	Tender & EMD Fee	Work Period
RFP for Selection of Agency for Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) for various Horticulture Works at Bareilly Nagar Nigam Area.	The EMD & Tender Fee shall be submitted online in the account mentioned below. Bank Details for online payment - Account Number : 3647000100980707 Bank Name : Punjab National Bank Branch : Patel Chowk, Bareilly IFSC : PUNB0364700	24 months (further expandable for 12 months upon the approval of Municipal Commissioner)

**Event of Calendar:**

S.N.	Events	Date & Time
1.	Date of downloading tender document	28/06/2024 from 12.00 PM
2.	Last date for seeking clarification, if any	09/07/2024 up to 02:00 PM
3.	Start date for uploading of proposal on e-Procurements platform	11/07/2024 from 02:00 PM
4.	Last date for uploading of proposals (both Technical & Financial) in e-Procurements platform.	18/07/2024 up to 04.00 PM
5.	Time and date of opening of Technical proposal	18/07/2024 at 05.00 PM
6.	Time and date of Opening of Financial proposal	To be intimated later

The tender document can be downloaded from <https://etender.up.nic.in>. "Corrigendum if any. Would appear only on the <https://etender.up.nic.in> site and not to be published in any News Paper."

प्रभारी अधिकारी उद्यान विभाग नगर निगम बरेली।

**Government of Maharashtra Public Works Department**

Office of The Executive Engineer, Public Works Pune Electrical Division Pune 1st floor, New Central Building Annexe, Pune-411001.

E-Mail ID: [elpune.ee@mahapwd.gov.in](mailto:elpune.ee@mahapwd.gov.in) Tel.No. 020-26126258

**E-Tender Notice No. 02 / 2024-25**  
Brief Tender Notice

The Executive Engineer, Public Works Pune Electrical Division, Central Building Annexe, 1st floor, Pune (Phone No.020-26126258) invites bids from Electrical contractors in whose class mentioned in B -1 (Percentage Rate) tender format. Bids document can be downloaded from website [www.mahatenders.gov.in](http://www.mahatenders.gov.in) Executive Engineer reserves all rights to accept or reject bids. Conditional bids will not be accepted.

Sr. no.	Name of Work	APT Amt.Rs.
1	Estimate No. : 123301/2023-24 Providing Internal & External electrification, pathway lighting, transformer,cctv system for various heritage building of proposed development in the malojiraje bhosale gadhi Tal indapur Dist Pune. (Total 5 Subwork)	Rs. 20797118.00
2	Estimate No. -223002 of 2024-25- Providing Fully comprehensive type Annual Maintenance Contract to HVAC System (350 TR X 3 nos.) with AHU, cassette units, pumps etc installed in hospital building at Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Government Medical College and General Hospital, Baramati Dist Pune. (For Three years)	Rs. 10688580.00
3	Estimate No. -122159 of 2023-2024- Providing Decorative street light pole with LED fitting for the Parking Number 4 and the approach road at Bhimashankar Devasthan temple at Bhimashankar Tal. Ambegaon Dist. Pune	Rs. 12121439.00

- Period of Sale Documents & Submission : 28.06.2024@ 11.00 to 05.07.2024@ 17.30
- Pre-Bid Meeting : Dated 02.07.2024@ 12.30

(Only for Sr. no. 1 Work) : office of Superintending Engineer (Elect.), Pune Regional Circle, P.W.D. Date Bunglow, Government Milk Scheme Premises, Kirkee Pune - 411003 (Queries to be mail on [elpune.ee@mahapwd.gov.in](mailto:elpune.ee@mahapwd.gov.in) prior to before 01.07.2024 @ 17.00)

- Date of Opening of bid : Dated 08.07.2024@ 11.00 AM At office of Superintending Engineer (Elect.) , Pune Regional Circle, P.W.D. Date Bunglow, Government Milk Scheme Premises, Kirkee Pune - 411003

The detailed tender notice can be is available on [www.mahatenders.gov.in](http://www.mahatenders.gov.in) (Any changes in the NIT will be published on above web site)

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Public Works Pune Electrical Division  
Pune

DGIPR/2024-25/ROC 484

**GOVT. OF MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION SOLAPUR Sat Rasta, Near Karigar Petrol Pump, Solapur-413003 e-mail-solapur.ee@mahapwd.com Phone No. 0217/2312310**

**E-TENDER NOTICE NO.08 FOR 2024-2025 (Online)**

**"B-1" Tender**

Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Solapur - 413003 Sat Rasta Solapur invites Online tenders for the following work from the Contractors Registration PWD Maharashtra who fulfill the qualifying criteria mentioned in the Bid Document. Bid Document can be downloaded from the portal <http://mahatenders.gov.in> Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Solapur, reserve the right to accept or reject may or all tenders. Conditional tenders shall not be accepted.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Type of Tender	Estimate Cost in Rs.	Class of Contractor
1.	Improvements to Kudal Devikawathe Maisalgi Khanapur Ankalghe Goddevadi Alagi Shegaon Mundhevedi Road M.D.R.- 59 Km.7/00 to 33/400 Tal. Akkalkot Dist. Solapur (Working Chainage 7/550 To 14/585) C.R.F.	"B-1" Tender	11,43,23,025/-	Registration of Certificate with P.W.D. not Required

Downloading Period of E-Tender	--	Dt. 28/06/2024 at 10.00 Hrs. to 12/07/2024 at 18.15 Hrs.
Pre-Bid meeting	--	Dt. 09/07/2024 at 12.30 Hrs in the Office of the Chief Engineer, Public Works Region, New Central Building Pune-1 (online via link generated)
Bid Lock	--	Dt.12/07/2024 at 18.15 Hrs
Physical submission DOC.	--	At any of the following places within 72 Hrs. after Bid Lock at office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division Solapur.
Date of Opening of E-Tender	--	Dt. 15/07/2024 at 11.00 Hrs. in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Public Works Circle Solapur. (If Possible)

NOTE :- Details of Tender documents will be available and downloaded online directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-tendering website <http://mahatenders.gov.in> & <http://mahapwd.com> as under. Above Tender Notice is displayed on P.W.D. website [www.mahapwd.com](http://www.mahapwd.com)

Sd/-  
(Manoj R. Thakare)  
Executive Engineer,  
Public Work Division, Solapur

DGIPR/2024-25/ROC 489

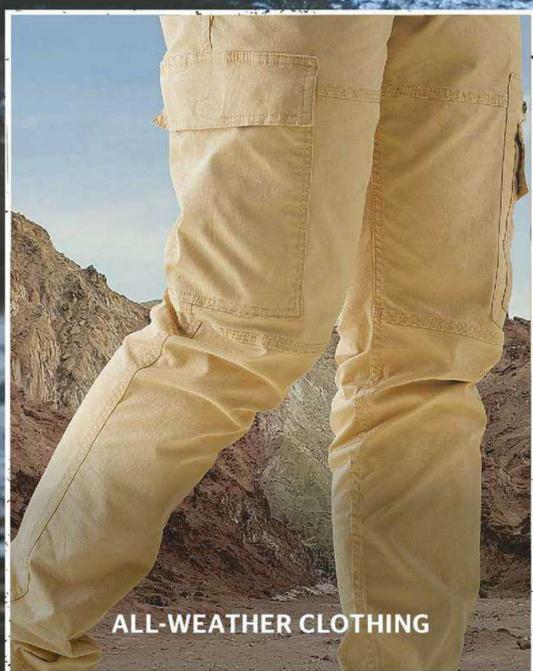


# Hindustan Times

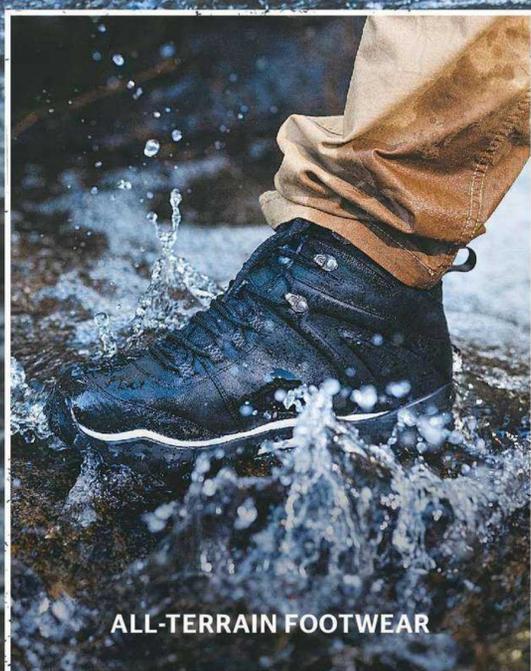
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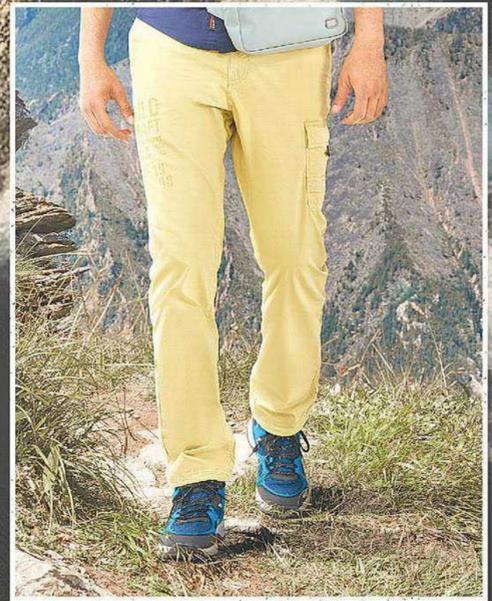
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# Hindustan Times

FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

## Prez focus on Emergency, NEET kicks off row in Parl

**Smriti Kak Ramachandran**  
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**NEW DELHI:** President Droupadi Murmu's address to both houses of Parliament on Thursday drew a sharp response from the Opposition for two mentions — irregularities in the conduct of examinations and the Emergency — and a non-mention of the violence in Manipur (although she spoke of the development of the Northeast).

The President dubbed the Emergency — imposed 50 years ago in 1975 by the then Congress government under Indira Gandhi — as the "the biggest and darkest chapter of direct attack on the Constitution", a reference that raised the hackles of the Congress, especially because it was the third mention this week of a period the party would like to forget. Both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Speaker Om Birla previously referred to it.

In the customary joint address at the beginning of the session, President Murmu made a mention of the various achievements of the government, including its pervasive welfare schemes and the resilience of the Indian economy. She also raised the issue of irregularities and alleged paper leaks that have led to an uproar and cast a shadow on academic processes.

### Paper leaks

Recent instances of examinations being cancelled or deferred following complaints of paper leaks that have cast an aspersion on the credibility of the testing agencies, found a

continued on → 6

## What President Murmu said

### ON PAPER LEAKS

"My government is committed to a fair investigation and ensuring strict punishment to the culprits. Even earlier, we have witnessed many instances of paper leaks... It is important that we rise above party politics and undertake concrete measures nationwide."

### ON EMERGENCY

"There were forces in the world who wished India to fail. Even after the Constitution came into force, it was attacked many times... Today is 27th June. The imposition of Emergency on 25th June, 1975, was the biggest and darkest chapter of direct attack on the Constitution."

### ON FAIR ELECTIONS

"We have to protect the faith Indians have in democracy... We remember the time when ballot papers were looted and snatched away. In order to make the voting process secure, it was decided to adopt EVMs. In the past several decades, EVMs have crossed many hurdles."

**OPPN TARGETS SPEECH:** Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the address was a script written by Modi government. "Modi Ji is trying to gain cheap applause by making the Honourable President speak lies," Kharge wrote on X.



## PM LIKELY TO HOLD MEETING WITH BUREAUCRATS

**Rajeev Jayaswal**  
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**NEW DELHI:** PM Narendra Modi may meet top bureaucrats this weekend and instruct them to follow the basic rules of good governance — public welfare, ease of living for citizens and last-mile service delivery, two people aware of the matter said. He may also review their individual department-related plans for the first 125-day of the government and the progress so far, they said. → P8

## Sengol becomes Oppn vs govt flashpoint again

**Vrinda Tulsian**  
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**NEW DELHI:** Samajwadi Party MP RK Chaudhary's demands that the Sengol — the staff installed in the new Parliament — be removed and replaced with a copy of the Constitution set off a political firestorm on Thursday. Chaudhary, in a letter to the Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla said that he was "surprised" to see the Sengol while taking his oath.

"The Sengol is a symbol or Raj-danda (rotal staff)...our Parliament is the temple of democracy and not the princely palace of some kingdom," he said.

Union minister Chirag Paswan hit back and said, "Such symbols have been tried to be shown in the wrong light for many decades. Today when they are given due respect by our Prime Minister, why are you offended by all these things?"

→ FULL STORY ON P8

## SENSEX OVER 79K ON BLUE-CHIP GAINS, NEWS OF ULTRATECH DEAL

**MUMBAI:** Sensex breached the 79,000 mark while Nifty scaled 24,000 for the first time on Thursday as buying in blue-chip stocks helped markets extend gains to the fourth straight day and close at lifetime high levels.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 568.93 points or 0.72% to settle at a new closing peak of 79,243.18. During the day, it zoomed 721.78 points or 0.91% to hit the new lifetime peak of 79,396.03.

The Nifty ended at a fresh record high of 24,044.50, rising 175.70 points or 0.74%. Intra-day, it soared 218.65 points or 0.91% to an all-time peak of 24,087.45.

Among the 30 Sensex companies, UltraTech Cement jumped over 5% after the country's leading cement maker said it will acquire a 23% stake in India Cements. → P7

## ADVANI DISCHARGED AFTER TREATMENT IN DEPARTMENT OF UROLOGY: AIIMS

**HT Correspondent**  
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**NEW DELHI:** Veteran BJP leader and former deputy prime minister Lal Krishna Advani, who was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi on Wednesday, was discharged on Thursday.

The 96-year-old suffering from age-related health conditions was discharged at around 2pm on Thursday. He was admitted at around 10.30pm on Wednesday and underwent treatment in the department of urology. "His condition was stable and he was discharged," said a hospital official on condition of anonymity.



Drains being cleared at ITO after rain left the key stretch waterlogged.

**79** Delhi's air quality index (AQI) improved to the 'satisfactory' zone on Thursday for the first time in 282 days (since Sept 19 last year) after showers in the morning. → P3

The Met department predicted that monsoon would set in over Delhi in two or three days. It also issued a yellow alert for Friday and an orange alert for Saturday, warning of heavy rain and thundershowers on the weekend.

Delhi on Thursday clocked a maximum temperature of 35.4°C, two degrees below normal and the lowest since 33.7°C on May 1. The minimum temperature, meanwhile, read 28.6°C, less than a degree below normal.

## Monsoon to hit Delhi by weekend, says IMD

**Aheli Das**  
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**NEW DELHI:** The Capital woke up to cloudy skies and rain on Thursday, as the first spell of pre-monsoon showers hit the city and pulled temperatures down to their lowest in nearly eight weeks, with the national weather agency predicting that the rainy season will arrive over Delhi within "two or three days".

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) also issued a yellow alert for Friday, an orange alert for Saturday and then a yellow alert till July 3,

warning of heavy rain and thundershowers during this time, especially this weekend.

Delhi on Thursday clocked a maximum temperature of 35.4°C, two degrees below normal and the lowest since 33.7°C on May 1. The minimum temperature, meanwhile, read 28.6°C, less than a degree below normal and the lowest since 28.4°C on June 21.

The maximum and minimum temperatures on Wednesday were 39°C and 31.6°C respectively.

"Conditions are likely to become favourable for the

southwest monsoon's progress into parts of Delhi along with some adjoining states in the next two or three days," said an IMD official.

"Cloudy skies will persist till next week. Light to moderate rain and gusty winds can be expected on Friday. Rain will get more intense from Saturday as the monsoon progresses further into the Capital."

IMD also forecast that the maximum will decrease to 34°C by Sunday. The minimum is expected to touch 27°C by the weekend.

continued on → 13

## 'Source of NEET leak likely courier, transport firm staff'

**Prawesh Lama**  
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**PATNA:** The NEET-UG question paper for the May 5 entrance test may have been leaked on May 3 while being transported from the Ranchi airport to an office of courier company Blue Dart, and then to the Hazaribagh branch of the State Bank of India (SBI) with the help of employees of either the transport company or the courier agency, officials aware of the matter said.

Bihar Police's Economic Offences Unit (EOU), which arrested 18 people and recorded the statements of SBI and Blue Dart employees, handed its case files to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) which took over the case.

Police officers, who asked not to be named, said that those arrested — including members of a gang in Nalanda — have, in the past bribed employees of courier companies, drivers involved in transportation and photog-

## CBI arrests two accused from Patna in its paper leak probe

**NEW DELHI/PATNA:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday made its first arrests in the probe into the irregularities in the NEET-UG exam, taking into custody two individuals from Patna, people familiar with the development said.

The accused, identified as Ashutosh Kumar and Manish Kumar, allegedly provided a location where some of those who appeared for the exam were given the leaked NEET

question paper and answer keys, they added.

The two were produced before a special court in Patna, which sent them to judicial custody.

Ashutosh took on rent the premises of Learn Boys Hostel and Play School in Patna, where aspirants who paid the money to the so-called "solver gang" were taken. Manish was involved in striking deals with aspirants and ferrying them to the hostel. → P10

graphed question papers en route to different exam centres.

Bihar Police have also shared with CBI details of their investigation that show how the 2024 NEET-UG question paper was driven first by a transport com-

pany driver for over a 100km route and then by an e-rickshaw to the bank for a distance of less than 2km.

"Police have shared statements of the Blue Dart company

continued on → 13

## HUMAN FINGER IN ICE CREAM WAS OF MANUFACTURER'S WORKER: DNA TEST

**Megha Sood**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**MUMBAI:** The human finger that a Mumbai-based doctor found in the ice cream he ordered online earlier this month belonged to an employee of the ice cream manufacturers, police said on Thursday, citing the DNA report.

The employee, identified as Pune resident Omkar Pote (24), had lost the tip of his finger on May 11 while filling ice cream cones at the Fortune Dairy factory, which manufactures ice cream under the Yummo brand name, in Indapur town in Pune district, police said.

Last week, Malad police in Mumbai collected Pote's DNA samples and sent them to the forensic science laboratory in Kalina to ascertain if the finger belonged to him. Police also sent his blood samples to the laboratory to check if he was suffering from any disease which could pose risks to consumers. → P10

## 10 Indian fishermen charged with death of Sri Lanka navy sailor

**HT Correspondent**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**COLOMBO:** Ten Indian fishermen who were arrested earlier this week for illegal fishing will be charged with the death of a Navy sailor who succumbed to the injuries sustained during an operation to seize their trawler, Sri Lankan authorities have said.

"They face charges for illegal fishing in Sri Lankan waters, death of a naval person during the operation and for causing damage to naval property," the Sri Lankan Navy said in statement issued on Wednesday.

The navy said the 10 fishermen were arrested on June 25 (local time) during a special operation conducted off Kankesanthurai Port in Jaffna district, northern Sri Lanka, for illegally fishing in the country's waters.

A senior sailor from the navy

**THE SAILOR DIED AS A RESULT OF DAMAGE TO HIS SPINAL CORD, THE LANKAN NAVY SAID IN A STATEMENT**

Special Boat Squadron sustained critical injuries due to "the aggressive manoeuvres of the Indian trawler, resisting its seizure" during the operation, later succumbing to his injuries after being admitted to a hospital in Jaffna.

According to a post mortem report, the sailor's death was an accident, arising from damage to his spinal cord, the navy said.

Indian officials did not officially comment on the development. After the operation, the fishermen were brought to the

continued on → 13

## India hammer England, to face SA in final



India stormed into the final of the T20 World Cup, beating England by 68 runs in a rain-hit game in Guyana. Rohit Sharma scored 57 off 39 and Kuldeep Yadav took 3-19 to see England off. They face South Africa who beat Afghanistan by 9 wickets and entered their first ICC final. → P20 AP

## LG dissolves Delhi govt think tank 'temporarily'

**HT Correspondent**  
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**NEW DELHI:** Lieutenant governor VK Saxena on Thursday gave his nod to temporarily dissolve the Delhi Dialogue and Development Commission (DDCD) and remove its three non-official members, officials in the LG's office aware of the development said.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led Delhi government hit back, alleging that the decision

is illegal, and stating that DDCD is under the jurisdiction of chief minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Officials in the LG's office said that as per Saxena's instructions, DDCD will remain suspended till a mechanism is developed for the screening and selection of domain experts as its vice-chairperson and members, as per the rules.

"We will challenge this illegal order of the LG in the courts," a Delhi government spokesperson said. → P3

## 25% NEW HIRES MARRIED WOMEN: FOXCONN NOTE

**NEW DELHI:** Apple supplier Foxconn said that 25% of its new hires are married women in an informal note to the government after reports said the Taiwan-based company was excluding married women from its hiring process at its main plant in Tamil Nadu, people familiar with the matter told PTI news agency. It also said that the firm requires all employees to remove metals while working in the factory irrespective of gender or religion as a safety protocol and the policy was not aimed at married women, the people said. → P11

## IAF's final MiG-21s unite at Nal airbase ahead of curtain call

**Rahul Singh**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Some of the Indian Air Force's last Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-21 fighter jets have silently bid adieu to their home base at Suratgarh in Rajasthan and been relocated by IAF to the sprawling Nal desert fighter base near Bikaner, where the only other remaining Indian MiG-21s are based, as the world's fourth largest air force prepares the ground to pull these iconic planes out of service and begins raising its new Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA Mk-1A) fleet in July, senior officials aware of the matter said on Thursday.

IAF has completed the relocation of the Suratgarh-based No

23 Squadron, better known as "Panthers", to Nal, which is home to the MiG-21s belonging to the No 3 Squadron or "Cobras", and the last of the air force's MiG-21s are now operating from the same airbase, said one of the officials cited above on the condition of anonymity.

Both squadrons operate the MiG-21 Bison, the last variant of the single-engine workhorse.

"The MiG-21 Bisons have been moved from Suratgarh to Nal as IAF wants to optimise their maintenance, service and spares to keep the fleet flying till the conversion of the two squadrons to LCA Mk-1A is completed during 2024-25," said a second official who also asked not to be named. → P11

## NEET candidate dies in year's 12th Kota suicide

**HT Correspondent**  
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**JAIPUR:** A 17-year-old student who was preparing for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for admission in undergraduate medical courses died by suicide in Kota district of Rajasthan, police on Thursday said, the 12th such incident in the coaching hub this year.

Last year, 27 students preparing for competitive examinations died by suicide in the district.

According to Dadabdi SHO Naresh Meena, the student, from Jharkhand, hanged himself from a ceiling fan in his hostel room in the district.

"It is to be ascertained whether he attempted NEET this year and whether the results caused him any stress," he said. → P10

## { GENERAL ARRESTED }

## Uneasy calm as Bolivia snuffs out coup attempt



Military police fire tear gas at protesters at Plaza Murillo, La Paz. AFP

**LA PAZ, BOLIVIA:** Calm returned to Bolivia's capital on Thursday after troops led by a top general stormed the presidential palace, then quickly retreated, tumultuous scenes that threatened to pitch the long-troubled South American democracy into chaos.

The nation of 12 million watched in shock on Wednesday as Bolivian military forces appeared to turn on the government of President Luis Arce, seizing control of the capital's main square with armoured personnel carriers, crashing a tank into the

palace and unleashing tear gas on protesters who flooded the streets.

Arce refused to relent and named a new army commander, who immediately ordered troops to stand down, ending the rebellion after just three chaotic and head-snapping hours. Army chief General Juan José Zúñiga was arrested after the attorney general opened an investigation.

The short-lived rebellion followed months of mounting tensions between Arce and his one-time ally, former President Evo Morales. → P17

## CHARGE SHEET FILED AGAINST EX-K'TAKA CM YEDIYURAPPA

**Arun Dev**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**BENGALURU:** The Karnataka Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on Thursday filed a charge sheet against former CM and senior BJP leader BS Yediyurappa, accusing him of sexually assaulting a minor girl. The charges, which include severe offences under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (PoCSO) Act, follow a complaint filed by the minor's mother in March. → P9

## NUMBER THEORY

## Can RJD win back its dominance in Bihar?

By Roshan Kishore and Nishant Ranjan

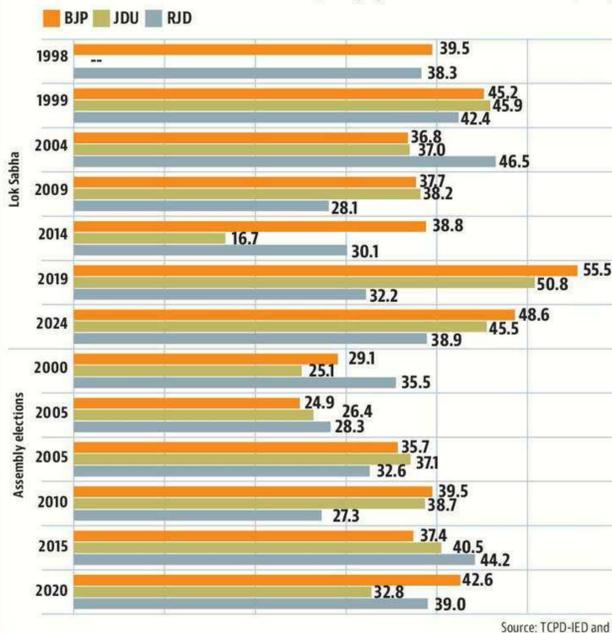
The first part of this series looked at the 2024 results to argue that ending up as the party with the highest vote share was of little benefit to the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) in terms of winning more seats in Bihar. This is because the RJD's contested vote share was seventh lowest among the 11 parties which were a part of the NDA or INDIA alliance. What can the RJD do to address this challenge? Here are three charts that try to answer this question.

## 1 The RJD has had a contested vote share problem for a long time in Bihar

A historical analysis of contested vote shares from 1998 onwards shows this clearly. 1998 were the first elections in which the RJD contested after Lalu Prasad Yadav split the Janata Dal in Bihar. The Janata Dal (United), or JD(U), was formed out of a split in the Samta Party (which had walked out of what was Lalu Prasad-led Janata Dal in Bihar) and contested its first elections in 1999. The RJD has had the highest contested vote share in four out of the 13 Lok Sabha

and assembly elections since 1998. These are the 2000 assembly elections, 2004 Lok Sabha elections, 2005 (February) assembly elections, and 2015 assembly elections. Three out of these four performances came in a period when the RJD was in power in Bihar as a dominant party. In 2015, the RJD contested along with the JD(U) and the Congress in the state and the alliance routed the BJP-led NDA winning 73.3% of the seats in the assembly.

## Contested vote share of RJD, JD(U) and BJP in Bihar (in %)

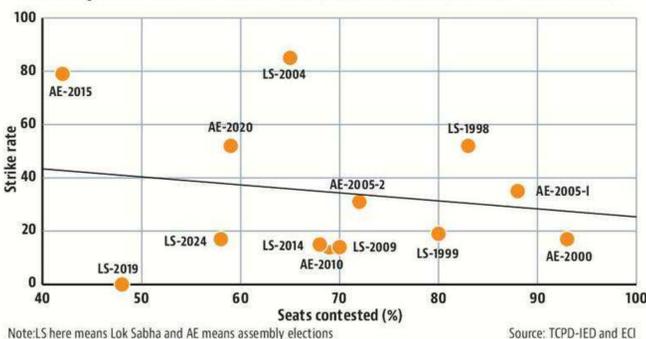


Source: TCPD-IED and ECI

## 2 And alliances alone will not help the RJD's cause

RJD has ceded a lot more space to its allies in the state in the recent past than it used to earlier. It contested less than 60% of the total seats in the last four Lok Sabha (2019 and 2024) and assembly (2015 and 2020) elections in the state. However, its strike rate has varied wildly from 0 to 79% in these elections. In fact, the share of seats contested by the RJD has almost no correlation with its strike rate in all assembly and Lok Sabha elections in the state since 1998. This shows that sharing more seats with its alliance partners alone is not going to lead to a revival of the RJD in the state's politics.

## Scatter plot of share of seats contested and strike rate of RJD in Bihar



Note: LS here means Lok Sabha and AE means assembly elections

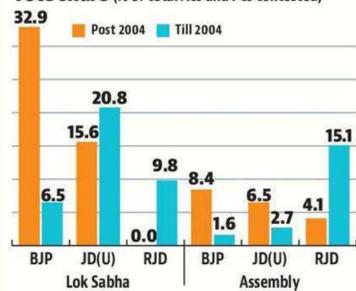
Source: TCPD-IED and ECI

## 3 RJD needs to work on regaining its broad-based support in Bihar

A simple statistic can help explain this argument. While the FPTP system of democracy can lead to victories despite low vote shares, one would assume that a party winning a constituency with a 50% or greater vote share reflects a broad-based support for its politics. HT has looked at the number of all PCs and assembly constituencies (ACs) won with a 50% or bigger vote share by the three main parties in Bihar, namely RJD, BJP and JD(U), as a share of total seats contested by them.

The BJP fought its first elections in 1984, the RJD in 1998 and the JD(U) in 1999. 6.5% and 4.8% of RJD's all AC and PC victories came with a vote share of 50% or more. These numbers are 4.3% and 16.1% for the BJP, and 6.1% and 17.4% for the JD(U). If one were to divide these victories into pre- and post-2005 periods - the RJD lost power in the state that year - then the share of RJD victories with a vote share of 50% or more shows a sharp fall in the second period.

## ACs and PCs won with at least 50% vote share (% of total ACs and PCs contested)



Source: TCPD-IED and ECI

The inability of the RJD to harvest bigger constituency-level victories in the post-2005 period is symptomatic of the erosion in its social base after the JD(U) found its mojo in the state's politics. This theory finds further support when one looks at the fact that the RJD's strike rate has been the highest in two elections - 2004 Lok Sabha and 2015 assembly. The RJD was in alliance with the Lok Janshakti Party in 2004 and the JD (U) in 2015, in addition to its traditional partners such as the Congress and Left Parties. Both the JD(U) and the LJP had leaders

who were peers of Lalu Prasad Yadav from the days of the anti-Emergency struggle in Bihar. Can the RJD build/maintain another such alliance to rediscover its mojo in Bihar? The first prerequisite for such a project to sustain itself will be the willingness of the RJD to share leadership at the state level in letter and spirit rather than just a tactical arrangement to regain its old dominance in Bihar. This will only come with a realisation that it was the way it conducted itself in its dominant period which laid the ground for the RJD's weakening in Bihar's politics.

This is the last of a two-part series which looks at the RJD's political predicament in Bihar. The first part explained the 2024 results in Bihar from the RJD's perspective

{ MY INDIA } TAMIL NADU

## CM Stalin announces int'l airport in Hosur



The government will set up a new international airport on 2,000 acres of land in Hosur district with a capacity to handle 30 million passengers a year and to cater to the increasing industrial needs of the Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri districts, Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin said in the Assembly on Thursday. "The government considers it necessary to establish an airport in Hosur to help the overall socio-economic development of Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri regions," he added, it will help the socio-economic development of the region, not just Hosur alone. →P9

{ MY DELHI } WITHOUT SAFETY EQUIPMENT

## Sanitation worker dies, two take ill after cleaning sewer



A sanitation worker died and two others fell severely ill after inhaling poisonous gases while cleaning an underground sewer line without safety equipment in Sector 47, Gurugram, police said on Thursday. The incident occurred on Tuesday when a contractor, Mukim Ali, allegedly asked the three sanitation workers to clean a manhole at a traffic signal ahead of Park Hospital. The victim was identified as Nur Islam Mandal, 38, of West Bengal. "The contractor is on the run. We will arrest him soon. After his arrest, it will be clear which government agency he worked for," said inspector Arun Dev. →P6

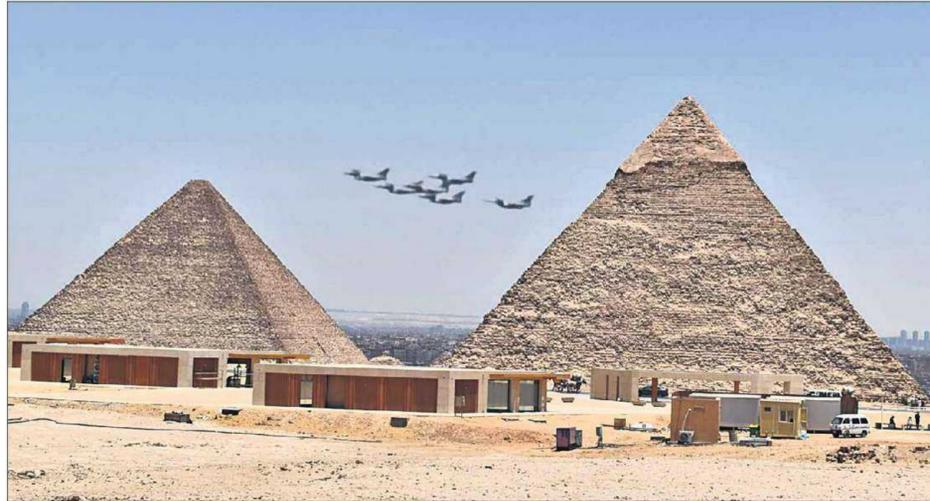
{ MY INDIA } 'UNFLINCHING' WRITING

## Arundhati Roy wins Pen Pinter Prize '24



Booker Prize-winning author Arundhati Roy was on Thursday awarded the Pen Pinter Prize 2024 by the charity English PEN for her "unflinching and unwavering" writings. "I am delighted to accept... I wish Harold Pinter were with us today to write about the almost incomprehensible turn the world is taking. Since he isn't, some of us must do our utmost to try to fill his shoes," said Roy. The award comes at a time when the 62-year-old is facing legal action under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act over comments she made in Kashmir in 2010. AGENCIES

## Indian Air Force aircraft dazzle over Egypt, Greece



Several Indian Air Force Rafale aircraft returned to India on Thursday after taking part in Exercise Red Flag in the United States. On their way back to India, the aircraft stopped to refuel in Lajes, Portugal. Subsequently, the contingent split into two teams and conducted joint exercises with the Egyptian and Hellenic air forces. IAF



## Why even former superstars hold on to their brand value in world of sport

Shuchi Bansal

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As anyone who watched the Indian Premier League (IPL) and the ongoing T20 World Cup can confirm, it is almost as if Sachin Tendulkar and Mahendra Singh Dhoni are still playing. Their latest ad campaign for the Association of Mutual Funds of India (AMFI), which also features Rohit Sharma, is a hit among viewers with content creators sharing clips of the ad film on their social media handles.

Sameet Ali Soni, executive creative director at VML, the agency behind the ad, said they have been using Dhoni and Tendulkar in AMFI ads, but it's the first time that the three cricketers have come together for a campaign. "It is a slice-of-life film that doesn't look like an ad. It is a light-hearted take on a serious subject like retirement planning. Tendulkar is already retired and Dhoni is on the threshold of retirement," Soni said.

To be sure, AMFI isn't the only campaign featuring either Tendulkar or Dhoni, the former Indian cricket team captain and erstwhile captain of the IPL team Chennai Super Kings. The two batsmen are still prized by brands, with Sachin Tendulkar endorsing Apollo Tyres, Gillette, Livpure and Rario while Dhoni appears for State Bank of India, Mastercard, Indigo Paints and Homelane, among others.

There are other retired cricketers who do appear in ads, of course, but Tendulkar and Dhoni are ahead, jostling with (and often ahead of) today's stars. Their rankings in the latest edition (for 2023) of Kroll's annual list of most valuable celebrity brands released last week proves their enduring appeal. Among the top 25 film and sports celebrities

by brand value, in 2023 Sachin Tendulkar held on to his number 8 position of 2022 though Dhoni dropped a notch from number 6 in 2022 to 7 in 2023. However, between 2022 and 2023, Tendulkar's brand value rose from \$73.6 million to \$91.3 million and from \$80.3 million to \$95.8 million for Dhoni. This means they have added new brands to their portfolio and have seen an increase in their endorsement fee.

"For 2023, we noticed an at least 6-7% jump in the endorsement fee of the top 10 celebrity brand ambassadors over 2022. This was flat in 2022 over the previous year," said Aviral Jain, managing director, valuation advisory services at Kroll. Celebrity brand value is based on the earnings from their endorsement portfolios. For filmmakers, it also takes into account their box office earnings and for sports celebrities, their on-field performance.

In Kroll's 2023 report, Virat Kohli has returned to number one position after being displaced by actor Ranveer Singh in 2022. Rohit Sharma and Hardik Pandya are the only other cricketers in the top 25 - at 18 and 19 respectively.

Jain said Tendulkar endorses fewer brands but that his endorsement fee is high. He is choosy, works closely with brands and prefers longer term deals, he added. Lloyd Mathias, angel investor, business strategist and former marketer at PepsiCo, said Sachin Tendulkar's association with Pepsi lasted more than 15 years.

Tendulkar has 15 full-fledged brand endorsements in his portfolio and another 2-3 social media promotions totalling about 18 brand deals, Kroll's Jain said. "However, his fee is just a tad lower than that of Virat Kohli at ₹10-11 crore per brand, which his position in the market," said Jain. In recent years, Tendulkar has added JioCinema, Savlon and



MS Dhoni and Sachin Tendulkar are still prized by brands and often find more takers than the current crop of stars. GETTY IMAGES

Tanishq to his brand portfolio.

Dhoni endorses 35 brands and including the digital deals, the total number would be 45, Jain said. But his fee is lower than Sachin's at ₹5.5-6 crore per brand. Currently, these cricketers are seen in ads for categories such as food and beverages, personal care products, banking and financial services and consumer durables.

But what makes MS Dhoni and Sachin Tendulkar tick among brand owners?

"In terms of longevity and relevance, what works for them is their superstardom," said Lloyd Mathias. "Pepsi was the first mega brand to sign up a very young Sachin even before Mark Mascarenhas' WorldTel started representing him," he said.

Tendulkar - who broke many records - became a global superstar and Dhoni towered above others when he won the ICC World Cup for India in 2011. "What endears them to brands is the fact that both have been relatively neutral and controversy free, Mathias said. "Despite their huge popularity, they haven't got into any kind of scandals. Though Sachin was a Rajya Sabha MP for six years, Dhoni has remained free from politics and created a

youth brand franchise with his association with CSK," Mathias said.

Tendulkar has kept himself relevant through his involvement with the cricket administration and being a mentor to IPL team Mumbai Indians. "His accomplishments are such that clients gravitate towards him," said VML's Soni.

Not just that, he is affable on social media putting out interesting content that GenZ can relate to, Soni said, adding that young people are familiar with him since his cricket records are a point of discussion during matches. Kroll's Jain said cricketers like Dhoni and Tendulkar have been increasing their social media followers by 5-10% every year.

Rajdeepak Das, chief creative officer, Publicis Groupe South Asia and chairman, Leo Burnett India, believes that their agency has done some of the best work with M S Dhoni for Mondelez brand Oreo and for Frito Lay's. The agency got Dhoni to re-launch Oreoin 2022 to coincide with the World Cup. "What we implied was that Oreoin was launched in 2011 when India won the World Cup under Dhoni's captaincy. So, we launch Oreoin again

and bring the World Cup back in 2022," Das said.

The ad was an important milestone for Oreoin as the brand moved from being one for households with children to all cricket households. "It was a big shift," Das said, adding that the agency had earlier created Oreoin ad films with brand ambassador Dhoni and his daughter Ziva.

Das' agency has worked with Tendulkar for DBS Bank. He said both cricketers are fit and still in demand.

But do any of the younger cricketers enjoy similar brand equity? IPL has democratised cricket and players like Surya Kumar Yadav and Shubman Gill are household names today, said Das. Brands talking to GenZ will be interested in the younger cricketers, "but legends are not created overnight," he said.

The younger crop of cricketers is yet to prove itself, agreed Mathias. None has achieved significant success just yet, he added.

Kroll's Aviral Jain said Shubman Gill is knocking on the door to get into the top 25 list of most valued celebs. With 17-18 brands under his belt, his endorsement portfolio has become meaty even though his performance has been a bit erratic, he said.

Rishabh Pant, too, is back with a bang, after his accident. But brands may wait to see if he can perform without injury for the next one or two years, said Jain.

The current Kroll list has Virat Kohli on top as the most valued celebrity. Mathias said Kohli has metamorphosed from a brash young cricketer to a mature one. "He is politically correct, doesn't endorse colas anymore and is a health icon. There is a good chance that his popularity could extend beyond his cricketing years. It will be interesting to see him 5-10 years from now."

Thanks to Dhoni and Tendulkar, he has a ready template to follow.

# After morning rain spell, Delhi breathes best air since Sept '23

Aheli Das  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Intermittent spells of pre-monsoon showers cleared Delhi's air of sooty pollutants, as the Capital logged its first "satisfactory" reading of the 24-hour average air quality (AQI) in 282 days, according to the Central Pollution Control Board.

The AQI was 79 (satisfactory) at 4pm on Thursday, a drop of 59 points compared to Wednesday's reading of 136 (moderate). The last time Delhi's air was in the "satisfactory" zone was on September 19, 2023, when it was 73. The main pollutants mitigated by the rain were PM2.5 and PM10.

Coarse dust particles from construction sites and other sources had caused the air quality

to remain in the moderate range. Along with this, a highly volatile gas, ozone, has also been a major pollutant.

System (EWS) for Delhi – a forecasting model under the ministry of earth sciences – said Delhi's air quality should remain "satisfactory to moderate" for the next few days.

"The air quality is likely to be in moderate category on June 28... satisfactory category from June 29 to June 30. The outlook for subsequent six days is that the air quality is likely to be in satisfactory, to moderate category," said the EWS bulletin on Thursday.

According to experts, the

trend of better air days will continue for a few weeks.

"The prolonged heat during summer increases dust in the air, which primarily affects the AQI. Rain has a washout effect and brings the dust particles down, which makes the AQI improve," said Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director at the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

"This year, there was a continuous spell of heatwave which brought up pollution. This relief is temporary, but the pollution levels should remain considerably low for the next two to three months," she added.

CPCB classifies an AQI of 0-50 as "good", 51-100 as "satisfactory", 101-200 as "moderate", 201-300 as "poor", 301-400 as "very poor" and 401-500 as "severe". Forecasts by the Early Warning

Unlike winter months, when PM2.5 and PM10 levels remain high, the main pollutant in summer is ozone.

Experts have pointed out that ground-level ozone levels remain fairly high throughout the year but its concentration starts to rise in March with levels breaching the safe limit on most days between March and June. Though ozone is present

in winter as well, the levels are lower owing to low temperatures, as it needs sharp sun to aid its formation.

HT had reported in March that ozone had emerged as the lead pollutant, impacting the city's air even as summer had only begun. The latest data, however, has not been released. In 2023, parts of Delhi-NCR reported ozone levels exceeding its national standards on 87 out of 92 days between March 1 and May 30.

Mukesh Khare, an air pollution expert at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, said that scattered rains and winds dispersed pollution. "The effect results in dilution. High heat increases the buoyancy of the pollutants, making them suspended in the atmosphere. Rain brings this layer of dust down and clears the air."

## ATISHI RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi Minister Atishi on Thursday was discharged from Lok Nayak hospital, where she was recuperating following a deterioration in her health during a hunger strike.

Atishi was admitted to the Delhi government-run hospital on Tuesday – the fourth day of her hunger strike in which she demanded the additional release of Yamuna water by Haryana.

Lok Nayak director Suresh Kumar said Atishi had hypoglycaemia. She is currently stable with mild weakness expected for a few days until she fully recovers," Kumar said.



# Major drain choked, Maharani Bagh stares at flooding after rain



Silt and garbage have been excavated and stashed on the sides of the drain. ARVIND YADAV/HT PHOTO

Paras Singh  
paras@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** With monsoon around the corner, residents of Maharani Bagh area in southeast Delhi have urged civic authorities to expedite work on clearing and redesigning the severely clogged Taimoor Nagar drain before rains begin to lash the city properly.

Residents said the work to clear the drain is being done in phases, but the pendency of work will aggravate the waterlogging problem during rains. Parts of Friends Colony, New Friends Colony and Maharani Bagh have their drainage outfall in the Taimoor Nagar drain, which then meets the Yamuna. The Maharani Bagh RWA, in a statement, said their stormwater drain poses significant risks to the health and safety of residents.

Shiv Mehra, president of the Maharani Bagh RWA, and a resident of Eastern Avenue Road, said the runoff from the area ends up in the Taimoor Nagar drain. "Since there is no proper flow of wastewater, there is backflow of sewage in the Maharani Bagh drainage system," Mehra said.

He added that the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) had started the work to clear the drain,

but it was too late. "The work is still incomplete and the drain remains filled with large clumps of silt excavated from the drain bed. Our drainage system is already filled to the brim with sewage and one heavy shower will lead to overflow," Mehra said.

HT reached out to the MCD official overseeing the work but he did not respond to queries seeking comments.

**An annual problem**  
Sewage waterlogging is an annual problem in the area. Two slums are located along the drain, while the urban village is on the other side. All the underground drainage pipelines in the nearby colonies end up in what is supposed to be a 20-foot drain abutting the Eastern Avenue Road.

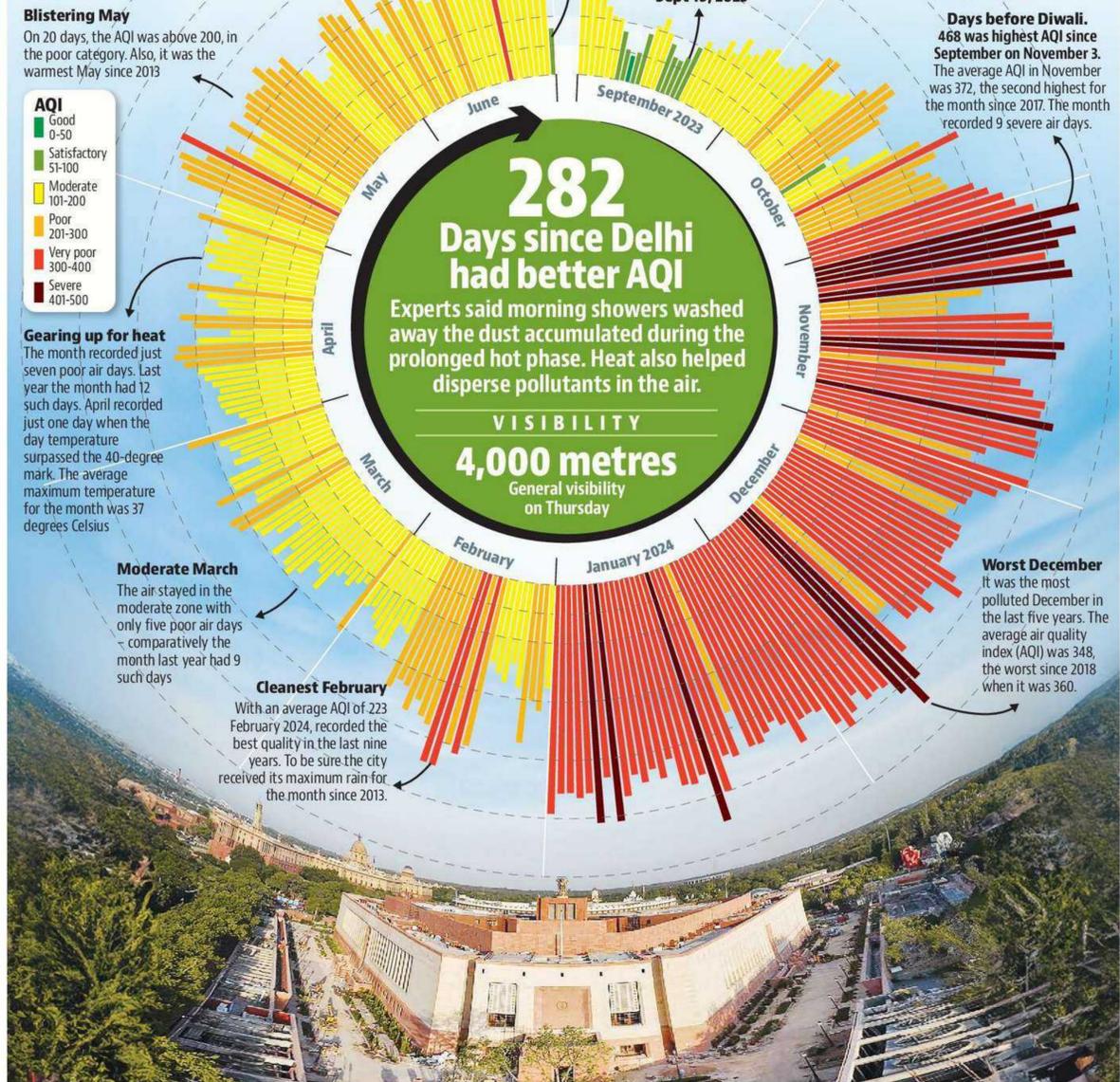
This drain, however, progressively gets narrower, reduced to a width of barely 4-5 feet near the slums of Taimoor Nagar due to accumulated filth and unchecked encroachments – creating a massive chokepoint. The civic body then begins to pump out the water. The open drain, called Taimoor Nagar nullah, runs parallel to the village. During a spot check on Thursday, silt and garbage from the nullah had been partly excavated and stashed on the

sides, leaving a narrow opening for the water to pass. However, the situation remained unchanged further down, where the drain was still replete with trash and plastic.

**Repair work too slow**  
Anuj Kumar Rawla, another resident of the area, MCD's work has been progressing at a snail's pace. "The drain covers around 1km from Taimoor Nagar to the floodplains. The narrow outfall of this drain is the reason behind annual flooding in our area. MCD wanted to create a passage of water with pipes that would be unaffected by silt and waste in the 250m section. However, the project is nowhere near completion," said Rawla.

Amitosh Moitra, a resident of Western Avenue Road, said that the water level in the drain of Maharani Bagh is bursting at the seams. "This is because the flow downstream has been forcefully constricted by MCD due to ongoing work. If the flow is not normalised, the colony risks a massive overflow during monsoons," he said.

Rajpal, the local BJP MCD councillor said: "I have raised this issue eight times in the House. The drain-clearing work cannot be completed at this pace."



# Kejriwal's arrest by CBI: AAP MPs protest in House

HT Correspondent  
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**NEW DELHI:** Members of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday boycotted President Droupadi Murmu's address to a joint sitting of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha to protest the arrest of party convener Arvind Kejriwal, alleging that the Union government was misusing federal agencies to browbeat the opposition.

The latest development took place a day after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arrested Kejriwal, the Delhi chief minister, in connection with alleged irregularities in the Delhi excise policy 2021-22.

Demonstrating outside Parliament, the AAP MPs held various placards against the Centre. Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh said their protest was to protect the Constitution and democracy. "An elected chief minister was arrested and put behind bars. We are asking the Prime Minister to stop the misuse of investigative agencies and release Kejriwal," he said.

Gurmeet Singh Meht Hayer, AAP MP from Sangrur in Punjab, said, "CM Arvind Kejriwal

was put in jail. Former chief minister of Jharkhand Hemant Soren was also put in jail. Our education minister Manish Sisodia and health minister Satyendra Jain were arrested and are in jail for about two years. This is very dangerous for the democracy of the country."

Separately, the AAP has announced that it will hold a protest across the country on June 29 against Kejriwal's arrest. "AAP workers across the country will hold a massive dharna on Saturday against the BJP for misuse of investigation agencies and Arvind Kejriwal's arrest," AAP national general secretary (organisation) Sandeep Pathak said.

Responding to the protest, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) accused the AAP of anarchy. "It is regrettable that AAP MPs boycotted the President's address in Parliament, but then what can you expect from a party that once announced the boycott of Republic Day, and has shown anarchy of doing a dharna within the precinct of Raj Niwas," North West Delhi MP Yogendra Chandoliya said.

# LG temporarily dissolves govt think tank, AAP hits out at 'petty politics'

HT Correspondent  
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**NEW DELHI:** Lieutenant governor VK Saxena on Thursday gave his nod to temporarily dissolve the Delhi Dialogue and Development Commission (DDCD) and remove its three non-official members, officials in the LG's office aware of the development said.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led Delhi government hit back, alleging that the decision is illegal, and stating that DDCD is under the jurisdiction of chief minister Arvind Kejriwal. DDCD was created as a policy think-tank manned by domain experts, on the lines of the planning commission, to provide inputs of governance. The tenure of members of DDC was supposed to be co-terminus with the term of the present Government of NCT of Delhi. It was constituted through a gazette notification on April 29, 2016, after approval from then LG Najeeb Jung. Sections 3 and 8 of the notification states that non-official members of the body will be appointed solely by the CM, and only the CM has powers to remove any member before the completion of their term.

Officials in the LG's office said that as per Saxena's instructions,

**CONTRIBUTIONS OF DDCD**  
According to the AAP, several flagship policies of the Delhi government have had a "defining contribution" by DDCD, including:

- Delhi EV Policy, 2020
- Delhi Solar Policy, 2016 and 2024
- Delhi Rozgar Bazaar initiative
- One Delhi app (for public transport)
- A decentralised model to upgrade Delhi's street infrastructure
- Streamlining Delhi's ambulance system during Covid
- Setting up an e-coupon system for ration delivery during Covid
- Green Delhi mobile app

DDCD will remain suspended till a mechanism is developed for the screening and selection of domain experts as its vice chairman and members, as per the rules.

"The whole exercise of creating the DDCD by the incumbent government was only to extend financial benefits and extend patronage to certain favoured

political persons of partisan inclinations... Politically appointed persons holding these positions, were allowed to continue on these positions at the whims and fancies of the Chief Minister. There was no screening through a transparent process, and huge salaries were paid from the public exchequer, which were incommensurate to the duties assigned... It is a blatant and clear case of nepotism and favouritism in utter disregard of all rules," noted the LG in his letter to chief secretary Naresh Kumar. HT has seen a copy of the letter.

The officials quoted above noted that the Delhi planning department, in a report in 2022, observed that there is no work allocation amongst DDCD members, and therefore, the continuation of non-official members drawing huge salaries – equivalent to that of a secretary to the Government of India – is not only "undesirable" but also "patently illegal".

Saxena has also asked the finance department to explore the possibility of recovering the salaries paid to the non-official members, the officials said.

In response, the Delhi government said Saxena's decision is illegal, unconstitutional, and a violation of the jurisdiction of his

office.

"DDCD comes under the chief minister, and only he has powers to take action on its members. LG's sole purpose in dissolving DDCD is to stop all the works of Delhi government, which has been his singular contribution to the governance of Delhi ever since he assumed office. We will challenge this illegal order of the LG in the courts," a Delhi government spokesperson said.

Delhi minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said the decision is an example of petty politics.

"It is well known that all commissions, committees, and boards of the Central Government and state governments across India, including those in BJP-ruled states, often have political appointees without any formal tests or interviews," Bharadwaj said.

Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) said the DDCD has lost its relevance.

"It is regrettable that the Arvind Kejriwal government misused DDCD, which was intended to facilitate development work, for the financial upliftment of political allies, thereby embroiling the commission, created with good written objectives, in controversies since its inception," Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said.

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HYGIENIC TOUCHED BY HANDS

# 15 days after blaze, locals battle smoke in Chandni Chowk hub

Hemani Bhandari  
and Snehil Sinha  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Parag Aggarwal coughs a couple of times, but does not miss a beat as he lays out a saree on a work table before him to display it to his customers. The 64-year-old has been operating this saree shop in the Chandni Chowk textile hub of Katra Marwadi for the last four decades, but over the fortnight or so, his business has been impacted — smoke emanating from the burnt-out husks of nearby shops has affected the flow of customers.

"The impact on the ground floor of our shop is slightly less as smoke naturally rises. However, for 4-5 days after the fire, it was so bad that we couldn't even open our shop," Aggarwal said.

The 64-year-old was referring to a massive blaze on June 13, which gutted around 160 shops at Anil Market in Katra Marwadi. Officials suspect the fire was triggered by a short circuit.

The flames at the textile hub were so fierce that it took the fire department around four days to douse it. Traders allege that the shops are still smouldering, but fire officials disagree.

When HT visited the spot on Wednesday, smoke was seen emanating from a pile of debris. The remains of a magenta and fluorescent green saree wrapped around an electricity pole stood out in stark contrast to the burnt remains of the market, while a pile of singed blouses were stacked up in one of the shops. The smell of burning wood and cloth lingered in the air, and soot marks on the walls of neighbouring shops guided passersby to the site of the fire.

Mohammed Rahil, 30, who works at a shop in the street adjacent to Anil Market, said breathing in the smoke has become a common occurrence for them. "The smoke emanates from the middle of the pile. Probably there's something still burning deep inside but hasn't yet led to fire thankfully. We breathe it all day long but when we step out a little, we can feel the difference in



The shops that were gutted in a major fire at old Katra Marwadi Market in Chandni Chowk.

SANJEEV VERMA/HT PHOTO

the air. Delhi's air is anyway polluted and breathing this smoke is only adding to it for us," he said.

A school in the neighbourhood — Marwadi Senior Secondary School — overlooks Anil Market, and is currently shut for summer vacations. However, principal Padam Bhushan Gupta, 59, who lives on campus, noted that schools resume on Monday.

"Not a single day has gone by when we haven't breathed the air filled with smoke... Thankfully, the school was shut for students, and they didn't have to deal with this, but it's opening from Monday and we are worried for their health," Gupta said, adding that he has written to the education department, asking for the school to remain closed for another 15 days because of the smoke.

However, Delhi Fire Services director Atul Garg said that fire tenders have visited the spot

every time a call has been made. "Every call made to the fire department is recorded and the response to it is also documented. Fire tenders worked there (at Katra Marwadi) for four days and went when called thereafter," he said.

Another fire official, on condition of anonymity, said that the blaze on June 13 was more or less brought under control in only eight hours, but as the shops were filled with flammable textiles and fabrics, small fires kept emanating from their ruins over the next three days.

Traders and residents said that they have not been allowed to get the smouldering remains removed by fire officials, and are not allowed to enter the premises. They said they believe that the smoke will stop only after the debris is removed, but are repeatedly stopped by officials, who are waiting for the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to

inspect the site.

A 43-year-old trader, whose shop has been gutted said, "The smoke will finally subside after the debris is removed and we know what's inside, but it has not been removed, and we have been advised by police to not touch anything till MCD inspects the site, because some of the buildings may have been damaged due to the fire."

A senior police officer said they wrote to MCD to remove the debris on June 24. "You are requested to send your staff for inspection of site... It is also requested that burnt debris may also be lifted from the site," the letter, a copy of which HT has seen, read.

An MCD spokesperson said the debris has been cleared from the public road and not from the private property. "The rules are nonetheless being examined if the same can be lifted by the corporation," the spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, the traders affected are picking up the pieces, looking to move on from a tragedy that has drastically affected their livelihood.

A 39-year-old wholesaler, whose shop was gutted in the fire, said he has begun selling suits at a rented shop on an adjacent street. "The rent varies between Rs 25,000 to Rs 1 lakh, depending on the size of the shop. The prices have gone up because now there is a sudden hike in demand," he said, not wishing to be named, adding that he lost goods worth crores in the blaze.

Another trader who was affected by the fire said he comes to the locality from his Gurugram house every day, but is yet to find a suitable shop on rent. "They are showing me places deep inside the market, where no customer will ever come. I am waiting for better options. It's a huge loss," he said.

# Protests by BJP members mar MCD House meet, no discussion on parking fee

Paras Singh

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**NEW DELHI:** Chaos erupted during the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) House meeting on Thursday as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) protested the shortage in water supply in the Capital, among other things, even as proposals were passed by the civic body amid the commotion without discussions.

The new commissioner Ashwini Kumar was welcomed after the house proceedings began around 11.55am after an hour's delay. Soon, the opposition councillors rushed into the well of the House and raised slogans against chief minister Arvind Kejriwal while objecting to frequent delays in holding the meetings.

Mayor Shelly Oberoi welcomed Kumar who was attending his first meeting after replacing Gyanesh Bharti. The leader of the House, Mukesh Goyal, read out the condolence resolutions which was followed by the incident report being read out by Kumar. Goel said that several large incidents occurred in the city over the last month, including the massive fire in Chandni Chowk and a mosque collapse on June 18. During Thursday's meeting, the civic body was planning to discuss the de-silting of drains and waterlogging.

The commotion did not leave much room for discussions and Oberoi passed several proposals amid the sloganeering. The House adjourned till the next meeting and the proceedings lasted for only 20 minutes.

**Some agendas passed**  
The proposal put forward by the remunerative projects cell to increase the parking rates across the city and introduce differential rates based on the colony categorisation has been postponed and will now be taken up in the next meeting, a senior civic official said.

Parking rates in the city were last revised in 2007. A senior MCD official said that among the proposals cleared include the



BJP councillors protest against the Delhi government over the water supply shortage, at Civic Centre, on Thursday. SANJEEV VERMA/HT

setting up of a new medical college complex in Rajan Babu TB hospital, regularisation of permanent sanitation staff in schools, and the deployment of gardeners among others. "Fifteen proposals have been postponed, 13 have been passed and two have been referred back," the official said, requesting anonymity.

MCD plans to develop a new medical college complex at the cost of ₹380 crore at the Rajan Babu Hospital (Institute of Pulmonary Medicine and Tuberculosis) under the Civil Lines zone, senior municipal officials said.

**Govt 'misleading' House, says Oppn**

Leader of the Opposition Raja Iqbal Singh said that the House was being "misled" by the government. BJP councillors carried earthen pots and raised slogans like "Jai Shree Ram" and "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and rushed to the well of the House. The opposition councillors had come prepared with placards and banners on water shortage in the city.

Singh said that BJP councillors raised their voice about water shortage. "The tanker mafia is taking full advantage of the water shortage in Delhi. Due to the collusion of the Aam

Aadmi Party, the tanker mafia has aggravated the problem. AAP ministers never have a solution to any problem and resort to drama to cover up their failures," he said.

Singh added that the MCD and the Public Works Department's drains have not been cleaned yet, which was fully exposed during the first rain.

**Oppn only obstructs sessions: Mayor**

Responding to the protests, Oberoi said the House managed to pass several important resolutions despite the disruptions. "Despite all the efforts of the opposition to stop the session, we were able to pass all important agendas. I once again request the opposition to put forward their views, but there is no use trying to obstruct the session by making noise. People have formed the AAP government in the corporation with great expectations and we have pledged to live up to those expectations," she said.

Oberoi added that the issues raised by BJP members were not related to the civic body. "Since the AAP government was formed in the MCD, BJP has not allowed the House to function smoothly even for a single day..."

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AIIMS, Jodhpur

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Dalip, S/o Ram Nagina, R/o E-468, Mangolpuri, Delhi has committed the offences (or is suspected to have committed) in case Ct. Case No. 18022/2016, U/s 138 NI Act, P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Dalip cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Dalip has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said Dalip accused of Ct. Case No. 18022/2016, U/s 138 NI Act, P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 08.08.2024.

By Order  
Sh. Rishabh Kapoor  
Metropolitan Magistrate (N/W)  
Room No. 105  
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/6416/OD/2024

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a man namely Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown was found dead on 18.06.2024 Bridge ke Niche Helipad Road, Utsav Vihar, Karala, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 73 A, Dated 18.06.2024, has been lodged at Police Station, Begum Pur, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

**Name: Unknown, Age: 55 Years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Light Green Colour with Black Flower Printed Shirt, Dary Green Lower and Blue Colour Hawai Chappal in Feet.**

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

SHO  
Police Station Begum Pur, Delhi  
Ph.: 011-27579033, 8750870323

DP/8235/RD/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 Kashish w/o Md. Shariq R/o H. No. 102, Sector 09 R.K. Puram, Delhi. have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under FIR No. 611/13 U/s 451/446/468/471 IPC. has been registered at P.S. Jagatpuri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said, Kashish cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said, Kashish has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Kashish of FIR No. 611/13 U/s 451/446/468/471 IPC. registered at P.S. Jagatpuri, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 26.07.2024.

By Order  
Ms. Aayushi Saxena Ld. MM-05,  
Room No.48, Karkardooma Court, Delhi

DP/8180/SHD/2024  
(court matter)

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Anmol, S/o Jai Hind R/o: H.No-47, Gali No-14, Brahmampuri, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 143/2019, U/S 33D EX. Act, P.S. Welcome, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Anmol cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Anmol has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said Anmol accused of FIR No. 143/2019, U/S 33D EX. Act, P.S. Welcome, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 31.08.2024.

By Order  
Shri Aridaman Singh Cheema  
Metropolitan Magistrate -03, Room No. 19  
Karkardooma Court, Delhi

DP/8085/NE/2024

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that this Person Named: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 54 years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Blue T-Shirt, Cream Pajama, Place of Recovery: Found on 18/07/2024 in unconscious condition laying road side near ISBT Kashmere Gate, Delhi and shifted to AAA Hospital, Delhi and then transferred to LNJP Hospital for further treatment. During treatment doctor declared him dead. In this regard a DD No. 45-A, U/s 174 Cr.P.C. Dated 25.06.2024 has been lodged at P.S. Kashmere Gate, 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. Kashmere Gate, Delhi  
Ph.: 8750870123

DP/8248/N/2024

# Noida: Drug makers booked over substandard medicines

Maria Khan

maria.khan@hindustantimes.com

**NOIDA:** The Gautam Budh Nagar drugs control department has registered a case against two Himachal Pradesh-based drug manufacturers for allegedly producing and selling antibiotics that are unfit for human consumption, officials aware of the matter stated on Thursday.

The development took place after raids at the district's medical stores by the department revealed that samples of two medicines — moxifloxacin and moxaveri — failed to meet the quality standards.

"Raids were conducted at several pharmacies and medical stores operating in different parts of the district recently. It came to light that two antibiotic medicines that were being manufactured by Himachal Pradesh-based production units were sub-standard and unfit for consumption," said

**THE POLICE HAD CONDUCTED RAIDS ON SEVERAL CHEMIST SHOPS IN THE DISTRICT TO COLLECT SAMPLES**

district drug inspector Vaibhav Babbar.

The raids were conducted following directions by the food safety and drug administration department and GB Nagar district magistrate Manish Kumar Verma to ensure that drugs being sold at medical stores and pharmacies are up to required safety standards.

According to officials from the district drug control department, the two Himachal Pradesh-based units have been booked under relevant sections of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

"Manufacturing and selling drugs unfit for consumption is

a violation of section 18 (prohibition of manufacture and sale of certain drugs and cosmetics) and is a punishable offence under section 27 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940," Babbar said.

The development comes days after the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) revealed that 22 medicines manufactured in Himachal Pradesh failed to meet established quality standards. The failed samples include those of medicines related to throat infection, high blood pressure, cancer, pain, bacterial infection, ulcer, cough, allergy, virus infection, acidity, painkiller, itching, and fever. Of these, many medicines were found without a label and a few of them were found to be fake.

This is not the first time that the quality of medicine in GB Nagar has been called into question. In December 2022, the Union government launched an enquiry into Noi-

da-based drugs manufacturer Marion Biotech after deaths of 18 children in Uzbekistan were linked to a syrup the firm made.

Separately, the GB Nagar regional ayurvedic and unani office had earlier this year banned the production, supply, and sale of several ayurveda pills and powders after samples were found to be "spurious" and "adulterated", having composition of allopathic drugs including prednisolone, diclofenac, betamethasone, among others.

In addition, the Delhi Police in May arrested four people, including a Syrian national, for allegedly selling illicit cancer and lifestyle drugs in NCR. That case came hot on the heels of the crime branch arresting 12 people in March from Delhi-NCR in connection with the manufacturing and sale of fake cancer medicines. The accused sold the fake medicines at medical stores across Delhi and in other states, police said.

# 15 with disabilities join city police as head constables

HT Correspondent

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**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi Police have recruited 15 head constables with physical disabilities, officers aware of the matter said on Thursday, adding that they will soon be deployed at different police stations, offices, crime branch units, and other spaces under the force.

The officers said that the 15 people with disabilities (PWD) are among 1,355 police recruits who underwent training at the Delhi Police Academy, with a passing out parade held at the academy on Wednesday. The event was attended by special commissioner of police Dendra Pathak, who met the 15 PWD trainees and congratulated them.

To be sure, other police forces in the country, including Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Kerala, among others, regu-

**THE 15 ARE AMONG 1,355 RECRUITS WHO UNDERWENT TRAINING AT THE DELHI POLICE ACADEMY**

larly recruit people with partial disabilities, but this is the first time that the Delhi Police has recruited people with disabilities among its ranks.

"There are 10 men and 5 women with disabilities who will be posted in ministerial positions and administrative work. They underwent the same training (as other recruits)," said a senior police officer, on condition of anonymity.

The police department has a 3% reservation for the PWD category, but the officer said that these seats go vacant as the few people who apply are unable to clear the training.

"We had been receiving requests and pushed such trainees this time. These trainees include persons in wheelchairs, using sticks or support to walk/move, and with vision impairment," the officer said.

A police spokesperson said, "The trainees are trained in not only field work but also administrative operations, cyber security, online crime and the new criminal laws."

One of the PWD trainees, who is a person in a wheelchair, said, "I had been trying to clear competitive exams and get a government job for years. It is difficult for people like us. I am happy. I finally have a job. I am 24-years-old and everyone in my family is working except me. Hopefully, I will get to learn new things in the job"

Police withheld her name as she is yet to be formally inducted into the force, and is waiting for her deployment letter.

# GOVT MEASURES IN PLACE TO PREVENT PEACOCK DEATHS

**NEW DELHI:** The forest department has implemented measures to prevent any more deaths of peacocks, after 28 peacocks of the birds were reported dead at the Palam Air Force station. The department has also requested weekly monitoring to keep a check on the situation.

"Delhi zoo has provided medication which is being mixed in the water that the peacocks drink. Food supplements are also being given," said an official from the forest department.

"Care is also being taken that the food and water are provided under shade of trees to reduce exposure to direct sunlight," the official said.

The post-mortem of one of the birds that died on June 17 was carried out by the Sanjay Gandhi Animal Care Centre, which said that the cause of death was likely to be heatstroke. Another four carcasses had been sent to the Delhi zoo for a post-mortem. The examinations have already started and further reports are awaited, officials said. HT

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# 38-year-old man dies while cleaning Gurugram manhole

Debashish Karmakar

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**GURUGRAM:** A sanitation worker died and two others fell severely ill after inhaling poisonous gases while cleaning an underground sewer line without safety equipment in Sector 47, Gurugram, on Thursday, police said.

The incident happened between 6pm and 7pm on Tuesday when a contractor, Mukim Ali, allegedly asked the three sanitation workers to clean a manhole at a traffic signal ahead of Park Hospital.

The deceased person was identified as 38-year-old Nur Islam Mandal of Balurghat in South Dinajpur, West Bengal. He lived in a Bengali Market, Sector 49. According to inspector Arjun Dev, station house officer of Gurugram Sadar police station, preliminary investigation revealed that Mandal was "forced" to enter the sewer line without any protective gear. "He was pulled out by the two other workers after 10-15 minutes but it was too late," said Dev.

"The contractor is on the run. We will arrest him soon. After his arrest, it will be clear which government agency he worked



The manhole at the site where the victim died. PARVEEN KUMAR/HT

for," said the officer, adding that the victim's body was handed over to the family after autopsy and two other workers were undergoing treatment.

On the complaint of the victim's wife, an FIR was registered against the contractor under section 304A (causing death by negligence) of Indian Penal Code and section 9 of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavenger and Their Rehabilitation Act at Gurugram Sadar police station on Wednesday night.

Tabjal Hussain, the brother-

in-law of the deceased, told HT that Mandal was not keen to go for the cleaning work. "But the contractor pressurised him to come. He was not provided with any safety gears for entering inside the sewer line," he said.

Tabjal alleged the contractor's associates informed them that the trio was taken to the spot to open the sewer covers and to clean them the next morning. "We learnt Mandal was forced to enter the manhole and fell unconscious. Later, other two men were also asked to get inside to pull him out and



The deceased worker

fell sick," he claimed. Tabjal alleged that the incident occurred at around 6.30pm but they were informed only around 11pm. "We were provided no information on his condition but after reaching the hospital, we got to know he was brought dead. We were not even being allowed to see his body initially," he claimed.

The brother-in-law said Mandal had started working as a sanitation worker for the last few months. "However, his wife Mousumi and everyone else in the family had asked him not to do it. He had gone home and returned a month ago, but started to clean sewers again as he was unable to find a job," he said, adding that the contractor handed them ₹50,000 cash to transport the victim's body to West Bengal.

# Stray puppy killed in firing in Ghaziabad

HT Correspondent

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**GHAZIABAD:** Three unidentified men, allegedly intoxicated, opened fire in Loni's Indrapuri, resulting in the death of a stray puppy, police reported.

"Our team found the suspects had fled on a bike. They were in an inebriated state and fired unprovoked near a drain in Indrapuri, killing a stray puppy," said Bhaskar Verma, assistant commissioner of police, Ankur Vihar. The incident took place under the Loni Border police station jurisdiction, is now under investigation, said police.

ACP Verma highlighted the potential danger to locals, stating that the suspects' unprovoked firing could have caused

fatal injuries. The police are working to identify the men using local information and CCTV footage.

Animal rights activists have urged swift action. "They must have fired shots for fun and ended up killing the puppy. The police must act decisively and quickly identify the suspects," said Surbhi Rawat, president of People for Animals (Ghaziabad).

A suo motu FIR has been registered, and efforts are underway to identify and apprehend the suspects. The FIR includes charges under Indian Penal Code sections 336 (rash and negligent acts endangering life and safety) and 429 (mischief by killing an animal), along with provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

{ SHIVINDER MOHAN SINGH }

# HC refuses bizman's plea to travel abroad

Shruti Kakkar

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**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi high court dismissed a plea by former Religare promoter Shivinder Mohan Singh to travel abroad in June and August to attend the graduation ceremony of his two sons, saying that if allowed to go, Singh may not come back to join the probe as he has sizeable assets outside the country.

The court refused to suspend a look-out circular issued against him in connection with a Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) probe into the affairs of Religare Enterprises Limited (REL) and other related

entities. A vacation bench of justice Dharmesh Sharma in an order passed on Wednesday observed: "This Court finds that having regard to the fact that prima facie it appears that the petitioner has sizeable assets and properties, directly or indirectly, outside India in foreign jurisdictions as discussed hereinabove and there is a strong inference that if liberty to go abroad is granted to him, he may not come back to India to face the investigation and trial, as and when it commences."

Singh had approached the Delhi high court seeking to set aside the city court's June 5, 2024, order, which had rejected the same plea.

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Mayank Austen Soofi

# Baarish at Hauz Khas

An iconic monument in the season's first true shower

{ PUBLIC INTEREST }

A little tap on the window-pane, as though something had struck it, followed by a plentiful light falling sound, as of grains of sand being sprinkled from a window overhead, gradually spreading, intensifying, acquiring a regular rhythm, becoming fluid, sonorous, musical, immeasurable, universal.

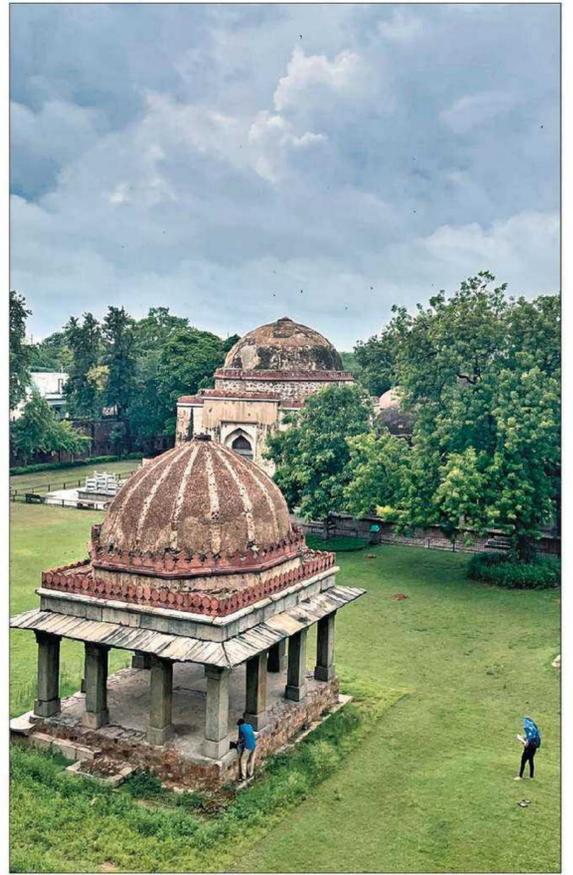
It is the baarish. The season's first true rain, yesterday morning, could as well have been penned by Marcel Proust. The passage is from *In Search of Lost Time*, Proust's great multi-volume novel.

Once asked how he would spend his last hours on earth if he knew that a great calamity was about to end his life, the French novelist said he would throw himself at the feet of Miss X, go to the Louvre museum, and take a little excursion to India.

Proust could never visit India, but if he had, and if he were here in the monsoon season, then he certainly would have loved the rain-lashed monument of Hauz Khas Village, which is very much a Proustian locality wherein times lost are tightly entwined with times regained.

The stone gateway at the end of Hauz Khas Village's main street bolts out into a grassy expanse overlooking a welter of old walls, pillared halls, darkened corridors, and short flights of staircases some of which end in air. Pigeons flit from one chamber to another; at times flying onward to the facing lake, the hauz (with a bat island!).

Centuries ago, emperor Allauddin Khilji excavated a water reservoir here for the people of nearby Siri, the second city of Delhi. The reservoir was eventually filled up with silt, and re-excavated by another ruler, Feroze Shah Tughlaq, who added to the site a mosque and a madarsa, and whose domed tomb today soars above the rest of these ruins. (Planes pop



up all the time above Tughlaq's tomb, at a great height of course, but the stone gumbad and the hawaj jahaz always make a picturesque pair).

During intense spells of wind and rain, an Instagram reel maker is likely to run through a warren of chambers, pavilions and airy corridors, frequently teased by sudden slanting sprays of shower. No matter how intense the downpour, some spots in the monument stay totally dry, in which one can stand unstained by water, enjoying the reliability of a cozy retreat even as the world outside is threatened by a catastrophic deluge.

One rainy day, the monument's lawn was quickly emptied of people, except for an artist with an umbrella and a sketch pad—see photo.



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{ FROM PAGE 1 }

## ROW IN PARLIAMENT

mention in the President's speech. Underlining that Parliament has enacted a strict law against unfair means in examinations, she said the government is working towards major reforms in examination-related bodies, their functioning and all aspects of the examination process.

"It is the continuous endeavour of the government to provide the right opportunities to the youth of the country to demonstrate their talent. Whether it is competitive examinations or government recruitment there should be no reason for any hindrance. This process requires complete transparency and probity," she said even as the opposition members began to shout "NEET", drawing attention to the ongoing controversy over the exam for admission to medical colleges, with the Central Bureau of Investigation looking into alleged irregularities in how it was conducted.

Urging members to set aside party politics, she said the issue requires joint effort and assured that the government is intent on punishing the guilty.

"Regarding the recent instances of paper leak in some examinations, my government is committed to a fair investigation and ensuring strict punishment to the culprits. Even earlier, we have witnessed many instances of paper leaks in different States. It is important that we rise above party politics and undertake concrete measures nationwide," she said.

The Opposition is all set to raise the issue in Parliament in a bid to corner the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance government that has returned to power for the third time, albeit with support from its allies.

## Manipur

The Opposition, buoyed by its increased strength in the Lok Sabha, is also in no mood to let the government off the hook so far as continued violence in Manipur is concerned. Chants of "Manipur...Manipur" could be heard when the President said, "My government is continuously working for lasting peace in the Northeast" and made a mention of the government's plans to strengthen infrastructure in the region through feasibility studies for bullet train corridors and inland waterways.

"My government has increased the allocation for the development of the Northeastern Region by more than four

times, in the last 10 years. The government is working to make this region a strategic gateway under its Act East Policy," she said, adding that development works are being taken up in every field including education, health, tourism and employment.

The President said many old disputes in the region have been resolved and many important agreements reached in the past decade. "The work of withdrawing AFSPA from the disturbed areas of the Northeast is also underway in a phased manner by accelerating development in those areas. These new initiatives in every aspect of development in the country are heralding the future of India," she said.

## Emergency and elections

Pointing out that the world respects India as the "mother of democracy", President Murmu said the people of India have always demonstrated complete trust in democracy and expressed full faith in the electoral institutions. "We need to preserve and protect this trust to sustain our robust democracy. We must realise that hurting the faith of people in democratic institutions and the electoral process is like cutting the very branch on which we all are sitting," she said.

She called for collectively denouncing "every attempt to undermine the credibility of our democracy" and made a reference to how the electoral process was subverted when "ballot papers were snatched and looted" and to secure the "sanctity of the electoral process" it was decided to use Electronic Voting Machines or EVMs.

"The EVM has passed every test, from the Supreme Court to the people's court, in the last few decades," she said.

The issue of democracy and adherence to the Constitution that dominated the election narrative were also part of the President's address. During the election campaign, the Opposition alleged that the BJP's target of winning with a brute majority was meant to pave the way for changing the provisions of the Constitution and scrapping caste-based quotas; the BJP not only denied the allegation, but returned fire by pointing out that it was the Congress that disregarded democracy and the Constitution by imposing Emergency.

On Thursday, President Murmu also referred to attempts to subvert democracy. "Even when the Constitution

was in the making, there were forces in the world who wished India to fail. Even after the Constitution came into force, it was attacked many times... Today is 27th June. The imposition of Emergency on 25th June, 1975, was the biggest and darkest chapter of direct attack on the Constitution," she said.

She added that the government does not consider the Constitution of India just a medium of governance, but is making efforts to ensure that it becomes a part of public consciousness. "With this very objective in mind, my government has started celebrating 26th November as Constitution Day. Now the Constitution has also fully come into force in that part of India, our Jammu and Kashmir, where the conditions were different due to Article 370," she said, referring to the August 2019 abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution that gave special status to the region.

## Concerns

In her hour-long speech, the President expressed concern over the misuse of technology and perils of misinformation. "In this era of communication revolution, disruptive forces are conspiring to weaken democracy and create fissures in society. These forces are present within the country and are also operating from outside the country. These forces resort to rumour mongering, misleading the people and misinformation," she said, calling for measures to stem the flow of unverified and fake information.

"This situation cannot be allowed to continue unchecked. Today, technology is advancing every day. In such a situation, its misuse against humanity can be extremely harmful... It is our responsibility to stop this tendency and find new ways and means to address this challenge," she said.

## Achievements

Hailing the electoral process and the institutions involved in the conduct of the exercise, the President said, about 640 million voters performed their duty with enthusiasm and zeal, women cast their votes in huge numbers; and the Kashmir Valley broke all records of voter turnout of many decades.

"In the last four decades, we have witnessed low voter turnout amidst shutdowns and strikes in Kashmir. Enemies of India continued to spread false propaganda at global forums, projecting it as an opinion of

Jammu and Kashmir. But this time, the Kashmir Valley has given a befitting reply to every such element within the country and outside," she said. While the Opposition has flagged concerns about the new recruitment policy for the armed forces, the President referred to the modernisation of the armed forces and the "many reforms in the defence sector in the last 10 years".

Referring to the June 4 verdict that saw the BJP emerge as the single-largest party, she said the world is witnessing that the people of India have elected a stable government with clear majority, consecutively for the third term. This statement again drew a loud response from the Opposition, in a bid to underscore that the BJP did not have the clear mandate as it did in 2014 and 2019, when it stormed to power with 282 and 303 lawmakers. It has returned to power with 240 seats in the Lower House, short of the halfway mark of 272, although, along with its allies in the NDA, it has 293.

The President said the 2024 general elections were an "election of trust in policy, intention, dedication and decisions" and is a "stamp of approval for my government's mission of service and good governance undertaken in the past 10 years."

She said the government will continue to move ahead with the belief that the development of the country lies in the development of the states. "Achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat (developed India) will be possible only when the poor, youth, women and farmers of this country are empowered. Therefore, topmost priority is being accorded to these four pillars in the schemes of my government. Our effort is to ensure that the benefit of every government scheme reaches them" she said.

Union parliamentary affairs minister, Kiren Rijiju said the president "echoed the sentiments of the nation."

In a post on X, he said, "I appeal to the Congress to kindly accept the fact. Congress imposed the emergency & trampled the Constitution of India in 1975. We must never forget the past & look positively towards the future."

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge accused the address of being a script written by the Modi government that was "full of lies". "Modi Ji is trying to gain cheap applause by making the Honourable President speak lies," he said on X.

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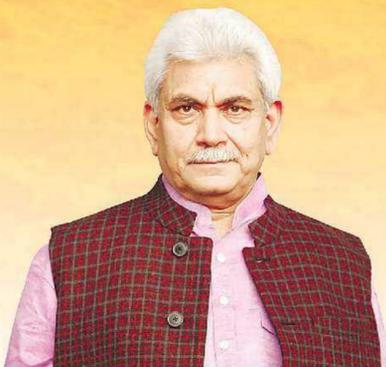
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# Oppn to move adjournment motions on NEET row today

Saubhadra Chatterji  
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**NEW DELHI:** The Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) will try to push adjournment motions on Friday to set aside the prescheduled debate on the President's speech in both Houses of Parliament and raise the issue of alleged irregularities in this year's National Eligibility Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG), in a first major test of strength in the 18th Lok Sabha, people aware of the details said.

At a meeting of the INDIA bloc members at Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge's residence on Thursday, opposition leaders decided that the "NEET issue is of paramount importance and must be taken up separately," a senior leader who attended the meeting said, seeking anonymity.

The INDIA bloc will move adjournment motions – to seek the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance – to discuss the NEET controversy on priority, before the debate on the President's speech that was delivered on Thursday, the leader cited above added.

The meeting at Kharge's house was attended by more than 35 members from opposi-



The Opposition's insistence on a discussion on NEET in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha is likely to lead to repeated adjournments if the Chair doesn't admit the adjournment motions. ANI

tion parties, the leader said.

A shadow of hostility has hung over the House since the Opposition started taking potshots at the government over allegedly skewed results in the undergraduate level National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test, paper leaks that led to the cancellation of UGC-NET, and the postponement of other exams such as CSIR-NET and NEET-PG. In all, a total of 3.7

million students are affected by the postponements and cancellations.

On Saturday, the Centre removed Subodh Kumar Singh of the National Testing Agency (NTA), which conducts the crucial exams, and appointed IAS officer Pradeep Singh Kharola for the post. The matter pertaining to NEET is being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which, on Thursday, made its

first arrest and took two people from Patna into custody.

The Opposition's insistence on a discussion on NEET in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha is likely to lead to repeated adjournments if the Chair doesn't admit the adjournment motions. To be sure, getting an adjournment motion passed would be an uphill task since the Opposition does not have the majority in either House.

"Moreover, the Speaker's decision is final. And in the last Lok Sabha, not a single adjournment motion sponsored by the Opposition was approved," a Lok Sabha functionary said, declining to be named.

Opposition leaders, however, maintained it won't extend their demand for adjournment beyond Friday. "We have to discuss the President's speech from Monday, as our lawmakers, particularly the young ones, want to debate important issues," a second leader said, seeking anonymity.

The Opposition, the second leader added, will also raise issues such as unemployment, inflation, misuse of central agencies, lack of funds to Opposition-ruled states and the "attack" on the federal structure, in the House. "But parties are free to raise their own issues," the leader said.

On Monday, Opposition leaders will assemble at the Mahatma Gandhi statue to protest against CBI and the Enforcement Directorate (ED). "Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal has been arrested. Former Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren was also held. Three ministers in the West Bengal government have also been arrested," a senior Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader said.

{ LETTER SENT TO SPEAKER }

## Sengol latest flashpoint between INDIA and NDA

Vrinda Tulsian  
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**NEW DELHI:** Samajwadi Party lawmaker RK Chaudhary's demand to replace the Sengol, the staff installed in the new Parliament, with the Constitution, sparked a row between the government and the INDIA bloc of opposition parties.

Chaudhary, in a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, said he was "surprised" to see the Sengol, which he called a symbol of "monarchy", while taking his oath.

"The Constitution is the holy book of democracy. The Sengol is a symbol or Raj-danda (royal staff)... our Parliament is the temple of democracy and not the princely palace of some kingdom," wrote Chaudhary in the letter.

Union minister Chirag Paswan attacked the Opposition, asking if it has come Parliament to do "controversial politics". "The way such symbols have been tried to be shown in the wrong light for so many decades, today, when they are given due respect by our Prime Minister, why are you offended by all these things? Why can't these Opposition leaders think of positive politics?" he said.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spokesperson Shehzad Poon-



A Parliament official carrying the Sengol leads the way as President Droupadi Murmu leaves Parliament on Thursday. ANI

walla said: "The Samajwadi Party earlier attacked and abused Ramcharitmanas and now Sengol, which is part of Indian culture and particularly Tamil culture. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) must clarify if they support this insult of Sengol."

Senior Congress MP Manickam Tagore welcomed the suggestion, saying: "The government has always been playing with this kind of thing, by placing the Sengol. Making a high drama when the new Parliament was inaugurated."

Rashtriya Janata Dal MP Misa Bharti said: "It should be removed because it is a democratic country. The Sengol

should be kept in the museum where people can come and see it..."

In May last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, after an elaborate procession with Tamil priests, placed the ancient Sengol scepter in the Lok Sabha chamber near the Speaker's chair during the inauguration of the new Parliament building. This sacred artifact, originally received by India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru on August 14, 1947, was handed over to Modi by spiritual leaders from Tamil Nadu.

Modi decided to adopt Sengol as a national symbol of the 'Amrit Kaal.'

## 'A TRAVESTY OF TRADITIONS': CONG ON EMERGENCY REMARKS BY LOK SABHA SPEAKER

HT Correspondent  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Congress on Thursday lodged a formal objection with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla over his reference to the Emergency on Wednesday, calling it a "travesty of Parliamentary traditions".

On Wednesday, Birla started his second stint in the top office, pitching for a new vision and new resolve but also called the Emergency as a "dark day in the history of India", reading out a resolution on this to mark its 49th anniversary.

On Thursday, after Rahul Gandhi was formally named Leader of Opposition by Birla, the Congress MP and a group of opposition leaders met the Speaker and during the conversation, conveyed to him that the reference could have been avoided.

"We discussed many issues about Parliament. Rahul ji, the LoP, informed him (Birla) that it was a political reference and it could have been avoided," said Congress general secretary and Lok Sabha MP KC Venugopal.

Subsequently, Venugopal also wrote to Birla: "I am writing this in the context of a very grave matter impacting upon the very credibility of institution of Parliament. Yesterday, that is June 26, 2024, at the time of offering felicitations on your election as Speaker Lok Sabha, there was a general camaraderie in the House as such occasions generate."

He added: "However, what followed thereafter, which is reference from the Chair after your acceptance speech, in regard to declaration of Emergency half a century ago, is deeply shocking." "Making of such a political reference from the Chair in unprecedented in the annals of history of Parliament. This coming from the Chair as one of the first duties from a newly-elected Speaker assumes even graver proportions. I, on behalf of National Congress, express our profound concern and anguish over this travesty of Parliamentary traditions," Venugopal added.

The objection came on a day when President Droupadi Murmu's speech to both Houses again contained a reference to Emergency, and two days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi referred to it.

CONGRESS MP RAHUL GANDHI AND OPPOSITION LEADERS MET BIRLA AND CONVEYED TO HIM THAT THE REFERENCE COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED

## Modi likely to meet top bureaucrats, review agenda, progress of new govt

Rajeev Jayaswal  
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**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to meet top bureaucrats this weekend and instruct them to implement with greater efficacy good governance measures on public welfare, ease of living for citizens and last-mile service delivery, two people aware of the development said on Thursday.

The PM may also review their individual department-related plans for the first 125-day agenda of the government and the progress so far, while reiterating the government's key governance principle of *antodaya* (welfare of the people at the bottom of the pyramid), said the people cited above, requesting anonymity.

"The meeting is also expected to lay a five-year development roadmap of the government that would make the Indian economy the third largest in the world," one of them said.

In Modi's earlier two terms, India rose to become the fifth largest economy from the eleventh. Modi often meets bureaucrats to understand practical issues in implementing key schemes on the ground, to help them set priorities and give them necessary directions for effective last-mile delivery, they said.

In his first term, after assum-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his first meeting with bureaucrats on June 4, 2014. HT ARCHIVE

ing charge, Modi held the first such meeting on June 4, 2014, which went on for two-and-a-half hours, people aware of the matter said.

A similar meeting took place on October 17, 2016, where his ministers were also present. At a June 5, 2017 meeting with bureaucrats, the PM called for making institutions "outcome-oriented" and asked them to implement GST with full energy, something that turned out to be the biggest indirect tax reform that unified India as one market. In his second term, the PM met bureaucrats on June 10, 2019 and asked them to take the lead in implementing the new government's agenda.

"The review is expected to be focused on already given

parameters of good governance with special emphasis on the poor, women, youth and farmers," the person quoted above said. Ideas related to better delivery of free ration to 800 million poor are expected to be discussed. Measures to check inflation of essential commodities such as food grains, edible oils, pulses and vegetables are likely to be discussed so that the poor can be shielded against any sudden spike in these items, the person added.

Audit reports of flagship programmes such as health, education, housing and the drinking water mission may also draw Modi's attention as feedback from the ground would become the basis to improve last-mile delivery, the person quoted

above said.

"The Prime Minister may ask departments to fix timelines for achieving different milestones related to key schemes, and the same could be routinely monitored by the Prime Minister's Office or the cabinet secretariat," this person said, citing the example of the PM Awas Yojana. In the first two terms of the Modi government, almost 40 million houses were allotted to beneficiaries, mostly women, and the third Modi government plans to provide 30 million more.

The PM's review may include action plans related to environment protection, labour reforms, issues related to urbanisation, rural development, farming green revolution, white revolution and blue revolution, a second person said. "Secretaries and heads of the departments were aware of the requirements even before the elections, hence, most of them are prepared with detailed reports along with a future road map," he said.

"The new Modi government is likely to set policy continuity with far-reaching reforms in all sectors so that India can claim the position of the third largest economy in the world at the earliest, which will lead to Viksit Bharat (developed India) by 2047," he added.

## Directorate of Estates begins work to house lawmakers

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**NEW DELHI:** With about 280 first-time Members of Parliament (MPs), the highest since 2014, the Directorate of Estates under the Union ministry of housing and urban affairs has embarked on the process of identifying and allotting houses.

Several Union ministers and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi are set to be allotted new residences next week in Lutyens' Delhi.

A senior ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Gandhi will be allotted a new house which will be equivalent to that of a Union minister. Gandhi has resided in 12 Tughlaq lane, barring the time he was disqualified from the Lok Sabha between March and August 2023.

"Rahul Gandhi will now get an upgrade as he will be allotted a type VIII bungalow which is the type that Union ministers get but we have not decided the address yet. He has not made any demands but the convention says that he has to move to a new place so we will allot him



Several MPs are set to be allotted new houses in Lutyens' Delhi. HT

one," the official said. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav is also eligible for a house in Lutyens' Delhi.

The official said that 37 former ministers, who either lost or are no longer part of the council of ministers, including Smriti Irani, Anurag Thakur, Arjun Munda and Rajeev Chandrasekhar, have been issued notices, asking them to vacate their ministerial residences by July 10.

"The allotments for the new Union ministers has been discussed; the retained Union ministers will continue to remain in the houses they have right now; the new ones will be accommodated in the ones that get

vacated," the official said, pointing out that the directorate is treading softly because the former ministers are still part of the ruling party.

The official admitted that there could be a "delay" in the allotment of houses to the MPs. Re-elected MPs will continue to have the same houses as before, but the new ones will have to wait for space to open up.

"For example, the MPs from Uttar Pradesh will have to stay in UP Bhawan for some time till the Lok Sabha Secretariat is able to come up with a final allotment list. We will make sure that we prioritise the MPs who do not have a house in Delhi," the official said.

## ANDHRA UNLIKELY TO COMPLETE TRANSLATION OF NEW CRIMINAL LAWS BEFORE JULY

**HYDERABAD:** The Andhra Pradesh government is not likely to complete the translation process of the three new criminal laws before it comes into force on July 1 across the country.

Law secretary V Sunita said only half of the translation work of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023 into Telugu has been completed.

"Translation work of the three laws into the Telugu language is in progress. Only half of the work is completed," Sunita told news agency PTI and added that the task is huge.

She noted that retired employees who are familiar with the job have been entrusted with the translation. She, however, pointed to the shortage of staff. The three new laws are meant to replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the Indian Evidence Act.

The National Crime Records Bureau is providing technical assistance to states and Union territories for a seamless transition to the new system. HT

## HOUSE NOTES

### RAHUL KEEPS OPPOSITION TOGETHER

**NEW DELHI:** Newly elected Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, wants to keep his allies in the INDIA bloc close. On Thursday, when the President's address was underway, he was seen looking around the Lok Sabha gallery. He then turned to TMC's Derek O'Brien, who was sitting right behind him, who in return made a gesture towards the last row. It later emerged that Gandhi was looking for Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, who was sitting next to his party colleagues in the row towards the end. After much gesturing from Gandhi and O'Brien, Yadav moved forward and sat next to O'Brien in the second row.



Asaduddin Owaisi

### OWAISI SAYS HIS DELHI HOUSE 'VANDALISED' BY UNKNOWN MEN

**NEW DELHI:** All India Muslim League (AIML) leader Asaduddin Owaisi on Thursday alleged that his house in the Capital was vandalised by unidentified men, and claimed he received no help from the police despite the recurrence of such incidents.

In a post on X, the Hyderabad MP said: "Some 'unknown miscreants' vandalised my house with black ink today. I have now lost count the number of times my Delhi residence has targeted. When I asked @DelhiPolice officials how this was happening right under their nose, they expressed helplessness."

He hit out at Union home minister Amit Shah over the attack and also questioned Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla over the safety of lawmakers.

"@AmitShah this is happening under your oversight. @ombirlakota, please tell us if MPs' safety will be guaranteed or not," he said.

A senior Delhi Police officer, who asked not to be named, said: "We are yet to receive a complaint in connection with the incident." HT

### 'PARL NOT A PLACE FOR POLITICS, BUT TALKS ON WELFARE'

**NEW DELHI:** Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday held a meeting of the newly elected Members of Parliament and Union ministers from the state, and urged them to "raise their voices both inside and outside Parliament". "Parliament is meant to be for the welfare of the State and not for politics. For the development of the state's land, water, culture, and resources, all state legislators need to strive together in one voice," the chief minister said. He also said that "politics has sidelined" discussions on development of states. His remarks came days before he is set to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union ministers Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman and Ashwini Vaishnaw among others during his visit to the Capital. He said Modi has given an appointment on June 29.

### DEPUTY SPEAKER'S POST UNLIKELY TO REMAIN VACANT

**NEW DELHI:** The post of Deputy Speaker in the Lok Sabha will not remain vacant, as it did during the previous term, officials in the government have indicated. While the Opposition has been demanding that the post be offered to them, as per convention, allies of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party at the Centre, which were initially in line, also suggested they are no longer in keen for the post. While the Janata Dal (United) has the Deputy Chairperson's post in the Rajya Sabha, the Telugu Desam Party is not eyeing the post in the Lower House. 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.

## 'Prez's speech consisted of all that PM Modi wanted to say'

HT Correspondent  
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**NEW DELHI:** The Opposition on Thursday criticised the National Democratic Alliance government over the President's speech in Parliament, alleging that burning issues such as irregularities in premier examinations, persistent unemployment and violence in Manipur were not addressed, and repeated references to the Emergency were unnecessary.

"The President said that it is a majority government but this is a minority government. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has lost the majority and has formed the government by taking the help of crutches. We will debate and keep our side in Parliament. The President's speech consisted of all that PM Modi wanted to say. There was no truth in it," Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said.

Kharge also alleged that Modi was in a perpetual state of denial. "The mandate was against him, because the people of the country rejected his slogan of '400 plus' and kept the BJP away from the figure of 272," he added.

The Congress chief focussed on the allegations roiling the National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test and

### The President said that it is a majority government but this is a minority government

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE, Congress chief

other entrance exams such as the UGC-NET organised by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

"In the last five years, out of 66 recruitment exams conducted by NTA, paper leaks and massive rigging have happened in 12 exams, due to which more than 75 lakh youth have been affected. Modi government cannot run away from its responsibility by just simply saying we should rise above partisan politics. The youth is demanding justice. Union education minister will have to take responsibility for this. Every second youth in the country is unemployed, and no concrete policy to eliminate unemployment has emerged from this speech," he said. The government has denied allegations of a widespread leak in

the undergraduate medical entrance exam for which 2.4 million students appeared.

In a series of tweets, Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati said the President's speech had very less ground reality.

"The President mentioned the achievements of the central government in the last 10 years, but there is very less ground reality and mostly imaginary. Also, the central government is not at all serious about the problems of the weaker sections and poverty, which are increasing day by day in the country," she said.

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said there was no logic in talking about the Emergency. "She should have spoken about today's issues. We did not hear anything about the NEET exam or unemployment... The word Manipur did not come out from President Murmu or PM Modi. Issues like the India-China border should have been taken up in the address..."

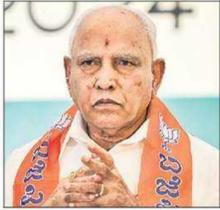
Congress Rajya Sabha lawmaker Jairam Ramesh said that during the 51-minute President's address, Leader of the House Narendra Modi was shown 73 times while Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi could be seen only six times.

# CID files charge sheet against former CM BSY in Pocso case

**Arun Dev**  
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**BENGALURU:** The Karnataka Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on Thursday filed a charge sheet against former chief minister and senior BJP leader BS Yediyurappa, accusing him of sexually assaulting a minor girl. The charges, which include severe offences under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act, follow a complaint filed by a 54-year-old woman on March 14. The 714-page charge sheet, which lists 74 witnesses, also named Arun YM, M Rudresh and G Mariswamy, all aides of the former chief minister, as the other three accused.

Rubbishing the allegations against him, Yediyurappa had said, "I am not complaining to anyone. Time will decide everything. People know what the truth is. Those who are engaging



BS Yediyurappa

in trickery, the people will teach them a lesson."

According to the operative part of the charge sheet, a copy of which HT has reviewed, the complainant alleged that on February 2, Yediyurappa sexually abused her 17-year-old daughter at his residence. The mother and daughter had visited Yediyurappa seeking help in another abuse case.

According to the charge sheet, the incident took place around 11.15 am when the complainant

and her daughter visited Yediyurappa at his residence in Dollars Colony in Bengaluru. The document outlines the sequence of events, stating that Yediyurappa held the victim's right wrist with his left hand and instructed her to follow him. He then took her to a meeting room, secured the door, and asked if she remembered the face of the person who previously harmed her. When she responded affirmatively twice, he inquired about her age at that time. Upon learning her age, he allegedly touched her inappropriately.

Following the assault, Yediyurappa allegedly offered money to both the victim and her mother. The charge sheet states: "He took some money from his pocket and put it in the hand of the aggrieved girl and went out. Then the accused told the complainant who was sitting in the hall that he would not be able to do anything in her case."

In addition to charges of sexual harassment and assault under IPC Section 354A and Pocso Act Section 8, Yediyurappa faces charges under IPC Sections 204 and 214 for attempting to destroy evidence and offering bribes.

The charge sheet further states that on February 20, after the complainant uploaded a video related to the incident on her Facebook account, the senior BJP leader, through his accomplices, coerced her into deleting the video.

After the mother died of cancer in May, the brother of the survivor approached the Karnataka high court and complained that there had been no progress in the investigation.

The CID questioned the 81-year-old former CM earlier this month and on June 15, the Karnataka high court asked the Criminal Investigation Department of the state police not to arrest him, citing his willingness to be part of the investigation.



CJJDY Chandrachud

## NEVER FACED ANY PRESSURE FROM GOVT IN 24 YEARS AS JUDGE, SAYS CJI

**Press Trust of India**  
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**NEW DELHI:** Allaying apprehension of any interference of the legislature, Chief Justice of India Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud has said he never faced any political pressure from any government in his 24-year stint as a judge.

Responding to a question during a session organised by the Oxford Union, he said judges in India are trained to decide disputes in a manner that allows for courts to decide on the basis of settled traditions based on constitutional scheme as opposed to the passions of the moment.

"Political pressure... if you ask me in the sense of pressure from the government, I would tell you that in the 24 years that I have been a judge, I have never faced a sense of political pressure from the powers that be. Some of the democratic traditions that we follow in India include that we lead lives which are isolated from the political arm of the government," the CJI said.

"If you mean 'political pressure' in a broader sense of a judge realising the impact of a decision which may have political ramifications, obviously, judges have to be conversant of the impact of their decisions on the polity at large when you are deciding constitutional cases. That is not political pressure I believe," he added.

Talking about the "social pressure," he said the judges often think about the societal impact of their judgments. "Many of the cases we decide involve intense societal impacts. As judges, I believe it is our duty to be cognizant of the impact of our decisions on the social ordering which we are ultimately going to affect," the CJI said.

Acknowledging the issue of pendency, he said the judge to population ratio in India is among the lowest in the world. "We simply need more judges..."

# TN to establish international airport in Hosur, says Stalin

**HT Correspondent**  
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**CHENNAI:** The Tamil Nadu government will set up an international airport in Hosur city to cater to the increasing industrial needs in Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri districts, and ensure the overall socio-economic development of the two regions, chief minister MK Stalin announced on Thursday.



MK Stalin

the speaker, and does not permit a debate at the time it is made. Stalin's announcement was lauded by various political parties in the assembly.

Hosur is situated close to the Karnataka border, and while it is over 300km from Chennai, it is only around 80km from Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport.

Senior Tamil Nadu officials said the airport would propel growth in both states, and increase connectivity to business hubs and industrial clusters such as Tiruvallur, Sriperumbudur and Coimbatore, with administrators hoping the development would also propel the city's progress as an IT hub.

Stalin said after the DMK came to power in 2021, the state made rapid progress in all sectors and moved up to top position in India in the Export Preparedness Index for 2022.

"Tamil Nadu is India's leading state in exports of motor vehicles, ancillaries, leather goods and electronics. From being at the bottom in 2020 in the ranking of states for industrial growth, Tamil Nadu has now become a top performing state," he said, adding efforts were on to transform the state into a one trillion dollar economy by 2030.

Hosur has been attracting several investments in the electronics and electric vehicle manufacturing sector since the last few years, he said. The state government has been implementing various projects to improve the infrastructure and accordingly, a new master plan for Hosur is nearing completion, he added.

"Hence, the government considers it necessary to establish an airport in Hosur to help the overall socio-economic development of Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri regions," Stalin said.

# Expelled BJP leader's aide, 5 others held for girl's gang rape and murder in Uttarakhand

**HT Correspondent**  
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**DEHRADUN:** Six people, including a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader's aide, were arrested on Thursday in connection with the gang-rape and murder of a 13-year-old girl in Uttarakhand's Haridwar district, police said.

The body of the girl was found along the Roorkee-Haridwar highway on June 24, and the next day the Uttarakhand police charged BJP leader Aditya Raj Saini and his aide Amit Saini with murder, abduction and gang-rape, among others, following a complaint from the minor's mother.

After the incident came to light, Aditya Raj Saini was removed as a member of the state's OBC commission as well as BJP's state OBC Morcha and was also expelled from BJP's primary membership.

On Thursday, the police however said they could not find the involvement of the expelled BJP leader in the gang rape and murder

## POLICE SAID THEY COULD NOT FIND THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE EXPELLED BJP LEADER IN THE GANG RAPE AND MURDER, BUT HE REMAINS BOOKED FOR CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY

of the girl, but he remains booked for criminal conspiracy for "concealing" the crime.

"We have arrested six people, including Amit Saini, who was named in the FIR. The second accused named in the FIR, Aditya Raj Saini, has been charged with criminal conspiracy for concealing the crime," Haridwar senior superintendent of police (SSP) Pramendra Dobhal said.

On June 25, a case was registered against the two under sections 120B (criminal conspiracy),

302 (murder), 363 (kidnapping), 376-D (gang rape), among others, of the Indian Penal Code and relevant sections of the Pocso Act at the Bahadarabad police station.

Besides Amit Saini, those arrested on Thursday were identified as his mother Shashi Devi, Nitin (20), Nikhil Panchal (20), Tushar alias Kala (20), Mausam (19) — all residents of Haridwar.

The officer said the accused have confessed to the crime.

During investigation, the SSP said, it came to light the girl was in contact with Amit Saini for the past six months. Saini had been physically exploiting her under the pretext of marriage, Dobhal said.

"On June 23 evening, Nitin, who knew the girl, took her to a place where his friends Nikhil, Tushar and Mausam were already present. They got her drunk and went to Haridwar town to take bath in the Ganga. Later, they took her to a deserted place on Rohlaki road, where Nitin and Nikhil raped her," the SSP said.

Tushar and Mausam also intended to rape her, but they got scared due to some movement on the road, he said. "Nitin and Nikhil then dropped off the girl near her house late in the night. They also threatened her of dire consequences if she told anyone," he said.

The girl then went to Amit's house, where his father Madan Pal Saini, mother Shashi Devi and sister Ruby Saini were present. "Amit took her to his room... When she narrated her ordeal to him, he got furious and started beating her. In the process, she got injured after her head hit the iron gate," he said.

In panic, Amit took her to the highway and pushed the minor in front of a vehicle coming from Roorkee side. "He informed his cousin Aditya Raj Saini about it, but the latter concealed it from the victim's mother as well as the police," the SSP said.

Efforts are being made to arrest Aditya and Amit's father and sister, all of whom are absconding, the senior officer added.

# 'Let them resign': SC dismisses plea against competency test for teachers

**Abraham Thomas**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Teachers help build the nation and should be open to upgrading their skills or willing to quit, said the Supreme Court on Thursday refusing to entertain a petition by local body teachers in Bihar opposing a competency test prescribed by the state for improving quality of education in rural schools.

A vacation bench of justices BV Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan said, "We are interested in the education of children in the state of Bihar. If any teacher does not want to comply with this rule, let them resign. But if they wish to serve the students, let them take the competency examination."

The court was hearing a petition filed by two groups of teachers employed in Panchayat-run schools in the state who challenged the Bihar School Exclu-



The SC was hearing a plea filed by teachers of panchayat-run schools in Bihar.

sive Teachers Rules, 2023 requiring them to take the competency exam. The state claimed the test was optional and those who do not take it would not be removed but that teachers who qualified would be put at par with the state government teachers. The petitioners lost their challenge to the 2023 rule before the Patna high court and approached the top court against the April 2, 2024 judgment of that court.

Dismissing the petitions filed by the teachers, the bench said,

"Teachers are people who build the nation. In a state like Bihar, if government is making an effort to improve teachers, you are not allowing it. If you cannot face these tests, then leave."

The teachers through their lawyers informed the court that these teachers, known as Niyojit teachers, had proved their competence by taking a competency examination at the time when their services were regulated by the Bihar Panchayat Teachers Rules, 2012. These teachers were originally appointed under the Bihar Panchayat Primary Teacher (Appointment and Service Conditions) Rules, 2006. Some of them were Shiksha Mitras appointed prior to 2006 who were absorbed as Niyojit teachers under the 2006 rules.

The HC while upholding the 2023 rule had said that this was a good opportunity for the Niyojit teachers to get parity with existing state government teachers.

**WESTERN RAILWAY RATLAM DIVISION**  
**E-Tender Notice**  
W/623/5/1/INIT Date 24.06.2024  
The Divisional Railway Manager (WA) RATLAM for and on behalf of the President of India invites "Open Tender" through e-tender on website [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) in the details as under: - E-tender No.: RTM-2024-25-63  
Name of Work: Indore-Dewas-Ujjain Section : Construction of subway in lieu of L.C. No. 34 (Km: 49.21-23) by inserting relieving girder and laying the box(es) by pushing the box below the relieving girder. Approx Value Rs. 7,34,82,988.31 Earnest Money to be deposited in Rs. 5,17,500.00  
Completion Period: 12 Months Similar type of work: Construction of any type of rail bridge under a running railway line  
Date of uploading on website: 24/06/2024 Date of opening of Tender: 18/07/2024. Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria and terms and conditions are available at Website [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) cost of tender from is NIL.  
Divisional Railway Manager (WA) Ratlam Division (WR)  
Apx/5/1/110  
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**UNITED BROTHERS**  
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES  
E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi vide order dated 30.05.2022 in the matter CS (COMM) 930/2016.  
Notice is hereby given to the public in general that the below described immovable properties, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis through E-Auction.  
It is hereby informed to General public that we are going to conduct public E-Auction through website <https://sarfaesi.auctiontigger.net>

Descriptions of the property/Properties	Reserve Price, Earnest Money Deposit & Bid Increment Amount (In Rs.)	E-Auction Date and Time, EMD Submission Last Date, Inspection Date
Industrial Freehold plot admeasuring 3,492 Sq. Yards located at B-1 / J-5, Mohan Cooperative Industrial Estate, New Delhi - 110044.	Reserve Price - Rs. 32,00,00,000 (Rs. Thirty Two Crores) Earnest Money Deposit - 10% i.e. Rs. 3,20,00,000 (Rs. Three Crore Twenty Lakh) Bid Increment - Rs. 100,000 (Rs. One Lac)	E-Auction: 08/08/2024 at 11:00 am to 1:00 PM (with unlimited extension of 5 min each) EMD Deposit By 06/08/2024 up to 5:00 PM. Inspection on any working day (excluding Sundays and Banking Holidays) from 10 am to 6 pm

1. All Interested participants / bidders are requested to visit the website <https://sarfaesi.auctiontigger.net>. For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact M/s. e-Procurement Technologies Ltd., Contact Mr. Ram Sharma Contact number: +91-8000023297, email id: ramprasad@auctiontigger.net, support@auctiontigger.net, deepak@scilus.in  
2. For further details on terms and conditions please visit <https://sarfaesi.auctiontigger.net> to take part in e-auction.  
Date: 28.06.2024  
Place: New Delhi  
Court Appointed Auditor cum Receiver  
Deepak Joshi

**REPLACEMENT OF SEIMENS RRI WITH DISTRIBUTED ELECTRONIC INTERLOCKING**  
E-Tender Notice No. N-2024-25-TSK-NIT-05 Dated: 25-06-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: E-Tender No. N-2024-25-TSK-T-05. Brief Description of Item: Replacement of Seimens RRI with Distributed Electronic Interlocking at Furkating station for modernization and reliability improvement of S&T assets of Tinsukia Division. Tender Value: ₹9,96,55,837.20. Earnest Money: ₹6,48,300/-. Date & Time of closing of tender: 15.00 hrs. of 19-07-2024 & opening at 19-07-2024 after 15.00 hrs. The tenderer is/are required to submit his/their tender through [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) website only.  
Sr. DSTE/GS/Tinsukia  
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**CALL FOR THE PROPOSALS UNDER THE SCHEME FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN MEDICAL DEVICE SECTOR**  
Life Sciences Sector Skill Development Council (LSSSDC), the authorized Project Management Agency (PMA) for the Scheme for Human Resource Development in Medical Device Sector of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India, is seeking proposals from eligible applicants for implementing multi-disciplinary courses for the medical device sector with financial support under the Scheme for following Scheme Components.

**Component - A**

- Multi-disciplinary Post-Graduate courses (M.Sc./ M.Tech. / PG-Diploma) in Medical Device Sector to be offered in existing Central Govt. Institutions University/ Research Institutions

**Component - B**

- Capacity Development Programs for Students and (in-situ) for Existing Workforce (Technicians, Regulators) Diploma/Certificate/ Short-Term Training courses (offered by NCVET approved awarding Body) for Medical Device Sector focused on Design, Manufacturing, Quality, Testing and Engineering etc. to be offered in Central Government Institutions/State Government Institutions/ Private Institutions/ Industrial Training Institutions approved as Affiliated Skill Development Centre of a NCVET approved Awarding Body. (Preference will be given to Central Government Institutions).

**How to Apply?**  
Interested institutions / agencies / organizations should submit the proposal to Life Sciences Sector Skill Development Council (LSSSDC), PMA of Department of Pharmaceuticals for the Scheme via online Application in prescribed format before **11:59 PM 7 August, 2024**. Please visit the LSSSDC website [WWW.LSSSDC.IN](http://WWW.LSSSDC.IN) for complete information, as well as DOP website <https://www.pharmaceuticals.gov.in/schemes> under the tab 'Scheme for Human Resource Development in Medical Device Sector'.

**SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
TENDER NOTICE FOR S&T WORK  
Sr. No (1) E-Tender No.: 160-ST-TENDER-2024 Date: 19.06.2024  
Work: "S&T Work in connection with various CTR, TTR and TRR (Track renewal works) Over Bilaspur division (Consignee SSE/SIG/KRBA)."  
Tender Value: ₹ 7,42,30,774.90 (Rupees Seven Crore Forty Two Lakh Thirty Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Four and Ninety paise only).  
EMD: ₹ 5,21,200/- (Rupees Five Lakh Twenty One Thousand Two Hundred Only). Submission of Tender: Upto 15:00 hrs. on 09.07.2024.  
The complete information of above e-tender notice is available over website <http://www.reps.gov.in>. Bids other than e-bids shall not be accepted against above tender.  
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- Registrations open from 30 May 2024 till 28 June 2024
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- For updates, follow us on [DISHA by Indian Air Force](https://www.facebook.com/DISHAbyIAF), [careeriniaf](https://www.instagram.com/careeriniaf), [careeriniaf](https://www.linkedin.com/company/careeriniaf), [careeriniaf](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

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# CBI makes two arrests in NEET irregularities case

**HT Correspondent**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI/PATNA:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday made its first arrests in the probe into the irregularities in the NEET-UG exam, taking into custody two individuals from Patna, people familiar with the development said.

The accused, identified as Ashutosh Kumar and Manish Kumar, allegedly provided a location where some of those who appeared for the exam were given the leaked NEET question paper and answer keys, they added.

The duo was produced before a special court in Patna, which sent them to judicial custody.

Ashutosh Kumar, according to one officer, took on rent, the premises of Learn Boys Hostel and Play School in Patna. Aspirants who paid the money to the so-called "solver gang", allegedly run by 53-year-old Sanjeev Kumar (aka Luthan Mukhia) for obtaining the leaked NEET-UG paper were taken to these premises.

Bihar police had found out about the premises during its probe and recovered a photocopy of a half burnt question paper set from there.

The other accused, Manish Kumar, was involved in striking deals with aspirants and ferrying them to the hostel.

The Central Bureau of Investigation has been questioning several suspects, including 18 suspects arrested by Bihar police, to get leads on Mukhia and other accused persons as well as parents who paid money to the gang for obtaining the NEET-UG paper.

The past week was marked



Police lathi charge Indian Youth Congress supporters protesting against NTA, education minister and NEET paper leak, at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Thursday. ANI PHOTO

by protests from students groups and political parties over the issue, the cancellation of another critical national examination UGC-NET, and the postponing of two others — a string of controversies that eventually forced the government to sack the chief of the National Testing Authority that conducted the NEET-UG (National Entrance-cum-Eligibility Test for undergraduate medical college admissions) on May 5.

Several petitioners have approached the Supreme Court with various requests relating to the exam, including a plea to scrap it entirely or halt the counselling process — by which students are allotted seats in different colleges —

that is scheduled to begin on July 6. The court refused to pass any interim orders and is due to hear the matter again on July 8.

While handing over the probe to Central Bureau of Investigation on Saturday late evening, Union education minister said it was doing so for the transparency on the conduct of the examination process.

The NEET (UG) 2024 examination was conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) on May 5 at 4,750 centres in 571 cities, including 14 cities abroad, with around 2.3 million candidates appearing for the examination.

The ministry of education asked CBI to conduct a "comprehensive investigation into

the entire gamut of alleged irregularities, including conspiracy, cheating, impersonation, breach of trust, and destruction of evidence by candidates, institutes, and middlemen, including attempted irregularities."

It also asked the agency to investigate the "role of public servants, if any, connected with the conduct of the examination" as well as "the entire gamut of events and the larger conspiracy".

The agency is already investigating the leak of the UGC-NET 2024 question paper, which was cancelled a day after being held on Thursday after the government received inputs showing the questions had been leaked on the darkweb.

## NTA DENIES CLIP CLAIMING CUET UG ANSWER SHEETS KEPT IN OPEN

**HT Correspondent**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** After a video of several trunks lying in open at the National Testing Agency (NTA) office made rounds on social media on Thursday, with many claiming they contained the answer sheets of the recently conducted CUET-UG exam, the testing agency denied the claims, saying the boxes in the video were empty.

Sharing a video that showed the boxes kept outside the hall of the examination body as empty, the NTA in a post on X said: "These are empty boxes kept outside the hall at NTA and do not have any sensitive material inside them. Never did we keep these boxes open, as being reported by the media."

It also said the agency had a "sufficient number of security personnel deployed" at the place where the boxes are kept.

A news channel on Thursday shared a video of trunks lying unguarded in open at the NTA office and claimed they carried answer copies of the common university entrance test (CUET) for undergraduate admissions, results of which are scheduled to be announced on June 30.

The fact check unit of PIB also denied the claims as "completely fake" and said "the boxes kept outside the halls in the NTA campus are empty and do not contain any exam material".

The NTA is under scanner over the alleged irregularities in this year's NEET-UG for admission to medical courses, cancellation of University Grants Commission-National Eligibility Test or UGC-NET due to paper leak on darknet, and postponement of the CSIR-UGC-NET.

Following a massive uproar by students, parents as well as Opposition political parties, the Centre shunted out NTA chief Subodh Kumar Singh and replaced him with retired IAS officer Pradeep Singh Kharola.

{ 12TH INCIDENT THIS YEAR }

# 17-yr-old NEET aspirant dies by suicide in Kota

**HT Correspondent**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**JAIPUR:** A 17-year-old student, who was preparing for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for admission in undergraduate medical courses, died by suicide in Rajasthan's Kota district, police on Thursday said, the 12th such incident in the coaching hub this year.

Last year, 27 students, preparing for various competitive examinations, died by suicide in the district.

According to Dadabdi station house officer (SHO) Naresh Meena, the student from Jharkhand hanged himself from a ceiling fan in his hostel room in the district.

"The incident came to light on Thursday afternoon after the victim's family approached hostel authorities, saying he was not responding to calls since Wednesday night. The hostel staff also realised that he had not left his room all morning (on Thursday). They broke open the door and found his body," the SHO said.

The deceased was studying at a coaching centre in Kota for around two years, Meena said. "However, it is yet to be ascertained whether he attempted

**LAST YEAR, 27 STUDENTS, PREPARING FOR VARIOUS COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS, DIED BY SUICIDE IN KOTA DISTRICT**

NEET this year and whether the results caused him any mental stress," he said.

"No suicide note was recovered. The body has been sent for an autopsy. His parents have also been informed. We will question them about any behavioural changes in the deceased in the last few days," he added.

Police are also probing why the hostel did not install spring-loaded fans, as per the district administration's guidelines, the SHO said. "An inquiry against the hostel authorities will be initiated once the police submit a report to the district collector in this regard," he said.

Amid a surge in suicides among students last year, the district administration on August 18 had ordered all hostels and paying guest (PG) accommodations to install spring-loaded fans in rooms "to provide students mental support and

security".

Kota is the centre of India's test-prep business, estimated to be worth ₹10,000 crore annually, according to officials in the district administration. Students from around the country arrive here in huge numbers after completing Class X, and register in residential test-prep institutes. They also enroll in schools, most of which are largely for purposes of certification.

Students attend classes only in the test-prep institutes, which prepare them for their Class XII examination, but more importantly, entrance examinations such as NEET and Joint Entrance Examination (JEE). Some students find the grind stressful, especially because they are away from their families.

On June 15, a 17-year-old JEE aspirant from Bihar died by suicide at his paying guest accommodation. Days earlier, on June 6, an 18-year-old NEET aspirant from Madhya Pradesh also took the extreme step.

In April, two NEET students from Haryana and Rajasthan's Dholpur died by suicide in a span of 48 hours.

**HELP IS JUST A CALL AWAY**  
SNEHI: 011-65978181  
SUMAITRI: 011-46018404

## INDIA DISMISSES PAK'S KASHMIR REMARK AT UNSC

**Press Trust of India**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** India has strongly dismissed and condemned the "baseless" remarks on Kashmir made by a Pakistani diplomat during a UN Security Council debate on children and armed conflict, calling it another habitual attempt to divert attention from the "grave violations" against children that continue unabated in Pakistan.

"Let me respond briefly in the interest of time to remarks, which were obviously politically motivated and unfounded, made by one representative against my country. I categorically dismiss and condemn these baseless remarks with the contempt they deserve," Ambassador R. Ravindra, Chargé d'Affaires and Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the UN, said Wednesday.

He made the remarks while delivering a statement at the UN Security Council's open debate on Children and Armed Conflict.

Ravindra said this is "nothing but another habitual attempt to divert attention from the grave violations against children that continue unabated in his own country," as highlighted in this year's report by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on children and armed conflict.

"We will send a notice to them (concerned persons) under section 41 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) as the maximum punishment for sections invoked against them is less than seven years."

The incident came to light after Malad West-based doctor Brandon Serrao found a human finger in an ice cream cone he ordered online on June 12.

# Mamata slams guv as impasse over MLAs' swearing-in continues

**HT Correspondent**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**KOLKATA:** The West Bengal government and Raj Bhavan remained at loggerheads over the swearing-in ceremony for two newly elected Trinamool Congress (TMC) legislators on Thursday, as chief minister Mamata Banerjee launched a scathing attack on governor CV Ananda Bose, saying he has no right to "obstruct" the process.

While there was no immediate reaction from Raj Bhavan, with Bose on a trip to the national capital, the two legislators continued their sit-in protest at the West Bengal Legislative Assembly for a second day, seeking to take oath in the House.

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, invited the two to take the oath at Raj Bhavan.

Speaking at an administrative meeting at the state secretariat, Mamata said: "Even almost a month after winning the elections, two of my legislators have not been able to take oath. The governor is obstructing them from doing so. What right has he got not to allow them to take the oath?"

She added: "Why must everyone go to Raj Bhavan? The governor can authorise the speaker or deputy speaker, or attend the assembly himself. Women have informed me they are afraid to visit Raj Bhavan due to recent incidents reported there."



Mamata Banerjee

The chief minister was referring to allegations of molestation against the governor by a temporary employee.

The Kolkata Police has set up an enquiry team to probe the matter that triggered an uproar last month.

Bengal speaker Biman Bandyopadhyay on Wednesday had questioned the governor behind "delaying" the oath.

"There was no communication between the Raj Bhavan and the legislative assembly. The two legislators informed me that they requested the governor to come to the legislative assembly and administer the oath. The assembly secretariat was asked to keep everything ready so that the swearing-in could be held if the governor arrived. It seems that the governor is throwing a challenge. It would have been right had the swearing-in been held at the assembly," he said.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) hit out at the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) for "doing politics over oath taking ceremonies".

"If they (the two MLAs) don't want to attend the swearing-in (at Raj Bhavan) and stage a demonstration, it is up to them," senior BJP leader Rahul Sinha said.



## Cops seek Insta's help in murder case

**BENGALURU:** The Karnataka Police has sought Instagram's cooperation in the investigation of the murder case involving jailed Kannada superstar Darshan, his associate Pavithra Gowda and 15 others. The police want to retrieve messages that were allegedly sent by Renukaswamy, the deceased to Gowda.

## BJP slams Cong over Pitroda's reinstatement

**NEW DELHI:** Sam Pitroda's reinstatement as the chief of the Congress' overseas unit is the party's endorsement of all the "objectionable and unsavoury" remarks he made about Indians, 1986 anti-sikh riots, and the Pulwama terror attack, the BJP said on Thursday. Addressing the media, BJP leader Shehzad Poonawalla alleged that the Congress had distanced itself from Pitroda's remarks "just to fool and confuse" the people of the country.



## Seer urges Sidha to make way for DKS to become CM

**BENGALURU:** A Vokkaliga seer on Thursday publicly urged Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah to step down and make way for his deputy DK Shivakumar, amid a power tussle within the Congress. Seeking to downplay the appeal, Shivakumar said, "Swamiji has said out of passion. In politics, people speak out of admiration, but we will abide by the party's decision."

# HC raps Guj over probe report on boat accident

**Press Trust of India**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**AHMEDABAD:** The Gujarat High Court on Thursday expressed displeasure on an inquiry report submitted by the state government in the Harni lake tragedy in Vadodara and said it tries to protect the then municipal commissioner despite a probe panel finding him at fault.

Twelve students and two teachers were killed when a boat capsized in Motnath lake in Harni on January 18. The division bench of Chief Justice Sunita Agarwal and Justice Pranav Trivedi is hearing a suo motu PIL on the incident.

"It is a kind of report where there is an effort to protect the then municipal commissioner of Vadodara. Though the committee found fault, it seeks to sideline the role of the commissioner," said Chief Justice Agarwal after going through the inquiry report submitted by the state Urban Development and Urban Housing Department in a sealed cover on Thursday.

The Vadodara Municipal Corporation had awarded a contract to maintain and operate the lakefront project to Kotia Projects, whose partners were

subsequently arrested. During a hearing on April 25, the bench had ordered a departmental inquiry against then Vadodara municipal commissioner in connection with the incident after observing that he appeared to have illegally granted the contract in 2015-16 for Harni Motnath lakefront project to Kotia Projects.

As per the incumbency chart of civic chiefs on the VMC website, HS Patel was the municipal commissioner during February 25, 2015 and June 23, 2016. He was succeeded by Dr Vinod Rao, who held the post from June 24, 2016 to July 17, 2018.

Since Advocate General Kamal Trivedi hasn't gone through the report, the bench ordered that he be given a copy. It kept the next hearing in the case on July 4.

{ DNA REPORT SHOWS } IN MUMBAI

# Cops: Finger found in ice cream is of factory worker

**Megha Sood**  
megha.sood@hindustantimes.com

**MUMBAI:** The human finger that a Mumbai-based doctor found in the ice cream he ordered online earlier this month belonged to an employee of the ice cream manufacturers, police said on Thursday, citing the DNA report.

The employee, identified as Pune resident Omkar Pote (24), had lost the tip of his finger on May 11 while filling ice cream cones at the Fortune Dairy factory, which manufactures ice cream under the Yummo brand name, in Indapur town in Pune district, police said.

Last week, Malad police collected Pote's DNA samples and sent them to the forensic science laboratory in Kalina to ascertain if the finger belonged to him. Police also sent his blood samples to the laboratory to check if he was suffering from any disease, a senior officer said.

On Thursday, police received the DNA fingerprinting report which showed Pote's samples matched with the finger found in the ice cream. The blood sample reports confirmed that Pote did not suffer from any disease. "It is negligence on the part of

Negligence on part of staff and the supervisors at the factory that they let the ice cream batch be packed and shipped.

**RAVI ADANE,** senior police inspector

the employee and the supervisors at the factory that they let the contaminated ice cream batch be packed and shipped to consumers," Ravi Adane, senior police inspector of Malad police station, said. "We will send a notice to them (concerned persons) under section 41 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) as the maximum punishment for sections invoked against them is less than seven years."

The incident came to light after Malad West-based doctor Brandon Serrao found a human finger in an ice cream cone he ordered online on June 12.

# Climate crisis-induced extreme heat hit 600mn Indians in June: Report

**Jayashree Nandi**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** More than 60% of the world's population faced extreme heat that was made at least three times more likely by human-induced climate change in mid-June, according to rapid attribution analysis by scientists at Climate Central, an independent group of scientists and communicators.

Around 619 million people in India are estimated to have been affected by the extreme heat between June 16 and June 24, and more than 40,000 suffered heatstroke. In China, around 579 million people were impacted, while this number was 231 million in Indonesia, it added.

Scientists at Climate Central found that 4.97 billion people experienced extreme heat made at least three times more likely by climate change over the period.

"In India, one of the country's worst-ever and long-running heatwaves, which finally receded in mid-June, left more than 40,000 people with heatstroke, with over 100 dead. Temperatures approached 50°C, with



Around 619 million people in India are estimated to have been affected by extreme heat between June 16 and June 24

a night-time low of 37°C, reportedly the highest ever recorded in India," Climate Central said in a statement.

In Saudi Arabia, at least 1,300 people have died from heat-related illnesses during the Hajj pilgrimage.

In Greece, the Acropolis in Athens had to be shut due to temperatures above 43°C — very high for this time of year. Among the tragedies brought by the heatwave, six tourists died.

The eastern coast of US experienced an intense heatwave. In New York, health officials reported a 500-600% increase in

heat-related emergency visits, Climate Central said.

"More than a century of burning coal, oil, and natural gas has given us an increasingly dangerous world. The heatwaves popping up around the world are unnatural disasters that will become more common until carbon pollution stops," said Andrew Pershing, VP for Science at Climate Central.

The delay in monsoon led to further intensification of extreme heat over northwest India in June and caused at least 100 deaths.

"This happens because the body doesn't get rest. Normally, night is the time to recuperate from the impact of extreme heat, but if you do not get rest at night, then your body will be in overdrive. For example, if I ask someone to run and instead of giving rest intermittently, I say you can only slow to a brisk walk and then run again, the person will collapse. The same thing is happening when day and night temperatures are both extremely high," Dr Dileep Mavalankar, former director at Indian Institute of Public Health, Gandhinagar said last week.

# Centre to weigh in after Maha seeks to use pvt forest land for residential project

**Jayashree Nandi**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Union environment ministry's Nagpur regional office has sought clarity on whether residential projects can be allowed in Maharashtra's private forests, a move prompted by a request from the state government to greenlight one such project.

This is significant because in January, the ministry allowed homestead owners in Mussoorie and Goa's private and deemed forests to construct residential buildings, although the ban on construction of institutional and commercial buildings remained, according to a letter sent to the Uttarakhand and Goa governments.

In a meeting of the environment ministry's Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) on June 7, the issue on private forests raised by the Nagpur office was discussed according to minutes available published on Parivesh website recently. FAC has not taken a call on the matter yet.

FAC has asked Maharashtra's nodal officer to make a detailed presentation giving detailed



Private forests are those which are not property of the government but meet the characteristics of forests

account of the dispensation provided in the Mussoorie and Goa and proposals in respect of Maharashtra before the Committee in its next meeting.

Private forests are forests which are not property of the government but meet the characteristics of forests.

The above proposal was considered by the Regional Empowered Committee at Regional Office, Nagpur in its meeting held on April 24 and the Committee while considering the proposal decided to seek clarification from the MoEFCC

whether such residential proposals proposed to be taken up in the restored private forest may be considered by the REC or otherwise so as to inform the State Government on applicability of rules position on such proposals," the minutes stated.

The relevant provisions of the rule 10(3)(ii) read with the provisions of rule 10(5)(ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 provide that the Regional Empowered Committee shall examine the proposals giving due regard to the various aspects mentioned including that the proposed use of the forest land is not for any non-site specific purpose such as agricultural purpose, office or residential purpose or for the rehabilitation of persons displaced for any reason.

Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 also state that utilization of forest area for establishing industries, construction of residential colonies, institutes, rehabilitation of displaced persons, etc. are non-sitespecific activities and cannot be considered on forest land. But, in exceptional circum-

stances, residential projects up to one hectare, can be considered for approval under the Forest Conservation Amendment Act 2023 or Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 by the MoEF&CC, the minutes added.

"If the project is for a greenfield residential project, the diversion of forest should definitely not be allowed. Also, 10 ha is a huge area which cannot be justified as a bona fide case. Not only will there be consequences for biodiversity and green cover, but it will also set a very wrong precedent if such permission is given," said Debadiyoti Sinha, Senior Resident Fellow and Lead of the Climate & Ecosystems team at Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy.

According to experts, the exemptions were given to private forests in Uttarakhand and Goa because the construction, previously not allowed, was made possible because of the latest amendment of Forest Conservation Act or the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam which exempts unrecorded deemed forests and private plantations.

# IAF relocates MiG-21s to Nal base as it prepares to replace the fleet

Rahul Singh  
rahul.singh@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Some of the Indian Air Force's last Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-21 fighter jets have silently bid adieu to their home base at Suratgarh in Rajasthan and been relocated by the Indian Air Force (IAF) to the sprawling Nal desert fighter base near Bikaner, where the only other remaining Indian MiG-21s are based, as the world's fourth largest air force prepares the ground to pull these iconic planes out of service and begins raising its new Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA Mk-1A) fleet in July, senior officials aware of the matter said on Thursday.

IAF has completed the relocation of the Suratgarh-based No 23 Squadron, better known as "Panthers", to Nal, which is home to the MiG-21s belonging to the No 3 Squadron or "Cobras", and the last of the air force's MiG-21s are now operating from the same airbase, said one of the officials cited above on the condition of anonymity.

Both squadrons operate the MiG-21 Bison, the last variant of the single-engine workhorse. A fighter squadron usually consists of 16 to 18 fighter jets.

The MiG-21 Bisons have been moved from Suratgarh to Nal as IAF wants to optimise their maintenance, service and spares to keep



Squadron Leader Mohana Singh in a MiG-21 Bison at the Nal airbase near Bikaner.

the fleet flying till the conversion of the two squadrons to LCA Mk-1A is completed during 2024-25," said a second official who also asked not to be named.

The conversion of the first of the two MiG-21 squadrons to the locally made LCA Mk-1A will begin after the state-run plane maker Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) delivers the first aircraft to IAF, he said. The air force is likely to get delivery of the first LCA Mk-1A in July 2024. It ordered 83 Mk-1As for ₹48,000 crore in February 2021.

The first MiG-1A was to be delivered to IAF by March 31, 2024, but HAL missed the deadline as key

certifications were still pending. It made its maiden sortie from an HAL facility in Bengaluru on March 28. HAL now plans to deliver 16 of these fighters to IAF in the financial year 2024-25. It has set up a new production line in Nashik for LCA Mk-1As to meet IAF's growing requirements. It can build 16 LCA Mk-1As every year in Bengaluru, and the Nashik line will help HAL ramp up production to 24 jets. The delivery of the 87 jets on order is expected to be completed by 2028.

The induction of the MiG-21, India's first supersonic fighter, began in 1963. IAF has operated a raft of MiG-21 variants over the last

six decades — Type 74 or MiG 21F, Type 76 or MiG 21PF, Type 77 or MiG 21FL, Type 96 or MiG 21M, Type 75 or MiG 21 Bis (upgraded Type 96) and the MiG-21 Bison.

The MiG-21's 60-year history in IAF has been punctuated by accidents that have put the Soviet-origin aircraft's safety record under running scrutiny and led to an understandable chorus of concern and calls for its early replacement. With upgrades, IAF has managed to keep them flying for so long.

In April, the defence ministry issued a tender to HAL for the proposed acquisition of 97 more LCA Mk-1As to strengthen the air force's capabilities at a time it is grappling with a shortage of fighter squadrons. The new fighter planes are expected to cost around ₹67,000 crore.

LCA Mk-1A is an advanced variant of the LCA Mk-1, which is already in active service. LCA is set to emerge as the cornerstone of IAF's combat power in the coming decade and beyond as it is expected to operate around 350 LCAs (a mix of Mk-1, Mk-1A and Mk-2 versions).

Forty MiG-1 jets operated by IAF are in the initial operational clearance (IOC) and the more advanced final operational clearance (FOC) configurations — the first variants of LCA. More than 400 MiG-21s have been involved in accidents

that have killed around 200 pilots, earning the fighter jets unfortunate epithets such as "Flying Coffin" and "Widow Maker". To be sure, more MiG-21s have crashed than any other fighter because they formed the bulk of the aircraft in IAF for the longest time.

In the 1980s and 1990s, these planes accounted for more than 60% of the air force's fighting strength. The maiden batch of six MiG-21Fs entered service in March-April 1963 and IAF progressively inducted 874 MiG-21s.

IAF will deploy the MiG-1As at forward air bases in the western sector to bolster its combat readiness against Pakistan and fill voids left by the gradual phasing out of the MiG-21s. It phased out the MiG-21 Bisons belonging to the No 4 Squadron ("Oorials") based at Uttari in Rajasthan and the Srinagar-based No 51 Squadron, which is also known as "Sword Arms," during 2022-23.

The LCA project was sanctioned in 1983 as a replacement for MiG-21s. IAF raised its first LCA Mk-1 squadron in Sullur with two aircraft in July 2016. While the existing MiG-1 and MiG-1A variants will replace MiG-21 fighters, the Mk-2 aircraft is planned as a replacement for the MiG-29s, Mirage-2000s and Jaguar fighters that will start retiring in the coming decade.

# Hot and dry June pushes back planting across the country

Zia Haq  
zia.haq@htlive.com

**NEW DELHI:** Monsoon showers in July will be crucial to sowing of key summer crops India is counting on to cut inflation, as below-normal rains and hot weather in June pushed back planting in many regions and depleted large water bodies that act as sources of irrigation.

The country is poised to receive above average rainfall during the June-September monsoon, the lifeblood of Asia's third largest economy, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), but showers have been 19% below normal so far.

The first of the four-month rainy season, June, is increasingly becoming drier, making the month unfit for farming operations, which begin with the onset of the southwest monsoon. Since 2008, nine years saw below-normal rains during June, according to official data analysed by HT.

A hot and dry June has made rice planting difficult because farmers need to keep seedlings submerged in water during transplantation. In the soybean, cotton, sugarcane, and pulses-growing belts of central India, rainfall was 29% deficient till June 19.

The Punjab Agricultural University, in an advisory, asked farmers to defer sowing of long-duration paddy until July, when the rains are expected to pick up.

Storage in 150 nationally important reservoirs, critical for irrigation, drinking and power, declined to 21% of the total capacity 178.78



The PAU asked farmers to defer sowing of long-duration paddy until July.

billion cubic metres last week. Robust showers are necessary to replenish them.

In July, rainfall activity is likely to be "near normal to above normal over most parts of the country, except Western Himalayan Region and West Rajasthan", IMD has said in a latest forecast.

The government has so far not released any sowing data for kharif or summer crops, which account for half of the country's food supply, but farmers and state officials have said that heatwaves this month have delayed paddy sowing.

To be sure, this delay is rapidly becoming the norm. "Farmers are following weather information and waiting for July because that is when the rains will become active. Last year too, sowing was delayed," said Jaipal Singh Nain, a leader of the Bharatiya Kisan Union, from Mukarpar near Haryana's Kurushkera.

In Madhya Pradesh, sowing of soybean has been tardy and farmers have covered only 5-10% of the area. However, planting is expected to pick up as the monsoon has become active in the state. July is the most critical month for kharif summer-sown crops because it accounts for nearly a third of the season's rainfall and most of the country's net-sown area gets covered during this month.

"Beyond July, the sowing window becomes narrower and August is not suitable for planting crops like long-duration paddy," said R Mani of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

Robust rains in July will allow farmers to expand acreage under important crops such as paddy, pulses, including tur (pigeon pea) and urad (black gram), onion, soybean, coarse cereals, cotton and sugar. These commodities are critical to keep a lid on elevated food prices.

Two years of extreme weather and a poor monsoon have trimmed output of pulses, onion and wheat. High food inflation, which rose 8.7% in May, has kept the headline inflation above the central bank's target, preventing a cut in key interest rates.

Onion output dropped 20% in 2023 due to irregular rainfall. A sub-par monsoon last year crimped production of rabi or winter-sown onions in 2024 by another 20% to 19 million tonne, compared to 23.7 million tonne in the previous year. Two consecutive years of low pulses output drove prices 17.1% in May, against an increase of 16.8% in the previous month.

## 2 DIE BY SUICIDE OVER 'POLICE HARASSMENT'

**AGRA:** Police have arrested a sub-inspector and are trying to trace another officer after two brothers committed suicide over alleged harassment by them, officials said on Thursday.

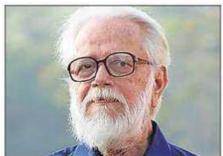
On June 22, a resident of Roopdhani village, committed suicide over alleged harassment by Sadabad Police. m According to police, the deceased's brother-in-law had eloped with a minor girl. Police asked the man to produce his brother-in-law in connection with the case before June 22, but he committed suicide the same day, they said. On Monday, his brother also took his life. He left a suicide note behind in which he accused police of harassment, they said. HT

## CBI files charge sheet against 5 ex-police officers for 'framing' scientist in Isro espionage case

Press Trust of India  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a charge sheet against two former DGP's, Siby Mathews of Kerala and R B Sreekumar of Gujarat, and three other retired police officials in connection with the alleged framing of space scientist Nambi Narayanan in the 1994 I Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) espionage case, officials said.

Three years after registering a case in 2021 following the Supreme Court's directions, the CBI has filed its charge sheet



Nambi Narayanan

against then deputy inspector general of police Mathews, who headed the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the espionage case, Sreekumar, who was the deputy director in the Intelligence Bureau, PS Jayaprakash, who was then posted in the SIB-

Kerala, then deputy superintendent of police K K Joshua and inspector S Vijayan.

The CBI has charged them under sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 342 (wrongful confinement), 330 (voluntarily causing hurt to extract a confession), 167 (creating false documents), 193 (fabricating evidence), 354 (criminal assault on women) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the officials said.

The apex court had ordered the probe on the basis of the report of a high-level committee, which had said the investigation into the role of erring police officials in the 1994 espionage case

involving Narayanan be given to the CBI.

The Kerala Police had registered two cases in October 1994 after Maldivian national Rasheda was arrested in Thiruvananthapuram for allegedly obtaining secret drawings of Isro rocket engines for selling to Pakistan.

Narayanan, the then director of the cryogenic project at Isro, was arrested, along with the then space agency deputy director D Sasikumaran and Fousiya Hasan, a Maldivian friend of Rasheda.

The CBI probe had found the allegations to be false.

## A chance meeting



Uddhav Thackeray and Devendra Fadnis wait for a lift at the Vidhan Bhawan complex in Mumbai on Thursday.

**MUMBAI:** A clip of an accidental encounter between Maharashtra deputy CM Devendra Fadnis and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray in a Vidhan Bhawan complex lift on Thursday sent social media into a frenzy, but both sides quickly sought to downplay the meeting.

"People must have thought of the song, 'na na karte pyar tumhi se kar baithe' (I fell in love with you despite denials). But no such thing will happen", Thackeray quipped while talking to reporters. "Lifts don't have ears so it is a good suggestion to have more such meetings in lifts."

**Government of Punjab**  
Tender Reference No.: EE PWSSD No. 2/Amritsar/25/2024 Date: 26.06.2024  
The Department of Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Division No. 2 Amritsar invites Bid for Civil Work.  
Closing Date & Time : Closing Date: 15.07.2024 Time upto 1.00 PM  
For Detail login to : (https://eproc.punjab.gov.in)  
Note:- Any Corrigendum(s)/addendum, to the tender notice shall be published on the above website only.  
Executive Engineer  
Punjab W/S & Sew. Division No. 2  
Amritsar

**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) Png tables: 60 Nos  
Interested bidders/ 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

**NATIONAL BRAIN RESEARCH CENTRE**  
(Deemed University)  
An Autonomous Institute of Deptt. of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India  
NH-8, Nainital Mode, Manesar -122 052, Distt.-Gurgaon (Haryana)  
Tel : 0124 -2845 200, E-mail : admin.nbrcc@nbrcc.ac.in  
NBRC would like to recruit suitable person for the following position on Deputation (including short-term contract):  
Adv. No. 06/2024  
Sl.No. Name of Post Level (As per 7th CPC)  
1. Scientist - V (Post-02 Nos. & Post Code : 001) Level - 13 of Pay Matrix  
Terms and conditions and application form are available at website www.nbrcc.ac.in. Any further development in regard to this advertisement will be communicated through NBRC website only. Last date of receipt of application is 12.08.2024. Last date for candidates domiciled in North Eastern States, Andaman Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Jammu and Kashmir is 27.08.2024.

**Government of Puducherry**  
Office of the Resident Commissioner  
Puducherry House, No. 3, Sardar Patel Marg  
Chankya Puri, New Delhi - 21  
Ph. 011-43152341, 42, 43  
No.: RC/PH-ND/Est./2024-25/ Dated: .06.2024  
NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS  
Sub.: Engagement of Retired Government Officials as consultant - Reg.  
The O/o the Resident Commissioner, Government of Puducherry, Puducherry House, New Delhi intends to engage two retired Government officials as consultant (01 Guest House manager and 01 Stenographer/PA. to Resident Commissioner) on contract basis (retirement should not be more than 01 year prior to applying for engagement). Interested persons may download the application form and terms & conditions of engagement at https://dpar.pu.gov.in and submit the same with O/o the Resident Commissioner, Puducherry House, New Delhi on or before 17.07.2024.  
Joint Resident Commissioner

**New Okhla Industrial Development Authority**  
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (U.P.)  
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.in  
E-TENDER NOTICE  
E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firm for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & https://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.  
A) Fresh-Tender Work  
S. No. Jobs No. Name of the Work Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)  
1 04/DGM/SM (WC-7)/ ET/ 2024-25 M/o Drain (C/o RCC drain and Box Culvert C-04 to C-54 on 60.00 mtr. wide road in Phase-II), Noida. 152.04  
2 07/DGM/SM (WC-7)/ ET/ 2024-25 D/o Sector-80-81 (C/o RCC drain and fixing Hollow covers on 60 mtr. wide road Sector-80 side), Noida. 162.98  
The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 11.07.2024 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 12.07.2024 at 11.00 AM.  
Sector-6, NOIDA  
Dy. General Manager (Civil)  
NOIDA  
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

**UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
PROGRAMME OF EXAMINATIONS/RECRUITMENT TESTS (RTs) -2025  
No.22/23/2024-E.I(B) - The Commission's Programme of Examinations and Recruitment Tests (RTs) for the year 2025 is given below for the information of candidates. The annual calendar has also been placed on the Commission's website (www.upsc.gov.in). Aspirants and candidates are advised to retain this advertisement for use as a ready reckoner for applying for the Commission's Examinations in 2025.

Sl. No.	Name of Examination	Date of Notification	Last Date for receipt of Applications	Date of commencement of Exam	Duration of Exam
1.	Reserved for UPSC RT/Examination			11.01.2025 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
2.	Combined Geo-Scientist (Preliminary) Examination, 2025	04.09.2025	24.09.2024	09.02.2025 (Sunday)	1 DAY
3.	Engineering Services (Preliminary) Examination, 2025	18.09.2024	08.10.2024	09.02.2025 (Sunday)	1 DAY
4.	CBI (DSP) LDCE	27.11.2024	17.12.2024	08.03.2025 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
5.	CISF AC(EXE) LDCE-2025	04.12.2024	24.12.2024	09.03.2025 (Sunday)	1 DAY
6.	N.D.A. & N.A. Examination (I), 2025	11.12.2024	31.12.2024	13.04.2025 (Sunday)	1 DAY
7.	C.D.S. Examination (I), 2025				
8.	Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination, 2025	22.01.2025	11.02.2025	25.05.2025 (Sunday)	1 DAY
9.	Indian Forest Service (Preliminary) Examination, 2025 through CS(P) Examination 2025				
10.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			14.06.2025 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
11.	I.E.S./I.S.S. Examination, 2025	12.02.2025	04.03.2025	20.06.2025 (Friday)	3 DAYS
12.	Combined Geo-Scientist (Main) Examination, 2025			21.06.2025 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
13.	Engineering Services (Main) Examination, 2025			22.06.2025 (Sunday)	1 DAY
14.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			05.07.2025 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
15.	Combined Medical Services Examination, 2025	19.02.2025	11.03.2025	20.07.2025 (Sunday)	1 DAY
16.	Central Armed Police Forces (ACs) Examination, 2025	05.03.2025	25.03.2025	03.08.2025 (Sunday)	1 DAY
17.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			09.08.2025 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
18.	Civil Services (Main) Examination, 2025			22.08.2025 (Friday)	5 DAYS
19.	N.D.A. & N.A. Examination (II), 2025	28.05.2025	17.06.2025	14.09.2025 (Sunday)	1 DAY
20.	C.D.S. Examination (II), 2025				
21.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			04.10.2025 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
22.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			01.11.2025 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
23.	Indian Forest Service (Main) Examination, 2025			16.11.2025 (Sunday)	7 DAYS
24.	S.O./Steno (GD-B/GD-I) LDCE	17.09.2025	07.10.2025	13.12.2025 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
25.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			20.12.2025 (Saturday)	2 DAYS

Note: The dates of notification, commencement and duration of Examinations/ RTs are liable to alteration, if the circumstances so warrant.  
CBC 55101/14/0001/2425

**ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES**  
ANSARI NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110029  
F. No. 1-4/2024-Estt. (RCT)  
VACANCY NOTICE  
Applications are invited in the prescribed proforma for filling up the following posts at this Institute ON DEPUTATION BASIS:-  
Sr. No. Name of the Post Pay Scale Upper Age Limit Number of Post(s)  
1. Chief Nursing Officer Level-12 in the Pay Matrix 56 Years 01  
2. Deputy Fire Officer Level-07 in the Pay Matrix 56 Years 02  
For essential eligibility conditions, other details and terms & conditions, please visit the Institutes' website: www.aiims.edu and www.aiimsexams.ac.in under the head "Recruitment". The candidates who fulfil the prescribed eligibility conditions may submit their applications in the prescribed proforma (available on the website) to the Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi-110029, so as to reach the addressee on or before 08.08.2024.  
CBC 17112/12/0007/2425 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (RECTT.)

**Hindustan Times**  
HT City  
OLD SONG, NEW VIBE  
CHECK OUT TODAY'S EDITION

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Pramod Kumar Singh, S/o: Ramev Singh, R/o: C-310, Tajpur Pahari, Badarpur, New Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 255/24 U/s 408 IPC, P.S.: Govind Puri, South East Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Pramod Kumar Singh cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Pramod Kumar Singh, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).  
Proclamation is hereby made that the said Pramod Kumar Singh accused of Case No. 255/24 U/s 408 IPC, P.S.: Govind Puri, South East Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 22.08.2024.  
By Order  
Ms. Devanshi Janmeja,  
Ld. MM - 04,  
Saket Court, South East Delhi  
DP/7909/SE/2024  
(Court Matter)



# HC allows 17-year-old MP girl to donate part of liver to save father

**Shruti Tomar**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

Bhopal: The Indore bench of the Madhya Pradesh high court on Thursday allowed a 17-year-old girl to donate a part of her liver to her father, who has been suffering from a serious liver disease for the past few years.

Preeti Batham fought for months to convince her family members to become a donor to her ailing father Shivnarayan Batham (42), a resident of Indore, who is admitted to a private hospital in the city, her lawyer Nilesh Mahore said.

"On Thursday, justice Vishal Mishra held a virtual hearing in the Indore Bench. The court gave its permission for liver transplant on the basis of reports of the medical board of MY Hospital, dean of MGM Medical College and health

## THE COURT GAVE ITS NOD AFTER THE TEEN WAS FOUND MEDICALLY FIT FOR LIVER DONATION

department commissioner," Mahore said. "Preeti was found medically fit for liver donation."

The single bench also directed that the liver transplant be completed at the earliest by taking all precautions.

The petitioner's father, a farmer from rural Indore, has been suffering from a serious liver ailment for the last few years. When they were unable to find a suitable donor and as her father's condition started to deteriorate, Preeti again insisted on donating a part of her liver.

As the doctors informed her about the legal hurdle in the

transplant, she filed a petition in the high court on June 13, expressing her willingness to donate a part of her liver to her father and that the transplant procedure be allowed, the lawyer said.

According to the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994, minors can donate only in special cases. In 2020, the Delhi high court clearly stated that there is no blanket embargo on minors from donating organs, Mahore said, adding Preeti will turn 18 on July 31.

Meanwhile, doctor Amit Barfa from the private hospital where the patient is admitted said that preparations for liver transplant have been completed. "Transplant will be started as soon as the written order of the court is received. The operation will take 10 to 12 hours," Barfa added.

## MONSOON FORECAST

Mahesh Palawat, vice-president at private weather forecaster Skymet, said, "Thursday was the first pre-monsoon shower for Delhi. By Saturday and Sunday, the monsoon showers should start as well. A low-pressure area in central Uttar Pradesh will move to south Delhi, resulting in moderate to heavy showers."

Areas in and around Palam recorded 15.9mm of rain in the 24 hours till 8.30am on Thursday and 17.6mm from 8.30am-5.30pm. However, no flights were disrupted at the Indira Gandhi International Airport. Safdarjung, Delhi's base weather station recorded trace rain in 24 hours till 8.30am on Thursday and 5.2mm of rain from 8.30am to 5.30pm. Lodhi Road recorded rain till 8.30am and 9.6mm of rain from there to 5.30pm. Ridge recorded rain till 8.30am and 6.2mm of rain from 8.30am-5.30pm.

Other cities in the National Capital Region (NCR), like Gurugram and Noida weather stations recorded 7.5mm and 21.5mm of rain respectively till 8.30am. The showers on Thursday also waterlogged streets and damaged trees in several parts of the city and disrupted morning rush-hour traffic. A PWD official said they received waterlogging complaints from around a dozen locations including ITO, Mayapuri Chowk, Tagore Garden, Mother Dairy, IP Extension, Ghazipur Mandi, Ratan Lal market Paharganj, Anand Parbat on Rohtak Road and Narela Palla Road.

Control rooms of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) received waterlogging complaints from 32 locations, including Khari Baoli, Nawada Extension, Janakpuri, Vasant Kunj and Press Enclave. Trees were damaged at Freedom Fighter Chowk, Palam, Jangpura police chowki, Geeta Colony and Dwarka Sector 8. Traffic was bogged down on the Delhi-Meerut Expressway and NH-24 on the carriageway towards Sarai Kale Khan from Ghaziabad due to waterlogging at the Ghazipur poultry market T-intersection.

Both carriageways of Ring Road between Dhaula Kuan and Indraprastha flyover near ITO via Ashram and Sarai Kale Khan and also faced traffic snarls during the morning hours.

Traffic congestion was also witnessed on NH-48 - the arterial road connecting Gurugram

with Delhi via Mahipalpur, Dhaula Kuan-Naraina Road, in several areas in west and south-west Delhi such as Janakpuri, Uttam Nagar, and Dwarka, on Kalindi Kunj-Mithapur Road, and also near Britannia Chowk in northwest Delhi.

Several motorists took to social media to post photographs and videos of traffic jams and lament about the woes caused by it. According to the Delhi Traffic Police, waterlogging was reported from Ghazipur chicken and fish market in east Delhi and near Peeragarhi village in Nangloi. Two incidents of falling of trees were reported from Pocket-3 in Mayur Vihar Phase-1 and from Guru Nanak Market in Kashmir Gate.

**SOURCE OF NEET LEAK**

employees and bank officials with CBI which will question them soon," one officer said.

HT sought a response on Thursday from Blue Dart on the findings by the police, but did not receive a response till the time of going to print. HT also reached out to SBI's corporate communications via email and phone, but did not receive a response till the time of going to print. The 2024 NEET-UG, conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for admissions to MBBS, BDS and other related undergraduate courses across India, has been beset with a series of allegations ranging from question paper leaks, inflated marking and arbitrary allowance of grace marks - issues that have become a nationwide flashpoint for political parties, leading to thousands of students protesting for weeks. This year's examination was conducted on May 5 at 4,750 centres in 571 cities, including 14 abroad with 2.3 million candidates appearing for it.

After a month of investigations in states like Bihar and Gujarat, the first FIR by CBI in the paper leak case was registered on Sunday, a day after the Union education ministry announced it would hand over the probe into the alleged irregularities in the conduct of the exam to the central agency.

A second officer said that their investigations revealed that the question papers were brought to the Ranchi airport by flight on May 3. The Hazaribagh (Jharkhand) Blue Dart office hired a transport company to ferry the papers to different exam centres around Hazari-

{ FROM PAGE 1 }

bagh, the officials said.

The driver, who collected the papers from Ranchi airport, transports packages for different courier agencies in Hazaribagh. He collected the NEET-UG paper and dropped it at the Blue Dart office by around noon instead of at the SBI branch. Now if he is part of the same gang and stopped the vehicle en route is a matter that needs investigation. Around 2pm, he dropped the question papers outside the Blue Dart office instead of taking it to the SBI branch, which is less than 2km from there. Blue Dart employees said he refused to take it to the SBI brand saying that it was meant for the courier company," said the second officer. Among the question papers in the packet was booklet number 6136488.

Last month, the NEET leak case was busted after Bihar police officials recovered a burnt photocopy of this booklet from outside the Learn Play School and Hostel in Patna. It is at this school that over two dozen students were shown the question papers on May 4 - a day before the examination - by members of the Sanjeev Kumar (aka Luthan Mukhia) gang. Kumar is absconding, while his aides have been arrested by Bihar police.

Detailing how the NEET-UG question paper bundles were further transported to the bank branch without any security or supervision, the first officer said: "Blue Dart employees stopped an e-rickshaw driver and asked him to drop the question papers at the bank. Now, it is also a matter of probe, if anyone stopped the e-rickshaw and tampered with the package. But this was a ride of 2km. Blue Dart employees said they randomly stopped an e-rickshaw and sent it to the SBI branch. This is how such a confidential paper was handled."

Between the evening of May 3 and the morning of May 5, the papers including booked number 6136488 were inside the Hazaribagh SBI office. While the role of the SBI bank employees is also under probe, officials believe the chances of their involvement are low. The Bihar police, in a meeting with CBI officials on Tuesday, shared details of all the 18 arrested people and also Luthan Mukhia. His son, Shiv Kumar is in jail in the leak of the March 2024 Bihar Teacher Recruitment Exam (TRE 3) case.

Sharing details of the TRE case, the first officer said, "In that case, Kumar's son, Shiv

Kumar and his aides bribed transporters hired by a Patna-based company to transport the papers.

The company had further given the contract of transporting the TRE 3 question papers to Zenith Logistics Pvt Ltd. On March 12, the transport company's driver stopped his vehicle at an eatery called Buddha Family Restaurant at Pushpa Nagar in Nalanda and tampered with the question papers. They hired restaurants, hotel and banquet halls along the way to tamper with the courier packages." The officer said that in 2023, the same gang, bribed people from one branch of DP World transport company to leak the paper of the Bihar police constable examination.

"There is a clear link here," the first officer said, adding that the gang and its Uttar Pradesh-based associates similarly tapped employees of a transport company to leak the UP police recruitment paper too.

"During our probe we found one of the arrested men in the NEET-UG 2024 case, who is an aide of kingpin Sanjeev Kumar, was in touch with jailed members of Uttar Pradesh-based Ravi Attri gang. Ravi was arrested by the UP STF in March 2024 in connection with the UP police paper leak case. In that case, Ravi and his aide Shubham Mandal bribed three employees of a transport company to tamper with the question papers. The modus operandi is the same. Now this Mandal, who was arrested by UP police, is an aide of Sanjeev Kumar's son Shiv. They were arrested by Patna police in 2017 for attempting to bribe transporters," the officer added.

Bihar Police officers said that the cover of the question papers containing booklet number 6136488, meant for the Oasis school in Hazaribagh, has been handed to the CBI. "As per protocol, the exam centres must keep covers of such booklets for at least a month. The cover in which the booklet was wrapped was tampered on one of its sides. It has been seized and given to CBI. The tampering was not noticed by school authorities, invigilators, NTA representatives. These gangs know how to tamper using a set of tools and then place the paper back," the first officer added.

CBI is questioning Oasis School principal Dr Ehsan Ul-Haq for his alleged role in the

case. Bihar Police officials said Haq and his team received the question paper from the bank branch at around 7.30am on the day of the examination.

"From the bank to the school, the paper was transported in the school's vehicle, but it was guarded by different officials and not just Haq's colleagues. Either they all are involved or they did not know that the question papers they received were already tampered with," the second official added.

**INDIAN FISHERMEN**

Kankesanthurai Harbour and handed over to the Malladi Fisheries Inspector for legal proceedings. The local police had filed a 'B' report with the Mallakam Court in Jaffna, seeking their prosecution. A hearing in the matter is scheduled for July 22.

Illegal fishing is a contentious issue in the ties between India and Sri Lanka, with fishermen from both sides arrested frequently for trespassing into the other country's waters.

Sri Lanka Navy said it has arrested more than 200 Indian fishermen and seized 27 trawlers for illegal fishing so far this year. In 2023, it arrested 240 Indian fishermen along with 35 trawlers for allegedly "poaching" in Sri Lankan waters.

External affairs minister S Jaishankar informed Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin on Thursday that the Indian high commission in Colombo and the consulate in Jaffna have been taking up the issue of early release of Indian fishermen currently detained in Sri Lanka.

In a letter to Stalin, Jaishankar said that as of June 26, a total of 34 Indian fishermen were in judicial remand in Sri Lanka and six were serving sentences in jails there.

Jaishankar was responding to three letters sent by Stalin this month to raise the issue of fishermen from Tamil Nadu detained in Sri Lanka. He said that the "genesis of this issue goes back to 1974, following an understanding between the then Union government and the state government".

Since 2014, the National Development Alliance (NDA) government has sought to address the livelihood interests and humanitarian aspects of the fishing community. "These efforts continue in their multiple dimensions, including through engaging the government of Sri Lanka," he said.

# WON'T HOLD TALKS WITH STATE GOVT TILL BIREN AT HELM: TOP KUKI BODY

**Thomas Ngangom**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**IMPHAL:** A key Kuki body on Thursday said the Kuki-Zo community, which is locked in an ethnic conflict with the Meiteis in Manipur, will not hold talks with the state government till chief minister N Biren Singh is at the helm.

"It is hardly surprising that the ongoing crisis in Manipur - a pre-planned ethnic cleansing against the Kuki-Zo community - is the ultimate result of the despotic and chauvinistic governance under Shri N Biren Singh. In fact, the oppression and alienation against the Kukis has gained unnatural momentum since N Biren Singh formed his ministry in 2017," Kuki Inpi Manipur, an apex body of the Kuki tribes, said in a statement.

Meanwhile, Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity, an Imphal Valley-based civil society organisation, will hold a rally on Friday against the ongoing violence that has left at least 219 people dead and over 50,000 displaced since May 3 last year.

# SAD is not personal property of anyone, says rebel Akali leader

**Press Trust of India**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**CHANDIGARH:** Launching an attack on the party leadership, rebel Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Prem Singh Chandumajra on Thursday said the party is not a personal property of anybody, adding it is an ideology and principle.

He, however, said nobody from the section of leaders, who revolted against party president Sukhbir Singh Badal, are claimants for the position of party president. A section of senior party leaders revolted against Badal, demanding that he should step down as the party chief following its debate in the recently held Lok Sabha elections.

Among prominent leaders who raised a banner of revolt included former MP Chandumajra, former SGPC chief Bibi Jagir Kaur, ex-MLA Gurpartap Singh Wadala, former ministers Sikandar Singh Maluka, Parminder Singh Dhindsa, Sarwan Singh Phillaur.

When asked that the party had asked leaders not to put forth their views at the party platform, Chandumajra said, "We want to make it clear that the party is not a personal property of anybody. The party is an ideology and principle."

Chandumajra claimed that before the Lok Sabha polls, SAD chief Sukhbir Badal met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and held talks for entering into an alliance with the BJP.

Meanwhile, SAD senior vice-president Daljit Singh Cheema said party president's wife Harsimrat Kaur Badal was the first to offer surrendering her ticket honouring the Jhundan Committee's recommendation for one family one ticket, in case the party fielded Badal in the Lok Sabha elections. The party said veteran Akali leader Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa first accepted the leadership of Sukhbir Badal as the chief but revolted just because the party could not give the Lok Sabha ticket to his son Parminder Singh Dhindsa.

**WESTERN RAILWAY - RAJKOT DIVISION**  
CARPENTRY, PLUMBING & PASSENGER AMENITY WORK  
Tender Notice No. M-2024-08-PA-O-HR-1Dt. 20.06.2024 (I) Name of work : General Furnishing Carpentry, plumbing & passenger amenity work of primary, secondary & terminating/STR maintenance coaches at C&W depot OKHA, HAPA & RJT for the period of 2 years. (II) Approx Cost : ₹24,46,431.92 (III) Earnest Money : ₹2,73,300 (IV) Date & time for the submission of tender : Up to 15.00 hrs. on 12.07.2024 and opening of tender at 15.30 hrs. on 12.07.2024. (V) Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased & Location of Notice board: Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical), Western Railway, Kothi compound, Rajkot-360001  
Website Particulars : www.reps.gov.in  
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**कार्यालय: स्वाशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय ललिपुर ३०६०-२८४४०३**  
Office of The Principal Autonomous State Medical College, Lalitpur Uttar Pradesh- 284403  
Email: asmc.lalitpur@gmail.com www.asmc.lalitpur.org

पत्रिका- एएएसएमसीओ/ललितपुर/विज्ञापन/2024-25/677 दिनांक- 27.06.2024

**नियमित सेवायोजन हेतु विज्ञापित**

स्वाशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, ललितपुर में आचार्य, सह-आचार्य एवं सहायक आचार्य के रिक्त पदों पर नियमित चयन हेतु आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी सभी प्रमाण-पत्रों के साथ दिनांक- 17.07.2024 सयं 05 बजे तक कार्यालय प्रधानाचार्य स्वाशासी राज्य चिकित्सालय महाविद्यालय ललितपुर, 3060 पिनकोड-284403 में अपना आवेदन पत्र स्पीड पोस्ट/रजिस्टर्ड डाक के माध्यम से प्रेषित करना सुनिश्चित करें। अधिक जानकारी चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय की वेबसाइट- www.asmc.lalitpur.org पर प्राप्त की जा सकती है। रिक्त पदों का विवरण निम्नवत है।

संनियर रेजीडेण्ट, जूनियर रेजीडेण्ट/ट्यूटोर/डिमानस्ट्रेटर/अस्थायी की रिक्तियों पर आवेदन करने हेतु चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय की वेबसाइट www.asmc.lalitpur.org पर विस्तृत विवरण देखने का कष्ट करें।

क्र०सं०	विशिष्टता	आचार्य		सह आचार्य		सहायक आचार्य	
		पदों की संख्या	श्रेणी	पदों की संख्या	श्रेणी	पदों की संख्या	श्रेणी
1	आथोपेडिक्स	01	OBC	01	SC	01	UR
2	ऑथोलोजी	01	EWS	01	SC	-	-
3	आयुर्वेदिक एण्ड मायनक्रालोजी	01	SC	01	UR	01	OBC
4	एनाटॉमी	01	OBC	-	-	01	OBC
5	एनेस्थीसियोलॉजी	01	UR	01	SC	01	UR
6	ऑटो-रहान-सेमिनालोजी कम्प्युनिटी मेडिसिन	01	SC	01	OBC	-	-
7	RHTC	-	-	-	-	01	UR
7	UHTC	-	-	-	-	01	OBC
7	स्टेडीशियन	-	-	-	-	01	UR
8	जनरल मेडिसन	01	SC	01	UR	02	UR
				01	OBC	01	OBC
						01	SC
9	जनरल सर्जरी	01	UR	02	OBC	01	SC
						02	OBC
10	इन्टेन्सिव केरालोजी एण्ड लेथोमी	-	-	01	SC	01	OBC
11	पेडियाट्रिक्स	01	OBC	01	OBC	01	UR
						01	OBC
12	पैथोलोजी	01	UR	01	UR	01	EWS
						01	SC
13	फार्माकोलॉजी	01	SC	01	SC	01	UR
						01	OBC
14	फिजियोलॉजी	01	OBC	-	-	01	SC
15	फोरेन्सिक मेडिसिन	01	UR	01	OBC	01	UR
16	बायोकेमेस्ट्री	01	UR	01	OBC	01	OBC
17	माइक्रोबायोलॉजी	01	OBC	-	-	01	UR
						01	SC
18	रेडियोलॉजी	01	UR	01	OBC	01	SC
19	साइक्रियट्री	-	-	01	EWS	01	UR
	कुल योग	17	-	20	-	35	-

**नियुक्ति की शर्तें** - आयु गणना, अन्तिम तिथि, वेतनमान, आवेदन शुल्क इत्यादि अन्य शर्तों की विस्तृत सूचना महाविद्यालय की वेबसाइट विज्ञापन देखने का कष्ट करें।

(डॉ० प्रो० हिजेन्द्र नाथ)  
प्रधानाचार्य  
स्वाशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय  
ललितपुर

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Catch the latest section of **Problematics** to solve a set of intriguing puzzles.

02

Hindustan Times PAGE ONE

Problematics Think of a number, repeat and recycle

68 dead

HT

**PACE NEWS | Hindustan Times MEDIA MARKETING INITIATIVE**

**ITL Public School, Dwarka Organizes Workshop on Puberty Awareness For Boys**

ITL Public School, Dwarka in collaboration with the Indian Academy of Paediatrics, West Delhi Branch, organized a Puberty Workshop, as a proactive step towards holistic education. The session titled "Puberty Awareness Workshop: Understanding Changes, A Boys' Guide to Growing Up" was meticulously designed to address the physical, emotional, and social changes occurring in this transitional phase and aimed to equip students with knowledge and confidence to navigate this significant period of their lives. It also aimed at catering to the sensitive needs of adolescent boys. The workshop, organized for boys in grades VII-IX, was led by experienced healthcare professionals including Dr. Dinesh Goel (Consultant Paediatrician, President, IAP, West Delhi), Dr. Maninder S Dhaliwal (Consultant Paediatrician, Secretary, IAP West Delhi), Dr. Smita Ramchandran (Paediatric Endocrinologist Faculty and Resource Person), Dr. Mukesh Verma (Consultant Paediatrician, Secretary IAP, Delhi 23, President, IMA Dwarka 20-22), and Dr. Rajiv Sharma (Consultant Psychiatrist).

Interactive demonstrations and visual aids assisted in elucidating complex concepts, ensuring clarity and understanding among the young boys. The workshop also addressed the emotional and social dimensions of puberty, exploring topics such as self-esteem, peer relationships, and coping mechanisms for managing stress and emotions. Emphasis was placed on fostering healthy communication skills and building resilience to navigate the challenges of adolescence effectively. The workshop provided a safe space for the boys to ask questions, share experiences, and gain valuable insights into this transformative phase of their lives. With the success of this workshop, the school reaffirms its commitment to empowering students with knowledge, understanding, and confidence as they navigate puberty, equipping them with the tools and support necessary to thrive physically, emotionally, and socially.

**World Dance Day Celebrations at The Modern School, ECNCR**

World Dance Day is a celebration of the art of dance, highlighting its cultural significance and universal appeal. **The Modern School, ECNCR Delhi**, organised a culture extravaganza to celebrate the occasion of World Dance Day in the school premises wherein, Seujpriya Borthakur Goswami, a celebrated Sattriya Dance practitioner of India from Assam who is a proud recipient of USTAD BISMILLAH KHAN YUVA PURASKAR, by Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, graced the event. While addressing the students during lec-dem, she elucidated upon dance as a form of expression, communication, and storytelling. She illuminated the power of dance to unite, inspire, and enrich our lives. The event fostered appreciation among the students for different cultures and promoted the importance of dance as a form of expression and communication.

**Welcoming and Induction Program at Holy World School, Najafgarh**

**Holy World School, Najafgarh** recently held its Welcoming & Induction program for the new students and their parents. The event was attended by the Chairman of Holy Group of Schools & Colleges, Director, Pushpa Sharma, Director Dr. Rahul Sharma, Honorable Principal of the School Preeti Sharma and Academic Director Kumar Pranay. Principal Preeti Sharma highlighted the school's high-performing academic performance, commitment to developing well-rounded students with critical thinking, problem-solving and communication skills, and effective pedagogical practices and highly qualified teachers. Dr. Rakesh Sharma, in his message to parents and students, highlighted the positive school climate at Holy World School, creating a safe and welcoming environment where students feel connected and supported. He also highlighted the importance of social-emotional learning and the provided programs to support & help students develop healthy social and emotional skills. The induction and welcoming were centered on the guiding principles of the school's founders, Late Janardan Sharma and Late Premvati Sharma. Everyone wished all the new students great success.

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## OPINION

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OUR TAKE

## Challenge and an opportunity

Rahul Gandhi could use his elevation as Leader of Opposition to hold the government accountable, offer constructive criticism

The Lok Sabha will have a Leader of Opposition (LoP) for the first time in 10 years in Congress MP Rahul Gandhi. For Gandhi, who has established himself as a mass leader with his two Bharat

Jodo Yatras and the revival of the Congress in the recent general elections, this will be a test of his abilities both as a politician and parliamentarian.

The LoP is a statutory office, under the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977, with the rank and perks of a Cabinet minister. As LoP, Gandhi will be the chairman of the crucial Public Accounts Committee, which examines various CAG reports that audit government schemes, and be a member along with the Prime Minister and the Chief Justice of India in panels that select the heads of various central agencies and institutions such as the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commission members and the Central Bureau of Investigation. The PM and the LoP will need to keep a channel of communication open, and the former is expected to brief the latter on government policies in the best traditions of parliamentary practice. In the last two terms, the government, which enjoyed an overwhelming majority in Parliament, showed no inclination to accommodate the views of the Opposition. It will not be easy to ignore a 236 MPs-strong Opposition.

The office of LoP will be both a challenge and an opportunity for Gandhi. First, Gandhi, though a five-term MP, is yet to make his presence felt as a forceful speaker in the House. In the Westminster tradition, the model for the Indian parliamentary system, the LoP is considered the PM-in-waiting. The office expects its incumbent to be the counterpoise to the government and hold it accountable on behalf of the House. The easy option is to oppose every action of the government, but a more productive path would be for the LoP to engage in constructive criticism of the executive by offering alternative policies and programmes. This can help to raise the quality of debates in Parliament as well as force the executive to improve governance. Second, the LoP is not just the leader of the largest Opposition party; Gandhi will represent the entire Opposition. This can be an onerous task since the Opposition is not a cohesive unit and the Congress does not have the numbers to impose its will on allies. Gandhi's abilities as a leader will be tested though, of course, he can seek help from seasoned politicians in his party and the INDIA bloc to help him.

The LoP has to be the voice of the restive Opposition and hold it together in Parliament, and he needs to do that without compromising the dignity and decorum of the House. Though it offers no real powers, astute conduct in office can help burnish his credentials.

## New T20 powerhouse rises in world cricket

Afghanistan's dream run in the T20 World Cup is over. They lost a one-sided match on an undercooked pitch to South Africa in the semi-final on Thursday, but every cricket fan knows that this was not a true reflection of their class.

The Rashid Khan-led team have made rapid strides in every format but T20 is the one where they truly shine. Much of this is down to their players participating in T20 club leagues around the world and gathering the experience needed to excel against top-tier teams.

The problem for most Associate nations is that the top teams rarely play them. Afghanistan, who have since gained Test status, are no different. Australia and New Zealand have played just two T20s against them, England and South Africa have played three, India have played nine by comparison, a simple statistic that tells the story of the bond that the two teams continue to share. India hosted the first-ever Test match of the Afghanistan cricket team in June 2018 and also designated two cricket fields in the country for the Afghans, helping them take their first steps in the game. The success now will push them even further, but the beginning was crucial.

Just after the team made the semi-final, the Afghan government expressed appreciation to the Indian government for supporting their cricket team. On a different note, this is a reaffirmation of Indian cricket's potential as a soft power, which could be used more judiciously to improve Indian diplomacy in the neighbourhood. Cricket can help build favourable constituencies within civil society.

BEYOND THE BYTE

Rajdeep Sardesai



## Reading continuity in fractured verdict

In the third term, the NDA government will have to engage with multiple governance challenges and an energised Opposition

If an extraordinary Lok Sabha verdict was meant to humble the political leadership, it appears to have had just the opposite effect. The Modi government is acting as if it has actually achieved its "char sau paar" or 400 seats objective and the Congress is as if it has crossed the majority mark. The result is a renewal of hostilities at a time when Indian politics desperately needs a breather from hyper-polarised politics. The entirely avoidable confrontation over the Lok Sabha Speaker's election is only the latest example of a lack of conciliation and consensus-building.

There are other worrying signs too. Delhi chief minister (CM) Arvind Kejriwal is still being hounded by law enforcement agencies. Just hours before his bail petition in an Enforcement Directorate case was to come up before the Supreme Court, CBI moved in to re-arrest him. A 14-year-old case against novelist Arundhati Roy has been revived and sanctioned for her

prosecution given under an anti-terror law. Bulldozers continue to demolish homes. And cow vigilantes have resurfaced in Chhattisgarh: Three cattle traders were brutally killed earlier this month.

Nor should one be surprised at the utter disregard for the mandate. An integral part of the Narendra Modi power playbook is never to reveal any trace of political vulnerability, at least not in public. In 23 years of uninterrupted stints in power, both in Gandhinagar and Delhi, not once has the Prime Minister (PM) acknowledged weaknesses or errors of judgment. Which might explain why despite the diminished mandate of June 4, Modi has gone about giving the impression that nothing has materially changed. With a similar-looking Cabinet and a series of well-choreographed events at home and abroad, Modi isn't in any mood to let up in his third term, even if he now heads a coalition arrangement. Instead, stability with continuity is the buzzword. But is it really business as usual or is this a great pretence of invincibility? Is the ruling arrangement still trapped in hubris rather than realism?

Take the NEET-UG and UGC-NET exam issues that have brought scores of affected students to the street. Typically, Modi hasn't said a word, leaving it to education minister Dharmendra Pradhan to front up for the govern-

ment. Pradhan was the education minister in the previous Modi government as well. So he can't even act as if this is all a novel experience for him. The fact is the paper leak mess is a classic case of chickens having come home to roost. In the last seven years, more than 70 national and state-level papers have been leaked as the authorities struggle to cope with the menace. For the minister to initially be in denial mode, even blame protesting students, and then dismiss it as an aberration is to live in a parallel make-believe universe. Pradhan would have probably preferred being Odisha's first Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) CM but for now, he must bear the cross of an examination system in deep crisis.

Take another instance of a government in denial. For 13 months now, Manipur has been caught in a cycle of violence. Rather than face up to the challenge of peace-making, the PM has chosen not to get involved, not making a single trip to the troubled state during this period. Even during a long election campaign when he held dozens of media interactions, not once did he address the Manipur situation. Instead, it has been left to home minister Amit Shah to try and restore the authority of the Indian State and end the blood-letting. Shah has held a series of high-level security review meetings on Manipur but where is the



In the last seven years, more than 70 national and state-level papers have been leaked as the authorities struggle to cope with the menace.

much-needed political outreach that could provide a healing touch?

Turn to an area where the Modi government prides itself: Railway infrastructure. The most recent rail accident — a collision between the Kanchenjunga Express and a goods train — once again revealed gaps in the rail safety system. The much anticipated "kavach", the anti-collision system, still covers only a fraction of this country's vast rail network. Like the education minister, railway minister Ashwani Vaishnav is also a symbol of continuity in governance, with the ministry of information and broadcasting added to his existing portfolios of railways and information technology. Ironically, on the day of the tragic accident, the multi-tasking minister was also given the added responsibility of being co-in-charge for the crucial Maharashtra elections. Shouldn't the country have a full-time railway minister? And if credit-taking accompanies the flagging off of every new Vande Bharat Express, who takes responsibility when things don't go as planned?

Truth is, a deeper governance deficit stares at a regime which is tightly controlled by a handful of people, where lines between the government

and party remain blurred, where opaque decision-making leaves little space for accountability. This is where the business-as-usual approach may be subject to diminishing returns. A brute majority allowed the Modi government to proceed with unilateral action, to treat the Opposition with disdain and brand any criticism as "anti-national". But the 2024 general elections have shown that narrative setting is no longer a Modi monopoly: A revitalised Opposition also has an effective voice and can even set the agenda at times. A putative autocrat may not change his spots but sooner or later, fantasy does catch up with reality. After more than a decade in power, living in denial is no longer a wise option.

Post-script: This weekend, the PM resumes his monthly *Mann ki Baat* radio address. It is, perhaps, his way of showing he isn't changing his communication style either. Well maybe then PM Modi could address some of the troubling questions raised in this column in his *Mann ki Baat*, howsoever inconvenient they may appear?

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

## Building on gains in the foreign policy domain

Now that the new Lok Sabha has convened, here is a catalogue of foreign policy issues that call for priority attention from the Prime Minister (PM) and the external affairs minister.

Relations with the US will continue to be the most salient for India. And yet, extraneous issues keep cropping up acting as a brake in the otherwise vital partnership. It is time both sides recalibrated what they rightly call the most consequential relationship of the 21st century. More fundamentally, it will require re-imagining ties between the two countries leading to a fresh bargain. This could, *inter alia*, involve India significantly upgrading its defence and security ties with the US, in exchange for the latter's substantial commitment to advancing India's strategic interests in its neighbourhood and the Indo-Pacific. It was appropriate that the US national security adviser Jake Sullivan was one of the first foreign visitors to Delhi after the elections, for advancing the bilateral Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies. Discussions on the joint manufacture of jet engines and armoured infantry combat vehicles are also making progress. All these are steps in the right direction. Making the Indo-US strategic partnership the fulcrum of an emerging order in Asia and the Indo-Pacific should be the goal.

There is widespread consensus that China constitutes the main strategic threat to India. Confronting this threat will require a two-pronged strategy on India's part. The first is external balancing in the form of Quad, ties with the US, joint exercises in the Indian Ocean with countries like France and links with Japan, which are all extremely important and must be intensified. More recent steps to develop a serious defence relationship with the Philippines and Vietnam must also be pursued more vigorously. India has also quietly become a full-fledged member of the Combined Maritime Forces (based in Bahrain) which maintains the international rules-based order on the high seas. The bottomline is that India cannot afford to lose its side of the Himalayas to China. Equally, it cannot afford to lose the Indian Ocean to China. This then is the twin security challenge that confronts India.

The second part of this hedging strategy is to keep the strategic dialogue with China going. Ideally, there ought to be a *tete-a-tete* between our PM and Chinese strongman Xi Jinping. But that may have to wait since PM is not going for the SCO meeting in Astana.

There are also signs of hardening of position from both sides as evidenced by the visit of the US delegation to Dharamsala and our PM receiving that delegation later. One will have to wait and watch.

The European Union has just concluded elections and the United Kingdom (UK) will soon have one of its own. Having embarked on ambitious Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with the UK and the EU, the new government must devote resources and muster the political will necessary to conclude these expeditiously. The first 12 months of the new Modi government are crucial in this regard not just for the FTAs, but also carry out the more difficult economic reforms regarding land, labour and agriculture. A good blueprint for trade policy reform may also be found in the recent remarks made by the CEO of NITI Aayog at the annual summit of the CII in May. How the government will carry out difficult reforms in a coalition format will be closely watched by both domestic and foreign investors.

The momentum of engagement with both Saudi Arabia and the UAE must be maintained and strengthened further. The war in Gaza is distinctly unfortunate from India's perspective. Apart from human suffering, it puts strategic connectivity projects such as the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor in limbo. Nevertheless, India must relentlessly push for it. It is understood that this was discussed during the visit of Sullivan.

India has dealt with Russia fairly, in doing this, it has had to walk a diplomatic tightrope. In the meantime, some North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries are upping the ante and itching for a fight. India will need to have a frank conversation with its friends in the West, if only to convey to them in clear terms that the hitherto proxy war in Ukraine must not be allowed to become an all-out war between NATO and Russia. India's awkward participation in the recently held Ukraine peace conference in Switzerland led to its eventual disassociation from the final declaration. It is, however, noteworthy that the final declaration called for dialogue between the parties, something India has been urging.

Yet another challenging dossier for the new government is how to revamp the erstwhile neighbourhood first policy. Three things suggest themselves. One, India's redlines must be conveyed to its neighbours letting them know that there will be consequences if they are crossed. One gets the impression that this has been done successfully in the case of Pakistan, but not necessarily with other neighbours. Two, India must be the one to take initiatives for greater economic integration, strengthening regional connectivity, and improving the implementation of investment projects. Last, evoking respect is the necessary first step to eliciting a neighbour's trust, not the other way around. A strong and prosperous India is bound to evoke respect.

Finally, a proactive foreign policy involves taking calculated risks. Given the record of coalition governments in India, there is no reason to believe the present government will in any way be constrained in the realm of foreign policy.



Mohan Kumar

Mohan Kumar is a former Indian Ambassador to France and currently dean/professor at OP Jindal Global University. The views expressed are personal



Making the Indo-US strategic partnership the fulcrum of an emerging order in Asia and Indo-Pacific should be the goal

DROUPADI MURMU } PRESIDENT OF INDIA

My government does not consider the Constitution of India as just a medium of governance; rather we are making efforts to ensure that our Constitution becomes a part of public consciousness



## Why sentencing norms need to be streamlined

Last month, the Supreme Court (SC) in *Sunita Devi v. State of Bihar* requested the Union government to constitute a sentencing commission to prepare a report on the feasibility of introducing a comprehensive sentencing policy within six months. The court observed that disparity in sentencing arises due to the absence of a clear policy or legislation on sentencing. This step underscores the need for consistency and fairness in the Indian criminal justice system.

The stage of sentencing is the most public stage of a criminal trial. Many factors which do not play a role in determining criminal responsibility i.e. conviction or acquittal, come into the picture while determining the sentence. During sentencing, courts often consider the exculpatory force of social and extralegal factors, granting significant discretion to judges. This discretion can lead to personal biases and stereotypical assumptions. Thus, it accords judges with a lot of discretion and leads to inconsistency in the sentencing process. A structured approach to sentencing can mitigate disparities, enhance transparency, and foster public confidence in the judiciary.

The SC's directive reflects a proactive approach to addressing systemic issues within the judiciary. This move also aligns with global best practices. Many countries, including the United States and the United Kingdom, have established sentencing commissions to guide their judicial systems. However, this is not the first time that such an attempt has been made in India. The SC and the Law Commission have made similar recommendations earlier. The Malimath Committee, in its 2003 report, emphasised the need for a uniform sentencing policy to ensure consistency and fairness in judicial decisions. However, these efforts have not yielded any significant results.

While the SC's recommendation is laudable, a more effective approach may be for the Court to take the lead in framing these guidelines. The judiciary possesses the requisite expertise and an intimate understanding of the nuances of sentencing. It can ensure that the guidelines are both practical and grounded in judicial experience. There are several notable instances where the Court has stepped in to create guidelines in the absence of timely executive action. In *DK Basu v. State of West Bengal* (1997), the Court set guidelines for the rights of arrestees which were later included in the Code of Criminal Procedure. In *Vishakha v. State of Rajasthan* (1997), it

issued guidelines to prevent sexual harassment at the workplace which formed the basis of a specific legislation. In *Aradesh Kumar v. State of Bihar* (2014), guidelines were provided for arrest procedures. Recently, in *Manoj v. State of Madhya Pradesh* (2022), the Court mandated that courts must have sufficient material on the accused before issuing a death sentence.

While coming up with a sentencing policy, the government should adopt an evidence-based approach, examining past sentencing trends, and identifying patterns of inconsistency. Sentencing decisions in India are influenced by the socio-economic status and gender of the accused, background of the judges, and quality of legal representation. They are occasionally driven by knee-jerk reactions to similar cases, with harsher sentences imposed under public

outrage and media pressure. Sometimes, harsher punishments are incentivised. The Madhya Pradesh government introduced a scheme wherein incentives were given to prosecutors for securing the death penalty which was later withdrawn only after the intervention of the SC. A principled sentencing policy should address all these problems. Sentencing guidelines in the US establish sentencing ranges based on the offence, clearly enumerated mitigating and aggravating factors, and the offender's criminal history. Judges are allowed to depart from these factors, but only on fulfilling certain other criteria. Such departure is subject to appellate review. Such an approach limits the discretion provided to judges but does not take it away altogether.

The case which prompted the apex court to issue the directive on the sentencing policy (*Sunita Devi*), involved a matter in which a POCSO court awarded the death penalty within three days, after completing the entire trial in a day. There were serious lapses in the procedure followed by the court. At every stage of the trial, the accused was denied a reasonable opportunity to defend himself. Although speedy trials are essential, it is important to note that this "speed" is sometimes achieved by doling out harsher punishments through arbitrary and illegal procedures, violating the accused's rights under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India.

Eesha Shrotriya and Shantanu Pachauri are assistant professors and co-directors, Centre for Criminal Justice Studies, School of Law, RV University, Bengaluru. The views expressed are personal



Eesha Shrotriya



Shantanu Pachauri

# After failed coup attempt, Bolivians rally behind prez

About a dozen Bolivian military officers have been arrested following Wednesday's attempted coup

## How the crisis unfolded in Bolivia

The nation of 12 million watched in shock and horror as Bolivian military forces appeared to turn on the government of President Luis Arce on Wednesday. What do we know so far

### Agencies

**LA PAZ:** Bolivians in support of their president rallied outside his palace on Thursday a day after a failed coup attempt, giving some political breathing room to the leader of this economically troubled country as they chanted pro-democracy slogans.

About a dozen Bolivian military officers have been arrested following Wednesday's attempted coup, a senior government minister told local television on Thursday, adding they face accusations that could lead to 15 to 30-year prison terms.

The hours-long failed coup saw the Andean nation's sacked military commander gather troops in La Paz's main square, ramming a door of the presidential palace with an armoured vehicle that allowed soldiers to rush into the building.

The soldiers ultimately withdrew and police took back control of the plaza, with President Luis Arce slamming the coup attempt and swiftly naming a new top general.

The former commander, Juan Jose Zuniga, had been told on Tuesday evening that he would be stripped of his position as his conduct "was not in line with the Constitution". Interior Minister Eduardo del Castillo said in an interview with TV station Unitel.

Zuniga reacted calmly to the news, according to del Castillo. "But no one could have imagined that the next day, before the official handover in posts, there would be a failed coup in our country," he said.

### Riot police guard palace, President Luis Arce

On Thursday, riot police guarded the palace doors and Arce — who has struggled to manage the country's shortages of foreign currency and fuel — condemned the now-ousted former commander.

Some protesters gathered outside the La Paz police station

### The political crisis

President Luis Arce, 60, won polls in 2020 after a period of deep political turmoil. A ballot the year before was marred by allegations of fraud, which sparked protests and the eventual resignation of then-President Evo Morales.

Former allies and colleagues, Arce and Morales have since become political rivals. Both are eyeing a presidential run in an election next year, and each leads a faction of the dominant Movement to Socialism (MAS) political party.

### Economy in bad shape

Bolivians have increasingly been suffering from slow growth, surging inflation and scarcity of dollars — a change from the prior decade that some called an "economic miracle".

The country narrowly avoided a financial crisis in 2023 by passing a law to allow the central bank to sell about half of its gold reserves. This year the IMF forecasts growth of just 1.6%.

### Army general leads coup attempt

The uprising was led by General Juan Jose Zuniga, who said that the army was trying to "restore democracy and free our political prisoners". He also said the government was "impoverishing" the country.

On Wednesday, troops with army vehicles entered the Plaza Murillo in La Paz, where the presidency and Congress are situated.

Massive international condemnation and the people's solidarity in favour of Arce played a role in foiling the coup attempt.



GEN. JUAN JOSE ZUNIGA



Luis Arce, Bolivian president; Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Brazil's president

Thank you to the Bolivian people. Let democracy live on.

I am a lover of democracy and I want it to prevail throughout Latin America. We condemn any form of coup d'etat in Bolivia.



People react to tear gas during a demonstration over police killings of people protesting against Kenya's proposed finance bill in Nairobi, on Thursday.

## Police fire tear gas to break up anti-tax protesters in Kenya

### Agencies

**NAIROBI:** Police in Kenya's capital hurled tear gas on Thursday to break up anti-tax protesters who continued to gather despite President William Ruto's reputation of unpopular tax legislation that prompted deadly unrest earlier in the week.

Two people were killed on Thursday as Kenyan police clashed with anti-tax protesters looting two supermarkets in a town on the outskirts of the capital Nairobi. The Standard newspaper reported.

The finance legislation has drawn fierce resistance from a Kenyan public reeling from higher costs of living, especially from younger protesters, who stormed parliament on Tuesday and drew police fire in chaos that left several people dead — reportedly as many as 22.

Protesters who continued gather on Thursday said they still don't trust Ruto despite him sending the finance bill back to parliament with a vow to make budget cuts to replace the proposed new taxes and fees on a

range of items and services, from egg imports to bank transfers.

Thursday's protests were at a smaller scale than Tuesday's, and every attempt by demonstrators to congregate was met by pushback from the police. The military also has been patrolling the city, despite a Wednesday court order that suspended their deployment to support police during the protests.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua on Wednesday urged the young protesters to call off any planned protests and give dialogue a chance.

The leaderless movement began online with young people demanding that legislators reject the proposed tax hikes. It later morphed into calls for the president's resignation after the bill was passed.

Parliament Speaker Moses Wetangula on Thursday referred the president's memorandum on the finance bill to the finance committee, which is expected to report back to the house in the next sitting. Parliament is on recess until July 23.

## Four candidates in fray as Iran set for key presidential elections today

### Agence France-Presse

**TEHRAN:** Two ultraconservative candidates have pulled out of Iran's Friday presidential vote, leaving four contenders including one reformist still in the race. Tehran's ultraconservative mayor, Alireza Zakani, announced his withdrawal in a post on social media platform X on Thursday, after earlier denying he was ending his campaign.

Zakani's withdrawal came hours after a statement by the Ministry of Interior confirming the exit of Amirhossein Ghazizadeh-Hashemi, another ultraconservative.

In his post, Zakani urged two other candidates to unite.

Zakani said ultraconservative Saeed Jalili, 58, Iran's former nuclear negotiator, and conservative Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, 62, the speaker of the parliament, should "unite and not leave the revolutionary forces' rightful demands unanswered".

The death of President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash in May brought forward the election.

Along with Jalili and Ghalibaf, those still seeking the presidency are veteran politician Mostafa Pourmohammadi, 64, who is the only cleric in the running, and Massoud Pezeshkian, 69, the oldest candidate and sole reformist, backed by former president Hassan Rouhani.

### { PAKISTAN } ISLAMABAD COURT

## Khan's illegal marriage sentence plea dismissed

### Agence France-Presse

**ISLAMABAD:** An Islamabad court rejected on Thursday a plea to suspend the jail terms of former Pakistani prime minister Imran Khan and his wife, whose marriage was ruled illegal under Islamic law.

Khan has been entangled in more than 200 legal cases since he was ousted in April 2022 in what he said was a campaign to keep him from power.

The 71-year-old and his wife Bushra Bibi were both sentenced to seven years in jail in February on charges that, under Islamic law, their marriage came too soon after Bibi's divorce.

According to AFP journalists in the Islamabad district court, a judge deferred the plea to suspend their sentences and said that a decision would be announced on July 12. Khan, who served as prime



Imran Khan

minister from 2018 to 2022, has been detained since August last year and barred from standing for office.

However, the former international cricket star and his wife had their 14-year prison sentences for graft suspended by a Pakistan high court in April. Khan then had a 10-year sentence for treason overturned this month but remains in Adiala jail, south of the capital Islamabad, over the illegal marriage conviction.

### { NASA-SPACEX COLLABORATION } VEHICLE TO COST \$843 MILLION

## Nasa taps SpaceX to build vehicle to bring ISS out of orbit by 2030

**WASHINGTON:** Nasa has awarded SpaceX an \$843 million contract to build the vehicle that will bring the International Space Station (ISS) out of its long-time orbit of Earth when its operating lifespan ends in a few more years.

SpaceX, a privately held company controlled by technology mogul Elon Musk, will build the vehicle that will bring down the space station, but Nasa will still oversee the eventual mission.

The ISS, launched in 1998, is expected to be needed to be brought out of orbit by 2030. The station is operated by space agencies from the US, Europe, Japan, Canada and Russia. All the countries involved have pledged to operate the station until 2030 except Russia, which has only committed to participate until 2028.

Crews of astronauts have been occupying the space station since 2000. Based on past observations of

### { AMID GAZA WAR } 'BACK TO THE STONE AGE' THREAT FOR LEBANON

## Israel warns Hezbollah to avoid large-scale war

### Agencies

**GAZA STRIP:** Israel launched airstrikes on Gaza on Thursday after warning Hezbollah, Hamas's ally in Lebanon, to avoid a large-scale war that would send the neighbouring country "back to the Stone Age".

Israeli defence minister Yoav Gallant said during a visit to Washington on Wednesday that his country could "take Lebanon back to the Stone Age, but we don't want to do it".

"We do not want war, but we are preparing for every scenario," he told reporters.

"Hezbollah understands very well that we can inflict massive damage in Lebanon if a war is launched."

Israel and Hezbollah have traded near daily cross-border fire since Hamas launched its October 7 attack that sparked the bloodiest ever Gaza war.

But tensions have surged since Israel said this month that its Lebanon war plans are ready, sparking threats from Hezbollah that, in the event of all-out war, none of Israel would be safe.

### US, Israel ease weapons 'bottlenecks': Gallant

Israel's defence minister said



Smoke plume billows during Israeli bombardment on the village of Khiam in south Lebanon on Wednesday.

talks with top White House officials eased "bottlenecks" in the supply of arms to Israeli forces, a sign that the two sides want to ease tensions fanned by accusations that the US was withholding weapons.

Defence minister Yoav Gallant cited "significant progress" on the issues of "force build-up and ammunition supply", according to a statement from his office released after he met on Wednesday with National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan in Washington.

"Obstacles were removed and bottlenecks were addressed," Gallant said in the statement.

## ISRAEL HITS BACK AT UN-BACKED HUNGER REPORT

**JERUSALEM:** Israel on Thursday dismissed a UN-backed report that said nearly half a million Gazans faced "catastrophic" hunger, alleging the assessment was "misleading" and "biased".

The latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) partnership, released on Tuesday, said its March warning of imminent famine in the north of the Palestinian territory had not materialised. AFP



Rishi Sunak and Keir Starmer (left) take part in the BBC's Prime Ministerial Debate, in Nottingham, England, on Wednesday.

### { UK } ELECTIONS ON JULY 4

## Sunak, Starmer clash in testy final TV debate

### Reuters

**LONDON:** British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Labour leader Keir Starmer went head-to-head on Wednesday in their last debate before an election next week, with both launching highly personal attacks over their and their parties' credibility.

With Sunak's Conservatives trailing Labour by around 20 points in the polls, the prime minister went on the attack, accusing Starmer of not being straight with the country on migration, tax and women's rights, and urging voters not to "surrender" to the Labour Party.

Starmer responded that Sunak was too rich to understand the concerns of most ordinary Britons. A snap YouGov poll said the debate had been a tie, with both on 50%.

On immigration, one of the top concerns for British voters, Sunak rejected Starmer's argument that he would seek to return migrants to their home countries, saying many had

arrived in Britain from Iran, Syria and Afghanistan.

"Is he going to sit down with the Iranian Ayatollah? Are you going to try and do a deal with the Taliban? It's completely nonsensical. You are taking people for fools."

Polls indicate that Labour's Starmer is on course to win the election with a large majority, ending 14 years of Conservative rule. The two leaders have met at several debates or public sessions with voters, increasingly focusing on who was better suited to lead the country.

Starmer argued the country was exhausted after 14 years of Conservative "chaos", and that he would better understand the challenges of many families who have struggled under soaring inflation and a cost of living crisis.

"Part of the problem we have with this prime minister is that his lived world is millions of miles away from the lived worlds of individuals across the country, the businesses and the families that they're trying to support," he said.

## UN DRUG AGENCY WARNS OF NEW SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS

### Agence France-Presse

**VIENNA:** The UN drugs agency on Wednesday sounded the alarm on a group of potent synthetic opioids, as it warned that the drop in Afghanistan's opium production may boost synthetic drug use.

"Nitazenes — a group of synthetic opioids which can be even more potent than fentanyl — have recently emerged in several high-income countries, resulting in an increase in overdose deaths," the Vienna-based United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said in a press release.

Its annual report noted that the drug had been found in Belgium, Canada, Estonia, Latvia, Slovenia, Britain and the United States.

## President Biden, Trump face off in first prez debate

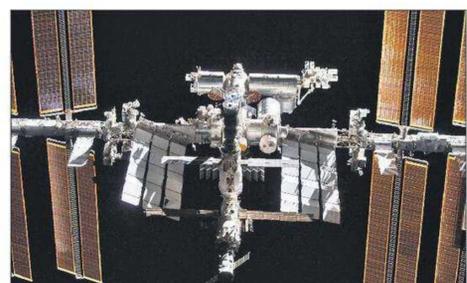
**ATLANTA:** Democratic President Joe Biden and his Republican predecessor, Donald Trump, square off on Thursday at a highly anticipated debate, offering voters a rare side-by-side look at the two oldest candidates ever to seek the country's highest office. The 90-minute televised debate will air at 9pm ET (6:30am IST today).

## Ukraine's prez signs security accord with EU

**BRUSSELS, BELGIUM:** Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Thursday signed a 10-year security pact with the European Union (EU) in Brussels, the latest deal aimed at shoring up long-term support for Kyiv in its fight with Russia. AFP

## US top court rejects \$6bn opioid settlement

**WASHINGTON:** The US Supreme Court on Thursday rejected Purdue Pharma's \$6 billion opioids settlement immunising the Sackler family that controlled the drug-maker from future litigation. In a 5-4 ruling, the judges agreed with the justice department which argued that the Sacklers, who earned tens of billions of dollars flooding the country with highly addictive opioids, should not gain sweeping legal protection in the controversial deal. AFP



The International Space Station

how other stations such as Mir and Skylab disintegrated on atmospheric re-entry. Nasa engineers expect the orbital outpost to break up in three stages.

First, the massive solar arrays and the radiators that keep the orbital lab cool will come off, then individual modules will break off from the truss, or the station's backbone structure.

Finally, the truss and the modules themselves will tear apart. Much of the material will be vapourised, but large pieces are expected to survive. For this reason, Nasa is aiming for an area of the Pacific Ocean called Point Nemo, one of the most remote areas of the world and known as the graveyard of satellites and spacecrafts. AGENCIES

SR. NO	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./ AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/ EMAIL
1	HSAMB PANCHKULA	SPECIAL REPAIR OF F TYPE 108 NOS. STAFF QUARTER IN HSAMB COLONY, SECTOR-14, PANCHKULA + 4 WORKS	21.06.2024 05.07.2024	3.27 CRORES	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2920235 xpanchakula. hsamb2023@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)  
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कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, पश्चिमी कोशी नहर प्रमण्डल, सक्ती अति-अल्पकालीन पुनर्निर्माण आगमन सूचना सं-02/2024-25 (केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर) पत्रांक-786

दिनांक 26.06.2024

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की तिथि

निविदा कागजात खोलने एवं अपलोड करने की अवधि

प्री-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान

तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

निविदा खोलने का स्थान

निविदा देवता की अवधि

विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता

विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) एवं [www.wvd.bihar.gov.in](http://www.wvd.bihar.gov.in) पर देखा जा सकता है।

(परशुराम यादव)  
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पश्चिमी कोशी नहर प्रमण्डल, सक्ती  
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नशे से बचने का हे एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

Sl. No.	Name of Material	Quantity	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)	Tender Cost (in Rs.)
1	DPC Aluminum Winding Wire of various sizes	450.192 MT (NBPDCD-250.192 MT & SBPDCL-200 MT)	13,99,22,420	23,99,300	15000+ Applicable GST @ 18% extra

North Bihar Power Distribution Co. Ltd. (NBPDCD), a Government of Bihar Undertaking, invites online Tender for Supply of DPC Aluminium Winding Wire of various sizes, in Two-Tier (Technical and Financial) from eligible and experienced Original Manufacturer registered under company act 1956 or any other act in this regard for NBPDCD.

The Time line for the above tender is as follows:  
Start Date of Online Sale of Bid Document/request of Bid/Bid Documents: 19.07.2024 from 11.00 Hrs  
Last Date of Online Submission of bid along with Tender Cost & processing fees: 30.07.2024 up to 18:00 Hrs  
Last Date of submission of EMD and hard copy of receipt of BSEDCL processing fee & tender cost: 30.07.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs  
Date of opening of Techno-Commercial bid (Part-I): 31.07.2024 b after 17:00 Hrs.  
Date of Pre-bid Meeting: 23.07.2024 at 11:00 Hrs. at office chamber of Chief Engineer (S&P) NBPDCD, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Vidyut Bhawan 3 Bailey Road, Patna, Bihar

For further details please visit [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prd/bihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prd/bihar)

Electrical Superintending Engineer (S&P)  
NBPDCD  
PR. No.002767 (B&C) 2024-25  
नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

SR. NO	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA PANCHKULA	PHOTOSTAT WORK IN SINCHAI BHAWAN, SECTOR-5, PANCHKULA FOR ONE YEAR W.E.F. 01.08.2024 TO 31.07.2025.	CLOSING DATE 08.07.2024	7.11 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172570325 xencnst1@yahoo.com
2	PWD B&R SIRSA	WIDENING AND STRENGTHENING OF 4 NOS. ROADS IN KALANWALI CONSTITUENCY (I) FAGGU TO FATTEWALI (VI) (ID 5710) IN KM. 0.00 TO 0.50 AND 1.10 TO 2.40 (II) SURTIA TO FATTEWALI (VI) (ROAD ID 5711) IN KM. 0.61 TO 3.06 (III) DHS ROAD TO KURANGAWALI (VT) (ROAD ID 5687-5688) IN KM. 6.50 TO 6.65 AND PC IN KM. 0.00 TO 5.43, 6.65 TO 9.50 AND 15.80 TO 16.42 (IV) SINGHPURA TO BEHMAN UP TO PUNJAB BORDER (VI) (ROAD ID 11740) IN KM. 1.05 TO 1.47 AND IPB IN KM. 0.55 TO 1.05 IN SIRSA DIST. (GROUP NO. 4)	CLOSING DATE 03.07.2024	379.11 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01666220530 pwd-eeep1-sirsa@hry.nic.in
3	PWD B&R HISAR	SPECIAL REPAIR OF OLD DELHI HISAR SULEMANKI (NH-10) ROAD FROM RD 156.700 TO 166.150 AND 168.420 TO 170.100 IN HISAR DIST. (ROAD ID 4826) (HISAR CONSTITUENCY) (GROUP NO. 1) 2ND PHASE + 2 WORKS	CLOSING DATE 04.07.2024	1355.44 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9466446125 pwd-eeep1-hisar@hry.nic.in
4	PANCHAYATI RAJ KARNAL	CONST. OF COW GHAT ON JOHAD BACKSIDE BC CHOUHAL AT VILLAGE AMUPUR BLOCK NISSING DISTT. KARNAL. SCHEME VANGY + 10 WORKS	25.06.2024 01.07.2024	58.27 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9813805200 prexeeng.krf@hry.nic.in
5	PWD B&R JIND	SPECIAL REPAIR OF PANIPAT-ASSANDH ROAD (SH-11) FROM RD 31.250 TO 38.000 IN JIND DISTT. (SH CONDITION SURVEY 2023-24) (ROAD ID = 6684)	CLOSING DATE 08.07.2024	486.75 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8398098053 pwd-eeepjind@gmail.com
6	PWD B&R NARWANA	ANNUAL REPAIR OF COMPOSITE OFFICE AT UCHANA IN JIND DISTT.	27.06.2024 10.07.2024	4.20 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8398098075 pwd-eeep-narwana@hry.nic.in
7	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING SIRSA	JAMAL- CONSTRUCTION OF ONE NO. RCC SUMP WELL OF SIZE- 16-00 X25-00, ONE NO. PUMP CHAMBER OF SIZE- 10-00 X12-00, C.C. ROAD AND PATH, LAYING OF 400MM I/D RCC PIPE INLET CHANNEL, PAINTING, DISTEMPERING ETC., INSTALLATION OF PUMPING MACHINERY WITH SUITABLE SIZE OF PANEL BOARD, GENERATOR SET- 100 KVC, LAYING OF 350MM I/D I/RISING MAIN AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO AT JAMAL.	26.06.2024 05.07.2024	58.62 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01666221925 ee2sirsa@phedharyana.gov.in
8	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA HISAR	ESTIMATE FOR LINING OF ADAMPUR DISTY FROM RD 31600 TO 36750 (C.C LINING INSTEAD OF PIPE CHANNEL)	25.06.2024 05.07.2024	38.09 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8222856403 xencnst1@hry.nic.in
9	PANCHAYATI RAJ JHAJJAR	71.56-CONST OF VKC IN VILLAGE ISHARHERI + 19 WORKS	24.06.2024 01.07.2024	702.55 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9812544460 prexeeng.jrj@hry.nic.in
10	PANCHAYATI RAJ JHAJJAR	3.00-COMPLETION OF PARK IN VILLAGE DHANIA BLOCK SALHAWAS + 14 WORKS	24.06.2024 01.07.2024	280.47 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9812544460 prexeeng.jrj@hry.nic.in
11	PANCHAYATI RAJ JHAJJAR	CONS OF CHOKKIDAR ROOM IN GRAM SACHIVALYA AT VILLAGE KULANA + 12 WORKS	24.06.2024 01.07.2024	218.74 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9812544460 prexeeng.jrj@hry.nic.in
12	DIRECTORATE OF STATE TRANSPORT HARYANA CHANDIGARH	ONLINE TENDER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BUS DEPOT AT AMBALA CITY, HARYANA FOR CITY BUS SERVICES.	27.06.2024 11.07.2024	11.95 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in https://harytrans.gov.in	01722710371 dtpcnhr@gmail.com
13	DIRECTORATE OF STATE TRANSPORT HARYANA CHANDIGARH	ONLINE TENDER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BUS DEPOT AT HISAR, HARYANA FOR CITY BUS SERVICES.	27.06.2024 11.07.2024	12.87 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in https://harytrans.gov.in	01722710371 dtpcnhr@gmail.com
14	PANCHAYATI RAJ JHAJJAR	26.72-UPGRADING OF HALL IN INDOOR GYM HALL AT VILL. CHAMAMPURA + 9 WORKS	21.06.2024 01.07.2024	374.1 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9812544460 prexeeng.jrj@hry.nic.in
15	PWD B&R SONIAPT	FIRE FIGHTING SYSTEM MAINTENANCE WORK IN BPS KHANPUR GOVT. MEDICAL COLLEGE IN DISTT. SONEPAT. + 1 WORKS	26.06.2024 10.07.2024	547.25 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01302200575 pwd-eeep2-sonapat@hry.nic.in
16	DIRECTORATE OF STATE TRANSPORT HARYANA CHANDIGARH	TENDER NOTICE FOR THE PURCHASE OF NEW STEEL RADIAL TYRE SETS OF SIZE 10.00R20-16PR WITH TUBE & FLAP	28.06.2024 18.07.2024	6.07 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in https://harytrans.gov.in	01722710371 dtpstore-ds@hry.nic.in
17	DIRECTOR GENERAL SUPPLIES AND DISPOSALS HARYANA	PURCHASE OF INDUCTIVELY COUPLED PLASMA SPECTROMETER (ICP) FOR PROVIDING SOIL TESTING SERVICES TO THE FARMERS.	28.06.2024 29.07.2024	28.06.2024	https://etenders.hry.nic.in https://dsndharyana.gov.in	01722570122 supplies@hry.nic.in
18	DIRECTOR GENERAL SUPPLIES AND DISPOSALS HARYANA	1. PURCHASE OF GENETIC ANALYZER/AUTOMATED DNA SEQUENCER ALONG WITH ACCS. FOR FSL (H) MADHUBAN. 2. PURCHASE OF AUTOMATED LIQUID HANDLING SYSTEM ALONG WITH ACCS. FOR FSL(H) MADHUBAN.	28.06.2024 29.07.2024	28.06.2024	https://etenders.hry.nic.in https://dsndharyana.gov.in	01722570122 supplies@hry.nic.in
19	PANCHAYATI RAJ KARNAL	CONSTRUCTION OF BOEP FROM H/O AJMER TO AVARDHAM NAHAR AT VILLAGE NAGLA RORAN BLOCK KUNJUPURA DISTT. KARNAL + 14 WORKS	26.06.2024 10.07.2024	176.98 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9813805200 prexeeng.krf@hry.nic.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)  
RO No. 11/2025/380/27250/1/19/7

Sr. No.	Tender Ref. No. & Date	Items Name	Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting	Last Date & Time of Submission of Online Bid	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bid
1	GEM/2024/B/5095054 Dated: 26-06-2024	CTG Machine (Cardio Tocography) Fetal Monitor	04/07/2024 at 3:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow.	17/07/2024 upto 15:30 PM	17/07/2024 at 15:30 PM
2	GEM/2024/B/5096880 Dated: 26-06-2024	Stem Sterilizer	05/07/2024 at 3:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow.	17/07/2024 upto 19:00 PM	17/07/2024 at 18:30 PM
3	GEM/2024/B/5096415 Dated: 26-06-2024	Clinical Incubators or infant warmers	05/07/2024 at 3:30 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow.	17/07/2024 upto 18:00 PM	17/07/2024 at 18:30 PM

The details of tender notice are given on GeM Portal & UPMSCL website [www.upmscl.in](http://www.upmscl.in). Kindly check GeM Portal & UPMSCL website for any detail & updates. Managing Director, Uttar Pradesh Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

Sl. No.	कार्य का नाम	प्रारंभित राशि (लाख में)	अंश का राशि (लाख में)	परिष्कारण का मूल्य (अनुमानित) (लाख में)	वेतन को देय राशि (अनुमानित) (लाख में)	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि
1	हर खेत सिंचाई का पानी कार्यक्रम तहत सक्ती शाखा नहर एवं इसके विस्तार प्रणाली में Out Let सहित फिट्टिंग केनल का निर्माण कार्य	124.28920	2.48600	10,000/-	3540/-	31.07.2024

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, पश्चिमी कोशी नहर प्रमण्डल, सक्ती अति-अल्पकालीन पुनर्निर्माण आगमन सूचना सं-02/2024-25 (केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर) पत्रांक-786

दिनांक 26.06.2024

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की तिथि

निविदा कागजात खोलने एवं अपलोड करने की अवधि

प्री-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान

तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

निविदा खोलने का स्थान

निविदा देवता की अवधि

विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता

विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) एवं [www.wvd.bihar.gov.in](http://www.wvd.bihar.gov.in) पर देखा जा सकता है।

(परशुराम यादव)  
कार्यपालक अभियंता  
पश्चिमी कोशी नहर प्रमण्डल, सक्ती  
PR. No.002772 (WRD) 2024-25  
विस्तृत जानकारी [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prd/bihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prd/bihar) से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।  
नशे से बचने का हे एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

Sl. No.	Name of Material	Quantity	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)	Tender Cost (in Rs.)
1	DPC Aluminum Winding Wire of various sizes	450.192 MT (NBPDCD-250.192 MT & SBPDCL-200 MT)	13,99,22,420	23,99,300	15000+ Applicable GST @ 18% extra

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, पूर्णियाँ E-mail - eercdpurnea@gmail.com Phone 9470001297 पत्रांक :-626 शुद्धि-पत्र

इस कार्यपालक के पत्रांक-588 दिनांक-10.06.2024 द्वारा निर्गत निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं-01/2024-25/RCD/PURNEA जो विभिन्न समग्रार पत्रों में PR-001633(RCD)2024-25 द्वारा प्रकाशित है, के निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना में विभागीय ज्ञापक-163 (E) दिनांक-10.01.2024 के अलाके में निम्नांकित संशोधन किया जाता है :-

NIT की कडिका सं	पूर्व में प्रकाशित कडिका सं	पूर्व में प्रकाशित	संशोधित
1	2	3	4
6	Last Date, Time & Place for submission of original instrument of E.M.D. & cost of B.O.Q.	Till 15:00 Hours. On 05.07.2024 Place: Office of the (i) Executive Engineer, R.C.D., Road Division, Purnea (ii) Superintending Engineer, R.C.D., Road Circle, Purnea (iii) Chief Engineer Simanchal wing, R.C.D., CDO Building, Vishweshwaraiya Bhawan, Bailey Road Patna.	विलोपित

शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेगी। कार्यपालक अभियंता, पंजोविं, पथ प्रमंडल, पूर्णियाँ PR. No. 002677 (RCD) 2024-25 उक्त सूचना [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prd/bihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prd/bihar) पर भी देखी जा सकती है। नशे से बचने का हे एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

Sr. No.	Tender Ref. No. & Date	Items Name	Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting	Last Date & Time of Submission of Online Bid	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bid
1	GEM/2024/B/5095054 Dated: 26-06-2024	CTG Machine (Cardio Tocography) Fetal Monitor	04/07/2024 at 3:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow.	17/07/2024 upto 15:30 PM	17/07/2024 at 15:30 PM
2	GEM/2024/B/5096880 Dated: 26-06-2024	Stem Sterilizer	05/07/2024 at 3:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow.	17/07/2024 upto 19:00 PM	17/07/2024 at 18:30 PM
3	GEM/2024/B/5096415 Dated: 26-06-2024	Clinical Incubators or infant warmers	05/07/2024 at 3:30 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow.	17/07/2024 upto 18:00 PM	17/07/2024 at 18:30 PM

The details of tender notice are given on GeM Portal & UPMSCL website [www.upmscl.in](http://www.upmscl.in). Kindly check GeM Portal & UPMSCL website for any detail & updates. Managing Director, Uttar Pradesh Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

Sr. No.	कार्य का नाम	प्रारंभित राशि (लाख में)	अंश का राशि (लाख में)	परिष्कारण का मूल्य (अनुमानित) (लाख में)	वेतन को देय राशि (अनुमानित) (लाख में)	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि
1	हर खेत सिंचाई का पानी कार्यक्रम तहत सक्ती शाखा नहर एवं इसके विस्तार प्रणाली में Out Let सहित फिट्टिंग केनल का निर्माण कार्य	124.28920	2.48600	10,000/-	3540/-	31.07.2024

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, पश्चिमी कोशी नहर प्रमण्डल, सक्ती अति-अल्पकालीन पुनर्निर्माण आगमन सूचना सं-02/2024-25 (केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर) पत्रांक-786

दिनांक 26.06.2024

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की तिथि

निविदा कागजात खोलने एवं अपलोड करने की अवधि

प्री-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान

तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

निविदा खोलने का स्थान

निविदा देवता की अवधि

विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता

विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) एवं [www.wvd.bihar.gov.in](http://www.wvd.bihar.gov.in) पर देखा जा सकता है।

(परशुराम यादव)  
कार्यपालक अभियंता  
पश्चिमी कोशी नहर प्रमण्डल, सक्ती  
PR. No.002772 (WRD) 2024-25  
विस्तृत जानकारी [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prd/bihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prd/bihar) से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।  
नशे से बचने का हे एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

Sr. No.	कार्य का नाम	प्रारंभित राशि (लाख में)	अंश का राशि (लाख में)	परिष्कारण का मूल्य (अनुमानित) (लाख में)	वेतन को देय राशि (अनुमानित) (लाख में)	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि
1	हर खेत सिंचाई का पानी कार्यक्रम तहत सक्ती शाखा नहर एवं इसके विस्तार प्रणाली में Out Let सहित फिट्टिंग केनल का निर्माण कार्य	124.28920	2.48600	10,000/-	3540/-	31.07.2024

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, पश्चिमी कोशी नहर प्रमण्डल, सक्ती अति-अल्पकालीन पुनर्निर्माण आगमन सूचना सं-02/2024-25 (केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर) पत्रांक-786

दिनांक 26.06.2024

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की तिथि

निविदा कागजात खोलने एवं अपलोड करने की अवधि

प्री-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान

तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

निविदा खोलने का स्थान

निविदा देवता की अवधि

विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता

विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) एवं [www.wvd.bihar.gov.in](http://www.wvd.bihar.gov.in) पर देखा जा सकता है।

(परशुराम यादव)  
कार्यपालक अभियंता  
पश्चिमी कोशी नहर प्रमण्डल, सक्ती  
PR. No.002772 (WRD) 2024-25  
विस्तृत जानकारी [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prd/bihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prd/bihar) से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।  
नशे से बचने का हे एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

Sr. No.	कार्य का नाम	प्रारंभित राशि (लाख में)	अंश का राशि (लाख में)	परिष्कारण का मूल्य (अनुमानित) (लाख में)	वेतन को देय राशि (अनुमानित) (लाख में)	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि
1	हर खेत सिंचाई का पानी कार्यक्रम तहत सक्ती शाखा नहर एवं इसके विस्तार प्रणाली में Out Let सहित फिट्टिंग केनल का निर्माण कार्य	124.28920	2.48600	10,000/-	3540/-	31.07.2024

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, पश्चिमी कोशी नहर प्रमण्डल, सक्ती अति-अल्पकालीन पुनर्निर्माण आगमन सूचना सं-02/2024-25 (केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर) पत्रांक-786

दिनांक 26.06.2024

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की तिथि

निविदा कागजात खोलने एवं अपलोड करने की अवधि

प्री-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान

तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

निविदा खोलने का स्थान

निविदा देवता की अवधि

विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता

विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) एवं [www.wvd.bihar.gov.in](http://www.wvd.bihar.gov.in) पर देखा जा सकता है।

(परशुराम यादव)  
कार्यपालक अभियंता  
पश्चिमी कोशी नहर प्रमण्डल, सक्ती  
PR. No.002772 (WRD) 2024-25  
विस्तृत जानकारी [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prd/bihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prd/bihar) से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।  
नशे से बचने का हे एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

Sr. No.	कार्य का नाम	प्रारंभित राशि (लाख में)	अंश का राशि (लाख में)	परिष्कारण का मूल्य (अनुमानित) (लाख में)	वेतन को देय राशि (अनुमानित) (लाख में)	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि
1	हर खेत सिंचाई का पानी कार्यक्रम तहत सक्ती शाखा नहर एवं इसके विस्तार प्रणाली में Out Let सहित फिट्टिंग केनल का निर्माण कार्य	124.28920	2.48600	10,000/-	3540/-	31.07.2024

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दिनांक 26.06.2024

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की तिथि

निविदा कागजात खोलने एवं अपलोड करने की अवधि

प्री-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान

तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

निविदा खोलने का स्थान

निविदा देवता की अवधि

विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता

विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) एवं [www.wvd.bihar.gov.in](http://www.wvd.bihar.gov.in) पर देखा जा सकता है।

(परशुराम यादव)  
कार्यपालक अभियंता  
पश्चिमी कोशी नहर प्रमण्डल, सक्ती  
PR. No.002772 (WRD) 2024-25  
विस्तृत जानकारी [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prd/bihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prd/bihar) से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।  
नशे से बचने का हे एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

Sr. No.	कार्य का नाम	प्रारंभित राशि (लाख में)	अंश का राशि (लाख में)	परिष्कारण का मूल्य (अनुमानित) (लाख में)	वेतन को देय राशि (अनुमानित) (लाख में)	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि
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# Sensex crosses 79k-mark, Nifty hits fresh peak at 24k

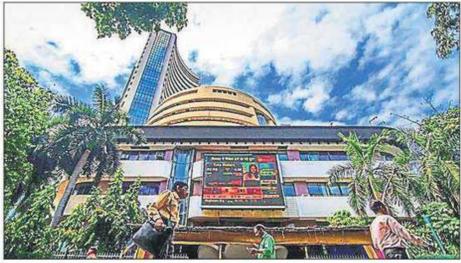
Sensex rose 0.72% to 79,243, while Nifty jumped 0.74% to close at 24,044 points

Press Trust of India

feedback@livemint.com

**MUMBAI:** Benchmark Sensex breached the historic 79,000 mark while Nifty scaled the historic 24,000 peak for the first time on Thursday as buying in blue-chip stocks like Infosys, Reliance and TCS helped markets extend gains to the fourth straight day and close at lifetime high levels.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 568.93 points or 0.72% to settle at a new closing peak of 79,243.18. During the day, it zoomed 721.78 points or 0.91% to hit the new lifetime peak of 79,396.03. The Nifty ended at a fresh record high of 24,044.50, rising 175.70 points or 0.74%. Intra-day, it soared 218.65 points or 0.91% to hit the all-time peak of 24,087.45. Among the 30 Sensex companies, UltraTech Cement jumped over 5% after the country's leading cement maker said it will acquire a 23% stake in its Chen-



Gains in Infosys, TCS and Reliance Industries drove the benchmark indices to record-high levels.

MINT

nai-based rival India Cements Ltd, in a deal estimated to be around ₹1,885 crore.

Gains in Infosys, TCS and Reliance Industries drove the benchmark indices to record-high levels.

NTPC, JSW Steel, Tata Motors, Bharti Airtel, Power Grid, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Tech Mahindra were also among the major gainers. Larsen & Toubro, Sun Pharma, Nestle, HDFC Bank and Maruti were among the laggards.

Analysts said most sectors recorded gains, with IT and energy among the top gainers.

Broader indices showed mixed results as midcap index closed in the green while smallcap index lost over half a%.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower. European markets were trading on a mixed note. US markets ended in positive territory on Wednesday.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹3,535.43 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.84% to \$85.97 a barrel.

## SEBI BARS MUTUAL FUNDS, BROKERS FROM USING FINFLUENCERS

Reuters

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**MUMBAI:** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Thursday asked brokers and mutual funds to stop using the services of unregulated financial influencers for marketing and advertising campaigns. A booming stock market has increased the popularity of so-called financial influencers who advise on stocks and other related investments through YouTube and Instagram and often have a large number of followers.

The decision was taken to address concerns related to "certain persons, including unregulated entities, inducing investors to deal in securities based on inappropriate claims," Sebi said in a press statement issued after a board meeting. It, however, added that financial influencers engaged in investor education will be exempt from the new restrictions.

# UltraTech buys into India Cem as Adani gives chase

Nehal Chaliawala & Ankit Gohel

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**NEW DELHI:** Kumar Mangalam Birla-led UltraTech Cement snapped up a big chunk of struggling rival India Cements Ltd, at a time the Adani group pursues a breakneck expansion in cement after entering the space barely two years ago.

UltraTech, India's largest cement maker, on Thursday bought 22.77% non-controlling stake in India Cements for ₹1,889 crore via block deals. The acquisition won't trigger an open offer as per India's takeover code, but deters a potential rival bid for India Cements, long seen as a takeover target.

The sellers include Radhakishan Damani, Gopikishan Damaniz, Kiran Devi Damani, Derive Investments and Derive Trading and Resorts. The share purchase translates to a valuation of \$85 per tonne for the 14.5 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) cement manufacturing capacity of India Cements, analysts said. That compares to a cost of \$90-100 per tonne for setting up a greenfield manufacturing capacity.

Shares of India Cements closed 11.5% higher on the BSE on Thursday at ₹293.15, after touching a 52-week high of ₹299 intraday. UltraTech gained 5%



Kumar Mangalam Birla, chairman, Aditya Birla Group.

on a day the benchmark Sensex index closed 0.72% higher.

UltraTech has a consolidated cement making capacity of 152.7 mtpa, far ahead of second-placed Adani's 77.4 mtpa. The two market leaders are adding capacity at break-neck speed, having set targets of reaching 200 mtpa and 140 mtpa of capacity, respectively, before the turn of the decade. The bullishness of the market leaders in the cement sector is based on the Indian government's infrastructure push. Crisil analysts predict India's cement demand to grow 6-8% in FY25 after two consecutive years of double-digit growth.

Earlier this year, UltraTech acquired a 1.1 mtpa cement grinding unit in Maharashtra from India Cements for ₹315 crore. In 2023, it acquired the 10.75 mtpa cement business of Kesoram Industries.

The total cement-making capacity in India is 541 mtpa, according to industry body Cement Manufacturers' Association.

The Indian cement industry is undergoing significant consolidation since the entry of the Adani Group less than two years ago. Adani emerged as India's second-largest cement maker in September 2022 with the acquisition of Ambuja Cement and its subsidiary ACC Ltd from the Swiss Holcim Group.

Since then, it has acquired listed Sanghi Cement and commissioned multiple capacity expansion plans. Two weeks ago, it announced the acquisition of Hyderabad-based Penna Cement at an enterprise value of ₹10,422 crore. The ports-to-edible oil conglomerate has since been aggressively cutting costs, improving operational efficiencies and adding capacity in a bid to become the lowest-cost producer of the crucial commodity.

"There is clearly an acquisition battle going on between the two leaders in the industry with only a handful of sizeable assets left on the block. This is not just a financial investment by UltraTech but a strategic one as it practically eliminates the risk of any other competitor acquiring India Cements," said Sumangal Nevalia, associate director at Kotak Securities.

## GOVT WORKING ON EXPORT PROMOTION FUND FOR MSMEs

Rituraj Baruah & Dharendra Kumar

rituraj.baruah@livemint.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Union government is considering setting up a fund to support exports by small businesses. A proposal for the fund may be placed in the upcoming Union budget by the finance ministry, two people aware of the development said, adding that the fund may have a corpus of around ₹5,000 crore.

"The fund is likely to focus on first-time exporters with an annual turnover of less than ₹25 crore," one of the two people mentioned above said on condition of anonymity.

"MSMEs and, more so, efforts to boost their export potential are expected to get a major push in the upcoming budget," the second person said.

The fund would be used to set up export facilitation centres at district level to help small businesses gauge potential markets and explore opportunities.

It would also be used to develop export capacity of first-time exporters at district level by imparting necessary skills to compete in international markets in both B2B (business-to-business) and B2C (business-to-consumer) areas.

Queries sent to the ministries of MSME and commerce remained unanswered till press time.

Further, the first person cited earlier added that the fund would boost the ODP (one district one product) scheme, which was launched in 2018 to provide a framework to develop the value chain and align support infrastructure for production of district-specific products.

So far, under this initiative, the Centre has identified 1,102 products from 761 districts.

Several schemes are already in place to support MSME exports. For instance, the Centre runs the Marketing Assistance and Export Promotion scheme that provides training to the workforce of these smaller businesses on marketing, packaging for export products, and also gives out awards for quality products.

## Air India pens route to regional aviation

Anu Sharma & Mihir Mishra

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**NEW DELHI:** Air India is weighing a potential entry into India's growing regional aviation space, stepping up rivalry with market leader IndiGo which is growing its own turboprop fleet to advance its regional ambitions.

The Tata group airline has held internal discussions on a potential regional expansion, two people aware of the matter said. Regional aviation includes flights from metros to smaller cities, as well as between smaller cities.

"Discussions were held on the matter. These are internal discussions and there will be further rounds of assessment on this before a final decision is taken. The opportunity in the regional space is staring us in the face and the intent is to provide a complete travel solution to Indian travellers," one of the officials cited above said on the condition of anonymity.

An Air India spokesperson did not respond to a request for comment sent on Wednesday.

India's regional aviation has benefited from a government-funded regional connectivity scheme called UDAN, and an increase in airport infrastructure in smaller towns. According to industry estimates, Indian airlines operated close to 200,000 regional flights during 2023, the bulk of which were flown by IndiGo and SpiceJet. As per data from global aviation data company OAG, India, along with Central and West Africa have been outliers in regional flight operations, clocking an increase of 4-5% in regional jet frequencies since 2019, in contrast to the global scenario where the regional jet frequencies have decreased 33.5%.

While Air India was under government control, its subsidiary Alliance Air operated in the regional space. However, Alliance Air was not part of the Air India divestment, and continues



Air India's ambitions come at a time IndiGo is planning to bulk up its fleet of ATRs.

HT

to operate as a government-run airline.

"For now, the group is exploring an organic growth opportunity for the regional aviation segment. Hence, there are no plans for now regarding any stake acquisition opportunity for Alliance Air. Currently, it looks like that product (Alliance Air) does not align with the new Air India vision," the second executive aware of the discussions said.

Air India's ambitions come at a time IndiGo is planning to bulk up its fleet of ATRs, a favourite of regional airlines. IndiGo is also the country's largest regional aircraft operator with 45 ATR-72 and five more on order. ATR-72 is a regional aircraft produced by Franco-Italian manufacturer ATR, which can seat around 78 passengers.

The Tata group now operates four airlines—Air India, Vistara, Air India Express, and AIX Connect (formerly AirAsia India). Beginning 2025, they will be merged into two—Air India and Air India Express, once the integration is completed by the end of the current year.

"ATR is one of the options that the Air India group is looking at with a lot of interest," the first person added. It is, however, not yet clear whether the low-cost AI Express or full-service Air India will house the regional expansion.

## Reliance Jio raises tariffs by 12-25% for all its plans

Gulveen Aulakh

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**NEW DELHI:** India's largest telecom services provider Reliance Jio took the lead in raising tariffs as it revised upwards charges of all its postpaid and prepaid plans on Thursday.

The increase ranges between 12% and 25% depending upon the plan and will be effective from 3 July, according to the carrier's statement.

"The introduction of new plans is a step in the direction of furthering industry innovation and driving sustainable growth

through investments in 5G and AI technology. Ubiquitous, high-quality, affordable internet is the backbone of Digital India and Jio takes pride in contributing to this. Jio will always put our country and customer first and will continue to invest for India," Akash Ambani, chairman, Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd, said.

On the postpaid side, its ₹299 and ₹399 monthly plans will be charged ₹349 and ₹449, with bundled data amounts remaining same.

The monthly prepaid plan of ₹239 giving 2GB data free per day has seen the steepest increase of 25% to ₹299, and

and image. The apps will be chargeable at ₹298 after one year.

Industry insiders said that rivals Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea would follow suit with tariff increases as well, that may take place in the coming days. The carriers did not comment to Mint's queries as of Thursday evening.

The hike was much anticipated after the general elections ended earlier this month. Analysts said that the move is good for the industry and the impact on the consumer will be minimal. India is still the market with the lowest data tariffs and free

voice service.

"An increase of ₹20-30 per month for low Arpu (average revenue per user) may not affect the customers considering that the sector had not had any inflationary increase as well over the past couple of years. Bharat still remains one of the lowest tariff countries in the world and there is clearly another tariff hike which is a must over the next 6-12 months for the sector to be self-sustaining in investing more on innovation," Prashant Singhal, leader for tech, media and telecom as well as emerging markets at consultancy firm EY Global, said.

## Bad loans hit 12-yr low, may dip further to 2.5%, says RBI

Shayan Ghosh

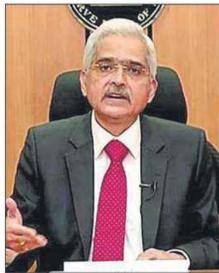
shayan.ghosh@livemint.com

**MUMBAI:** The share of bad loans at banks could decline to 2.5% by the end of FY25 in case of a baseline stress scenario, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Thursday, pointing to the sector's improving health.

Gross bad loan ratio hit a 12-year-low of 2.8% last fiscal year; however, it could rise to 3.4% under a severe stress scenario, RBI said in its semi-annual Financial Stability report. State-owned banks continued to have the highest bad loan ratio --- toxic assets as a percentage of gross loans --- among peer banks, although lower than where they were even a year ago.

While the gross non-performing asset (NPA) ratio of public sector banks was at 3.7% as on 31 March, private sector banks and foreign banks were at 1.8% and 1.2%, respectively. The report pointed out that the continuous decline in bad loans since March 2020 has been on the back of a lower addition of fresh NPAs and increased write-offs.

"This issue of the FSR highlights the strengthening of bal-



Shaktikanta Das, governor, RBI.

ance sheets of financial institutions with low levels of impairments, robust earnings and strong buffers that render the financial system resilient to shocks," RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said in the foreword.

As per the report, a metric known as the banking stability indicator (BSI) provides a comprehensive assessment of the health of the domestic banking system. The BSI, it said, shows that overall stability of the banking system improved on the back of stronger capital levels, higher earnings, and a decline in the stock of NPAs, including restructured loans.

While profitability indicators like return on assets, return on equity and net interest margin remained strong in March, it was marginally lower than September 2023. However, efficiency indicators weakened because of the increase in staff costs and the cost-to-income ratio.

"Today, the matrix of financial stability is perhaps at its best, but the real challenge is to maintain it and improve upon it further," said Das. "The regulators, on their part, remain committed to these goals. We are focused on having in place an ecosystem that is adaptive and proactive in safeguarding the stability of the financial system."

On retail loans, the report listed some concerns that it said require close monitoring. In November, RBI raised the risk weights assigned to unsecured consumer credit like personal loans and credit card dues. "Overall asset quality of outstanding credit showed an improvement, except personal loans," the report said.

It said that delinquency levels among borrowers with personal loans below ₹ 50,000 remain high.

## Q-commerce lands a new revenue stream: Ads

Suneera Tandon & Sowmya Ramasubramanian

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**MUMBAI/BENGALURU:** The rapid expansion of quick commerce companies into households across the country is bringing with it not just sales revenues, but also the emergence of advertising as a feasible source of steady, growing income.

Attracted by the lure of fast-delivery companies' increasing penetration, consumer goods companies across categories such as food, beauty, bags, pet-care, confectionery, among others, are beginning to ride this gravy train to reach their target audiences.

Thanks to their advertisements, quick commerce plat-



FMCG companies might be spending broadly ₹700-₹800 crore on advertisements on quick commerce platforms.

PTI

forms like Zepto and Blinkit (owned by Zomato) have seen a surge in advertising volumes and revenue.

According to Karan Taurani, senior VP at Elara Capital, FMCG companies could be spending, broadly, ₹700-₹800

crore in ads on quick commerce platforms, making this an important income stream for the platforms as they move into newer categories.

"There is a strong potential for quick commerce companies to grow their ad revenue by over

50-60% and also outperform overall e-commerce ad revenue growth rates," Taurani said.

Last week, Zepto said it expects advertising revenue to touch ₹1,000 crore in the next 12 months.

The figure has already hit ₹400 crore in May 2024. "The advertising business is scaling rapidly and is growing at the rate of 150% year-on-year, driving up margins steadily," the company's co-founder and CEO Aadit Palicha said in an interview with Mint last week.

Ad revenue for Blinkit grew 220% year-on-year in the third quarter of FY24, according to the company's earnings release. It said companies advertise with the intent of building visibility for their products for a highly engaged and fast-growing cus-

tomers base with spending power.

"The quick-commerce advertising opportunity is turning out to be promising so far," Albinder Dhindsa, CEO of Blinkit, said in Zomato's shareholders letter in Q3 FY24. The number of advertisers on the platform grew to 557 from 242 during the quarter.

Blinkit declined to comment on its advertising business when contacted.

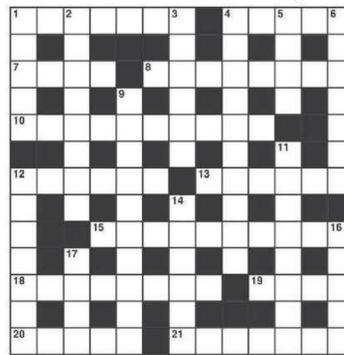
A spokesperson of Swiggy, which operates the Instamart platform, said that over the past six months, there has been a consistent month-on-month increase in the number of brands partnering with the platform to enhance consumer engagement, increase visibility, and drive growth.

### { THE CROSSWORDS }

#### CRYPTIC CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Pretend not to understand mime (3,4)
  - Is of a capital disposition (5)
  - Learning to look about (4)
  - A survey not repeated (4-4)
  - Spent in riotous living (10)
  - They carry clothes and swimming gear (6)
  - Run out of clothes (6)
  - Move from one bed to another (10)
  - A mammoth beast disposed to stand and moo (8)
  - One form of trust (4)
  - Smooth look about a number (5)
  - Odd sort of brazier (7)
- DOWN**
- Upset a girl and suffered (5)
  - Go off and become a cynic perhaps (4,4)
  - These trees have no great variety (6)
  - Type cast? (10)
  - A number four iron brought out (4)
  - Highly upset by flight? (7)
  - Might be a rush job (10)
  - He keeps a servant (8)
  - Mother's broken flask (7)
  - Bury Ben in style without Tom (6)
  - 16 Name - and address? (5)
  - Offshore spot I stole away to (4)

#### PUZZLE 16898 © Gemini Crosswords 2018 All rights reserved



#### QUICK CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Unspeaking person (2-3-2)
  - Author of verse drama Peer Gynt (5)
  - Norwegian polar explorer (8)
  - A rectangular figure (6)
  - Dejected (2,3,5)
  - Identical (4)
  - Jumpy (7)
  - Constantly (3,3,4)
  - Insurrection (8)
  - Troops stationed in fortress (8)
  - Lacking firmness (4)
  - Avoid adroitly (5)
  - Scapegoat (4,3)
- DOWN**
- Sudden convulsive movement (5)
  - Norwegian polar explorer (8)
  - A rectangular figure (6)
  - Dejected (2,3,5)
  - Identical (4)
  - Jumpy (7)
  - Constantly (3,3,4)
  - Insurrection (8)
  - Troops stationed in fortress (8)
  - Lacking firmness (4)
  - Avoid adroitly (5)
  - Scapegoat (4,3)

#### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS (16897)



#### { SUDOKU } DIFFICULTY LEVEL ★★★★★



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

**FRIDAY**  
Generally cloudy sky with moderate rain  
37°C | 28°C

**SATURDAY**  
Generally cloudy sky with heavy rain  
36°C | 28°C

**SUNDAY**  
Generally cloudy sky with heavy rain  
36°C | 27°C

#### ALMANAC

Today is 28th June 2024  
• 01 Dhul Hijah, 1445  
• 07 Ashadha, Krishna Paksha, 07  
• Samat 2081  
Sunset: Friday at 07:23 p.m.  
Sunrise: Saturday at 05:26 a.m.  
Moonset: Friday at 12:45 a.m.  
Moonrise: Saturday at 12:10 a.m.

#### TEMPERATURE IN FOUR METROS

Delhi 37°C | 28°C  
Mumbai 32°C | 25°C  
Kolkata 33°C | 27°C  
Chennai 33°C | 27°C

**buzz**  
**NBCC awarded project worth Rs 100 crore in Hyderabad**  
NBCC received a work order related to the construction of the new training centre and renovation of the existing buildings of REC Institute of Power Management Training, Hyderabad. The project cost is approximately Rs 100 crore, out of which Rs 60 crore is for the construction of the new training centre, hostel, classrooms, auditorium, etc. The remaining Rs 40 crore is expected to be spent on the demolition of the unsafe service reservoir, its new construction and renovation of existing RECIPMT buildings.

**RITES celebrates International Day of Yoga**  
RITES Ltd, celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga on June 21 with enthusiasm and dedication, focusing on the theme 'Yoga for Self and Society'. A yoga session for the employees, demonstrating Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) asanas by Bharatiya Yog Sansthan, was organised to emphasise its extensive benefits for everyday living. The organisation, which endorses the Ministry of Ayush's multifaceted approach to promoting yoga worldwide, also prioritises employee health and well-being.

**Muthoot FinCorp launches 'Book My Gold Loan' Campaign**  
Muthoot FinCorp Limited (MFL), the flagship company of the 137-year-old Muthoot Pappachan Group (Muthoot Blue), launched its 'Book My Gold Loan' campaign featuring Shah Rukh Khan. This campaign introduced a first-of-its-kind service in India: book a Gold Loan instantly, anytime, from anywhere. The feature allows customers to initiate loans with a simple missed call, integrating advanced technology with exceptional customer service. This unique service makes Gold Loans more accessible.

**NHRC takes cognisance of suicide by two brothers due to police atrocity**  
NHRC India took suo moto cognisance of a report that two brothers of Agra committed suicide within three days due to alleged police harassment by the police personnel of Sadabad police station in Uttar Pradesh. Reportedly, a suicide note was left by one of the brothers. The Commission has observed that the contents of the media report, if true, indicate a serious issue of human rights violation. Therefore, the Commission has issued a notice to the Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh for a report on the matter.

## Induction of CISF for security at NTPC Coal Mining Project (CMP), Hazaribagh

On June 26, CISF took over the security of NTPC-Coal Mining Project (CMP), Hazaribagh, Jharkhand. The induction ceremony was graced by Faiz Taiyab, Head of Project, Coal Mining Project Barwadih, DP Parihar, DIG CISF, CCL HQs Ranchi, Rajneesh Rastogi, CGM, HR CMHQ, Sandeep Kumar S, Sr Comdt, Mruthunjaya Swamy D, DC. Other officers & personnel of CISF & NTPC-Coal Mining Project (CMP) Hazaribagh were present during the occasion. This unit is headed by a Commandant



rank officer. With this induction, total units under CISF security cover have risen to 358 as on

## SECI - Yoga goes global on International Yoga Day 2024

Due to the efforts of PM Modi, UNGA declared June 21 as International Yoga Day (IYD). UNGA recognised Yoga's holistic approach to health. Intersolar

Europe is part of The Smarter Europe, the continent's largest energy industry platform. From June 19-21, SECI participated in this event in Munich, Germany.



## NCRTC celebrates International Yoga Day

NCRTC employees actively promoted better health and a healthy lifestyle by encouraging everyone to practice yoga on the eve of International Yoga Day. To commemorate this special occasion, various yoga sessions were enthusiastically organised across all NCRTC offices.



## RailTel wins in 'Leadership in Digital Transformation'



RailTel won the ET Government PSU Leadership & Excellence Awards 2024 in 'Leadership in Digital Transformation' category. Dr Jitendra Singh, Union MoS

## GAIL opens new round for solicitation of proposals

In a bid to support the start-ups operating in identified focus areas, GAIL (India) Ltd plans to invest in such companies through its Start-Up initiative 'Pankh'. GAIL opened a fresh round, which is the 9<sup>th</sup> round for solicitation of investment proposals from start-ups operating in focus areas. Details of focus areas are available on GAIL website (https://gailonline.com) under the 'GAIL Pankh' Section. The focus areas mainly include natural gas and its adjacencies, city gas distribution, pipeline operation and maintenance, petrochemicals, etc.

## BAE Systems and Room to Read empower girls in India

BAE Systems, a global defence, aerospace and security company, announced that its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) partnership with Room to Read is presently influencing the lives of 166 adolescent girls in India. Through Room to Read's Girls' Education Programme, these adolescent girls are gaining vital life skills, mentorship, and support, equipping them to stay in school and challenge detrimental gender norms. Room to Read has prioritised 10 key life skills which are critical for girls to succeed both in school and beyond school.

## 37<sup>th</sup> AGM: IREDA achieves record financial milestones



Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA) conducted its 37<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) via Video Conferencing at its Corporate Office

## NHRC notices negligence towards patients

NHRC India has taken suo moto cognisance of a media report that two unknown mentally ill patients were not being provided any medical treatment by the doctors in the government-run Shaheed Nirmal Mahto Medical College Hospital (SNMCH) in Jharkhand. The media report also carried pictures of the helpless patients lying without clothes on the floor. Reportedly, the Superintendent of the hospital stated that there were no doctors available to treat mentally ill patients. The hospital staff provided food to them in polythene bags.

## NHRC probes into deaths due to spurious liquor

NHRC India took suo moto cognisance of a media report that more than 47 persons lost life after consuming spurious liquor in Kallakurichi district, Tamil Nadu. Reportedly, a large number of people including women are under treatment in hospitals some of whom are in critical condition. The Commission has observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of the right to life of the victims. Accordingly, it has issued notices to the CS and the DG of Police, Govt of Tamil Nadu, for a detailed report on the matter.



The Ministry of AYUSH, Govt of India, and the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur organised a grand yoga practice program at the Jantar Mantar in Jaipur from 6:00 AM on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> International Yoga Day 2024. More than 2,500 people participated and students from 16 countries.



EdCIL (India) Ltd celebrated International Day of Yoga-2024 on June 21 at its Corporate Office, Noida. To mark the occasion, Manoj Kumar, CMD, EdCIL, along with senior officers and employees participated with Dr Pujita Dewan as Guest of the day and Ramesh Khadka (Yoga Trainer) conducted a workshop.



IIM, Udaipur, hosted the inaugural ceremony for the 2024-26 MBA batch, the largest cohort of 384 students. The batch consists of 58% of the students from an engineering background, while 42% come from non-engineering fields. 60% of the students have prior work experience, 40% are freshers.



RailTel joined the International Day of Yoga celebration on June 21. Sanjai Kumar, Chairman & Managing Director, Dr Chandramani Sharma, CVO, V Rama Manohara Rao, Director/Finance, other senior officers and staff of RailTel participated in a Yoga session organised at the Corporate Office.



Punjab & Sind Bank announced innovative new offerings to mark its 117<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day under the theme of 'Igniting Growth, Innovation and Excellence'. The initiatives included new products and services, new digital offerings within the PSB UNIC app, new partnerships, and CSR activities.



Ministry of Commerce & Industry celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga at Bharat Mandapam in the presence of Jitin Prasada, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Sunil Barthwal Commerce Secretary, RK Singh, Secretary DPIIT and PS Kharola, CMD TIPO, besides other senior officials.



Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO) celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> International Yoga Day pan India at its Regional Offices and Corporate Office. The main function was held in New Delhi with an enriching session led by experts from Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY).



On the 10<sup>th</sup> International Yoga Day, PMBI, the implementing agency of PMBP, organised an office Desk Yoga session for its Head Office employees at Nauraji Nagar, New Delhi along with field officers posted in regional locations, focused on the theme "Yoga for Self and Society".

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## Today's Question

Which city hosted the first T20 World Cup final?

A. Johannesburg

B. Colombo

C. London

D. Mumbai

**21<sup>st</sup> JUNE WINNERS**

Pratibha Saini  
Dasha Mubashir  
R.R. Trivedi

**27<sup>th</sup> JUNE ANSWER**

Which player scored the fastest fifty in T20 World Cup history?  
C. Yuvraj Singh

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### INDIAN RAILWAYS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)  
(RAILWAY BOARD)

No. 2023/Track-III/M/5 New Delhi, dated: 27.06.2024

#### CORRIGENDUM-VIII

Subject :- E-Tender No. TM-2303 for procurement of Rail Borne Maintenance Vehicle "RBMV" for Indian Railways to be opened on 31.07.2024

The date of opening of above mentioned tender due on 28.06.2024 has been postponed to 31.07.2024.

All other terms and conditions of the subject tender remain unchanged.

(Vijay Singh)  
Executive Director/Track (M&M)  
Railway Board  
Tel: No. 011-47845531  
E-mail: vijay.singh.2017@gov.in

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

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:-

Name of work	Location	Tender Value	Quantity	As per Scope of work
Work of "Hiring Three Forklifts along with Three drivers (without fuel) for CR Lifting, AC, Trough, Fitting Shop and Wagon Shop and provision of Seven Drivers to operate departmental forklifts at Jagadhri Workshop (for 300 working days at N.Rly.)"	Northern Railway, Carriage & Wagon Repair Shop, Jagadhri Workshop, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana-135002	₹39,38,729.67/-		
		₹78,800/-		Cost of Tender Form 0.00/-

Completion period of the work 300 working days from the date of issuance of Letter of Acceptance

Date & Time for Submission of tender form 12.07.2024 till 13:00 hrs.

Opening of tender 12.07.2024 till 13:05 hrs.  
Tender opening will be done any time after the tender closing time. The tenders are not required to be present during the opening. Railway reserves the right to open the tender any time after closing of tender.

Website particulars | www.ireps.gov.in  
Tender No.: 6-S/53/Tender/2023-24 Dated : 27.06.2024 1938/2024

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

### WESTERN RAILWAY - AHMEDABAD DIVISION

VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 11 YEAR 2024-2025 DATED 21.06.2024

Sr. No.	E-Tender No. & Name of Work	Approximate NIT Cost	EMD Cost
01	DRM-ADI-88-2024-25 Ahmedabad Viramgam Section Providing cattle fencing in connection with Vande Bharat train under the jurisdictions of Senior Divisional Engineer (West) Ahmedabad.	38,39,42,562.39	20,69,700
02	DRM-ADI-89-2024-25 Gandhidham Improvement of infrastructure of railway institute and Repairing of Pit line and other associated works under jurisdiction of DEN(NW)-ADI. (Composite work)	2,68,73,134.08	2,84,400.00
03	DRM-ADI-90-2024-25 Repairs to cat walk No.1 at Kankanya pit line & other ancillary works under jurisdiction of Divisional Engineer (Works)-Ahmedabad.	57,12,076.40	1,14,300.00

Closing date & time of e-tender: Date 16.07.2024 Time 15:00 Office Address: Senior Divisional Engineer (Co-ordination) Ahmedabad, D.R.M. Office, Near Chamunda Bridge, Opposite New Swadeshi Mill, Naroda Road, Amdapura, Ahmedabad- 382345 Website for participating e-tender: www.ireps.gov.in

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### RAIL COACH FACTORY KAPURTHALA

E-Tendering

PCE/RCF acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on website www.ireps.gov.in closing date 19.07.2024 at 11:00 a.m. 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. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. Tender No. 1. RCF-CE-WA-EOT-31-24-25. Name of Works: Improvement work in Waris Shah hall, RCF Kapurthala Date of opening: 19.07.2024 at 11:05 a.m. Tender Closing Date & Time: 19.07.2024 at 11:00 a.m Bidding Start Date: 05.07.2024 Advertised Value: ₹ 1,55,24,917.24 Validity of offer : 60 days Period of Completion : 04 Months, Earnest Money: ₹ 2,27,700.00 Tender Document cost : ₹ 0.00. Note :- Creditentials/ documents received from the tenderers after opening of the tenders shall not be given cognizance.

Open tenders through E-tendering are invited on & behalf of President of India by Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala from the willing contractors for following work upto 15.30 Hrs or the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter. (1) Tender No: RCF/EL/TS/ET/118/2023-24 Name of Work: Improvement work in Waris Shah Hall (Electrical works) in Rail Coach Factory (Kapurthala) Approx. Cost (Rs): ₹ 5337355.00 Bid EMD (Rs): ₹ 106800 Period of Completion : 06 months. Date of closing & opening : 23.07.2024 1. Tenderers are required to upload scanned copies of all related eligible documents including PAN/TIN/GST as per conditions. 2. The required Bid security will be acceptable On-line payment through Net Banking/or Payment Gateway only well before & upto 15.30 Hrs of closing date & time of tender. 3. Tenderers should have class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in e-Tendering of works tenders. 4. For detail, please log on IREPS website www.IREPS.Gov.in 5. GST will be levied as per GST Act.2017.

By CEE/PS

No. 35-M/2024-25 Date: 27.06.2024

### U. P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

E-Tender Notice

E-Tender No. SD-983- online e-Bids are invited for construction of "01 No. 220 kV GIS Bay (M/s SKVR Data Centre) at 220 kV GIS Substation Sec-45, Noida" E-tender shall be available on 25.06.2024 on www.etender.up.nic.in Estimated Cost of work: Rs 04.29 Crore only. Completion Period 06 Months, E.M.D. cost Rs. 04.29 Lacs only. Last date of tender submission 25.07.2024 at 15:30 Hrs. Total Quantum of supply & work, tender specification and other terms & conditions are as per tender document available on the e-tender portal. Undersigned reserves the right to cancel the e-Bids without assigning any reason.

Corrigendum, Addendum, Extension if any shall be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time.

Superintending Engineer,  
ESDC-I, UPPTCL  
Dt.: 27-06-2024

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EURO 2024

# Getting ready for the knockout punch

Georgia's stunning win sums up a rather unpredictable group league where reputations didn't matter

**Dhiman Sarkar**  
dhiman@htlive.com

**KOLKATA:** Giorgi Mamardashvili at the bottom of a players' pile-up with fans in white and red bouncing behind in the stands in Gelsenkirchen provided a memorable closure to the group stage of the European championship. It was night where Khvicha Kvaratskhelia exchanged shirts with his idol Cristiano Ronaldo but only after besting him and Portugal. A night that underscored tournament football's ability to surprise.

Georgia are a win against Spain away from doing what Iceland did in 2016, make the quarter-finals at their first time of trying. Two wins and they could be the surprise pack of the competition like Wales in 2016. Or like Morocco in the 2022 World Cup. Even if they don't do any of that, to have come this far -after finishing fourth among five teams in the qualifiers, they made the finals by

beating former champions Greece on penalties - would be enough to show that in continental championships and World Cup finals, defensive discipline and self-belief can sometimes compensate for a lack of pedigree. "This was a game where Georgia was playing to be part of history and we didn't match their intensity," said Portugal coach Roberto Martinez.

After beating a team ranked 68 slots above them, Georgia, who at 74 are the lowest ranked team in the edition, won't balk at anything. Not after the biggest night in their football history, the biggest in Kvaratskhelia's career and he was an important player in Napoli winning their first Serie A in 33 years. "We're going to fight to the last minute as we have done since the beginning of the competition," said Willy Sagnol, Georgia's coach.

Only Ronaldo, João Palhinha and Diogo Costa kept their place in the starting line-up after Portugal had qualified

as group toppers going into Wednesday's match. But with goalkeeper Mamardashvili being one of the best among 24 teams, Kvaratskhelia showing why he is called "Kvaradona" and Georges Mikautadze leading the race for the golden boot - how about that for a surprise - Georgia showed they are not to be trifled with.

Neither are Austria. Ralf Rangnick's men blew away Poland and had an answer for everything Netherlands threw at them and then some. It took an own-goal for heavyweights France to tame them but Austria topped the group showing why they had come to Germany having won 12 of their last 15 matches and losing one. And they did this without David Alaba, their talisman, forward Sasa Kalajdzic and midfielder Xaver Schlager who are injured. A hands-on coach, Rangnick turns 66 on Saturday and could be looking forward to a longer stay in the championship with a team suffused with belief and attacking intent.

Sixteen of 24 teams staying on can mean superfluous matches in the group league but if that didn't happen, it is because the gap has reduced. Explains why Slovenia's Ivan Schranz came with a hair's breadth of scoring in all three games, Belgium were stunned by Slovakia and Ukraine fell to Romania's long-rangers. That Croatia, Czech Republic and Poland are among those who will have early holidays is also proof of that teams cannot expect to win by merely showing up. All four teams ended on the same points in group E and all 24 got at least a point.

"Football was merciless tonight," said Luka Modric after Italy equalised with what was virtually the last kick of the match. The 1-1 draw meant Modric had a player of the match award but Croatia, having been similarly hit by Albania, were going home. A number of players from the generation that was runners-up in the 2018 World Cup are on the way out and it will test the strength in

depth of a country that has a population of less than four million.

As Croatia grapple with transition, Germany seem to have finished the process after two disappointing World Cup finals and a European Championship. Nothing works as well for a tournament as the home team going deep. Germany are the only team to have won by more than three goals in the group league and along with Spain, have been the most confident teams. Jamal Musiala and Florian Wirtz have led the march of the young ones long with Spain's Lamine Yamal and Nico Williams, Turkey's Arda Guler, Mamardashvili and Kvaratskhelia who are 23.

It is a list that did have Jude Bellingham at the start of the tournament and maybe till England's last group league game but the attacking midfielder couldn't have chosen a worse time to lose form. But they have a good draw and there is no denying the talent available to coach Gareth Southgate. England

have gone from a brisk start to a team that has a problem in midfield to fix and is again feeling the weight of expectations.

You could add Belgium to that list. France's inability to beat Poland meant even Kylian Mbappe couldn't mask their problem of lack of goals. It also set up a mouth-watering round-of-16 clash with Belgium. But given how little reputations have counted for, what's to say there won't be other evenly matched contests? Beginning with Switzerland, who have looked slick, taking on defending champions Italy who are a work in progress.

After 36 of the 51 matches, after seven own goals, fantastic strikes from range lightning fast counter-attacks and aggressive pressing, Nedim Bajrami scoring in 23 seconds and Kevin Csoboth in the 100th minute, after N' Golo Kante and not Ronaldo propped up the Saudi Pro League and Xherdan Shaqiri joining the Frenchman in showing that age is a number, after Christian Eriksen returning to this competition and scoring in his first match and Spain showing possession doesn't matter, we are ready for the knockout rounds. What's not to like.

## THE GROUP PHASE FACTS IN FIGURES



**Group stage in numbers**

**18** There were 18 cards shown between Czech Rep and Turkey (16 yellows, two reds); the most in a single game in UEFA European Championship history.

**28%** Georgia had just 28% possession in their victory over Portugal; the lowest by a team to win at the Euro on record since 1980.



**Fastest goal ever in Euros**

**0.23** In this Euro, Nedim Bajrami scored in 23 secs against Italy

**0** Cristiano Ronaldo has failed to score in the group stage of a major international tournament (World Cup/Euros) for the first time in his career.

Stats: UEFA, Opta

## At 14, Dhinidhi set for Olympic experience

**Rutvick Mehta**  
rutvick.mehta@htlive.com

**MUMBAI:** As a kid not even in her teens yet, Dhinidhi Desinghu remembers watching India's top swimmer Srihari Nataraj compete at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 on television. "I went: 'Oh, I want to be there too'. And watching Srihari made me believe that I could as well," Dhinidhi said. "Three years later, here I am."

Here she is, gearing up to head to Paris along with Srihari as the youngest in the overall Indian contingent so far for next month's Olympics. At 14, the girl from Bengaluru was handed one of the two Universality places for the Games after no Indian swimmer managed to make the qualification cut.

While that's a drop from Tokyo for which two Indians had breached the A standard



**Dhinidhi Desinghu.** SFI

14 is amazing. I'm glad that the hard work and effort I put in paid off. This is just the beginning of my journey. I just want to experience the Olympic stage this time," she said.

Part of that experience is to rub shoulders with and observe how the best go about their business on and off the pool in that high-spotlight stage. "I'd like to see how they race, how they prepare, how they warm up, what they do differently from us Indians generally," she said. "It'll also be nice to explore Paris."

Timely reminder that she's 14. Followed by another one. Dhinidhi plans to make handwritten gift cards and deliver them hopefully in person to her "childhood swim hero" and 2016 Rio Games 200m freestyle Olympic champion, Katie Ledecky of USA. "She was basically the first swimmer I knew. For a long time I wanted to meet

Katie," the teen gushed.

Dhinidhi's already got a taste of multi-sport events; she was picked for India's Asian Games squad last year after her national academy Dhinidhi trains in Bengaluru and who will accompany both swimmers to Paris, said. "For her to be at the Olympics at this age, it'll be a great learning experience."

A shy kid who did not speak much due to the fear of being judged, her badminton-loving

parents thought getting her to learn swimming in a pool next to their home in Bengaluru would help. The eight-year-old didn't like getting into the water at first, even though the coach reckoned she had good stamina. Dhinidhi then joined Ameen's Dolphin Aquatics in 2019.

"She had a good, solid structure," Ameen said. "When she first came in, she was a medium level performer. We had to redo her technique and training program and then she went from strength to strength. She is also strong mentally now. She has a bright future."

The class 9 student finds balancing her studies and swimming "difficult but possible". She has left the long-term planning of how she sees her swimming career develop to her parents. For now, it's all about Paris. "I want to see what I can do in that different environment," she said.

## Inter-State Athletics: Kiran stuns the 400m field, earns Paris quota

**Avishek Roy**  
avishek.roy@htlive.com

**PANCHKULA:** Kiran Pahal seemed to be running a different race. By the time she ran around the bend and pushed on for a final kick down the straight, she had left the entire field in her wake. As the 23-year-old powered through the home stretch, she probably did not realise that she was well on her way to qualifying for the Olympics with a time of 50.92 seconds, breaching the qualification standard of 50.95s.

She produced her stellar show in the semi-final of women's 400m race at the Inter-State Athletics Championships. Her timing was the second fastest by an Indian woman. Only Himma Das (50.79s) has run faster. Kiran had clocked 52.33sec in the heats in the morning. "I just wanted to clock my per-



**Kiran Pahal.** HT

sonal best and win. I am happy that I have qualified for Olympics."

As soon as the race ended, Kiran was surrounded by media. There was a lump in her throat when questions veered towards her family. The girl from Sonapat stopped for a moment before replying. "They don't support me. For last one year I have not received any calls from my mother or brother. My father (a peon in a court) passed away two years back and after that there was no sup-

port. They wanted me to leave sport," she said. Though Kiran works as a junior clerk in Railways, she says funding her training is a challenge. "I have even borrowed money for training and diet. Our financial condition worsened after my father's death," she said.

Out of the national camp since last year, Kiran was struggling with a hamstring injury. But she decided to continue training under coach Ashish Chikara in Rohtak.

Kiran, who exploded on the scene as a talented junior and clocked 51.84s in 2022. In March last year she clocked 54.29 at Indian Open. At the Federation Cup, she timed 55.28s and by the end of the season it was 56.03 at the National Open Championships. But in the Olympic year, she has been hitting her strides. In the Hararyana meet this year, she recorded an impressive 52.13s.

# Brilliant India crush England; SA await

Rohit and Surya set it up with a 73-run stand before bowlers come to the party on helpful Guyana pitch

Vivek Krishnan

vivek.krishnan@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** For a showpiece T20 World Cup semi-final involving two top teams, the setting wasn't ideal. Rain and a damp outfield at the Providence Stadium in Guyana on Thursday led to a stop-start affair, and when the dark clouds cleared belatedly, a less-than-suitable pitch for batting didn't make for a conventional T20 contest.

But India won't care. They thoroughly outplayed England to book their place in the T20 World Cup final for a third time, their first in ten years. They will face South Africa in Barbados on Saturday's summit clash. If this was an opportunity to exercise

the ghosts of Adelaide 2022 when India lost to England by 10 wickets, they seized it by claiming a 68-run win.

On a surface where it was quickly apparent that batting wasn't straightforward, India did very well

to make 171/7 after being sent in by England captain Jos Buttler. The credit for the batting effort should go to Rohit Sharma (57) and Suryakumar Yadav (47), who stitched together a 73-run stand in 50 balls for the third wicket.

With the ball, India's attack was in control pretty much all the way through. Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav claimed three wickets apiece.

When play began at 11:45 am local time, Rohit, fresh off a breathtaking 92 against Australia, knew that he couldn't hit through the line like he did in Gros Islet on Monday. But he was still able to keep the scoreboard ticking. Virat Kohli also seemed to be getting in the third over when he whipped a length ball by Reece Topley over mid-wicket for six. Two balls later, Kohli was heading back to the dugout after making 9.

Rishabh Pant came and went too. The delivery from Sam Curran seemed to be innocuous, but the wicketkeeper-batter didn't get the desired elevation on his shot and picked out Jonny Bairstow at midwicket.

With India on 46/2 after six overs, Buttler introduced Adil Rashid into the attack. Rohit greeted the leggie with a reverse sweep for four and then pulled out the conventional sweep to make it a nine-run over.

Suryakumar was also quick to get going. Off his second ball, he punched Curran down the ground for his first four. Then, in the eighth over, Chris Jordan was at the receiving end as Suryakumar's patented scoop over fine leg carried beyond the boundary. That is when the rain again intervened, halting the momentum that India had at 65/2 after eight overs.

On resumption, Buttler chose to use his spinners—Rashid and Liam Livingstone—to try and squeeze in a few quiet overs. There was turn available, but a full toss on leg stump by Rashid was gleefully swept by Suryakumar through fine leg for four. When Livingstone erred with a full-length ball, Rohit stepped out and cleared long-on for a six.

Curran was brought back but went for 19 runs in an over that saw Rohit bring up his half-century in style with a six. Rohit's end came soon after, attempting a heave through the leg side off a googly by Rashid that turned and hit the stumps. Rohit wouldn't have

mind the manner of dismissal, for it hinted at the assistance that his three-pronged spin attack would also get.

What wasn't ideal from India's perspective was Suryakumar holding out to Jordan at long-on off Jofra Archer in the 16th over. Having made 47, Suryakumar attempted to connect down the ground, not realising that the England pacer had deceived him with a slower ball.

In response, Buttler hit four quick boundaries, but India were in the driving seat once they claimed three wickets in the space of two overs. It was Buttler's wicket that triggered England's slide. It wasn't a smart ploy for Buttler to attempt a reverse sweep off Axar's first delivery, and he paid the price as the ball took the toe end of his bat and lobbed to Pant.

Phil Salt was next to go, succumbing to a masterful off-cutter by Jasprit Bumrah. Bairstow, Moeen Ali and Curran were dismissed cheaply too, clueless as they were against India's spinners. It was a procession of wickets thereafter as England folded for 103.



India captain Rohit Sharma plays a reverse sweep during the T20 World Cup semi-final against England at the Guyana National Stadium in Providence on Thursday.

## SCORECARD

**India**  
R Sharma b Rashid 57 (39)  
V Kohli b Topley 9 (9)  
R Pant c Bairstow b Curran 4 (6)  
S Yadav c Jordan b Archer 47 (36)  
H Pandya c Curran b Jordan 23 (13)  
R Jadeja not out 17 (9)  
S Dube c Buttler b Jordan 0 (1)  
A Patel c Salt b Jordan 10 (6)  
A Singh not out 1 (1)  
**Extras** (lb 2, w 1) 3  
**Total** (for 7 wkts) 171  
**FoW** 1-19, 2-40, 3-113, 4-124, 5-146, 6-146, 7-170  
**Bowling** Topley 3-0-25-1, Archer 4-0-33-1, Curran 2-0-25-1, Rashid 4-0-25-1, Jordan 3-0-37-3, Livingstone 4-0-24-0.

**England**  
P Salt b Bumrah 5 (8)  
J Buttler c Pant b Patel 23 (15)  
M Ali st Pant b Patel 8 (10)  
J Bairstow b Patel 0 (3)  
H Brook b Kuldeep 25 (19)  
S Curran lbw Kuldeep 2 (4)  
L Livingstone run out 11 (16)  
C Jordan lbw Kuldeep 1 (5)  
J Archer lbw Bumrah 21 (15)  
A Rashid run out 2 (2)  
R Topley not out 3 (3)  
**Extras** (lb 2) 2  
**Total** (all out in 16.4 ovs) 103  
**FoW**: 1-26, 2-34, 3-35, 4-46, 5-49, 6-68, 7-72, 8-86, 9-88  
**Bowling**: Arshdeep 2-0-17-0, Bumrah 2.4-0-12-2, Axar 4-0-23-3, Kuldeep 4-0-19-3, Jadeja 3-0-16-0, Pandya 1-0-14-0.



ICC T20  
WORLD CUP

JUNE 2 TO JUNE 29

## At Euro hub Berlin, cricket finds a few new followers

Rasesh Mandani

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**MUMBAI:** You would think all that a sports fan sitting in Italy would currently remember is Mattia Zaccagni's last-minute stunner against Croatia. Who would care about cricket in Germany when Euro 2024 is being staged there?

That may be so, but several zappy conversations among netizens point to people catching the ongoing T20 World Cup at the unlikelyst pockets of the world. 'Money saved,' a cricket viewer from Rome posted on X. 'No more watching Amitabh Bachchan ads,' said another from Berlin.

These are estimated to be Zoomers (born between 1996-2010) who moved from the Indian sub-continent to Europe for study or work, filled with glee to discover

the icc.tv free-of-cost and ads-free stream.

For the first time, the World Cup's fan feed is freely available on International Cricket Council's (ICC) website and app to all regions of the globe outside cricket's catchment market. It's a shift of policy from handing out Rest of the world media rights for low revenue and relying on the primary broadcaster to sub-license it to local players.

"So far, it has completely exceeded our expectations," said Finn Bradshaw, head of digital at ICC. "We have 3 million people who have watched a match. Also, the average watch-time is an hour, which shows people are not going away."

A lot of the people watching the entire match are expats from the Indian sub-continent following

their team. This inference is drawn from the log-in data. Other than attracting new fans, a key objective for cricket's governing body is to derive country-wise fan data—absolute gold to drive future growth strategy.

**Growing interest in Nepal**  
That's how the ICC knows of the huge growth potential in Nepal. The hilly nation's love for cricket may not be new-found but it has certainly grown after Nepal's World Cup qualification.

The first-time entrants showed only glimpses of form during the tournament. They ran South Africa close. But the unbridled support the Nepal team received from supporters who filled the Dallas and Florida stadium—they danced through the rains despite the wash-out against Sri Lanka—

was indicative of genuine fandom—among expats on-ground and viewers online. Three of the top five most watched matches on the free stream feature Nepal, only behind India-Pakistan and India-Australia. "We knew from the engagement during the qualifiers, how passionate Nepal fans were. But we weren't prepared. Our estimates were one-third of how it went. It blew us out of water," said Bradshaw. "Nepal is only 30 million people. But cricket is better with fans like that."

After Nepal, you wouldn't have guessed, the live stream has received top viewership in Japan, Korea, Germany and Malaysia as per ICC data. Although detailed profile of these viewers is not available, cricket could be attracting some new fans.

Only some, as even a 20-team

World Cup is just a start. Although the ICC is 108 member-strong outside the 12 Test-playing nations, most teams are rated minnows. With no exclusive rights deals in Afghanistan, Netherlands and Papua New Guinea other than Nepal, fans would have watched their teams play.

Matches are being streamed live in Israel, Slovakia, even Vatican City. But not until cricket debuts at Olympics 2028 would more people be able to figure why a six-run win for India over Pakistan is not the same as 119-113 as The New York Times reported. Some matches of the World Cup's league stage were played in the USA. But for now, the American players as well as viewers are all expats from cricket-playing nations.

For viewership, these expats are

a fan base by themselves. Fantasy and predictor games are efforts to get them to watch matches other than those featuring their nations.

"Among expats watching the live stream, we are conscious that people don't move out for a couple of years but change their lives. We want to make sure that they and their kids don't lose touch with cricket. Else, they might find other sports," he said.

Buoyed by viewership for the free stream, ICC could consider offering local commentary for certain pockets in future events. Interestingly, football country Brazil is having their own localised live stream of the T20 World Cup. ESPNBrasil is showing the semi-finals and the final in Portuguese with Brazil women's captain Roberta Moretti Avery leading the broadcast.

## Proteas dismantle Afghans, enter first World Cup final

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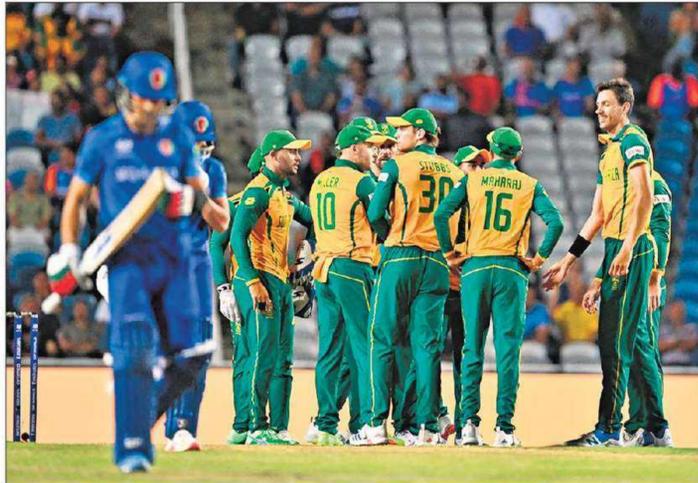
**KOLKATA:** The jinx has been broken. South Africa are in a World Cup final, riding on a clinical bowling performance with Marco Jansen, Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje taking turns to dismantle Afghanistan's top-order before Tabraiz Shamsi ran through the lower order to bundle them out for 56 at Port of Spain on Wednesday night.

Reeza Hendricks and Aiden Markram then guided South Africa to a nine-wicket win, a record eighth for the team in this World Cup. The occasion clearly got to Afghanistan after two emotionally draining wins against Australia and Bangladesh as they couldn't come up with a back-up strategy once South Africa's pacers got a breakthrough in the form of opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz, the highest scorer of the tournament.

"It was a tough night for us as a team and we could've done better than that," said Afghanistan skipper Rashid Khan after the defeat. That said, this has been Afghanistan's most successful World Cup campaign in their 20-year international journey, and Khan wants his team to build on this success. "If you told us we would be playing the semi-final against South Africa, we would accept that. Next time when we participate in a tournament like this, we will have the belief."

Afghanistan's bowling has been first-class but for too long their batting has been reliant on the stragglers Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran give them. They finally ran out of luck when Jansen had Gurbaz caught at slip by Reeza Hendricks in the first over of the match.

Afghanistan prefer to defend but they failed to show the tenacity



South Africa's players celebrate the dismissal of Afghanistan's Rahmanullah Gurbaz.

to adjust to a Tarauba pitch that had variable bounce and offered a fair bit of movement to the seamers. Gurbaz's dismissal triggered unfounded panic that sunk Afghanistan's hopes even before the Powerplay was over.

Gulbadin Naib was bowled by an incoming delivery from Jansen, Zadran was nowhere near Rabada's incoming delivery, and Mohammad Nabi too was squared up by the nip of the seam three balls later. Once Anrich Nortje had dismissed Azmatullah Omarzai—caught at the deep by Tristan Stubbs—Afghanistan were 28/6 and in no shape or state to mount a comeback.

Khan conceded there was a lot of "hard work to be done, especially in the middle order." "We need to be aggressive and have someone to take the innings deep,"

he said. "We have achieved some good results but when we come back in the tournament, we need to do better, especially in the batting department."

Even the most optimistic Afghanistan fan knew the lowest total in a T20 World Cup semi-final didn't stand a great chance to be defended. But they tried. Eighteen dots had been bowled within the first four overs when Quinton de Kock's stumps were taken apart by Fazalhaq Farooqi.

Visibly bothered by the variable bounce, Hendricks and Markram took their time till Afghanistan's pacers started faltering on their lengths. Couple of cracking drives off the shorter balls and South Africa were on their way to a famous win.

"It feels good. It's a massive squad effort. Really chuffed for us

to have one more crack at lifting that trophy," said skipper Aiden Markram, adding that South Africa too would have opted to bat had they won the toss.

"Fortunate to have lost that toss, we also would've batted. The bowlers got it in the right areas and kept it really simple in these conditions. We had a bit of luck and managed to get a bit of a partnership. There are a lot of people waking up with a little bit more grey hair, but this win will be more comforting for them. We've never been there (final) before, but there's a lot of belief. It takes a full squad to put together a really good game of cricket."

**Brief scores:** Afghanistan 56 in 11.5 ovs (Shamsi 3/6, Jansen 3/16) South Africa 60/1 in 8.5 ovs (Hendricks 29\*). **SA won by 9 wkts.**

### Venezuela in Copa America quarters

**INGLEWOOD:** Salomón Rondón scored from the spot in the 57th minute to help Venezuela advance to the Copa America quarter-finals with 1-0 victory over Mexico, who stare at early exit. Venezuela, who beat Ecuador 2-1 in their opener, are assured of finishing among the top two in Group B.

### Rahane joins Leicestershire

**LEICESTER:** Ajinkya Rahane has signed with Leicestershire for the second half of the ongoing season, the club announced on Thursday. As per the deal, he will be featuring in the team's final five games of the ongoing County Championship, besides playing in the One Day Cup, where the Foxes are the defending champions. The 36-year-old joins Leicestershire in place of Wiaan Mulder, who is expected to travel to the West Indies with South Africa in August.

### Global Chess League 2nd edition in Oct

**BENGALURU:** The Global Chess League is set for its second edition in London in October. The 10-day event featuring top players will take place at from October 3 to 12. While this year's line-up is yet to be formally announced, the players will compete in a joint team format consisting of six players, including two top women players and a prodigy player in each team.

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