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Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

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## Education Promotion Society for India

# THE WORLD

## TOP OF THE WORLD



Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako in London, Thursday

### UNITED KINGDOM King Charles meets Japan's Emperor as he ends formal visit

London: Britain's King Charles and Queen Camilla met Japan's Emperor Naruhito and his wife to say goodbye on Thursday, at the end of a three-day state visit which has included a carriage ride, state banquet and visits to cultural and scientific centres. The final meeting between the two royal couples took place at Buckingham Palace and comes towards the end of the 64-year-old emperor and Empress Masako's trip to Britain. The two heads of state have been highlighting the military, business and cultural ties between Britain and Japan over the course of the visit. **REUTERS**

### BRAZIL Top court makes personal use of marijuana legal

Rio De Janeiro: Brazil decriminalized marijuana for personal use on Wednesday, making the nation of 203 million the largest to take such a measure and the latest sign of a growing global acceptance of the drug. Brazil's top court ruled that Brazilians could possess up to 40 grams of cannabis — roughly enough for 80 joints — without facing penalties. The court asked Brazil's Congress and health authorities to then set the permanent amount of marijuana that citizens could possess. Selling marijuana remains a crime. **REUTERS**

### PAKISTAN Interior Minister asserts Chinese nationals' safety

New York: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday said Pakistan is "proud" of its friendship with all-weather ally China, as he asserted that "foolproof arrangements" have been made for the security of Chinese nationals working on major infrastructure projects in some restive provinces. Naqvi made the remarks during a meeting with his Chinese counterpart Qi Yanjun at the office of China's mission to the United Nations in New York. Geo News reported. Both ministers are currently here to attend a United Nations conference. **PTI**

## EX-GENERAL LEADS ASSAULT, GETS ARRESTED



(Clockwise from left) Bolivian President Luis Arce surrounded by supporters and media outside the government palace; Bolivian General Juan Jose Zuniga after being arrested for a coup attempt; Supporters of Bolivian President Luis Arce crowd into Plaza Murillo in Bolivia's administrative capital La Paz on Wednesday. AP & Reuters



# Bolivia coup bid fails after armed forces attack presidential palace

President Arce calls for support from citizens, appoints new military commander

REUTERS  
LA PAZ, JUNE 27

BOLIVIAN ARMED forces pulled back from the presidential palace in La Paz Wednesday evening and a general was arrested after President Luis Arce slammed a "coup" attempt against the state and called for global support. Earlier in the day, military units led by General Juan Jose Zuniga, recently stripped of his military command, had gathered in the central Plaza Murillo square, home to the presidential palace and Congress. A Reuters witness saw an armored vehicle ram a door of the presidential palace and soldiers rush in. "Today the country is facing an



attempted coup d'état. Today the country faces once again interests so that democracy in Bolivia is cut short," Arce said in comments from the presidential palace. "The Bolivian people are summoned today. We need the Bolivian people

to organize and mobilize against the coup d'état in favor of democracy." A few hours later, soldiers withdraw from the square and police take control of the plaza. Police arrested Zuniga and took him to an undisclosed destination. Inside the presidential palace, Arce swore in José Wilson Sanchez as the military commander, Zuniga's former role. "I order that all personnel mobilized... return to their units," Sanchez said. "Stop destroying, stop impoverishing our country, stop humiliating our army," he said, flanked by soldiers, insisting the action being taken was supported by the public. Zuniga said later that Arce had on Sunday asked him to "raise something up" to boost his popularity, without offering evidence.

**E** Divided country already in crisis  
WHILE PRESIDENT Luis Arce heralded his success in putting down the coup bid, it has uncovered tense political and economic crises in the country. While the ruling party is divided between him and party grandee and icon Evo Morales. Gas exports that helped drive the country's "economic miracle" in the 2000s have dried up, leading to a dangerous decline in foreign reserves that are near zero.

### Protesters clash with Kenya's police day after tax hike rollback



Police beat up people in Nairobi on Thursday. AP

Nairobi: Kenyan police fired teargas at dozens of protesters and blocked off streets leading to the presidential palace on Thursday as small demonstrations continued in several cities, even after the president bowed to pressure to withdraw a tax hike bill. Turnout was well down from the height of the mass rallies sparked by the bill over the past week. President William Ruto withdrew the legislation on Wednesday, a day after clashes killed 23 people and parliament was stormed and set alight. In Nairobi, police and soldiers patrolled the streets on Thursday and blocked access to State House. Police fired teargas to disperse several dozen people who had gathered in the city. **REUTERS**

# China's Communist Party expels two former ministers over graft

LAURIE CHEN  
BEIJING, JUNE 27

CHINA'S COMMUNIST Party on Thursday expelled former defence minister Li Shangfu and his predecessor Wei Fenghe for "serious violations of discipline", a euphemism for corruption, state news agency Xinhua reported. Li was suspected of receiving "huge sums of money" in bribes as well as bribing others, and an investigation found he "did not fulfill political responsibilities"



and "sought personnel benefits for himself and others", the report said, citing the Communist Party's Central Committee which ordered the investigation. "As a senior leading cadre of

the party and the army, Li Shangfu betrayed his original mission... betrayed the trust of the Party Central Committee and Central Military Commission... and caused great damage to the party cause and national defence," the report said. Wei Fenghe, Li's predecessor, had disappeared from public view since he was replaced last March during a planned cabinet reshuffle. Wei was head of the strategic People's Liberation Army Rocket Force from 2015-17. **REUTERS**

# Sunak, Starmer face off in last TV debate a week before general polls

REUTERS  
LONDON, JUNE 27

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.



Keir Starmer and Rishi Sunak in the BBC debate Wednesday

With Tories trailing Labour by around 20 points, the PM went on the attack, accusing Starmer of not being straight with the country on migration and tax, urging voters not to "surrender" to Labour. Starmer responded that Sunak was too rich to understand the concerns of most ordinary Britons. A YouGov poll said the debate had been a tie, with both on 50%.

## INTIMIDATION OF POLITICIANS CAN'T CONTINUE, SAYS HARRIS IRISH PM CONDEMNS BOMB HOAX AT HOME



Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris said a hoax bomb threat made to his home on Wednesday night is "utterly unacceptable" and that the intimidation of politicians and families cannot continue. There have been increased instances of people gathering outside homes of Irish ministers, sometimes wearing masks and erecting anti-migrant banners. **REUTERS**

## 'NO DECISION YET'

# Moscow considering downgrade of ties with West: Kremlin

'Standard practice for states that face hostile manifestations'

REUTERS  
MOSCOW, JUNE 27

THE KREMLIN said on Thursday that Russia is considering a possible downgrading of diplomatic relations with the West due to the deeper involvement of the United States and its allies in the Ukraine war, though no decision has yet been made.

"The issue of lowering the level of diplomatic relations is a standard practice for states that face unfriendly or hostile manifestations," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters when asked about the possibility of such a move. "Due to the growing involvement of the West in the conflict over Ukraine, the Russian Federation cannot but consider various options for responding to such hostile Western intervention in the Ukrainian crisis."

Peskov said that no decision had yet been made on the matter and that Russia was considering different ways to respond to the West.



Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy with the Dutch PM & NATO chief nominee Mark Rutte in Brussels on Friday. Reuters

## EU leaders convene to discuss top jobs, sign defence deal with Ukraine

Brussels: European Union leaders are to agree on Thursday on the strategic course for the EU and on the people to run its institutions for the next five years, with special focus on helping Ukraine fend off Russia and bolstering the EU's own defences. Leaders of the 27 EU countries are to start their two-day summit by signing a security agreement with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to demonstrate their support for the country fighting off Moscow's invasion for a third year. **REUTERS**

# Israel asks Gaza City civilians to go south, Rafah ops in final stage

REUTERS  
GAZA CITY, JUNE 27

ISRAEL STORMED a neighbourhood in Gaza City on Thursday, telling Palestinians as the tanks moved in that they must move south, and bombed the southern city of Rafah in what it says are the final stages of an operation against Hamas militants there.

Residents of the Shejaia neighbourhood in Gaza City said they were taken by surprise by tanks rolling in and firing in the early afternoon, with drones also attacking after overnight bombing.



Palestinians flee their homes following an Israeli military operation in Shejaia in Gaza City on Thursday. Reuters

"It sounded as if the war is restarting, a series of bombings that destroyed several houses in our area and shook the buildings," Mohammad Jamal, 25, a resident of Gaza City, told Reuters. The Palestinian Civil Emergency Service said there were reports of people killed and wounded in Shejaia but their teams were unable to reach them because of the ongoing offensive. Three people were reported killed there in the earlier bombing. Israel accuses Hamas of hiding among civilians and says it warns displaced people to get out of the way of its operations.

# Two Maldives ministers arrested for 'performing black magic' on Muizzu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MALE, JUNE 27

MALDIVES POLICE have arrested two serving ministers for allegedly performing black magic on President Mohamed Muizzu, media reported on Thursday.

Shamnaz Saleem, who was a state minister at the Environment Ministry, her ex-husband Adam Rameez, who was serving as a minister at the President's Office, and two others were arrested, local media said quoting the police, which declined to share any information about the arrests.

"Shamnaz, alongside two other individuals, was arrested on Sunday. All three of them have been remanded in custody for seven days. She was suspended from her post on Wednesday as



Shamnaz Saleem (left); Adam Rameez

per the Environment Ministry," news portal Sun.mv reported, adding Rameez too has been suspended Thursday. Both Shamnaz and Rameez have worked with Muizzu as members of Male City Council while he was Mayor. "However, he has been absent from the public light in the past five months or so," Sun.mv reported. Neither the Maldives government nor the President's office has made any official comment.

## 2 hardliners drop out on eve of Iran presidential race

Dubai: Two headline candidates dropped out of Iran's presidential election on Thursday, a day ahead of the landmark vote, and called for unity among forces supporting the country's Islamic revolution, state media reported.

Iran's tightly controlled election on Friday follows Ebrahim Raisi's death in a helicopter crash last month. Tehran's mayor Alireza Zakani and head of the Martyrs' Foundation Amirhossein Ghazizadeh-Hashemi exited the race, state media said.

They were expected to win just 1.7% and 2% of votes respectively according to a 22-23 June poll carried out by the Iran Students Polling Centre. Their departure leaves four presidential candidates and Zakani urged the two most prominent headline ones to join forces to prevent moderate Masoud Pezeshkian from winning. **REUTERS**

## JOURNEY FROM EUROPE OR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA TO SOUTH AMERICA LIKELY TOOK 5-8 DAYS

# Scientists find first evidence that butterflies crossed the Atlantic Ocean

MONIQUE BROUILLETTE  
JUNE 27

EARLY ONE morning in late October 2013, Gerard Talavera, an entomologist, saw something highly unusual — a flock of painted lady butterflies stranded on a beach in French Guiana.

The painted lady, or the species Vanessa cardui, is one of the world's most widespread butterflies, but it isn't found in South America. Yet there they were, lying in the sand of the continent's eastern shores, their wings tattered and riddled with holes. Judging by their condition, the

bleary-eyed Dr. Talavera, who works at the Institut Botànic de Barcelona in Spain, guessed they were recovering from a long flight.

The insect is a champion of long-distance travel, routinely crisscrossing the Sahara on a trek from Europe to sub-Saharan Africa, covering up to 9,000 miles. Could they also have made the 2,600-mile journey across the Atlantic Ocean without any place to stop and refuel? Talavera wanted to find out.

Following the long-range movements of insects is challenging. Tools like radio-tracking devices are too large for insects' small and delicate frames, and radar al-

lows for monitoring only of specific locations. Scientists have had to rely on educated guesses and citizen-scientist observations to piece together travel patterns.

In 2018, Talavera developed a way to use a common genetic sequencing tool to analyze pollen DNA. Pollen grains stick to pollinating insects like butterflies when they are feeding on nectar from flowers. Talavera sequenced the pollens' DNA to determine which plant they came from. Later, the DNA could be traced to flora to chart the insect's path.

In a paper published Tuesday in the journal Nature Communications, Talavera and



The painted lady butterfly was found in South America's French Guiana while the species was not found in the continent. NYT

his team describe a crucial clue to cracking the mystery of the stranded butterflies: Pollen clinging to the butterflies in French Guiana matched flowering shrubs in West African countries.

That suggested the butterflies had crossed the Atlantic. The idea was tantalizing. But Talavera and his team were careful not to jump to conclusions.

In addition to studying the pollen, the researchers sequenced the butterflies' genomes to trace their lineage and found they had European-African roots. Then, they used an insect-tracking tool called isotope tracing to confirm that the butterflies' natal origins

were in Western Europe, North Africa and West Africa.

"This is a brilliant piece of biological detective work," said David Lohman, an evolutionary ecologist at the City College of New York who was not involved in the work. Talavera's forensic-detective-like tracing supported the conclusion that the painted lady butterflies made the first transoceanic journey ever recorded by an insect.

It's likely they were on their typical route through Africa when they were swept off course by a strong wind. Once over the ocean, the butterflies kept flying until they reached the shore.

Insect migrations are the

largest movement of biomass around the world. Over southern England alone, a staggering 3.5 trillion insects migrate annually. Their ability to transport pollen, fungi and even plant diseases across vast distances highlights the global impact of these tiny critters. With the painted ladies' oceanic migration, experts say, scientists may have a better way of tracking these journeys.

The finding showed that the delicate creatures could endure a difficult and dangerous journey, which most likely lasted between five and eight days. It also demonstrates how much scientists still have to learn. **NYT**

## BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



## Blinken: Rise in hate speech, laws against conversion in India a concern



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken

DIVYAA  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

RELEASING THE 2023 Report on International Religious Freedom on Wednesday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken flagged a "concerning increase" in anti-conversion laws, hate speech, and demolitions of homes and places of worship belonging to minority communities in India. "Today, governments around the world continue to target individuals, shutter places of worship, forcibly displace communities and imprison people because of their religious beliefs," Blinken said. He said that even in the US, reports of hate crimes and incidents targeting Muslims and Jews have increased dramatically.

"In India, we see a concerning increase in anti-conversion laws, hate speech, demolitions of homes and places of worship for members of minority faith communities," he said. "At the same time, people around the world are also working hard to protect religious freedom," he added.

The annual publication brought out by the US State Department tracks threats to religious freedom in almost 200 countries.

While releasing the report, Rashad Hussain, Ambassador at Large, Office of International Religious Freedom, US State Department, said it also documents cases where violence is occurring at the societal level, contributing to the repression of religious communities. "In India, for example, Christian communities reported that local police aided mobs that disrupted worship services over accusations of

## ADDRESS TO JOINT SITTING OF PARLIAMENT

# Mandate for strong & decisive govt, historic steps this Budget: President

### 'Emergency darkest chapter of direct attack on Constitution'

VIKAS PATHAK  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

UNDERLINING THAT the Lok Sabha election mandate was for a "strong and decisive government" to ensure that the "work of making India a developed nation continues uninterrupted", President Droupadi Murmu said Thursday that the Union Budget next month will see "many historic steps" along with "major economic and social decisions". Reflecting the views of the new government in her address to the joint sitting of Parliament, the President said, "The pace of reforms will be further accelerated in tune with the aspirations of people of India for rapid development."

Her speech addressed the imperatives of politics and governance as the NDA coalition began its third consecutive term in office with the BJP no longer in majority on its own in Lok Sabha.

It also echoed the government's counter to the Congress-led Opposition's election campaign of a threat to the Constitution if the BJP were to return to power.

Recalling the Emergency imposed in June 1975 when the Congress government of Indira Gandhi was in power, the President called it the "biggest and darkest chapter of direct attack on the Constitution".

"The Constitution of India has

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju at Parliament House complex on Thursday. PTI

## IN 1998, 2019, 2024

## How 3 NDA speeches framed Constitution, coalition and mandate

VIKAS PATHAK  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27



**EXPLAINED**  
PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU'S ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT Thursday was a strong assertion of continuity

that the next five years would build on the previous ten. Without referring to allies, the speech flagged the "clear majority" to the government for a third term on the back of a "decisive mandate" and invoked the "unstable" (read coalition) governments of the past.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## LS will have Dy Speaker, talks soon to decide if post with NDA or Opp

LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

THE 18TH Lok Sabha will have a Deputy Speaker, a source in the government said Thursday.

"There will be a Deputy Speaker in this House. But it has not yet been decided if the post should be offered to the Opposition or NDA allies or if the

BJP should keep it. There will be discussions on it," the source said. The Congress has been demanding that the Deputy Speaker post go to the Opposition.

In the 17th Lok Sabha, the post remained vacant while in 2014, AIADMK's M Thambi Durai was Deputy Speaker. During the Congress-led UPA's two terms, the post was offered to the BJP

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## 'SEXUAL ASSAULT OF MINOR GIRL'

# Karnataka CID files chargesheet against ex-CM Yediyurappa under POCSO Act

APURVA VISHWANATH  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

THE CRIMINAL Investigation Department (CID) of the Karnataka Police on Thursday filed a chargesheet against former chief minister and senior BJP leader B S Yediyurappa in connection with allegations of sexually assaulting a minor.

The 81-year-old former CM has been charged under Section 8 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, which prescribes punishment for sexual assault of a minor. The law provides for a mandatory minimum sentence of three years which can be extended up to five years in jail.

Additionally, Yediyurappa also faces charges under the Indian Penal Code Sections 354A (sexual harassment), 204 (de-



Former Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa

struction of evidence) and 214 (offering gift or restoration of property in consideration of screening offender).

Three of the former CM's associates, Arun Y M, Rudresh M and Y Mariswamy, have also been accused under IPC Sections 204 and 214 for allegedly destroying evidence of a video recorded by the minor's mother of her confrontation with Yediyurappa after the alleged incident.

In a police complaint filed on March 14, the minor's mother alleged that the incident occurred when she and her daughter

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## Need to probe if Delhi ex-education director got wife a teacher job on forged papers: CBI

GAYATHRI MANI  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

THE CENTRAL Bureau of Investigation has sought permission from the Delhi Chief Secretary to "investigate" a senior IAS officer for allegedly selecting his wife for the post of a postgraduate teacher (PGT) despite her being "over age" and submitting "forged teaching experience certificates". Udit Prakash Rai, a 2007 batch IAS officer (AGMUT cadre), was the Director (Education), Delhi from August 2020 to October 2021.

"During enquiry, it is revealed that Udit Prakash Rai, while posted and functioning as

Director (Education)... in criminal conspiracy with the office bearers of Management of Schools run by the Delhi Tamil Educational Association (DTEA) and others got selected his wife Shilpi Rai as PGT (postgraduate teacher) Biology on the basis of forged teaching experience certificates and thereby obtained undue benefit for himself as well as for his wife," the CBI wrote to Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar earlier this month.

The agency said its "enquiry has revealed prima facie commission of cognizable offences... and the competent authority of CBI has approved registration of a regular case in the matter".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Shift from past: Chouhan to hold meetings with state farm ministers from July 1

HARIKISHAN SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

IN A departure from the BJP's last two governments, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is set to hold one-on-one meetings with state agriculture ministers, beginning with Chhattisgarh and Assam on July 1.

The Agriculture Ministry is learnt to have written to the state ministers, inviting them for the consultations on issues related



Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan

In the first round on July 1, the agriculture ministers of Chhattisgarh and Assam will meet Chouhan separately at his Krishi Bhawan office, said sources, adding that similar meetings have been planned for other states in the following days.

Confirming the proposed meeting, Chhattisgarh's Agriculture Minister Ram Vichar Netam told *The Indian Express* that he would seek revision of unit cost under Central schemes which are being implemented

by the state government. He said the state government would also seek the Centre's support for promoting millet farming, discuss issues related to minor irrigation and cold chain storage for farm produce.

No such consultation meetings with state ministers were held in the last 10 years of the BJP-led government. During the last government, three crucial farm sector laws were introduced through an Ordinance in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## More police powers, denigrating Satyagraha, names in Hindi: Karnataka objects in its report to Centre

KIRAN PARASHAR & ARUN JANARDHANAN  
BENGALURU, CHENNAI, JUNE 27

FROM NAMING the three new laws in Hindi; not making rape gender neutral; introducing community service as a punishment without defining it; allowing a police officer 14 days to make a preliminary investigation before registering an FIR — the Karnataka government has

flagged key issues on the new criminal code to the Centre.

"While appreciating the need for de-colonisation, the content in the revised Bill merely reflects tokenism and ad-hocism," an expert committee headed by Karnataka Law Minister H K Patil recommended to the Centre.

The 88-page report lists various provisions which it deems incongruous. The report was submitted to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on October 17, 2023 after which it was for-



warded to the Home Ministry. While criminal law, including all

matters included in the Indian Penal Code, is part of the Concurrent List under the Constitution, since law and order is a state subject, states will play a key role in the implementation of the new Sanhitas.

Separately, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee have written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, seeking deferral of the implementation of the three new laws. As per

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Tracked from UK, how a sticky GPS device under Haryana INLD chief's car led to his murder

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SUKHBIR SIWACH  
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 27



Haryana INLD chief Nafe Singh Rathee



The spot where Nafe Singh Rathee was gunned down in Haryana's Bahadurgarh on February 25. Manoj Dhaka

submitted in a CBI court in Panchkula on May 30. According to the chargesheet, Kapil, one of Delhi's most wanted gangsters who is currently suspected to be hiding in the UK, allegedly tracked Nafe's vehicle for days before his murder with the help of a portable GPS device that was attached magnetically to his Toyota Fortuner's stepney (located under the car).

The investigation so far by the CBI, which took over the case

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SUNDAY OPEN

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Mandate for strong & decisive govt, historic steps this Budget: President

stood up to every challenge and every test in the past decades. 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. The entire country felt outraged. But the country emerged victorious over such unconstitutional forces as the traditions of the Republic lie at the core of India," she said.

chise government; trust in good governance, stability and continuity; trust in honesty and hard work; trust in security and prosperity; trust in government's guarantees and delivery, trust in India's resolve to be Viksit Bharat." "It is a stamp of approval for my government's mission of service and good governance undertaken in the past 10 years. It is a mandate that the work of making India a developed nation continues uninterrupted and India attains its goals," she said. "My government will present its first Budget in the forthcoming session. This Budget will be an effective document of the government's far-reaching policies and futuristic vision. Along with major economic and social decisions, many historic steps will also be seen in this Budget."

sitting. We should collectively demonstrate every attempt to undermine the credibility of our democracy. We all remember those times when ballot papers were snatched and looted. To ensure the sanctity of the electoral process, it was decided to use EVMs. The EVM has passed every test, from the Supreme Court to the people's court, in the last few decades," she said. She highlighted the Lok Sabha election turnout in J&K: "A very heartening aspect of this election emerged from Jammu and Kashmir. The Kashmir Valley broke all records of voter turnout of many decades. In the last four decades, we had 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."

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. 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." In an oblique reference to Opposition attacks on the government over the alleged paper leaks, the President said, "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. Parliament has also enacted a strict law against unfair means in examinations. My government is working towards major reforms in examination-related bodies, their functioning and all aspects of the examination process."

to always remember that making India a developed nation is the aspiration and resolve of every citizen of the country. All of us are responsible for ensuring that no obstacles come in the way of achieving this resolution. Opposition of policies and obstruction of parliamentary functioning are two different things. When Parliament conducts its business smoothly, when healthy deliberations take place here, when far-reaching decisions are taken, then the people repose confidence not only in the government but also in the entire system. Therefore, I am confident that every moment of Parliament will be fully utilised and public interest will be given priority."

How 3 NDA speeches framed coalition, mandate

Compared to President Ram Nath Kovind's inaugural speech in 2019 and President K R Narayanan's in 1998, when Atal Bihari Vajpayee came at the head of a coalition government, Thursday's speech had telling messages. In President Murmu's address, the coalition phase has been referred to as a phase of "unstable governments" that lasted "several decades," when "many governments, even if willing, were neither able to bring reforms nor take critical decisions." Mandate 2024, she said, was a "decisive" one and one of trust in "policy, intention, dedication and decisions."

The text of 2019 speech used the expression New India 21 times. This time, there is no mention of "New India" in Murmu's speech. Her speech uses the term "changing India" once, referring to infrastructure development as the new face of "changing India." Narayanan's address had one reference to New India — one that would be "free from insecurity, hunger and corruption". In her speech, President Murmu referred to the Constitution 11 times — with five of the references being about challenges to and the defence of the Constitution over the decades, particularly during the Emergency. Kovind in his speech to both Houses Parliament on June 20, 2019, as the 17th Lok Sabha began, referred to the Constitution eight times, without referring to any "attack" on the Constitution. In his speech, the Constitution was cited as providing "guidance for ensuring social, economic and political justice, as well as securing equality and liberty for all citizens."

begins, and this would be the date of the first sitting of the Lok Sabha. However, there was no mention of simultaneous elections this time. Kovind's speech thanked the Election Commission for the successful conduct of the elections but Murmu made a specific mention of the controversy over electronic voting machines (EVMs), which some Opposition leaders had raised questions about. Kovind's 2019 speech had no direct attack on the Opposition, only saying that people in 2014 had elected a government with absolute majority after three decades, "in order to take the country out of a sense of gloom and instability". This time, the President, without naming the Congress, cited the Emergency, and added that the good turnout in the Lok Sabha polls showed that Jammu and Kashmir had given a befitting reply to "enemies" of India "within the country and outside."

Chouhan to meet state ministers

June 2020, in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic. The laws were later repealed. While some ministries like food organise conferences of state ministers, these are different from such one-on-one consultations. Soon after he assumed office on June 11, Chouhan had said that he would hold discussions with all stakeholders, including state agriculture ministers. "I am not proud or arrogant that I know everything, or only the IAS officers sitting in my office know everything. I am thirsty for knowledge. I want to take the best from wherever I can, for the welfare of agriculture and farmers," he had said on June 22.

Agrawal, who heads the 26-member MSP panel that was set up after the farm laws were repealed. Chand, a supporter of farm sector reforms, is also a member of the committee, which is yet to submit its report. On June 21, Chouhan also held a video conference with the agriculture ministers of major states producing pulses — Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar, Karnataka and Telangana. The last two states have Congress governments. Chouhan, who is staying at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) campus in the Capital till he gets his official accommodation, also met the chief ministers of three states — Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim and Goa — during his first few days in the ministry.

Dy Speaker

and its MPs Charanjit Singh Atwal and Kariya Munda became Deputy Speaker in 2004 and 2009, respectively. This time, BJP partners TDP and JD(U) have maintained that they will not demand the post. On Wednesday, TDP national spokesperson Pattabi Ram Kommarreddy told The Indian Express: "We are not aspiring for the post. We have made it very clear." The BJP too, he said, has not approached the TDP to fill the post. Another top TDP leader said, "From the beginning, the TDP has not expressed its interest in either the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker post. We have left it open to the other (NDA) allies, that is if they are interested."

Karnataka CID files chargesheet

visited Yediyurappa's residence on February 2, 2024, for help in seeking justice in an earlier case of alleged sexual assault by a relative on the girl. A police case was registered, and the case was transferred to the CID on March 15. The chargesheet, filed in a fast-track court designated for POCSO cases, comes a day before the Karnataka High Court is set to hear Yediyurappa's petitions seeking anticipatory bail and quashing of the FIR against him. The minor's family has also filed a fresh plea in the HC alleging that the CID investigation was not moving fast enough. Both the cases are expected to be taken up together on Friday.

Karnataka report to Centre

a notification in the official gazette, the three laws are set to come to force on July 1. "The replacement of the... three Acts has been done in haste without adequate deliberations and consultations. These enactments are falling within List III — Concurrent List of the Constitution of India and hence extensive consultation ought to have been done with the State Government. The States were not given adequate time to express their views and the new laws were passed by the Parliament without the participation of the Opposition parties," Stalin had written to Shah. On the title of the laws, the Karnataka government cited Article 348 of the Constitution which states that legislation introduced in Parliament must be in English. Stalin also flagged the Constitution, objecting to the use of Sanskrit words in the title. Patil, speaking to The Indian Express, said the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita aims to suppress anti-government voices since its provision could potentially render a hunger strike a crime. "The rigorous form of Satyagraha or hunger strike is of great significance in India's freedom history. It played a major role in our Independence movement and after attaining freedom, hunger strike has been a tool to caution the wrongdoings of the governments. It is unfortunate that this category of attempt to commit suicide is not decriminalised. This design of prohibiting the voice of the public amounts to violation of fundamental rights and denigrating the philosophy of Satyagraha," he said.

Karnataka report to Centre

gathered evidence of the alleged incident, including the minor's statement under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, statements of other witnesses, and data retrieved from a cellphone on which the purported evidence was recorded. "The HC had said we cannot take coercive steps but filing a chargesheet is not a coercive step. In fact, in POCSO cases, it should be done soon," an officer involved in the case told The Indian Express. Yediyurappa has denied the allegations and said he had helped the mother and daughter in the past. "There is no prima facie material on record which discloses that the petitioner has committed the alleged offence of sexual assault," states his petition for quashing the FIR. The former CM has claimed that the case was politically motivated and there was over a month's delay in filing the complaint. Yediyurappa will face trial before a special POCSO court in Bengaluru. "The state preferred the POCSO court since it is a 'victim and offence centric' court, while the MP/MLA case is offender centric," the officer said.

Haryana killing

on March 5, revealed that Nafe's shooters followed his car for three days, allegedly based on GPS information shared by Kapil. The probe says the shooters stayed in touch with Kapil over Signal, Facebook and WhatsApp for three months to plan the murder. While the chargesheet does not mention who fitted the GPS tracker on the SUV, it states that the device was purchased by an "unknown person" from a shop in Delhi's Dwarka on February 7. The probe has also revealed that a fake Aadhaar card in the name of a Bihar resident was used to activate the device. From February 8 to March 2, the probe has revealed, Kapil logged in to view the GPS location of Nafe's vehicle from a UK-based IP address. While the chargesheet names four NCR residents — Aashish, Sachin, Atul and Nakul — as the shooters, Dharmender from Rohtak and Amit Gulia from Delhi stand accused of conspiring with Kapil to murder Nafe. While Aashish, Sachin and Dharmender are in custody, Amit was already in jail in another case. Speaking to The Indian Express, Nafe's son Jitender Rathee said, "The police told me that a magnetic GPS device was attached to the car's stepney." Sachin and Aashish, who were arrested from Goa on March 4, told the Haryana Police's SIT that "they killed the former MLA on Kapil Sangwan's directions". According to the CBI, the conspiracy was hatched in November 2023 but the motive is unknown. The investigation has revealed that the two alleged conspirators, Dharmender and Amit, were in Tihar jail in November 2023, but Dharmender came out on November 11, 2023. He told the police that Kapil instructed him to purchase a getaway car. Probe also mentions that accused shooter Atul, who is on the run, provided pistols to two other shooters. Footage dated February 24 from CCTV cameras installed at Nafe's house and the street shows the getaway car and one of the accused shooters talking on the phone. Though the shooters allegedly started following Nafe from February 23 onwards, they failed to find an opportunity to carry out the hit till the evening of February 25, when the former MLA's vehicle stopped at a railway crossing.

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Blinken: Rise in hate speech

conversion activities or stood by while mobs attacked them and then arrested the victims on conversion charges," he said. The section of the report on India mentions how 10 of the 28 states have laws restricting religious conversions for all faiths. Some of these states also impose penalties specifically against forced religious conversions for the purpose of marriage, it says. Christians and Muslims were arrested under laws banning forced religious conversions, which, in some cases, were used to harass and imprison members of religious minority groups on false and fabricated charges or for lawful religious practices, it says. Referring to the BJP-led government's proposal to enact a Uniform Civil Code, it says: "Muslim, Sikh, Christian and tribal leaders and some state government officials opposed

the initiative on the ground that it was part of a project to turn the country into a Hindu Rashtra." The report says that in 2023, senior US officials continued to raise concerns about religious freedom with their Indian counterparts. Among other countries, the report says blasphemy laws in Pakistan can help foster a climate of intolerance and hatred that can lead to vigilantes and mob violence. It mentions how several European countries have laws that ban some forms of religious clothing in public spaces. In the past, India has rejected the report, saying it is based on "misinformation and flawed understanding". "Motivated and biased commentary by some US officials only serves to undermine further the credibility of these reports," the MEA said last year.

Need to probe if Delhi ex-education director got wife a teacher job on forged papers: CBI

While Rai did not respond to calls and messages seeking a comment, his wife Shilpi Rai denied any wrongdoing. "They are involving my husband and me in a false case. I have submitted the correct documents during the recruitment process... The advertising (for the teaching vacancy) came while my husband was there (as Education Director), but he was transferred in 2021, and the hiring process started in 2022," she said. "There was a vacancy and I fulfilled the criteria, so I applied... My husband also encouraged me to apply if I wanted to and as long as I met all the criteria. Why can't the wife of an IAS officer apply for a government job? An enquiry is underway now." She said she joined as a teacher in March 2022 and resigned in July 2023 due to personal reasons. In October last year, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena

had ordered the termination from employment of seven teachers from DTEA schools on allegations of using forged documents, and sought a CBI inquiry into their appointment. L-G House officials had, at the time, attributed the development to a recommendation by the Directorate of Vigilance. According to the CBI note sent to the Chief Secretary, "Udit Prakash Rai approved the recruitment of teaching/non-teaching staff on 56 posts at DTEA schools in Delhi on June 18, 2021. Shilpi Rai, wife of Udit Prakash Rai, despite being over age, applied for the post of PGT (Biology) at DTEA schools and submitted four forged teaching experience certificates in support of her application. The said forged teaching experience certificates were got attested by Udit Prakash Rai from his subordinate officer, informing him that the same are genuine." "The statements of witnesses

during the enquiry has shown that Rai used his influence over the members of the Staff Selection Committee to ensure selection of his wife," it states. "The witnesses have confirmed that Rai used his influence over officers of Zone 19 of Directorate of Education to ensure that grants in aid for release of salary of his wife is cleared without much scrutiny of the documents." "The management of DTEA schools awarded 9 marks for experience to Shilpi Rai despite the fact that the last pay certificate or certified copy of pay bill register were not enclosed by her along with aforesaid forged experience teaching certificates submitted by her with the application," it states. According to the CBI, "investigation into the role of Rai" is required "to confirm the... facts". Apart from Shilpi Rai, the CBI's preliminary enquiry also focused on the appointment of five other

teachers. The agency's preliminary enquiry registration report states that "the verification of experience certificates submitted by these candidates was not done properly". It states that the appointments are "malafide and it might be possible that the appointments may have been done in collusion with the management, candidates and staff of Directorate of Education in lieu of extraneous considerations". Rai is currently under suspension. In April last year, the Vigilance department had issued a showcause notice to him for allegedly demolishing a 15th-century monument and building a new government accommodation in its place to move in when he was Delhi Jal Board CEO. The CBI has also sought permission for an investigation against Sharad Kumar Verma, the then deputy education officer; R Raju, honorary secretary, DTEA;

and Govindavel Harikrishnan, principal, DTEA Senior Secondary School, Moti Bagh. Raju was unavailable for comment. Harikrishnan, when contacted, said, "The entire selection, examining, verification process is done by school management... I am just a principal of one school, I am not involved in any process... I was in the selection committee, that is why I think the name has come, but I have nothing to do in the entire process... I just follow directions given by the management and the department." Verma said, "I have already given my statement to the investigating agency in March... I told them I did not arrange any forged document for anyone... (The document) was (from) 11 years ago and I had to countersign the experience certificate issued by a school... I forgot to mention the zone number... I will cooperate with the investigating officials..."

# 3 THE CITY

## NEET-NET ROW

# Anti-NTA stir day 2: Jantar Mantar sees detentions and lathicharge

SOPHIYA MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

POLICE LATHICHARGED members of the Indian Youth Congress (IYC) protesting against the National Testing Agency (NTA) at central Delhi's Jantar Mantar, leading to a sudden escalation on Thursday afternoon.

There was a stampede-like situation when a few from among the protestors climbed a water tanker at the site. After several warnings to demonstrators to stand down, police resorted to a lathicharge, alleging that they were attempting to jump barricades.

Meanwhile, a peaceful demonstration by several student organisations including All India Students Association (AISA), Krantikari Yuva Sangathan (KYS), Disha and Bhagat Singh Chhatra Ekta Manch (BsCEM) continued at the site and later in the evening. The student bodies had started their indefinite strike at the venue on Wednesday when they were detained by the police.

The main demands of the demonstrators included the scrapping of NTA, the resignation of education minister Dharmendra Pradhan and calling for re-conducting the NEET for all.

Donkeys were also sighted at the protest demonstration by the IYC bearing placards such as



The main demands at both sites include the scrapping of NTA. Abhinav Saha

“Dr.gadha’ (Dr.donkey)”, “Modi hai toh mumkin hain, abki baar 719 (If Modi is there, then 719 is possible)” among others.

Vikas Yadav, IYC national chairman who led the demonstration, said, “Hundreds of our protestors have been detained and are at different police stations. Our President was also arrested...With regard to the continuation of protests we will hold discussion after the release of our members and after that decide the next move.”

Shivangi Mishra, 18, the main petitioner for a plea filed in the Supreme Court on June 1 over the alleged NEET exam paper

leaks along with nine other NEET aspirants who sat for her second attempt this year, said things would only become clear by the end of the month.

It would only be after on June 30, when the results of the 813 students who reappeared for the NEET-UG examinations will be announced, she said, that assessing the co-relation of rank inflation and grace marks would become clear. “What was the point of releasing the results early...why was not the NEET-UG examination cancelled even after the exam paper leak allegations?” she asked. Anjali, 23, a postgraduate student in Delhi

University hailing from Bihar, gave her second attempt in the NET examination this year and was present at the protest site.

She said, “NET was the main hope in my fight for freedom and financial independence. The first response I got from family after the integrity of the NTA was questioned was to come back home which indirectly signalled a dead-end for my education. Now, I have nothing to show to them and they have also lost the trust in system.”

She claimed that she has not missed a single protest in the city by the student organisations since the protests erupted across the country over alleged irregularities.

Anjali explained, “We have nowhere to go. Our future is in darkness... I am even considering to go for law studies. I have participated in an indefinite protest since yesterday for the NTA to be immediately scrapped also for the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan who has proved to be so incompetent.”

Meanwhile, activists of the National Students Union of India (NSUI) also barged in the NTA office, raising slogans calling for its closure.

The Delhi Police said a case had been registered in the matter against these students under various sections, including obstructing a public servant, assaulting a public servant and trespassing among others.

## On claim over ‘out-of-syllabus’ question in NEET, Delhi HC seeks NTA’s response

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

THE DELHI High Court has sought a response from the National Testing Agency (NTA) after a petition was moved by a candidate who appeared for the National Entrance cum Eligibility Test (Undergraduate) or NEET (UG) exam. In his plea, the petitioner claimed that there was an “out-of-syllabus question” in the medical entrance exam.

A single-judge bench of Justice Dharmesh Sharma in its June 24 order granted two weeks to the counsel appearing for the NTA, Centre or Union of India (UoI), and the National Medical Commission (NMC) to file their respective affidavits.

“Learned counsels for respondents No.1 to 3 (NTA, NMC and UOI) are present on advance notice and a request is made to grant time to file a short affidavit. Let the same be filed within two weeks from today,” the High Court said.

Even as the petitioner is a “successful candidate”, the plea claims, the student was compelled to approach the HC as his overall ranking has been adversely affected.

The plea claims one question in the Physics section of the paper was based on radioactivity, which is not part of the new syllabus (NEET-2024).

With respect to another question, the plea sought a direction to declare that only one of the options was correct.

## Work on film city near Noida airport expected to ‘begin in four-five months’

DHEERAJ MISHRA  
NOIDA, JUNE 27

IN A step towards the development of an International Film City near Jewar Airport, Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) and Bayview Bhutani Film City Private Limited, a newly formed special purpose vehicle (SPV) led by producer Boney Kapoor and construction giant Bhutani Group, signed a concession agreement on Thursday.

With this, Kapoor said, the construction on the project will start in 4-5 months and the film city will be made functional in three years. The film city will come up in YEIDA’s Sector-21, along the Yamuna Expressway and around 4 km from the upcoming Noida International Airport in Jewar.

Dr Arun Vir Singh, CEO, YEIDA, said it is a big day for the residents of Uttar Pradesh. “It was envisioned two-and-a-half-years ago and is coming to fruition today. Film city is an integral part of the all-round development of the area, which will also have an airport, Indian Railways, Metro, Expressway, Pod Taxi, Rapid Rail and Orbit Rail. There is also a dedicated freight corridor here. There could not have been a more suitable place for Film City. There is a complete ecosystem here,” said Singh after signing the agreement. Filmmaker Kapoor said that he



Boney Kapoor-led firm signed a concession agreement, on Thursday. Express

wants to give more to the society through the project.

“Recently, during visits to London and Los Angeles, I had the opportunity to inspect numerous studios and observe the latest technological advancements in their construction. Our endeavour will be to begin the shooting of the film after building one floor only, so that we feel that the film city has started. This will show the world that the film city has commenced. Our effort will be to give more than what we take,” he said while addressing the media along with Ashish Bhutani, the CEO of Bhutani group, after signing the agreement. On January 30, 2024, Bayview Projects LLP, a firm backed by Kapoor along with the consortium of two other firms won the bid for the development of International Film City.

## Dalit man shot dead in full public view in Faridabad village

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
GURGAON, JUNE 27

A DALIT man was shot dead and another sustained severe injuries in a clash between two groups on Wednesday night in Faridabad, police said.

According to police, the incident took place around 8 pm on Wednesday at Fatehpur Billoch village in Faridabad when a man, identified as Devendra, was shot dead by a group of people.

An FIR has been registered at the Ballabgarh Sadar police station on the complaint of Devendra’s cousin Sundar Lal. In the complaint, Lal said Devendra was going towards the market when a group of men, identified as Om Prakash, Shiv, Dheeraj, Dilip, Krishna, Dhruv, Mangeram, Shamsheer Singh, Jagdish alias Chhotu, Laxman and their relatives, attacked him.

“When they shot him, a crowd gathered in the area. They were firing relentlessly. Despite this, Om Prakash, his sons, and their associates continued firing, using casteist slurs while shooting. During the incident, a bullet struck Babulal in the jaw, and he was hospitalised in critical condition,” the complaint stated.

Police said they received a call from the police control room informing them that there had been a shooting in Fatehpur Billaunch. Upon this information, a team reached the village. Though Devendra was taken to Sarvodaya Hospital, he succumbed to his injuries, police said. No arrests have been made yet in the case.

## Delivery boy stages a robbery to repay debt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

ON JUNE 23, around 2.50pm, a PCR call alerted Shaheen Bagh police station of a robbery. Sonu Kumar (24), who worked as a delivery boy for a popular e-commerce platform, told police he had been robbed at gunpoint by two men who forced him to hand over Rs 22,000 that he had received in cash after delivering different parcels during the day.

During investigation, police identified the registration number of the vehicle used in the robbery and reached one Jai Kumar (26), a resident of Karera Village in Mohan Nagar in Ghaziabad.

There was a twist to the case,

though. On checking Jai’s personal details, police were shocked to find that Sonu and Jai shared the same father and address. It was ultimately revealed that they were, in fact, brothers, and had staged the robbery along with a cousin, Vikas Kumar (19).

Police said that Sonu revealed during questioning that he had taken Rs 50,000 from a friend and needed money to repay the loan.

Police have arrested the trio and recovered the stolen money, along with a toy gun used in the crime. “Jai and Vikas came to the spot on a motorcycle and robbed Rs 22,000 cash from him. The remaining Rs 55,000 was transferred by Sonu to another person to repay his debt,” said Rajesh Deo, DCP, South East Delhi.

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# DIALOGUE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OF DELHI L-G dissolves Delhi govt's think tank; illegal, will approach court, says AAP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

IN YET another move that escalated the tension between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Delhi government and Raj Niwas, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Thursday approved the temporary dissolution of its policy think tank, the Dialogue and Development Commission (DDCD) of Delhi.

Alleging that the aim behind its creation was "only to extend financial benefits" and patronage to "certain favoured political persons" at the "whims and fancies" of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the L-G also approved the removal of the Commission's non-official members till a mechanism was developed for screening and selection of domain experts as its vice-chairman and members as per the rules.

The Delhi government termed Saxena's decision "illegal, unconstitutional and without jurisdiction", adding that it will challenge his order in the courts. The AAP government said the DDCD comes under the jurisdiction of the Delhi Chief Minister and only he has powers to take action on its members.

"Ostensibly, the Commission was created to serve as a policy

## PROJECTS THE DDCD WAS INVOLVED IN

**Delhi's Rozgar Bazaar portal:** An employment linkages platform created in July 2020 as an emergency response during Covid-19 to support job seekers and employers hit by lockdown

**One Delhi app:** A single app equipped with features tracking live location of public buses with route map, contactless ticketing, journey planner, info on EV charging points

**Delhi EV Policy 2020:** Launched in 2020, the



Delhi L-G VK Saxena; CM Arvind Kejriwal

policy aims at mass adoption of electric vehicles to reduce vehicular air pollution in Delhi

**Faceless Transport Services:** The DDCD assisted the transport

department in digitising 33 services

**Rozgar Budget:** The Rozgar Budget, with employment generation at the centre of the annual Budget for the city across sectors, was conceptualised by DDCD

**Green Delhi mobile app:** DDCD participated in the panel set up to ensure time-bound implementation of a unified grievance redressal system for all air pollution related complaints in Delhi

think-tank manned by domain experts, on the lines of the Planning Commission/NITI Aayog, so as to provide inputs of governance...it was not meant to accommodate favoured individuals, unelected friends or politically partisan people," Saxena stated in his note on the matter.

The DDCD was established in February 2015, and the positions of its Vice-Chairperson and Non-official Members were to be co-terminus, or coinciding with the term of the incumbent government.

Though these positions,

Saxena noted, started out as honorary they were later converted into "highly paid and perked positions" with the rank, pay and facilities of the Vice-Chairperson equivalent to a Delhi government Minister and those of non-official members to a Secretary to the Government of India.

"...these positions were initially made honorary in nature to facilitate appointments solely on political considerations. As such, no transparent process of identification, screening and selection of suitable candidates

had been then framed," Saxena stated, adding that these were "arbitrary" and made without following due process, rendering them void ab-initio.

"The incumbent Vice-Chairperson...has already been restrained to function on the post due to his political activities and Shri Arvind Kejriwal, Chairman DDCD is in a judicial custody in a money laundering case...the continuation of non-official Members...drawing huge salaries is not only undesirable but also patently illegal...it is a blatant and clear case of nepo-

tism and favouritism in utter disregard of all rules..." he added, giving his nod for rescinding the appointment orders of the body's non-official members.

Responding to the move, the AAP government alleged that Saxena's sole purpose in dissolving the DDCD was to "stop all the works of Delhi government", adding that it had been constituted in April 2016 following due approval by the then L-G.

"In brazen disregard of existing rules and laws as well as decisions of his predecessors, L-G Saxena acting in collusion with officers of the Services Department, has chosen to exceed the jurisdiction of his office and tried to usurp the powers of the elected Chief Minister of Delhi by taking action on DDCD," the government said.

"It is categorically stated that the appointment process for Vice Chairperson and Members of DDCD is similar to the process followed for public commissions in all state governments across India, including in BJP governments," it further stated.

"The sole purpose of L-G's illegal order is to stop all works and policy reforms being carried out by the Kejriwal Government. In the process of hating the elected government under CM Arvind Kejriwal, L-G Vinai Saxena has started hating the people of Delhi," it added.

# In MCD House, AAP, BJP clash over water crisis

SAMAN HUSAIN  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

IN THE first meeting of the House after the Lok Sabha elections, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) Thursday witnessed an uproar as members of ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) clashed over the water crisis in the city among other issues.

Chaos started soon after Mayor Shelly Oberoi came to the House and BJP councillors objected to her arriving an hour late. Amid the uproar, several important agendas were postponed or withdrawn. BJP councillors staged a demonstration outside the House after the adjournment. The party leaders were seen carrying earthen pots and chanting slogans like "Ab toh ye spasht hai, Kejriwal bhrasht hai..." (Now it is clear that Arvind Kejriwal is corrupt) and "Paani do bhai paani do, Kejriwal paani do" (Give us water, Kejriwal!).

Leader of Opposition, BJP's Raja Iqbal Singh said, "People are suffering due to the shortage of water. Soon, there will be another issue due to excess water as drains have not been desilted even as monsoon is on the brink... the AAP has not laid any new pipelines in Delhi, and sewage water is reaching homes through broken pipes," Singh said.

Leader of the House, AAP's Mukesh Goel said, "Ever since our government came into power, the BJP has not acted like a re-



At the MCD House on Thursday. Anil Sharma

sponsible Opposition even in a single meeting. They do not allow us to hold any discussions."

Congress councillors criticised the AAP and the BJP for the disruption in the House. Congress's Farhad Suri emphasised upon the urgency of addressing public health issues, "With the arrival of monsoon, soon there will be dengue and malaria cases, but the desilting has not been completed. We support politics but not at the cost of people," he said.

Naziya Danish of the Congress said, "The main task of the MCD is to ensure sanitation, but even that isn't taking place."

There are 250 elected councillors in the MCD. Of these, 134 are from the AAP, 104 are from the BJP, which also has the support of an Independent councillor, taking their number to 105. Nine are from Congress and the rest are Independents.

## Suspension of four officers ordered

New Delhi: A few days after taking over the office, MCD Commissioner Ashwini Kumar ordered the suspension of four officials, alleging they were involved in signature forgery and differential treatment when it came to implementation of laws.

In an office order dated June 26, the commissioner has ordered the suspension of four officers of the building department from the Karol Bagh Zone. ENS

## BRIEFLY

### 'Suicide bid' at Metro station

New Delhi: A man jumped in front of an approaching metro train at Hauz Khas Station on Thursday afternoon, police said. The man sustained head injuries and bruises on the left side of the body and was transported to AIIMS Trauma Centre. He is currently on life support. CCTV footage from the Metro station showed the injured person jumping from platform number 1 onto the tracks at approximately 2:14 PM as a train approached. "Efforts are being made to identify the injured man," said DCP Metro Ramgopal Naik.

### Rape accused held in Bihar

New Delhi: A man was nabbed from Bihar's Muzaffarpur for raping a woman in February, police said Thursday. The woman filed the complaint with the police on June 22, after months of allegedly being blackmailed with the videos of the assault. The victim said the accused and his two friends invited her to his house and forced themselves upon her, and recorded the act on video. ENS



During the rainfall in Noida on Thursday. Gajendra Yadav

# Monsoon likely to hit Delhi by weekend

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

Monsoon is expected to hit Delhi and adjoining areas by the end of this week, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Thursday.

After the maximum temperature remained above 40 degree Celsius for 40 straight days till June 21, the advance of monsoon has brought a massive respite to the national capital.

"This year, there has been no

significant delay in the onset of the monsoon. It is expected in two-three days. The humidity is also normal, as of now, as the temperature has also come down. Humidity is only a concern when the temperature is high," IMD scientist R K Jenamani said.

Delhi recorded nine heatwave days in June.

According to officials, a heatwave is declared when the maximum temperature in at least two stations in an area goes above 45 degree Celsius; or is above 40 degree Celsius and at least 4.5 degree

Celsius above normal.

On Thursday, rain lashed several parts of the city, which caused waterlogging and traffic snarls. The IMD stations at Palam, Lodhi Road and Ridge recorded 17.6 mm, 9.6 mm and 6.2 mm of rain, respectively, as of 5:30 pm.

The maximum temperature in the national capital dropped two notches below normal at 35.4 degree Celsius and the minimum temperature was also close to the season's normal at 28.6 degrees, said the weather department. Humidity levels oscillated be-

tween 61 and 82 per cent, as recorded at the Safdarjung base station, said officials. The temperature is further expected to drop by three-four degrees by the end of this week in Delhi.

Monsoon is likely to advance over Northwest India in the next two-to-three days while heavy rain is expected across multiple states, said the weather department. Heavy rain is expected in Delhi on Sunday and Monday.

Till Sunday, the national capital is likely to see a cloudy sky with moderate rain.

## In Noida, man electrocuted; 2 linemen hurt during repairs

NEETIKA JHA  
NOIDA, JUNE 27

AMAN who was drenched in rain died of electrocution on Thursday in Noida after he accidentally placed his hand near a transformer and it caught fire, alleged his family. The incident happened around 9 am, about 100 metres from his house. His family has accused the electricity department of negligence and filed a complaint, said police. The body has been sent for autopsy.

Identified as Umesh Sharma (35), the man ran his own cyber cafe. His sister Sangeeta Sharma told *The Indian Express* that the street in the area near their home was flooded due to rain. "An electric transformer (in the area) was not barricaded and he placed his hand near the transformer while returning from the temple. The transformer caught fire, he was electrocuted and he fell in water," she said. An executive engineer with the electricity department, pleading anonymity, said that the man fell far from the transformer after he was electrocuted.

In another incident, two linemen were injured while repairing an electric pole in Sector 9. They were later hospitalised. "Anuj and Nitin are employed with the Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL). The accident occurred around 9 pm when they were repairing the pole in I-72 of Sector 9 and someone turned the feeder on," said an official.

## Gurgaon: 2-year-old boy crushed by speeding car

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
GURGAON, JUNE 27

A TWO-YEAR-OLD boy playing outside his father's shop with his sibling was killed after a car ran over him in Gurgaon's DLF Phase 3 on Thursday, police said.

According to police, the incident took place around 1 pm. The boy, Jigar Saini, was run over by a white Brezza while he was playing with his four-year-old sister.

His father Krishna Malakar, who hails from Bihar's Samastipur, said, "I was at my

shop. Both my children were playing near the iron staircase in front of the shop. I saw a white car approaching at high speed. I signalled to the driver to stop, but he did not. The car ran over my son. The driver then tried to flee, but people around caught him. He identified himself as Sunny, a resident of Nathupur," the complaint stated.

The victim was rushed to a hospital where the doctor declared him dead.

Police have filed an FIR against Sunny at DLF Phase 3 police station but his arrest is yet to be confirmed.

## Ensure no shortcoming in Gurgaon's cleanliness: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
GURGAON, JUNE 27

HARYANA CHIEF Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Thursday instructed officials to ensure no shortcomings in the cleanliness of Gurgaon. He announced that he would inspect the cleanliness arrangements in the city next week.

This comes weeks after Chief Secretary TVSN Prasad announced solid waste exigency in the city.

At the grievance redressal committee meeting, he addressed 19 out of 20 complaints, with instructions to take action in one case by the next meeting. He directed the officials to trans-



Haryana CM Saini

fer Mayfield Garden Society in Sector 51 to the Municipal Corporation within a week. Additionally, he ordered the attachment of the builder's property for not paying the corporation's fee.

Saini also flagged off 50 new electric vehicles for door-to-door garbage collection.

In a bid to avoid single-use plastics, the CM inaugurated cloth bag vending machines from where citizens can make a purchase by paying Rs 10.

# 'WHEN MY CHILD WAS STOLEN, I HAD THOUGHT I WOULD NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN...I WAS IN A LOT OF PAIN' Stolen from Delhi pavement, sold to Bihar home, toddler reunited with mother

PRAGYANESH AND  
ARNABJIT SUR  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

THIS IS a tale of two mothers, two homes — one under the open sky in New Delhi, the other in a village in Bihar — and one stolen child.

The first mother is Poonam, from whose arms the child was taken away the night of June 14 when they slept on the pavement outside the Tagore Garden Metro station. After five days of search by a six-member team of anti-narcotics squad, scanning footage from scores of CCTV cameras, the child was found in the arms of a woman in Sitamarhi.

That woman, Shobha Devi, is now in jail for paying Rs 3 lakh so that she could be mother to the child. And, at the small, shifting

patch of their home, back at the metro station, a family has been reunited.

"It was around 3 - 3.30 (am) that night. I was sleeping here," Poonam says, pointing towards a worn-out sofa lying on the pavement. "My son... one-year-old boy ... was sleeping on my arm. Suddenly, I felt someone was pulling the child... By the time I woke up, I saw a man running with my child," she recalls. "I ran after him. I couldn't catch him...there was another man waiting for him on a motorcycle and they fled away. I kept on crying for help. I wept but there was no one to help."

Poonam is 25. She has four children: two boys and two girls — the oldest is an 8-year-old boy. Her husband Govardhan, she says, died some time ago. "One night he

coughed and coughed and then died... he was addicted to drugs," she says. "Till he (husband) was alive, we used to rent a small *jhuggi* in front of the (Guru Gobind Singh) hospital. Now I can't afford the rent. We live here on the pavement now". Poonam says she "sells old clothes and occasionally, balloons" to feed her family. "When my child was stolen, I had thought I would never see him again...I was in a lot of pain. You know how we are treated by people...nobody helps. I had no hope but I went to the police. That was the only thing I could do. I am happy I went there."

Poonam rushed to the Rajouri Garden police station. "They listened to me. They asked me what happened and wrote my complaint and told me not to worry," she recalls. The police say that



The child was abducted on June 14. Abhinav Saha

Poonam approached them at 5am.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police (West), Vichitra Veer, was

immediately informed. A team of five police officials — Inspector Anuj Yadav, Sub Inspector Manish, Head constable Dinesh,

Constables Kashi Ram and Vikas — led by Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Raghuveer, was formed.

### Lone clue: A Splendor motorcycle

The police had only one clue: the child traffickers had fled on a motorcycle. "The footage of around 100 CCTV cameras on the road that the kidnapers had taken was carefully scanned. Every frame was checked," a police officer said. "We wanted to identify the motorcycle used in the crime. We saw a black Splendor. Its number plate was partially visible in the footage and on the basis of four numbers (8893) that we could make out, we made another move. We zeroed in on almost 400 motorcy-

cles with the help of the traffic control room." He said that the process to identify the motorcycle took more than 40 hours. "We found that the black Splendor was registered in the name of a resident of (neighbouring) Karampura. He told us that his bike is used by his son Manish Kumar Gupta who lives in Narela," the police officer said. DCP Veer immediately dispatched a police team and Gupta was arrested.

The police questioned Gupta and he spilled the beans. "Manish revealed that he and Mohit Tiwari from Gonda (UP) abducted the child and sold him to Shobha Devi from Sitamarhi in Bihar," the police officer said. "Shobha Devi had been married for 15 years but didn't have a child. She was desperate. She used to work in the Tagore Garden area so she knew Manish,

Manish and Mohit told her that they can arrange a child for Rs 3 lakh. She readily agreed. Manish and Mohit had planned the abduction and had asked Shobha Devi to wait at New Delhi railway station. Once they stole the child, they went straight to the railway station and handed him over to Shobha Devi who took him home in Sirsian village in Sitamarhi."

The team of West Delhi's Anti-Narcotics didn't waste any time. Four members of the team rushed to Sitamarhi. Around 4.30am on June 16, the police teams raided the house where Shobha Devi and her husband Shiv Shankar Pandit lived. "We knocked on the door and Shobha's husband opened the door. We rushed inside," the police officer said. "The child was sleeping in her arms".

# DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



Congress workers caught in a bee attack at party chief Mallikarjun Kharge's house in New Delhi, Thursday. PTI

## 'STING' OPERATION

THIS WAS one 'sting' no journalists wanted to be a part of. During the meeting of INDIA bloc floor leaders at Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge's residence Thursday evening, an attack by a swarm of bees forced Congress workers as well as journalists to run for cover. Just when mediapersons were entering the premises to cover the meeting, some Youth Congress members were seen running towards them trying to evade the bees. Those who could find a cloth to cover themselves managed to escape the attack; the others, including security personnel and journalists, were not as lucky. Sources said a beehive on a tree in the lawn of Kharge's residence was perhaps disturbed, leading to the bee attack.

## CLOSE ALLIES

THE BONDING between 'UP ke do ladke' — Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav — has been talked about ever since the two parties made a remarkable comeback in the Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh. On Thursday, the MPs got a glimpse of their friendship when Rahul entered the Lok Sabha chamber for the Presidential address. Akhilesh, who had made his senior party colleague and Faizabad MP Awadesh Prasad sit in the front row, took a seat in one of the back rows. On not finding him in the front row, Rahul, who is now the Leader of the Opposition, asked his party colleagues about the SP chief. Eventually, Akhilesh was persuaded to sit in the second row behind Rahul.

## GREEN PLEDGE

UNION AGRICULTURE and Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan seems to be on the path of creating a unique record. Chouhan has planted over a dozen saplings in the national capital since he assumed office on June 11, as part of his pledge to plant a tree every day. These saplings, mostly mangoes, have been planted at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa campus, and Madhya Pradesh Bhawan in Chanakyapuri. On one or two occasions, Chouhan was joined by his deputy Bhagirath Chaudhary in planting saplings. Whenever the BJP leader goes to another city, he plants a sapling there. Last week, Chouhan went to Bhopal where he planted a sapling at the BJP office.

# After Maharashtra setback, BJP likely to make Pankaja minister

SHUBHANGI KHAPRE  
MUMBAI, JUNE 27

POST THE Lok Sabha election setback, the BJP is set to give Pankaja Munde what she has long desired — a stake in state politics. Having failed to win a single seat in the Marathwada region, the party is planning to bring the OBC leader to the House via the Legislative Council, followed by a ministerial post, sources said.

The eldest of three daughters of the late Gopinath Munde, the BJP's most prominent OBC face in Maharashtra once, Pankaja has never hidden her displeasure at her "sidelining" in the state unit since the rise of Devendra Fadnavis. Having given her a role in the party national organisation, the BJP this time gave Pankaja a ticket for the Lok Sabha polls only after realisation sunk in of the ground beneath it slipping, both on account of the Maratha quota protests and the counter-OBC mobilisation.

The ticket from Beed to



Pankaja Munde lost from Beed in Lok Sabha elections.

Pankaja was at the cost of her sister Pritam, a two-term MP from the seat. While Pankaja lost, the party is now set to ensure an MLC win for her, said sources.

A highly placed source in the BJP said, "The state core committee leaders, including Deputy CM Fadnavis, have recommended the candidature of Pankaja Munde for MLC and Cabinet berth in the Eknath Shinde-led government. The central leadership has also given its consent." MLC elections for 11 seats in Maharashtra will take place on July 12.

Reduced to nine Lok Sabha

seats in Maharashtra, from 23 in 2019, the BJP realises the need to rethink its strategy ahead of the Assembly elections. Crucial to its fortunes remains projecting a strong face that can consolidate its traditional vote base among the OBCs. Not only does Pankaja fill that gap, the Mundes additionally are Vanjari (OBC) faces from Marathwada, the hotbed of the Maratha quota stir.

The BJP has an OBC face in its state president Chandrashekhar Bawankule, who is a Teli from Vidarbha. But empowering an OBC face in Marathwada is expected to pay off more dividends, apart from the clout that the Munde name still commands.

A senior BJP functionary said the party had two options. "First was to nominate Pankaja for a Rajya Sabha seat from the state quota, to be followed by her induction in the Union Cabinet-led by Narendra Modi. The second option was to make her MLC and a Cabinet minister in the Mahayuti government in Maharashtra." With the Assembly polls the

most pressing agenda, it was felt that Pankaja could be used more fruitfully in state politics.

In 2019, Pankaja had contested the Assembly polls from Parli seat in Beed, but lost to her cousin and NCP candidate Dhananjay Munde. In 2020, she was appointed national secretary and made co-in-charge of Madhya Pradesh, even as her followers openly talked about how she should have continued working in Maharashtra politics. Pankaja too talked about preferring to work in Maharashtra.

In 2023, Dhananjay was given the Agriculture portfolio after he sided with Ajit Pawar in NCP split. This strengthened apprehensions among Pankaja's supporters that the state BJP was determined to sideline her.

Sources said the Cabinet will go in for an expansion after the MLC polls. At present, the government has 29 ministers, including the CM and two Deputy CMs. The permissible strength for Council of Ministers is 43, that leaves 14 vacant berths.

# Bengal Speaker seeks President's help to end deadlock over MLAs' swearing-in

ENS & PTI  
KOLKATA, JUNE 27

WEST BENGAL Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee Thursday wrote to President Droupadi Murmu seeking her intervention to resolve the impasse concerning the oath-taking ceremony of two newly elected TMC MLAs.

The controversy over the venue for the swearing-in ceremony of the two MLAs — Sayantika Bandyopadhyay and Rayat Hossain Sarkar — escalated when the legislators refused to take oath at Raj Bhavan as directed by Governor CV Ananda Bose and instead staged a dharna at the Assembly complex on Wednesday. The two MLAs continued their dharna on Thursday.

"I have written to the Honourable President and sought her intervention into the matter so that she can speak to the Governor and end this impasse. What is happening regarding the swearing-in of the MLAs is unacceptable. We hope to get justice," the Speaker told PTI.

The letter to the President came hours after CM Mamata Banerjee on Thursday said Bose has no right to prevent the process. Mamata alleged she has received complaints from women who claimed they felt unsafe going to the Raj Bhavan after reports of certain activities were reported from there.

"Nearly a month has passed but my MLAs — Sayantika Bandyopadhyay and Rayat Hossain Sarkar — are unable to take the oath. The Governor is obstructing them from doing so. It is the people who have elected them, not the Governor. He cannot deny them the right to take the oath," Banerjee told mediapersons at the state secretariat.

"Why must everyone go to Raj Bhavan? The Governor can authorise the Speaker or Deputy Speaker, or attend the Assembly himself. Women have informed



Governor CV Ananda Bose with President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Thursday. PTI

me they are afraid to visit Raj Bhavan due to recent incidents reported there," she added.

Meanwhile, Baranagar MLA Bandyopadhyay, who along with Bhagabangola MLA Sarkar sat on the dharna before the BR Ambedkar statue in the Vidhan Sabha complex, said she was "scared" to go to Raj Bhavan to take oath as a public representative in the backdrop of molestation allegations against the Governor by a woman Raj Bhavan staff member.

"We want the Governor to come to Assembly and conduct the oath-taking ceremony or he can designate the Assembly Speaker to do the same. We respect the chair of the Governor. We do not know whether what happened in Raj Bhavan is true or false, but it is a fact that we are scared to go there," said Bandyopadhyay.

The two MLAs demanded that Bose enable them to perform their duties as legislators by facilitating the oath-taking ceremony in the Assembly.

Earlier, the Governor had invited the two MLAs, who were elected in the recent bypolls, to take the oath in the Raj Bhavan Wednesday. However, they declined the invitation, claiming that convention dictates that in the case of bypoll winners, the Governor assigns the Speaker or the deputy Speaker to administer the oath.

## Manipur BJP chief meets Shah in Delhi, discusses current situation

New Delhi: The BJP's Manipur state chief A Sharda Devi met Union Home Minister Amit Shah Thursday to discuss the current situation in the ethnic strife-hit state.

"Met Hon'ble Home Minister, Mananija Shri @AmitShah ji, for an extensive discussion on the current situation in Manipur. Conveyed people's aspirations and urged immediate attention to bring permanent solution and tranquility to state, while appreciating ongoing efforts. Additionally, highlighted the need for resettling internally displaced persons..." she wrote on X.

Shah, she said, assured her the Centre was committed to fulfilling people's aspirations. **ENS**

# Never faced political pressure from govt in 24 yrs as judge: CJI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

ALLAYING APPREHENSION of any interference of the legislature, CJI D 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, in the sense if you ask me in the sense of pressure from the govern-



Many of the cases we decide involve intense societal impacts: CJI Chandrachud

ment, 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.

"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 impact of their decisions on the polity at large when you are deciding constitutional cases. That is not political pressure I believe," the CJI said.

Talking about the "social pressure", he said, "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 social ordering which we are ultimately going to affect."

Acknowledging the issue of pendency, CJI said the judge to population ratio in India is among the lowest in the world.

## Amid sentence remission row, Pinarayi suspends prison officials

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
JUNE 27

KERALA CM Pinarayi Vijayan Thursday ordered the suspension of three prison officials for seeking a probation report from the state police to give remission to three convicts who were awarded double life terms in the 2012 TP Chandrasekharan murder case.

Prison joint superintendent KS Sreejith and his two subordinates, all posted at the Central Jail, Kannur, where the convicts are currently lodged, were suspended.

Central prison authorities in Kannur on June 13 sought a probation report regarding 56 prisoners, including the three convicts in the murder of CPI (M) rebel leader Chandrasekharan.

Soon after the list caused uproar, Kerala Speaker AN Shamsheer Monday told the Assembly there was no plan to give remission for TK Rajeeesh, KK Muhammed Shafi and S Sijith, all members of the gang involved in the murder. Any move to remit their sentences would have contravened Kerala HC's February order, which had enhanced the life sentence to double life term.

# MHA to states: Hold awareness events on penal laws on July 1

MAHENDER SINGH  
MANRAL  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

WITH ONLY a few days left for the three new criminal laws — Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Act — to come into force on July 1, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla has directed all the States/UTs to organise an event informing about the key features of the law across all the police stations on the same date, *The Indian Express* has learnt. So far, over 5.65 lakh police, prison, forensics, judicial and prosecution officials have been trained to implement the new laws.

Earlier, Bhalla had held back to back meetings Tuesday and Wednesday with all the Chief Secretaries of UTs and the DGPs of states to review the progress for implementation of the laws. "During the meeting, he is learnt to have asked all the DGs to organise an event in every police station inviting at least 100 people and informing them about the key features of the new laws," an official familiar with the matter said.

On June 22, Bhalla had writ-

ten to all the states/UTs, requesting that a state-level event may be organised on July 1 by the State/UT Forensic Sciences Directorate.

The MHA is also expected to issue a gazette notification soon after deciding on the delegation of powers under relevant sections of the new laws for better discharge of duties and functions, a source said.

On Wednesday, Bhalla took note of the presentations of all the UTs where the participants shared the number of training events conducted, details of the ongoing training and their targets. "For capacity building, the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) has developed training modules and shared them with all stakeholders. BPR&D also conducted 250 training courses/webinars/seminars in which 40,317 officers/personnel have been trained," the sources said.

The ministries of women and child development, rural development and the Panchayat Raj have undertaken dissemination of the laws through webinars in which nearly 40 lakh grassroots level functionaries participated, Bhalla was informed, a source said.

## Refrain from protest against new laws: BCI to lawyers' bodies

New Delhi: The Bar Council of India (BCI) Wednesday appealed to all Bar Associations to refrain from any form of protests against the three criminal laws.

"After careful consideration of these demands and concerns, the Bar Council of India requests all Bar Associations to refrain from any form of agitation or protest at this juncture," the BCI said in its June 26 press release.

The BCI said it would initiate discussions with the Centre through Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal to convey legal fraternity's concerns.

Saying that Bar Associations signalled intent to engage in indefinite agitations unless the laws are suspended and subjected to a discussion, including a comprehensive review by Parliament, BCI added several provisions of these laws were being perceived as "anti-people, more draconian than colonial-era laws they intend to replace". **ENS**

# After objections, Gujarat board revises para on Buddhism in Class 12 Sociology textbook

PARIMAL DABHI  
GANDHINAGAR, JUNE 27

FOLLOWING OBJECTIONS by Buddhists and their organisations over alleged false depiction of Buddhism in a Class 12 Sociology textbook issued by Gujarat State Board of School Textbooks (GSBST), the latter has replaced the "controversial" paragraph and instructed all district education officers to ensure that students are taught the revised one.

The Buddhists had objected to the textbook's claims that the religion has two levels — upper level comprising elites and lower level comprising marginal groups — its religious teacher is known as 'Lama', and that it believes in reincarnation, among others. The GSBST Wednesday issu-

ed a circular — a copy of which is available with *The Indian Express* — which has been sent to district education officers along with the new paragraph in Gujarati, English, Hindi, Marathi and Urdu.

The controversial paragraph was part of a chapter on "Indian Culture and Community". The paragraph read, "Like Sikhs, the portion of the followers of Buddhism is also meager in India. Most of them live in Maharashtra. They also reside in north-west India and in Arunachal Pradesh. Buddhism had a considerable spread in India at the time of the emperor Ashoka. Buddhism has three branches, namely, Hinyana, Mahayana and Virajanya. It has two levels. The upper level of Buddhism includes Brahmins, Kshatriyas, and certain elites, while the lower level consists

of the tribals and marginal groups converted to Buddhism. Samath, Saanchi and Bodhgaya are important centers of Buddhism. Their religious teacher is known as Lama. Their religious places, known as Buddhist temples, have 'wish wheel'. Tripitaka is their scripture and they believe in karma and reincarnation."

The revised paragraph in English, as attached with the circular, read: "The religion of Tathagat Buddha (a word of Dhamma-Pali language) is global. Today, followers of Buddhism in India and Gujarat are in notable number. The three important events in the life of Siddhartha Gautam Buddha, namely birth, Sambodhi (absolute knowledge) and Mahaparinirvana (someone who has attained nirvana in his lifetime and after death) happened at

Lumbini, Bodhgaya and Kushinagar, respectively. Sheel (morality), Samadhi (a state of meditative consciousness) and Pragna (understanding of the true nature of phenomena) are the essence of Buddhism. Sufferings, impermanence and Anatm (non-self) are three fundamental concepts of Buddhist philosophy. Buddhism, though not believing in unchangeable and eternal soul, believes in karma and reincarnation."

"Followers of Buddhism are considered as equals as there is no distinction of caste or class among them. The main aim of the Buddhism is to get rid of sufferings and achieve nirvana. Tripitaka is the main book of Buddhism. Lumbini, Kushinagar, Shravasti, Rajgrih, Vaishali, Kousambi and Sankisa are major places of pilgrimage..." it added.

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# 6 IN PARLIAMENT

18TH LOK SABHA

## Rahul meets Speaker, says could've avoided Emergency reference

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

LEADER OF Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi Thursday met Speaker Om Birla and told him he could have avoided the reference to Emergency in his speech Wednesday, the Congress said.

Congress MP and General Secretary in charge of Organisation K C Venugopal said: "It was a courtesy call. The Honourable Speaker declared Rahul Gandhi as the Leader of Opposition officially today. After that, the LoP (Rahul) met the Honourable Speaker... So, we discussed many things about Parliamentary functioning. Of course, this issue also came up. Rahul ji said it could have been avoided by the Speaker... That is clearly a political reference and could have been avoided."

A debate had erupted in the Lok Sabha Wednesday between the government and the Congress as Birla, after taking charge as Speaker, read out a resolution condemning the imposition of Emergency in 1975. He also mentioned atrocities by the Congress and former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi during



Congress MP K C Venugopal

that period. Congress members rushed to the Well of the House as Birla read the statement, calling for a two-minute silence after it, even as members of other Opposition parties stood in their place. The House was adjourned amid the chaos.

Meanwhile, Venugopal Thursday wrote to Birla saying his reference to Emergency in his acceptance speech was "deeply shocking" and "unprecedented".

The letter said: "Yesterday... at the time of offering congratulations on your election as Speaker Lok Sabha, there was a general camaraderie in the House... However, what followed thereafter... in regard to declaration of Emergency half a century ago, is deeply shocking. Making of such a political reference from the Chair is 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."

## Nadda is made Leader of House in Rajya Sabha



Nadda on Thursday. ANI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

HEALTH MINISTER Jagat Prakash Nadda was appointed leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, the first day of the 264th session of the Upper House.

"Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda has been appointed as the Leader of the House in the Council of States," Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar announced, amid thumping of desks.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was also present in the House when the announcement was made.

The BJP had earlier decided to appoint Nadda as the leader of the House and the same was conveyed to the Rajya Sabha.

## PM is in denial, making President read lies: Kharge on joint address

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

CONGRESS CHIEF Mallikarjun Kharge said Thursday that listening to President Droupadi Murmu's address to the joint sitting of Parliament "written by the Modi government, it seemed as if Modiji is in a perpetual state of denial".

The people have rejected PM Narendra Modi's "400-plus slogan" and "kept BJP away from the figure of 272, which Modiji is unable to accept", Kharge said in a post on X. "That's why he is pretending that nothing has changed, but the truth is that the people of the country had asked for change," he said.

Kharge said: "Overall, Modiji is making a futile attempt to garner some applause by making the Honourable President read lies, which the people of India have rejected in the 2024 elections".

Although Kharge said he will give a detailed response in his speech in Rajya Sabha, his post on X said that "whitewashing will not work in the NEET scam". "In last 5 years, out of 66 recruitment exams conducted by the NTA, Paper Leaks and Massive Rigging have happened in 12 exams, due to which more than 75 lakh youth have been affected," he said.



Cong's Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge during President Murmu's address. ANI

"The Modi govt cannot run away from its responsibility by just simply saying that 'we should rise above partisan politics'," he said.

"There is no mention of 5 main issues even once in the entire address," he said. He claimed that "prices of essential food items have skyrocketed", "food inflation has been more than 8.5% for 4 months", "the prices of atta, dal, tomatoes, onions, milk - everything is painstakingly high and household savings are at the lowest level in 50 years. But the word 'inflation' is missing from the entire speech."

On Manipur violence, he

said: "221 people have lost their lives in the violence... 50,000 people are still homeless. The flames of violence have now spread to peaceful districts like Jiribam, while extortion and kidnappings have increased in the Imphal Valley and other areas. But the BJP CM is still shamelessly clinging to his chair."

On "horrific train accidents and the plight of passengers in trains", Kharge said that the "Modi Govt did not mention the West Bengal train accident in the President's written speech". On terror attacks in J&K, he said "Modi Govt has endangered our

National Security, with 2,262 terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir in the last 10 years, resulting in the loss of life of 363 civilians and 596 soldiers". "In the last few years, there have been targeted attacks on Kashmiri Pandits, but the Prime Minister is singing the false tune of 'Naya Kashmir'," he said.

Alluding to "rising atrocities on Dalits, Adivasis and Minorities in BJP-ruled states", Kharge said that "during elections, Modi's speeches have repeatedly confirmed the fact the BJP/RSS's ideology is only to divide the society."

## Sanjay Singh's RS suspension revoked, panel holds him guilty

JATIN ANAND & NIKHILA HENRY  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

RAJYA SABHA Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar has revoked Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Sanjay Singh's year-long suspension from the Upper House, a statement said Thursday.

A House panel report, however, found Singh breached Parliamentary privileges by "deliberately disregarding" the Rajya Sabha Chairman's directions, making a "deliberately misleading statement in the House" and "casting aspersions on the then Leader of the House".

The Parliamentary Privileges Committee also said that Singh, who had issued an "unconditional apology" on June 26 this year, had suffered sufficient punishment.

The action against the AAP leader came on July 24 last year amid escalating frictions in Parliament between the government and the Opposition, which was demanding a statement by PM Narendra Modi in the House on the Manipur violence.

As Thursday's announce-



AAP leader Sanjay Singh protests against the 'misuse of CBI and ED', in Parliament on Thursday. PTI

ment came, Singh, along with INDIA bloc ally Samajwadi Party, was protesting against Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal's arrest by the CBI in the liquor policy case.

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, who had announced Singh's suspension last year, said in a statement Thursday: "The Committee, while holding Shri Sanjay Singh guilty of breach of privilege of the Council in all the cases, recommended that the Member has al-

### ADANI SLOGANS: NO ACTION AGAINST MPs

New Delhi: The Parliamentary Privileges Committee has found that 12 Rajya Sabha members (including Sanjay Singh), who had raised slogans against alleged stock manipulation by the Adani group, violated parliamentary privileges in February last year. The panel, however, let them off the hook, asking eight of them who are still Rajya Sabha members not to "indulge in such misconduct in the future".

ENS

ready suffered sufficient punishment for the transgression."

Dhankhar said he has revoked Singh's suspension with effect from Wednesday, June 26.

The Parliamentary panel report said that before apologising, Singh had made efforts to "justify and obfuscate" his actions.

Earlier in the day, the AAP announced that it would boycott the President's address in protest against the Centre's "dictatorial" action against the AAP convener.



## PRESIDENT ARRIVES

The President's Bodyguard escorts President Droupadi Murmu to Parliament for her joint address to both Houses on Thursday. PTI

## Row over Jai Samvidhan slogan in LS, Birla chides Cong's Deepender Hooda

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

A ROW erupted in Lok Sabha Thursday after Congress MP from Thiruvananthapuram Shashi Tharoor ended his oath with "Jai Hind, Jai Samvidhan" and Speaker Om Birla told him he was "already swearing upon the Constitution".

After Birla's remark, Congress member Deepender Hooda said: "Ise aapko aapatti nahi honi chahiye (You shouldn't have an objection to this);"

Birla replied: "Kispe aapatti ho, kispe nahi ho salah mat diya karo. Chalo baitho (Don't tell me what I should object to and what I shouldn't object to. Now sit)."

Following the episode, Congress General Secretary



Shashi Tharoor with Om Birla after taking oath. PTI

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra asked if one cannot say "Jai Samvidhan" in Parliament.

She posted on social media site X: "In the Parliament, those in power were not stopped from raising unparliamentary and unconstitutional slogans. But an objection is raised when an Opposition MP says Jai Samvidhan. The anti-constitution sentiment that emerged

during the elections has now taken a new form, which seeks to weaken our Constitution."

She added: "The constitution by which the parliament functions, the constitution by which every member takes oath, the constitution by which every citizen gets protection of life and livelihood, will that same constitution be opposed now to suppress the voice of the opposition?"

After Tharoor raised the slogan, leaders on the floor of the House also shouted "Jai Samvidhan".

Following the oath, Tharoor shook hands with Speaker Birla, who said: "Samvidhan ki shapath toh le hi rahe hain. Yeh Samvidhan ki shapath hai. (You are already taking an oath on the Constitution. This is an oath on the Constitution)."

## INDIA bloc to seek discussion on NEET in both Houses today



NCP (SP) leaders Sharad Pawar and Supriya Sule arrive for a meeting of INDIA bloc floor leaders at Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge's house in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

ASAD REHMAN  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

A MEETING of the INDIA bloc floor leaders was held at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's residence to discuss the Opposition's strategy for the forthcoming sessions of the Lok Sabha, with sources saying that the Opposition is set to raise the demand for a discussion on the NEET-UG examination row on Friday.

"We will raise a demand to hold a discussion on the NEET-paper leaks issue in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha through adjournment motions on Friday. Then, on Monday we will hold a protest outside the Parliament building against the misuse of CBI-ED and other central agencies for targeting Opposition leaders, and arresting elected representatives. These two things were the main takeaways from the meeting," said a senior leader who was part of the meeting.

"The protest will also include the issue of arrest of chief ministers in Opposition-ruled states

like Jharkhand and Delhi," added the leader.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* after the meeting, Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya, said, "The main issue discussed there was that we will seek a discussion on the NEET issue on Friday in the Parliament."

The meeting at Kharge's residence was attended by Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, party chief Kharge, NCP (SP) president Sharad Pawar and MP Supriya Sule, TMC's Derek O'Brien, AAP's Sanjay Singh, Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Sanjay Raut and Arvind Sawant, Communist Party of India (Marxist)'s Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya, and DMK leader Tiruchi Siva, among others.

A Congress leader present at the meeting said that the discussion was the first one after the election of the Speaker in Lok Sabha. "The aim of the meeting was to identify the key issues related to the people. We have formulated the strategy for the next four-five days in the Parliament," said the leader.

## SP MP wants Sengol removed from LS, BJP calls it 'insult to Tamil culture'

LALMANI VERMA  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

SAMAJWADI PARTY MP R K Chaudhary's demand for removal of the Sengol from the Lok Sabha, calling it a symbol 'rajdand/rajtantra (monarchy)', has become the latest flashpoint between the government and the Opposition. While the Opposition MPs have welcomed Chaudhary's suggestion to replace the Sengol with a giant replica of the Constitution, the BJP has termed the demand "disgraceful".

A first-time MP and a Dalit leader, Chaudhary wrote a letter addressed to the Speaker/Protem Speaker on June 25, soon after taking oath of membership of the Lok Sabha, questioning the presence of the Sengol (Tamil word for sceptre) next to the Speaker's chair in the House.

"I was shocked to see the Sengol on the right side of the Chair of the House. Sir, our Constitution is a sacred document of Indian democracy, while the Sengol is a symbol of rajdand/rajtantra."

Chaudhary added that Parliament is a temple of democracy and not a palace of some "raje-rajwade (royal families)".

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Chaudhary said, "The Sengol is a symbol of 'rajtantra' whereas there is democracy in India. And the Constitution is the sacred book of democracy. Inside Parliament, there is only democracy. When the country got freedom, Lord Mountbatten (last Viceroy of India) had presented the Sengol and it was crafted on the suggestion of priests. Pandit

Jawaharlal Nehru had got it placed in a museum in Allahabad. That was the right place for the Sengol."

Chaudhary said the Sengol should be placed back in the Allahabad museum and should be replaced with a grand replica of the Constitution.

The Sengol was installed in the Lok Sabha by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 28, 2023 following the inauguration of the new Parliament House.

The BJP attacked the SP MP over the demand. BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said: "It is very unfortunate that Samajwadi Party MP says that Sengol is a symbol of monarchy and hence it should be removed from Parliament... The party which is a symbol of nepotism is again hell-bent on insulting such an integral part of Indian culture, Tamil culture."

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath slammed Chaudhary's remark on the Sengol as "disgraceful".

## Why Akali Dal rebels are gunning for Sukhbir Badal

NAVJEEVAN GOPAL  
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 27

EVER SINCE the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) was ousted from power in Punjab in 2017 after two successive terms, its president Sukhbir Singh Badal has been facing dissension in the party. A section of Akali Dal leaders have periodically questioned Sukhbir's leadership as well as the Badal family's control over the party. Three weeks after the SAD's debacle in the Lok Sabha elections, the simmering discontent in the party flared Tuesday, when a group of senior party leaders passed a resolution to seek Sukhbir's resignation.

What led to the revolt?

In the multi-cornered battle in the recent Lok Sabha polls in Punjab, the Akali Dal, contesting

separately from its erstwhile ally BJP, faced another rout as it managed to win just one seat out of 13 as against the Congress's seven and the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)'s three, with the remaining two seats won by Independent candidates — radical preacher Amritpal Singh from Khadoor Sahib and Sarabjeet Singh Khalsa (son of Indira Gandhi assassin Beant Singh) from Faridkot.

Ex-MP Prem Singh Chandumajra, once-loyalist Sikander Singh Maluka, former SGPC president Jagir Kaur, and other prominent Akali faces held a meeting in Jalandhar, which passed a resolution demanding Sukhbir step down.

The premises of the SAD rebels' huddle, which belonged to Barjinder Singh Hamdard of the Ajit group of newspapers, has also triggered a buzz about Hamdard's



SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal. PTI file

possible role, although a senior Akali leader ruled it out.

### How is this rebellion different?

Akali veterans Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa and late Ranjit Singh Brahmputra were among the first group of party leaders who had come out in open against Sukhbir after the party's debacle in the

2017 Punjab Assembly polls, when the Congress clinched it and returned to power. While Brahmputra returned to the SAD in the run-up to 2022 Punjab polls, Dhindsa followed suit ahead of the recent Lok Sabha polls.

The current revolt, however, seems to be more organised and larger in scale with several Akali leaders including Chandumajra, Maluka and Gurbartap Singh Wadala joining Dhindsa and Jagir Kaur to demand changes in the party's leadership. The rebels also include leaders from the families of several Akali stalwarts who have

died, such as Master Tara Singh, Gurcharan Singh Tohra, Jagdev Singh Talwandi and Surjit Singh Barnala. They have announced "Akali Dal Bachao Muhim" (Save Akali Dal campaign) to reconnect with those Sikhs who they be-

lieve have stopped supporting the party.

### Who are key dissidents?

Chandumajra, who lost the Lok Sabha election from Anandpur Sahib, has been upset over the SAD's statement that a resolution "reposing full faith" in Sukhbir's leadership had been passed in the core committee meeting held after the poll.

Maluka, who had signed the expulsion of Jagir Kaur in November 2022 as the chief of the SAD's disciplinary panel, was removed from his post recently.

His daughter-in-law Parampal Kaur Sidhu contested on the BJP ticket from Bathinda in the Lok Sabha polls. While Maluka stayed away from it, he put out a video ahead of the polls praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



# EXPRESS NETWORK

## TN to get new international airport in Hosur town

ARUN JANARDHANAN  
CHENNAI, JUNE 27

TAMIL NADU Chief Minister MK Stalin announced a new international airport in Hosur — an industrial border town hardly 40 kms away from Bangalore. The announcement, made under Rule 110 in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on Thursday, is to build an airport in 2,000 acres of land and is designed to handle 30 million passengers annually.

The ambitious project is part of the state's goal of transforming Hosur into a major economic development hub. Chief Minister Stalin said that the airport would facilitate the socio-economic development of the state's Hosur, Krishnagiri, and Dharmapuri regions.

"Since the establishment of our Dravidian model governance, Tamil Nadu has been advancing in all sectors," said Stalin, adding that the state is implementing various long-term plans to transform Hosur into a major economic development hub by developing modern infrastructure. Calling the announcement a "monumental step forward for the region", Industries Minister T.R.B. Rajaa said: "This project will greatly enhance connectivity and stimulate economic growth, benefiting not only Hosur but also neighbouring districts such as Dharmapuri and Salem, while also providing a significant boost to various parts of Bengaluru".

J. Jayaranjan, vice-chairperson of the State Planning Commission, said the airport will enhance the region's connectivity and attract investments.

## Heatwaves need to be declared as disaster: Report

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

AN ANALYSIS of heat action plans (HAP) for nine cities and five districts found that there was no clear assessment of heat impact on the local population, lack of legal and financial backing and that the response mechanism needs to be strengthened by identifying heat waves as a national disaster, shows a report released by non-profit research organisation iForest on Thursday.

Highlighting three to four broad areas where the action plans need to be more specific to tackle heat waves efficiently and effectively, the assessment found that the plans were not geared towards specific issues of local conditions, which includes efforts such as mapping vulnerable populations.

"NDMA guidelines require cities to develop local thresholds for an early warning system as it depends on many factors, including built environment, slum population and urban heat island effect," analysis by iForest (International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology) said. It recommended heat waves be notified as a disaster under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

The nine cities analysed are Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Chandrapur, Delhi, Jodhpur, Rajkot, Surat, Thane and Vadodara and the five districts are Ferozepur, Gorakhpur, Hazaribagh, Patiala and Vellore.

## Uttarakhand: Behind death of teen girl, chilling gangrape plot, assault by family and cover-up

AVANEESH MISHRA  
HARIDWAR, JUNE 27

THE POLICE investigation into the alleged gangrape and murder of a 13-year-old girl in Haridwar took a macabre turn as police booked six men and two women, and chilling details of her last few hours came to light.

According to senior officers, they have charged Amit Saini (26), who knew her, with rape and murder, and three of his family members with murder.

They have also charged Amit's brother Nitin (20) and three of his friends with gangrape. Six of the accused have been arrested while the rest are absconding, police said.

Aditya Raj Saini, a village pradhan's husband, a BJP leader, and a member of Uttarakhand's

OBC Commission, who was initially considered a suspect in the case, was not found to be involved in the rape or murder, police said. However, he has been charged with conspiracy for allegedly withholding information from the police.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Parmendra Dobhal said that around 4.45 am on Monday, police received information about a girl lying injured on the Haridwar-Roorkee highway. She was taken to a hospital, where she was declared dead.

She was identified around 6 pm, and her mother filed an FIR naming Amit and Aditya.

Police started tracing her movements from the previous day, reviewing over 400 CCTV cameras and 900 call records. "On Sunday, as part of a well-

planned conspiracy, Nitin contacted the girl to meet. In the evening, Nitin and his friend Nikhil (20) picked her up on their motorcycle. Their friends Tushar (20) and Mausam (19) met them on the highway. They went to a bypass road and consumed alcohol," said Haridwar police in a statement.

"When the girl became intoxicated, they took her to a deserted place, where Nitin and Nikhil allegedly raped her. Tushar and Mausam were allegedly about to rape her but were scared off by people passing by. The accused then left her near her house late at night," said the police.

SSP Dobhal said the girl did not go home, and instead went to the residence of Amit. His parents and his sister were at the house.

According to the police, Amit allegedly took the girl to his room. "When she told Amit about the rape, he became furious and started beating her, causing a lot of noise... Fearing that the girl was a minor and they would get caught, Amit's family members allegedly began beating her too. During this, her head hit an iron gate, rendering her unconscious," police said.

The police claimed to have found blood marks in the room, on the gate, and on the cloth used to clean the blood. Bloodstained clothes of the girl and her phone have also been recovered.

According to police, Amit panicked and allegedly took the unconscious girl to the Delhi-Haridwar Highway, where he dumped her under the cover of darkness.

He then fled and informed Aditya, his cousin. The next morning, when her mother reached out to Aditya, he allegedly advised her not to go to the police, and to search for her on her own, police said.

The girl's mother said a few days before the incident, Amit had come to their home and had beaten her daughter.

"This entire incident happened after 7 pm on Sunday when my daughter got a call and left home. Around 11 pm, her phone was switched off. I called Amit and he said they were attending a birthday party and she would return the next morning. When she did not return, I went to Aditya who... asked me to go away. In the evening, Aditya told me my daughter had been killed in a road accident," the mother alleged.

## J&K govt to take penal action for fake complaints against officials

ARUN SHARMA  
JAMMU, JUNE 27

MAKING A complaint against a government official without any material substance could attract penal action in Jammu and Kashmir. According to a new circular, the UT administration will "pursue prosecution" in cases where an inquiry finds a complaint false.

The General Administrative Department's circular, issued to all administrative departments, heads of departments, cadre controlling authorities and the public servants said such action should be under Section 182 of the Indian Penal Code and Section 195(1)(a) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, "based on a complaint filed with the court by the concerned public servant or another superior public servant".

While Section 182 of the IPC deals with "false information, with intent to cause a public servant to use his lawful power to the injury of another person", Section 195(1)(a) of the CrPc deals with prosecution for contempt of lawful authority of public servants. The IPC section carries jail term for up to six months.

However, in case of public servants making false complaints, the circular, which Commissioner-Secretary General Administration Department Sanjeev Verma has issued, asks for "considering departmental action" against them "as an alternative to prosecution".

"A robust and effective mechanism for redressal of complaints against public servants

with detailed instructions, have been issued from time to time, with a view to balance the objectives of good governance for establishing a corruption-free, transparent and responsive administrative system, along-with ensuring adequate safeguards for public servants to protect them from unnecessary harassment of false/frivolous/anonymous/pseudonymous complaints," it reads.

For such affected officers, it asks administrative departments, heads of departments and public servants to provide "institutional support" by "assisting the affected employee to approach Crime Branch, J&K, for initiation of criminal proceedings, facilitate them in filing civil lawsuits against responsible individuals seeking compensation for financial losses, emotional distress, or harm to reputation, with the provision for the public servant to engage a lawyer as per requirement on contingency fee arrangements, subject to available resources, for which each case shall be decided on merits". All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference president Anil Sharma has condemned the decision, calling it a move intended to silence those who speak out against corrupt bureaucracy.

Seeking intervention from the Lt Governor and the central government in the matter, he asked: "How can an ordinary citizen in a vulnerable section of society in a remote area stand against the powerful state and its mechanisms? No citizen would dare to file a corruption case against an officer under such circumstances."

## VADODARA BOAT CAPSIZE CASE

### Effort to protect civic body chief: HC on panel report

SOHINI GHOSH  
AHMEDABAD, JUNE 27

THE GUJARAT High Court on Thursday expressed its displeasure over a report filed by a panel headed by the principal secretary (Urban Development), which gave a clean chit to the commissioner of the Vadodara Municipal Commission (VMC), who had approved the development of Harni lake by Kotia Projects.

Chief Justice Sunita Agarwal and Justice Pranav Trivedi were hearing a suo motu Public Interest Litigation instituted in the aftermath of the boat capsize at Harni lake on January 19 during a school picnic, leading to the death of 12 students and two teachers.

The high court had directed in April that an inquiry be conducted by a panel into the role of

the municipal commissioner after the court, prima facie, observed that the commissioner was "instrumental" in "illegally" granting a contract to Kotia Projects to run and develop the lake.

On Thursday, the state submitted the inquiry report in a sealed cover to the bench.

Reading out the parts of it, Chief Justice Agarwal said: "It is a kind of report which is where there is an effort to protect the municipal commissioner... the committee finds fault and then sidelines the role of the municipal commissioner."

"The committee says that the municipal commissioner generally believes in the report of the technical officer and that (the commissioner) should have been... more careful in granting such (contracts)," the Chief Justice said.



## MONSOON PREVIEW IN PUNJAB

Waterlogging in Ludhiana, Thursday. Chandigarh IMD Director A K Singh confirmed that monsoon has entered Punjab early Thursday. The IMD issued a yellow alert in 11 districts of the state. Gurmeet Singh

## 120 hospitals assessed, only two following norms, finds ministry

### INDIAN PUBLIC HEALTH STANDARDS COMPLIANCE: INITIAL ASSESSMENT

Facility type	No. of facilities existing (As per NHM-MIS)	Total facilities assessed *	IPHS compliant facilities (> 80%)	
			Number	Percentage
District Hospital	864	120	2	2%
Sub-District Hospital	1,524	150	7	5%
Community Health Centre	6,624	711	10	1%
Primary Health Centre	27,949	3,967	761	19%
Sub Health Centre	1,72,332	23,148	7,181	31%

\*Till 10th June 2024

HARIKISHAN SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

ONLY TWO of 120 district hospitals assessed across the country have been found complying with the Central government's norms — Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) — *The Indian Express* has learnt.

The Union Health Ministry had released the IPHS in 2022 and now it has conducted an initial assessment to see whether health facilities such as district hospitals, sub-district hospitals, community health centres, primary health centres and Ayushman Arogya Mandirs are complying with the norms. The assessment has been

conducted through a digital toolkit — ODK. The outcome of the assessment will be made available on IPHS dashboard, which will be launched by Union Health Minister J P Nadda on Friday. Officials of state governments and the Union Health Ministry can access these reports.

Initial assessment shows that out of 864 district hospitals across the country, 120 have been assessed till June 10 and only two of them — Karimnagar and Peddapalli in Telangana — were found to be complying to the IPHS, said sources. The health facilities meeting and adhering to 80% or more of IPHS 2022 norms are classified as 'IPHS compliance'.

Of 1,524 sub-district hospitals,

150 have been assessed till June 10 and only five of them have been found compliant. There are 6,624 community health centres, of which 711 have been assessed till June 10 and only 10 have been found complying. Overall, out of 2.16 lakh health facilities in rural and urban areas, 28,096 were assessed till June 10, and only 7,961 (28%) were found complying to IPHS. The IPHS has 10 parameters — service provision, infrastructure, human resource, drugs, diagnostics, equipment, accountability and operationalising, quality monitoring and certification, and clinical governance.

The purpose is to achieve IPHS compliance in at least 50% of healthcare facilities by 2025-26.

## Key accused in Bareilly shootout surrenders as bulldozers start razing his hotel

Meerut: The prime accused in the Bareilly shootout incident that took place between two rival groups on the outskirts of city on April 22 surrendered on Thursday when a team of the Bareilly Development Authority (BDA) and police started demolishing a hotel belonging to him.

Two persons had sustained bullet injuries in the firing that took place over a dispute over a parcel of land where a marble shop is constructed.

The police, however, had claimed that no one was injured in the shootout.

Aditya Upadhyay, a marble dealer, and his son were arrested and their licensed weapons were seized in this connection. Over a dozen persons from both groups have been arrested so far.

The main accused, Rajiv Rana, who was absconding since last week's incident, surrendered on Thursday. Providing details of the encroachment, BDA vice chairman Manikandan A said, "We found glaring irregularities in four buildings, including his hotel and house." Later, Rana was produced in a Bareilly court that sent him to 14-day judicial custody. **ENS**

## Student undergoes dialysis after ragging, 7 booked in Rajasthan

HAMZA KHAN  
JAIPUR, JUNE 27

POLICE IN Rajasthan's Dungarpur have lodged an FIR against seven students after a first-year medical student suffered infection in his liver and kidney and had to undergo dialysis because of alleged excessive ragging, officials said.

The 20-year-old student told police that he and 50-70 other first-year medical students at Government Medical College, Dungarpur were taken to a hill about one and a half kilometers from the college last month. At the hill, they were allegedly ragged by seniors.

The student's father said that the alleged incident took place on May 15. Terming it an "inhuman act", he said that the students were taken to the hill with the temperature touching 48 degrees Celsius and once there, the seniors made his son do 300-350 sit-ups while some others had to do even more.

He said that due to the intense strain, his son's muscles were damaged, which led to in-

fection in the kidney and liver. "He didn't tell us anything about the ragging, but when he complained about pain, we had some tests conducted, first on May 18, and then again on May 22," the father told *The Indian Express*.

When the test results flagged issues, the family rushed him to a hospital in Ahmedabad on May 22 following a recommendation by doctors. At the hospital, the student was admitted for nine days beginning May 22 and almost a month and a half later, has recovered, after undergoing dialysis four times. On the delay between the alleged ragging and the complaint to the National Medical Commission, the father said that they came to know about it later, only through the doctors. GMC principal Dr Balamurugavelu S said they received a complaint via the NMC website. "We formed a committee within 24 hours and investigated (the case). We suspended seven students involved in the ragging and also lodged an FIR at the local police station."

SHO Giridhari Singh said the FIR was lodged under relevant IPC sections and a probe is on.

## Factory worker arrested for Dehradun triple murders: Police

AVANEESH MISHRA  
DEHRADUN, JUNE 27

A 36-YEAR-OLD factory worker was arrested in connection with the murder of a 30-year-old woman and her two daughters — one of whom was eight-month-old — in Dehradun, police said on Thursday.

The case came to light after the three bodies were discovered in a forested area near a petrol pump in the Badowala area of Dehradun on Tuesday. Police said the accused, Haseen, was arrested on Wednesday.

According to the police, the victim was forcing the accused to marry her, following which he conspired to kill her. On Tuesday, the police received information about a foul smell coming from a dry drain near the petrol pump and on searching the area they found the three bodies.

During the search operation, the police also found two bags — a blue bag containing clothes and other material belonging to the woman and the children, and a purple bag, said the officers. The police also found a roadways bus ticket near a factory located close to the crime scene. On probing the factory workers, the police learnt that Haseen was present near the murder spot.

Later, the police team picked up the accused for interrogation during which he confessed to the crime. "Accused Haseen was having an affair with the woman. She was pressuring him to marry her, so he wanted to get rid of her. On Sunday, the woman came to Dehradun with her two daughters to meet the accused," said the police statement.

"The accused went near the factory with the woman and her children. After putting them to sleep, the accused first strangled the woman to death and then killed both the girls by suffocating them. The accused later threw the bodies behind the factory," said the police statement.

A case has been registered under Section 302 (murder) of the IPC.

## After gruelling court battle, Pune waste-pickers get dues of ₹7.5 crore

PARTHA SARATHI  
BISWAS  
PUNE, JUNE 27

A FEW days back, Shital Girmakar (40), a waste picker from Kalewadi area of Pimpri Chinchwad, managed to clear her home loan and get back the ownership of her house, something which Girmakar had almost given up on. "This was possible only because the Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Commission (PCMC) at last paid our long pending dues, though we had to fight a long and hard battle to get what should have been legally ours," said Girmakar. The victory though came at a price—32 waste pickers had died while waiting for

their dues to be paid.

The case had its genesis in 2016, when Kagad Kaach Patra Kashtakari Panchayat (KKPKP) moved the court of the deputy labour commissioner due to non-payment of minimum wages. Aditya Vyas, secretary of the union, had explained how between December 2012 and May 2013, and between June 2013 and June 2015, a total of 310 waste pickers were not paid as per the Minimum Wages Act.

The accumulative dues in both the cases came to be about Rs 7.5 crores. Vyas said the union had decided to move the court of the deputy labour commissioner to fight this case.

The deputy labour commissioner had ruled in the favour of the union in 2023.



PCMC has outsourced the work of door-to-door waste collection to another agency which in turn employs the waste pickers of KKPKP. Express Photo

PCMC has outsourced the work of door-to-door waste col-

lection to another agency who in turn employs the waste pickers

of KKPKP. But Vyas explained that as the principal employer, it was the duty of the PCMC to ensure minimum wages are paid and also the dues be credited to their accounts.

Vijaya Ashok Chavan, one of the waste pickers, had regularly attended the hearing for the case which was filed in 2013.

Chavan, who is a waste picker herself, said she had to go for a hearing once a month or twice a month even if it meant being absent for work.

"We were asked questions about the nature of our work, about payment we got and we answered them. The verdict proved that our stance was correct," she said. Two separate cases were filed—one in 2013 and the other in 2017. Both ver-

dicts came in favour of the waste pickers in 2023.

But it took one whole year for the corporation to start releasing the money. "Our members had started planning on what they would do with the money—but administrative delays at various levels saw the process of transfer being delayed," said Vyas. The standing committee of the corporation (which now functions without any public representative as the time frame of the body had lapsed two years back) had given the green signal for the transfer of money in February but actual dispersal started only last month. Till date, Rs 6.7 crores have been transferred to the accounts of waste pickers.

Like Girmakar, Rekha Sapkal (30) also got dues worth Rs 2.7

# Jabalpur airport: Part of canopy at new terminal caves in, no one injured

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BHOPAL, JUNE 27

THE PORTION of a canopy of the new terminal building of Jabalpur airport in Madhya Pradesh caved in and fell on a car after heavy rainfall Thursday.

The damaged car belongs to an Income Tax official. No one was injured in the incident as the driver left after parking the vehicle in the porch outside the main gate of the terminal building.

The airport authority has launched an investigation into the incident. State Public Works Minister Rakesh Singh said that "an accident at the airport has been reported and an investigation is underway to prevent such incidents in the future." According to officials, amid heavy rain, water began accumulating which increased the weight of the canopy's tent and caused the iron tent section to fall on the car.

An AAI statement read, "Due to continuous rainfall since yesterday evening, a part of the fabric canopy, constructed for the aesthetic appeal of the newly-built building at Jabalpur Airport, accumulated water and the fabric tore. This caused the water to fall on the car parked below, damaging the car's roof and windows... The AAI (Jabalpur), regrets this incident and assures comprehensive resolution."

A senior official said "the building is newly-constructed and has experienced its first rain. The investigation will determine any technical faults, and the project in-charge of this building is also being consulted."

As per a PIB release, the upgradation work at the airport includes construction of New Terminal Building, ATC Tower, Technical Block, Fire Station Category VII, other buildings and Extension of runway & associated works to cater the operations of AB-320 type of aircraft.

# CBI arrests two from Patna in NEET-UG case; records statements of suspects in Godhra

SANTOSH SINGH NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

THE CENTRAL Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which has taken over the NEET-UG paper 'leak' case from Bihar's Economic Offences Unit (EOU), Thursday arrested two people from Patna. The two had allegedly made arrangements for accommodation for NEET-UG examinees on May 4, a day before the exam. Four examinees are among 13 accused in the case, besides five more arrests made later.

In Gujarat, a CBI team on Thursday recorded statements of several students who had allegedly paid money for clearing the medical entrance exam held at Jay Jalaram School in Godhra's Parvadi village, Gujarat, on May 5. The CBI arrested Manish Prakash from Patna for allegedly arranging accommodation on the request of one Ashutosh Kumar, who was also arrested later from the state capital.

Prakash's wife Archana said, "The CBI called me around 1.30 pm to say that my husband has been arrested. He is a social worker who would often help people with making stay arrangements for students. I had heard someone asking him on the phone to make arrangements for four-five students. We had no idea about the enormity of trouble he has now landed in."



The two accused who were arrested in Patna, Thursday. PTI

The CBI had on Wednesday also tried to track the prime accused Sanjiv Mukhiya, who has been absconding from his Nalanda village. The agency suspects Mukhiya has fled to Nepal. The agency has also received more information on another key accused, Sikandar Yadavendu, who has already been arrested by the Bihar police. Yadavendu had allegedly introduced the four examinees to 'setters' Nitish Kumar and Amit Anand.

In Godhra, sources said at least 30 students were summoned for questioning and about 15 of them were based in Gujarat.

Few students from Gujarat, including at least six locals, arrived at Godhra's Circuit House Thursday for recording their statements; the CBI also recorded

the school owner's statement.

The CBI also sought custody of four arrested accused — Tushar Bhatt (district's NEET centre superintendent), school principal Purshottam Sharma, education consultant Vibor Anand and Arif Vohra (resident of Godhra), officials said. All of them are currently in judicial custody.

The central probing agency has also submitted its FIR to the Panchmahal district sessions court to initiate legal proceedings for acquiring the custody of the accused. Hearings in this application will be held Friday, said officials.

Officials said students from other states were in touch with accused Anand and Parshuram Roy, the owner of Vadodara-based Roy Overseas; students from Gujarat contacted Vohra, who allegedly had also handed over Rs 7 lakh to Bhatt on the day of the exam.

# Apex court seeks NTA response over OMR-related issues

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

THE SUPREME Court Thursday sought a response from the National Testing Agency (NTA) asking if there was any time limit to raise grievances regarding the OMR sheets for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Undergraduate candidates, who appeared for the NEET-UG 2024.

A bench of Justices Manoj Misra and S V N Bhatti said this while issuing notice on a plea made by a coaching institution, Xylem Learning Private Limited, and a few NEET candidates.

Appearing for the petitioners, senior advocate R Basant said that several students were aggrieved as they were yet to get their OMR sheets.

He added that some of the OMR sheet calculations are "inconsistent with the calculations done with the answer key".

During the proceedings, the bench noted as to how can a coaching institution file a petition under Article 32 and how their rights were "violated".

The bench remarked: "How their fundamental right was vio-

lated so as to necessitate a writ petition under Article 32".

Justice Bhatti remarked, "This is one of the reasons where we see this role played by the coaching centres, bagpipers. They have hardly any role to play... If they have discharged their service, that is the end of the matter. They have not undertaken to see that everything that centre is supposed to do, it will be taken care of by them".

Appearing for the NTA, advocate Vardhman Kaushik said that OMR sheets had already been provided to the candidates.

The bench then sought to know "if there was a time limit to approach the authorities regarding the grievances over OMR sheets."

"Normally in such matters if OMR sheets are uploaded and if there is any grievance, then there is a time limit," said Justice Misra.

The NTA counsel said he needs to take instructions on what exactly is the position and sought listing of the petition along with the pending matters.

The court tagged the petition with the pending NEET related matters and listed it for hearing on July 8.

## ISRO SPYING CASE

### 2 former DGPs among 5 in CBI chargesheet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

THE CBI has filed a chargesheet against two former DGPs, 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 ISRO espionage case, officials said.

Three years after registering a case in 2021 following the Supreme Court's directions, the CBI filed its chargesheet against then DIG Mathews, who headed the SIT that probed the case, Sreekumar, the then deputy director in the Intelligence Bureau, P S Jayaprakash, who was then posted in Sib-Kerala, then DySP 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 IPC, the officials said.

CBI had lodged the case on April 15, 2021. The Kerala Police had lodged two cases in October 1994 after Maldivian national Rasheeda was arrested in Thiruvananthapuram for allegedly obtaining secret drawings of ISRO rocket engines for selling to Pakistan.

Narayanan, then director of the cryogenic project at ISRO, was held, along with the then ISRO deputy director D Sasikumar and Fousiya Hasan, a Maldivian friend of Rasheeda. CBI probe had found the allegations to be false.

## J&K Police issues advisory for Amarnath Yatra pilgrims

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JUNE 27

THE JAMMU and Kashmir Police on Thursday issued an advisory for the 52-day long annual Amarnath Yatra, the first batch for which will leave Friday morning.

According to the advisory, "No yatri or tourist will be allowed to cross the Navyug tunnel towards Kashmir after 1500 hours (3 pm)". Similarly, "The last vehicle to cross Walnut Factory, Qazigund towards Navyug Tunnel must do so by 1730 hours (5.30 pm)". The advisory asked the yatri and tourists to "travel in Kashmir Valley between 7 am and 6 pm". It said: "After 1800 hours, no further movement is allowed, and the vehicles will be directed to the nearest Yatri or Security Forces camp".

The first batch of pilgrims will leave the base camp at Bhagwati Nagar in Jammu Friday morning. While the traditional Chandarnwari route is 48 km, the Baltal route is only 14 km but considered difficult due to its steep height.

The J&K Police has put in place a three-tier security system in and around the Amarnath base camp at Bhagwati Nagar. Jammu SSP Dr Vinod Kumar said: "Adequate security arrangements have been made for the yatra. The Quick Reaction Teams have been activated, high-rise buildings dominated, and the security machinery is in place."

## Kannada news channel off air after HC interim order over licence

Bengaluru: Power TV, a Kannada news channel which was at the forefront of campaigns against many prominent persons in the state, stopped its broadcasting Thursday following a High Court interim order over a lack of requisite licence for transmission.

Two separate cases were filed against the news channel by H M Ramesh Gowda, a JD(S) MLC and B R Ravikanth Gowda, a serving IPS officer, alleging that the channel lacked a licence from the Information & Broadcast Ministry for broadcasting news.

The HC was informed by the Centre that the uplink and downlink licence that the channel operators had obtained in October 2011 had expired in October 2021 and the company's application for renewal filed in December 2022 was still under examination.

On June 25, a single judge bench of the Karnataka HC ordered the channel to stop broadcasting till the next date of hearing, and the channel complied with the order Thursday. It posted the main matter to July 9. **ENS**

### SALUTE THE SOLDIER

**Asstt. Sub- Insp. Sajjan Singh**

ITBP salutes its braveheart Asstt. Sub Insp. Sajjan Singh of 42nd Battalion, who laid down his life in the line of duty on this day in J&K in 2017.

**Resident of :** Vill. - Meghpur, Distt. - Jhunjhunu (Rajasthan)

**INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE (ITBP)**

### यू.पी. प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लि.

कार्यालय महाराष्ट्र, जौन-5, मोदीजी बैराज, बायां राट, मोदीजी नगर, वरानसी-226010

ई-मेल : gmzone5@gmail.com & gm\_5@upprojects.org टेल. : 0522-237882

पत्र सं. : 250 / पी.सी.एल. / महा.प्र. / जौन-5 / टेण्डर-05 दिनांक : 24.06.2024

**अति अत्याधुनिक ई-निविदा सूचना**

जनपद झांसी स्थित एम.एल.बी. मेडिकल कॉलेज में अग्निशमन कार्य हेतु इस कार्यालय की ई-निविदा सूचना सं. 05/GM-5/UPPCL/2024-25 दिनांक 24.06.2024 द्वारा ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। उक्त निविदा <http://www.etender.up.nic.in> की वेबसाइट पर दिनांक 26.06.2024 से दिनांक 10.07.2024 के अपराह्न 15:00 बजे तक डाउनलोड/अपलोड की जा सकती है।

ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य विवरण, नियम एवं शर्तें कारपोरेशन की वेबसाइट [www.upprojects.org](http://www.upprojects.org) पर दिनांक 26.06.2024 से देखी जा सकती है।

महाप्रबन्धक जौन-5, लखनऊ

### Solapur Municipal Corporation

**E-Tender Notice**

Commissioner Solapur Municipal Corporation, Solapur invites E-Tender for the work Underground Sewerage Network for Solapur City Under Maharashtra Suvarn Jayanti Nagarothan Maha-abhiyan Scheme (State Level) in the state of Maharashtra valued at Rs. 363.88/- Cr. The E-Tender details are available on <http://mahatenders.gov.in> from 28/06/2024 at 10.00 A.M.

Tender ID : 2024\_SMC\_1045638\_1  
Date : 28/06/2024

**Sd/-**  
**Commissioner**  
Solapur Municipal Corporation, Solapur

### ODISHA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH

GHATIKIA, MAHALAXMI VIHAR, BHUBANESWAR-751 029

Bid No. 2085/ OUTFR/2024 Date: 27/ 06 /2024

**NOTICE FOR INVITING TENDER**

Sealed Tenders are invited from Original Equipment Manufacturers/ Distributor/ Authorized Dealers for "Supply of Desktop Computer at OUTFR", details of which are available in the tender papers. The tenderers must possess valid up-to-date GST/income tax clearance etc. The last date of submission of tender is 19.07.2024 up to 3 PM and will open on 20.07.2024 at 11.00 A.M. The sealed tender will be delivered by Speed Post/Registered Post or Courier only. Tender received after the scheduled date and time will not be considered. The authority is not responsible for any postal delay. The authority reserves the right to cancel the bids without assigning any reason thereof. More details are available at our university website [www.outr.ac.in](http://www.outr.ac.in).

**Sd/-**  
**REGISTRAR**

OIPR-16005/11/0006/2425

### North Eastern Railway e-Auction Notice

No. IZN/C/Auction/2024/07 Date 27.06.2024

The bids are invited from registered entities on IREPS by Sr. DCM/IZN (ACO) through e-Auction for award NFR & Advertisement contracts. The Catalogue has already been published on IREPS website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). The detail of upcoming e-Auctions of Izzatnagar division is as under:

**Category : NFR/Adv., Catalogue No. :** ADVT-OOH-24-7; **Asset Detail :** Commercial publicity rights to display advertisement at 19 locations i.e. stations Area/LC Gate/LC Gate Area of over Izzatnagar division/NE railway for three (03) years, **Auction Start :** 01.07.24 11:00:00, **Auction End :** 01.07.24 14:30:00 **Category : NFR, Catalogue No. :** IZN-NFR-RCR-3; **Asset Detail :** Establishment of Rail Coach Restaurant at Rudrapur City station circulating area for five (05) years, **Auction Start :** 01.07.24 12:00:00, **Auction End :** 01.07.24 12:30:00 **Category : NFR/Adv., Catalogue No. :** IZN-RDN-ADV-02; **Asset Detail :** Commercial publicity rights to display advertisement at station platform over 7 stations of Izzatnagar Division for (03) three years, **Auction Start :** 02.07.24 11:00:00, **Auction End :** 02.07.24 12:30:00 **Category : NFR, Catalogue No. :** IZN-NFR-EV-24-3; **Asset Detail :** Installation, maintenance and operation of Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging stations OR Battery swapping station OR Both at Bareilly City and Izzatnagar Railway Station for (05) years, **Auction Start :** 03.07.24 12:00:00, **Auction End :** 03.07.24 12:40:00 **Category : NFR, Catalogue No. :** IZN-ADV-VR-24-2; **Asset Detail :** Commercial publicity rights for Vinyl Wrapping/ Advertisement on surface of the side wall of coaches (Barring mandatory signage's and window) of train No. 12091/92 (Naini Doon Jan Shatabdi) for a period of 03 Years, **Auction Start :** 04.07.24 12:00:00, **Auction End :** 04.07.24 12:30:00 **Category : NFR, Catalogue No. :** IZN-HY-VEED-06; **Asset Detail :** E-Auction for vending of various miscellaneous items (Excluding food & PDW) like laptop & mobile accessories, cosmetics, artificial Jewellery and accessories, toiletries, stationery, books, show pieces, toys, footwear, bags and goggles etc. in all trains (except Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Vande Bharat, Duronto and similar special trains) on board in all sections in the jurisdiction of Izzatnagar Division of North Eastern Railway for (03) three years, **Auction Start :** 04.07.24 12:00:00, **Auction End :** 04.07.24 12:30:00 **Category : NFR/Adv., Catalogue No. :** IZN-RDN-OSD-01; **Asset Detail :** Commercial publicity rights to display advertisement through LED Screens inside the Bareilly City & Bareilly Jn (PF No. 5 & 6) Railway Station building under Rail Display Network policy for a period of Five (05) years, **Auction Start :** 08.07.24 12:00:00, **Auction End :** 08.07.24 12:40:00.

1. Bidders are advised to visit website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for more information related to e-Auction. 2. The bids have been invited through e-Auction Leasing module of IREPS website. 3. All the e-Auction related information as eligibility, scope of work, contract period, terms & conditions of contract etc. are available on IREPS. 4. Bidders can participate in e-Auction only as per the date & timing as indicated above. 5. All the prospective bidders are requested to visit website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) regularly for any corrigendum related to above e-Auctions.

**CPRO/Com-71 DCM/IZN**  
*Never travel on roof and foot boards*

### NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender No.: 20-TRD-NDLS-2024-25 Dated 27.06.2024

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work:

- Name of work with its location: Miscellaneous works interconnection with reliability improvement of Traction Distribution Assets in the jurisdiction of OHE/PTNR & OHE/BGZ, TRD/GH & TRD/ROK.
- Approx cost of work: Rs. 48,43,946.83/-
- Earnest Money Deposit: Rs. 96,900/-
- E-Tender Bid Online Submission period: 05.07.2024 (00:00 Hrs.) to 19.07.2024 (15:00 Hrs.)
- E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time: 19.07.2024 (15:00 hrs.)
- Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE** 1933/24

### GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : SUNDARGARH AT/PO- SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020, E-mail address- serw\_sundargarh@yahoo.com

No. Tender Online - RWCCESNG - 01 of 2024-25, Letter No. 1353/ Dtd. 25.06.2024

**e-Procurement NOTICE**

- Type of the Work: Roads (DMF)
- Class of Contractor: As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
- Time of Completion: As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
- Detail Projects: As per Annexure attached
- Estimated Cost: As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
- Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From To	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWCCESNG-01 of 2024-25	03.07.2024 11:00 AM To 23.07.2024 5:00 PM	25.07.2024 11:00 PM	05.01.2024 11:00 AM	Will be intimated separately

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

**Sd/-**  
**Chief Engineer**  
(Design & Quality Control)  
Chief Construction Engineer (I/C)  
Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh

OIPR-25133/11/0002/2425

### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Ajay @ Vijay S/o Jagbir Singh R/o H.No. C/579, Rajiv Garden, Loni, Distt: Ghazibad, U.P.** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 2288/2014 U/s 302/120B IPC & 25/24 Arms Act at PS: Shakapur, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Ajay @ Vijay** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Ajay @ Vijay** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Ajay @ Vijay** of FIR No. 2288/2014 U/s 302/120B IPC & 25/24 Arms Act of PS: Shakapur, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 07.08.2024. By order

**Sushant Changotra**  
Additional Sessions Judge  
Fast Track Courts (East)  
Court No.30,  
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/8073/ED/2024

### NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED

(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)  
NANGAL UNIT, NAYA NANGAL (PUNJAB) 140 126

Ref. No.: NFN/2024-25/Elect./ARC/01/2023 Date: 28/06/2024

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Online bids in two part bid system are invited for the following:

Work Description	Tender Fee	EMD	Estimated Cost of Work	Last date & time of online submission of tenders	Date & time of online opening of tenders
Annual rate contract (Electrical) 2024-25 for maintenance of electrical equipment and lighting in factory area and township including maintenance of residential quarters, public buildings, shopping centers and non-plant buildings	Rs. 1000/-	Rs. 1.00 Lac	Rs 152.81 Lacs + Applicable GST	23/07/2024 upto 1400 Hrs.	24/07/2024 at 1530 Hrs.

For further details, visit our Website: [www.nationalfertilizers.com](http://www.nationalfertilizers.com); <https://etenders.gov.in/epprocure/app>

Tenderers are advised to visit our website regularly. Any amendment/corrigendum to the above NIT will be displayed on aforesaid website only.

**DGM (E&I)**

### बिहार सरकार अधीक्षण अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य अंचल, पटना निविदा रद्द संबंधी सूचना

अधीक्षण अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य अंचल, पटना द्वारा इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक-641 (अनु०) दिनांक-05.06.24 द्वारा निर्गत निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या Very Short Notice No. RWD/FDR/Patna/01 (2024-25) जिसका PR No.-001234 (RWD) 2024-25 है, जो FDR योजनान्तर्गत पथ निर्माण कार्य से संबंधित है। जिसे अपरिहार्य कारणवश रद्द किया जाता है।

**अधीक्षण अभियंता**  
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य अंचल, पटना  
नरो से बनानी दूरी है, क्योंकि परिवार जरूरी है।

PR. No.002759 (RWD) 2024-25

### NIT No. 22/CME/PMC/2024 TENDER

Patna Municipal Corporation invites online bids through [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) for following works from the bidders fulfilling eligibility criteria's.

SL No.	Name of Works	Cost of Tender (Non-Refundable) (Paid Through <a href="http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in">www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a> )	EMD (Paid Through <a href="http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in">www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a> )
1	Empanelment of Agencies for Supply of different types of vehicle Spare Parts (i.e. light and heavy vehicle) to Patna Municipal Corporation.	Rs. 10,000/-	Rs.5,0000/-

In case of Bank Guarantee, EMD shall be payable in favour of "Municipal Commissioner, Patna Municipal Corporation" payable at Patna.

**Key Dates:**

- Start of online bid/downloading of bid documents : From 12.07.2024(15:00 Hrs.)
- Pre-bid Meeting : 15.07.2024 at 16:00 Hrs (As per RFP)
- Last date of Online Bid Submission : 22.07.2024 till 16:00 Hrs.
- Technical Bid Opening date : 23.07.2024 at 16:00 Hrs.

The preferred Company/ agency would be empanelled through a single-stage competitive bidding process based on evaluation of technical proposal. The bidders are expected to submit their proposal in accordance with the instruction provided in the Bid Document. Detailed Bid Document incorporating instructions for submission of bid and other relevant information's will be available on [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) and [www.pmc.bihar.gov.in](http://www.pmc.bihar.gov.in) from bid start date. Amendment/Corrigendum/ any information to NIT, if any would be published on website [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) only.

Patna Municipal Corporation  
Maurya Lok Complex,  
Buddha Marg, Patna, Bihar, 800 001.  
W: [www.pmc.bihar.gov.in](http://www.pmc.bihar.gov.in)  
Email id: [pmcprda@gmail.com](mailto:pmcprda@gmail.com) / [cmepmcprda01@gmail.com](mailto:cmepmcprda01@gmail.com)  
M: +91 9199619166

For further details please visit : [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar)  
PR- 002689 (B & C) 2024-25

**Chief Municipal Engineer**  
Patna Municipal Corporation.

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

### WESTERN RAILWAY MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NO. S/27/2024 DATE 24.06.2024

Sr.No.	Short Description of item	Quantity	T.O.D.
390	APRICOT YELLOW	30660 Ltr	08-Jul-24
391	INHIBITED MINERAL INSULATING OIL AS PER TYPE II TRANSFORMER OIL	52953 Ltr	08-Jul-24
392	SUPPLY, TRANSPORTATION AND COMMISSIONING OF SMPS BASED IPS	32 Set	09-Jul-24
393	METALISED CARBON STRIP FOR AC PANTOGRAPH TYPE AM-12	3364 Nos	11-Jul-24
394	ROLLER DOOR ASSEMBLY	273 Nos	12-Jul-24
395	SET OF PU LINING	14173 Set	12-Jul-24
396	MULTI STRAND TIN COATED COPPER 70 SQ.MM	4839 Mtr	15-Jul-24
397	EOT CRANE CAPACITY 10/3T	1 Nos	15-Jul-24
398	CNC DRILLING & OXY-FUEL PROFILE CUTTING MACHINE, CUTTING CAPACITY	1 Nos	15-Jul-24
399	ROLLER BEARING FOR HITACHI TRACTION MOTOR	208 Nos	15-Jul-24
400	ARTICULATED SPHERO ELASTIC RUBBER BEARING	190 Nos	15-Jul-24
401	CUT OFF ANGLE COCK WITH VENT FOR AIR BRAKE COACHES	5023 Nos	15-Jul-24
402	VERTICAL TAKE OFF CABLE HEAD TERMINAL SYSTEM	48 Nos	15-Jul-24
403	L-TYPE COMPOSITION BRAKE BLOCK	15805 Nos	15-Jul-24
404	STICK TYPE MASTER CONTROLLER	120 Nos	16-Jul-24
405	DUMP VALVE WITH BRACKET COMPLETE	153 Nos	17-Jul-24
406	RUBBER SPRING PLATE FOR DRAW AND BUFF GEAR	4252 Nos	18-Jul-24
407	SET OF PROTECTIVE RELAYS	26 Set	18-Jul-24
408	INTRA VASCULAR ULTRASOUND CATHETER	60 Nos	18-Jul-24
409	MICROPROCESSOR BASED CONTROL AND FAULT DIAGNOSTIC SYSTEM	60 Set	22-Jul-24
410	TRACTION MOTOR	148 Nos	22-Jul-24
411	DRUG COATED PTCA BALLOON	125 Nos	22-Jul-24
412	SET OF SLIDING DOOR ASSEMBLY COMPLETE FOR BCNHL WAGON	144 Set	24-Jul-24
413	SINGLE PHASE TO THREE PHASE 02 X 130 KVA CONVERTOR	55 Nos	30-Jul-24
414	OCT SYSTEM WITH WIRELESS FFR WITH 2 YEARS COMPREHENSIVE WARRANTY	2 Nos	30-Jul-24

**Reverse Auction**

28	6 QUAD CABLE 1.4MM DIA	171 KM	12-Jul-24
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Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) and [www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in)

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# Indian Government Bonds in JP Morgan index: what this means

**HITESH VYAS**  
 MUMBAI, JUNE 27

THE INCLUSION of Indian Government Bonds (IGBs) in JP Morgan's emerging markets bond indices will begin from Friday. The inclusion, which will be spread over 10 months until March 31, 2025, is likely to bring \$20-25 billion into the country, according to estimates. While these higher inflows will help India manage its external finances and boost its foreign exchange reserves and the rupee, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will have to use the instruments in its armoury to check the resultant inflationary pressures.

**What was JP Morgan's announcement?**  
 In September last year, JP Morgan had announced that it would include IGBs to its emerging markets bond index from June 2024. The decision was taken after the 2023 index governance review, it had said. "India will be included in the GBI-EM Global index suite and all relevant derivative

benchmarks (including custom indices), starting June 28, 2024," JP Morgan said. The inclusion would be staggered into the GBI-EM Global Diversified Index (GBI-EM GD) from June 28, 2024 through March 31, 2025, it said.

**What will be India's weight in the index?**  
 India is expected to reach the maximum weight of 10 per cent in the GBI-EM Global Diversified Index (GBI-EM GD). A higher weightage will prompt global investors to allocate more funds for investment in Indian debt. Analysts expect \$2-3 billion flows to India every month.

**How many Indian Government Bonds are eligible for inclusion?**  
 JP Morgan said there are 23 IGBs that meet the index eligibility criteria, with a combined notional value of approximately Rs 27 lakh crore or \$330 billion. Only IGBs designated under the Fully Accessible Route (FAR) are index-eligible. In March 2020, the RBI, in consultation with the government, introduced a separate channel,

called the FAR, to enable non-residents to invest in specified Government of India dated securities.

As per the index inclusion criteria, eligible instruments are required to have notional outstanding above \$1 billion (equivalent) and at least 2.5 years remaining maturity, JP Morgan said. "At the start of the inclusion on June 28, 2024, only FAR-designated IGBs with a maturity date after December 31, 2026, will be assessed for eligibility," it said.

Any new index-eligible FAR-designated IGBs issued during the phase-in period will also be included.

**What is the amount of flows that can come to India?**  
 According to estimates by some economists, India is likely to receive \$2 billion to \$2.5 billion every month during the 10-month period starting June 28. Overall, it is expected that \$20 billion to \$25 billion of flows would come into India due to the inclusion.

An HSBC report said IGBs have already seen inflows of \$10.4 billion since the inclusion announcement on September 21, 2023. A large part of inflows is yet to materialise and this is likely to be led by benchmark issues, it said. So far in 2024, foreign portfolio investors have purchased \$8.06 billion of Indian debt, according to National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL) data.

**What would be the impact of the bond inclusion?**  
 According to Madhavi Arora, Lead Economist, Emkay Global Financial Services, the move could lead to fresh active flows in the debt market, which remains underpenetrated on external financing. It will not only result in lower risk premia, but will also help India to finance its fiscal and current account deficit (CAD), as well as enhance the liquidity and ownership base of government securities (G-secs; debt instruments issued by the central government to meet its fiscal needs), Arora said in a report in

September last year. The country's current account balance recorded a surplus of \$5.7 billion, or 0.6 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in the January-March 2024 quarter, as against a current account deficit of \$1.3 billion, or 0.2 per cent of GDP, in the year-ago quarter.

Global rating agency Fitch Ratings said that the inclusion of certain Indian sovereign bonds in key emerging-market bond indexes managed by JP Morgan will support a diversification of the investor base for Indian government securities. It could help lower funding costs slightly, and support further development of domestic capital markets, but direct positive effects on India's credit profile will be marginal in the near term.

**Will higher inflows be a concern for RBI?**  
 While higher inflows will boost the rupee, inflation is likely to come under pressure. When the RBI mops up dollars from the market, it will have to release an equivalent amount in rupees, putting pressure on inflation.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has said the central bank has several instruments to manage surges in flows on account of bond inclusion. "We have managed it in the past. We will manage it this time also," Das told reporters earlier this month.

**Are Indian government bonds going to be included in any other global index?**  
 After JP Morgan, Bloomberg announced this March that Indian government bonds will be included in the Bloomberg Emerging Market (EM) Local Currency Government Index and related indices from January 31, 2025. Indian FAR bonds will be included in the Bloomberg EM Local Currency Government indices with an initial weight of 10 per cent of their full market value from that date, Bloomberg said. The indices in the scope for inclusion include the Bloomberg EM Local Currency Government Index, the Bloomberg EM Local Currency Government Index 10% Country Capped Index, and all related sub-indices.

**EXPLAINED LAW**

## 'LARGER ACADEMIC INTEREST': BEHIND BOMBAY HC'S HIJAB BAN DECISION

**OMKAR GOKHALE**  
 MUMBAI, JUNE 27

THE BOMBAY High Court on Wednesday dismissed a plea by nine students of Chembur's N G Acharya & D K Marathe College challenging the institute's dress code banning *hijab*, and held that the decision was "in larger academic interest". It relied on and expressed "full agreement" with the 2022 judgment of the full Bench of the Karnataka High Court that had validated the state government's *hijab* ban in government colleges.

**Contention on the dress code**  
 The Chembur college issued a new dress code in May this year, which would be implemented in the academic year beginning June. This followed controversy last August, when several junior college girls wearing *hijab* were denied entry for alleged non-compliance with the prescribed uniform.

The new dress code stated that *burqa*, *niqab*, *hijab*, or any religious identifiers such as badges, caps, or stoles will not be permitted inside the college. The dress code prescribed half- and full-sleeved shirts with trousers for boys, and "any Indian/ western non-revealing dress" for girls. Nine aggrieved women students approached the HC, terming the college's instructions "arbitrary and discriminatory".

**Bombay HC judgment**  
 A division Bench of Justices Atul S Chandurkar and Rajesh S Patil held that the dress code issued by the college was in "larger academic interest", and "[did] not suffer from infirmity so as to violate provisions of Article 19(1)(a) and Article 25 of the Constitution".

"The object behind issuing the same is that the dress of a student should not reveal his/ her religion, which is a step towards ensuring that the students focus on gaining knowledge and education which is in their larger interest," the Bench stated.

The Bench also rejected the argument that the "donning of a *hijab* or *niqab* is an essential religious practice of petitioners", saying that except for the English translations of *Kanz-ul-Iman* and *Saman Abu Dawud*, there was no material placed to support the claim.

The Bench held that since the instructions issued were "applicable to all students irrespective of their caste, creed, religion or language", they did not violate UGC guidelines. It added that a student attending an institution to advance their academic career cannot seek to impose her rights against the 'larger rights' of the college in maintaining discipline on its premises.

**Order of the Karnataka HC**  
 Justice Chandurkar, who authored the judgment, expressed "full agreement" with the view taken by the full Bench of the Karnataka High Court in 2022, which stated that the "prescription of a dress code is intended to achieve uniformity amongst students...so as to maintain discipline and avoid disclosure of one's religion".

The HC had held that "the dress code when prescribed for all students was intended to treat them as one homogeneous class so as to serve constitutional secularism". This verdict is under challenge at the Supreme Court. In October 2022, a two-judge Bench delivered a split verdict, and the case has now been referred to a larger Bench. The Bombay HC verdict too is likely to be contested before the SC.

**HARISH DAMODARAN**  
 NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

INFLATION, BASED on the official consumer price index (CPI), stood at 8.69% for cereals in May, and almost twice as much (17.14%) for pulses.

These rates would probably have been higher but for the sales from buffer stocks, especially of wheat and *chana* (chickpea), built by government agencies during surplus production years.

Take wheat. In 2022-23 (April-March), 34.82 lakh tonnes (lt) of the cereal was off-loaded from the Food Corporation of India's (FCI) stocks in the open market to boost supplies. Such sales, mainly to flour millers at market prices determined through e-auctions, rose to a record 100.88 lt in the following fiscal. That included 6.73 lt processed into flour and sold under the 'Bharat Atta' brand at a maximum retail price of Rs 27.5/kg.

The FCI's open market sale scheme brought down retail inflation in cereals and wheat from their highs of 16.73% and 25.37% respectively in February 2023 to 8.69% and 6.53% in May 2024. While not-so-good crops in the last three years had depleted wheat stocks in government warehouses from their peak of 603.56 lt on July 1, 2021 to 285.10 lt and 301.45 lt on the same date of 2022 and 2023 respectively, these were enough for the FCI's open market intervention.

**How buffer in *chana* helped**  
 The prices of pulses have been on fire, with retail inflation in double digits since June 2023.

According to the Department of Consumer Affairs, the all-India modal (most-quoted) retail price of split *chana dal* currently stands at Rs 90 per kg, as against Rs 70 a year ago. Prices of *tur/arhar* (pigeon pea) have risen even more (Rs 120 to Rs 170), while *urad* (black gram) and *moong* (green gram) have seen a smaller rise (Rs 110 to Rs 120). Prices for *masur* (red lentil) have been flat (Rs 100/kg). But things would have been worse had the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) not bought large quantities of the bumper

**EXPLAINED ECONOMICS**

## Case for a food buffer policy

Open market sales of wheat and *chana* have helped prevent runaway cereal and pulses inflation. Extending buffer stocks to other staples makes sense amid increasing climate-driven supply shocks, price volatility

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<b>1. Rice*</b>	518.27	601.71	575.88	568.66	500.94**	-
<b>2. Wheat</b>	341.33	389.93	433.44	187.92	262.02	265.53
<b>3. Pulses</b>	17.39	21.77	10.52	29.68	27.92	2.85
<b>Chana</b>	7.76	21.43	6.3	25.56	23.53	0.43
<b>Tur/Arhar</b>	7.22	0.11	0.49	0.03	0.27	-
<b>Moong</b>	1.66	0.21	3.29	4.08	3.35	0.02
<b>Masur</b>	0.56	0.02	0.26	-	0.76	2.4
<b>Urad</b>	0.18	-	0.17	0.01	-	-
<b>4. Oilseeds</b>	18.25	11	1.56	0.5	13.44	12.69
<b>Mustard</b>	10.89	8.04	Neg.	-	11.14	11.89
<b>Groundnut</b>	7.21	2.86	1.52	0.07	0.75	-
<b>Copra</b>	Neg.	0.05	Neg.	0.41	1.34	0.74
<b>Soyabean</b>	0.11	Neg.	-	-	0.07	-
<b>Sunflower</b>	0.03	0.05	0.04	0.02	0.11	0.05
<b>Safflower</b>	-	-	-	-	0.02	-

Note: Data for April-March financial year; \*For October-September marketing year; \*\*October-May. Source: NAFED and Department of Food and Public Distribution.

2021-22 and 2022-23 *chana* crops. These purchases, during April-June of 2022 and 2023 respectively (also the marketing season for wheat, mustard, *masur* and other *rabi* winter-spring crops), amounted to 25.56 lt and 23.53 lt. They were made at the government's declared minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 5,230 and Rs 5,335 per quintal for the two crop years, when *chana* was wholesaling at Rs 4,400-4,800 in the agricultural *mandis* of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

In the current season, with open market prices at Rs 6,000 or more, way above the MSP of Rs 5,440/quintal, NAFED could procure just over 43,000 tonnes of *chana*. However, it had stocks of 37.21 lt on July 1, 2023 accumulated from the last two years' procurement. These stocks proved useful in checking inflation in pulses, resulting from an El Niño-induced patchy monsoon and poor 2023-24 crop.

"Our procurement operations enabled *chana* farmers to reap the benefits of MSP

when open market prices were low and, more recently, insulate consumers from *dal* inflation," S K Singh, additional managing director of NAFED, told *The Indian Express*.

Since July 2023, NAFED has sold 14.06 lt of *chana* through open market e-auctions, 16.09 lt as 'Bharat Dal' at Rs 60/kg, 2.91 lt as discounted supplies to state governments and 0.57 lt as allocation to the armed forces. In the process, its stocks have come down to 4.01 lt now.

**Case for a buffer policy**  
 Overall CPI inflation, at 4.75% year-on-year in May, was the lowest in 12 months. It would have been lower had retail food inflation not stayed elevated at 8.69%.

The inherently volatility and unpredictability of food prices, exacerbated by climate change — fewer rainy days and extended dry spells, interspersed with intense precipitation, and also shorter winters and heat waves — has made it difficult for the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to consider any

monetary easing or cutting interest rates. The government, too, is forced to resort to undesirable measures such as restricting exports, or imposing produce stock limits on traders and processors.

One possible way out of the conundrum would be to build a buffer stock of all essential food items, by procuring these from farmers during years of surplus production, and offloading the same in times of crop failures to moderate market prices.

The accompanying table shows that MSP procurement by government agencies is confined to rice, wheat and a few pulses (*chana*, *tur/arhar*, *moong* and *masur*) and oilseeds (mustard, groundnut and *copra*). The latter procurement, unlike for rice and wheat, also happens only in some years.

There's scope to not only expand procurement of pulses and oilseeds, but extend it to staple vegetables and even skimmed milk powder (SMP). The onion, potato and tomato procured can be stored in dehydrated/processed form such as paste, flakes and puree for sales to hotels, restaurants, canteens, and other institutional buyers. This would ensure that households and bulk buyers do not compete to drive up prices during shortages.

SMP prices have crashed to about Rs 210 per kg from Rs 315-320 levels during February-March 2023 that saw unprecedented milk shortages. This crash — forcing Maharashtra dairies to slash procurement prices for cow milk (containing 3.5% fat and 8.5% solids-not-fat) to Rs 27-28/litre, from Rs 37-38 — is an opportunity for the government to create a buffer stock of powder. It can be used for recombining into milk in the next scarcity cycle.

The fiscal cost of maintaining buffer stocks of essential food items may not be that much: the stocked commodities are not meant to be given out free and, instead, off-loaded during scarcity/inflationary periods at near-market prices.

Buffer stocking can be an instrument for curbing excessive volatility in food prices, similar to the RBI's foreign exchange reserves *vis-à-vis* the currency market. Increasing climate-driven price volatility — ultimately helping neither consumers nor producers — only strengthens the case for a food buffer policy.

# France's crucial legislative election: state of play, parties in fray

**ARJUNSEGUPTA**  
 NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

FRANCE is set to hold what is seen as its most consequential election in decades. Voting will take place in two stages, on June 30 and July 7, to decide the composition of the National Assembly, the lower house of the French parliament. Current polling gives a decisive edge to the far right National Rally (RN), with President Emmanuel Macron's centrist Ensemble coalition placed a distant third.

**Snap elections**  
 Macron called for snap polls after his party received a drubbing in the European Parliament elections earlier this month. RN won more than 31% of the French vote, double that of Macron's centrists (less than 15%). In terms of seats, the difference was 30-13. Announcing the election on June 9, Macron called his decision "grave, heavy", but said he could not "carry on as if nothing had happened".

The announcement came as a surprise to almost everyone, even in his own party, according to reports. Legislative elections were not due until 2027, and Macron trails in all opinion polls. Experts said his "gamble" was made with an eye on the future. In 2022, Macron was elected President for

a second term but his party failed to win a majority. His minority government has struggled to pass legislation, often resorting to a provision of the French Constitution that allows bills to go through without a direct vote, but exposes the government to a no-confidence motion every time that happens.

Since 2022, Macron's party has survived 28 such no-confidence votes — there is no guarantee that it would continue doing so indefinitely. The snap poll preempts such a situation, which experts say would have been far more damaging for his party.

Moreover, if RN forms the government, Macron has three years to expose its perceived contradictions and limitations. Much of the far right's appeal stems from its anti-status quo messaging and difficult-to-keep promises. In office, RN will have to deliver on these, or risk being called incompetent. Analysts have argued that relinquishing some power now may give Macron's platform a better chance of retaining it in 2027.

**Parties in the fray**  
 According to latest polls by *Politico*, three parties/ coalitions together command over 80% of the popular vote, even though none of them individually has touched 40%. **NATIONAL RALLY, 34%:** Marine Le Pen's party currently holds 88 of 577 seats in the



(left to right) Jean-Luc Melenchon, Emmanuel Macron, and Marine Le Pen. Reuters

National Assembly. It is the largest opposition party, and polling indicates that it can as much as triple its tally, becoming the biggest party in the lower house, even if it does not win an outright majority. RN is staunchly anti-immigration, anti-EU, anti-Islam, and pro-Putin. Its predecessor National Front was founded by Jean-Marie Le Pen, Marine's father, in 1972, and was notorious for its openly racist and xenophobic rhetoric, as well as Holocaust denial.

Since its 2018 rebrand, Le Pen has attempted to broaden RN's appeal and shed the 'fascist' tag, softening its rhetoric even while

keeping many of its controversial policy positions. Ahead of the election, the party has also dropped many of its traditional leftist promises, positioning itself as a pro-business party, much like Macron's centrists. Jordan Bardella, the party's 28-year-old president, is the RN's prime ministerial candidate.

**NEW POPULAR FRONT, 28%:** The newly formed left-wing alliance comprises Socialist, Green and Communist parties, as well as Jean-Luc Melenchon's Unsubmissive France. In 2022, a similar alliance (New Popular, Environmental and Social Union, or NUPES) contested the election under

Melenchon's leadership. All parties in the NFP have been vocal critics of Macron's policies, with the NFP promising to undo his controversial pension reform, increase the minimum wage, and introduce numerous welfare policies, funded heavily by taxing corporations and the rich. NFP's manifesto also focuses on renewables, although it does not mention nuclear power.

It has not yet announced a prime ministerial candidate. Apart from Melenchon, Raphael Glucksmann of the Socialist Party is the most notable name in the coalition — and the two leaders have noticeable differences among themselves. Key to NFP's performance in both the polls and the new National Assembly will be the ability of the left-wing allies to stick together.

**ENSEMBLE, 21%:** Ensemble includes Macron's Renaissance party, the centrist Modem, and the centre-right Horizons party. Currently, Ensemble controls 250 seats in the National Assembly, a number that is set to plummet, possibly to under 100 seats, according to surveys.

The centrist coalition is also not running as a single party — former Prime Minister Edouard Philippe's Horizons party is going alone, although it has left the door open to re-joining the coalition after the election. Centrist voters can play kingmakers in certain con-

stituencies — what remains to be seen is whether their vote will turn right or left.

**How the elections work**  
 Votes will be cast in all 577 constituencies in the first round. Candidates who secure more than 50% of votes polled, and a vote total greater than 25% of the registered electorate in the constituency, will be elected.

If these criteria are not met, a second round will take place — this will likely be the case in the majority of constituencies. In the runoff election, the top two candidates, as well as anyone who has got the support of at least 12.5% of registered voters (not votes polled) will contest. The candidate with the most votes will win. The second round is often a two-way contest. There were only seven 3-way runoffs in 2022.

In theory, the President can appoint any one Prime Minister; in practice, the PM must have the support of the majority in the Assembly. There are no specific provisions to appoint a PM in case of a hung house. There is a clear separation of powers between the National Assembly and the PM, and the President. The President enjoys regulatory power, and exercises control over foreign policy and defence. Parliament, headed by the PM, is responsible for all domestic policy decisions.



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BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## A ROADMAP

Emphasis on economic matters and continuity on reforms in President's speech is heartening. Over to Finance Minister now

**IN ONE SENSE**, President Droupadi Murmu's first speech in Parliament follows the broad pattern set by her predecessor, Ram Nath Kovind, five years ago. Murmu's address highlights the robustness of the India growth story, the major focus areas of the government, the success of its various welfare policies, schemes and programmes, and the rising profile of the country on the global stage, among others. But, this time around, the President's address also laid out the broad contours of what economic policy might look like in the coming months.

More importantly, Murmu spoke about the new government's first budget in the forthcoming session of Parliament. She said that the budget will outline the government's "far-reaching policies and futuristic vision", and that "many historic steps" will be taken. At a time when there are some concerns over the ability of a coalition government to push through reforms, especially the more contentious ones, it is heartening to hear the President talk of continuity and say that the pace of reforms will be "accelerated" in line with the aspirations of the people. It is, in fact, difficult to miss the emphasis on economic matters in the speech. The President also spoke about the government striving to ensure that India becomes the third-largest economy in the world — the government has, in the past, spoken about claiming this distinction in its third term. Equally welcome is the acknowledgement that the growth of the country is dependent on the growth of the states, and the need for both competitive and cooperative federalism where states compete with each other to attract investment. The emphasis of the speech on women's welfare, on turning around the public sector banks, and the development of physical infrastructure — the hallmark of the Narendra Modi government in the past 10 years — cannot be missed. There is also a mention of the sunrise sectors such as electric vehicles, semiconductors, green hydrogen and batteries, which are being actively promoted. Equally important is the talk of challenges which the government is addressing such as climate change.

However, at the same time, it must be acknowledged that even as India may well be on its way to become the third-largest economy, the country will remain the poorest among the largest economies in the world. The real test of this government is to strengthen the foundations of all the pillars of growth — agriculture, manufacturing and services — and facilitate the generation of large-scale employment opportunities for the millions entering the labour force. Only this will secure India's development trajectory. All eyes will be on the finance minister when she presents the budget in July.

## UNFIT INDIA

Lancet study on lack of physical activity among Indians underlines need to provide supportive physical environment

**ALARM BELLS** ABOUT the growing burden of non-communicable diseases in India have been ringing for a few years now. Study after study has found that obesity and lifestyle-related illnesses are claiming more lives than ever, and are no longer solely prevalent in urban areas. They have begun to affect rural populations as well. Bringing the big picture of ill-health into sharper focus is new data published in the Lancet Global Health this week, according to which an alarming 57 per cent women and 42 per cent men in India fail to meet the World Health Organisation's guidelines for sufficient physical activity. Should this trend remain unchecked, it is estimated that by 2030, about 60 per cent of India's adult population would be at risk of diseases like cardiovascular ailments, diabetes and even dementia and cancer of the breast and colon.

While there is certainly a greater awareness of the link between exercise and other physical activities and good health, a combination of sociocultural, economic and physical infrastructure-related factors is responsible for the sedentary lifestyle of a large number of Indians. Research on the impact of social and cultural attitudes is limited, but the handful of region- and city-specific surveys that do exist indicate that these form a significant barrier, especially for women and girls. A 2018 study of physical activity among adolescents in New Delhi found that social censure was a key obstacle. Another study from 2015, looking at barriers to exercise among women in Thiruvananthapuram, found the prevalence of the belief that household chores alone can count as sufficient physical activity. That a mindset change is needed has been recognised by, among others, the Union government which, in 2019, initiated the Fit India movement to "promote fitness as easy, fun and free" and "spread awareness... through fitness-focused campaigns".

The limitations of this approach, however, are evident in its failure to recognise the most formidable hurdle facing Indians who want to be fitter — the lack of a conducive, physical environment in which to be more active. While gyms and fitness centres are not affordable options for a vast majority of Indians, the simple activity of walking too is not without obstacles, with broken pavements, open sewers, erratic traffic and lack of safety discouraging many. Addressing this, as the head of the WHO Unit for Physical Activity has pointed out, requires "a whole-of-society" approach, one which sees open spaces, pothole-free roads and pavements, safety and low pollution levels as crucial to the goal of a fitter citizenry. More than words of encouragement, what this calls for is policy intervention and investment in building the right environment and infrastructure.

## LINCOLN THE HOTHEAD

An Abraham Lincoln statue is wilting in the heat in Washington DC, bringing a new dimension to how people interact with art

**CLIMATE CHANGE SPARES** no one, not even the giants of history. This weekend past, a six-foot-tall wax statue of former US President Abraham Lincoln melted in parts, thanks to the ongoing heat wave in Washington DC. The wax Lincoln was installed in the Garrison Elementary School, the site of Camp Barker — a refuge for formerly enslaved people during the American Civil War. It is part of a series of artworks by artist Sandy Williams IV that explores forgotten Black histories in America. Unfortunately, the intention behind this piece was shrouded by the barrage of memes on social media that followed after an X user posted a photo of an almost lounging Lincoln.

The interpretations of his pose — or repose — ranged from work-related irritation to heatwave jokes and double entendres. But what stood out in the responses was the people's engagement with it. Artworks present in museums and galleries are expected to be viewed from a distance. They are hallowed spaces, intended to awe and dazzle, but rarely to initiate a dialogue. Yet, there are more ways to engage with art than respectful distance. Following the George Floyd murder in 2020, for instance, Black Lives Matter protesters in the UK's Bristol, threw the statue of the 17th century slave trader, Edward Colston, into the canal. It was a reckoning with the country's tryst with its colonial past, whose fallouts continue to plague the West.

Art has been a medium of protest since time immemorial. But that is merely the artist's form of dissent or self-expression. For the vast majority of the art-uninitiated — dismissed so often with superciliousness as philistines — just viewing "the greats" in intimidating spaces is not enough. The democracy of social media has allowed the experience of the heat wave — of climate change — to be reflected in the wilting and melting of Lincoln's statue. It ensured that in the memes that followed, people's lives were mirrored as much as Williams IV's artistic vision.

# Big reforms push

Budget 2025 is an opportunity to present a long-term vision for the Indian economy



PRACHI MISHRA

**IN MOST ADVANCED** economies, the annual budget is a non-event. In emerging markets, on the other hand, the budget presentation has special significance. In the case of India, the budget is a legacy inherited from colonial times to the extent that the timing of the presentation was also aligned with British time. Why does the budget hold so much importance? The answer lies in its modified purpose. While the budget was primarily meant for accounting in the British empire, it has since Independence meant to lay out the administration's vision for the economy. Budget announcements at the beginning of a government's term are even more important. This is because economic agents, market participants, and citizens expect the announcement to lay out the vision of policymakers over the term of the government, typically five years.

Against this background, the 2024-25 budget is expected to present a long-term vision for the Indian economy. In my view, this vision must entail five key elements: (i) growth (ii) employment (iii) manufacturing (iv) public finance and (v) others.

First, on growth, the government has already clearly laid out its vision for a "Viksit Bharat", to make India a developed economy by 2047. The question is what kind of growth rates are needed to increase India's per capita income from \$2,500 to \$14,000. In 2023, India's per capita income grew at 9.2 per cent in nominal dollar terms. This is no small feat. If India were to sustain these growth rates, then she will become an upper middle-income country by 2030 and higher income by 2042. The larger question to ask is where India wants to be in relative terms, as other countries would be growing too.

Let us take two relevant comparators, Indonesia, and Brazil (with per capita incomes around twice that of India). If the three countries continue to grow at their 2023 levels, it can take more than 25 years for India to catch up with Brazil and Indonesia, implying a substantive bridge to cross. The relevant question to ask then is — what would take India to 10 per cent real GDP growth to enable a quicker catch up. Historically, in the years when India grew at more than 8 per cent, what constituted that high growth? It turns out if we really want to catch up rapidly, we need to fire all

those cylinders comprising private consumption, investment, exports, and imports. The budget plays a catalytic role to firepower each of these components.

Second is employment and related to it is the third component, manufacturing with scaling up trade and competitiveness. There is no tradeoff between services and manufacturing. Undoubtedly, we need both — a boost to labour-intensive manufacturing to enable seizing the demographic dividend. For a labour-abundant economy like India, the capital to labour ratio has increased at a rapid pace. Factor market reforms are possibly an important driver. The government in previous terms has initiated several reforms, but the job here is extremely difficult and intricate in a democracy. An auction process with a large uptake, with alternative forms of compensation and accelerating the digitalisation of land records would all contribute towards this. China +1 can ultimately be a surmountable challenge. China continues to be the dragon, but discussions with several firms and investors do indicate an India moment if inter alia we can give a fillip to factor market reforms.

In public finance, across the world, monetary policy decisions tend to be based on systematic analysis of alternative policy choices and their associated macroeconomic impacts. This is science. Fiscal policy choices, in contrast, spring from unsystematic speculation, often grounded in politics than economics. This is alchemy. India's FRBM and its review in 2017 were in the spirit for making the fiscal framework a science. Two main recommendations were to move to public debt to GDP ratio as a medium-term anchor for fiscal policy, with the fiscal deficit as an operational target. In particular, the FRBM review argued that fiscal expectations can get unanchored too. In other words, fiscal alchemy can create unnecessary uncertainty and can undermine the ability of monetary policy to control inflation and influence real economic activity in the usual ways. Parliament accepted the recommendations. Nonetheless, India's debt to GDP remains high in comparison with peer groups. The Centre by itself spends more than 40 per cent of its revenues on servicing its debt burden, which is way higher than the average

of 10 per cent across emerging markets. Fortunately, there is acute awareness that this needs downward calibration. Deleveraging by the sovereign would be essential to convert the outlook upgrade by rating agencies into an actual ratings increase.

On the institutional side, the FRBM review committee recommended setting up an independent Fiscal Council. The idea was for the Council was to serve both an ex-ante role — providing independent forecasts on key macro variables like real and nominal GDP growth, tax buoyancy, commodity prices — as well as an ex-post monitoring role, and serve as the institution to advise on triggering the escape clause and specify a path of return. While this recommendation was not immediately accepted, this may be the right time to rethink our fiscal institutions, coming out of the most unprecedented shock in post-war history, the pandemic. The introduction of a Fiscal Council could perhaps be revisited. Another important question is how to integrate market discipline into rules? It is well understood that there are substantial costs of living with sovereign risk, reflected in sovereign spreads vis a vis the risk-free rate. All governments care for these spreads. What characteristics of rules and institutions can succeed in reducing sovereign risk is a key question going forward.

Finally, I leave the fifth element as broad, but equally crucial — further development of agriculture markets, renewed emphasis on cleaning up of higher education, improving health outcomes, and meeting the carbon limits.

The time is ripe for another big push to important reforms. The 2024-25 budget is an opportune moment to signal the direction and vision. Ten per cent real growth can happen. Importantly, through sustaining our achievements of macroeconomic and political stability, along with a continued push to physical and digital infrastructure. A commitment and enthusiasm to fire on all fronts with renewed vigour and enthusiasm is what economic agents, market participants, and citizens would be looking for in this budget.

The writer is former chief, Systemic Issues Division at the IMF

## A DIPLOMAT, A SCHOLAR

Muchkund Dubey was committed to 'Nehruvian idealism' and social development



SUHAS BORKER

**MUCHKUND DUBEY**, PRESIDENT of the Council for Social Development (CSD) and former foreign secretary, passed away in New Delhi on June 26. He was 90. Despite his frail health in the last few years, he had kept himself to a punishing schedule of academic work.

Dubey will be remembered as much for his illustrious career as a top diplomat, who not only represented India but also the aspirations of the Global South, as for his pursuit of social development, education and justice.

Dubey belonged to the 1957 batch of the Indian Foreign Service and was brought up in the Nehruvian mould and the Bandung spirit. He had the distinction of serving as foreign secretary to three prime ministers. When Muchkund took over as the foreign secretary from SK Singh on April 20, 1990, VP Singh was the prime minister. Then came the Chandra Shekhar on November 10, 1990, followed by P V Narasimha Rao on June 21, 1991. This was a politically volatile period. The international scenario was also witnessing dramatic changes with the imminent collapse of the Soviet Union. From the era when the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) was the main instrument for promoting Indian foreign policy to the times of pragmatism when "Nehruvian idealism" came under severe attack, he remained committed to his values and ideals.

Muchkund was a raconteur par excellence and recalled with his inimitable laugh how he had shepherded a multi-party group of top Indian leaders at Windhoek to the "torch in

the night" independence of Namibia in March 1990, waiting with child-like eagerness to meet the iconic Nelson Mandela, who had been released from prison a month before.

For 30 years after his retirement from foreign service in 1991, Dubey was a scholar and public intellectual. He was a professor of International Relations at Jawaharlal Nehru University for eight years and president of CSD from March 1995 till he passed away. Whenever one visited his chamber at CSD, one found him immersed in work, his table loaded with a huge pile of files, papers and books. Whether it was guiding scholars, chairing seminars and brainstorming sessions at the Council or writing papers, monographs and books, he was a workaholic, who would not suffer mediocrity. In 2017, *Lalan Shah Fakir ke Geet*, his book on the Bengali mystic poet and social reformer, was launched in Delhi. Bangladesh's Information Minister and Chairman of the Bangla Academy had specially flown in from Dhaka for the event, an indication of his close relationship with the country where he had served as India's High Commissioner between 1979 and '82.

Dubey was a firm advocate of the Common Schooling System. He was the chairperson of the Common School Commission of Bihar which submitted its report in 2007. He lamented the lack of political will to implement the Common School System and was agonised by the subversion of the Right To Education.

## JUNE 28, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

### MILITANT ARRESTED

A NOTABLE NIHANG sect chief, Nihal Singh Hariyanbelanwale was arrested by security forces, at his headquarters in Hoshiarpur district on June 27. Security officers received a tip-off from a suspected terrorist regarding Singh's location. Arms and ammunition were also recovered from the location, which is suspected to be a terrorist hide-out.

### EYE ON PAK FRONT

FOLLOWING THE CONTINUATION of Pakistani media's anti-India narrative and suspicions of "a foreign hand" in Punjab, a

committee of MPs was convened to discuss reports of Pakistan's nuclear developments, aided by China. External Affairs minister, P V Narasimha Rao whilst addressing committee concerns, said that the government was keeping a close eye on nuclear programmes in the neighbourhood.

### BENGAL FLOODS

THE ARMY AND Air Force were called into West Bengal to carry out relief and rescue operations in flood-affected areas of the state. Nineteen people were believed to have drowned in the flooding on the Sali River in Bankura district when a relief boat capsized

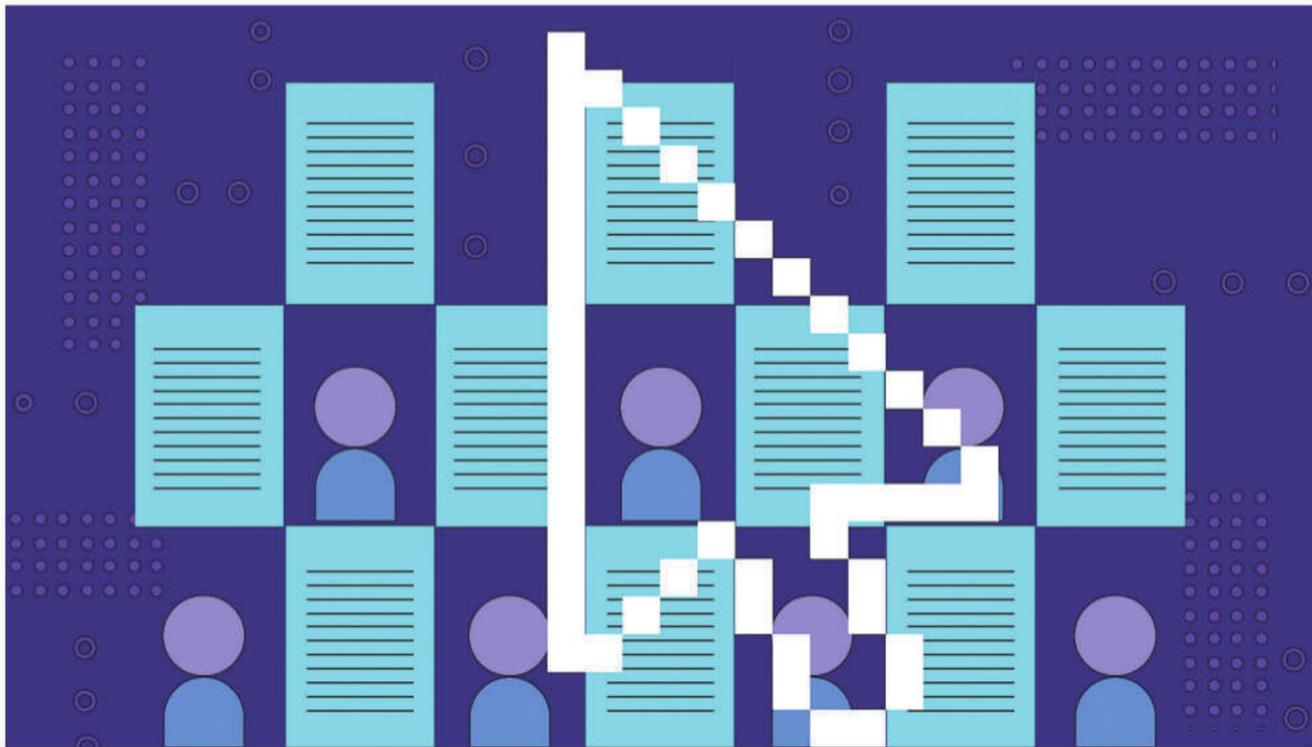
on June 27. Two children and 75 cows were also said to be trapped in an abandoned mine in Bardhaman district. Rescue operations are being carried out in both locations.

### UK CLARIFIES ROLE

AMIDST RUMOURS OF correspondence between Delhi and London regarding British Special Air Services (SAS) units training Sri Lankan regiments, a spokesperson of Britain's foreign office has clarified that there are no British servicemen or personnel training troops in Sri Lanka. The presence of former SAS units was due to a commercial arrangement under a private firm.



# 11 THE IDEAS PAGE



CR Sasikumar

## Not by a single exam

Resolving the examination crisis requires systemic solutions. The first step is a school-centred online examination system that uses latest technology and tests students over the year for concepts



R SUBRAHMANYAM AND SUTIRTHA BHATTACHARYA

THE ENTIRE COUNTRY is disturbed by the inability of the system to conduct crucial exams that determine the lives and careers of millions of students. After the NEET and UGC NET exam fiascos, the National Teaching Agency (NTA) has become the whipping boy in several quarters. The government has removed the NTA director and investigating agencies have swung into action to nab the culprits. Some arrests have reportedly been made. Fixing accountability for the current crisis is no doubt necessary. More needs to be done. Unless a robust and systematic solution to ensure the probity of such mass-scale testing is found, it might be difficult to avoid similar tragedies in future.

The problem at hand is disturbing. First, the selection for professional courses is done through a single high-stakes exam. This pushes most students to cramming the learning material and coaching centres flourish. The purpose of these coaching centres is to train students to crack exams, not understand the subject at the conceptual level. The coaching industry is known to make insane amounts of profits, while students go through a personality-stunting experience that lasts two years or more.

Second, aptitude is usually not the basis for selection in the field of study or a branch within that. In engineering, for instance, in the past five years, the number of students who graduate from institutes has come down by 40 per cent – this shows the lack of students' interest after they secure admission.

Third, the school system, especially the higher classes (11th and 12th), has been undermined, and yielded place to coaching in-

stitutions. Holistic personality development, envisaged in several policy documents, including the National Education Policy 2020, is sacrificed at the altar of a rote-based learning process.

Fourth, the school boards are in shambles, the assessment system is archaic and evaluation mechanisms are not standardised. Both the 10th and 12th Class Board exams are summative assessments (the evaluation takes place at the end of the academic year) which encourage students to cram the learning material. NEP 2020 has unequivocally talked of replacing the current summative assessment system with formative and competency-based assessments. However, the 2022-23 deadline set by the policy for implementing this reform is long past. Urgent steps are, therefore, required to achieve the policy's objectives.

Finally, our inability to conduct exams on a large scale is very disturbing. The NTA was set up in 2017 to conduct these exams professionally using online computer-based procedures. Unfortunately, we have continued with the pen/paper exams, which are known to be prone to fraudulent practices.

The conundrum requires robust and systemic solutions. The first step is to change the selection process for all major admissions in higher education (medical, engineering, management) institutions and introduce a continuous assessment system over a two-year period.

We propose the following.

One, 40 per cent weightage could be assigned to eight quarterly academic assessments (over two years) conducted online using a standardised question bank. These tests can be taken on any day, within the school premises. These online tests will be proctored by the use of Artificial Intelligence-based fraud detection systems. Question banks can be built up to test critical thinking and conceptual understanding as well as to assess the ability of a student to use concepts for problem-solving.

Two, 40 per cent weightage could be assigned for social and professional aptitude. To ascertain this, we propose two six-week

Assessment systems in school education need to be reformed to test concept-based understanding, thereby fulfilling the mandate of NEP 2020. The stakes involved in a single exam will be eliminated. That could be an important step towards the elimination of examination fraud.

long internships with select institutes connected with the subject of study. We also propose mandatory participation in NSS/NCC or select programmes aimed at social upliftment.

Three, 20 per cent weightage should be accorded to the final NEET/JEE exam. This exam should be conducted online, at least twice a year, allowing the student to choose the best score for the final reckoning.

Currently, there are several doubts about the education system's capacity to conduct these exams. Technology can be used to overcome these challenges.

A robust question bank, online testing and AI-based proctoring (the algorithm is trained to register even the minutest of discrepancies and suspicion) can enhance the system's credibility. Since all teachers will be contributing to the question bank, and all items will be tested for the level of difficulty, it would be a participative system – one following the objectives of NEP 2020.

Each student will get a different set of questions within a similar difficulty range and the IT system will be pre-programmed to rank them. There are internationally-accepted statistical tools to ensure a similar range of difficulty between different tests and achieve parity of scores. This will of course require cyber security protocols that match up to global standards. Institutes such as the Indian Statistical Institute and IITs can be roped in to design the exam protocols. They can hand-hold the exam conducting authorities across the country and build up their credibility and capacity.

This system could bring back focus on schools. Assessment systems in school education need to be reformed to test concept-based understanding, thereby fulfilling the mandate of NEP 2020. The stakes involved in a single exam will be eliminated. That could be an important step towards the elimination of examination fraud.

Subrahmanyam is former Education Secretary, Government of India and Bhattacharya is former Chairman, Coal India. Views expressed are personal

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"If Biden wants to make Trump's malevolent words stick, he must bind them together in a vivid, stark, and arresting picture of what American life will look like if Trump, bent on vengeance, is reinstated as commander-in-chief."

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

## The challenge for Om Birla

The Speaker will have to run a House that has 234 Opposition members. He should be alive to their concerns and be impartial



P D T ACHARY

THE EXCITEMENT DURING the past week over the choice of the Speaker for the 18th Lok Sabha came to an end with the election of Om Birla by a voice vote. Under Article 100 of the Constitution "all questions at any sitting of either House or a joint sitting of both Houses shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members present and voting". The term "majority of votes" implies an actual vote in the House as otherwise a majority cannot be determined. The voice vote is an accepted practice in legislatures. But the Constitution does not recognise this practice. If the Opposition wanted to challenge the result of the voice vote, they could have pressed for a vote. Obviously, they did not want to do it.

Speakers have been chosen mostly by consensus except on four occasions in the past. The basic reason is that the Speaker belongs to the whole House and not to the ruling party alone. He needs the support and trust of all sections of the House just as all of them need his indulgence and protection. Therefore, political parties try to arrive at a consensus. In the initial days of the Republic, political leaders, steeped in the British tradition, chose men of great stature as Speakers because they believed in moral qualities such as impartiality and objectivity. But, as politics and political perspectives evolved over a period of time, the choice of the Speaker became a purely partisan affair. Ruling parties always want their own person in the post because it can be advantageous in times of difficulties in the House. These advantages are many. For example, the Speaker is the last word on everything connected with the House. Under Article 110(3), the Speaker alone has the authority to certify that a bill is a money bill. The advantage of this action is obvious in the sense that the money bill can't be passed or rejected by the Rajya Sabha. It can only make a recommendation which may or may be accepted by the Lok Sabha, which alone has a final say in the matter.

Similarly, bills are referred to the Standing Committees by the Speaker. He can take a view that the bills need not be referred and his decision is final. Similarly, the Speaker can disallow any Parliament question tabled by a member who cannot even enquire why his question has been disallowed. The Speaker is also the tribunal who decides cases of defection of MPs, that can be tremendously useful for political parties in power. Thus, the finality of the Speaker's decision can be a source of comfort and confidence for ruling parties.

The office of the Speaker originated, along with the emergence of Parliament, in 13th century England. The history of the House of Commons of England is the history of conflicts and confrontations between the Commons and the kings. The presiding officer of the Commons came to be called the Speaker because he was authorised by the House to speak to the King on behalf of the members of the Commons. The English kings constantly harassed the members of the Commons. The Speakers, in fact, suffered imprisonment when they interceded on behalf of the Commons. The history of the British Parliament also shows that as many as seven Speakers were beheaded by kings between 1395-1535. This led to a situation where the person elected as Speaker would try to run away but would be held back physically by the MPs and dragged to the Speaker's chair. This later gave rise to the practice of the Speaker-elect making motions of hesitation when he is escorted to the Chair by the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

The 18th Lok Sabha poses great challenges to the Speaker. It is customary for every party leader to glorify the past "achievements" of a Speaker when he occupies the chair the second time. But as they go along, the political dynamics in the House will come into full play. It takes great wisdom and tact to deal with an Opposition which has 234 MPs in the House. The only way a Speaker can run the House smoothly is by being fair to all. In the context of the Parliament, it would mean a non-partisan approach informed by objectivity and absolute impartiality. Practice and Procedure of Parliament by M N Kaul and S L Shukla speaks about the impartiality of the Speaker in the following words: "Within the walls of the House his authority is supreme. This authority is based on the Speaker's absolute and unvarying impartiality – the main feature of his office, the law of its life."

Impartiality of the Speaker is not a truism or a trite expression. The dominant concern of MPs of the Lok Sabha yesterday while felicitating the Speaker was that he should be impartial. From their experience, they know what it meant. India's democratic system has invested great confidence in the impartiality of the Speaker. Wisdom demands that it should not be allowed to become a matter of grave concern in Parliament in the days to come.

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The writer is former Secretary General, Lok Sabha

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### GHOSTS OF THE PAST

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Never again' (IE, June 27). Just days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi talked about the need for collaboration and consensus in the new Parliament, what prompted the newly appointed Lok Sabha Speaker to reshuffle the Emergency? The obvious motivation was to get even with Congress for its impressive performance in the recent general elections. It was an unfortunate start to the new Lok Sabha, demonstrating that the administration is yet to grasp the message the electorate conveyed. Why can we not draw lessons from the 50-year-old episode instead of using it for political gain, to one end or the other. Would the BJP peep into its sleeves and see how its government has perpetrated excesses similar to that era? Likely not.

Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru

### PRIORITISING CITIZENS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Only by eternal vigilance' (IE, June 27). In moments most needed, the people of India have come together. The Sampoorna Kranti led by Jai Prakash Narain and Save the Constitution, brotherhood, fraternity of the nation call led by Rahul Gandhi are a few examples. There is striking similarity between the rise against the Emergency of 1975 and now against the BJP's rule in the last ten years. The article would have been

more relevant had it expanded on the lessons from the Emergency to the situation in India over the last ten years. Had citizens not responded with wisdom and sanity and compelled the electoral results once again to the era of a coalition government, India's future could have headed in a dark direction. This electoral outcome will strengthen the federal structure of the Indian state, ensuring a balanced power-sharing dynamic between the Centre and states. It will also allow more room for opposition in Parliament and wield a result favourable to the people of India.

Haji Gulam Ahmed Chauhan, Jaipur

### MERE LIP SERVICE

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Speaker invokes Indira and Emergency blot, Congress MPs protests' (IE, June 27). Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's condemnation of the Emergency seems more a political ploy to target the Congress party. Indeed, the BJP in the recent past resorted to similar excesses without even the fig leaf of a declaration of Emergency. As Speaker in the 17th Lok Sabha, Birla indiscriminately used his powers to suspend over a 100 Opposition MPs, and the executive's use of stringent laws to stifle dissent from civil society, the polity and the media, are for all to see. The resolution for the BJP seems to be not much more than mere lip service.

SS Paul, Nadia



MOHAN KUMAR

## Churn in France

Implications of outcome of snap polls ordered by Macron could extend beyond Europe

FRENCH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL Macron is nothing if not a gambler. It may be recalled that he stormed to power in 2017 by taking a huge risk: He set up a new party which he claimed belonged neither to the left nor the right and in so doing, hollowed out the traditional left and the right parties in France. In many ways, the chickens are coming home to roost for Macron.

The present political landscape in France, therefore, has virtually no space for moderation. Macron's main reforms, like the ones on pensionable age, have been extremely unpopular. Remember also the mass protest of the yellow vests in 2018 which erupted because of Macron's green tax on fuel. It was, therefore, not surprising that Macron lost his legislative majority in parliament in June 2022. Since then, he has struggled to get anything done in the fractious French parliament.

When European elections took place in June therefore, there was no realistic prospect of Macron's party winning them. Poll after poll said the far-right party of Marine Le Pen would win. Win she did. Macron then surprised everyone by calling for snap legislative polls. However, elections called by Macron will most certainly see him

lose his existing position either to the far right or to the far left. So, why did Macron call for snap polls? For one thing, he still hopes that the French people will hesitate to vote for extreme parties. For another, he believes a stint in the government will show the extreme parties for what they are.

The trouble is that Marine Le Pen has been carrying out a process of "de-demonisation" of her party (National Rally) and has made statesmanlike comments on burning issues of the day. Marine Le Pen no longer says France must get out of the EU; she hopes to work with other like-minded leaders like Giorgia Meloni of Italy. Le Pen, however, is expected to be tough on immigration and favour economic nationalism. She is opposed to globalisation and multiculturalism.

The parties of the left have cobbled together a "new popular front" which will fight the legislative elections on promises like retirement at 60 years, increasing minimum wages, raising public sector wages, cutting income tax and introducing a wealth tax for the rich. Never mind that all this will be calamitous for France which already has a public debt to GDP ratio of 110 per cent. While it is hard to predict precisely the

elections on June 30 and July 7, a two-step process in France, some things may be said with reasonable certainty. One, it is hard to see Macron's party get an absolute majority. Two, while Macron will continue as President (these are legislative elections and not presidential) he will be forced to "co-habit" with a prime minister from a different party. That looks likely to be the young Jordan Bardella who has been designated by Marine Le Pen. She is eyeing Macron's position in three years' time when presidential elections are due. A hung parliament is also a possibility deepening the political uncertainty in France.

France is the second most important economy in the EU and the only European country now which possesses nuclear deterrence and is a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. The outcome of the snap poll called by President Macron could have the following geopolitical ramifications for Europe and beyond.

One, if as expected, there is "co-habitation" between a Prime Minister belonging to the far-right (or far-left for that matter) and President Macron, then France will be too weak to drive EU's foreign and security policy. Two, if the far-right or the far-left wins,

this may also bring France into direct confrontation with Brussels on EU membership obligations.

Three, it is well known that the Franco-German engine drives the EU. Indeed, the German Chancellor has already said that he hopes Le Pen's party will not win in the elections. The Franco-German engine will sputter and may stop altogether.

Four, France's commitment to the war in Ukraine may waver. Marine Le Pen has ruled out French troops in Ukraine and her priority will be funding her domestic agenda in France not military aid to Ukraine. Five, the far-left parties have taken a pro-Palestinian position on the Gaza issue that has made the French Jews and Israel very worried.

Finally, we may also be looking at a France and consequently, an EU which is anti-immigration, economically more protectionist and inward-looking. Six, the combination of a possible Trump in the White House and a geopolitically weak EU cannot but be welcomed by powers like China and Russia.

The writer is a former Indian Ambassador to France and is currently Dean/Professor at O P Jindal Global University. Views are personal



### NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work:

1. Name of Work with its location	Miscellaneous works in connection with reliability improvement of Traction Distribution Assets in the jurisdiction of OHE/TKD & OHE/FDB.
2. Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 41,44,569.58/-
3. Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 82,900/-
4. E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	05.07.2024 (00.00 Hrs.) to 19.07.2024 (15.00 Hrs.)
5. E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	19.07.2024 (15.00 hrs.)
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

E-Tender No.: 19-TRD-NDL5-2024-25 Dated 27.06.2024  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1932/24

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Namely Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o Kapashera farm No.53, Age: about 45-50 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: White coloured T-shirt and Blue coloured jeans, was found unconscious on 17.06.2024 from in front of farm No.53, Kapashera & admitted in IG Hospital Dwarka vide MLC No.13506/24, during the treatment Doctors declared him Brought dead. In this regard a DD No.77A dated 17.06.2024 has been lodged at P.S. Kapashera, New Delhi.

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

SHO  
P.S. Kapashera, New Delhi  
Ph. No.: 011-25066105  
Mob.: 7065036226



DP/7850/SW/2024

### MYSURU CITY CORPORATION, MYSURU

Office of the Commissioner, New Sayyaji Rao Road, Mysuru- 570024. Email: mcchealthofficer@gmail.com

No.: MCC/PWM/EPR/16/2024-25 Date: 26.06.2024

#### Expression of Interest

Expression of Interest for "Procurement of EPR certificates from Mysuru City Corporation (ULB) by Producers Importers & Brand as per the Guidelines of Centralized EPR Portal for Plastic Packaging issued by Central Pollution Control Board"

Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) has been at the forefront of handling plastic waste responsibly. MCC is the first urban local body in Karnataka to earn an Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) certificate for Category-III plastic waste. It is also the second in the country to receive the EPR certificate. MCC has registered on the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) EPR portal as ULB. The city earns EPR certificates for processing plastic waste through state pollution control board authorized Plastic Waste Processors (PWP). Mysuru City Corporation intends to trade the EPR certificates with PIBOs who are Registered in Centralized EPR Portal for Plastic Packaging developed by CPCB.

Hence, Mysuru City Corporation invites this Expression of Interest from PIBOs to trade the EPR certificate. Interested PIBOs may send their expressions of interest by quoting the value (in INR inclusive of all taxes), in the format provided in Annexure I., List of Documents to be submitted are provided in Annexure II. And Terms and Conditions for participating entity is provided in Annexure III. Proposal in sealed covers super scribed "Expression of Interest for Procurement of EPR certificates from Mysuru City Corporation (ULB) by Producers Importers & Brand as per the Guidelines of Centralized EPR Portal for Plastic Packaging issued by Central Pollution Control Board" must reach, The office of, The Corporation Health Officer, Mysuru City Corporation, New Sayyaji Rao Road, Mysuru 570024 Karnataka, or through companies official email to mcchealthofficer@gmail.com before 04/07/2024, 16:00 (04:00PM). EOI copy may be downloaded from Mysuru City Corporation website.

Sd/- Commissioner  
Mysuru City Corporation, Mysuru

DIPR/MYSKAVITA/17/24-25

### झारखंड सरकार

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय सिंचाई प्रमंडल दुमका।  
ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना

e-Tender Ref. No: WRD/Irr.Div.Dumka/SBD-IFB-02/2024-25 (2<sup>nd</sup> call) Dt: 26.06.2024

1. कार्य का नाम	Construction of office building Water ways circle at Bijaypur, Dumka
2. प्राक्कलित राशि (₹00 में)	₹0 3,36,96,673.72 (रुपये तीन करोड़ छत्तीस लाख छियाबने हजार छः सौ तीसहत्तर एवं पैसे बहातर मात्र)
3. परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (₹00 में)	₹0 10,000/- (रुपये दस हजार मात्र) (Online mode Only)
4. अग्रचन की राशि (₹00 में)	₹0 3,37,000.00/- (रुपये तीन लाख सेतीस हजार मात्र) (Online mode Only)
5. कार्य समाप्ति की अगति	365 दिन
6. वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 05.07.2024 पूर्वाह्न 11.00 बजे
7. वेबसाइट से निविदा डाउनलोड करने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 05.07.2024 पूर्वाह्न 11.00 बजे से दिनांक 26.07.2024 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक
8. निविदा प्रपत्र ऑनलाईन प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 26.07.2024 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक
9. तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 29.07.2024. अपराह्न 3.00 बजे
10. निविदा प्रकाशित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, सिंचाई प्रमंडल दुमका Mob. No- +919801476699 Email ID- cedmkitr@gmail.com
11. ई-निविदा जामंत्रण सेल का हेल्य लार्डिन नं०	06432357181

नोट: सिर्फ ई-निविदा ही स्वीकार किये जायेंगे।  
(1) निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रचन की राशि केवल online mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।  
(2) निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रचन की राशि का ई-मुगलान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा उसी खाते में अग्रचन की राशि वापस होगी, अगर खाता को बन्द कर दिया जाता है तो इसकी सारी जवाबदेही सम्बन्धित निविदादाता की होगी।  
(3) प्राक्कलित राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है।  
(4) राज्य सरकार द्वारा निर्मित सभी अधिनियम/परिचय लागू होंगे।  
(5) ज्यादा जानकारी http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

PR 327830 Water Resource(24-25)D

### TAMIL NADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.

(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)  
No. 417, Pantheon Road, Chennai-600 008.  
Phone: 044-2819 1890, 2819 0259 Website: www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in  
E-Mail: gmdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in, mgprdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in

Online Tenders is invited by the Tender Inviting Authority, Tamilnadu Medical Services Corporation Ltd., Chennai - 600008, for the supply of **Drugs for IVF Centres** from the Licensed Manufacturers having three years Market Standing and holding Good Manufacturing Practice Certificate (as per revised Schedule-"M") issued by the Drug Control Authority. Direct Importers holding a valid Import License and experienced in the field for a minimum period of three years and Loan Licensees having valid Loan License or Authorized Stockiest / Dealers holding valid manufacturer's authorization letter are also eligible to participate in this tender.

Sl. No	Description	e-Tender Reference	Tender Floating Period	e-Tender Submission Duration	Date and time of online opening of Technical Bids
1	Online Tender for the supply of <b>Drugs for IVF Centres</b> to TNMSC Limited under rate contract system for two years from the date of acceptance	e-011/M(P)/IVF-DRUGS/TNMSC/2024. Dated. 28.06.2024	28.06.2024 at 4.00 PM to 29.07.2024 upto 4.00 PM	12.07.2024 at 10.00 AM to 29.07.2024 upto 4.00 PM	30.07.2024 at 11.00 AM

The tender document can be downloaded and the tender shall be submitted at <https://tntenders.gov.in/>. The tender document can also be downloaded at [www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in](http://www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in) for reference purpose.

DIPR/2119/Tender/2024 Tender Inviting Authority / General Manager (Drugs)

### कार्यालय अभियन्ता, केन्द्रीय मण्डल, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, जल भवन, 'बी' स्टाक, नेहरू कालोनी, देहरादून

संकांक-197/ई-निविदा/2024-25 दिनांक- 27.06.2024

#### ई-निविदा सूचना

उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान की ओर से केन्द्रीय मण्डल, देहरादून द्वारा निम्न कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा, टू-बिड सिस्टम (तकनीकी बिड एवं कॉमिश्नियल बिड) आधार पर निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।

निविदा सं.	कार्य विवरण	घरोहर घनराशि रु.	ई-निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की तिथि एवं समय	ई-निविदा प्रपत्र अपलोड करने की तिथि एवं समय	ई-निविदा चुकना की तिथि एवं समय	तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	निविदा की वेबसाइट	बि-बिड की तिथि एवं समय
13/23-24	वार्षिक दर अनुबन्ध पर, Sodium Hypochlorite solution Grade-II with minimum available chlorine (Cl) 12.5% to 15% mass by volume conforming to specification as per IS 11673 (Part.2) : 2019 with latest amendments for Drinking Water Purpose की आपूर्ति।	6,25,000.00	02.07.2024 from 11:00 a.m. upto 11:00 a.m.	15.07.2024 from 11:00 a.m. to 22.07.2024 upto 5:00 p.m.	23.07.2024 upto 5:00 p.m.	24.07.2024 at 11:00 a.m.	120 days	09.07.2024 at 11:00 a.m.
05/24-25	वार्षिक दर अनुबन्ध पर, Energy Efficient Submersible Pumpssets of various duty parameters as per IS:8034-2002 and IS:9283-1995 with latest amendments की आपूर्ति।	3,77,000.00	02.07.2024 from 11:00 a.m. upto 11:00 a.m.	15.07.2024 from 11:00 a.m. to 22.07.2024 upto 5:00 p.m.	23.07.2024 upto 5:00 p.m.	24.07.2024 at 11:00 a.m.	120 days	09.07.2024 at 11:00 a.m.
06/24-25	वार्षिक दर अनुबन्ध पर, Supply, Installation, Testing And Commissioning of Three Phase Digital Rolling Contact Servo Voltage Stabilizers Suitable For Unbalance Voltage & Unbalance Load at different sites in Uttarakhand State on Turnkey Basis including 5 years cost free maintenance कार्य।	3,45,000.00	02.07.2024 from 11:00 a.m. upto 11:00 a.m.	15.07.2024 from 11:00 a.m. to 22.07.2024 upto 5:00 p.m.	23.07.2024 upto 5:00 p.m.	24.07.2024 at 11:00 a.m.	120 days	09.07.2024 at 11:00 a.m.

अर्हता- Only manufacturers of Sodium Hypochlorite solution Grade-II conforming to specification as per IS 11673 (Part.2) : 2019 are allowed to take part in this tender.

अर्हता- Only Energy Efficient submersible pump manufacturers of approved make (KSB/WPIL/GRUNDFOS/WILO) having BIS license for submersible pump sets as per IS:8034-2002 and IS:9283-1995 or such manufacturer's dealer authorized (authorization shall not be older than one month) specifically for this Tender are allowed to take part in this Tender. The preference will be given to the submersible pump manufacturers.

अर्हता- Only Manufacturers of Servo Voltage Stabilizer or dealer or agency authorized by manufacturer (authorization shall not be older than one month) for this tender, but the preference will be given to the manufacturer.

ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारियां व शर्तें उत्तराखण्ड की वेबसाइट [www.tntenders.gov.in](http://www.tntenders.gov.in) एवं विभागीय वेबसाइट <http://ujs.uk.gov.in> पर ऑन लाइन देखी/प्राप्त की जा सकती है। अभियन्ता

### UTTAR PRADESH SHASAN PARIVAHAN ANUBHAG-4

No.13/2024/851/XXX-4-2024-30-4099(099)/229/2022  
Lucknow: Dated 24 June, 2024

#### Notification (Corrigendum)

The provision of exemption from the payment of tax due under section 4 of the Uttar Pradesh Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1997 (U.P. Act no. 21 of 1997) has been left in notification no.12/2024/559/XXX-4-2024-30-4099(099)/229/2022, dated 11 June, 2024 issued by transport section-4 due to some clerical error. Therefore, the aforesaid notification dated 11 June, 2024 is hereby substituted as follows:-

WHEREAS under sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Uttar Pradesh Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1997 (U.P. Act no. 21 of 1997), the payment of tax due under section 4 of the said act upto the limit as specified in the schedule given in notification no. 7/2023/372/XXX-4-2023-30-4099(099)/ 229/2022 dated 11 March, 2023 on the condition of getting the said vehicle scrapped in a Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility Centre established under the Motor Vehicles (Registration and Functions of Vehicle Scrapping Facility) Rules, 2021 and the penalty payable under section 9 of the said Act, on all types of non-transport and transport vehicles to be scrapped at the Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility Centre established under the Motor Vehicles (Registration and Functions of Vehicle Scrapping Facility) Rules, 2021 issued by the Central Government, were exempted vide aforesaid notification dated 11 March, 2023.

AND WHEREAS the aforesaid exemption was effective for a period of one year from the date of issuing the aforesaid notification i.e. till 10 March, 2024;

AND WHEREAS there has been felt a need to extend the aforesaid period of exemption; NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers under section 3 of the aforesaid Act, the Governor is pleased to provide exemption from the payment of tax due under section 4 of the said act upto the limit as specified in the schedule given in the aforesaid notification dated 11 March, 2023 on the condition of getting the said vehicle scrapped in a Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility Centre established under the Motor Vehicles (Registration and Functions of Vehicle Scrapping Facility) Rules, 2021 and 100% exemption in penalty payable under section 9 of the said Act, on all types of non-transport and transport vehicles, to be scrapped at the Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility Centre established under the Motor Vehicles (Registration and Functions of Vehicle Scrapping Facility) Rules, 2021 issued by the Central Government;

Provided that exemption of the penalty on the vehicles as said in the schedule of the aforesaid notification dated 11 March, 2023 shall be admissible on the entire due tax.

(2) The exemption as said in the schedule of the aforesaid notification dated 11 March, 2023 shall be available to the vehicle owner only on depositing the remaining amount in lump sum payable after the exemption.

(3) The exemption as said in the schedule of the aforesaid notification 11 March, 2023 shall be effective for a period of six months from 11 March, 2024 i.e. till 10 September, 2024.

2- Thus, the aforesaid notification dated 11 June, 2024 is, hereby, revised upto the limit as said above.

UPID-216693 Date 26/06/2024  
[www.upidav.gov.in](http://www.upidav.gov.in)

L. Venkateshwar lu  
Principal Secretary

### INDIAN RAILWAYS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)  
(RAILWAY BOARD)

No. 2023/Track-III/MC/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. 011-4784531  
E-mail: vijay.singh.2017@gov.in

1928/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM NO 1

Name of the Work: "Provision of RTU at 11 Nos. Mid-Section Interlocked LC gates over Bikaner Division and Provision of Large format Display of LMC system as per RDSO specification and shifting of datalogger networking from 64kpbs to E-1 (2Mbps) channel of datalogger system over Bikaner Division." Vide this corrigendum following amendment are made in Tender No. : S&T/BKN/ET 294 Description: Date & Time for submission of Tender Existing: 28.06.2024 Amendment as per Corrigendum: 08.07.2024 Note:- Others Terms & Conditions will remain same.

Div. Rly. Manager (S&T)  
NWR, Bikaner  
[732-AJ/24]

### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr.PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Shajid, S/o Guddu R/o H.No.88A, Gali No.14, New Mustafabad, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No.01/2012 u/s 327/379/34 IPC & 25 Arms Act, P.S. Bhajanpura, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Shajid** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Shajid** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Shajid** of FIR No.01/2012 u/s 327/379/34 IPC & 25 Arms Act, P.S. Bhajanpura, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **06.08.2024**.

By Order,  
Sh. Pankaj Rai  
Metropolitan Magistrate-01, Room No.73,  
North East District, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/6263/NE/2024

### TRACK RENEWAL WORKS IN TINSUKIA DIVISION

Tender Notice No: TSK/ENGG/34 of 2024  
Dated: 25-06-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work:  
Item No. 1: Brief Description of Item : Complete track renewal work (CTR-P) for 62.70 Kms contractor's own PQRS/SQRS portals & gantry under the jurisdiction of Sr. DENR/Tinsukia. Tender Value: ₹16,59,27,498/-; Earnest Money ₹9,79,600/-; Date & time of closing of above tender at 15:00 hrs. and opening at 16:00 hrs. on 18-07-2024. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. on 18-07-2024 in website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

DRM(W), Tinsukia  
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY  
Serving Customers With A Smile

### GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

COMMISSIONERATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, MUMBAI.

e-mail - procurementcell@gmail.com  
Procurement Cell, 6th Floor, Arogya Bhavan, St.Georges Hospital Compound, Mumbai - 400 001.

#### TENDER NOTICE

Ad. No.2 Date : 26-06-2024

Joint Director of Health Services (Procurement Cell), Mumbai invites tenders in two envelope systems from the eligible bidders for Security Guards Services for Primary Health Care Centers under department of Public Health.

Sr. Tender No.	Name of Item	Period of sale, preparation & submission of bid	Date of Pre bid meeting	Date of bid Closing	Bid Opening
1	E-02 Security Guards Services for Primary Health Care Centers.	26.06.2024 to 18.07.2024 up to 14.00 Hrs	02.07.2024 up to 3.00 P.M	18.07.2024 (14.00 Hrs.)	19.07.2024 (14.00 Hrs.)

1. For detailed information, the interested Service Providers may visit the <https://mahatenders.gov.in>.

2. The Jt. Director of Health Services, (P. Cell) Mumbai reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantity to be purchased and also reserves the right to cancel all the tenders without giving any reason to.

For e-tendering help/ information, please contact.  
Website: - <https://mahatenders.gov.in>  
Contact- Toll-free Number-1800-419-3436;1800-102-3436  
Email - procurementcell@gmail.com

Jt. Director of Health Services (Procurement Cell) Mumbai.

### JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LTD

(A Government of Jharkhand Undertaking)  
JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001  
E-Mail - pdt.juidco@gmail.com, juidcolimited@gmail.com, CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752

#### NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS (NIT), ON EPC MODE (Retender)

NIT No: JUIDCO/NIT/ TN/ P2/ RNC - 622 Date: 25.06.2024

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Description
1.	Name of the work	Development of Transport Nagar, Ranchi (Phase 2) on EPC mode including Defect Liability Period of 3 year
2.	Scope of Work	Preparation of Architectural Planning & Design, Detailed Structural MEP, Firefighting Design & Drawing, Preparation of detailed Estimate and bill of quantities including detailed topographical survey, geotechnical survey and hydrological survey; Engineering Procurement, obtaining approval from municipal and statutory bodies, Project execution & construction including Truck Parking Area, Power, Water supply and sanitation (including Sump, Overhead Water Tank and Roof top Tank with water lifting arrangement), Sewer network, electrification work including CCTV Surveillance System, storm water drainage, rain water harvesting, landscaping, Solar Lighting, construction of internal roads, integrated building, service station, Treated Effluent Sump, Firefighting Sump with Pump, Compound wall, retaining wall, widening of approach road (4 lane to 8 lane) within the available ROW.
3.	Mode of Submission of tender including Cost of Bid Document and Earnest Money	e-tendering ( <a href="http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in">http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in</a> )
4.	Estimated Cost	Rs. 52,54,58,692/- (Rupees Fifty-Two Crores Fifty-four Lakhs Fifty-eight Thousand Six Hundred Ninety-Two only)
5.	Tender Fee and Bid Security	Tender document fee: Rs 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty-Five Thousand) only <b>Non-Refundable Bid Security: Rs 52,60,000/- (Rupees Fifty-Two Lacs Sixty Thousand) only.</b>
6.	Date & Time of Publication of Tender on Website	27.06.2024; 1400 Hrs
7.	Pre-bid Query Submission Date	04.07.2024; 1500 Hrs
8.	Pre-bid Meeting Date	05.07.2024; 1200 Hrs
9.	Last Date & Time of submission of Bid, Tender Fee and EMD online	18.07.2024; 1700 Hrs
10.	Date & Time of Bid Opening	19.07.2024; 1600 Hrs
11.	Address of Bid Inviting Authority	Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company Limited, JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi, Pin - 834001.
12.	Helpline No. of e-Procurement Cell	+91 651 222 5878

Note: Only e-tenders will be accepted.  
Further details are available on Jharkhand Government e-procurement website <http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

Sd/-  
Project Director (Technical)  
JUIDCO Ltd

PR 327930 Urban Development(24-25)#D

### Advt. No. 3/78, Date 27/06/2024

## PUNE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Deputy Municipal Commissioner, Solid Waste Management  
Tender Cell - Tender Advertisement - New Tender

Tender Sale Period : Date 28/06/2024 to Date 22/07/2024, upto 2.30 PM.  
Tender Submission Period : Date 28/06/2024 to Date 22/07/2024, upto 3.00 PM.  
Tender Opening : Date 23/07/2024, upto PM. Pre-Bid Meeting : 02/07/2024, 11:00 AM

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of Work	Tender Set Amount	Estimate (Inclusive of All Taxes)	EMD	Work Period	Contact Details
1	PMC/SWM/2024-25/06	Selection of Contractor for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Reject/ Inert Treatment Plant of 20 TPD Capacity with 5 years of Operation & Maintenance in Pune Municipal Corporation area.	Rs. 17,879/-	B-2 Tender	Rs. 3,50,000/-	05 years & 06 Months	Mr. Dixit 9689938444

NOTE: [1] All the Terms and Conditions of this work are included in the Tender set which is available on following website- [www.mahatenders.gov.in](http://www.mahatenders.gov.in). All procedures of Tender are carried out through this website only. [2] All the information regarding online tender procedure are available with Tender Cell, Pune Municipal Corporation.

(Sd/-) DEPUTY MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER,  
Solid Waste Management, Pune Municipal Corporation

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General public is hereby informed that one male namely **Sanjay S/o Gaurkh Singh R/o F-2/373, Sundar Nagri, Delhi, Age: 55 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Built: Thin**, wearing Pink colour Shirt, Grey colour Pant and Hawai Chappal in feet, has been missing/kidnapped from her house since 19.06.2024 at 9:00 AM. In this regard a DD No. 63A, dated 20.06.2024 has been registered at P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>  
E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Fax: 011-24368639  
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO  
P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi  
DP/8208/NE/2024 Ph. No.: 011-22585985, 22583307

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unidentified dead body of male **Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 55-60 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: White color Kurta and Pazama**, who was found at K.M Pole No. 14/20-14/22 DN Line near Manglopuri RLY Station, Delhi. In this regard a case DD No. 12-A dt.23.06.2024 has been registered at PS: Sarai Rohilla RLY Station, Delhi

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

Sd/- SHO  
P. S: Sarai Rohilla RLY Station Delhi  
DP/8292/RLY/2024 Tel. 8307400418



Classifieds

PERSONAL

My name has been registered as PREM RATAN SACHDEVA in my MRPL share certificate no.87522. While my real name is PREM RATAN, both of these are my names. In future, I may be known and called as PREM RATAN S/O LATE BODHRAJ. Resident-29, West Amber Talab Roorkee District-Haridwar. 0070909996-1

It is for general information that I, ROHIT KUMAR, S/O MOHAN KUMAR, R/O-250, Gali, No-7, KARKARDOOMA Village, Delhi-110092, declare that name of mine and my father have been wrongly-written as Mast Rohit Paswan and Radha Mohan Paswan in my LIC.No.283952080. The actual name of mine and my father are Rohit Kumar and Mohan Kumar respectively, which may be amended accordingly. 0040735709-5

It is for general information that I, ANIL WAIKAR, S/O Ratiram Waikar, R/O-895/8, Shri Krishna Apartment, ward no-8, Mehrauli-South, Delhi-110030, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Anil Ratiram Waikar in my minor son name Shourya Anil Waikar age-15 years in his 10th-class marksheet and certificate educational documents. The actual name of mine is Anil Waikar. Which may be amended accordingly. 0040735689-9

I, bhuvasya kaloo S/O Sudhir Kaloo, House no.H2C,8/22, rajendra nagar,sahibabad,Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh-201005, have changed my name to Bhopati Kaloo, for all purposes. 0040735709-1

I, Tanya D/o-Radhey Shyam, R/O A-52, Gali No.5, Keshoram Park, Bindapur, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Tanya Bharadwaj, permanently. 0040735689-2

I, TAMEEED S/O ALI MUHAMMAD, R/O POST MAHUA BJRARI PO-PANWARI, DIST MAHOGA (UP) 210429, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MUHAMMAD TAMEEED MANSURI. 0040735712-5

I, Sahil Jindal S/O Suresh Kumar Jindal R/O 34/6, Scheme No.6, Gandhi Nagar Dist. Zind Haryana-126102, have changed my minor daughter name Vanya to Vanya Jindal 0040735710-2

I, Sahil Jindal S/O Suresh Kumar Jindal R/O 34/6, Scheme No.6, Gandhi Nagar Dist. Zind Haryana-126102, have changed my minor daughter name Gracy to Gracy Jindal 0040735710-3

I, SHIPRA W/O-LOKESH KAPOOR, R/O-D-105 AMBA G REPOSITORY PLOT-NO-1A MALL ROAD AHINSA KHAND-2, INDIRAPURAM GHAZIABAD, UP-201014, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHIPRA KAPOOR. 0040735721-2

I, SHIPRA AGGARWAL W/O PARVINDER SINGH R/O HNO.580, TOP-FLOOR, FOUR-STORY, TAGORE-GARDEN, DELHI-110027, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHIPRA. 0040735712-4

I, SHAHANA PARVEAN/ SHAHANA PARVEAN W/O MOHAMMAD YUNIS R/O FLATNO.572, 3RD-FLOOR, SANJAY ENCLAVE, JAHANGIRPURI, ADARSH-NAGAR, DELHI-110033, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHAHANA SAIFI. 0040735712-2

I, Ramesh Kumar Sakhrani S/O Sh.Tirath Das Sakhrani R/O F-2/226-227, 3rd-Floor, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi-89, have changed my name from Ramesh Kumar to Ramesh Kumar Sakhrani for all future purposes. 0040735742-1

I, Rajesh Sharma, S/O-Kedarnath Bhagwat Sharma, R/O-T1, 404, Parsvanath Majestic, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad 201049, have changed my name from Rajesh Sharma, to Rajesh Kedarnath Sharma, forever. 0040735712-7

I, Rajesh Kumar Gupta alias Rajesh K Gupta S/O Pyare Lal Gupta, R/O-460-351, Azadpur, Delhi-110033, have changed my name to Rajesh Gupta. 0040735711-2

I, Prakash Billur No.-15437355H, S/O Sh. Padala Lakshminarayana, R/O-Makanapalli, Sarali, Srikakulam, Andhra-Pradesh, inform that in my service record, my mother and father's name wrongly written as (Mother Shivanavva and my Father's name Sidamallappa) which is wrong the actual and right name is (Mother Shivanavva Billur and my Father Sidamallappa Billur). Which may be amended accordingly. 0040735651-2

I, Padala Shanmukha Rao No.-15431068H, S/O Sh. Padala Lakshminarayana, R/O-Makanapalli, Sarali, Srikakulam, Andhra-Pradesh, inform that in my service record, my son Padala Lakshith's D.O.B, wrongly written as 31.08.2018, which is wrong the actual and right D.O.B, is 31.08.2019. Which may be amended accordingly. 0040735651-1

I, PRADEEP KUMAR S/O ISHWAR DAYAL R/O 150, RAMBHAWAN, TANKI-ROD, NAI BASTI, SHAMLI, UTTAR PRADESH-247776, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PRAVEEN KUMAR GOEL. 0040735721-1

I, Nasir S/o Zareef Ahmad, R/O H.No-247, Masuri district Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh-201015, have changed my name to Nasir Ali, for all future purposes. 0040735689-5

I, NO-91172451, NK Ashiq Hussain Sheikh (16 JAKLI SP COY), S/O-Mohammad Yousuf Sheikh, R/O- Hayhama Batpora, Tehsil/District- Kupwara. In my service records D O B of my brother namely Khalid Sheikh, S/O-Mohammad Yousuf Sheikh has been wrongly mentioned as 01-01-2001 instead of 06-07-2006 as in Matric certificates. It needs correction. Objections be filed to concerned authorities. 0020477682-1

I, MONIKA, W/O SHRI. MAYANK KUMAR, D/O SHRI. SUDESH KUMAR CHHABRA, R/O-5, VIJAY-BLOCK, LAXMI-NAGAR, DELHI-110092, OLD ADDRESS-L-124, LAXMI-NAGAR DELHI-110092, THAT INSTEAD OF MY NAME IN MY AADHAR-CARD, NO. 307404545767, MENTIONED IS MONIKA SHE WOULD BE KNOWN & CALLED " MONIKA KUMAR AS PER MARRIAGE-CERTIFICATE. THAT I, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM MONIKA TO MONIKA KUMAR, BOTH NAMES IS THE SAME PERSON. 0040735709-4

I, MONIKA BHATIA, W/O VIKAS BHATIA, Address-WARD, NO.11, NEAR-S.V.M. SCHOOL, VASANT-VIHAR, GANAU, P.O.GANAU, SONIPAT (131101), HARYANA, Have changed my name to MONIKA RANI, for all purpose. 0040735712-9

I, MOHAMMAD EISA, S/O ABDUL RASEED, R/O H.NO.G-62, FIRST-FLOOR, ABUL FAZAL ENCLAVE-1, JAMIA NAGAR, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110025, INFORM THAT GIVEN NAME- MOHAMMAD ISA, FOR ALL PURPOSE. 0040735709-2

I, Lal Bahadur S/O Jamna Prasad R/O B-2, Jai Shiv Apartment, West Enclave, Pitam Pura, Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Lakhwinder. 0040735711-3

I, Km Priti Agrawal alias Priti Agrawal, W/O Deepak Agrawal, R/O-22, Vaibhav Kunj, Dayal Bagh, Agra, Uttar Pradesh-282005, have changed my name to Preeti Agrawal. 0040735711-1

I, KRISHNEET KUAR CHADHA W/O-PUNITPAL SINGH, R/O-BFH-47, WEST VTC: SHALIMAR BAGH, DELHI-110088, have changed my name to KRISHNEET KUAR. 0040735712-1

I, Garima Khera, W/O Abhishek Omchery R/O-23, Amaltas, Marg, DLF Phase-1, Gurugram Haryana-122002, have changed my name to Garima Khera Omchery permanently. 0040735710-1

I, DINESH JINDAL, S/O SHRI R.K.JINDAL, R/O-F-216, MANGAL-BAZAR LAXMI-NAGAR DELHI-110092, THAT INSTEAD OF MY DAUGHTER NAME IN PASSPORT, NO.P6607386 MENTIONED "SHIKA JINDAL" SHE WOULD BE KNOWN & CALLED " AASHNA JINDAL" AS PER AADHAR CARD/BIRTH CERTIFICATE/SCHOOL I.D., THAT I, HAVE CHANGED MY DAUGHTER NAME FROM ISHIKA JINDAL TO AASHNA JINDAL, BOTH NAME ARE THE SAME PERSON. 0040735709-3

I, CHARANJEET KAUR, W/O TARANDEEP SINGH, R/O A-1989, THIRD FLOOR, NEAR GATE NO.5 GREENFIELD COLONY, FARIDABAD HARYANA-121003, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO CHARANJEET KAUR. 0040735689-4

I, BIPIN KUMAR RAJAK, S/O MR.SRIKANT RAJAK, R/O-M-404, STELLAR JEEVAN, SECTOR-01, GREATER NOIDA WEST, inform that BIPIN KUMAR RAJAK and BIPIN KUMAR, both names are same person. 0040735710-5

I, Amarjeet Chowdhary, W/O Gurdeep Singh Chaudhary, R/O Obediene-106, Vatika Seven lamps Sector-82, Sikanderpur Gurgaon, Haryana-122004, Have changed my name to Amarjeet Choudhary, for all purposes. 0040735689-3

I, Ajit Singh Kohli S/O Avtar Singh R/O J-3/150, Third Floor, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110027, have changed my name to Ajit Singh. 0040735689-6

I, AVISHI D/O DEEPAK SINHA, residing at, C-337, KENDRIYA VIHAR SECTOR-56 GURGAON, HARYANA-122011, have changed my name to AVISHI SINHA, for all, future purposes. 0040735689-1

I, ASHA W/O DINESH KUMAR, R/O PLOT, NO-34-C/A S/F, OLD-PALAM ROAD, NEAR-MBD SCHOOL, RAJU EXTENSION, KAKROLA, DELHI-110078, have changed my name ASHA to ASHA DEVI, in all, future purposes. 0040735710-4

I, ANJALI D/O ARUN KUMAR JHA R/O R-1/19, FIRST-FLOOR, VIJAY-VIHAR, UTTAM NAGAR, DELHI-110059, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANJALI JHA. 0040735712-3

I, ANEESUR REHMAN S/O ATA UR REHMAN R/O 2729 3RD FLOOR FRONT SIDE BEHIND MOTI MAHAL RESTAURANT DARYA GANJ NEW DELHI-110002, have changed my name to ANIS UR REHMAN Permanently 0070909999-1

I, hitherto known as S.NGAMSHIM, D/O. PEARSON SHADANG resident of 58-N, CBI Colony, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi - 110057 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NGAMSHIM SHADANG for all purposes as per affidavit sworn before Notary Public in Delhi, dated 27.06.24. 0040735649-1

I, VIKESH KUMAR, S/O DHARMA RAM SAHARAN, R/O 23, IRRIS FIRST, F-3, SECTOR-82, VATIKA INDIA NEXT, GURGAON, HARYANA-122004, Have changed my name to VIKESH KUMAR SAHARAN For all future purposes. 0070909998-1

I, Suhaani Shukla, D/o Ashutosh Shukla, R/O-55, Savita Vihar, First-Floor, New Delhi-110092, have changed my name from Suhani Shukla to Suhaani Shukla, for all future purposes. 0040735712-10

I, Subhash Garg S/o Sita Ram R/o 296/13 Jamuna Dass Gali, Ladwa, Kurukshetra, Haryana-136132, have changed my name from Shubham Goel to Subhash Chand Garg permanently 0040735671-1

I, Shammi Musharaf W/o Sikander Alam R/O, C-27, Second-Floor, Old Govindpura Extn., Krishna-Nagar, East Delhi, Delhi-110051, changed my name to Musarat Shamim. 0040735721-3

I, Savinder Kaur alias Dolly Arora W/o, Ravinder Pal Singh Arora R/O, Flat-No. A-003, Navin-Apartment, Plot-No.13, Sector-5, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075, changed my name to Savinder Kaur. 0040735721-4

I, SHASHI BUSHAN SINGH, S/O Sh.Dhruv Singh, R/O J-65, 2nd Floor, Front Side, Pandav Nagar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to SHASHI BHUSHAN SINGH for all future purposes. 0040735631-5

I, SAMPAT KUMAR, S/O LALCHAND POONIA, R/O 5, IRIS, FIRST, H-5.1, SECTOR-82, VATIKA INDIA NEXT, GURGAON, HARYANA-122004, Have changed my name to SAMPAT POONIA For all future purposes. 0070910004-1

I, RAJESH KUMAR S/O RAJ KUMAR SHARMA R/O 54, ADARSH KUNJ, PLOT, NO.42, SEC-13, ROHINI, DELHI-110085, Have changed my name to RAJESH KUMAR SHARMA. 0040735710-6

I, Preeti Kotnala W/o Sushil Kumar Kotnala R/O Flat No. 2, Pandit Main Gali, Moon Apartment, Village-Raipur Khadar, NOIDA, have changed my daughter's name Tanvi Tak to Tanvi Kotnala for all future purposes. Tanvi Tak and Tanvi Kotnala both are same person. 00709100037-1

I, Prabhdeep Singh S/O Narinder Singh R/O 7/165, Ramesh-Nagar, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Prabhdeep Singh Sahni. 0040735721-5

I, Pittar S/o Shri Bekaroy Yadav R/O House no-190, Dhaka Village, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-9, have changed my name to Pittar Yadav for all future purposes 0040735639-1

I, Mareium Indvar D/o Karma Indvar R/O- 769, Sunnlight Colony-2, Hari Nagar, Ashram, South Delhi, Delhi-110014, have changed my name from Mareium Indvar to Mariam Indvar for all future purposes. 0040735700-1

I, Lalit Meena S/O Khajan Singh Meena, R/O B 143, Moti Kunj Extension Colony, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh-281001, I have changed the name of my minor daughter Divi Meena aged about 4 years and She shall hereafter be known as Divisha Meena 0070910034-1

I, Lakshya Kumar S/O Rakesh Kumar Yadav, R/O Q-45 Mohan Park, Naveen Shahdara, Near SR Capital Public School, Naveen Shahdara, Rohtas Nagar, North East Delhi-110032, I have changed the name of my minor daughter Erisha aged about 6 Years and She shall hereafter be known as Amaira Chhabaria 0070910042-1

I, KRISHNA DEVI W/o Sh. SATISH KUMAR R/O Kh.No. 33/19, Street No. 12, Gautam Colony, Safiyabad Road, Narela, Delhi-110040 have declare that in my Bank of Baroda A/c No. 30320100055406 mine name mentioned as KRISHNA instead of my correct name KRISHNA DEVI. In future I will be known as KRISHNA DEVI for all purposes, which may be amended accordingly. 0070910023-1

I, Inderjit Singh alias Inderjeet Singh S/O Pritam Singh, R/O L-59, Kirti Nagar, Ramesh Nagar, Rajouri Garden, West Delhi-110015, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Inderjeet Sokhi. 0070910040-1

I, Harpreet Kaur Kohli W/o S. Ajit Singh R/O J-3/150, Third Floor, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110027, have changed my name to Harpreet Kaur. 0040735689-7

I, Devendra Kumar S/o Suresh Kumar R/O House B-1/504 Dulp Grand Sector 35 Sonipat, declare that my name has been wrongly recorded as Devendra in my son's school records, whereas in all my documents, my correct name is Devendra Kumar. In future I will be known as Devendra Kumar. 0070910025-1

I, Payal W/o Karan Arora R/O O-38, IInd-floor, Vijay Vihar, Uttam Nagar, Delhi, have changed my name to Payal Gandhi 0040735647-2

I, Anil Kumar Mittal S/o, Sat Prakash Mittal R/O, C-302, Third floor, tower-c platinum tower sector-28, gurgaon haryana-122002, have changed my name to Anil Mittal for all future purposes. 0040735677-1

I, Ajay Gupta, S/O- Ravinder Gupta, H.No-1/7491, gali, no-14, East Gorakh park shahdara, Delhi-110032, changed my name To Ajay kumar Gupta. 0040735712-6

I, ATUL VISHAL S/O KAILASH KUMAR MANNAN R/O 96, POCKET-1, SECTOR-22, ROHINI, DELHI-110086 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ATUL VISHAL MANAN FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0070910027-1

I, Tavleen Kaur Virmani W/O, Prateek Nayal R/O 903, Tower-12, Emaar Palm Gardens, Sector-83, Behind Hyatt Regency, Gurugram have changed my name to Tavleen Nayal. 0040735638-1

I, Shiwangi Bhushan Srivastava W/O, Mayank Maheshwari R/O 2-c-38, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Shiwangi Bhushan. 0040735695-1

I, Santosh D/o Chatter Singh R/O WZ-17A, GF, Hind Nagar, Gali No-1, Near MRV School, Tilak Nagar, West Delhi-110018, have changed my name Santosh to Santosh chhabra. 0070909968-1

I, Mohit Chaudhary S/O Late Sh.Vinay Chaudhary R/O D-99, First Floor, Sushant Lok-II, Sector-56, Gurgaon, Haryana-122011 have changed the name of my minor daughter from Taranya Chaudhary to Kyna Chaudhary for all purposes. 00407356631-2

I, Mohit Chaudhary S/O Late Sh.Vinay Chaudhary R/O D-99, First Floor, Sushant Lok-II, Sector-56, Gurgaon, Haryana-122011 have changed the name of my minor daughter from Shanaya Chaudhary for all purposes. 0040735631-1

I, Kaushal Singh Tariyal S/o Madho Singh R/O 541-D, Garhi Cantt, Dehradun, Dehradun Cantt, Uttarakhand-248003, have changed my name to Khushal Singh 0070910006-1

I, Deepak Sharma S/o Sh.Ramesh Sharma R/O Villa No.4105, Kalindi Hills Achievers Society, Sector-49, Faridabad, Haryana-121001 have changed my name to Dipak Sharma for all purposes. 0040735631-4

I, Daleep Arora s/o late shri Ram Prakash Arora r/o 9/97 Geeta Colony Delhi-110031. has changed my name from Daleep Arora to Daleep Kumar Arora. I shall be known as Daleep Kumar Arora now onwards. 0040735640-1

I, Shweta W/o Devesh Kumar R/O 2921 first floor, Huda Plot, Sec-57, Wazirabad Gurgaon Haryana-122003, have changed my name to Shweta Sachdeva. 0040735689-8

I, Anil Sharma S/O Sh.Ramesh Sharma R/O Villa No.4105, Kalindi Hills Achievers Society, Sector-49, Faridabad, Haryana-121001 have changed my name to Anil Sharma for all purposes. 0040735631-3

I, Abhishek Mitra S/O Adhir Ranjan Mistry, R/O A 418, Pragati Vihar Hostel, New Delhi-110003, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Abhishek Mistry. 0070910043-1

I, MONIKA W/O VIKAS BHATIA, Address-WARD, NO.11, NEAR S.V.M.SCHOOL, VASANT VIHAR, GANAU, P.O.GANAU, SONIPAT (131101), HARYANA Have changed my name to MONIKA RANI, for all purpose. 0040735712-8

LOST & FOUND

I, Gulshan Bagga S/O Late Sh.Roshan Lal, R/O-433, Bhai-Parmanand Colony, Delhi-110009, have lost my original Allotment Letter and Possession Letter, LR-No.1846457/2024 0040735647-1

I, have lost my property documents with chain on New-Delhi Railway Station in favour of Mr.PURUSHOTAM GAURAV, S/O-JAYPRAKASH SINGH Permanent reside at DHOBWAL KHAIRAH NAWADA SARAN, BIHAR-841412, in respect of Property, No.Khasra.No.590, Tilapata Karnvas-Dadri, GB.Nagar, J.P.on.02.05.2024. FIR has been lodged vide LR No.1748936/2024 dated-20.05.2024. If anyone found may contact/return to me on my address Mr.PURUSHOTAM GAURAV, S/O-JAYPRAKASH SINGH presently residing Hari Hans Apartment, 100, futa Road Ghitorni, Delhi. Mob:-9534557468. 0040735709-10

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice serves to inform the general public that my client, Pramod Kumar, son of Mahender Singh, residing at A-121, Phase 5, Aya Nagar Extension, Near Madia Marg, Aya Nagar, Delhi 110047, has hereby severed all family relations with his son, namely Mr. Sameer Kumar Chaudhary, and his daughter-in-law, Ms. Tanisha Tomar, with immediate effect. My client has voluntarily and of his own free will disowned his aforementioned son, Mr. Sameer Kumar Chaudhary, and his daughter-in-law, Ms. Tanisha Tomar, due to their temperamental and unbecoming behavior towards him. Both individuals were beyond my client's control and supervision. Therefore, my client has completely severed all relations with them and has disowned them from any claim to his inheritance, whether movable or immovable property, absolutely and permanently. Any person or entity dealing with Mr. Sameer Kumar Chaudhary and Ms. Tanisha Tomar does so at their own risk and responsibility. My client and his family shall not be liable for any actions or conduct of Mr. Sameer Kumar Chaudhary and Ms. Tanisha Tomar in any manner whatsoever. This notice is issued to the public for their information and action accordingly. Sd/- Dhareej Singh, Advocate, Chamber No. 363, Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to the public at large that my client Jawahar Lal Sharma S/O Rajender Prasad R/o H-23/24, Ghonda, Jai Prakash Nagar, Seelampur, North East Delhi-110053 has disowned his son Rahul and daughter-in-law Sonam from his all movable and immovable properties. My client has no concern with his said son and daughter-in-law and will not be responsible for their any act done by them or on their behalf. Sd/- Simran (Advocate) 588, Patiala House Court, New Delhi-110001 Enrl. No. D/6787/2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that my client ASHOK MEHTO S/O SH. GANGA MEHTO R/O H.No.14A, VIKAS VIHAR /NILOTHI EXT.N. NANGLOI, NEW DELHI-110041 My client has disowned and debarred his son JEETUL from his movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with debarred person shall do at their own risk and responsibilities and my client will not be responsible for the same. Sd/- Ashwani Kumar, Advocate JG-3/68-B, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to public that my client Shri Sonararayan S/O Late Shri Vishnu Prasad R/O C-413, budh Nagar, J.J. Colony, Indir Nagar, New Delhi-110012 have severed all their relations from his son Sh. Vicky Kumar and his wife Ms Neha and their daughters because of ill behaviour of his wife namely Neha and her relative towards my client and my client has also debarred him from his movable and immovable properties for all purposes in future. Anybody dealing with them shall be doing so at their own risk and responsibilities and my client shall not be responsible for any act of the aforesaid persons. Sd/- Mahinder Singh (Advocate) Chamber No. B-30, B.G.S. Block Tis Hazari Court Delhi-110054, M.9873027484

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client states that Mr. KS Kulkshreshtha Sh. Sonu Shankar are the absolute owners of property being G-52, Ground Floor, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018 having purchased the same from Frank Singh & S. Parvinder Singh by virtue of Sale Deed dated 28-01-2003 vide registration no.10572 in Book no.1. The said original sale deed in respect above said property was lost by our client, while lying in their custody. An FIR dated 27.06.2024 was filed for loss of original sale deed. If any person has any claim or interest over the said property, he/she is requested to forward his/her claims along with the relevant documents to us within 15 days of this public notice. If we do not receive any claim or interest within 15 days, it will be strictly presumed that this property is absolutely free from any claim or encumbrance and no one has any claim over this property. Sd/- RAVI CHOOPRA (Advocate) Office no 1 First Floor DDA Market Pocket-A-1, Mayapuri Vihar PH-III Delhi-110096

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clients K.C. Jha aged about 56 years S/o Sh. Fudan Jha, and his wife Smt. Babita Jha Aged About 53 years, and his Daughter Ms. Pragati Kumari Aged about 24 Years, All R/o B-65, Mithila Vihar Road, Prem Nagar-II, Kirti Suleman Nagar, Sultanpur C Block, Delhi-110086, here by Disowned and debar all the relation from their Son & Daughter In Law as well as their relative towards my client and my client is not obedient and not performing their duties, towards my clients and their interests, anybody deals with them shall be at their own risk cost and consequence. Sd/- S.K. Jha Advocate En. No. D-196/94

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Manorama Devi w/o Bishan Lal R/O D-20 3RD FLOOR BACK SIDE, NAWADA HOUSING COMPLEX UTTAM NAGAR WEST DELHI DELHI 110059 She severed all relation and disowned her son Ajay Kumar and his wife Neha and two Grand Son, Tanishk Kumar and Atharv Kumar from her all movable immovable properties due to their disobedience. My client shall not be responsible for their acts. Sd/- ANITA ROY Advocate CHL No. 684 LAWYER'S CHAMBER BLOCK DISTRICT COURTS COMPLEX SAKET NEW DELHI-110017

ADMISSION NOTICE

Management Education & Research Institute, Janakpuri, New Delhi announces admission MBA (2024 -26) -18 seats in I & II shift, BBA (2024-27) -30 seats in I & II shift and BA(JMC) (2024 -27) -12 seats in I & II shift and B.Com (H) (2024-27) -6 seats and BCA (2024-27)-12 seats in I & II shift under Management quota. Eligibility & Reservation: As per GGSIPU / Delhi Govt. Norms. Apply online through University/ Institute website or offline on prescribed form available at reception. Last date for submission of completed form at reception 17.07.2024 till 5.00 p.m. Note: - All admissions as per GGSIPU university / Govt. norms. For more details and schedule kindly visit our website www.meri.edu.in/meri.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for the General Public by my client Smt. Rani Gandhi wife of Late Kishan Lal resident of 3-A/92, W.E.A. Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005, that the debarment of her son Sh. Pankaj Gandhi, and his family from her late husband's properties, done by late Sh. Kishan Lal in 2008 is now cancelled. Sh. Pankaj Gandhi, along with his wife, Sapna Gandhi, and son Master Prenti Gandhi are restored to all rights and entitlements in all her properties. Sd/- Rajiv Kumar (Advocate) E. No. D-326/2015

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed that my clients Sh. Kanhiya Lal & his wife Smt. Raji Rani resident of 28, Dhoby Ghat, Mahabir Khan Road, Delhi-110002 has severed, disconnected and discontinued all their relations with their son Arjan Kumar, his wife Kameena, their daughter Divyanshi due to their adamant, arrogant, disobedient, misbehavior, irresponsible and quarrelsome attitude towards my clients and they are desisting beyond control of my clients. If any one deals with them, then they shall be doing so at their own risk, cost and consequences. My client shall never be responsible in any manner whatsoever for the same and shall have no liability and responsibilities. Further my clients disown and disinherit all of them from all her properties movable and immovable whatsoever. Sd/- Sachin Kumar Bansal Advocate C/3, No.36, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

COURT NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF SH. NARESH KUMAR MALHOTRA, I.D.DISTRICT JUDGE (COMMERCIAL COURT-46), WEST DISTRICT, ROOM NO. 403, EXTENSION BUILDING (NEW), FOURTH FLOOR, TIS HAZARI COURT, DELHI. SUMMON FOR PUBLICATION PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT (Under Order 5 Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure) CS (Comm.)No.961/2022 CANARA BANK. ...Plaintiff Vs TRIDEEP KUMAR & ORS ...Defendant To. (Defendant No.2) MISS ANU DEVICO(BORROWER), 216-C, SUPER MIG EXPRESS VIEW APARTMENT, NOIDA, SECTOR-13, UP-201305. ALSO AT: 29/7, POKET-92, SECTOR-82, NOIDA, GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR, UP-201310 (Defendant No.3) MS SUPER CITY INFRATECH PVT LTD DEVELOPTOR, REG. OFFICE AT: B. BHARTI ARTIST, COLONY, DELHI-110092 (Defendant No.4) MS SEEKING INFRACOM PVT LTD (CONFORMING PARTY), REG OFFICE AT: 304, SITA RAM, MANSION, 718/21, JOSHI ROAD, KAROL BAGH, DELHI-110005 WHEREAS you, in view of the reports already received, cannot be served in ordinary way. It is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 04<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024, the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte. GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the court on this 17th Day of May, 2024. Sd/- Seal Judge

EDUCATION

ADMISSION

SRI GURU TEGH BAHADUR INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (Affiliated to Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi) (Under Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee) ADMISSION NOTICE For UG's seats of Management Quota Applications are invited from eligible & CET 2024 qualified candidates for admission in BCA-12+12, BBA(G)-12+12, BBA(BA)06+06 (Shift I & II) BCom(H)-06 Application forms are available at the Institute Reception from Mon to Sat between 9am to 4pm. Apply within 18 days. \*Station

# 15 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 79,243.18 ▲ 568.93 (0.72%) NIFTY: 24,044.50 ▲ 175.70 (0.74%) NIKKEI: 39,341.54 ▼ 325.53 HANG SENG: 17,716.47 ▼ 373.46 FTSE: 8,201.00 ▼ 24.33 DAX: 18,207.37 ▲ 52.13

<b>GOLD</b>	<b>USD RATE</b>	<b>OIL</b>	<b>SILVER</b>
₹72,180	₹83.44	\$84.69	₹90,600

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of June 26

International market data till 1900 IST

## REGULATOR SAYS BROKERS & MFs SHOULD STOP USING UNREGULATED 'FINFLUENCERS'

# Sebi revamps F&O inclusion criteria, introduces fixed price delisting process

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, JUNE 27

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), in its board meeting held on Thursday, approved a revision in eligibility criteria for entry and exit of stocks in the derivatives segment (futures and options) of exchanges and set up an expert group to look into the F&O category.

The committee will look into the three dimensions — market development, investor protection and risk parameters, Sebi Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch said after the board meeting.

The Sebi board also decided to introduce a fixed price process for delisting frequently traded shares and also introduced a delisting framework for investment and holding companies (IHC).

Coming down on the increasing numbers of financial influencers, or 'finfluencers', Sebi said that brokers and mutual funds should stop using unregulated 'fin-

fluencers' for marketing and advertising campaigns.

Finfluencers are usually unregistered entities providing catchy content, information, and advice on various financial topics to their several followers. While some of them may be genuine educators, many of them are effectively unregistered and unauthorised investment advisers or research analysts who lure gullible investors into making wrong investment decisions. These influencers are active on Facebook, X, WhatsApp and Instagram and reel out unrealistic claims and recommendations on stock prices. The number of these unregulated influencers increased as the stock market witnessed a bull rally in recent months.

"The persons regulated by the board and the agents of such persons should not have any association with any other person who, directly or indirectly, provides advice or recommendation or makes any implicit or explicit claim of return or performance, in respect of



Sebi Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch.

or related to security or securities unless permitted by the board to provide such advice or recommendation," Sebi said. However, this restriction will not apply to persons regulated by the board who are exclusively engaged in investor education.

The Sebi move on F&O would weed out stocks with consistently low turnover from the segment. The eligibility criteria for entry or exit of stock should be based on the performance of stocks in the underlying cash market. The stock should continue to be chosen from among the top 500 stocks in terms

of average daily market capitalisation and average daily traded value on a rolling basis, it said.

The revised criteria for entry and exit of stocks in the derivative segment (F&O) are in line with the changed market context since 2018. Under the new norms, the criteria for exit will apply to only those stocks which have completed at least 6 months from the month of entry into the derivatives segment. Under the revised criteria, average daily market capitalisation and average daily traded value (ADTV) in the previous six months on a rolling basis will be consid-

ered for top 500 stocks. The stock's median quarter sigma order size (MQSOS) over the last six months, on a rolling basis, should not be less than Rs 75 lakh. The stock's market wide position limit (MWPL) on a rolling basis should not be less than Rs 1,500 crore, as per the new norms.

Retail investors now make up 35 per cent of options trades, undeterred by the fact that 9 out of 10 individual traders in the equity F&O segment incurred losses.

Meanwhile, in order to protect the interest of investors and provide flexibility in the voluntary delisting framework, the Sebi board has approved the introduction of the fixed price process as an alternative to reverse book building process (RBB) for delisting of companies whose shares are frequently traded. "The fixed price offered by an acquirer should be with at least 15 per cent premium over the floor price as determined under the Delisting Regulations," Sebi said.

FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

# Govt to amend 2006 Act to streamline disputes over delayed payments to MSMEs

Union MSME Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi says 70% population under poverty line, focus on micro enterprises key

AGGAM WALIA NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

THE UNION Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) is amending the MSME Development Act, 2006 to improve mechanisms for managing disputes related to delayed payments and to better address the evolving needs of the MSME sector. Additionally, the MSME ministry is in the process of transforming the Samadhaan portal, which currently only tracks disputes arising from delayed payments to micro and small enterprises (MSEs), into a comprehensive online resolution platform.

"We want to bring about the first amendment to the MSME Act that was passed in 2006 in order to make the provisions of the Act more conducive to the requirements of MSEs," Dr Rajneesh, Additional Secretary at MSME ministry, said at an event commemorating World MSME Day. He added that the ministry is collaborating with stakeholders such as the Ministry of Law and Justice and experts at National Law Universities (NLUs) to design the amendments.

"The Act has a lot of issues that need to be handled, including delayed payments and the kind of support MSMEs need. The Act was brought in 2006, and times have changed. The nature of support needed has also undergone a vast difference. Similarly, when it comes to the National Board for MSME, it should have representation of all the secretaries from states because the industry has to connect with state governments at the ground level," Vinod Kumar, President of the Indian SME Forum, told *The Indian Express*. Kumar participated in the event



Union Minister for MSME Jitan Ram Manjhi.

organised by the ministry as a panelist.

At the event, Union Minister for MSME Jitan Ram Manjhi emphasised the need to focus on micro enterprises in rural areas to improve quality of life and address unemployment. "When we talk about the rich and the poor, we admit that today 70 per cent of the population falls below the poverty line. Of these people, 90 to 95 per cent are somehow managing their lives. We are very fortunate to have a prime minister like Narendra Modi who is able to understand the problems of these people and wants to work for them. The development of micro industries is very important for this," Manjhi said in his address.

Manjhi also identified six pillars on which the ministry will focus going forward, namely formalisation and access to credit, increased access to market and e-commerce adoption, increased productivity through modern technology, enhancing skill levels and digitalisation in the service sector, support to khadi, rural, and coir industries, and empow-

ment of women and artisans through enterprise creation.

At the event, the ministry also announced the Trade Enablement & Marketing (TEAM) initiative, which aims to onboard 5 lakh MSEs onto the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). The initiative, with an outlay of Rs 277 crore over the next three years, also seeks to assist MSEs with cataloguing, account management, logistics, and packaging material and design. The ministry also announced the Yashasvini campaign to spread awareness for formalising women-owned, informal micro enterprises, with a focus on tier-2 and tier-3 cities.

During the event, Ateesh Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary at the MSME ministry, revealed that the ministry is upgrading the Samadhaan portal from a simple tracker to a comprehensive full-stack online platform for resolving delayed payment disputes. The portal was launched in 2017 for the monitoring of outstanding dues to MSEs from buyers of goods and services. "Today, the Samadhaan portal primarily provides information for analysis. It does not offer a platform for direct resolution. To improve this, the portal needs to incorporate online dispute resolution mechanisms. Users should be able to file complaints, have notices sent to the other party, receive responses, and participate in mediation or other resolution processes—all online," explained Kumar.

Panelists at the event also highlighted numerous problems with the current process, including the high cost of litigation for MSEs and delays in resolution. They suggested enforcing timelines and capping arbitration expenses to make the process more affordable for MSEs.

## AMID ADANI GROUP'S EXPANDING CEMENT FOOTPRINT

# UltraTech buys 23% in India Cements

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, JUNE 27

ULTRATECH CEMENT Ltd, owned by the Aditya Birla group, has acquired a 23 per cent stake in India Cements Ltd (ICL), triggering speculation about a takeover of the Chennai-based cement major now controlled by N Srinivasan and family. The move marks a further intensification of the battle for control of India's cement market, which was dominated for long by Kumar Mangalam Birla's company until the Adani Group entered the sector in 2022 and has since become the country's second biggest player.

The board of UltraTech approved "making a financial investment" to purchase up to 706 crore equity shares of India Cements at a price of up to Rs 267 per share, the Birla firm said in an exchange filing. This non-controlling financial investment constitutes around 23 per cent of the equity

## TRIGGERS SPECULATION OF A TAKEOVER

WHILE THE Aditya Birla stake falls short of the 25 per cent stake required to make an open offer, the

current promoters led by Srinivasan could face a takeover attempt as their stake is 28.42 per cent

share capital of ICL. The move by the Birlas, currently the largest manufacturers of cement in the country, follows the recent acquisition of Penna Cement by the Adani group and aimed at retaining its leadership position in the cement sector.

While the Birla stake falls short of the 25 per cent stake required to make an open offer, the current promoters led by Srinivasan could face a takeover attempt as their stake is 28.42 per cent. Though UltraTech said it's purely a non-controlling financial investment, it's not clear whether the current promoters have supported the Birla's stake purchase.

Radhakrishnan and Gopikishan

Damani together held 20.78 per cent stake in the company as of March 2024. Though the Birlas did not reveal the name of the seller, market sources said the purchase could be from the Damanis. On June 13, Adani Group owned Ambuja Cements said it has signed a binding agreement for the acquisition of Hyderabad-based Penna Cement Industries Ltd (PCIL) at an enterprise value of Rs 10,422 crore. Ambuja Cements will acquire 100 per cent shares of PCIL from its existing promoter group P Pratap Reddy and family.

The spate of acquisitions by the Birlas and Adani is expected to intensify the battle for market share in the cement sector in the

coming days. India Cements shares jumped by 11.49 per cent to Rs 293.15 on the BSE on Thursday following the announcement by the Birlas.

UltraTech shares spurred by 5.07 per cent to Rs 11,714.80. UltraTech has a consolidated capacity of 152.7 million tonnes per annum of grey cement. It has 24 integrated manufacturing units, 33 grinding units, one Clinkerisation unit and 8 bulk packaging terminals. From a two-plant company having a capacity of just 1.3 million tonnes in 1989, India Cements has grown in the last two decades to a total capacity of 15.5 million tonnes per annum. However, it made a loss of Rs 202 crore in a turnover of Rs 4,942 crore in FY24.

While N Srinivasan is the Vice-chairman and MD of India Cements, his daughter, Rupa Gurunath is an Executive Director of the company and his wife Chitra Srinivasan is a non-executive non-independent director on the board. Srinivasan was earlier

Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC) and President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

If the Birlas acquire another 2 per cent and make an open offer, there's a possibility of a hostile takeover of India Cements. However, the Birlas have not given any indication about this option. UltraTech had announced the acquisition of Kesoram Industries' cement assets for Rs 7,600 crore last year. UltraTech recently said its expansion programme is progressing as per schedule. Work on the second phase of 22.6 mtpa capacity announced in June, 2022, is under progress with capacities commissioned across several locations, it said. The Adani group has been expanding its footprint in the cement sector. Gujarat Ambuja, with its subsidiaries ACC and Sanghi Industries, has taken the Adani Group's cement capacity to 78.9 MTPA, with 18 integrated plants and 19 cement grinding units across the country.

## BRIEFLY

Sensex crosses 79,000 level, Nifty 24,000

New Delhi: Sensex breached the historic 79,000 mark while Nifty scaled the 24,000 peak for the first time on Thursday as buying in blue-chip stocks helped markets extend gains. PTI

CBIC on ESOPs by foreign cos' domestic arms

New Delhi: ESOPs given by foreign companies to employees of its Indian subsidiary at prevailing market value will not attract GST, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs said. PTI

Foxconn: 25% of new hires are married women

New Delhi: Foxconn has said that they hire workers of all backgrounds, genders, races and marital status, and they do not discriminate in hiring or recruitment. "In our latest round of hiring almost 25 per cent of women are married..." it said. PTI

US growth rate revised to 1.4% for Jan-Mar

Washington: The US economy expanded at a 1.4 per cent annual pace from January through March, the slowest quarterly growth since spring 2022, the government said Thursday. AP

## RBI'S FINANCIAL STABILITY REPORT FOR JUNE 2024

# 'Banks' gross NPA ratio eases to 12-year low of 2.8% in March

HITESH VYAS MUMBAI, JUNE 27

THE GROSS non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio of scheduled commercial banks, which moderated to a 12-year low of 2.8 per cent in March 2024, may further improve to 2.5 per cent by March 2025, the Reserve Bank of India said on Thursday. The estimate for GNPA ratio for March 2025 is based on the macro stress tests, performed to assess the resilience of banks' balance sheets to unforeseen shocks emanating from the macroeconomic environment.

"The asset quality of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) recorded sustained improvement and their GNPA ratio moderated to a 12-year low in March 2024 (to 2.8 per cent). Their net NPA (NNPA) ratio too improved to a record low of 0.6 per cent," the RBI said in its Financial Stability Report (FSR) for June 2024.



Under the baseline stress scenario, the GNPA ratio of all banks may improve to 2.5 per cent by March 2025. If the macroeconomic environment worsens to a severe stress scenario, the GNPA ratio may rise to 3.4 per cent, the RBI's half-yearly report said.

In the severe stress scenario, the GNPA ratios of public sector banks may increase from 3.7 per cent in March 2024 to 4.1 per cent in March 2025, whereas it may go up from 1.8 per cent to 2.8 per cent for private sector bank and from 1.2 per cent to 1.3 per cent for foreign banks. FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## Higher delinquency levels in sub-₹50K personal loans

Mumbai: The RBI expressed concerns over the consumer credit segment, particularly in sub Rs 50,000 personal loan segment, where delinquency levels remain high.

It said in the consumer credit segment more than half of the borrowers have three live loans running at the same time. "In the consumer credit segment, there are a few concerns that require close monitoring. First, delinquency levels among borrowers with personal loans below Rs 50,000 remain high," Financial Stability Report said. ENS

FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## ON DELHI-LONDON HEATHROW FLIGHTS FROM SEPTEMBER

# AI's new A350 to make long-haul debut

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

AIR INDIA will be deploying its latest wide-body Airbus A350-900 aircraft on the Delhi-London Heathrow route from September 1, marking the long-haul debut of the A350 aircraft—the first new aircraft type to be introduced by an Indian airline in over a decade. Air India started receiving the long-range A350 aircraft—which are part of its mammoth order of 470 Airbus and Boeing planes—in December. Of the 40 A350s ordered by the airline in 2023, six



Company photo

have already joined its fleet. The A350 aircraft, with which the Tata group carrier introduced its new brand identity and upgraded product this year, has so far been used to operate domestic flights and the short international hop from Delhi to Dubai. These operations were mainly seen as a precursor to the aircraft's deploy-

ment on long-haul routes. The airline has so far not commented on the other long-haul routes where the A350s would be deployed. Given the range of the aircraft, they can be used to operate flights to most global markets where Air India operates.

FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## Infy's Parekh pays ₹25L to settle insider trading case

Mumbai: Infosys MD and CEO Salil Parekh has settled an alleged insider trading violation with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) by agreeing to pay Rs 25 lakh.

The High-Powered Advisory Committee of the Sebi recommended the case for settlement upon payment of Rs 25 lakh and its recommendation was accepted by panel of Whole Time Members of Sebi on May 21, 2024. A consent settlement order may or may not include a determination that a violation has occurred, according to Sebi rules. On July 14, 2020, Infosys had announced a strategic partnership with Vanguard. The investigation by Sebi referred to Infosys' own analysis that identified the strategic importance of the partnership for the expansion of their own business and revenue. It concluded that the said partnership would result into expansion of business for Infosys. ENS

## EXPORTERS AT FIRST REVIEW MEETING CHAIRED BY COMMERCE MINISTER PIYUSH GOYAL 'US tariffs on China causing container shortages'

RAVIDUTTA MISHRA NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

INDIAN EXPORTERS are facing shortages of containers and shipping space as Chinese exporters are scrambling to ship their goods before the recently announced US tariffs on Chinese goods come into effect on August 1, exporters have flagged during the first review meeting chaired by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday, sources told *The Indian Express*.

This comes after the US announced an increase in tariffs on a

## CONGESTION AT PORTS A CONCERN

Exporters raised instances of congestion at several ports as key concerns being faced by exporters amid the Red Sea crisis

range of Chinese imports including electric vehicles (EVs), batteries, computer chips and medical products. While the import duties on Chinese EVs were increased to

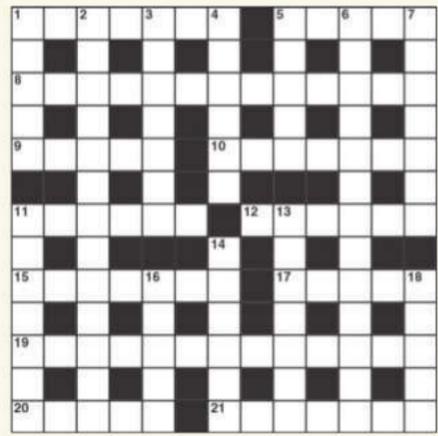
over 100 per cent, duty on semi-conductors were raised to 50 per cent. Exporters, during the review meeting that was attended by senior Commerce Ministry officials, key export promotion councils and Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada, also raised instances of congestion at several ports as key concerns being faced by exporters amid the Red Sea crisis.

"The stock-taking review meeting that is being planned to take place every month saw discussions on a range of key issues that exporters were facing. Exporters raised issues such as the

Red Sea crisis and the container shortages that have begun happening ever since China is rushing to export its products before the tariffs come into effect on August 1," a source said.

"Other issues such as rising non-tariffs barriers that could disrupt Indian exports such as Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), European Union's Deforestation law and Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation were also taken up. Exporters sought the extension of interest equalisation scheme to tide over high interest rates," the source added.

## CROSSWORD 5402

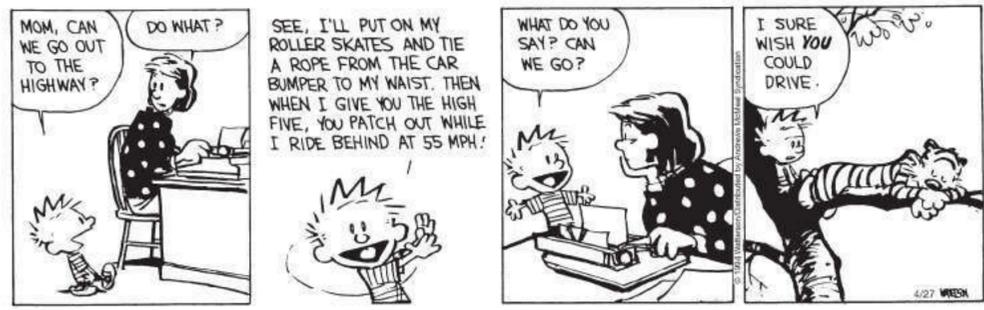


- ACROSS**
- Offers more doubt is uncertain (7)
  - Subject to select endlessly (5)
  - Changing to steam trains? He should know (13)
  - She gains an advantage by returning (5)
  - Explain about the turning point in a revolution (4,3)
  - New roster made out for a postal worker (6)
  - He's mastered the art of eating out (6)
  - How to fight miserliness? (4,3)
  - Directions to a friend to find an Asian country (5)
  - A way to survey the eternal romantic situation (13)
  - A member of the lower class? (5)
  - Joint holders (7)
- DOWN**
- Stone cast in attack (5)
  - Sorts earnings out with wrong result (13)
  - Make no effort to be original (7)
  - Wooden shoe? (6)
  - Fish uncooked in the centre (5)
  - Demanding more of the consumer? (3,2,3,5)
  - Disorderly crooner in court (7)
  - Kissed maybe, usual start between boy and girl (7)
  - A winter wasted making metal artefacts (7)
  - A way to start repairing rust in supports (6)
  - A lightweight feline (5)
  - They join a course (5)
- Solutions Crossword 5401 Across: 1 Think, 8 Sediment, 9 Image, 10 Stressed, 11 Swath, 12 All, 16 Ordain, 17 Expect, 18 Two, 23 Ever, 24 All there, 25 Spins, 26 Reserved, 27 Verd  
Down: 2 Homework, 3 Nightcap, 4 Lentil, 5 Sited, 6 Feast, 7 Study, 12 Ant, 13 Leo, 14 Appale, 15 Screened, 19 Warren, 20 Calm, 21 Flesh, 22 Chart

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip. An     for an     only ends up making the whole world     - Mahatma Gandhi (3...3...5)

**IREEE**      **GHIDNY**

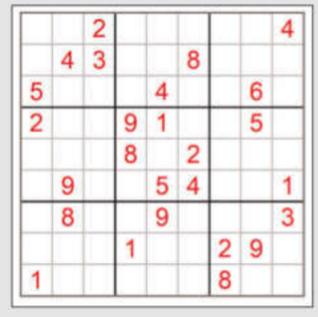
**FNEIL**      **DLMUBY**

SOLUTION: IREEE, GHIDNY, FNEIL, DLMUBY  
Answer: An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind.

## SUDOKU 5605

**Difficulty Level 4s**  
**Instructions**  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

**Difficulty Level**  
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



## SOLUTION SUDOKU 5604



## DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

- ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
If you're a perfectionist, like so many members of your sign, you may be finding current pressures rather hard-going. However, if you are ready to take life as it comes, there'll be much to stimulate you, maybe opening a new window.
- LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**  
This could be a critical time for all money matters. You'd be well advised to get hold of more information, although you must wait a little longer before deals are finalised to everyone's satisfaction. Romantic partners continue to make extra demands.
- TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**  
It may seem that you have now had your last chance to take an important decision on money, perhaps involving partners and close friends. However, the present lull is but a temporary phase. While you're in it, it could feel as if it's lasting forever.
- SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**  
You should know by now that it's much better to let other people understand what you're really feeling, otherwise you can't complain if you are misunderstood. Partners genuinely want to help, so put your suspicions to one side and welcome whatever assistance is offered.
- GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**  
Delays are inevitable, but there's nothing to worry about. At such times, when life slows down, you must take the opportunity to reflect on the state of your life so far, and consider just where your current activities are taking you. Do you really want to be the centre of attention? If not, alter your course now.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)**  
Certain proposals must be left on ice for a little while, at least until you have had time to digest what partners have said and done. You must continue to discuss your plans and proposals in as much detail as is required. Never feel you have to make a final decision until you are ready.
- CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**  
Discreet discussions are likely quite soon and if these involve your work, the outcome will include welcome long-term benefits. An increasingly lively social life will provide the absolutely perfect counter-balance to your steadily accumulating responsibilities.
- LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**  
The general impact of current planetary influences is to deepen your mental processes. The result will be a mood of increasing seriousness combined with delays and, quite possibly, broken arrangements in your social life. But, then, you're getting used to that.
- ACAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**  
Although you are often in an outgoing and sociable mood, you have a tendency to go behind people's backs, even if well-intentioned. Don't be surprised if friends are bemused by your behaviour. Your signals are confusing.
- AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**  
It's an excellent time to broaden your horizons and diversify your affairs. Not only is your career involved in this reassessment, but so is a whole range of leisure and social activities. But, first, you must finalise financial plans as soon as you can.
- VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**  
Significant discussions are becoming more intense and serious, now there's a hint that there is more to be settled before agreement is reached. Concentrate on getting your home affairs straight and establishing order in family settings. If you have doubts, let partners set the pace.
- PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
Why not live up to your reputation and be more tolerant in your dealings with loved ones? The demands you make on them have more to do with your own high expectations than the reality of the current situation. You'll do yourself a power of good by being more realistic.

### INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY — RITES

RITES celebrated the 10th International Day of Yoga focusing on the theme 'Yoga for Self & Society'. A yoga session for the employees, demonstrating Common Yoga Protocol asanas by Bhartiya Yog Sansthan, was organized to emphasize its extensive benefits for everyday living. Yoga enthusiasts performed asanas during the session at Shikhar, RITES Corporate Office in Gurugram.

### MEETING — IREDA

IREDA conducted its 37th AGM through video conferencing at its Corporate Office in New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Pradip Kumar Das, CMD, IREDA, & attended by all the Directors and many shareholders. In his address, Das highlighted the significance of this AGM as the first one held after IREDA's successful IPO in November 2023.

### MOU — POWERGRID

POWERGRID signed two MoUs for the construction of a 250-bedded Powergrid Vishram Sadan at AIIMS Bilaspur under CSR. The first MoU was signed between POWERGRID & AIIMS, Bilaspur, whereas the second one was signed between POWERGRID & HSCC. The MoUs were signed by Vinod P. Baxla, GM (HR) on behalf of Powergrid, Lt. Col M. Hariharan, Deputy Dir. (Administration), on behalf of AIIMS, Bilaspur, & PK Bhatia, CGM on behalf of HSCC.

### TOURNAMENT — THDCIL

The 27th Inter-CPSU Carrom Tournament hosted by THDCIL under the esteemed banner of the Power Sports Control Board, M/o Power, culminated successfully in Uttarakhand's Tehri. This prestigious five-day event aimed at promoting sportsmanship and fostering healthy competition among participants witnessed enthusiastic participation from 12 teams representing various PSUs of the Power Sector.

### PROGRAM — NBT

The National Book Trust, India celebrated National Reading Day recently across the country in remembrance of P.N. Panicker, the father of India's library movement. On this occasion, creative reading activities were organized for children, teachers, trainers, & mentors at various locations including New Delhi, Dehradun, Patna, Lucknow, Bhopal, Varanasi, Mumbai, Guwahati, Agartala, Cuttack, Chennai, Hyderabad, & Kochi.

### INT'L YOGA DAY — ITPO

M/o Commerce & Industry celebrated the 10th Int'l Day of Yoga at Bharat Mandapam in the graceful presence of Jitendra Singh, MoS for Commerce & Industry, Sunil Barthwal Commerce Secy., RK Singh, Secy, DPIIT & PS Kharola, CMD ITPO, besides other Senior govt. officials alongwith a total of 400 employees of Ministry of Commerce & Industry, ITPO, CISF & private bodies also participated in the yoga session.

### FOUNDATION DAY — PSB

The 117th Foundation Day of Punjab & Sind Bank was celebrated at the Zonal Office in Dehradun. On this occasion, Guru's kirtan and recitation were done and water coolers and wheelchairs were distributed by the Zonal Manager in various institutions, schools, colleges and hospitals. Chhabil was also organized in Dehradun's local branches.

### AWARD — NAINITAL BANK

Nikhil Mohan, MD & CEO of NAINITAL BANK has received an award from PFRDA on behalf of the bank for an exemplary performance in enrolment under ATAL PENSION YOJANA campaign by achieving 114% of the targets assigned for FY 23-24. It is a great achievement for the entire team of Nainital Bank under the leadership of Nikhil Mohan, MD & CEO & a milestone for bank to achieve much better results in the coming days.

# CORPORATE BRIEFS

### VISIT — CCIC

During his visit to 'the Cottage' in Janpath, S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister, praised the delightful array of artisanal products. Manoj Lal, MD of The Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Ltd., showcased the impressive offerings. Lal informed, "The Cottage" has also introduced new models of sale cum live demonstrations by artisans themselves in their Emporia network across the country, ensuring that India's rich heritage reaches a global audience."

### INAUGURATION — ITBP

A 5 day training on Meliponiculture (Stingless bees) was inaugurated at the ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru. The event was attended by 20 ITBP personnel. Dr. SN Sushil, Director, ICAR-NBAIR Bengaluru, chaired the inaugural program, & emphasized the significance of pollinators in agriculture, particularly meliponiculture for producing high-value medicinal honey. During the event, a training manual on "Meliponiculture" was released to benefit the participants. Ramesh Chand, Team Lead from ITBP lauded the expected benefits from the training.

### AWARD — POWERGRID

POWERGRID's Team Corporate Communications has been featured in India's 30 Top Corporate Communications Teams for the fourth time by Reputation Today. The team led by Anshuman Tandon, CGM Corporate Communications, Powergrid, along with Ravi Kumar, DGM (Corp. Comm.) & Akshat Chopra, Asst. Manager (Corp. Comm.) received the award at an event in Bengaluru. Powergrid is the only PSU to feature in this list, wherein it jumped five places from its previous ranking. To arrive at the list of Top Corporate Communication Teams, a jury independently evaluated the Top 30 teams scoring each one of them on set parameters.

### AWARD — RAILTEL

RailTel won the ET Government PSU Leadership & Excellence Awards 2024 in Leadership in Digital Transformation category. Dr. Jitendra Singh, MoS (IC) Science & Technology; Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, PP/DoPT, Atomic Energy, Space, presented the award in a gala ceremony of 5th ET Govt National PSU Summit 2024. This prestigious award was conferred by Economic Times PSU recognizing outstanding achievements of PSUs across a large spectrum. RailTel received this award for successfully implementing the Hospital Management Information System for Indian Railways. RailTel has also developed teleconsultation and beneficiary apps that are seamlessly integrated with HMIS.

### FOUNDATION DAY — PSB

The 117th Foundation Day of Punjab & Sind Bank was organized in Zone Delhi-II, Naraina. PSB is one of the country's 12 nationalized banks & has been providing its banking services in India for 117 years. Water coolers were distributed in schools and hospitals alongside wheelchairs in NGOs and sticks for the blind. On the occasion, 117 saplings were specially planted by the bank under the Vriksharopan Program. Additionally, langar and chhabel were organized in Zone Delhi-II, Naraina Vihar & various branches. The successful management of the said program was led by the Zonal Manager & team of Zonal Office Delhi-2.

### MOU — NBCC

NBCC inked an MoU with Grid-India (Grid Controller of India Ltd.) for the execution of interior, fit-outs and other associated infrastructure works for its new Corporate Office at Ayurvignyan Nagar in New Delhi. The tentative value of works to be executed under this MoU is approximately Rs. 70.00 Cr. The MoU was signed by Alok Kumar, Sr. GM, Grid-India & Mudrit Bhatnagar, CGM (Engg.), NBCC in the presence of SR Narasimhan, CMD, Grid-India, KP Mahadevaswamy, CMD, NBCC, Smt. BK Sokhey, Dir. (Fin.), NBCC, Saleem Ahmad, Dir. (Proj.), NBCC & other senior-level officials from both organizations. Earlier, Grid-India, responsible for "National Load Dispatch", had purchased this new office from NBCC with around 61,000 sqft, at approximately Rs. 270 Crs & entrusted NBCC to furnish it.

### INT'L YOGA DAY — RAILTEL

RailTel joined the International Day of Yoga celebration recently. Sanjay Kumar, CMD, Dr. Chandramani Sharma, CVO, V. Rama Mahanahara Rao, Director/Finance, Manoj Tandon Director/POM, Yashpal Singh Tomar, Director/ NPM, officers & staff of RailTel participated in a Yoga session organized at the Corporate Office to mark the occasion. The Yoga session was led by Devandra Gupta, Zonal President of the Bhartiya Yoga Sansthan in Delhi. In addition to the Corporate Office event, all regional and territory offices of RailTel celebrated International Yoga Day at their respective locations.

### WORKSHOP — UCO BANK

The All India UCO Bank Divyangian Employees Welfare Association conducted Disability Awareness & Sensitization Program recently for Divyangian Employees of UCO Bank. Representatives from various states participated in this workshop, reflecting on the wide-reaching impact and importance of this initiative.

### FOUNDATION DAY — PSB

PSB announced a series of innovative new offerings to mark its 117th Foundation Day under the theme of "Igniting Growth, Innovation & Excellence". The initiatives included brand new products & services, new digital offerings within the PSB UNIC app, new partnerships, & CSR activities. The Foundation Day celebration started by opening of ATM mobile van & inauguration of Model branch at Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi. The event was spearheaded by Swarup Kumar Saha, MD&CEO of Punjab & Sind Bank, at the Bank's corporate office in New Delhi, and was graced by CVO, GMs & Senior officials.

### GGSIU

The 83rd meeting of Board of Management held recently. In the meeting, Board approved the setting up of Indraprastha Centre for Strategy & Policy Research. According to Prof M Verma, VC of the University, the ICSPR will function from the office of University School of Management Studies & a senior Professor of the School will lead the centre. The Board of Management approved for starting 3 courses; Solar Photovoltaic Entrepreneur, Emergency Medical Technician-Basic and Graphic Design of the duration of approximately 3 months.

### CONCLAVE — INDIAN YOGA ASSOCIATION

Indian Yoga Association organised the 3rd National State Chapters Conclave, Manthan - Strengthening IYA Globally on June 18, 2024. The event was held at Anuvrat Bhawan, New Delhi. Manthan was graced with the divine presence of several esteemed personalities including Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Chairman, IYA (ONLINE), Maa Dr Hansaji Yogendra, President, IYA (ONLINE), Guru Dr HR Nagendra, Member, Governing Council, IYA, Swami Chidananda Saraswati, Member, Governing Council, IYA (ONLINE), Yugpradhan Acharya Shri Mahashramanji ki Vidushi Shishya Dr Sadhvi Shree Kundan Rekha. And from the Executive Council, Subodh Tiwari, Secretary General, IYA & other distinguished members. The Conclave saw a footfall of over 250 members of the IYA, including representatives from the 26 State Chapter Committees. The event provided an excellent opportunity for members to exchange insights, foster collaboration, & reinforce the vital role of State Chapter Committees in achieving IYA's mission and vision.



## Women's Test: At home vs SA, India hope for acclimatisation

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN  
CHENNAI, JUNE 27

SINCE DECEMBER 2022, the Indian women's cricket team's home assignments were largely in and around Mumbai. All 11 T20Is, three ODIs and two Tests at home in that period were played across DY Patil, Brabourne, and Wankhede. The WPL's inaugural edition in 2023 was played entirely in Mumbai and Nav Mumbai. But slowly but surely, "home" is starting to take on a wider meaning for Harmanpreet Kaur and Co. Bengaluru and Delhi witnessed packed stands during WPL 2024, and the former hosted the recent ODI series against South Africa. And starting Friday, the Indian women will add another iconic name to that list: Chennai.

They may be playing one Test and three T20Is at Chepauk over the next few days, but the importance of experiencing different venues before the ODI World Cup at home next year is not lost on Harmanpreet.

"As a team, it's a great opportunity for us," Harmanpreet said on Wednesday. "Even though they are home conditions, we don't have much experience here. But I think this series will definitely give us a lot of confidence to see how the wicket is going to behave and what combinations we can look for at the World Cup, with just one year left. We are taking this opportunity with both hands. It's a great opportunity to see how the wickets are in Chennai and how we can improve our skills."

The MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chepauk is, in head coach Amol Muzumdar's words, historic and iconic. But that pertains largely to men's cricket, both international and franchise. The last time the city hosted women's international matches was in February-March 2007 (a quadrangular ODI affair). You have to go all the way back to 1976 when Chennai hosted a women's Test.

"In the last two Tests in Mumbai, there was turn early. We don't have much clarity about the wicket here. We discuss to go out there and see how the pitch is behaving." India might be the home side, but the conditions will be as much of an unknown to them as they are for Laura Wolvaardt's South Africa.

# Apprentice trumps master

Kvaratskhelia outshines idol Ronaldo as Georgia beat Portugal to enter last 16

SAYAK DUTTA  
JUNE 27

"WILL I ask Cristiano for his jersey after the game? Maybe. Probably, OK, yes. Why not? He is my idol. I will tell him that. But that does not mean we can't win." This was what Georgia's No.7 Khvicha Kvaratskhelia had written in the Players Tribune last week. Ten days later, Georgia outplayed Portugal and notched up a historic 2-0 win.

The two number 7s have a connection. Recently an old picture of the two started making rounds on the internet. It was from 2013 when Cristiano Ronaldo, a certified Real Madrid superstar then, visited the Dinamo Tbilisi Academy in Georgia. In that picture, Kvaratskhelia, a 12-year-old boy then, was poking his head from over the crowd standing around Ronaldo. On Thursday night, the boy, now a 23-year-old man, made sure that the picture was back in circulation as he helped Georgia qualify for the next round of the Euro.

The Veltins-Arena witnessed history on the night when Kvaratskhelia not only outshone his much more decorated Portuguese counterpart, he ensured that his country, the lowest ranked team in this tournament, can dream just a bit bigger. 93 seconds. That was all it took for Kvaratskhelia to stun Portugal. The Selecao looked shell shocked as the Georgia players wheeled off in celebrations with the match not even 2 minutes old. Portugal's Antonio Silva, playing his first match of the Euro, saw Kvaratskhelia bearing down on him a few yards away from the centre circle. With the nerves getting the best of him, he tried to pass it to a nearby teammate but ended up giving the ball away to an advancing Georges Mikautadze.

Kvaratskhelia, one of the most in-demand wingers in the world right now after his 2022/23 Serie A title winning season with Napoli, started ramping up the speed from the left, running past the flabbergasted Silva who was unable to keep up with the Georgian's pace. Mikautadze would see the run and threaded a pass through to him which he slotted coolly to the left of the keeper. The move for the goal was simple and straightforward, a classic counter attack, something of a rarity in this era. It perfectly encapsulated how Georgia have played this tournament, an uncompli-



Georgia's Khvicha Kvaratskhelia celebrates after scoring against Portugal. Reuters

### ROUND OF 16 LINE-UP

- June 29: Switzerland vs Italy (21:30)
- June 30: Germany vs Denmark (00:30)
- June 30: England vs Slovakia (21:30)
- July 1: Spain vs Georgia (00:30)
- July 1: France vs Belgium (21:30)
- July 2: Portugal vs Slovenia (00:30)
- July 2: Romania vs Netherlands (21:30)
- July 3: Austria vs Turkey (00:30)

All match times, IST

cated, kamikaze style of attack.

Hailing from the Georgian town of Batumi, Kvaratskhelia made his senior debut with Dinamo Tbilisi before moving on FC Rustavi. But with his skill and flair, he would soon outgrow the Georgian League and move on to bigger things. He would join the Russian teams Lokomotiv Moscow in 2019 on loan, around the same time he made his debut for the national side. In the same year, he would jump ship to Rubin Kazan. But fate would bring him back to Georgia. After Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, FIFA decreed that foreign players in Russia could unilaterally suspend their contracts and sign for clubs outside of Russia. This led to Rubin suspending Kvaratskhelia's con-

tract which led to him joining Dinamo Batumi, which was a Georgian club.

"But in 2022, the war in Ukraine starts. The war is a big shame. For me, when we live in the same world, nobody should kill each other. It is simple. The world should be in peace. So when the war starts, I say, 'I cannot stay here.' Because of my country, and our history, I tell the club that I have to leave," Kvaratskhelia recalled the uncertain time in Russia in the *Players' Tribune*. In July of 2022, Kvaratskhelia would sign for the club in which he would become a legend. Spurred on by his father, a Diego Maradona fan, Kvaratskhelia had no second thoughts saying yes to Napoli. "You cannot say no to Napoli! You cannot say no to Maradona's club!" was his father's reaction.

The stint in Napoli is what made Kvaratskhelia a household name. He scored 12 goals and assisted 13 times in the 2022/23 season as Napoli went on to win the Serie A title for the first time since 1990, the last time Maradona had played for the club.

The Georgian winger, a vastly different player than the Argentine legend in his playing style, was thus given the nickname of Kvaradona, a sign of ultimate respect from the adoring Napoli fans. Even though he has failed to replicate his 2022/23 form last season, Kvaratskhelia made an indelible mark at this Euro, steering the Georgians to an unlikely Round of 16 finish from a group that consisted Portugal, Turkey and Czech Republic.

## From Panchkula to Paris: Kiran punches her Olympic ticket

ANDREW AMSAN  
PANCHKULA, JUNE 27

THERE WAS almost a sense of disbelief on Kiran Pahal's face as her 400m timing flashed on the big screen at the Tau Lal Devi Stadium, Panchkula, where the Interstate Athletics Meet is underway.

Kiran's reaction was fully justified. The Haryana athlete, competing in her first competition after a break of over a year, clocked a solid 50.92s - the second-best quarter-mile run ever by an Indian after Hima Das's 50.79s.

"I was nervous since I was competing after a long break but a good performance in the heats (52.33s) definitely eased my nerves a bit. I wasn't really expecting to clock such a good time. It's a surprise for me as well. But I am really happy to earn a spot for Paris," said Kiran, whose previous best was 51.84s.

Kiran was head and shoulders above the rest, finishing almost three seconds ahead of Devyaniba Zala who finished second in her semifinal group. Her impressive performance comes with a backstory of injuries and personal battles.

"I could not compete last year because there were some family issues," said Kiran, her eyes moist. After taking a deep breath she continued: "After my father passed away about two years ago, my family hasn't supported my sporting endeavours. It's been six months since I have spoken to my mother. It's not easy."

If a strained relationship with family wasn't difficult enough, constant injuries made life tougher for the 24-year-old runner. A hamstring injury ruined her bid to participate in the Federation Cup in May at Bhubaneswar.

"Oh, don't ask! The last year and a half I have gone through hell and come back. Injuries, family issues, financial struggles - it is a long list. I almost thought of quitting the sport but somehow managed to hang in," says Kiran, a clerk with the Indian Railways.

Her father's demise was a huge setback for Kiran. He was her biggest fan and ensured all her training requirements were met. "He never let me feel that things were tough at home. After he passed away I got to know that he had taken loans from a lot of people to support me," recalls Kiran.

A certain track and field star played a major role in helping Kiran stay afloat during



Kiran Pahal clocked 50.92s, which is the second-best quarter-mile run ever by an Indian after Hima Das's 50.79s.

those turbulent times. National record holder Hima Das, who is going through a lean patch, not only gave Kiran the much-needed pep talk but also supported her with shoes and other dietary requirements.

"I consider her like my elder sister. Hima didi has helped me a lot. I told her my situation and she didn't hesitate even once. I'm so grateful to her," says Kiran.

### No trials for Kiran: Sumariwalla

Kiran's long absence from competition and a big performance on return did raise a few eyebrows but it won't affect her prospects. The Athletics Federation of India president Adille Sumariwalla said he wasn't surprised by Kiran's performance and confirmed her participation in the Olympics.

"The rules and guideline marks are there on the website. If she has qualified she will go," said Sumariwalla. Although Kiran is ready to run for the relay team in Paris, if required, it is unlikely that the federation will consider her since they have a strict campers-only policy.

For now, Kiran will focus on the finals where she will have the opportunity to break Hima's national record. "I look up to her and I am unsure I can match her standards. I will not talk about records now. I only want to focus on the final race and then start preparations for Paris," says Kiran, who trains with coach Akaash Chikara in Rohtak.

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Vol XCII- 196 Regd.No. DL-21046/03-05 R.N.I. No.506/1957