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THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



Mauritania's President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani

MAURITIA
Ghazouani seeks re-election as president

Nouakchot: Mauritians voted on Saturday in a presidential election that incumbent Mohamed Ould Ghazouani is widely expected to win with a pledge to boost investment in the West African country as it prepares to start producing natural gas. Ghazouani, 67, a former top soldier, has promised investor-friendly policies to spur a commodities boom in the country of 5 million people, many of whom live in poverty despite its fossil fuel and minerals wealth. Polls opened at 0700 GMT. Voting is expected to end at 1900 GMT, and results are expected from Sunday. **REUTERS**

CANADA
150 flights cancelled after surprise strike

Toronto: Canada's second largest airline, WestJet, says it has cancelled at least 150 flights affecting 20,000 passengers beginning on Saturday after the union of maintenance workers announced it has gone on strike. The Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association said its members started to strike Friday evening because the airline's "unwillingness to negotiate with the union" made it inevitable. The strike came after the federal government issued a ministerial order for binding arbitration on Thursday. That followed two weeks of turbulent discussions with the union on a new deal. **AP**

NEPAL
At least 9 dead as landslides hit villages

Kathmandu: Landslides triggered by heavy rainfall on Saturday killed at least nine people including an entire family while they were sleeping in Nepal's mountainous districts, officials said. The landslides buried houses in three separate areas in the country's mountainous region, about 250 km west of Kathmandu. Five members of the same family were killed when their house was swallowed by a landslide while they were asleep at Malika village in Gulmi. **AP**



Donald Trump at a campaign event in Chesapeake, Virginia, on Friday. **Reuters**

'Most incompetent US president': Trump gloats over Biden's debate performance

ASSOCIATED PRESS
CHESAPEAKE, JUNE 29

FORMER US President Donald Trump gloated Friday over President Joe Biden's often halting performance at the first debate ahead of the November election, saying Democrats have no better choices while calling Biden "the most incompetent president" in US history. Trump spoke to thousands of supporters Friday at a rally in Virginia. "The question every voter should be asking themselves today is not whether Joe Biden can survive a 90-minute debate performance, but whether America can survive four more years of crooked Joe Biden in the White House," Trump said.

Trump repeated several of the false claims he made on Thursday, and again referred to rioters who have been charged with storming the Capitol to try to overturn his 2020 loss as "hostages." He applauded a US Supreme Court ruling limiting a federal obstruction law that has been used to charge Trump and hundreds of Capitol riot defendants.

Panama court acquits 28 tied to Panama Papers, Op Car Wash

REUTERS
PANAMA CITY, JUNE 29

A PANAMANIAN court has acquitted 28 people charged with money-laundering under cases linked to the Panama Papers and "Operation Car Wash" scandals, the country's judicial branch said in a statement on Friday.

It did not provide names of the people who were acquitted. Judge Balois Marquinez ordered that precautionary measures be lifted against all the defendants, and said one criminal process was now cancelled due to the death of an unnamed defendant. Ramon Fonseca died in May. Mosaic Fonseca entered the spotlight in 2016 after leaked confidential documents exposed accounts housed in tax havens linked to individuals.

Regarding Operation Car Wash, Marquinez ruled that it could not be determined that money from illicit sources had entered Panama from Brazil with the purpose of helping conceal crimes.

U.S. MEDIA EXPECT BIDEN TO WITHDRAW

Washington: A day after Joe Biden's dismal showing at the first presidential debate against Donald Trump, leading US media outlets have commented that the US President should leave the race for the White House for the future of American democracy and prevent a second innings for his Republican rival. "...The greatest public service Biden can now perform is to announce that he will not continue to run for re-election," The New York Times said. The Washington Post editorial said it's Biden to determine, "whether continuing to seek re-election is in the best interests of the country." The Wall Street Journal said: "For the good of the country, Democrats have some hard thinking to do about whether they need to replace him..." **PTI**

Uneasy Democratic donors get into huddle: What next?



RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

THE NEW YORK TIMES
ATLANTA, JUNE 29

THE DEMOCRATIC Party's perennially nervous donor class descended into deep unease on Friday, as some of the wealthiest people in America commiserated over President Biden's weak debate performance and puzzled over what, if anything, they could do to change the course of the race. There were discussions with political advisers about arcane rules under which Mr.

Biden might be removed from the ticket against his will and replaced at or before the Democratic National Convention, according to a person familiar with the effort.

In Silicon Valley, a group of megadonors, including Ron Conway and Laurene Powell Jobs, were calling, texting and emailing one another about a situation. The donors wondered about whom in the Biden fold they could contact to reach Jill Biden, the first lady, who in turn could persuade her husband not to run, according to a person familiar with the conversations. A Silicon Valley donor who had planned to host a fundraiser featuring Biden decided not to go through with the gathering because of the debate, according to a person told directly by the prospective host. Another major California donor left a debate watch party early and emailed a friend with the subject line: "Utter disaster."

US has sent Israel thousands of 2,000-pound bombs since Oct 7

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, JUNE 29

THE BIDEN administration has sent to Israel large numbers of munitions, including more than 10,000 highly destructive 2,000-pound bombs and thousands of Hellfire missiles, since the start of the war in Gaza, said two US officials briefed on an updated list of weapons shipments.

Between the war's start last October and recent days, the United States has transferred at least 14,000 of the MK-84 2,000-pound bombs, 6,500 500-pound bombs, 3,000 Hellfire precision-guided air-to-ground missiles, 1,000 bunker-buster bombs, 2,600 air-dropped small-diameter bombs, and other munitions, according to the officials, who were not authorised to speak publicly.

While the officials didn't give a timeline for the shipments, the totals suggest there has been no significant drop-off in US military support for its ally, despite international calls to limit weapons supplies and a recent administration decision to pause a shipment



People during the funeral of Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes in Deir Al-Balah, in central Gaza Strip. **Reuters**

of powerful bombs.

Experts said the contents of the shipments appear consistent with what Israel would need to replenish supplies used in this eight-month intense military campaign in Gaza. The White House declined to comment. Israel's Embassy in Washington did not respond to a request for comment.

The shipments are part of a bigger list of weapons sent to Israel since the Gaza conflict began, one of the US officials said. A Biden administration official said that Washington has since Oct. 7 sent \$6.5 billion worth of security assistance to Israel.

SHOOTING AT ISRAELI EMBASSY IN SERBIA

Belgrade: An attacker who fired a crossbow at a police officer guarding the Israeli embassy in Belgrade was shot and killed on Saturday in what Interior Minister Ivica Dacic called a terrorist attack against Serbia. The policeman is in a life-threatening condition and is undergoing surgery, Serbian news agency Tanjug quoted Dacic as saying. **AP**

VATICAN MEDIATION

10 UKRAINIANS RETURN FROM RUSSIA

Ten Ukrainian civilians held prisoner for years by Russia arrived in Kyiv overnight Saturday after the mediation of the Vatican, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said. They were freed Friday. Some had been captured years before Russia's full-scale invasion.

NO CANDIDATE GOT 50% VOTES IN 1ST ROUND

Iran president poll goes to run-off: Reformist to face Khamenei protege

Voter turnout in Friday's polling hit a historic low of about 40%

PARISA HAFEZI
DUBAI, JUNE 29

A MODERATE lawmaker will face Iran supreme leader's protege in a run-off presidential election on July 5 after the country's interior ministry said on Saturday that no candidate secured enough votes in the first round of voting.

Friday's vote to replace Ebrahim Raisi after his death in a helicopter crash came down to a tight race between a low-profile lawmaker Massoud Pezeshkian, the sole moderate in a field of four candidates, and former Revolutionary Guards member Saeed Jalili.

The interior ministry said neither secured the 50% plus one vote of over 25 million ballots cast required to win outright, with Pezeshkian leading with over 10 million votes ahead of Jalili with over 9.4 million votes.

Power in Iran ultimately lies with Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, so the result will not herald any major policy shift on Iran's nuclear programme or its support for militia groups across the Middle East.

But the president runs the government day-to-day and can influence the tone of Iran's policy. The clerical establishment hoped for a high turnout as it faces a legitimacy crisis fuelled by public discontent over economic hardship and curbs on political and social freedom. However, turnout in Friday's vote hit a historic low of about 40%, based on interior min-



(Clockwise from top) Iranians at a polling station in Tehran on Friday; Saeed Jalili and Massoud Pezeshkian who will face off in the July 4 presidential run-off polls. **Reuters, AP**

istry count released on Saturday. The election comes at a time of escalating regional tension due to the war between Israel and Iranian allies Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

With Iran's supreme leader now 85, it is likely that the next president will be closely involved in the process of choosing a successor to Khamenei, who seeks a fiercely loyal president who can ensure a smooth eventual succession to his own position, insiders and analysts say. Anti-Western views of Jalili, Iran's former uncompromising nuclear negotiator, offer a contrast to those of Pezeshkian. Analysts said Jalili's

win would signal the possibility of an even more antagonistic turn in the Islamic Republic's foreign and domestic policy.

But a victory for mild-mannered lawmaker Pezeshkian might help ease tensions with the West, improve chances of economic reform, social liberalisation and political pluralism.

Pezeshkian, faithful to Iran's theocratic rule, is backed by the reformist faction that has largely been sidelined in Iran in recent years. "We will respect the hijab law, but there should never be any intrusive or inhumane behaviour toward women," Pezeshkian said after casting his vote.

CASES AGAINST IMRAN PARTY LEADERS

Lahore High Court asks PMO to restrain ISI from interfering in judiciary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAHORE, JUNE 29

A TOP Pakistani court on Saturday directed the Prime Minister's Office to issue directives to the country's powerful intelligence agencies, including Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), from approaching any judge or member of their staff to obtain favourable verdicts.

The intelligence agencies especially ISI, Military Intelligence (MI) and Intelligence Bureau (IB) have been accused by several judges of pressuring them through different means to get desired verdicts, especially in the cases of the former prime minister and founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan, his party leaders and supporters.

The Lahore High Court Justice Shahid Karim on Saturday issued written directions to the Prime Minister's Office on the complaint of an ATC judge in the Sargodha

district of Punjab against harassment by the personnel of ISI.

"The prime minister is responsible and answerable for the actions of intelligence agencies as they come under his command. Instructions shall go out by the Prime Minister's Office to all civil or military agencies, including the ISI and IB, regarding strict directions not to approach or contact any judge for any purpose in the future," the judge said in his written order.

The court said the inspector general and police chief would be held personally responsible and contempt proceedings would be initiated in case of non-implementation of its order.

The LHC also directed ATC judges across Punjab to "download call-recording applications on their mobile phones to have the record of all such calls (from intelligence agencies) made to influence judicial proceedings." The Sargodha ATC judge was scheduled to hear the cases of some PTI leaders.

UK's Labour Party commits to stamping out anti-India views

PRES TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON, JUNE 29

THE UK'S Opposition Labour Party, hoping to win a mandate to form a government after the July 4 general election, has committed itself to stamping out anti-India sentiments within its ranks and building a strong strategic partnership with India.

The party's resolution during an annual conference under former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn in favour of international intervention in Kashmir was widely seen as having cost it British Indian votes in the 2019 election. There have also been concerns over some Labour councillors espousing pro-Khalistan views.

At a "Political Hustings" event for Britain's South Asian community organised by 'Asian Voice' in partnership with City Sikhs and City Hindus Network in London on Friday, Labour Party chair Anneliese Dodds claimed that the party is confident of having cleansed its ranks of any members with such extremist views.

MANY YOUNG PEOPLE IN NORTHERN ENGLISH CITIES OF LIVERPOOL AND MANCHESTER SAY THEY FEEL DISILLUSIONED BY POLITICS

'Whole country is falling to bits': Britain's young voters are frustrated

MEGAN SPECIA
LONDON, JUNE 29

AS THE flag of a British workers union flapped behind him on a blustery June morning, Liam Kehoe was on strike with colleagues outside Royal Liverpool University Hospital, demanding better pay for porters, cleaners and catering staff. Their wages have failed to keep up with the surge in the cost of living, and many said they were living paycheck to paycheck.

Kehoe, 26, serves food in the hospital. On Thursday (July 4), the day of Britain's general election,

he plans to vote for the center-left Labour Party because of the economic situation and the crumbling state of the National Health Service, he said.

Thinking of the life that his parents built on salaries earned as a nurse and a truck driver, Kehoe says that young people have been left with far worse prospects after 14 years of a Conservative-led government. "If you go back 30 years ago, houses were a bit more affordable, life was a little bit easier," he said. "Nowadays, it's like you can't afford anything."

Polls suggest more than half of voters under 35 plan to vote for Labour, compared with 27 per-

cent of voters over 65. While the gap between young and old in politics is not new, the extent of the split in Britain in recent years is exceptional, with support for the governing Conservative Party dropping sharply in all but the oldest age group, according to polls.

Before 2019, the major factor in whether people voted Conservative or Labour was income. More recently, "age has replaced class as the defining way in which people vote," said Molly Broome, an economist.

The northern English city of Liverpool has long been a Labour stronghold with a proud working-class tradition. Many young peo-



Bold Street in Liverpool. Polls suggest more than half of voters under 35 plan to vote for Labour, compared with 27 percent of voters over 65. **NYT**

ple said their allegiance to the center-left party has been strengthened by a sense that their needs have been ignored by the Conservatives.

Kehoe and his girlfriend are trying to buy a home. "The housing market is on its knees," he said. "The whole country is falling to bits because this government is in it for them and not in it for us. They don't care about us, the little guys at the bottom."

Others expressed broader discontent at a political system that they said did not account for their needs. Some young people said they would not vote at all, while others would cast ballots for third-

party candidates who had little chance of winning more than a few seats but whose ethos was more aligned with theirs.

Much of the political messaging from Britain's two main parties has focused on the priorities of older generations, experts said, since they make up a large proportion of the electorate, partly because of population shifts. They are also more likely to vote: Some 96 percent of people over 65 are registered to vote, compared with 60 percent of 18- to 19-year-olds and 67 percent of those 20 to 44, according to a 2023 electoral commission report.

Politicians have safeguarded

some policies that support older people, even as younger generations face worsening standards of living. The pension "triple lock" for instance, introduced by the Conservative government in 2011, ensures that the state retirement income rises each year by the highest of earnings growth, inflation or 2.5 percent. While age remains the major dividing factor, there are also divisions within the younger generation, Broome said. Labour has had a positive swing in polls across all generations. "It's not the fact that they are more likely to vote Conservative; it's the fact that they are less likely to vote at all," Broome said. **NYT**



INSIDE

Govt looks to move NEET-UG online

THE CENTRE is considering the possibility of holding the NEET-UG exam online from next year, like the JEE Main or JEE Advanced for admissions to IITs and engineering colleges. **PAGE 9**

5 Armymen swept away in Ladakh

FIVE SOLDIERS were swept away when an Army tank got stuck while crossing the Shyok River at the Daulat Beg Oldie area of eastern Ladakh, during a training exercise. **PAGE 9**

JD(U) gives option to Govt: 'Spl package'

THE JD(U) national executive passed a resolution calling for a "special status" or "special package" for Bihar from the Centre. It also decided to appoint Sanjay Jha as the party's working president. **PAGE 8**

INVESTMENT & LOAN

A RED initiative appears in today's edition of *The Indian Express*. These pages are an initiative of the marketing solutions team of The Indian Express Group and contain content paid for by advertisers. These pages should be read as an advertisement.



Matchless!

India T20 World Champions after 7-run win over South Africa in final that stopped a billion hearts – then sent them racing to the finish

SRIRAM VEERA & SANDEEP DWIVEDI
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNNY



FULL COVERAGE, PAGES 15, 16

NEAR THE end of a most thrilling T20 World Cup final, there were three Indian players under intense pressure. Hardik Pandya, the man the nation had booed relentlessly for a couple of IPL months; Iodestar Jasprit Bumrah, who had to again show why he is the greatest T20 bowler ever; and Arshdeep Singh, who the team trusted more than the world. Also dealing with nerves was South Africa, a team that had to get 26 runs from 24 balls with six wickets in hand but whose past meant the game was far from over.

From the moment Hardik slipped in a crafty slower one well outside off to dismiss the most nerveless South African on the day, Heinrich Klassen, and gave away just four runs, the pendulum swung dramatically.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Captain Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Hardik Pandya and other team members celebrate their win at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados, Saturday. Kohli announced his retirement from T20 Internationals. AP



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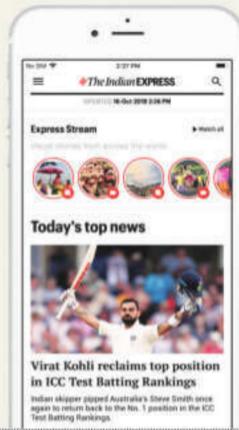
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LIFESTYLE



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EXPRESS AUDIO

David Johnson's death highlights cricket's troubling uncertainties

In this Expresso Sports Update, we talk about how David Johnson's death is not the first such case. The tearaway erratic bowler didn't seem ready for the real-world problems outside the stadium

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

India T20 World Champions

Next over, Jasprit Bumrah not only took out Marco Jansen, the last man who could have eased the pressure on David Miller but gave away just two runs.

When the equation read 19 from the final two overs, Arshdeep eked out only four runs. And it was back on Pandya to finish what he started and it still might not have happened if not for the near-impossible-to-pull-off catch under pressure: a dream effort from Suryakumar Yadav. Miller had bashed a full toss high and it seemed to be sinking into the sight screen when Suryakumar materialised from nowhere, tiptoed near the boundary ropes, pouched the ball, popped it up gently, stepped beyond the boundary before stepping back to complete a most

incredible catch one could imagine to see in such a circumstance. Hardik sealed the game, then, and broke down.

So did the others.

Rohit Sharma slipped into the privacy of the dressing room and emerged wiping his tears. On the field, Rahul Dravid, the former captain who oversaw India's most humiliating world cup campaign in 2007 in the same Caribbean region and who now had his redemption song, too was left with a damp face.

Hardik would talk about his turbulent last six months — the time in which he replaced Rohit as Mumbai Indian captain and got trolled both on and off the field for the team's failure and personal form. "It is very emotional, something was not click-

ing (for me), but this was something the whole nation wanted. Special for me after my six months, I haven't spoken a word, things have been unfair, but I knew there'd be a time I could shine," he said. Soon Rohit would surprise both the TV anchor and Hardik by sneaking into the frame and planting a kiss on India's last-action hero.

Rohit would share what the win means to the team, more so after the heart-breaking loss to Australia in the 50-over World Cup last year. Like in this T20 World Cup, they were undefeated then, too, but here they went on to win the game that truly matters. "A lot of high-pressure games, and we've been on the wrong side of it. Guys understand when the pressure is on

what needs to be done. We stuck together with backs to the wall..." he would say choking on his words.

Another old pro, Virat Kohli, the man whose bat lay silent all tournament before he guided it ever so calmly on the biggest day, was also finding it tough to hold back his tears. In the Indian innings, he held the fort after early wickets and scored 76 from 59 balls. He would also announce his T20 retirement, telling it was time now for the youngsters to take over.

"This is my last T20 for India, I wanted to make the most of it... wanted to lift the Cup... wanted to respect the situation rather than force it," he would say.

Spare a thought for South Africans, who played a part in

the great thriller and who nearly found a way to escape the C-word that had ailed all their past white-ball teams to enter the final. And when Klassen had led a demolition job, it seemed history was within reach, but in the end when they reached out, their hands met thin air.

For a short while, Rohit and Dravid would have fretted that the feeling of emptiness awaited them at the end of another World Cup campaign. But things turned and how.

They are two vastly different individuals, with contrasting batting and captaincy approaches; Rohit and Dravid during their long careers had to put up with the similar cricketing lows. Universally hailed as cricketing greats, they were always

tagged as second-best since they would be part of teams that had Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli. In the company of God or King, they were commoners with earthy names. Dravid was the Wall, Rohit the Hit-Man.

World Cups hadn't been kind to both of them. In 2015, Rohit scored five hundreds but India would capsize in the semi-final. Last year, he was so close to doing a Dhoni — lift the World Cup at home as captain. In the final, he miscued a shot and fielder, Aussie Travis Head, took an impossible catch.

That day, in a corner of the dressing room, in the eerily silent 1 lakh-capacity Ahmedabad stadium he had cried. He would shed happy tears this time in far-away Barbados, where Dravid

had once cried in disappointment in 2007.

The fan outrage after that 2007 team failed to clear the league phase turned ugly. Effigies of players were burnt, their houses attacked. Everyone in the team worried about their families, they dreaded returning home. This time the flight back will be more comfortable. After two heart-breaking ICC event final losses last year — World Test Championship in June, ODI World Cup in November — Dravid's boys would give "Rahul bhai" a memorable farewell gift.

Unlike in 2007, as the flight takes off from these scenic Caribbean islands, Dravid and Team India would be keen to reach home. Awaiting them will be rewards, ticker-tape parade,

open-bus celebrations and a possible trip to Lok Kalyan Marg.

In a video message on X, Prime Minister Narendra Modi would call the win "shaandar" and the one that would inspire the nation. "CHAMPIONS! Our team brings the T20 World Cup home in STYLE! We are proud of the Indian Cricket Team. This match was HISTORIC" -- he would post.

At Barbados, India, easily the world's best-resourced team, silenced their critics who questioned their big-match temperament and scoffed at the financial powerhouse's failure to win titles. Indian cricket's coffers were always sparkling with silver, Rohit and his boys have got the elusive silverware for their cabinet.

Bengal BJP seeks CBI probe into 'assault' on woman leader

Kolkata: A DAY after senior BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari alleged that the party's Minority Morcha woman leader was beaten up, stripped and dragged by hair by TMC goons in Cooch Behar district on June 25, the BJP on Saturday demanded a CBI investigation into the matter. BJP MLA Agnimitra Paul, who led a seven-member delegation to meet the victim, said, "One of our sisters from Bengal, from the minority community was stripped, beaten and paraded in her village by TMC miscreants... some people have been arrested. We've brought the matter to the notice of the NCW."

Accusing the police of inaction, Paul said, "If a CBI probe can be carried out in Manipur then it must be conducted here as well to bring out the truth."

State BJP chief Sukanta Majumdar, who spoke with the victim over the phone said "... This is a heinous crime... If needed, will move Calcutta High Court seeking justice." TMC Cooch Behar district leader Partha Pratim Roy slammed BJP for politicising the issue.

In Rajasthan, tribal MP, supporters protest minister's 'DNA test' remark

HAMZAKHAN JAIPUR, JUNE 29

TRIBAL LEADER and Banswara MP Rajkumar Roat on Saturday led a protest against Rajasthan Education Minister Madan Dilawar's suggestion of a DNA test to verify if Roat was indeed a Hindu.

Holding their blood samples in their hands, Roat and the supporters of his Bharat Adivasi Party (BAP) started marching towards Dilawar's residence to mark a protest but were stopped by the police, after which they protested at the Amar Jawan Jyoti.

"There is immense anger against Madan Dilawar's comments. Until he resigns and apologises to the community, we will not let it go," Roat said, adding that the minister has committed a grave mistake and the party will raise the issue in the state Assembly as well as before Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Parliament.

The controversy broke out on June 21 after Dilawar, while responding to a question on the tribal leader's earlier remarks that he and his supporters were



Banswara MP Rajkumar Roat and his supporters carry their blood samples as they march towards Minister Madan Dilawar's residence in protest, in Jaipur Saturday. X/@roat_mla

not Hindu, said: "Hain ke nahi hain, woh toh unke poorwajon se pooch lenge... aur Hindu nahi hain woh toh phir unke DNA ki jaanch kara lenge, unke baap ki ullaad hain ke nahi woh (We will ask his ancestors whether he is a Hindu or not... and if (he says) he is not a Hindu, then we'll get his DNA tested whether he is his father's son or not)."

At Saturday's protest, where he was joined by party MLA from Dungarpur Umesh Meena as well as Congress MLAs Ramkesh Meena (Gangapur) and Ghanshyam (Todabhim), Roat reiterated he does not fall under the Hindu varna system.

"Our country's Constitution gives everyone the freedom to follow any religion or not... We do not oppose any religion but we indeed say that we do not come un-

der any religion. Why should anyone have a problem? The BJP leaders should end the politics of religion and stop misleading the tribals," he said. He added that the community is sending their hair, nails, etc. to Dilawar by post so that he can get their DNA tested.

Reacting to the protest, Dilawar repeated his earlier stance. "The tribals are a part of our community. They were Hindus, are Hindus, and will remain Hindus," he said.

Other state BJP leaders, however, avoided commenting on the row, which comes as the by-polls for five Assembly seats are set to be held soon.

The BAP was formed out of the Bharatiya Tribal Party in September 2023. Like BTP, it advocates the creation of a 'Bhil Pradesh'. The community has consolidated under Roat and the BAP in some pockets. Against BTP's two MLAs in the previous Assembly, the BAP now has three MLAs and one MP, with Roat defeating Congress rebel and BJP candidate Mahendra Jeet Singh Malviya in the Banswara LS seat.

With Roat vacating his Choras Assembly seat to sit in Parliament, BAP's figure may only go up.

Row erupts as cops mark BJP leader birthday at police station

SOHINI GHOSH AHMEDABAD, JUNE 29

"THERE IS nothing malaafide," the Ahmedabad Police said on Saturday after the Gujarat Congress slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over a video purportedly showing a BJP leader celebrating his birthday at a city police station went viral on social media.

Stating that they were celebrating the "successful organisation" of a blood donation camp, Ahmedabad Police Commissioner G S Malik issued a clarification: "There is nothing malaafide... Had it been purposefully to celebrate a birthday, 'Happy Birthday' would have been written on the cake... it was not," Malik told *The Indian Express*, adding that "a factual report" of the incident has been sought.

On Friday, the Gujarat Congress posted a video on X that purportedly showed several police officers in uniform at a police station, including Deputy Commissioner of Police Kanan Desai, singing 'Happy Birthday' for BJP leader Himanshu Chauhan before the clip ends with the slogan of



A screengrab of the video. X/@INC Gujarat

'Bharat Mata ki Jai'.

Two women and three men, including Chauhan, could be seen in plain clothes with three cakes lined on the table.

"Special arrangement by police for the dearest of BJP. Officials acting like they are being paid by Kamalam (BJP's headquarters in Gandhinagar) have made the police station itself as Kamalam. Special arrangements with Kamalam for celebrating birthdays of BJP workers and leaders. The police stations, running on the tax money, are for law and order or is a Kamalam party hall? The government must answer," the Gujarat Congress posted on X on Friday.

Denying the allegations, a statement issued on Friday on behalf of the Ahmedabad Police Commissionerate through the

Deputy Commissioner of Police (control room) said that a blood donation camp was organised ahead of a Rath Yatra to foster communal harmony on June 23 at the Dariyapur police station, during which 670 units of blood were received from locals in the area, police personnel and jawans from Shahibaug's Army cantonment area.

Following the event, police officers and others gathered at the ACP F Division office to plan for the upcoming yatra when a local, Nusratjahan Sheikh, brought three cakes to celebrate the success of the blood donation camp, the statement said.

According to a police officer, Chauhan had also played a role in organising and mobilising for the blood donation camp. Among those present was popular folk and devotional singer Yogesh Gadhvi, who is also associated with the BJP.

Gadhvi allegedly mentioned that it was Chauhan's birthday, following which one of the cakes was cut for Chauhan, the police statement notes. "The entire programme was in no way organised for a birthday or political or any other reason," the police statement added.

As Sukhbir Badal faces heat, all eyes on editor of Punjabi daily In Jalandhar, SAD chief meets Hamdard amid party infighting

ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA JALANDHAR, JUNE 29

ASTHE Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) battles rebellion within, one of the names that has seen constant mention is of Barjinder Singh Hamdard, 79, the owner and editor-in-chief of the prominent Jalandhar-based Punjabi daily newspaper Ajit — a part of the Ajit Group of Publications.

AKALI Dal leaders supporting party president Sukhbir Singh Badal believe Hamdard is supporting the demand to replace him, pointing to the fact that the rebel leaders held a meeting recently at his farmhouse in Jalandhar. While Hamdard was not present at the meeting, he is known to have separately met some of the SAD rebels, including Bibi Jagir Kaur, Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, Prem Singh Chandumajra and Gurpartap Singh Wadala.

However, the rebel camp has denied that Hamdard has any hand in their demand, citing their long acquaintance with him as the reason behind the decision to hold the meeting at his farmhouse. Hamdard himself has remained unavailable for comment.

Ajit commands considerable influence in Punjab's rural areas, a reason why political players have always courted its owners. Hamdard, a former Rajya Sabha MP and recipient of the Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan awards, has long been known to be close to the SAD leadership, especially the late Parkash Singh Badal.

Under the Akali-BJP government of 2012 to 2017, then CM Parkash Badal had entrusted Hamdard with significant responsibilities in its Rs 300-crore prestigious Jang-e-Azadi Memorial Project, to come up at Kartarpur in Jalandhar as a tribute to martyrs. Hamdard was made member-secretary of the Jang-e-Azadi Memorial Foundation, and chaired its executive committee.

Last year, when Hamdard met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, SAD spokesperson and Sukhbir loyalist Daljit Singh Cheema was the first to put out a photo of the meeting, praising Hamdard as "a distinguished figure associated with Punjab, Punjabi culture and Punjabiyat". Welcoming their meeting, Cheema posted on social media: "Only unbiased personalities can provide an accurate portrayal during Punjab's current sensitive situation."



Barjinder Singh Hamdard

The meeting was also seen by many quarters as a sign that the SAD was exploring a potential realignment with former ally BJP. The fact that Hamdard was close to BJP leaders as well meant that he was best placed to facilitate such a restoration of ties, it was felt. Since then, however, the SAD's political fortunes have been on the downside. In 2017, the Congress came to power, to be replaced by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in 2022. While Ajit maintained cordial relations with the SAD through these political upheavals, it also provided extensive coverage to the fast-rising AAP in the state.

Then, in another turning point in the relations between the paper and the party, Parkash Badal passed away soon after the 2022 Assembly polls.

With the AAP government, which has a tetchy relationship with the media, Hamdard's ties have been strained, allegedly over some articles published by it.

These hit a new low after the Bhagwant Singh Mann-led government initiated a Vigilance probe into the Jang-e-Azadi project, booking Hamdard too in the case recently. Hamdard's response was that he had resigned from all positions related to the project in 2016.

Hamdard's father Sadhu Singh Hamdard, a distinguished writer, was also editor of Ajit. Apart from holding positions in Ajit, Hamdard, who was a Rajya Sabha MP from March 1998 to December 2000, has served as the editor of several monthly magazines. In 1978, he became the first editor of the Chandigarh-based Punjabi daily Punjabi Tribune, holding the post till 1984, when he returned to take up the reins at Ajit. Since 1996, he has also served as editor-in-chief of Hindi daily Ajit Samachar.

A decade ago, the Ajit Group diversified under Hamdard's leadership to set up Jalandhar's first multiplexes. Both his daughters are actively involved in the Ajit Group of Publications. Besides, Hamdard is an accomplished author with 14 books to his credit, and has released music albums featuring Urdu, Hindi and Punjabi songs, and ghazals.

IN A significant development within the Shiromani Akali Dal, party president Sukhbir Singh Badal on Saturday evening visited editor-in-chief of Ajit Barjinder Singh Hamdard in Jalandhar for an extensive three-hour meeting.

This is the first meeting between Badal and Hamdard since the rebel faction's meeting in Hamdard's farmhouse in Jalandhar on June 21 and in another location in Jalandhar on June 25.

In the second meeting the rebels passed a resolution seeking Badal's resignation from the post of party president.

The recent meeting between Badal and Hamdard is of considerable importance, particularly as many leaders sup-

porting Badal assert that the rebellion group is being led by Hamdard.

Even though the rebel faction denied Hamdard's involvement in their meeting, Saturday's discussion was to address the growing dissent within the party and explore possible resolutions to the internal conflict.

The ongoing power struggle has led to heightened tensions within the party, with significant implications for its future leadership and direction, said a party leader.

Meanwhile, the Youth Akali Dal (YAD) lauded Badal for refusing to align with the BJP by "sacrificing the party's principles only to fulfill their ulterior motives" despite intense pressure from a section of top leadership of the party, a party statement issued on Saturday said.

House of accused in kidnapping bid case in UP demolished

AMIT SHARMA MEERUT, JUNE 29

MORADABAD DEVELOPMENT Authority (MDA) officials, accompanied by a team of policemen, razed a two-storey house belonging to one Hussain, accused in a kidnapping attempt case, at Samdhi Shivpuri village on Friday evening.

"Seven people from Hussain's family, including him, were named in an FIR on June 26 for allegedly trying to kidnap the married daughter of one Sunil Kumar," SP (Moradabad) Akhilesh Bhadauria said.

According to police, when woman's family resisted the kidnapping bid, the accused fired at her father, mother, and brother. All three are in hospital and the condition of the woman's brother is said to be critical, the SP added.

Following the incident, in-charge of local police station Shailendra Kumar and his predecessor Deepak Malik have been

suspended for alleged laxity in the discharge of official duty.

"Malik had been shifted to Rampur district before he was suspended," the SSP added.

Moradabad DIG, Muniraj G, met the injured family members of the woman at the hospital on Friday. The woman's father allegedly told the DIG that Hussain had also kidnapped his daughter from her in-law's place in Sambhal district on March 7 and he had lodged an FIR at the area police station but no action was taken. Following a complaint by Sunil, DIG Muniraj suspended Satyendra Singh Paliwal, the Sambhal police station in-charge.

Meanwhile, five properties owned by those named in the FIR in June 22 Bareilly shootout case were demolished in last 48 hours. "We have identified illegal properties owned by 14 accused initially named in FIR and have served demolition notice. So far, illegal properties of Rajiv Rana and Aditya Upadhyay have been demolished," said BDA.

DID NOT COOPERATE DURING PROBE: CBI Kejriwal sent to judicial custody till July 12

NIRBHAY THAKUR
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

A DELHI court on Saturday sent Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal back to judicial custody till July 12 as his three-day CBI custody ended in the excise policy case.

In its remand application, the CBI said that Kejriwal "did not cooperate" during the custodial interrogation. "He also evaded the questions regarding the transfer and utilisation of ill-gotten money to the tune of Rs 44.54 crore for Goa state elections by his party during 2021-22," the central probe agency claimed, adding that Kejriwal was "deliberately and intentionally evading the just and relevant questions related to the case." The CM, the CBI also stated, is a prominent politician and a "very influential person"



Arvind Kejriwal in court, on Saturday.
Express

and he could influence the witnesses or tamper with the evidence in the case. The agency sought 14 days in jail for Kejriwal, saying it was required "in the interest of the investigation and justice". Special Judge Sunena Sharma allowed the CBI plea. Kejriwal will be produced in the court on July 12, she said.

On Wednesday, Kejriwal was sent to CBI custody for three days, a day after he was questioned by the central agency in Tihar Jail in the corruption case linked to the excise policy. Kejriwal was ar-

rested on March 21 by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case linked to the excise policy. He suffered a setback on Tuesday when the Delhi High Court stayed a trial court order granting him bail in the ED case. On Wednesday, Kejriwal withdrew his plea in the Supreme Court (SC) against the High Court's decision to reserve its verdict on the ED plea for staying the trial court's bail order. Kejriwal's arrest in the CBI case means that even if the SC intervenes in the bail case for money laundering, his release from jail will require a separate bail order in corruption case.

The CM said "events are overtaking" him rapidly with the CBI reviving a 2022 interrogation to arrest him shortly after the High Court ruling. He is likely to move a fresh plea before the SC now.

Airport mishap victim's kin were preparing for wedding in family when tragedy hit

PRAGYNESH
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

UNTIL THURSDAY night, the Kumar family, residents of Rohini, were busy preparing for a wedding. By the next day, however, a pall of gloom had set over the household.

The head of the family, 45-year-old Ramesh Kumar, died after the canopy of the Terminal 1 at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport fell on his car in the early hours of Friday.

Kumar was a cab driver, and his car was among the four that were damaged in the accident that followed a record-breaking downpour. "My daughter (aged 22 years) is set to get married next month. I have four children. He (Kumar) was the only stable source of income for us. I don't know what will happen to us," says Usha Devi, 38, the wife of the deceased.

Kumar's family received his body on Friday, around 1pm, after a post mortem at the



Family members of taxi driver Ramesh (above), who was killed after a portion of the roof of IGI's Terminal 1 collapsed, on Saturday.
Express

Safdarjung Hospital. He was cremated at Naharpur Gaon Shamsan Ghat, Rohini Sector-7. Kumar's body was brought to Safdarjung Hospital around 2 pm on Friday after he was declared dead at Medanta facility at IGI airport. However, the family members said they got to know about his death only around 4pm.

"They didn't even let us see his face for the entire day. They kept us at the police station. If he had actually fainted, they should

have taken us to him, we would have tried to get him treated. Even by borrowing money from someone, we would have saved him," says Usha.

Her son Ravinder had told The Indian Express on Friday that he was informed at 8.30am that his father had fainted.

Santosh Yadav, one of the in-

jured persons, said though he has been discharged, his injuries remain severe.

"I have got two stitches in my head. I have to go to the hospital again on July 3 to get them checked and change my dressing," says Santosh.

A cab driver with a private

company, Yadav lives in Lado Sarai while his family is in his village in Bihar.

"I am the sole breadwinner and I am not going to be able to return to work for a couple of months. There has been no one from the government who has talked about compensation with me. My company is private, so they are also not going to help with anything. What will I send home?" Santosh asks.

In the wake of the incident at T1, the central government had announced Rs 3 lakh compensation for all the injured and Rs 20 lakh for the deceased. Meanwhile, officials at the IGI airport said that the repair work at T1 has been halted. "Can't say if it will start in one month or 15 days. It's India's busiest airport. This incident should not have happened. But now that it has, repair work should be expedited," an official said.

NHRC seeks report after 3 die at Gr Noida sewage treatment plant

NEETIKA JHA
GREATER NOIDA, JUNE 29

THE NATIONAL Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Friday issued a notice to Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra and Director General of Police Prashant Kumar, seeking a detailed report after three maintenance workers died at a sewage treatment plant in Greater Noida earlier this week.

"It should include the status of the FIR registered in the matter, action taken against the responsible persons as well as relief and rehabilitation provided to the next of kin of the deceased workers by the employer and the authorities concerned," said the Commission.

Three maintenance workers — Mohit (22), Hargovind (26), and Ankit (21) — died after falling into the septic tank of the sewage

treatment plant (STP) at NIIT Coforge, a multinational, on Monday. Mohit's brother Rahul Kumar had filed a complaint in the matter at the Ecotech-1 police station in Greater Noida. The complaint mentioned all three deaths. His family is still waiting for the autopsy report, he said.

"Officials told me that the investigation is underway and they are waiting for the autopsy report," he said.

"The company yesterday gave me a cheque of Rs 12,50,000 and offered me a job. They also offered a pension of Rs 15,000 to either of my parents," he added.

Anuj Kumar, station house officer, Ecotech-1 police station, said, "In our initial investigation, we have found that the men who died were pump operators at the site and not safai karmacharis (sanitation workers). However, the allegations of safety gear not

being issued are being investigated." Ashok Kumar, additional deputy commissioner of police, Greater Noida, said, "We probing the cause of death," he added.

In its notice, the NHRC also said the incident raises serious issues of human rights violation and the authorities have failed to be alert and conduct proper supervision of such hazardous activities. "The Commission has been consistently advocating a total ban on activities of hazardous cleaning without adequate and proper protective or safety gear or equipment and has also advocated suitable use of work friendly and technology-based robotic machines, besides fixing responsibility and accountability of the authorities concerned in case a death is caused to any sanitary worker while undertaking hazardous cleaning work," the statement read.

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10-yr-old raped, murdered; two arrested: Police

New Delhi: Two men have been arrested in a rape-murder case after a 10-year-old missing girl was found dead at a plot in Narela, police said on Saturday, adding that both the accused lived in the girl's neighbourhood. The father of the girl, late on Friday night, said officials, called up the police control room (PCR) to report that his daughter had gone out to play after dinner. When she did not return, he and his family searched for her but could not locate her.

Soon after the PCR call, police found the body of the girl at an abandoned plot near her home, said officials, adding her head was smashed.

A Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) team confirmed the girl was raped, officials added. "Rahul Gupta, 21, and Rakesh Tiwari, 34, took the girl to an abandoned plot and raped her," said DCP Ravi Kumar, Outer North Delhi.

ENS

3-hr chase later, parents reunited with abducted kids in Delhi

New Delhi: It was a usual hangout for a family from Delhi when the parents asked their children to wait in the car till they returned from a sweet shop at a market. When the couple returned, however, the children and the car were no longer there.

An 11-year-old girl and a 3-year-old boy were kidnapped as the accused fled with the car, said police. Their mother's phone, which was also in the car, was used by the kidnapper to call the parents and ask for ransom worth Rs 50 lakh. Police said rescue teams used technical surveillance and chased the car along with the parents.

After three hours of chase by around 20 police vehicles, the kidnapper abandoned the vehicle and the children near Samaypur Badli, and escaped. The chase went on for 100 kilometers. The children were found with the car and were reunited with the parents, police said.

The jewellery and the mobile phone, which were left in the car, were also recovered. Officials said search is on for the accused. ENS

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Ranked 3 rd in U.P. and 21 st in India: India Today -MDRA: Best University Ranking-2023	Ranked 4 th Govt. University for highest number of patents granted in past three years: India Today-MDRA:2023
Ranked 219 th in Southern Asia: QS Asia University Ranking-2024	Ranked 1 st in U.P. and 17 th in India: KHELO India
Ranked 1 st in U.P. and 35 th in India SCIMAGO INSTITUTIONS RANKINGS	

Programs offered at the University Campus

(A). UG Programs

B.A. (Hons.) (Political Science, Sociology, English, Urdu, History, Psychology, Economics, Hindi), B.A. LLB, BAJMC (Hons.), B.Sc (Hons.), (Mathematics, Statistics, Zoology, Botany, Biotechnology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science), B.Com (Hons.), B.Sc (Food Microbiology, Safety and Quality Control), BBA, BBA (HA), B.L.I.Sc, B.P.Ed., B.Tech. (I.T., C.S, E.C., M.E., A.E., C.E.), Bachelor in Film & Theatre Studies, Bachelor in Cinematography, BPES, B.F.A. (Hons), Bachelor of Fashion Designing (Hons.), B. Voc in Jewellery Design, B.Pharm.

(B). PG/Diploma/Certificate Programs

MA (English, Economics, Hindi, History, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Sanskrit, Geography, Urdu, Yoga Science), M.Sc. (Botany, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Statistics, Zoology, Toxicology, Microbiology, Applied Microbiology, Biochemistry, Bio-informatics, Environmental Science, Medical Microbiology, Biotechnology), M.Sc Home Science (Human Development, Food and Nutrition), M.Sc. Chemistry (Specialization-Polymer Science and Chemical Technology), M.Sc. Agriculture (Genetics & Plant Breeding, Horticulture, Entomology, Food Science & Technology, Plant Pathology, Seed Science & Technology) MJMC, M.Com., MSW, M.L.I.Sc., MFA (Drawing & Painting, Applied Arts), LLM, MPA, MBA, MBA (HA), MCA, M.Tech. (CSE, ECE), M.Ed, M.Ped, M.F.A. Fashion Design, Textile Designing, M.Sc. in Forensic Science, PG Diploma in (G.I.S and Remote Sensing, Jyotirvigyan, Karmkand, Yoga Science, Film Production, Public Relation & Advertising, Functional Journalism, Video Editing, Vedic Math), Advanced Diploma in Russian Language and Literature, Diploma in (Russian Language, French Language), Diploma in Folk Art, Art & Craft, Certificate of Proficiency in (Russian, French), Certificate in Mobile Journalism.

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From 1st July 2024

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INVESTMENT & LOANS



Evolving investment culture deepens

India is on track to become the world's third-largest economy in five years and a developed nation by 2047

REPORTEDLY, over 90% of people equate saving with investing, highlighting the importance of understanding the pivotal role of well-informed financial investments — as opposed to merely saving money — in building a sound financial foundation for a thriving future. In this regard, the profound words of American entrepreneur, Grant Cardone, underscore the significance of investments and provide food for thought, "Investing puts money to work. The only reason to save money is to invest it."

Informed investment decisions, as the cornerstone of financial success and stability — alongside driving economic growth, wealth accumulation, and financial security — empower individuals, businesses, and nations to achieve their aspirations and secure a sustainably prosperous future.

SAVINGS TO WEALTH ACCUMULATION

For individuals, investing is not just about saving money; it is about growing wealth, ensuring financial security, and achieving long-term financial goals. By putting money into various investment vehicles — stocks, bonds, mutual funds, cryptocurrencies, real estate and other assets — individuals can benefit from compounding returns and inflation-beating gains, thereby preserving and growing wealth over time. This growth potential renders investments a powerful tool for not only wealth accumulation but also for planning major life milestones and retirement, wherein by creating a safety net and fostering long-term financial stability, smart investment decisions empower individuals to realise their aspirations and enjoy a promising future.

Participation in financial markets in India has burgeoned significantly and domestic investments have surged amidst enhanced ease of ac-



cess to accurate knowledge on investments and investment products, financial guidance, investment tools, a growing middle class, and steadily increasing disposable incomes. Furthermore, the number of active demat accounts in India has increased significantly — 13.93 crores as of December 2023 — indicating a rising investment culture among Indians. This trend — a clear indication of the growing interest and active participation of investors in the country's financial markets — not only boosts individual wealth but also propels economic growth by increasing the capital available for businesses to expand.

ROLE OF INVESTMENT IN GROWTH

Serving as the lifeblood of economic progress, in-

vestments play a vital role in the economic development of a country by channeling funds into businesses, innovative ventures and industries to foster innovation and higher production, amplify economic activities, catalyse job creation and consumer spending, boost infrastructure development and accelerate economic expansion while enhancing market competitiveness. This is particularly evident in the dynamic landscape of the Indian economy, which remains resilient and buoyant despite global challenges, and where investments continue to play a central role in driving growth and stability.

Registering a robust economic growth rate of 8.2% for FY2023-24 — the highest among

the major economies of the world — the Indian economy is poised to accelerate further, ensuring that India retains its advantageous position as the fastest-growing major economy globally.

KEY ENABLERS OF INVESTMENT

Serving as intermediaries that facilitate investment activities, banks and financial institutions act as key enablers in channeling funds alongside providing critical support to entrepreneurs and investors alike. Banks, brokerage firms, and asset management companies provide the necessary infrastructure, products, and services to investors facilitating the mobilisation of savings into productive investments, thereby enhancing liquidity in the financial markets. By offering various financial products, they help investors diversify their portfolios and manage risks effectively.

LOANS AS INVESTMENT TOOLS

Against the backdrop of three basic categories of investment — ownership, cash equivalents and lending — lending money as various types of loans counts as an investment as it facilitates growth in the overall money supply in an economy. Loans — a type of credit vehicle in which a sum of money is lent to another party in exchange for future repayment alongside added interest or finance charges — play a pivotal role in modern economies by facilitating essential financial transactions and enabling individuals and businesses to achieve their goals. From funding education, debt consolidation and starting or expanding a business to making major purchases, including homes and vehicles, loans provide nec-

Setting new customer centricity benchmarks



Rajesh Kumar Singh
Chief General Manager & Circle Head
Canara Bank, Delhi

CANARA Bank is working with a strategic focus on providing quality services and to implement the concept of offering the right product to the right customer via a wide range under Deposit, Loans, and Digital Products. The Bank offers various attractive deposit schemes for individuals, corporate, government departments, trusts, and societies etc. The Bank is also offering lucrative salary account for employees of government/private companies and is also running special schemes for its women customers. To cater the needs of its NRI customers the Bank has introduced special accounts for them and a dedicated Hub for resolution of their needs.

The Bank offers various loan products under retail like Housing loan, Car loan, Mortgage loan etc and Loan under MSME category with amazing features and at attractive rate of interest. Canara Bank offers Vehicle loans for purchase of passenger and commercial vehicles, Education Loan for pursuing study within India and abroad. To meet emergency and unanticipated expenses bank offers various types of personal loan. Bank has a healthy Gold loan portfolio.

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Evolving investment culture deepens

essary capital when personal funds fall short. Understanding the nuances of each loan type empowers borrowers to make informed decisions, ensuring optimal financial outcomes. In essence, loans serve as crucial tools for driving economic growth and empowering individuals to pursue their aspirations.

FUTURE OF INVESTMENT ECOSYSTEM

Looking ahead, the future of India's robust investment ecosystem appears promising — driving innovation, job creation, the realisation of the country's developmental aspirations, and overall prosperity.

India's investment culture is deepening due to proactive government policies, continuous economic reforms, support from banks and financial institutions and rapid digitalisation. The emergence of pioneering financial products is further enhancing the investment ecosystem. This growth

will significantly contribute to the economic resilience and prosperity of India. As a significant economic and geopolitical power, India is on a growth trajectory to become the world's third-largest economy within the next five years and a developed nation by 2047.

INVESTMENTS THAT DRIVE INNOVATION

Venture capitalists and angel investors also play a critical role in the investment landscape by nurturing startups and propelling innovation and economic transformation. Their investments are the linchpin of many entrepreneurial dreams, turning ideas into reality while simultaneously spurring job creation and contributing to disruptive technologies. These investors provide the much-needed capital for early-stage companies that might not yet qualify for bank loans. This assumes special significance for India, where the entrepreneurship culture is booming.

In India, the startup ecosystem has witnessed remarkable growth, with India's private equity and venture capital investments surpassing \$60 billion in 2022 for the third consecutive year amid global headwinds. This influx of capital has been instrumental in propelling India to become the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world.

CROSS-BORDER INVESTMENTS

In today's interconnected world, investments transcend borders, facilitating global capital flows. International investments, including foreign direct investment (FDI) and foreign portfolio investment, diversify portfolios, enhance returns, and expose investors to diverse opportunities while bringing in management expertise, and global market access. This cross-border exchange of funds promotes collaboration, cultural exchange, and economic resilience on a global scale.

PROACTIVE RISK MANAGEMENT

While investments offer tremendous growth potential, they are not without risks. Market volatility, economic downturns, geopolitical tensions and unforeseen events can affect investment returns. Hence, skillful risk management, informed decision-making, setting clear financial goals and having a diversified portfolio alongside a long-term perspective are essential strategies for managing investment risks and attaining financial goals, for both individuals and businesses.

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Government of Jharkhand
Department of School Education and Literacy
(Jharkhand Education Project Council, Ranchi)
JSCA Stadium Road, Sector- III, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
Phone: 0651-2444501, E-Mail: jeperanchi1@gmail.com

e-Procurement Notice

JEPC invites Separate Technical & Financial Bids through e-procurement method from eligible and interested contractors registered in appropriate class for Construction of Boundary Wall with Concertina wire fencing and security room for DIET Campus, Ratu located in Ranchi District of Jharkhand. Interested and eligible bidders are requested to submit their proposal latest by 02:00 PM on 18.07.2024.

The details of tender documents can be seen and applied through website <https://jharkhand.tenders.gov.in> only. Tender notification & Tender document can also be seen (read only purpose) from departmental website <https://jepc.jharkhand.gov.in>.

Ref. No.: JEPC/CIV/03/1022/2024/2294 Ranchi, Date : 28.06.2024 Sd/-
(Aditya Ranjan), State Project Director
Jharkhand Education Project Council

PR 328209 Jharkhand Education Project Council(24-25)#D

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Bank of Baroda, Digital Operations Group invites response to "Request for Proposal (RFP) for selection of General Insurance Company regulated by IRDAI to procure Debit Card Package Insurance Policy for a sum insured of Rs. 5.00 Crore to cover unauthorized/fraudulent use of our Bank's Debit Card."

Details of the RFP/Tender Document are available under "Tender Section" on Bank's website: <https://www.bankofbaroda.in>

Addendum / Corrigendum including modification in the RFP/Tender document, if any, shall be notified on the Bank's website <https://www.bankofbaroda.in> only. Bidder should refer the same before final submission of the RFP.

Last date for submission of above RFP is 19/07/2024 by 3:00 pm.

Place: Mumbai Chief General Manager
Date: 30.06.2024 Digital Channels & Operations (40/24-25)

Centre for Cultural Resources and Training
(Under the aegis of Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)
15-A, Sector-07, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110075
ADVT. NO.: CCRT/11011/02/2024/03
Subject: Recruitment of Group-A posts in CCRT-reg.

Applications are invited from willing and eligible candidates for the following posts in Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, New Delhi on Deputation (including short term contract) basis as per the Recruitment Rules of CCRT. The vacancy details are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Post	Pay Level	Made of Recruitment
1.	Director	01	Pay Level - 12 (Rs. 78,800-2,09,200) as per 7th CPC	Deputation (ISTC)
2.	Dy. Director (Finance)	01	Pay Level - 11 (Rs. 67,700-2,08,700) as per 7th CPC	

Note: The candidates, who have already applied for the post of Director in response to this Office advertisement in the Employment News dated 23-29 December, 2023 need not to apply again.

The detailed advertisement, prescribed Application Format and General instructions is available on CCRT website <https://ccrtindia.gov.in/> and interested/eligible candidates may submit the applications in the prescribed format along with all the relevant documents. The last date for receipt of duly filled in Application form is 60 days from the date of publication of Advertisement in Employment News. The ending date of the week for publishing of advt. in the Employment News shall apply.

Dy. Director (Administration)
CCRT, New Delhi

CBC- 09127/12/0003/2425

Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi
DIRECTORATE OF TRAINING & TECHNICAL EDUCATION
Muni Maya Ram Marg, Pitam Pura, Delhi-110034
Website: <https://tte.delhi.gov.in>

FULL TIME DIPLOMA COURSES ADMISSION 2024-25

ONLINE Applications are invited from the aspirants for the Admissions to AICTE/PCI/CoA Approved Diploma Programs running in Govt. Aided/ Privately Managed Self Financed Institutes under Board of Technical Education, Delhi for the Academic Session 2024-2025

The details of the Institute along with the courses offered and other information may be seen in the **Information Bulletin** available on the website at <https://tte.delhi.gov.in> and the Online Admission Portal is <https://dtte.ucanapply.com>

IMPORTANT DATES*

Date of Start of Registration:** 19.06.2024

Last Date of Registration & Fee Submission: 16.07.2024

Tentative online Common Entrance Test: 27.07.24 & 28.07.2024

* May please refer to the admission portal for any update in the schedule

** **Registration Fee of Rs. 500/- (Non refundable) is payable at time of online registration**

For any queries, please contact:

**ADMISSION CELL, Room No. 5, Board of Technical Education,
Muni Maya Ram Marg, Pitampura, Delhi-110034
E-mail: dtteonline@gmail.com Phone: 011-27323161**

DIRECTOR

Directorate of Training & Technical Education,

Delhi

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POSSESSION NOTICE
(For Immovable property)

Whereas,
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Punjab National Bank, Circle SASTRA Ara, Hotel regal, second Floor, Ara- 802301 under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13 read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 20.01.2024 calling upon the Borrower- M/S Campus Fashion, Prop. Sh Prince Raj, S/O Late Pramod Kumar Sinha and Guarantor Smt Saroj Devi, W/O Late Pramod Kumar Sinha and Sh Vikas Kumar, S/O Late Pramod Kumar Sinha, R/O at Chitra Toli Road, Infront of Sundar market, Arrah, Dist-Bhojpur, Bihar- 802301 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs 24,49,300.00 (Rupees Twenty-Four Lakh Forty-Nine Thousand Three Hundred Only) and interest and charge there on from 01.01.2024 within 60 days from the date of receipt of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 25th day of June 2024.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Punjab National Bank for an amount of Rs.25,05,098.63 (Rupees Twenty-Five Lakh Five Thousand Ninety-Eight and Paise Sixty-Three Only) as on 31.05.2024 along with future interest and expenses from 01.06.2024 until payment in full.

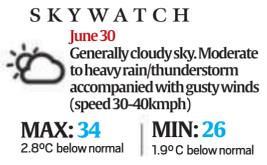
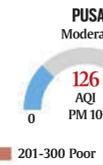
The borrower's/guarantor's/mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Description of immovable Property

- All the Part and Parcel of Immovable Property (Land and Building) Situated at- Mauza- Murshidpur, Imadani, Thana No 239, Thana- Ara, CS Khata No -02, Ward No-02, Plot No-81 Dist- Bhojpur, Bihar, Area-05 Dhur. Owner- Smt Saroj Devi, W/O Late Pramod Kumar Sinha Deed No- 4052 dated 13.04.2002, Boundary: North-Nij Mokir, South-Nij Mahajan, East-Gali, West-Dr. Bela Kumari.
- All the Part and Parcel of Immovable Property (Land and Building) Situated at- Mauza- Murshidpur, Imadani, Thana No 239, Thana- Ara, CS Khata No -02, Ward No-02, Plot No-81 Dist- Bhojpur, Bihar, Area-05 Dhur. Owner- Smt Saroj Devi, W/O Late Pramod Kumar Sinha, Deed No- 4053 dated 13.04.2002, Boundary: North- Saroj Devi, South- Saroj Devi, East-Gali, West-Dr. Bela Kumari.
- All the Part and Parcel of Immovable Property (Land and Building) Situated at- Mauza- Murshidpur, Imadani, Thana No 239, Thana- Ara, CS Khata No -02, Ward No-02, Plot No-81 Dist- Bhojpur, Bihar, Area-05 Dhur. Owner- Smt Saroj Devi, W/O Late Pramod Kumar Sinha, Deed No- 4054 dated 13.04.2002, Boundary: North- Hal Baidar (Saroj Devi), South- Hal Baidar (Saroj Devi), East-Gali, West-Dr. Bela Kumari.
- All the Part and Parcel of Immovable Property (Land and Building) Situated at- Mauza- Murshidpur, Imadani, Thana No 239, Thana- Ara, CS Khata No -02, Ward No-02, Plot No-81 Dist- Bhojpur, Bihar, Area-05 Dhur. Owner- Smt Saroj Devi, W/O Late Pramod Kumar Sinha, Deed No- 4055 dated 13.04.2002, Boundary: North- Hal Baidar (Saroj Devi), South- Hal Baidar (Saroj Devi), East-Gali, West-Dr. Bela Kumari.

Date: 25/06/2024
Place: Bhojpur

Authorized Officer
Punjab National Bank



NIRBHAY THAKUR
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

A YOUNG man, his hands donning white surgical gloves, holds a slightly moistened cotton swab. He scans for residue from a bullet hole on the door of the white Creta car parked at Tilak Nagar police station. The "hand picking" — a delicate and painstaking work by a forensic examiner — isn't just science, it's an art, where perfection is an absolute necessity.

Every inch of the crime scene can hold "trace evidence" — a lock of hair, a tiny piece of fibre — anything the perpetrator left behind. And this team of three examiners from the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) Rohini is trying to make sure nothing flies under their radar.

It is 10 am and their first crime scene of the day. Last night, they were at another crime scene till 2.30 am to collect evidence in a rape case.

FSL Rohini is the biggest among the four forensic labs in Delhi which deal with thousands of cases every month. The others are CFSL (Central Forensic Science Lab) and two state FSLs — one more in Rohini and one in Chanakya. Across India, there are 117 forensic labs — Tamil Nadu has the highest number with 11, Maharashtra has nine, Andhra Pradesh has eight, Gujarat and Rajasthan have seven each, and Uttar Pradesh has five, according to data from a Project 39A report titled Forensic Science India report: a study of forensic science labs (2013-2017).

The Rohini lab's workload has increased exponentially over the years. In 2005, experts from FSL Rohini visited six crime scenes. In 2023, they visited 1,144. Since April this year, forensic experts from this facility have already visited 3,878 crime scenes.

Come Monday, once the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) replaces the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), forensic experts may have a lot more on their plate.

For one, forensic evidence will be central to criminal investigation and jurisprudence. The BNSS makes forensic investigation mandatory for offences punishable with seven years of imprisonment or more. Earlier, there were no statutory requirements on crime scene management, and the practice for evidence collection varied across states.

In fact, it was the prerogative of an investigating officer to decide whether to seek evidence



The new annexe building of the Forensic Science Laboratory at Rohini. Nirbhay Thakur

Arm of the law

As new criminal laws come into effect, the role of forensic experts is more crucial than ever. What changes from July 1, and how will they cope with the increased workload?

collection by forensic experts. BNSS also expands the powers of magistrates to order forensic evidence collection — both widening the ambit of individuals from whom the evidence can be gathered from and the type of evidence that can be collected.

All hands on deck

Situated at Madhuban Chowk, FSL Rohini has a strength of 390, including 63 forensic experts covering around 45 to 60 crime spots daily. The lab deals with around 800 cases a month.

According to data on the FSL Rohini website, it has received

2.05 lakh cases between its inception in 1995 and March 31, 2023. Among them, 1.79 lakh cases have been "disposed of" — a "disposal rate of almost 90%".

Division Head of Crime Scene Management at FSL Rohini, Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, acknowledges that there will be a significant increase in their crime scene visits after the new laws are implemented. "There are 63 scientific experts deployed at 15 Delhi Police district mobile vans. These days, we're working to streamline the district-level mobile forensic crime scene teams to handle the changing scenario," he says. "I hope that after the new rules come into effect, we will be able to meet the requirements."

The lab also happens to cater to a city where crime, and its reporting, is rampant. According to data released by the National Crime Records Bureau in December 2023, Delhi recorded over 11,400 violent crimes in 2022, including 5,641 cases of kidnapping, 1,808 cases of robbery, and 785 attempted murders. With 509 murder cases, Delhi recorded the highest number of homicides among all metropolitan cities. It also topped in cases of crime against women among 19 metros in the country.

To be sure, the administration has taken some steps to strengthen the Rohini facility. In January, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena approved the restructur-

ing of the FSL, which led to the creation of 420 new posts at the facility. It has also conducted special workshops on the new laws.

"I don't know what will happen after July 1 when the new laws are implemented," says the forensic expert from the lab. "...but our laboratory is prepared. Training programmes will be on till everyone is well-versed with the new laws," he added.

"In view of the new criminal laws, as per the notification of the Home Ministry, all states have to develop and enhance the forensic investigation facilities in the coming five years," another forensic expert told the Indian Express stating that the government had

started taking the necessary steps to tackle the situation after the implementation of the laws.

Devil in the details

This work they do is on full display as forensic experts help with the case in which two men allegedly fired gunshots outside a car showroom in West Delhi's Tilak Nagar, injuring BJP functionary Vikas Tyagi and six others inside the shop. Back at the Tilak Nagar police station, one of the forensic examiners inserts a trajectory rod in the bullet hole. His aim, he says, is to ascertain the path of the bullet that had hit the person sitting in the vehicle. The team carefully places the fragment inside an "illumination kit".

After collecting 30 exhibits — bullet residue, bloodstains collected using cotton swabs and placed in small containers to avoid contamination, the car's floor mats — they hand it over to a sub-inspector and head to the crime scene — the car showroom where the shooting took place.

Across the 15 districts in Delhi, these experts visit approximately 60 such crime spots every day. With a masters' in forensic sciences, they sometimes spend up to six hours at a single scene.

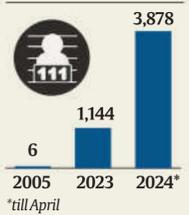
The evidence, once handed to the IO, is sent to the lab for examination — such as matching a bullet with a gun. "Cartridges are unique... a mark on the head of each bullet is different — just like

TALKING NUMBERS

390
Total Strength of FSL Rohini

63
Forensic experts

CRIME SPOT VISITS BY FSL ROHINI



45 to 60
Crime scene visits per day

2.05 lakh
Total cases (1995 to 2023)

1.79 lakh
Number of cases disposed

26,000
Number of cases pending

800
Cases at the lab per month

25-30
Cases per day

fingerprints," a forensic expert says.

The Biology Department examines the evidence to ascertain the identity of a person, victim or perpetrator. Other divisions at FSL Rohini include chemistry (explosives), DNA profiling, toxicology and cyber forensics, where experts analyse mobile phones, computers, etc.

Explaining the rigours of their work, a forensic expert says at times, blood from five to six different people is gathered from a single crime scene.

"The DNA profiling of each sample takes four to six hours and examining the samples could take one to two days," he says. "There are always pending samples because of the work and their numbers keep increasing."

3 die of drowning as rain floods underpasses

New Delhi: Three deaths, including those of two minor boys, were reported due to drowning as rains lashed the city on Friday.

The first incident was reported at the inundated Okhla underpass at 6.23 am when a man, riding a scooter, was found unconscious in water. He was identified as 60-year-old Digvijay Kumar Chaudhary, a resident of Jaitpur.

He was taken to AIIMS Trauma Centre where he was declared brought dead.

Later in the day, at 2.25 pm, bodies of two boys, said to be around nine-year-old, were recovered from a flooded Siraspur underpass. Preliminary investigation suggests that the boys may have drowned while bathing in the flooded underpass. Proceedings under Section 174 of the CrPC are underway in both cases. **ENS**

Downpour lays bare 'world-class' claims at East Kidwai Nagar redevelopment project

SAMAN HUSAIN
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

BUILT TO house central government officials, the East Kidwai Nagar redevelopment project was hailed as an example of modern urban living and sustainable development when inaugurated in 2016.

A day of heavy rainfall, though, raised a question mark on all the claims as floodwater inundated the three-level underground parking space, lifts stopped functioning, and buildings began showing cracks.

The project was executed by the National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) and was lauded for its promise to deliver 4,608 modern dwelling units to government servants and



Flooded parking lot at East Kidwai Nagar. Express

officers.

On Saturday evening though, government officers were seen draining water out of their cars, which had been submerged for the past 24 hours.

"Did you know that the Defence Secretary's roof has col-

lapsed?" an officer remarked, holding a bucket to drain greenish water from inside his vehicle.

"The cars have been soaking in water since last night... this is not the type of facility we expect at a government quarter that promises world-class amenities," said Kavita, a government officer's wife. "This is a significant planning failure. We have a public redressal system, but no announcement was made that water had started entering the parking space," she added. Her son noted, "The houses in many towers have started showing cracks."

An officer from the environment department said, "We talk about the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, but our own houses are left dirty after heavy rainfall."

"Due to the waterlogging, the lifts in most buildings have been

shut down. In one tower where the lift was still functioning, someone suffered mild electrocution," said Edisson John, a resident.

"These are 14-storey buildings, but we have been climbing up and down every time. An elderly person from the 12th floor had to be taken to the hospital due to a health emergency," he added.

Another government employee said, "We cannot complain because government officers have conduct rules, but does this mean we have to put up with these issues in silence?"

Kusum Sharma, an officer's wife and teacher, said, "We called for cranes to remove our cars but they told us the basement cannot be accessed through them. We then paid the maintenance staff Rs 1,500 to manually push our cars out of the waterlogged area."

Orange alert: Expect heavy rain, says IMD

New Delhi: A day after heavy rainfall hit Delhi, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted moderate to heavy rain for the next three days as well. The city is on an orange alert till July 2, the IMD stated in its advisory, asking people to stay indoors and avoid travel.

The maximum temperature was 32.5 degree Celsius on Friday, five notches below normal and the minimum temperature observed on Saturday was 28 degrees. After June 24, the maximum temperature at the base station of Safdarjung dropped gradually from 40.4 degrees to 39 degrees on June 26 and in a sharp fall, to 35.4 degrees Celsius on June 27.

The sharp drop in temperature brought a huge respite from the heatwave spell. **ENS**

2,000 books damaged, community library grapples with rain loss

SAMAN HUSAIN
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

SIMPY WOKE up on Friday morning to the incessant ringing of her phone. The 22-year-old, who is the director of the Delhi-based Community Library Project, was startled to see multiple missed calls from her colleagues. Anxiety gripped her as she returned the calls only to learn that the cherished library in Sheikh Sarai — where she had been going since she was a child — was inundated after the early morning downpour.

"I called my colleagues, and they told me that ankle-deep water had entered the premises of the library," Simpy recounts. "I rushed there only to find that the water levels were higher than I had imagined."

Simpy has been a part of The Community Library Project since she was 12. "Seeing the havoc caused by a single monsoon shower was heartbreaking," she says, adding that the library bore the brunt of the heaviest downpour in Delhi in 88 years in June. The Community Library Project, which has now grown to three branches in Sheikh Sarai, South Extension and Gurgaon, was established over 10 years ago with the mission of ensuring that everyone has access to books.

Amid frantic efforts by her and her colleagues to pump the water out using motors from the Sheikh Sarai branch on Friday, a high accumulation of silt choked the pumps and left them helpless. "We didn't know how to remove the water," Simpy recalls. "So we decided to move all the books from the bottom shelves to the second floor to keep them safe." In a heartening



Damaged books at library. X/communitylibpro

display of solidarity, community members rallied together, armed with buckets and mops, to start the arduous task of draining the water. "We started cleaning at 10:30 am, and it took us until 7:30 pm to finally clear the space," she adds.

The Community Library Project takes pride in being an anti-caste people's initiative, dedicated to building a publicly-owned, free library system accessible to all. "Access cannot be built without acknowledging the history of excluding people from reading," says Mausam, the 24-year-old deputy director, as she uses a fan to dry out the soaked books. "We believe that books are for everyone. Public library systems are the bedrock of breaking through the barriers of caste exploitation," she adds.

The community library in Sheikh Sarai is visited by people from Jagdamba Camp, Chirag Dilli, Khidki Gaon, Hauz Rani, and Panchsheel Vihar. It houses books in English, Hindi, Urdu, Bangla, Punjabi, and Odia. "People who visit us from Hauz Rani are from Afghanistan, so we also have books in Dari and Pashto. But now, two thousand of our books are damaged due to waterlogging," she says.

VISIT TO AFFECTED AREAS Ensure situation doesn't recur: L-G to officials

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29



L-G V.K. Saxena

that none of the major drains were desilted and cleaned as part of monsoon preparations, which essentially led to heavy waterlogging..." officials said.

The L-G, according to officials, also asked for the immediate removal of encroachment along the drains. Saxena, officials said, has issued instructions to put in place a comprehensive plan comprising long-term measures to deal with the problems of waterlogging rather than dealing with the issue in a "Crisis Management Mode" or ad-hoc basis.

100-year-old miniature paintings damaged as water enters museum in Siri Fort area

VANDANA KALRA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

IN THE early hours of Saturday morning — a day after Delhi was battered by heavy downpour — artist Arpana Caur was wading through stagnant water, assessing the damage, and supervising the unscrewing of centuries-old miniature paintings and folk art paintings that are part of the museum housed in the basement of the Academy of Fine Arts and Literature at Siri Fort Institutional Area.

The museum features works from her collection built over decades. "By 5.30 am on Friday, the water level in the museum galleries was about five-feet high. Over 30 miniatures and over 70



folk paintings have been damaged. Some of these miniatures are 150-200 years old and are registered with the Archeological Survey of India (ASI). The folk paintings include rare Dhaka paintings and thangka, and works by acclaimed artists such as Jangarh Singh Shyam and Durga Bai," says Caur.

The artist notes that the influx



(L) A flooded museum; (above) artist Arpana Caur

of water came from the adjacent drain. "Anticipating that this would happen, my mother (author Ajeet Caur) had written a letter to the MCD (Municipal Corporation of Delhi) on June 19. She had stated that the drains were full of rubbish and needed immediate cleaning, but no action was taken," says Caur.

MCD did not respond to re-

quest for a comment.

In 2013, when a similar instance had occurred at her basement museum, Caur had moved the Delhi High Court. "The MCD and PWD were ordered to make sure the nullah is regularly cleaned. But the order seems to have been forgotten," states Caur.

Recalling her ordeal on Friday, she notes, "We started calling the MCD and fire department early in the morning... Finally, we managed to receive help from the fire department around 3.30 pm. They worked till midnight, and managed to bring the water level down to two-and-a-half feet, and our carpenter was able to enter and unscrew some paintings. We are still in the midst of removing all of them, and several of these will require restoration."



Govt. of Haryana

“दीनदयाल उपाध्याय जी ने हमें अंत्योदय का मार्ग दिखाया था। यानि जो समाज की आखिरी पंक्ति में हैं, उनका उदय। 21वीं सदी का भारत इसी विचार से प्रेरणा लेते हुए अंत्योदय के लिए काम कर रहा है। जो विकास के आखिरी पायदान पर है, उसे विकास के पहले पायदान पर लाने के लिए काम हो रहा है।”

- नरेन्द्र मोदी



Social Security Pension Distribution to New Beneficiaries

under financial assistance scheme, Old-Age Allowance, Disability pension, Widow pension and to widowers and unmarried persons

Pension Distribution to **75,000** New beneficiaries

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State Level Program

Chief Guest

Sh. Nayab Singh

Chief Minister, Haryana

August Presence

For more information regarding Adhikaar Patra

Contact : **0172-3520001**

or

Visit the website www.hfa.haryana.gov.in

Date - June 30, 2024 | Time - 2 PM

Venue - Anaj Mandi, Panipat

Sh. Bishamber Singh

Minister of State (I.C.)
for SEWA, Haryana

Sh. Subhash Sudha

Minister of State (I.C.),
Housing for All, Haryana

Sh. Mahipal Dhanda

Minister of State (I.C.)
Development & Panchayats, Haryana

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8 GOVT & POLITICS

Jaishankar to visit Qatar today; energy, trade on table

DIVYAA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

A WEEK after his visit to the United Arab Emirates, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will head to Qatar Sunday, where he will meet Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, a Ministry of External Affairs statement said.

Announcing the visit Saturday, the statement said the visit "will enable both sides to review various aspects of bilateral relations including political, trade, investment, energy, security, cultural and people-to-people as well as the regional and international issues of mutual interest".

It is expected that the two leaders would also discuss the overall situation in Gaza. The trade and energy ties between India and Qatar are an upswing as Qatar is the largest supplier of LNG to India, accounting for over 48% of India's global LNG imports.

This is Jaishankar's third foreign visit after he assumed charge as a minister for the second time.

In shift, JDU gives option to Centre: 'Special status or package' for Bihar

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

THE JANATA Dal (United) national executive passed a resolution on Saturday, stressing on the need for a "special status" or "special package" for Bihar from the Centre to spur the state's development.

The meeting, held in Delhi, was chaired by JDU president and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. The JDU is a key BJP ally in Bihar as well as at the Centre.

The conclave of the JDU's apex body also decided to appoint Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Jha, former state minister, as the party's working president. This is a significant move in the run-up to the Bihar Assembly polls due in October-November next year.

While the JDU has been demanding a special status for Bihar for a long time and the issue has figured in its past resolutions as well, the addition of "special package" as an option this time is notable as it indicates that the party is willing to take a pragmatic approach on the issue, targeting

what is "achievable". It also shows that the party does not wish to push the Narendra Modi-led NDA government too hard as its major ally. The JDU's new working president, Sanjay Jha, denied that it was a "climbdown" from the party's earlier demand of special status for Bihar.

"We all know that the Finance Commission has done away with the idea of special status (for states). The purpose is that Bihar must get central assistance, whatever be the name (of the package). We will now pursue it with the central government. The PM has been focused on the development of eastern India. We are hopeful that the Centre will consider our demand," Jha told *The Indian Express*.

His appointment as Nitish Kumar's No. 2 in the party is also significant as he is known to have good relations with the BJP and is likely to keep the NDA alliance in Bihar strong heading into the 2025 Assembly polls.

Before joining the JDU in 2012, Jha had been with the BJP. He is now likely to become the



Sanjay Jha
named
working
president
of JDU

nodal person between his party and the BJP on a gamut of political affairs. After the recent Lok Sabha elections, the JDU has emerged as a key ally of the BJP with 12 seats. The BJP, whose tally dipped below the majority mark to 240 seats in these polls, is critically dependent on the JDU and the N Chandrababu Naidu-led TDP (16 seats) for running a stable government.

JDU national spokesperson KCTyagi said, "Nitish Kumar in his address to the national executive meeting said that he would now always stay with the NDA and not join any other alliance."

The conclave's resolution also made this point, stating that "JDU believes in the politics of coordination and cooperation. This coordination and partnership with the BJP has lasted two

EXPLAINED A change in stand

BY RECALIBRATING its longstanding demand of special status for Bihar with an option of "special package", the JDU has signalled a more pragmatic approach, while also giving the BJP more elbow room for negotiations.

decades which has become an example of a natural alliance in the form of the NDA".

Nitish's frequent flip-flops have hurt the credibility of the JDU in Bihar, with the party now aiming to reverse it by reassuring people that the former would not cross over to the RJD-led Mahagathbandhan alliance again.

"A big responsibility has been given to me by the JDU for which I am thankful to the party leadership. I hope I will be able to fulfil the expectations," Jha said.

AFTER AAP IN DELHI

ED to list CPM as accused in Kerala cooperative case

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JUNE 29

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate, which is probing allegations of crores being siphoned at the CPI(M)-controlled Karuvannur cooperative bank in Thrissur, is set to make the party an accused in the case, sources in the investigating agency said.

Last month, the probe agency had named the Aam Aadmi Party as an accused in the Delhi excise policy case - the first time a political party was mentioned as an accused by the ED in a case.

In the Thrissur case, it is alleged that an estimated ₹300 crore was siphoned by bank staff, and the scam involved local functionaries of the ruling CPI(M). The scam had rocked state CPI(M), which took pride in Kerala's robust cooperative movement, mostly controlled by the party, in 2021. Eleven members of the bank's governing body and six staff members were arrested in connection with 18 cases.

ED sources claim the proceeds of crime had gone to CPI(M) accounts maintained at various banks. "Whenever a loan was sanctioned, the bank used to transfer a certain amount to CPI(M) as commission. The bank employees, who are among the accused, have confessed that they transferred the commission to the party accounts at the behest of the CPI(M) leadership. An amount of ₹73 lakh has been found to have been transferred to the party accounts in such a manner. Hence, the party will be made an accused," sources said.

According to the ED, the total proceeds of crime attached so far in this case is ₹11.78 crore. The attached assets include 18 immovable properties valued at

₹28.65 crore comprising lands and buildings of the beneficiaries of the alleged scam.

The ED has named CPI(M) Thrissur district secretary as an accused as the land was registered in the name of the party district secretary. "We have not named the district secretary. Whoever is holding that post when the prosecution complaint is filed in court will figure as the accused," sources said.

CPI(M) state secretary M V Govindan told the media that the party would confront the case legally as well as politically. By listing the party as an accused, the ED is trying to create a smokescreen that the party has involvement in the case, he said.

"As per the CPI(M) style, land for party offices are purchased by the respective district committees, but the title deed would be executed in the name of the party district secretary. The move is politically motivated," he said.

The ED had last year said that the bank disbursed benami loans at the behest of CPI(M) MLA and former minister A C Moideen. In August 2023, the ED raided Moideen's house in Thrissur.

Moideen served as minister for the local self-government department from 2016 to 2021 during the LDF regime. Prior to that, he served as CPI(M) district secretary in Thrissur.

The bank had 12,000 depositors, and a few had allegedly died by suicide after the bank failed to return their savings.

The ED has invoked the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 in the case after taking a cue from the Kerala police probe.

The issue had been debated in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections in Thrissur constituency, where actor-turn-politician Suresh Gopi clinched the first win for the BJP in Kerala.

Expected 85 marks out of 100, got 75: Shah on LS poll result

'BJP will contest Haryana elections alone under CM Saini'

SUKHBIR SIWACH
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 29

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah Saturday lashed out at the Congress and accused it of trying to hide its defeat in the Lok Sabha polls by spreading confusion among people.

"We expected 85 marks out of 100 but got 75 and Congressmen are calling us 'failed'. They got just 25 marks and are calling themselves 'pass'. They (Congress) are calling themselves 'pass' even after failing (in formation of the government at the Centre). The BJP alone got as many seats as of the entire INDIA bloc," Shah said.

He was addressing BJP leaders and workers at Panchkula here.

Shah said the party will contest the upcoming Haryana Assembly elections alone under the leadership of incumbent Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and



Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Panchkula, Saturday

exuded confidence that the party will come back to power in the state for its third consecutive term.

Shah said they should have no doubts that the BJP will have no tie-up with any party for the state polls, which are due before October this year. The party does not need any crutches, party sources quoted Shah as having said in the meeting.

Saini, 54, an OBC leader, was made Chief Minister in March this year replacing Manohar Lal Khattar after the BJP snapped ties with the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) of Dushyant Chautala.

The Union Home Minister said "tara, sitara" will no longer work in Haryana as he took a dig at the Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Deepender Singh Hooda. "Soniaka aakhon ka taara" (Rahul Gandhi), and (Bhupinder) Hooda saab ka Sitara" (Deepender Hooda). Ab Haryana mein Tara Sitara nahin chalega," he said.

Party sources said Amit Shah, at the meeting, did not mention about the defeat of BJP in five out of the 10 LS seats in the state. However, according to sources, Shah, at a meeting with BJP president JP Nadda and state party leaders, observed that the party could have done better in three LS seats - Ambala, Sonapat and Hisar which the party lost to Congress.



DAY AFTER BAIL

A day after he was released on bail in a land scam case, former Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren next to a statue of freedom fighter and tribal leader Birsa Munda in Ranchi on Saturday. Soren told JMM workers that there would be a "revolt against those who plotted the conspiracy" to confine him in jail and that the "people of Jharkhand would not spare BJP". PTI

One individual can't be MVA CM face: Pawar on pitch for Uddhav

MANOJ MORE
PUNE, JUNE 29

EVEN AS the Shiv Sena (UBT) insists that Uddhav Thackeray should be projected as the Chief Ministerial face of the Maha Vikas Aghadi for the Assembly

polls, NCP (SP) national chief Sharad Pawar on Saturday rejected any such idea of projecting an individual as the CM's face.

"Our alliance is our collective face. One individual cannot become the CM face. Collective leadership is our formula," Pawar told reporters in Kolhapur when asked about Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut's insistence that Uddhav be projected as the CM face of MVA.

Pawar said discussions regarding Assembly elections are yet to take place. "We have not yet discussed anything about assembly elections... All our three alliance partners will take a decision in this regard," he said.

Calling for including all Left parties and those opposed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in MVA, Pawar said: "During the recently held Lok Sabha elections, the PWP, AAP and Communist parties helped us. Though we are three partners in the MVA, we



Uddhav Thackeray; Sharad Pawar

should include all these parties. All those opposed to Modi should become part of MVA. Whatever decision has to be taken regarding chief ministerial candidate will be taken through discussion and after talking everyone into confidence," he said.

Two days after calling for making Uddhav the CM face, Raut Saturday again emphasised that if MVA goes ahead without a CM face, it will hit it in the Assembly polls which are likely to be held in October.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi Saturday held his first meeting with top Union government officials after taking charge for his third term, asking them to focus on measures to ensure ease of living of people, it is learnt.

Officials from the Prime Minister's Office and Secretaries of Union ministries were present at the meeting. The Prime Minister had held similar meetings in his previous two terms.

More than 30 secretaries spoke during the three-hour meeting when invited to provide suggestions on their own departments as well as others.

After the secretaries spoke, Modi addressed them. "His main message to us was the need for a robust grievance redressal mechanism and prompt addressing of people's grievances. The 100-day plan was also briefly discussed, but it was a minor part of the meeting. The PM

encouraged us to brainstorm ways and ideas to achieve the 'Paanch Pran' (five resolutions) for ensuring India's development by 2047," said an official who was part of the meeting.

There was also a discussion on projects and initiatives that could be launched by different ministries within the first 100 days of the government. According to sources, the PM said that when a party forms a government for a third term, it is because of the work of the government. He said that while people may not know officials, it is their hard work that makes schemes a success.

The meeting with top officials came a day after Modi met first-time Ministers of State. "Heard their experiences and insights as they have just embarked on their ministerial journey. Also discussed ways to further strengthen governance at the grassroots," Modi said in a post on X.

Saturday's meeting comes days before the NDA government is set to present its first full budget in July.

On extension since 2013, senior Gujarat official considered close to Modi retires

PARIMAL DABHI
GANDHINAGAR, JUNE 29

KUNIYIL KAILASHNATHAN, 72, popularly known as 'KK', regarded as Gujarat's most powerful bureaucrat, has retired after serving for 11 years as the Chief Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, a post created for him by then CM Narendra Modi in 2013 on his retirement from the CMO as Additional Chief Secretary.

With Kailashnathan still considered close to PM Modi, there is talk in political circles that he may get a key post.

According to a tweet by Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Kailashnathan's last day at



Kuniyil Kailashnathan

work will be Sunday (June 30). Wishing him a "fit and healthy retirement", Patel posted on X: "Since 2006, he served as the Principal Secretary in the CMO during the tenure [as CM] of Prime Minister Shri Narendrabhai Modi... His administrative skills, keen sense of public issues and tactful working style were prominent features throughout his tenure."

An official said that a small farewell was held in the CMO in

which "only a few officials participated". A senior official of the CMO said that Kailashnathan did not seek an extension this time.

A 1979-batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre, Kailashnathan had retired from service in 2013 when he was posted with the CMO, and a new post was created for him, redesignating him as Chief Principal Secretary for a tenure of two years. Subsequently he was given extensions to hold the post for 11 years.

Among many sensitive responsibilities, Kailashnathan was also handling the Gandhi Ashram Memorial work, and the Precinct Development Project, which is being jointly implemented by the state and central governments.

In his last public appearance, Kailashnathan was seen at the prayer meeting for former secretary of Sabarmati Ashram Preservation and Memorial Trust (SAPMT) Amrut Modi at Sabarmati Ashram on Friday.

The retirement of Kailashnathan has given way to speculation among bureaucratic and political circles on the way forward for him.

A senior government functionary said: "It all depends on what 'KK' has decided for himself. He could be appointed as Governor or Lieutenant Governor. The government will certainly not like to miss the experience of a person like 'KK'... all depends on what he wants to do."

SALUTE THE SOLDIER
INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE (ITBP) 30 June, 2024
ITBP salutes its braveheart Constable Anil Rana of 49th Battalion, who laid down his life in the line of duty on this day in Arunachal Pradesh in 2018.
Constable Anil Rana
Resident of : Vill.- Digthol Dhanari, Distt.- Uttarakashi, Uttarakhand

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, DHARWAD
Office of the Registrar, Krishinagar, Dharwad-5
Phone : 0836-2214319, Direct: 0836-2747958
E-mail : registrar@uasd.in
No: R/Recvt/Advt.63/2024 Date: 29-06-2024
SHORT NOTIFICATION
Sub: Recruitment to the backlog posts of Teachers in the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad.
Ref: University Notification No.R/Recvt/Advt.63/2024 dated 29.06.2024.
The backlog posts of Teachers in the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad are advertised for recruitment, vide University Notification referred above. The said notification along with all necessary information is accessible in the University's official website (www.uasd.edu). Interested candidates may refer the University website for further details.
Sd/- Registrar
DIPR/Dharwad/112/Advt/2024-25

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
See Section U/S 82 & 83 Cr. P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Kuldeep S/o Nathu Ram R/o Jhuggi No. 41, BC-4/26, Rahul Gandhi Camp, Beriwalla Bagh, Delhi** has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 269/2018 U/s 392/394/34 IPC, P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Kuldeep** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Kuldeep** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Kuldeep** of case **FIR No. 269/2018 U/s 392/394/34 IPC, P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint/case on or before **29.07.2024**.
By Order
Ms. Ritika Kansal
Metropolitan Magistrate (North West)
Room No. 208, 2nd Floor
Rohini Court, Delhi
DP/8304/NW/2024(Court Matter)

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Sarvagnanagara Division, 7th Floor, P.U. Building,
M.G.Road, Bengaluru-560001
No. EE(SGN)/Tend-04/Corrigendum-01/2024-25 Dated : 28-06-2024
CORRIGENDUM - 01
The tender called by BBMP, Sarvagnanagara Division on 24-06-2024 for the work of Consultancy services for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been cancelled as following due to technical reasons.
Sl. No. Name of the Work
1 Consultancy services for preparation of Detailed Project Report for construction of Sports Complex at Kacharakanahalli Ground in Ward No.76 (Call-2).
Project cost : Rs.25.00 Cr. Amount put to Tender for DPR : Rs.5,00,000/- EMD : Rs.2,50,000/- Remarks : Tender for DPR has been cancelled
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Sarvagnanagara Division

SEARCH FOR MISSING
General public is hereby informed that a person namely **Rajbir, S/o Bharat Singh, R/o: H.No. 118, Village Bamnoli, Sec-28, Dwarka, New Delhi** has been missing since **20.05.2024 at 08:30 AM from his house**. In this regard **DD No. 32A, Dated 24.05.2024** has been lodged at Police Station Sector-23 Dwarka, New Delhi. The description of missing person is as under:
Name: Rajbir, Age: about 66 Years, Height: 5', Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Face: Round, Wearing: White Colour Shirt & Pajama and Black Colour Shoes in Feet.
If anyone has any information about this missing person please inform P.S. Sector-23 Dwarka, New Delhi.
Web: http://cbi.nic.in, E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639
SHO
Police Station Sector-23 Dwarka, New Delhi
DP/7297/DW/2024 Ph: 8750871081, 8383949546

9 EXPRESS NETWORK

Pradhan: Date for NEET-PG likely to be out by Monday or Tuesday

HINA ROHTAKI
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 29

UNION EDUCATION Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Saturday said that the National Board of Examinations (NBE) will announce the new date for this year's NEET-PG by "Monday or Tuesday".

Pradhan was speaking in Panchkula, on sidelines of Haryana BJP's extended state executive meeting, where Union Home Minister Amit Shah was present.

The NBE had postponed the NEET-PG on June 22, a few hours before the exam was scheduled to be held on June 23. "To my knowledge, NBE will announce the date of NEET-PG exam by Monday or Tuesday..." he said.

Pradhan's comments come a day after the NTA announced revised dates for three exams which were cancelled. The UGC-NET, which was cancelled a day after being conducted on June 18 after the education ministry received inputs that the integrity of the exam was compromised, will now be conducted from August 21 to September 4.

Interacting with the media before Shah's visit, Pradhan, who is facing heat from the Opposition over alleged irregularities and leaks in the exam process and the subsequent cancellation or postponement of other major exams, said "though he was not justifying it, such discrepancies used to take place before 2014 as well".

"The President herself spoke about the exam... Yes, there are some challenges and we have to look into that and eradicate all the problems and the government is ready for a discussion on that. Congress wants to run away from a discussion and wants to politicise the issue," he said. "Ye avsar nahi hai rajnitik rotiyans sekhne ka... (This is not the time to play politics)," he said.

Pradhan said the Centre has taken steps such as changing the leadership at NTA, setting up a high-powered panel under ISRO ex-chief Dr K Radhakrishnan to address issues with NTA, and introducing a new law to tackle with "public exam disruption".

MULTIPLE PAPERS MAY NEED MANY DATES

Centre considering possibility of switching NEET-UG from pen-and-paper to online

RITIKA CHOPRA, ANONNA DUTT & AMITABH SINHA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

IN THE wake of the controversy over the integrity of NEET-UG exam, the Centre is considering the possibility of holding the test online from next year, senior officials have told *The Sunday Express*. This comes as the exam has been hit by reports of suspected leaks setting off nationwide protests, more than a dozen arrests, a CBI probe, several court hearings — and now a Parliament logjam.

Currently, NEET is an annual pen-and-paper MCQ test — where candidates have to choose their answer from the options given and mark this on an OMR sheet which is optically scanned.

In the past, the Health Ministry, on behalf of which the National Testing Agency (NTA) conducts the exam, has in the past resisted suggestions to switch NEET to an online mode.

But a computer-based test, like the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) Main or JEE Advanced for admissions to the IITs and engineering colleges, is being seen as one viable option. It is learnt that this was discussed in at least three high-level meetings called over the last one week.

On June 22, the Centre set up a seven-member panel chaired by former ISRO Chairman K. Radhakrishnan to recommend reforms in testing procedures and data security protocols, and to review the NTA's structure and functioning.

Incidentally, in 2018, then Education Minister Prakash Javadekar had announced NEET would be conducted online and twice a year from 2019. However, the Education Ministry was forced to withdraw this decision after the Health Ministry objected to its announcement "without formal consultation." The Health Ministry's concern pertaining to computer-based test was that it would put poor and rural students at a disadvantage.

Asked about the Health Ministry's rethink, a senior government official said, "There are many students from rural backgrounds who qualify take the JEE



Ehsanul Haque, a school principal arrested in the NEET-UG leak case, at the CBI office in Patna on Saturday. PPT

EXPLAINED Change of mind

THE NMC and Health Ministry have insisted on keeping NEET-UG a pen-and-paper test since 2017. But with concerns over paper leaks, the ministry seems to have finally come around the idea of moving to a computer-based test.

Main and qualify for JEE (Advanced), which are both computer-based tests. Then why should it be a problem for NEET aspirants from rural areas?"

Sources said the final call on switching to online mode rests with the National Medical Commission. Sources in the NMC also acknowledged the online exam is a "serious option."

The transition, sources said, has its challenges because a computer-based test involves "normalisation" given that there will be multiple versions of the paper.

"This year, 24 lakh candidates appeared for NEET-UG... If we move online, the exam will need to be conducted over multiple shifts and days. Approximately 1.5 lakh to 2 lakh candidates can appear in one shift in an online test..." a senior official said.

"Therefore, to accommodate NEET numbers, we will need to have multiple shifts over different days — just as we do with the

two cycles of JEE Main — and that means having different question papers. For results preparation, we will have to normalise marks to take care of any differences in the difficulty level of question papers. We've never had to do that for NEET in the past," the official added.

What's weighing in its favour, sources said, are advantages of a computer-based test. Currently, the JEE is conducted in two stages — JEE Main by the NTA and JEE Advanced by the IITs. This year, both sessions of JEE Main saw a total of 8.22 lakh candidates while 1.8 lakh took the Advanced.

Professors who have been involved in conducting JEE attribute its integrity to two factors — first, it is now entirely computer-based, and, second, the IITs have "absolute control" over JEE Advanced.

"The vulnerability of process is a function of the number of people involved in it. Greater the number of people involved, the more is the risk of system getting compromised. The IITs take great care to ensure fewer people are involved who work in small teams isolated from each other. Also, these people change every year," said an IIT professor who has headed this process in the past.

"This used to happen even when JEE used to be a pen and paper exam. The papers used to be carried to the centres by three or four faculty members... Now it is a computer-based exam, so that takes care of a lot of vulnerabilities," he said.

Jharkhand journalist arrested; CBI gets custody of 4 accused

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL & ADITIRAJA
NEW DELHI, VADODARA, JUNE 29

A DAY after arresting the principal and vice-principal of Jharkhand's Oasis School, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested a Hazaribagh-based journalist for allegedly helping the duo accused in connection with the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate) paper leak case.

An agency source said the accused has been identified as Mohd Jamaludin. He works with a leading Hindi newspaper and his arrest was made after the CBI claimed to find technical evidence against him, sources said.

Meanwhile in Gujarat, the Principal District and Sessions Judge of Panchmahal district court Saturday remanded in four-day CBI custody the four accused arrested for alleged malpractice in the exam held at Jay Jalaram School in Parvadi.

The court said the case had a "direct effect" on the Right to Education and Health of every Indian citizen as "enshrined in the Constitution of India". Stating that the investigation into the "malpractice" in which the accused indulged was "a grave public interest" and that the "rights of the investigating officer" could not be ignored, the court granted custody of the accused to the CBI until 4.30 pm on July 2.

The four accused remanded to CBI custody include Tushar Bhatt, who was the NEET-UG centre superintendent in the district; school principal Purshottam Sharma; education consultant Vibhor Anand; and Arif Vohra, a resident of Godhra.

On Friday, the CBI had arrested Dr Ehsanul Haque, the principal of the school, and Imtiaz Alam, vice-principal and Hazaribagh district coordinator for NEET-UG designated by the National Testing Agency in the Jharkhand district.

Both work with the Jharkhand's Oasis School where investigators suspect the alleged leak occurred.

When The Indian Express had visited the Hazaribagh school earlier this week, Haque had said that a digital lock on two boxes containing question papers did not open at 1.15 pm on May 5 — the day of the exam — as it was supposed to, because of which they had to use a cutter.

He had said that they called the NTA in a panic as it was almost time for the exam to begin, and were told to manually open the digital lock.

The exam centre's superintendent had told *The Indian Express* that on June 21, officials of the Bihar economic offences unit came to investigate. The EOU had found that the serial code found on the burnt remains of a leaked question paper in Bihar matched with the Oasis School examination centre in Hazaribagh.

On Thursday, the CBI had arrested two people from Patna, who had allegedly made arrangements for accommodation for NEET-UG examinees on May 4, a day before the exam — the same day they allegedly memorised the solved paper. Four examinees are among 13 accused in the case, besides five more arrests made later.

On June 22, the Ministry of Education had handed over the matter of alleged irregularities in the NEET (UG) examination 2024 to CBI for "a comprehensive investigation".

Eight students in hospital after gas leak from tanker in Kerala

Kannur: At least eight students of a nursing college were hospitalised on Saturday following a gas leak from a tanker lorry in Ramapuram in this district.

The students of the college developed uneasiness and breathing difficulty and were rushed to Pariyaram Medical College and Pazhayangadi taluk hospital. Their condition is stable, police said.

Hydrochloric acid leaked from the tanker lorry Friday when it was enroute to Ernakulam from Karamnataka.

Though a fire force team from Payyannur and Pariyaram police rushed to the area and initiated further proceedings, the leak could not be contained completely, authorities said.

The leak was detected in the rear side valve of the container and the vehicle was soon shifted to a safer place by the fire force.

Thaliparamba Revenue Divisional Officer Ajayakumar said steps were being taken to transfer the gas to another tanker. **PPT**

7 killed, 3 injured as two cars collide on Samruddhi e-way

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JUNE 29

SEVEN PERSONS died and three others were injured after a head-on collision between two cars on the Nagpur-Mumbai Samruddhi expressway in Jalna Friday night.

Police confirmed that after refueling at a petrol pump, the driver of a Swift Dzire was driving on the wrong side, resulting in a head-on collision with Maruti Suzuki Ertiga, coming from the opposite direction.

According to state highway police, the accident took place around 11 pm on the Samruddhi expressway stretch in Kadvanchi village that falls under the jurisdiction of Taluka police station in Jalgaon district.

While there were four occupants in the Swift Dzire, which was going in the opposite direction on Mumbai-bound stretch, the Ertiga had six persons and was going towards Mumbai.

"... the Swift Dzire driver was driving in the opposite direction on the Mumbai-bound stretch of the expressway so as to reach an



The car involved in accident on the Samruddhi highway in Jalna on Friday night. PPT

exit where he could switch to the Nagpur-bound stretch," said a policeman from highway police.

"The impact of the collision was so severe that the passengers were thrown out. The Ertiga climbed on the divider, leading to the death of seven," said inspector Suresh Unawane from Taluka police station, Jalna.

All four occupants in the Swift Dzire died. While Pradeep

Laxman Misal (38), Sandeep Manekrao Budhvant (30) and Vilas Sudam Kayande (28) died at the spot, the fourth passenger, Aniket Chavan, died in hospital. Budhvant was driving the car. They were all from Deulgaonraja, Umarghed, and were going to Shirdi, Unawane said.

Three in the Ertiga — Fayyaz Shakil Mansuri, Faizan Shakil Mansuri and Althmesh Mansuri, all residents of Mumbai's Malad (East) — died in the accident. Their driver, Rakesh Kumar, is undergoing treatment.

The Taluka police, Jalna, have registered a case against Budhvant under sections 304A, 279, 337 and 338 of the IPC.

According to the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC), which oversees the Samruddhi Mahamarg, preliminary investigations indicate the occupants of the Swift Dzire had consumed alcohol. The Jalna police, however, said they are yet to receive the medical report from hospital on whether the driver of the Swift Dzire was under the influence of alcohol.

Another man killed in 24 hrs over theft suspicion in Kolkata

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JULY 29

AMAN was beaten to death in the Salt Lake area near Kolkata Saturday allegedly over suspicion of mobile phone theft. Three persons have been arrested in connection with the incident that took place late Friday night, said police.

According to police, they brought Prasen Mondal to a private hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival.

In a similar incident, a 47-year-old man was allegedly beaten to death at a state-run hostel for students in Kolkata's Bowbazar area over suspicion of mobile phone theft.

Irshad Alam, a resident of Belgachia, used to work as a mechanic at an electronics shop in Chandni Chowk. On Friday, he was allegedly detained by a group of people at Udayan Hostel. Police rescued him and shifted him to a hospital where he died later. **WITH PPT INPUTS**

Police have arrested 16 people in connection with Alam's killing.

Union MoS and state BJP president Sukanta Majumdar said, "There are reports some people residing in the north Kolkata hostel were not students but unauthorised outsiders staying there for years. This issue is further complicated as some boarders of the SC/ST hostel were also implicated in the case... Security concerns arise when there is no CCTV footage available of the alleged incident."

Meanwhile, Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim said, "It is becoming dangerous if people lose their patience and resort to vigilante justice. Anyone with a complaint should approach the police."

State Congress chief Adhir Chowdhury also expressed concern and said they reflected "a loss of control over law and order by the administration". "There is no control on state law and order situation. That is why such unwanted incidents are happening," he said. **WITH PPT INPUTS**

Five Army men swept away as tank gets stuck in Ladakh river

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

FIVE ARMY personnel died early Saturday morning while de-inducting or withdrawing from a military training activity that involved crossing the Shyok River at the Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO) area of eastern Ladakh, the Indian Army said.

"An army tank got stuck in the Shyok River, near Saser Brangsa, Eastern Ladakh due to sudden increase in the water level. Rescue teams rushed to the location, however, due to high current and water levels, the rescue mission didn't succeed and the tank crew lost their lives. Indian Army regrets loss of five brave personnel while being operationally deployed in eastern Ladakh. Rescue operations are underway," the Army's 14 Corps said in a statement.

The five personnel have been identified as: Risaldar MRK Reddy, Havildar Subhan Khan, Daffadar Bhupendra Negi, Lance Daffadar Ekeidaung Teibam and Craftsman S Nagaraju. One of the bodies has been recovered in the rescue operation, Army officials said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said he was "deeply saddened" at the loss of lives of the five Army soldiers. "We will never forget the exemplary service of our gallant soldiers to the nation. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. The nation stands firm with them during this hour of grief," he wrote on X.

A troop of Russian-origin T-72 tanks was engaged in fording activity as part of the exercise. Army sources said. The training area is ahead of the river, and fording training is carried out while crossing the river on tanks. Forging is a manoeuvre used by tanks or other semi-amphibious vehicles to cross water obstacles which are usually several metres deep. At times, the platform traversing the depth gets fully submerged in water.

A troop has around three tanks, and a tank generally comprises a crew of three. There were two other soldiers present with the crew. While the leading tank managed to cross the river, at least one of the tanks drifted due to high currents and a sudden increase in water levels of the river, and eventually got stuck in the river, said the sources.

The change in the water levels of the river was sudden and unex-



pected. Despite attempts to rescue them, the five Army personnel, who managed to stay stuck to the tank's turret for several hours since Friday evening, got swept away due to the strong river currents, the sources said.

A rescue squad, comprising nine combat engineers attempted a mission in a BAUT (boat assault universal type), a type of military boat, but the operation failed due to strong river currents, the officials said. The rescue operations to retrieve the bodies are currently underway, they said.

In the area where the training was on, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has been constructing an alternate road to DBO — connecting Sasoma, Saser La and Gapshan. The existing 255-km long Durbuk-Shyok-DBO road running along the LAC is currently the only full operational road to reach DBO.

Since the Galwan Valley clashes in 2020, there has been an increased armoured deployment in strategic DBO area of eastern Ladakh. DBO lies less than 10 km west of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) at Aksai Chin. A military outpost was created in DBO in reaction to China's occupation of Aksai Chin and is at present manned by a combination of Army's Ladakh Scouts and the ITBP.

While initially only one brigade of tanks was deployed in the area, it was increased to two brigades with an increased number of battalions. Since the deployment, they have been carrying out routine training there so that the crew and tanks are familiar with the area and likely situations.

India and China have been engaged in a military standoff in eastern Ladakh since 2020.

Friction points such as Galwan Valley, north and south banks of Pangong Tso and Gogra-Hot Springs area have seen some amount of resolution since the beginning of current military standoff between India and China in 2020 with the creation of buffer zones along the LAC.

How can President avoid Manipur in speech: Cong

Imphal: The Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) condemned the exclusion of Manipur's ongoing crisis during President Droupadi Murmu's address to a joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament on June 27.

MPCC working president Kh Devabrata said Saturday that the exclusion of Manipur in her speech has left the people of the state feeling "humiliated".

"We were hoping the President in her speech would mention Manipur violence, which is the most serious crisis the country is facing as a result of narco-terrorism and the influx of armed militants, who are creat-

ing havoc by waging war against the state. How can the President avoid such an issue, considered a national issue?" said Kh Devabrata.

Devabrata also said, "We want to ask whether PM Narendra Modi will continue neglecting Manipur as the speech (of the President) was approved by the Union Cabinet. Is it a conspiracy to undermine the issue?"

Meanwhile, two more Manipur MLAs headed to New Delhi from Imphal Saturday, a day after a group of NDA MLAs landed in the national capital. The MLAs are RK Imo, son-in-law of Manipur CM N Biren Singh and Andro MLA Th Shyamkumar. **ENS**

UP to Anupriya: Quota seats not turning 'unreserved', board doesn't say 'not suitable'

Govt collected detailed reports from bodies engaged in recruitment and based on these, Department of Appointment and Personnel sent a response to Union MoS

LALMANI VERMA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

RESPONDING TO Union Minister of State (MoS) Anupriya Patel's letter urging UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to end the practice of the reservation seats meant for SC, ST and OBC candidates becoming "unreserved" in government recruitment process, the Adityanath government has sent a detailed reply to her, stat-

ing the quota posts remaining vacant after the selection process are not converted to unreserved posts and are carried forward to the next recruitment process.

Anupriya Patel is also the national president of Apna Dal (Soneylal), which is a key ally of the ruling BJP in UP.

The BJP-led NDA dispensation in UP collected detailed reports from government bodies engaged in recruitment. Based on these reports, the Depart-

ment of Appointment and Personnel sent a response to Anupriya late Friday night.

In the reply, the department's Additional Chief Secretary Dvesh Chaturvedi cited such reports received from official entities where appointments are done directly through interviews.

"The government in its response has informed the MoS about the factual situation," Chaturvedi told *The Indian Express*.

As per his letter, the UP Public

Service Commission has informed the government that the interview process uses coding on the basis of which the name, reservation, category and age of the candidates remain undisclosed and that such personal information are not made available to the interview board.

Also, the interview board does not mention "not suitable", the letter stated. Instead, it mentions the grading which is converted into marks to be noted in the marksheets.

The minimum qualifying marks for such interviews is 40% for General, EWS and OBCs, and 35% for SCs and STs. "Against the vacancies, if candidate of any cat-



Union MoS Anupriya Patel had written to UP CM Yogi Adityanath. File

egory does hold minimum qualifying marks or candidates are not available, the Commission at its own level has not the right to

convert all these unfilled vacancies into any other category. However, as per government orders, such vacancies are carried forward," reads the letter.

The UP Subordinate Services Selection Commission, that conducts the selection process for filling Group C vacancies, has also informed the government that the interview processes have already been ended in the selection process of Group C posts through new rules implemented in 2017.

It has also told the government that for the posts advertised before 2017 in which the selection has to be done through interview but it is still in process

due to certain legal complexities, there is no provision of selecting unreserved category candidates on the posts of reserved categories and that it has also not done any such selection in the past.

Chaturvedi's letter to Anupriya said the UP government's higher education department also stated it does not convert the reserved category posts to unreserved ones if any candidate is not found eligible.

In her letter dated June 27 to the CM, Anupriya said she had been contacted repeatedly by candidates belonging to OBC and SC/ST categories with the complaint that in the competitive exams held by the state involving

recruitment based solely on interviews, they were often declared "not found suitable". As a result, "inn vargon se aane wale kisi bhi abhyarthi ka chayan nahin kiya jaata (no candidate from these categories is selected)".

She also said that after this process was repeated many times, "finally, the reserved posts are declared un-reserved".

In her letter, the MoS demanded that there should be "tataakrook (immediate stop)" to this happening, so that "inn vargon se aane wale abhyarthiyon se utpann ho rahe aakrosh (the rising anger among the candidates of these categories)" can be checked.

INSTITUTE GIVES NO NOTICE TO STAFF, CITES LACK OF FUNDS

TISS dismisses 55 teachers, 60 non-teaching staff at four campuses

ARUN JANARDHANAN, SUKRITA BARUAH & PALLAVI SMART CHENNAI, GUWAHATI, MUMBAI, JUNE 29

THE TATA Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) is learnt to have dismissed, without notice, 55 faculty members and close to 60 non-teaching staff members across its four campuses on Friday. This includes half of the teaching staff and all members of the non-teaching staff at its Guwahati campus.

The dismissed staff, including some who had been working at the institute for over a decade, were all contractual employees and the reason given for their dismissal was the non-receipt of grants from the Tata Education Trust, which was funding their salaries.

Among the teaching staff, 20 of those dismissed are learnt to be

from the Mumbai campus, 15 from Hyderabad, 14 from Guwahati, and six from Tuljapur. The remaining teaching staff on TISS campuses are permanent faculty members on the University Grants Commission (UGC) payroll.

Faculty members have linked the development to changes in the UGC regulations, which, in June last year, brought TISS under the Centre's purview of appointments along with other deemed-to-be-universities receiving over 50 per cent funding from the Centre. The TISS administration has dismissed any connection between the two events.

"The institute tried its best for the release of grant from Tata Education Trust for the purpose of salary. The institute made several attempts for the release of grant through official correspondence and personal meetings with the Tata Education Trust and the decision regarding further extension of grant period has not yet been



The dismissed staff were all contractual employees. File

received from Tata Education Trust," said an email sent by the office of the officiating registrar, Anil Sutar, to those dismissed.

The email, sent on Friday evening, added that "in the event of non-receipt of approval/grant from Tata Education Trust", their services would come to an end with effect from June 30.

Head of communications at Tata Trust, Deepika Surendra, directed The Indian Express to a PR agency, which in turn asked that queries be emailed. At the time of filing the report, there was no response to the email.

"Our annual contracts actually ended in May but at the beginning of this month, we got an

email requesting us to continue with institute work till the Tata Trust funding is renewed. So there was an understanding that the contracts would be renewed. Till yesterday, most of us were working on our online admission duties and by the evening, we received this letter. I have worked here for 11 years and we had been asking for longer contracts for a while. We haven't even been given a month's notice period as stated in our contracts. We have just been given two days to fill a no-dues form to claim our June salaries," said a faculty member from TISS Guwahati.

"Yesterday was the last day of MA admissions and most of us were involved in that process despite not having formal contracts since May 31. We were also working to revamp the entire Masters programme in compliance with the New Education Policy during this period. All faculty members worked to de-

velop the new syllabus and courses were allotted for the upcoming semester. We had no inkling that they would not honour the commitment given to us," said another faculty member from the Guwahati campus.

"All these positions were created under various schools and centres run by TISS on the basis of funding from the Tata Education Trust. Most of us have been working for as many as 10-15 years, including in positions of responsibilities such as centre heads. We are unsure how the institute plans to run the courses after this arbitrary dismissal of such a large number of employees without having an alternative ready," said a faculty member from the Mumbai campus who requested anonymity.

On Saturday, the TISS Teachers Association held an urgent meeting to discuss the matter.

According to the institute administration, it has approached

the Tata Education Trust multiple times in the past six months. The administration was required to submit a proposal for the continuation of the grants, which they said they had sent. "While there is no direct communication from the Trust that they are going to discontinue the grants, there is no other communication too, making it difficult for the institute administration to sustain," said a member of the administration.

"The institution has already written to the Tata Education Trust. A committee has been formed to pursue the matter with the Trust. If the grants are received, this can be reverted. But in case of no change in situation, there is no alternative. The institute will have to find alternative ways to run the courses," said Acting Vice Chancellor Prof Manoj Tiwari.

According to a member of the administration, there are plans to propose that the same faculty members work on hourly

basis to enable teaching to continue, while also preparing a complete roster of required positions to issue advertisements for regular appointments.

"All affected people were on the payroll of the Tata Education Trust. The government refused to absorb them, and the Trust has washed its hands off since the government takeover itself was a plan on its own," said a senior TISS official in Mumbai.

"The dismissed faculty members were not just NET-passed PhD scholars but individuals selected by a highly regarded panel of the Tata Education Trust. The selection considered their social backgrounds and commitment to social sciences. Many of these professors turned down lucrative offers from private universities because of their dedication to TISS style of social science research. Unfortunately, this is an outcome of the push for uniformity," said another official.

BRIEFLY

JAMMU & KASHMIR Exchange of fire reported along LoC in Poonch

Jammu: A brief exchange of fire was reported along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, official sources said on Saturday. The firing from across the border was reported on a forward Indian post in Krishna Ghati sector late Friday night, prompting retaliation by the army troops guarding the LoC, the sources said. They said there was no casualty in the firing, which lasted for a brief period. The vigil was intensified to ensure that there is no infiltration by terrorists, the sources said, adding a search of the area is underway. PTI

TAMIL NADU 4 workers killed in explosion at firecracker unit

Virudhunagar: Four workers were killed and another person was injured on Saturday after an explosion at a firecracker manufacturing unit in Virudhunagar district of Tamil Nadu, police said. The workers were killed on the spot. The cause for the explosion and blaze is suspected to be mishandling of chemical ingredients and the raw materials used for making firecrackers, a police official said. Another person who was in the vicinity was injured, he added. Chief Minister M K Stalin, conveying his condolences to the kin of the deceased, announced a solatium of ₹3 lakh to each of the families of the four dead workers. PTI

MUMBAI CBI searches two Passport Seva Kendras

New Delhi: The CBI conducted searches at multiple locations in Mumbai and Nagpur on Saturday in connection with alleged large-scale corruption in two Passport Seva Kendra centres in Mumbai, officials familiar with the matter said. They said that the agency conducted a joint surprise check at the Passport Seva Kendra centres in which "large-scale corruption" was detected. The CBI has now registered several FIRs in connection with the case, the officials said. PTI

Amarnath pilgrimage begins, officials step up security measures in Jammu

BASHARAT MASOOD SRINAGAR, JUNE 29

THE FIRST batch of Amarnath pilgrims Saturday left for the South Kashmir shrine from the Pahalgam and Baltal base camps with security agencies keeping a closer watch on not only the Valley but also Jammu, which has seen a spurt in militant violence recently.

As in previous years, security agencies have installed a large network of CCTV cameras with real-time monitoring and deployed surveillance drones, besides tracking pilgrim movement through Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags.

While security officials said there is no specific intelligence input about any threat to the 52-day pilgrimage, they added that the enhanced electronic surveillance coupled with a multi-layer security deployment was necessitated by the recent militant attack on a pilgrim bus in Jammu's Reasi.

"There is no relevant input as such but you can't rule out anything," said a senior police officer. "The sudden spike in violence, especially in Jammu, indicates that terrorists might try some misadventure. If they can



The first batch of pilgrims treks to the cave shrine from Baltal in Ganderbal. Shuaib Masoodi

attack the pilgrim bus, they can try something similar again."

Nine people were killed in the Reasi bus attack. It was part of a series of incidents of militancy in Jammu this year. While the focus for security forces in previous years was to secure the highways in Kashmir, the Jammu violence has meant that they have to focus on covering a larger area.

"In the past, our focus was from Qazigund (the gateway to the Valley in South Kashmir) to the Pahalgam and Baltal base camps (in South and Central Kashmir, respectively). It was a total road length of around 300 km on both stretches (Qazigund to Pahalgam and Qazigund to Baltal)," said another police officer. "But now, we have to secure more than double

the road length, from Samba and Kathua in Jammu to Baltal and Pahalgam in the Valley."

Officials also said that security agencies have barred individual or isolated pilgrim movement in the Valley or along the Jammu-Srinagar highway.

The administration has also announced cut-off timings for pilgrim movement.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE YATRA

52 days: Duration of yatra, from June 29 to August 19

5 lakh: pilgrims expected to visit Himalayan cave shrine

250: CAPF companies deployed in Valley, besides Police and Army

Surveillance measures: Drones, CCTV network with real-time monitoring, RFID tags

Security lens widens: Officials look to secure route from Samba and Kathua in Jammu to Baltal and Pahalgam in Valley

Curbs on pilgrim movement: No individual movement in Valley or on Jammu-Srinagar highway. Cut-off timings for travel

Goa writes to Centre, seeks DGP transfer after report over razing home

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA PANAJI, JUNE 29

GOA CHIEF Secretary Puneet Kumar Goel has written to the Ministry of Home Affairs, recommending transfer of state DGP Jaspal Singh, a day after a purported report was submitted to the state government claiming that Singh "pressured" his subordinates at Anjuna police station to allow razing a house in North Goa's Assagao, The Indian Express has learnt.

"The state government has written to the Centre recommending the DGP's transfer," said an official. The report, purportedly written by a policeman from Anjuna police station was submitted to Goel, claiming that the DGP was "continuously pressuring" the police officer to allow the demolition of a house in Assagao and warned of "consequences" if the work didn't begin in 10 minutes. Singh has denied the allegations, calling them "baseless, invented and preposterous".

The police had registered an FIR in the case based on a complaint by Prinsha Agarwadekar who, with her husband, claims to be "owners-in-possession" of the house since 2001. She claimed that her landlord had "fraudulently" entered into a sale

with one of the suspects, a Mumbai-based woman, who has been booked. In her complaint, Agarwadekar claimed she and her husband were in their house on June 22 when 15 people barged in, claiming they had orders to knock it down. So far, eight have been arrested.

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant had directed Goel to conduct an inquiry into the allegations, following which three police officers at Anjuna police station were suspended. On Thursday, Inspector Prashal Dessai, Sub-Inspector Sanket Pokhare and Sub-Inspector Nitin Naik, all officers at the police station, were suspended.

The purported report quoted the DGP as saying that the Mumbai-based woman was the owner of the property and that there was "no need to take action into the complaint". The purported report stated that on the day of the incident, one of the police officers received a call from the DGP asking him "why the work of demolition" had been stopped. It claimed that the DGP said that any person obstructing the demolition should be "lifted from the spot and brought to the police station".

The Opposition has demanded a high-level inquiry into the matter.

CJI listening, Mamata calls for judiciary free of 'political bias'



CM Mamata Banerjee with CJI D Y Chandrachud in Kolkata.

ATRI MITRA KOLKATA, JUNE 29

WEST BENGAL Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday called for an "absolutely pure and honest" judiciary, which is "free of political biases".

Speaking at the inauguration of the East Zone-II Regional Conference of National Judicial Academy in Kolkata, which was attended by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court T S Sivagnanam, the chief minister said: "I want to apologise to mention this. It is not my intention to humiliate... anyone. But my kind submission is please see to it that there is no political bias in the judiciary. Judiciary must

be pure, absolutely pure, secret and honest. Let people worship it." The judiciary is the supreme authority for delivering justice, Banerjee said. "It is like a mandir, masjid, gurudwara and girja (church). The judiciary is of the people, by the people and for the people... and the last frontier for getting justice and upholding constitutional rights," she said.

Earlier, the CM had criticised the Calcutta HC order cancelling all appointments made through a 2016 teacher recruitment test. She had alleged that BJP leaders were influencing a section of the judiciary. "I will not name any judge, but I am talking about the verdict. If you had pointed out the mistakes and directed us to correct them, we could have easily done that," she had said.

Don't equate judges with Gods, says CJI

ATRI MITRA KOLKATA, JUNE 29

Stating that the role of judges is to serve people, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud Saturday said it was dangerous to equate judges with gods.

Delivering the keynote address at the East Zone-II Regional Conference of National Judicial Academy in Kolkata, the CJI said: "Too very often, we are addressed as Honour or as Lordship or as Ladyship. There is a very grave danger when people say that the court is a temple of justice. There is a grave danger that we perceive ourselves as the deities in those temples."

"I would rather recast the role of the judge as a server of the people. And when you regard yourselves as people who are there to serve others, then you bring in the notion of compassion, of empathy," he added.

The CJI also said that that artificial intelligence (AI) can be used to categorise cases. "We are experimenting with AI in the Supreme Court... this enables us to manage the litigation better," he said.



RAIN BATTERS HARIDWAR: Cars parked on the Sukhi riverbed in Uttarakhand's Haridwar were washed away on Saturday after heavy rain. PTI

Downpour in north, IMD warns of heavy rain for next 5 days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

TORRENTIAL RAINS lashed several parts of north India on Saturday with the IMD predicting heavy to very heavy rain over the next four to five days.

The number of people killed in rain-related incidents in Delhi rose to 11 after bodies of three labourers were pulled from the rubble of a wall that collapsed at a construction site in the Vasant Vihar area in New Delhi amid heavy rain on Friday.

For the next seven days, Delhi will experience moderate to heavy rain, and an 'orange alert' has been issued for the next three days, the IMD said.

In Himachal Pradesh, an 'orange' alert was issued for heavy downpour and thunderstorms in the state from June 30 to July 2, the meteorological centre here said.

Three roads in Kangra, Kullu and Solan districts were closed for traffic as rain lashed parts of

the state on Saturday.

In Uttarakhand, heavy rain lashed Haridwar this afternoon and several cars were washed away after flooding in the Sukhi river here. Rainwater gushed into homes and left major roads in the pilgrimage town waterlogged. As the rainfed Sukhi river is generally dry, people park their cars on the dry riverbed. When the river got flooded all of a sudden, the cars got swept away in the water. The weather office has warned of heavy rainfall in several parts of Rajasthan during the next few days even as monsoon rain continues unabated in the state.

Light to moderate rainfall was recorded in some places while a few others recorded heavy rainfall in the last 24 hours, it said.

According to the IMD, isolated heavy rainfall is expected in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan from June 29 to July 3.



The collapsed canopy at Rajkot airport. The structure broke when workers were draining rainwater from it. PTI

Rajkot airport canopy collapses after rain

GOPAL KATESHIYA RAJKOT, JUNE 29

LESS THAN a year after Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Rajkot International Airport (RIA) in Gujarat, a section of its roof canopy in the passenger pickup and drop area collapsed following heavy rainfall Saturday. No one was injured in the incident and airport operations were not affected, officials said.

"Water had accumulated in the canopy due to heavy rainfall. During maintenance work to drain the water, it broke... following an inquiry, a detailed report will be shared with the Airports Authority of India soon. The incident has not affected operations," said RIA Director Diganta Borah. PM Modi had inaugurated the Rajkot airport on July 27, 2023; he had landed at the new airport and inspected the

terminal building before flying to the old airport located in Rajkot city.

The incident came a day after a section of the roof of Terminal 1 of New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport collapsed amid heavy rain on Friday, killing a taxi driver and injuring eight people.

A similar incident took place at Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur airport when a part of a fabric canopy collapsed on Thursday due to accumulation of water amid heavy rainfall and crushed a car parked below. No one was injured in the incident. PM Modi had virtually inaugurated the ₹450-crore terminal building on March 10. Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu on Friday said that an investigation in the matter is underway, and Rs 20 lakh compensation has been announced for the kin of the deceased.

After hooch deaths, TN govt amends Act: Up to life term for bootleggers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA CHENNAI, JUNE 29

DAYS AFTER the Kallakurichi hooch tragedy in the state that claimed over 60 lives, the Tamil Nadu government on Saturday amended a prohibition act to substantially enhance the punishment, which included life imprisonment for bootleggers in

case of fatalities following consumption of spurious liquor.

The state amended the Tamil Nadu Prohibition Act, 1937 to enhance the punishment term and quantum of fine for offences like manufacture, possession and selling of illicit liquor that endangers lives. The Tamil Nadu Prohibition (Amendment) Act, 2024, which shall come into force on such date as notified by the government,

aims to completely eradicate the menace of illicit liquor from the state. The amendment substantially enhances the term of imprisonment and quantum of fine for various offences under sections 4, 5, 6, 7 and 11 of the Act.

Accordingly, a maximum punishment of 10 years Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) and a penalty of up to ₹5 lakh has been proposed in the amendment.

In case of death due to consumption of illicit liquor, then the punishment for bootleggers will be ₹1 for life with a fine not less than ₹10 lakh, it said.

The Kallakurichi hooch tragedy that happened about a fortnight ago, had left about 63 people dead, including women and a transgender. The ruling DMK faced flak over the issue from its rival and main opposition

party, the AIADMK and the BJP, which have been demanding a CBI probe into the matter. The AIADMK members, earlier this week, were suspended from the rest of the session of the Assembly that concluded today, for allegedly trying to create ruckus over the issue in the House.

On Saturday, Congress Legislature party leader K Selvaipanthagai, supporting the

government bill, suggested having a check and balance in the system, especially constituting a select committee instead of vesting all powers with the police.

PMK's G K Mani sought the government to fix the onus on the police or particular official for hooch tragedy. The Bill introduced by Prohibition Minister S Muthusamy was later passed by the House.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, BALVENDR SINGH S/O SANTOKH SINGH R/O H.N.-305G, VILLAGE MAMERA ELLENABD SIRSA HARYANA-125102, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BALWINDER.

0040736082-5

I, Pradyumn S/O Tarun Chowdhary R/O E-58, Sector-40, Noida, Distt. Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P.-201301, have changed my name from PRADHYUMN NARBAR to PRADHYUMN for all future purposes.

0070910444-1

I, Olina Katoli Shohé W/o. Sitanshu Vohra R/o. H.No - 154, Pocket - 5, Mayur Vihar PH - 1, DDA Flats Mayur Vihar, Delhi have changed my name to Olina Shohé Vohra

0040736018-1

I, Meenu Palwal W/o Ravi Palwal R/O 557, Ground Floor, Lane No.9, Shakti Khand-4, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad have changed my name to MEEAKSHI PALWAL for all future purposes.

0070910410-1

I, Kirti Kurich W/o Ajay Kurich R/o 75/2A Radhey Puri Extn. No 2 Street No. 6 Krishna Nagar Delhi-110051, (Adhar CardNo.802601136418) have changed my name Millee Arora to Kirtikurichh for all future purposes.

0040736060-1

I, GAGANJIT KAUR ANAND W/o Shri Arbind Singh Anand, R/O A-28, Neeti Bagh, Gulmohar Park, New Delhi-110049, have changed my name to GAGANJIT KAUR for all purposes.

0040736021-1

I, Ex-No- 9103009H, LNK Abdul Jabbar Wani, S/O-Gulam Ahmad Wani, R/O- Ahimsharif, Tehsil/ District-Bandipora. In my service records name and D o B of my children's has been wrongly mentioned as Tabish Akhter (D o B - 22-08-2003) instead of Tabish Jabbar (D o B - 03-03-2005) and Son as Furqan Ahmad Wani (D o B-01-01-2008) instead of Furkan Ahmad wani (D o B - 17-02-2009. It needs corrections. Objection be filled to concerned authorities .

0020477786-1

I, D, VIJAYA W/o Raja Ramaswamy, R/O A-6, Tower-4, Type-4, INA Market, Kidwai Nagar East, Delhi-110023 have changed my name to DESIKAN VIJAYA for all purposes.

0040736021-2

I, Ashwini Bhaskar Barge W/O-15732798Y, NK-Barge Bhaskar Datta, S/O- Datta R/O-Dongargaon, Tehsil-Mukhed, District- Nanded (Maharashtra). In my husband's service records my name has been wrongly mentioned as Pardkar Ashwini Kerba instead of Ashwani Bhaskar Barge. It needs correction, Objections be filled to concerned authorities.

0020477787-1

I, Anuradha Aggarwal W/o Pramank Aggarwal R/O 62, Naveen Park, Ghazipur Extn. Sahibabad, Sahyabad U.P. have changed my name to Anuradha Aggarwal for all future purposes.

0070910412-1

I Vinod Bansal, S/O-Satpal Bansal, R/O-A-20, 3rd Floor, Parsanth Vihar, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Vinod Kumar Bansal for all purposes.

0040736037-1

I Thombare Satish Balu R/O Sangli, Maharashtra-41416 have changed my minor son's name from Suryansh to Suryansh Satish Thombare for all future purposes.

0070910385-1

I Thombare Satish Balu R/O Sangli, Maharashtra-41416 have changed my minor Daughter name from Sanidhya to Sanidhya Satish Thombare for all future purposes.

0070910386-1

I Shradha D/o Abhay Kumar R/O D1/862, Gali no-24, Harsh Vihar mandoli. Have changed my name to Shradhda for all purposes.

0070910406-1

I Devender Parkash S/O Hari Singh R/O New Adarsh Nagar, Bharawas Road, Rewari, Rewari, Haryana-123401, have changed my name to Devender Prakash

0070910382-1

I Daulat Kumar Chauhan R/O 20 Surya Shani Dev Enclave Sadopur, Dadri, G B Nagar-203207, have changed my minor son's name from DUSHYANT KUMAR to DUSHYANT KUMAR CHAUHAN

0070910411-1

I, AMAR PAL S/O RAM DAYAL SINGH, R/O.155, GRD Floor, Block-23, (CPWD) Lodhi Colony, Delhi-110003, have changed my name to AMAR PAL SINGH.

0040736092-5

I, Sudhir Goel, S/O-Shri Tilakraj, R/O-D-138, Prashant Vihar, Rohini, Sector-14, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Sudhir Kumar Goel.

0040736089-2

I, EX No- 9097073F, NK Abdul Qayoom Khan, S/O- Sonawlah Khan, R/O-Maidanpora, Tehsil- Lalpora, District Kupwara-193223. In my service records name of my son has been wrongly mentioned as Mohd Sahil instead of Mohammad Sohail Khan as in education Certificates. It needs correction. Objections be filled to concerned authorities.

0020477789-1

I, Davendra Kumar Surana, S/O-Kishan Lal Surana, R/O-B-19, Vivek Vihar, Phase-2, Delhi-110095, have changed my name to Devendra Kumar Surana.

0040736089-3

I, Chander Prakash S/O Late Mohan Lal Arora, R/O-House-No.98, Chander-Lok, Pitampura, Saraswati Vihar, Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Chander Prakash Arora

0040736023-2

I, Varsha W/o Kailash Chander R/o G-19, Kirti-Nagar, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Varsha Arora.

0040736092-4

I, Gunjan Grover, D/O Ramesh Kumar Grover, R/O Wz-674 Rishi Nagar, Shakur Basti, Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Gunjan

0070910379-1

I, R RAJA S/O Ananthkrishnapuram Srinivasan Ramaswamy, R/O A-6, Tower-4, Type-4, INA Market, Kidwai Nagar East, Delhi-110023 have changed my name to RAJA RAMASWAMY for all purposes.

0040736021-3

I, Ritika Dhingra, W/O Vijay Dhingra, R/O H-22, Spaze Privy, Sector 72, Sohna Road, Gurgaon 122101 have changed my name to Ritika Parnami.

0070910164-2

I, Shikh Haseena W/o Sheikh Bukhari R/o RZG-299A, Gali-6, Rajnagar-2, Palam Colony-2, Delhi have changed my name to Sheikh Haseena for all purposes.

0070910414-1

I, Subhash Garg S/O Sita Ram R/o 296/13 Jamuna Dass Gali -1, Ladwa, Kurukshetra, Haryana-136132, have changed my name from Subhash Garg to Subhash Chand Garg permanently

0040736010-1

I, Sushama Kumari W/o. Jai Kishan R/o. H.No. 11/21, Gohana Road, Ram Nagar, Rohtak, Haryana have changed my name to Sushma Kumari

0040736018-2

I, Sushil Kumar Singh S/O Dinesh Kumar R/o 71/B, Taimoor Nagar, New Friends Colony, Delhi-110025 have changed my son's name from Lavith Kumar Singh to Luv Kumar Singh permanently

0040735936-1

I, Swayam S/o Laxman R/o 8/2, Block-41, Singh Sabha Road, Shakti Nagar, Delhi-110007, have changed my name to Swayam Kohli.

0040736070-5

I, Vijay Singh, resident of at Village & PO - Karhi Kala, PS- Unchehra, District- Satna, State-Madhya Pradesh, PIN - 485447, have changed my name from Darjiyaya Bai Singh to Dariyari Singh, vide Affidavit dated 12/06/2024 before Notary Public, Srinagar, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

0020477788-1

I, Wazir Chand Sawhney alias Bhagat Wazir Chand Sawhney S/O, Hari Chand Sawhney R/O, A-325, Meera-Bag, Sunder-Vihar, West-Delhi, Delhi-110087, have changed my name to Bhagat Wazir Chand Sawhney.

0040736092-3

I, I, ku, Anita Singh, w/o-Anil Kumar Rana, R/O-Flat.no-2004, bhok i.s.P.S.Residency, Vaibhav khand indra puram, Ghaziabad-201001, have changed my name to Neetu Singh, for all purpose.

0040736076-6

I, ARCHAN AVERMA W/O SUJEET KUMAR, H.NO-32/B-10, ORIENTAL ENCLAVE, PATPARGANJ, DELHI-110092, have changed my name to ARCHANA all future purposes

0040736065-5

I, Shradha D/o Abhay Kumar R/O D1/862, Gali no-24, Harsh Vihar mandoli. Have changed my name to Shradhda for all purposes.

0070910382-1

I Devender Parkash S/O Hari Singh R/O New Adarsh Nagar, Bharawas Road, Rewari, Rewari, Haryana-123401, have changed my name to Devender Prakash

0070910382-1

I Aabida Bano, W/o-Rafique R/o-Village Jalika (202), Gulaita, Mewat Nuh, Haryana-122508, have changed my name to Aabida for future.

0040736082-10

I, Annu Kumari Agarwal W/o Nikhil Aggarwal, R/o A3/01, Rajsthal Apartment, Pitampura, Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Annu Aggarwal.

0040736070-2

I, Arvind Kumar, S/o-late Shri Virender Pal, R/o-E-16/1, 3rd-floor, Flat.no-6, Gali.no-13, Mandawali Baal Vikas-school, Mandawali Fazzalpur-Laxmi-Nagar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Arvind Kumar Baghel, for all purposes.

0040736070-4

I, SRISHTI DEWAN, D/O-WISHVANAND DEWAN, R/O-102, 1ST-FLOOR, PASCHIM-VIHAR EXTENSION, NEW DELHI-110063, Declare that Name-Of My-Father Has Been Wrongly-Written As W N DEWAN In My-10th Class.The Actual-Name of My-Father IS-WISHVANAND DEWAN.

0040736076-7

I, SUJEET KUMAR VERMA, S/O GULAB SINGH H.NO.-32/B-10, ORIENTAL ENCLAVE, PATPARGANJ, DELHI-110092 have changed my name to SUJEET KUMAR, for all, future purposes.

0040736065-4

I, SURENDER S/O RAM NARAIN R/O 780A/28, BHARAT COLONY, ROHTAK, HARYANA-124001, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SURENDER KUMAR.

0040736092-1

I, Sanjay, S/O KM Malhotra, R/O-B-248, Lok Vihar, Pitam Pura, Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Sanjay Malhotra for all purposes.

0040736089-1

I, Sarika Srivastava W/o Amit Ranjan R/o H.No.504, Tower-B1, Divyansh-Floor, Sec-16C, Greater Noida West (U.P) have changed my name to Sarika Ranjan Asthana for all future purposes.

0040736017-1

I, TEGBHADUR SINGH, S/O-RAM PAL SINGH, H.NO-82 YAMAHA-VIHAR, BAROLA SECTOR-49, GAUTAM BUDDHA-NAGAR, UTTAR- PRADESH-120301, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO TEGBAHADUR SINGH, FOR ALL PURPOSES.

0040736070-8

I, UMA W/O RAJENDER R/O 243-L, MODEL TOWN, SONIPAT, HARYANA-131001, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO UMA WADHWA FOR ALL PURPOSES.

0040736070-9

I, Ziaul Bashir Qazi S/o Abdul Hakim R/o D-2C, Rana Pratap Road, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-110033 have changed my name to Ziaul Bashir

0040736032-1

I, Rozy W/o Laxman R/o B/2, Block-41, Singh Sabha Road, Shakti Nagar, Delhi-110007, have changed my name to Rozy Kohli.

0040736070-6

I, Mohammd Rana, S/O-Zubair Alam Ansari, R/O-81/10392/A6, Top-Floor, Kh.No.415/154, West Gorakh Park, Near Nala, Shahdara Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Mohd Anas Ansari, for future.

0040736082-6

I, POOJA JAIN, W/O ANSHUL JAIN, residing at UNIT-NO.61 TOWER-17 LOTUS BOULEVARD NOIDA GAUTAMBUDH-NAGAR UP-201304, have changed my name to PUJA JAIN permanently.

0040736065-3

I, Pratishtha Narula Mehra, w/o Nanku Mehra, R/O-A-1/148, 1st-Floor, JanakPuri, Delhi, have changed the name of my minor son Daksh Rathor alias Kapish Rathore aged-13 years and shall hereafter be known as Daksh Rathor.

0040736070-10

I, RAMESH JAIN S/O PADAMSEN JAIN R/O-F-7/15, UGF, KRISHNA NAGAR, DELHI-110015, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAMESH CHAND JAIN.

0040736082-1

I, Rajeev Kumar, S/o Narain Das, R/o S-673A, Gali, No.7, School-Block Shakarpur, Delhi-110092, have changed the name of my minor son Daksh Rathor alias Kapish Rathore aged-13 years and shall hereafter be known as Daksh Rathor.

0040736076-3

I, Rita Rani Dhingra W/o Jagdish Dhingra R/O A-2/130, Rajouri Garden, Delhi-110027, have changed my name to Rita Dhingra.

0040736065-7

I, Ritika Priyadarshini D/o Ashok Kumar Sorout, R/O Near Ialdas Mandir, Sondhad, Dist Palwal (Haryana)-121106, Changed my Name to Ritika Priyadarshini.

0040736076-3

I, Riya Verma, W/o-Deepanshu Arora, R/O-50, First Floor, Hakikat Nagar, GTB Nagar Delhi-110009, have changed my name to Riya Arora, for future.

0040736082-8

I, SONU GOYAL S/O RAMBHAJ GOEL R/O-2489/190, GANESH PURA, TRI NAGAR, ONKAR NAGAR, DELHI-110035, have changed my name to SONU GOEL.

0040736082-2

I, Kritika Sorout, D/o Ashok Kumar Sorout, R/O near-Ialdas Mandir, Sundhad, PO-Sondhad, District Palwal, (Haryana)-121106, have Changed My name to Kritika P Sorout.

0040736076-2

I, Kewal Krishan Mahajan/Kewal Krishan, S/o late Sh. Durga Dass R/o-270, GF-C, 3, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058, Statute that my actual-name is Kewal Krishan Mahajan. This is for all record, and future purpose. Kewal Krishan Mahajan/Kewal Krishan is one and same person.

0040736023-1

I, Kavita Devi W/o Naveen Tomer R/O 1077, Sohna Road, Sector-47, Gurgaon (Haryana), have changed my name to Kavita Tomar.

0040736076-1

I, Haroon Khan, S/o Sh. Ikramuddin, R/o L-1/1777, Gali No.5, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi-110080, have changed my name from Haroon Khan to Harun Khan for all future purposes.

0040736076-5

It is for general information that I, Qazi Ayan Ali, S/o-Jamal Ali, R/O-B-996, Gali, No.-20, Subhash Mohalla, North-East-Delhi-110053, declare that name of mine my-father and mother has been wrongly-written as Qazi Ayaan Ahmed, Mohd Jamal Ali and Qazi Rubina in my 10th-class certificate. The actual-name of mine my-father and mother are Qazi Ayan Ali, Jamal Ali and Gullo Parveen respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

0040736065-8

I, hitherto known as Rajkumar alias Rajkumar Agarwal, S/o Triloki Nath Aggarwal, R/O-B-315A, Ground Floor, Sector-26, Noida, Gautam Buddha-Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rajkumar Aggarwal.

0040736092-9

I, Yashna Mendiratta W/o Dheeraj Mehndiratta R/O-MP-13 Maurya, Enclave Pitampura Delhi-110034, have changed my minor Daughter Udi Mehndiratta to Udi Mendiratta Permanently.

0040736076-7

I, Vishesh Kumar Raghav, S/O-Shri Lhore Singh Raghav, R/O-PLOT No.469, Flat No.9, Sector-4, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, U.P.-2010 10, have changed my Name to Vishesh Kumar for all purposes.

0040736089-4

I, Veena Kumari Maroo, W/O Pankaj Jakhetia R/O House.no-852 Sector-8 Faridabad-121006 Have changed my name to CHARU JAKHETIA Permanently.

0040736070-1

I, VINAY KUMAR JAIN, S/O SURESH CHAND JAIN, residing, 108-D CENTRAL AVENUS DEFENCE-SERVICE ENCLAVE SAINIK FARM-DEVLI, DELHI-110080, have changed my name to VINAY JAIN permanently.

0040736065-6

I, UMESH S/O SAT NARAYAN R/O, H.NO.-A-171, FIRST FLOOR, SHYAM COLONY, BUDH VIHAR, PHASE -2, DELHI-110086, have changed my name to UMESH KUMAR BANSAL.

0040736082-4

I, Mohammad Bilal, S/O-Zubair Alam Ansari, R/O-1/10392/A6, Top-Floor, Kh.No.415/154, West Gorakh Park, Near Nala, Shahdara Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Mohd Bilal Ansari, for future.

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I, Ritika Priyadarshini D/o Ashok Kumar Sorout, R/O Near Ialdas Mandir, Sondhad, Dist Palwal (Haryana)-121106, Changed my Name to Ritika Priyadarshini.

0040736076-3

I, Riya Verma, W/o-Deepanshu Arora, R/O-50, First Floor, Hakikat Nagar, GTB Nagar Delhi-110009, have changed my name to Riya Arora, for future.

0040736082-8

I, SONU GOYAL S/O RAMBHAJ GOEL R/O-2489/190, GANESH PURA, TRI NAGAR, ONKAR NAGAR, DELHI-110035, have changed my name to SONU GOEL.

0040736082-2

I, Kritika Sorout, D/o Ashok Kumar Sorout, R/O near-Ialdas Mandir, Sundhad, PO-Sondhad, District Palwal, (Haryana)-121106, have Changed My name to Kritika P Sorout.

0040736076-2

I, Kewal Krishan Mahajan/Kewal Krishan, S/o late Sh. Durga Dass R/o-270, GF-C, 3, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058, Statute that my actual-name is Kewal Krishan Mahajan. This is for all record, and future purpose. Kewal Krishan Mahajan/Kewal Krishan is one and same person.

0040736023-1

I, Kavita Devi W/o Naveen Tomer R/O 1077, Sohna Road, Sector-47, Gurgaon (Haryana), have changed my name to Kavita Tomar.

0040736076-1

I, Haroon Khan, S/o Sh. Ikramuddin, R/o L-1/1777, Gali No.5, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi-110080, have changed my name from Haroon Khan to Harun Khan for all future purposes.

0070910408-1

I have lost the possession certificate and allotment letter related to my flat no. B-10, 3, Shramdeep Sahakari Awas Samiti Sector-62, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Mamraj Singh S/o late Mayaram R/o KM-24A, Kavi Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P.

0070910407-1

I, SURINDER BALA D/O VISHNU DUTY BHASIN HAVE LOST MY PROPERTY ORIGINAL DEMAND LETTER, HANDING OVER POSSESSION LETTER OF PROPERTY LIG FLAT, NO.6/G-5/40, GROUND-FLOOR SECTOR-15, ROHINI DELHI-110085, FINDER CONTACT-9818301178 0040736082-11

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0020477679-1



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0050

Across THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

Website: pchidambaram.in
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What has changed? Apparently nothing

THE BJP-led government under the Hon'ble Mr Narendra Modi was sworn in on June 9, 2024. It did not have a happy start. Mr Modi had to share the head table with the leaders of the TDP and JD(U) and allot portfolios to them and other allies. In the election of the Speaker he had to go through the motions of consultation. Both were unusual experiences for Mr Modi in his 22 years as head of government.

SEVERAL SETBACKS

There have been several setbacks in the 20 days since the government was formed. The National Testing Agency imploded and the raging fire consumed the aspirations of lakhs of students. There was a horrific train accident in Jalpaiguri. Terrorist attacks continued in Jammu & Kashmir. The prices of tomato, potato and onion increased, year on year, by 39, 41 and 43 per cent, respectively. The Sensex and Nifty soared to historic highs while the dollar-rupee exchange rate plunged to a historic low. Toll tax on highways was raised by 15 per cent. In an apparent censure, Mr Mohan Bhagwat, the *sarsangchalak* of RSS, admonished those who displayed "arrogance"; the BJP's leadership squirmed but decided that discretion was the better part of valour. Local mutinies broke out in several state units of the BJP.

In the first session of Parliament, save the election of the Speaker and the President's Address, there was no substantive business. But even the routine business had its share of controversies. By con-

vention, the member of Parliament who has been elected most times to the Lok Sabha would be nominated the *pro-tem* Speaker to preside over taking the oath by elected members. That person, undisputedly, was Mr K Suresh (Congress-Kerala) who has been elected for the 8th time, though with a break. However, the government nominated Mr B Mahtab (BJP-Odisha) for the office although he has been elected only 7 times (six times on the BJD ticket and, after he crossed over, the 7th time on the BJP ticket).

Why did the BJP kick up the avoidable controversy? Possible answers are: BJP wanted to signal that the results of the LS elections have not dented its supreme leader's way of doing things, namely, 'it's my way or highway'. Another answer could be that the controversy-courting Mr K. Rijiju, the new minister of parliamentary affairs, wanted to signal his arrival. The most plausible answer is that the nomination was a reward for Mr Mahtab's defection from the BJD to the BJP and to encourage more MPs to defect to the BJP.

STALE ASSURANCES

Although the election of the Speaker concluded on a sour note, the rest of the session need not have been affected. But the Hon'ble Speaker added more bitterness when he moved a resolution from the Chair excoriating the Congress for the imposition of Emergency 49 years ago (yes, 49 years, not 50)! Next, Parliament may 'teach' other history lessons by condemning Pakistan for the invasion of Kashmir in

1947, China for the war in 1962 and the United States for sending an aircraft carrier to intimidate India in 1971. The resolution was an unwarranted provocation.

The President's Address to the joint session of both Houses was an opportunity to restore civility after false starts, but the opportunity was missed. The speech could have recognized the changed composition of the Lok Sabha, the fact that the leading party (BJP) was short of a majority by 32 seats, that the prime minister was the *primus inter pares* of a *coalition* government and that, after 10 years, there would be a Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. Disappointingly, the President's Address made no reference to the altered circumstances.

The speech was a litany of claims made by the BJP before and during the elections. The claims were rebuffed by the vast majority of the people. The new government is not a BJP government but a *coalition* government. The BJP has refused to acknowledge the bittersweet fact and the President echoed that view. The word '*coalition*', did not occur in the speech. Other words that were conspicuous by their absence included '*consensus*', '*inflation*', and '*parliamentary committee*'. There were references to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes but all others — especially the minority communities — were clubbed in the catch-all phrase 'social and religious groups'. There was no reference to the tragedy of Manipur. As a small mercy there was no reference to 'Agniveer' or 'Uniform Civil Code'. Finally,

India is no longer a *Vishwa Guru*, and is content to be a *Vishwa Bandhu*!

MORE OF THE SAMENESS

Apparently, in the view of the BJP, nothing has changed, not even the mood of the people.

Hence, it is the same Cabinet, the same ministers, the key ministers hold the same portfolios, the same Speaker, the same principal secretary to the prime minister, the same National Security Adviser, the same chief of the Intelligence Bureau, the same government law officers, and many others remaining in the same positions. Besides, I am told that the social media is full of the same paid trolls who are semi-literate, diversionary, proficient in the science of scatology, and obvious losers. That, I am afraid, is conclusive proof that nothing has changed despite the verdict of the people!

In the run-up to the Budget, the top concerns of the people remain (1) unemployment and (2) inflation. According to the CSDS' post-poll survey (*The Hindu* dated June 25, 2024), '*price rise/inflation*' and '*growing unemployment*' got 29 per cent and 27 per cent as the most 'disliked' work of the BJP government. On addressing the top two concerns, the formation of the Cabinet and the President's Address let down the people. Will the Budget for 2024-25, due in July, awaken the Modi government? Parliamentary etiquette requires that we keep our fingers crossed.

inside TRACK

COOMI KAPOOR



EMERGENCY RERUNS

LAST WEEK, the anniversary of Indira Gandhi's draconian Emergency was commemorated in Parliament. But the outpouring of condemnation from the ruling party seemed more about scoring political points than genuine concern over the real issues involved. Having written a book on Emergency, I am often asked about my first-hand experiences. I always find it ironic that many of those who commemorate June 26 and regret the horrors of suppression of the media and fundamental rights, seem oblivious that a dark cloud still hangs over freedom of expression and liberty even today. For instance, in the last Lok Sabha session, parliamentary correspondents were never so ruthlessly restricted, except during the Emergency. The difference today is in the style of operation, but not the basic effect.

All rulers want to control the narrative. Indira, despite her liberal upbringing, used sledgehammer tactics, announcing upfront that she was suspending fundamental rights and introducing censorship. Subsequent governments have resorted to less in-your-face methods. Strong-arming individuals and groups funding the media, unjustly applying laws concerning terrorism and corruption, raiding media offices and arresting scribes without following due process, denying visas to foreign journalists, using the CBI and the ED to settle scores are some of the more draconian methods of media regulation of late. But control of news emanation can even be effected by simply shutting out legitimate sources of information. Scribes who don't toe the line are cut out from the loop of newsgathering, like background briefings, interviews, and entry to Parliament and government offices. The media starts introspecting less than it should on official claims. How, for instance, did so many scribes get it wrong in the recent poll results?

STRONG GOVTS VS WEAK ONES

Politicians tend to lump the media into two categories: those who are with them and those who are against them. Unhappily, the middle ground of objectivity in journalism has practically disappeared. I personally believe the thumb rule generally is that the stronger the government, the more

overbearing it is, both in state or at the Centre. The media is far more free and fearless under unstable governments. PM Modi and Indira were similar in terms of mass appeal, unilateralism and a deep suspicion of newsgatherers. Some may question my theory, citing the example of Rajiv Gandhi who, despite his huge majority, was unable to suppress the Bofors exposé that led to the fall of his government. But that may have been less due to lack of intent than because his media controllers were ham-handed and some newspapers remained defiant. Also, a hostile President Zail Singh was in the Rashtrapati Bhavan for much of his tenure. I recall first-hand back in 1989, when a shell-shocked Vajpayat Singhania was ordered by a Rajiv aide to shut down his newly started newspaper, *Indian Post*, where I worked then, because a damaging lead story had appeared against one of the PM's close friends. Earlier, then editor-in-chief Vinod Mehta was provided a list of people who were not to be written about negatively, which he shared sheepishly with me.

Past governments far more tolerant of a free press included those of Morarji Desai and Deve Gowda. But perhaps their *laissez-faire* attitude was more because they lacked a clear majority and many from within their own ranks were plotting their downfall.

CAN'T CONTROL THE NARRATIVE

Despite total censorship, with a few courageous exceptions like *The Indian Express*, Indira lost the 1977 elections because news of her regime's excesses spread throughout the country by word of mouth. In 2024, the age of social media, aspersions were cast on '*god*' and '*pappu*' scribes in traditional media, but the most effective counter to government propaganda may have come from irreverent YouTubers and influencers, curiously some of whom started out as travel writers and body-builders. The new entrants attracted millions of viewers. And thousands of aspiring writers dashed off disrespectful WhatsApp campaign messages that went viral. The Modi 3.0 regime should learn from Emergency — that you cannot control the narrative, particularly in the 21st century. Devising new IT laws to monitor the Internet and earning international opprobrium is definitely not the answer, but Rabindranath Tagore's powerful poem, 'Where the mind is without fear' is the soundest advice. If PM Modi were to restrain some of his overzealous media advisers (unofficial censors), it would go a long way in restoring goodwill and confidence in his image as a benevolent, strong ruler. Indira learnt this lesson the hard way, with her ignominious Emergency defeat.

History HEADLINE

CHAKSHUROY



DELHI CHURNS EVERY FIVE YEARS

The general election results decide the political fate of incumbent Members of Parliament (MPs), and there are new public representatives and their ideas for the country. Besides its broader impact on Parliament and governance, this churning has a personal dimension. Electoral loss means vacating the official housing that outgoing MPs lived in during their time in Parliament.

For MPs who were ministers or had longer tenures in the national legislatures, it means looking back at politics and their time in bungalows with spacious gardens, open verandahs and high ceilings. The incoming parliamentarians then start jostling for the most coveted housing in the heart of Delhi, these Lutyens bungalows.

The term 'Lutyens bungalow' is a misnomer. Contrary to popular belief, architect Edwin Lutyens did not design them. In the newly established capital city of Delhi, architects like Robert Russell, W H Nicholls, C G Blomfield, Walter Sykes George and Herbert Baker designed the residences of the colonial government officials. The allocation of these residences was straightforward — the higher an individual's position in the British government, the larger and closer their accommodation to the Viceroy's House. For instance, Teen Murti Bhawan, the residence of the Commander in Chief of the armed forces, was the largest and the closest.

During this time, the question of official housing for parliamentarians was not a significant issue. The Central Legislative Assembly, which started functioning in 1921, had 145 members and met for less than three months, splitting its time between Delhi and Shimla. Some assembly members also had official responsibilities in the colonial government and were entitled to government accommodation. The government also constructed smaller bungalows closer to Parliament House to house the other elected members. Some members, like Muhammad Ali Jinnah, had the means to buy their bungalows. The first elected President (as the Speaker was known then) of the central assembly, Vithalbai Patel, was allocated the bungalow on 20 Akbar Road as his official residence. And nearly 100 years later, it continues to be the official residence of the Speaker of Lok Sabha.

How Lutyens Delhi became a home for MPs



A multi-storey apartment for MPs in New Delhi. Praveen Khanna

In 1946, the legislature secretariat faced the problem of accommodating almost 300 Constituent Assembly members tasked with drafting the Constitution of India. The end of the Second World War provided an opportunity in this regard. A barracks complex close to Parliament House, which had housed American armed forces personnel was now vacant and available. The assembly secretariat requisitioned these barracks, and the building was renamed Constitution House.

The secretariat ensured each unit had telephones and members had access to European and Indian food. Most Constituent Assembly members stayed in these barracks during their time in Delhi. Members also had the option to stay in private hotels like the Imperial and Maidens, where room charges were higher than those of Constitution House. The barracks and its dining hall became the forum for discussion on constitutional matters, and active members like Hari Vishnu Kamath and Shibban Lal Saxena exchanged notes on their amendments with their colleagues. By the end of 1946, a club for members called the Constitution Club started near these barracks and became another venue for these discussions.

However, not all Constituent Assembly members resided in the Constitution House. Rajendra Prasad lived on Queen Victoria Road (now named after him),

Jawaharlal Nehru's official residence during his time in the Constituent Assembly was on York Road (now Motilal Nehru Road), Vallabhbhai Patel on Aurangzeb Road (now APJ Abdul Kalam Road), etc. Post-independence, the government constructed houses closer to the Parliament House complex to cater to 400 plus MPs.

In 1952, Parliament also established procedures for allocating houses to MPs and set up a House committee to deal with these matters. The government also divided the different types of bungalows in Delhi into pools, such as those for ministers and officials, Lok Sabha, and Rajya Sabha members. The two houses' committees now decided on the housing allocation for their members. They use criteria like the number of tenures in Parliament, previous positions like ministers in state or union, etc., to decide whether an MP gets a large bungalow or a smaller residence. The presiding officers of the two Houses can also intervene to get an MP an accommodation higher than their entitlement. Contrary to public opinion, most MPs now live in single and multi-storey apartment complexes closer to Parliament.

Over the years, MPs have used and abused their housing privileges. Using official accommodation also means that members had to vacate the premises when they left public office. In the beginning, members were quite prompt in doing so. When B R Ambedkar resigned as law minister, he quickly vacated his bungalow. However, with time, former members and ministers started occupying these premises for long periods after leaving office and paying minimal or no rent.

The charm of the Lutyens bungalow has enabled the government to dangle it as a carrot to political leaders to win their support. Over the years, public angst against housing privileges has grown, prompting Tavleen Singh to comment, "...more privileged Members of Parliament live at taxpayers' expense in a style to which they should never have been allowed to grow accustomed. No modern democratic country pays through its nose to accommodate its officials and elected representatives in homes that only billionaires can afford".

The writer looks at issues through a legislative lens and works at PRS Legislative Research

Fifth COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

Twitter: @tavleen_singh



Criticism we cannot ignore

LAST WEEK India faced censure that we need to take seriously. The US Secretary of State while releasing the Report on International Religious Freedom for 2023 said that some of the things that were happening to people belonging to minority religions in India were disturbing. Anthony Blinken's words as reported in this newspaper were, "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." Usually, when India faces criticism from foreigners the reaction from high officials in the Government of India is to show fake disdain and fake bravado.

This is not a confident response from the 'mother of democracy'. None of the things that Mr. Blinken said are untrue. There are anti-conversion laws in ten out of twenty-eight states, says the report. And we do not need anyone to remind us of hate speeches that have called for genocide and bulldozers that somehow only find Muslim houses to demolish. Bulldozer justice worries me personally to such a degree that I have often written against it in this column. Every time the general reaction in the digital public square has been to berate me for not realising that the demolished homes and mosques were built illegally on government land. They ignore the horrible truth that bulldozers only arrive after there has been violence of some kind.

Demonising those of other faiths, especially Muslims, has become so routine in the past ten years that incidents of yet another 'cattle smuggler' being lynched now barely make the news. The tragic reality is that the killers are almost never brought to justice and always remain faceless. Now that there is a powerful opposition in Parliament, we must hope that this changes as do a few other practices that have given India a bad name.

Dissidents in the past decade have been regularly arrested under laws that were made for terrorists. It is beyond belief that Umar Khalid, a student leader, has spent four years in jail without being brought to trial. If the government has a good case against him, he should be tried in a court of law instead of being allowed to rot in a jail cell indefinitely. The laws under which dissidents like him are arrested are such that make it impossible to get bail, so officials get away with lying that it is for the courts to decide who and when someone should be given bail. Judges have no choice but to deny bail if the law has no provision for it.

The latest dissident against whom charges have been brought is Arundhati Roy. This is a lady I have known for many years, and I have never agreed with her political views. But she is not a terrorist. She is a rebel and often a rebel for any old cause. She is given to making reckless speeches. So, she once said that in her view the Indian Army had been more brutal with the Indian people than the Pakistani army had with that country's civilian population. Arundhati had clearly not heard of Baluchistan or noticed that the Pakistani Army executed an elected prime minister. It was not this speech that she could soon be put on trial for but a speech she made more than a decade ago in which she said that Kashmir had never been an integral part of India. She was obviously referring to 1947 and not Kashmir's ancient Hindu past. In any case it was a stupid remark. But this does not make her a terrorist.

One of the greatest achievements of India is that we have managed somehow to remain a liberal democracy amid countries that have been always ruled by military and Marxist dictators. In the old days when relations were better between India and Pakistan, I remember that every time I returned from the Islamist republic next door, I had this sense of suddenly being able to breathe again. Repression and religion so filled the Pakistani air (and still do) that it was difficult to do the most ordinary things. We need to be grateful that this has not happened in India yet, but I can report that I was part of a panel discussion on Kashmir at the Kasauli Literary Festival some years ago and a BJP busy-body reported me to the local police station along with a fellow panelist. He disagreed with our views.

These are not things that can or should happen in a democracy. Especially not when as the Prime Minister said last week, we must resolve to never allow another Emergency of the kind that Indira Gandhi imposed. It made me happy to hear him say this. But I feel the need to remind him that the only time, other than then, that I have seen foreign correspondents kicked out of India has been in the past ten years. The two French journalists who have recently been expelled had not just lived here for years but were married to Indian citizens. So, their families face being torn apart. When journalists, writers and dissidents are expelled, it damages India's democratic credentials.

Now that the Prime Minister has won a third term and there is a solid opposition block in the Lok Sabha, it is my fervent hope that we can go back to those days when India was confident enough to not be afraid of foreign correspondents or Indian dissidents.

On the LOOSE

LEHER KALA

leherkala@gmail.com



THE PRACTICE of polygamy (more than two people consensually in a marriage) has made a tumultuous debut on *Bigg Boss OTT 3*, where popular YouTuber Armaan Malik is a contestant, along with his 'wives' Payal Malik and Kritika Malik. "Behind every successful man there is a woman," quipped the host Anil Kapoor; "And sometimes there are two!" The women, onscreen at least, seemed to be on easy, good terms, and the nonplussed husband laughed alongside them. Of course, that they've decided to out their lifestyle on *Bigg Boss* suggests a canny plan of creating a stir; we know that on reality TV nothing succeeds like shock value. Sure enough, outraged reactions on Twitter

When three isn't a crowd

at this "gross, illegal and filthy" trio, blamed the producers for lack of ideas that lead them to focus on a "trashy" *ménage à trois* for entertainment.

It's a thought that because many of the users tend to be older; the Twitter landscape no longer accurately reflects the headspace of India's urban 20 to 35-year-olds. Young singles, it turns out, are less enamoured of old fashioned commitment, which is increasingly seen as not a one-size-fits-all model. A new generation is aware they needn't follow the same drill, the beaten path of school, college, job and marriage, the bane of Indian existence so far. Online dating has opened up a range of possibilities that subtly challenge traditional, Indian middle class ambitions of owning a flat, a car and having two children.

A quick glance through Tinder India's

website reveals that in 2023 they introduced a new feature called "Relationship Types" to allow users to be specific about what they're looking for. Choices include 'monogamy', 'ethical non-monogamy', 'polyamory' and 'open to exploring'. A significantly large proportion, 41% of users, are open to or are seeking non-monogamous relationships and multiple romantic connections, simultaneously. So, the data suggests the Malik family arrangement isn't quite that unusual; there are plenty of people out there disregarding conventional goals and redefining their romantic futures based on their individual needs.

Is this a cultural shift unfolding (in no small part due to cynicism about the myth of marital bliss), or are the youth today enjoying themselves so much they prefer to prolong this extended, responsibility-free

adolescence? Most likely, it's just a phase to notch up some life experience that will come in handy at the point of negotiating the complications within real relationships. The upside of financial security is having the freedom to choose, the only danger being dating apps are like a buffet at a five-star coffee shop: you want to try everything because it all looks sumptuous but nothing tastes especially good. The paradox of choice is that as options increase so does the difficulty of knowing what's best. But old habits die hard. In time, the majority will get around to marrying. At least, there is much more acceptance for the idea that there is no universally correct way to live. Pressures of timelines and labels have lost relevance. The Tinder tagline, 'It starts with a swipe', has captured imaginations and postponed the breathless hurtling towards the altar

that Indians have always favoured.

Interestingly, stories about couples in unconventional arrangements are an enduring theme on OTT platforms currently: in *Couple to Throuple* (Jio Cinema) single people become the third wheel to couples after a messy and long-winded process. In *Couples Therapy*, intense conversations between real couples in crisis features a polyamorous trio whose home lives are exactly as difficult as anybody in a fraught marriage. It makes one wonder whether the unforgettable stories of romantic love, dreamy sagas like *Doctor Zhivago* and *Gone with the Wind* are somewhat dated; a thing of the past, to be consigned to history. Alas, the novel of love will have to change dramatically to reflect the postmodern world of no-strings-attached and total freedom.

The writer is director, Hutkay Films

13 ECONOMY

CRUDE WATCH OIL PRICES EASE

New York: Oil prices fell on Friday as investors weighed weak US fuel demand and took some money off the table at quarter-end, while key inflation data for May boosted the chances the Federal Reserve will start to cut interest rates this year. **REUTERS**

IGI'S TERMINAL 1: DELHI AIRPORT'S TRANSITION FROM AAI TO GMR MANAGEMENT

From leaks to canopy collapse: History of roof incidents plagues Delhi's Terminal 1

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

FRIDAY'S CANOPY collapse incident at Terminal 1 of Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), while being the biggest accident involving the terminal's roof, was not the first. In 2009, the then brand new Terminal 1D had a couple of roof-related incidents, including one where some roof panels were blown away by strong winds and the terminal was consequently flooded due to leaking roof panels. While not leading to casualties or injuries, the incidents had disrupted airport operations.

While the revamped and integrated Terminal 1 was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier this year, the portion where the roof collapsed was part of the original Terminal 1D built 15 years ago, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu said Friday. Naidu's clarification came amid sharp attacks from some Opposition leaders, who alleged that an incomplete terminal was hurriedly inaugurated by Modi in view of the general election.

The Prime Minister had inaugurated the revamped Terminal 1 on March 10.

Terminal 1D was the first new terminal built after the GMR group-led Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL)



Damaged roof of the Indira Gandhi International Airport's Terminal- 1, in New Delhi on Saturday. Operations have been suspended following a roof collapse incident on Friday. **PTI**

took over the Delhi airport from government-owned Airports Authority of India (AAI). The terminal was designed by architect Hafeez Contractor, while Delhi-based BL Kashyap & Sons was the construction contractor for the project. According to sources in the know, Tata Consulting Engineers served as the project management and quality control consultant for the project, while Tata BlueScope Steel was the roofing contractor. All of them had assisted a DIAL committee that was set up to look into the likely causes of the inci-

dents back then. Queries mailed to BL Kashyap & Sons, Tata Consulting Engineers, and Tata BlueScope Steel on Friday's incident and their involvement in the construction of the terminal remained unanswered till press time. Queries sent to DIAL on the structural maintenance of Terminal 1 did not elicit a response.

There was some speculation that engineering major Larsen & Toubro was also involved in the Terminal 1D project when it was first constructed but the company denied any involvement. It

did, however, undertake the Terminal 1 expansion project in 2019 and was commissioned in March this year.

"We want to clarify that L&T did not construct the collapsed structure, nor are we responsible for its maintenance. The structure in question was built by another company in 2009...The collapse occurred approximately 110 metres from the extended portion of T1...We confirm that the collapse has had no impact on this extended portion," L&T said in a statement.

Following Friday's incident, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has ordered a probe by aviation safety regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and structural engineers from IIT Delhi have been asked to assess the incident. MoCA said that further examination will be decided based on the initial findings of the IIT Delhi team.

DIAL has also been directed to undertake a thorough inspection, which will be supervised by the DGCA. Additionally, the AAI has been directed to issue a circular to all airports in the country "to conduct a thorough inspection of structural strength".

It is worth noting that on Thursday, a portion of the canopy at the new terminal building of Jabalpur airport in Madhya Pradesh caved in and fell on a car after heavy rainfall. No one was injured in that incident. In Friday morning's incident at the Delhi airport, however, one person was killed and few others were injured.

Then on Saturday, in the third such incident in three days, portion of a canopy just outside the terminal building at Rajkot airport partially collapsed amid heavy rainfall. No injuries were reported in the incident. Heavy rainfall also led to significant leakage from the roof of the newly-inaugurated Terminal 3 at the Lucknow airport.

ANIL SASI
TAIPEI CITY, JUNE 29

FOR A first time visitor, the paradoxes rain thick and fast in Taiwan's moonson-hit capital. While Taipei 101 - briefly the world's tallest building - towers over the city, symbolising Taipei City's tryst with prosperity, the streets leading up to the iconic building continue to be lined with coin-operated public payphone booths that are still fully functional. One may need less than an hour commute to the south of Taiwan's capital to get to the Hsinchu, the world's most important hub for manufacturing the world's most advanced chips that sits at the heart of every new technology ranging from cellphones to spaceships, but shops in downtown Taipei continue to ooze old-world charm - dutifully listing out landline numbers even the occasional fax number on shopfront hoardings.

Alongside the legion of huge, bright, and neon-lighted malls and high-street stores, Taipei's city centre is also home to an almost countless number of old family-run shops proudly selling wares such as incense sticks, decorative lanterns, calligraphy brushes and custom tailored Western-style suits. And while lawmakers in the country may be famously linked to spontaneous brawls on the floor of the legislature, the ordinary Taipei residents display an air of serene calm as they go about their daily business in this otherwise crowded, fast-paced metropolis that is now at the heart of a potential flashpoint between the world's two biggest powers. Other than occasional signboards marking 'Air Defence Shelters' that spring up on the streets of downtown Taipei, there is little evidence of this edginess anywhere in the city.

Simmering underneath, though, are signs of political tension, which occasionally vents out in the form of physical slugfest between politicians. Taiwan just got a new president in Lai Ching-te in May, and there is growing concern and apprehension on how the relationship evolves between the newly-elected Lai administration and Taiwan's highest legislative body - the Legislative Yuan. The executive-legislative dynamic and sharply differing views over lurking reform aiming to tweak the powers of the legislature were at the heart of the latest series of brawls among lawmakers on May 17. For President Lai, the problem is that he is faced with a legislature where his party, the Democratic Progressive Party, lacks a majority, unlike the situation faced by his predecessors Tsai Ing-wen and Ma Ying-jeou. The



Photos by Anil Sasi

other two major parties - the Kuomintang (KMT) and the Taiwan People's Party - have now joined forces, seeking more oversight powers for the Legislative Yuan over the executive.

What has muddied waters further is a recent visit to China by the KMT, the principal opposition party that traces its origin to the Revive China Society founded by Sun Yat-sen in 1894 in Honolulu and which, under Chiang Kai-shek, was the sole ruling party in mainland China from 1928 to 1949 that had to eventually retreat to Taiwan in December 1949 following its defeat in the Chinese Civil War by the Communists. The latest China visit by the KMT lawmakers led by legislative caucus whip Fu Kun-chi in late April drew concerns from several quarters, as a senior executive with a state-owned Taiwanese media organisation said. The worries stem from Beijing's political manoeuvring to control Taiwan's mainstream political discourse and the visit is being seen as a possible trap by the Chinese Communist Party to undermine Taiwan's sovereignty.

Much of these concerns of strategic control of Taiwan come down to a tiny device not much bigger than a fingernail. The silicon semiconductor chip, which sits at the heart of every new technology, is a device that Taiwan has an absolute mastery over. Its biggest manufacturer, the Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC), is the ninth-most valuable business in the world and has a virtual stranglehold over the fabrication of high-end chips that even major American tech majors such as Intel, Nvidia or Apple depend on. In a sector where Moore's Law is a constant reality - the idea that the number of transistors on microchips would double every couple of years - the speed of execution is as important as manufacturing precision. TSMC, alongside other Taiwanese companies such as ASE Tech, UMC, Mediatek and PSMC, seem to have perfected this.

It is precisely this aspect of Taiwan's chip superstardom that makes the country almost irreplaceable - and, thereby, particularly vulnerable. China, which is already being cut off progressively from the most advanced chips, is threatening to take control of the island, triggering concerns over yet another flashpoint in a world where two wars are already raging. Chips manufacturing is incidentally the industry most affected by the progressive split between the US and China, and Taiwan is at the centre of this developing cold war.

There is a paradox here too. While the semiconductor industry has been called Taiwan's 'silicon shield', giving the world a big reason to defend the island if China were to invade, parts of the shield are now moving abroad.

To meet the pressure to be physically closer to its customers, TSMC is now building new fabs in the US, Japan and Germany. Its existing plants are mostly in Taiwan, with some in eastern China. TSMC has, however, just opened its first fab in the Japanese city of Kumamoto and is set to open two \$40 billion facilities in Phoenix, Arizona in the coming years to make advanced chips. It has also committed to investing nearly \$4 billion to build a fab in Dresden, Germany, the company's first in Europe.

The chip giant's move to diversify its production beyond Taiwan has triggered fresh concern among a section of the locals, who worry that the move could eventually diminish the island's importance as a global semiconductor powerhouse. "There was American pressure to move chip manufacturing back to the US. But it could have repercussions for Taiwan's security," a Taipei-based executive, who was earlier part of the KMT, said. This disquiet could only get shriller as China ratchets up its war games.

(The writer's trip to Taiwan was organised by the Taipei-based Foundation for Excellent Journalism Award)

BRIEFLY

World Bank nod to extra \$1.5 bn for India operation

New Delhi: The World Bank has approved \$1.5 billion in financing for a second operation to help India accelerate the development of low-carbon energy, it said in a statement on Saturday. The Second Low-Carbon Energy Programmatic Development Policy Operation - the second in a series of two operations similar in size - will support reforms to boost the production of green hydrogen and electrolyzers, critical technology needed for green hydrogen production. The operation also supports reforms to boost renewable energy penetration, for instance, by incentivizing battery energy storage solutions and amending the Indian Electricity Grid Code to improve renewable energy integration into the grid. **ENS**

IBM, Gujarat govt to build AI cluster at GIFT City

New Delhi: IBM and the Gujarat government on Saturday inked a pact to establish and promote an AI cluster leveraging IBM's 'watsonx' to drive innovation and collaboration among financial institutions in Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) City. Under this, financial institutions will gain access to AI Sandbox, assistance in providing proof of concept, AI literacy programmes and digital assistant solutions, according to a release. **PTI**

'Ola Electric building solid-state batteries'

Bengaluru: Ola Electric is working on building solid-state batteries, the chief executive officer of the electric scooter maker said on Saturday. "We are in very early stages of our experimentation on solid state batteries," said CEO Bhavish Aggarwal. Solid-state batteries are expected to offer improved safety, a longer lifespan and faster charging compared with conventional lithium-ion batteries that use flammable liquid electrolytes. But mass adoption has proved difficult due to constraints in raw material availability, intricate manufacturing processes and the resultant high costs. **REUTERS**

Growth in private corporate sector sales moderates to 4.7% in FY24: RBI

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JUNE 29

ANNUAL SALES growth rate of listed private non-financial companies slowed to 4.7 per cent during the financial year 2023-24 (FY24) from 19.8 per cent in FY23, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) data showed on Saturday.

"Annual sales growth of listed private non-financial companies moderated to 4.7 per cent during 2023-24 from the high of 19.8 per cent in 2022-23, which included the post-pandemic recovery period," the data on performance of private corporate business sector during 2023-24 showed. The analysis is based on the financial results of 3,281 listed non-government non-financial companies.

Among major sectors, sales of manufacturing, information technology (IT) and non-IT serv-



ices companies rose by 3.5 per cent, 5.5 per cent and 7.9 per cent, respectively, during FY24 as compared with 18 per cent, 19.4 per cent and 33.5 per cent, respectively, in the previous year.

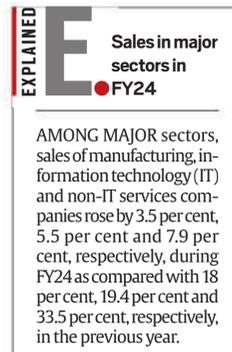
In FY24, sales of automobiles, electrical machinery and pharmaceuticals industries remained buoyant but the manufacturing sector's overall performance was mainly dragged by chemicals

and petroleum industries.

The data showed that during FY24, the listed private non-financial companies recorded double-digit annual growth in profits (18 per cent in FY24 vs (-) 0.2 per cent in FY23). Operating profit growth accelerated for manufacturing companies (12.4 per cent in FY24 vs (-) 1.2 per cent in FY23) and non-IT services companies (27.9 per cent in FY24 vs 15.1 per cent in FY23), while it moderated for IT companies (5.6 per cent in FY24 vs 8.8 per cent in FY23).

In the fiscal ended March 31, 2024, operating profit margin improved across major sectors; it stood at 14.4 per cent, 22.4 per cent and 22.7 per cent for manufacturing, non-IT services and IT companies, respectively.

On the expenditure front, easing input cost pressures and low sales growth kept the overall expenses on raw materials by



manufacturing companies in FY24 unchanged from the fiscal year 2023, the data showed. Staff costs rose by 10.8 per cent, 6.6 per cent and 15.6 per cent (y-o-y) during FY24 for manufacturing, IT and non-IT services companies, respectively.

FSIB recommends CS Setty for SBI Chairman's post

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JUNE 29

THE FINANCIAL Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB), the body which selects the chairman and managing directors of public sector banks and insurance companies, has recommended the name of Challa Sreenivasulu Setty as the next Chairman of State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest bank.

FSIB interfaced with the candidates on June 29 for the position of Chairman in SBI, FSIB said. "Keeping in view their performance in the interface, their overall experience and the extant parameters, the Bureau recommends Setty for the position of Chairman in SBI," it said.

SBI's current Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara is retiring on August 28, when he turns 63. He was given an extension in October 2023. Khara was appointed the chairman of SBI on October 7, 2020.

Setty, currently a Managing Director, is looking after international banking, global markets and technology of the bank. He was appointed as MD in October 2020.

Three managing directors (MDs) of the SBI -- C.S. Setty,



Ashwini Kumar Tewari and Vinay M. Tonse - appeared for the Chairman's interview on Saturday. Alok Kumar Choudhary, senior most MD of SBI, is retiring on June 30. Unlike other PSU banks, SBI Chairman is selected from one of its MDs.

The final decision on the appointment of the SBI Chairman will be made by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by the Prime Minister.

FSIB was constituted in 2022 by Central Government for the purpose of recommending persons for appointment as whole-time directors and non-executive chairpersons on the boards of financial services institutions and for advising on certain other matters relating to personnel management in these institutions. Bhanu Pratap Sharma is the Chairman of the bureau.

Ravi Agrawal appointed CDBT chief

New Delhi: Ravi Agrawal, a 1988-batch IRS officer, has been appointed as the new chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the administrative body for the Income Tax Department.

He takes over from Nitin Gupta, a 1986-batch Indian Revenue Service officer, whose

extended tenure as the chairman ends on Sunday, June 30.

Gupta was appointed as the CDBT chief in June, 2022. He was scheduled to retire last September but was given a nine-month extension till June. The new CDBT chief is currently working as member (administra-

tion) in the board. An order issued by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet said Agrawal will head the CDBT till June, 2025. Agrawal is scheduled to retire in September but his appointment order said he will continue on "reappointment on contract basis" till June 30, 2025. **PTI**

UPNEDA Uttar Pradesh New & Renewable Energy Development Agency, (UPNEDA) (Deptt. Of Additional Sources of Energy, Govt. of U.P.)
VibhutiKhand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow. Tel: 0522-2720779, 2720829. Mobile No.-9415609014
Website: www.upneda.org.in E-Mail: ho_rps@rediffmail.com

Notice Inviting Tender

UPNEDA invites Online Bids from Prospective Bidders through e-tender Portal for Supply, installation, testing and commissioning with 5 years comprehensive warranty and maintenance of solar High Mast Lighting System at various districts/sites in the State of Uttar Pradesh as per specification given in Scope of Work of Bid Document.

S.No	Name of Work	Tentative Quantity (Nos)	Estimated Cost including GST (Rs)	EMD Amount (Rs.)
1	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning with 5 years comprehensive warranty and maintenance of solar High Mast Lighting System at various districts /sites in the State of Uttar Pradesh as per specification given in Scope of Work of Bid Document. Bid No.: 01/UPNEDA/ Solar High Mast Lighting System /2024-25	2500 Nos The above said quantity is dependent on availability of Fund.	Rs 29.78 Crores	Rs 59,00,000/-

The work completion time for all the above work is 4 (four) month from the date of issuance of work order. The Bid document is available at e-tender Portal from 28.06.2024 Interested bidders may view, download the Bid document, seek clarification and submit their Bid through e-tender Portal (https://etender.up.nic.in) upto the date and time mentioned in the table below:

(a)	Availability of tender document on e-tender Portal	From : 28.06.2024
(b)	Bid submission end date & Time	On: 19.07.2024 upto 6:00 pm
(c)	Pre-Bid Meeting	On: 04.07.2024 at 12:30pm
(d)	Online technical Bid Opening date & time	On: 19.07.2024 at 6:30 pm
(e)	Financial Bid Opening date & time (Only of technically qualified bidders)	Shall be intimated later
(f)	Venue of opening of technical & financial Bids	UPNEDA Head Office, VibhutiKhand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010

Director, Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency, (UPNEDA) reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of Director UPNEDA will be final and binding.

Director, UPNEDA

हमारा प्रश्न ऊर्जा संरक्षण

KMML The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd (A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam 691583
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 217 E-Mail: md@kmml.com

TENDER NOTICE

For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal: https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

No	TENDER ID	ITEMS
1	2024_KMML_676055_1	For the supply of Roaster Discharge Grating Assembly
2	2024_KMML_676589_1	For the supply of 60,000 Nos of Polythene Product Bags
3	2024_KMML_677949_1	For Supply of Electronic Pressure Transmitter

Chavara 29.06.2024 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

KOCHI METRO RAIL LIMITED (A joint venture company of Govt. of India & Govt. of Kerala)
4th Floor, JLN Stadium Metro Station, Kalloor, Ernakulam-682017
Ph: 0484-2846700

E-TENDER

- CANAL ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (COD) FROM EDACHIRA TO BRAHMAMPURAM BRIDGE AS PART OF PHASE II OF KOCHI METRO RAIL PROJECT
E tender Id : KMRL_PROC_TENDER_2023-24/342
Bid submission End Date: 01-07-2024
- WIDENING OF THE EXISTING ROAD FROM KUNNAMPURAM TO NGO QUARTERS JUNCTION TO FACILITATE NMIT AND TO IMPROVE THE TRAFFIC OPERATION
E tender Id : KMRL_PROC_TENDER_2023-24/347
Bid submission End Date: 20-07-2024
- APPOINTMENT OF AGENCY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PMIS CUM DMS SYSTEM FOR KMRL
E tender Id : KMRL_PROC_TENDER_2024-24/025
Bid submission End Date: 05-07-2024
- LICENSING OF OPTICAL FIBERS IN KMRL NETWORK
E tender Id : kmrl_proc_auction_2024-25/002
Bid submission End Date: 02-07-2024
- [LETTING OUT OF OFFICE/COMMERCIAL SPACE AT VARIOUS METRO STATION ON LICENSE BASIS THROUGH E TENDER]
- E-TENDER CUM AUCTION NOTICE FOR LICENSING OF SEMI NAMING RIGHTS FOR VARIOUS METRO STATION

Tender documents can be downloaded from www.etenders.kerala.gov.in / www.kochimetro.org
Further corrigendum & addendum will be published only on website

BRIDGE

Bridge hand information including Dealer: South Vulnerable: East/West, NORTH and SOUTH hands with cards and suits.

It's hands like this one that make you realize that the opponents' bidding isn't always pain. On this hand their bidding gives you a big clue about the winning line.

One thing is reasonably clear. You are not sure where the queen of clubs is. While not 100% sure about the jack of spades, you have a really strong insight that it is with West.

There is a line that will take advantage of what you learned in the bidding. Play the ace and king of clubs and ruff a club in dummy.

West leads the ace of spades and returns spade. If you still think West has the jack of spades you will finesse this lead to your ten, and that works.

The West hand: S-AJ765H-A4D-QJ104C-109 The East hand: S-92H-K3D-9765C-Q8653

Making 4H because of a good line, but more so by being informed about the spade suit by West's bidding.

Dealer: South Vulnerable: None

Bridge hand information including Dealer: South Vulnerable: None, NORTH and SOUTH hands with cards and suits.

West led the queen of spades. South saw that 6NT might be cold and he went about trying to make it. He took the spade lead in dummy and led the queen of diamonds for a winning diamond finesse. How good is your thinking?

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2484

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

- QUICK CLUES ACROSS: 1. Chafed, caused friction (6); 4. Collapses and sinks (8); 10. Russian musical instrument (9); 11. Pace (5); 12. Dubious (4); 13. Evaluating or assessing; pricing (10); 15. Ennoble (7); 16. Former Zimbabwe President Robert (6); 19. Current (6); 21. Neck scarf (7); 23. Not moving (10); 25. Chamber (4); 27. Likeness (5); 28. Lead ... have a miserable existence? (1,4,4); 29. Weathered (8); 30. Uses scales? (6); DOWN: 1. Erects or constructs again? (8); 2. Corrida (9); 3. Model Macpherson (4); 5. Word of transposed letters (7); 6. Detonating or causing to begin or start (7,3); 7. Lethargic person (alternate spelling) (5); 8. Freeload (6); 9. Merely (6); 14. Cause, induce or suggest? (4,4,2); 17. Roaring like a bull (9); 18. Brass instruments (8); 20. Composite photograph (7); 21. Large vegetable (6); 22. Notices or sees (6); 24. Brightly coloured lizard (5); 26. Understanding response (1,3); CRYPTIC CLUES ACROSS: 1. Fish on black item of jewellery (6); 4. Doing some cleaning or depending on others? (8); 10. You'll find what's soft below (4,5); 11. Alert wild animal (5); 12. Quite a catch or just a drag? (4); 13. One gets mother second computer, brings a lump to the throat (5,5); 15. Able to dance a spell (7); 16. What spoils this is not in the backstreet (6); 19. Thatch brought back by old man who's not one of us (6); 21. Standing in clover, a well-fed cow (7); DOWN: 1. Grace takes care of church dormitory inspection (3,5); 3. Australia's northern neighbour minted coin (3,6); 3. For an old musician it's the complete end (4); 5. Act before parliament opens with bad temper (3-4); 6. Accounts for Barry's heart being captured by the people born in the place (10); 7. Point out it's geared for road-cruising (2,3); 8. Information about the venerable and rich (6); 9. Dispatch from the underground to excite ridicule? (4-2); 14. It takes the father and mother of a mind to produce it (5-5); 17. Denied allegation that have been getting across (9); SOLUTIONS TO 2483: QUICK CLUES Across: 1. Moleity, 4. Embitter, 9. Kistna, 10. Corning to, 12. Stranded, 13. Muesli, 15. Omit, 16. Tumultuous, 19. Phenomenal, 20. Asea, 23. Smarts, 25. Vicinity, 27. Examine, 28. Disarm, 29. Soldered, 30. Unreal; Down: 1. Makes do, 2. In service, 3. Tenant, 5. Moot, 6. Iniquity, 7. Tapes, 8. Rookies, 11. Deduced, 14. Rumania, 17. Obstinate, 18. Voltaire, 19. Pushers, 21. Abyssmal, 22. Vision, 24. Avail, 26. Fete; CRYPTIC CLUES Across: 1. Second, 4. Monastic, 9. Mobcap, 10. Recliner, 12. Lanced, 13. Siesta, 15. Zest, 16. Sketchbook, 19. Quid pro quo, 20. Form, 23. Aussie, 25. Flawless, 27. Ill-timed, 28. Scoots, 29. Yet again, 30. Pruned; Down: 1. Shmaltz, 2. Cabanossi, 3. Nearer, 5. Oven, 6. Allright, 7. Tents, 8. Car park, 11. Desktop, 14. Stouly, 17. On one's own, 18. Spilling, 19. Quality, 21. Misused, 22. Twicer, 24. Split, 26. Yeti

If its your Birthday

Sunday June 30 There is much to be said for spending a little time with people you know well, and, better still, can trust. A minor planetary pattern favours positive emotional commitments.

Monday July 1 An emotional misunderstanding lies in the past, although some amusing consequences might still be on the way. If it's your turn to say sorry.

Tuesday July 2 You can afford to keep your intentions and feelings to yourself for a little while longer. The question, though, is whether, when the moment does come, you choose the time and place.

Wednesday July 3 An enthusiastic Moon provides the perfect foil for your cautious spirit, dampening your ardour, but also enabling you to make rational decisions.

Thursday July 4 There are times when the finger of fate points at us, taking us to the centre of the stage. Today's celestial pattern indicates the immense potential.

Friday July 5 It's a fine moment to change your weekly routine. At work and at home you will soon step into a new gear, ready for a year of courage.

Saturday July 6 You are in listening mode. Pay attention very carefully indeed to everything that your closest partners, including people you work with, say to you.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) The first half of the week could be an excellent time for travel, but you are also urged to sort out any lingering legal questions. You'll become very much more insistent about asserting your rights after Wednesday.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) I hope circumstances are on your side, because home is the place to be this week, deep in the bosom of your family. Even if you travel, as you may around the end of the week, look for places that remind you of home.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) The promise of your horoscope is now being pushed forward by leaps and bounds. You might even discover that a loved one or younger relation comes up with just the idea you need to break the bank and set yourself up for life.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) If you only do one thing this week, see that it is to break with the habits of a lifetime and reform your entire approach to money, setting yourself on a prosperous course. Even love affairs may stumble unless you back your desires with suitable amounts of cash.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23) While the month emphasises work, this week's stars promote changes and you'll become steadily more concerned with personal questions. If you get accomplished early on, you'll then have very much more time to throw yourself into the social whirl.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23) You should be aware that partners might be in a difficult mood around Wednesday to Friday but, in reality, they're challenging you to change your attitudes and preconceptions. It's time for a few experiments with your lifestyle.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23) Romance seems to be inseparable from travel, so a holiday affair may be revived, or you may find that a hint of far-away places is necessary to get your juices flowing. A deeper look at your chart also points to the religious side of your life.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23) You can't afford to be depressed for longer than five minutes. You have too much to achieve to waste any time, and the roots you put down at work, in love and at home will set you off on a new cycle of experience lasting up to 18 months.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23) Probably the most useful days for achieving your romantic ends are Monday and Thursday, and, if you are so inclined, a spot of emotional blackmail may be permissible. At the end of the week, the intervention of planets aligned with your house of pleasure suggests you can let your hair down.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20) To be brief, it's a period for organised fun and games, so enjoy the atmosphere and cast your cares aside. The only problem area could be work, where the storm clouds gather after the middle of the week, with possible flashes of lightning by Friday.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) You're a perfectionist by nature, and that's why you're always trying to make the world, or at least your corner of it, a better place. Much of your energy this week will be directed towards sorting out other people's little problems, if only because there's no other way you can feel settled.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) In relationships, two things count: your need for both emotional security and physical satisfaction. Hopefully, you'll find both in the same place. The beginning of the week looks set to be bright, especially on the social front.

JUMBLER 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 clue.

Jumbled words puzzle with words like DRAEE, AALCDU, AENRR, AEUKMP and their corresponding letter grids.

SOLUTION: DRAEE, AALCDU, AENRR, AEUKMP

Difficulty Level 5s 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.

Sudoku 5607 puzzle grid with numbers 1-9.

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5606

Advertisement for Uttar Pradesh Housing and Development Authority (UPAVS) regarding tender for construction work.

Advertisement for Directorate of Tourism, Government of Bihar, regarding a tender for artists/celebrities at fairs and festivals.

Proclamation requiring the appearance of accused person Sunder @ Sagar S/o Sh. Som Singh (2) Satish S/o Sh. Som Singh and others.

Advertisement for Shivalik Army Pre-Primary School, Anarwala, Dehradun (UK), regarding a vacancy for the post of Principal.

Advertisement for Moradabad Municipal Corporation regarding a procurement tender for waste collection services.

Advertisement for North Western Railway regarding a tender for annual repair contract.

Proclamation requiring the appearance of accused person Ashok Kumar, S/o: Late Tarsem Verma, R/o: RA 1A, Brahmपुरi, Sagarpur, Delhi.



T20 WORLD CUP WINNERS

2007	India	2016	West Indies
2009	Pakistan	2021	Australia
2010	England	2022	England
2012	West Indies	2024	India
2014	Sri Lanka	India beat SA by 7 Runs	

In a lot of high-pressure games, we've been on the wrong side of it. Guys understand when the pressure is on what needs to be done, today was perfect example

ROHIT SHARMA, INDIA CAPTAIN

Finally, India's final

India's agonising 11-year wait for a global men's cricket title ends as Rohit Sharma's side beats South Africa by seven runs to lift T20 World Cup

SANDIP G
JUNE 29

BEFORE THE clouds over Kensington Oval burst into rain, emotions poured onto the ground. When Hardik Pandya, with South Africa needing 10 off two balls, dismissed Kagiso Rabada, Rohit Sharma's men couldn't hold their emotions back.

This was the moment they knew. They wouldn't care whatever happened after. Their memory would pause at this moment. It was the moment India ended its 13-year wait for a World Cup, this was the hour when they reclaimed the crown of gold they last kissed 17 years ago. And how it was won! In one of the most dramatic T20 finals of all time by a margin of mere seven runs.

Virat Kohli, the batting hero in the most important T20 game of his career, closed his eyes and looked skywards in pure bliss. Rohit Sharma pumped his fists in joy. He might have been emotionally drained but still mustered the bounce and energy to celebrate. Tears rolled down Hardik Pandya's cheeks; he was the pantomime villain in the build-up to the tournament. Even the picture of restraint, Rahul Dravid, in his last match as head coach, raised his hands. Suryakumar Yadav wrapped his palms over his face, moments after he had plucked one of the greatest catches in World Cup history.

The destinies of Sharma and MS Dhoni met finally. But it was a most nerve-shredding wait. India had to win the final several times, with South Africa refusing to accept it was Rohit's destiny to get his hands on the trophy, that it was somehow preordained. It will go down as the finest T20 World Cup final ever, the most pulsating one, the drama and pathos of the final stages dizzying and disorienting.

From start to end, the game flowed wickedly, initiative exchanging hands like the fickle weather in the tournament. But the scope for drama seemed to end when Klaasen-led fury whittled the target down to a run-a-ball 30. Sharma threw the last throw of the dice, and reintroduced Jasprit Bumrah. His typical fire-and-brimstone over leaked only four runs, and reminded South Africa that they had to get past him if they were to march towards the podium. Nerves suddenly began to jangle, fear kicked in, panic passed by.

India could feel an irresistible wave of energy, which exploded into genuine belief when Pandya had the indestructible Klaasen, on 52 off 26 balls, slashing at a wide ball and bottom-edging to Rishabh Pant. How Klaasen would regret the shot, how it would come to embody South Africa's flakiness in crunch moments. The curse drags on; Klaasen would be as much of a tragic hero as Lance Klusener.

Window of opportunity

It was the ray of hope India were looking for. Bumrah stormed in to complete his quota. The target was still within South Africa's reach — 22 off 18 balls with David Miller still around — but Bumrah seized the moment sending six thunderbolts, each could have bought a wicket on their day. Two runs and Marco Jansen's wicket, the intrigue intensified. It was a reverse-seaming dervish, slamming the upper pads and crashing onto the stumps.

Great balls keep emerging from Bumrah's stable — the away-swinging to nail Reeza Hendricks earlier could be the ball of the tournament. To describe Bumrah as the world's greatest all-format bowler is an un-



India's players celebrate after beating South Africa in the T20 World Cup final at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown. PTI

derstatement. He is one bowler in many, unpeeling his masks to his whims. He is a grandmaster in the blitz with the white ball, he sets up batsmen in the twitch of an eyelid, traps them even before they realise they have been trapped. With the new ball, he operates with the precise mastery of a surgeon, in the middle phase, he is the imposing enforcer, flexing his muscles like an angry bouncer in a pub, and at the death, he is the cold-eyed sniper.

When the batsmen negotiate Bumrah, the wiry frame of Arshdeep Singh streams into the eye-line. Everything turns upside down, the angle, pace, release, tricks, bounce, movement. He doesn't exude the smouldering fear as Bumrah does, but underestimating him is inviting self-harm. His extra degree of movement deceived Aiden Markram, whose attempt to hit on the rise was foiled. And now, he had to ensure that he conceded as few runs as possible in the 19th over. Six accurate balls, the last an inch-perfect wide yorker ensured that South Africa required a formidable 16 runs off the last over.

To describe Bumrah as the greatest all format bowler is an understatement. He is one bowler in many, unpeeling his masks to his whims.

But anything was possible with David Miller around. He almost dragged them back into the game with a meaty clump that almost soared into the sight-screen before Surya intervened. The ball was traversing in a fast and flat trajectory, but just before it crossed the rope, Surya stretched his right hand, while still running. When he realised he would lose balance, he flung the ball as high as possible, gathered his poise, leapt over the rope, returned to the field in time to calmly collect the game.

He has unfurled an array of otherworldly strokes, but it's the moment that would come to define him forever. South Africa's last lingering hope was cruelly stubbed. And one could not but empathise with them, in how close they ran India, how close they came to enter the promised land, how near they were to end their history of suffering and heartbreak. But Barbados, where they had lost their first Test upon reintegration in a similar manner, would be their shore or sorrow.

But for India, it would be relief, catharsis, even purgation.

Proteas need 30 runs from 30 balls and then...

AXAR PATEL conceded 24 runs in the 15th over. Surely it was game over? But Indian bowlers had other plans. Here are the key moments that turned the match.

ENTER JASPRIT BUMRAH: It felt like that match was firmly in South Africa's grasp and Rohit Sharma was left with no choice but to turn to his star pacer. South Africa perhaps did the right thing in playing out that over safely. David Miller and Heinrich Klaasen struggled, were edgy, and the over went for 4 runs. "What is the difficult shot for the batter? It was reverse swing, I was able to keep calm and execute," Bumrah would reveal later.

OVER 16.1: Perhaps the most important delivery Hardik Pandya has bowled in his career. There was a small break in play and on came Hardik. Klaasen would have thought this over is one to cash in. But Hardik delivered a wide slower one,



Hardik after dismissing Klaasen. PTI

the outside edge was taken, Rishabh Pant did the rest. India believe. 22 off 18.

BUMRAH AGAIN: Does Rohit hold Bumrah back for the 19th now? No, the time is here and now. He turns to his star man once more, and Bumrah delivers once more. After nearly getting Miller out first ball, Bumrah delivered a peach to beat Marco Jansen on his inside edge... boom, timber. Strangely enough,

Maharaj takes a single off the last ball of the over, just 2 off it. 20 off 12. Bumrah's done, over to the rest.

ARSHDEEP KEEPS RUNS IN CHECK: With Maharaj on strike, Arshdeep started the 19th over with two dot balls and the pressure was back on SA. A 4-run over from the pacer under pressure.

SKY'S WONDER CATCH: Hardik had 16 runs to defend... and Miller was on strike. He angled one wide to Miller, and it was a full toss. Miller powered it high into the sky, and SKY came up with a stunning piece of athleticism, running to his left from long off. A catch that will be spoken about for a long time. Hardik defended it for India, and broke down in tears. "Special for me after my six months, I haven't spoken a word, things have been unfair, but I knew there'd be a time I could shine," he'd say a few minutes later. VINAYAK MOHANARANGAN

COMETH THE HOUR, COMETH KOHLI

In final T20I game, Kohli's career achieves completeness with ultimate glory

SANDIP G
JUNE 29

THE LONG and agonising wait is finally over for Virat Kohli. He had to wait until he had reached almost the sunset of his glittering, glorious career. He had to wait until he had tasted the sting of defeat in two World Cup finals, one apiece in the two white-ball formats, two World Test Championship finals, to finally get the feeling he had craved since that beatific night in Wankhede, 13 summers ago. Finally, he was there, soaking in the golden hour.

Everything conspired to fulfil his dream. Marco Jansen gifted him three boundary balls in the first over that he obliged with a gracious smile. The double-blow next over offered the perfect situation for him. He could play the game his mind and muscle had memorised. He could afford to block; escape the clutches of stepping up the scoring rate; he could take his time. The situation warranted him to dial the vintage Kohli, the careful aggressor rather than the forced tempo-setter. A flurry of boundaries later, he settled into the tip-and-run mode that's a feature of his best knocks. For 38 balls, the idea of a four did not exist. Then, in the 18th over, he unshackled with a lightning six. The feet twinkled, the wrists danced, and in the next nine balls before

he got out, Kohli smeared 26 runs.

The difference between his previous outings this campaign and Sunday's was the balance of his body and head, the alignment of structure, the bat now an extension of his body. Till the final, he had lost his shape in pursuit of semi-agricultural heaves and hacks, un-Kohli like. But the situation played out perfectly to make his dream come true.

This was in many ways Kohli's World Cup, yet it seemed it would not be his.

It is a cruel paradox that his most memorable World Cup would also be his least prolific. He was India's heartbeat in the 2016 edition, chiselling matches with his batsmanship, shaping games with his willow, the player of the tournament for the second time on the spin. In the 2022 edition, he carved his finest T20 knock ever. This installment, he forsook individual glory for the team's sake, perished repeatedly in pursuit of quick runs. He swallowed his ego and pride, so that his team could benefit. In the depths of his heart, hurt would simmer that he had not been amongst the runs, but any day, every day, he would swap runs for the trophy, sacrificing individual accolades for the team's success.

He would remember this night as the one he finally shrugged the shadows of tragedy that had swallowed him in World



Virat Kohli talks to his family over the phone as he celebrates after winning the T20 World Cup in Bridgetown on Saturday night. Reuters

Cups, since that epochal night in Mumbai in 2011, the first time he hoisted the World Cup trophy, moments after he had carried on his shoulders his idol, Sachin Tendulkar, and uttered the immortal lines: "Sachin Tendulkar has carried the burden of the nation for 21 years. It is time we carried him on our shoulders."

For the next 13 years, Kohli expended

every drop of sweat and skill, to reproduce what Tendulkar produced for his generation, to be the team's identity, the soul and figurehead.

With his swaggering captaincy, he moulded teams in his image, instilled the virtues of ruthlessness and doggedness; bhanga chartbusters blared from the dressing room; aggression and indefatiga-

bility blazed on the ground. With the bat, he conquered every corner of the cricketing globe. With his work ethic and commitment to fitness, he inspired a generation of aspiring cricketers. Under him, India scaled unscaled peaks, won a Test series in Australia for the first time; transformed into a genuine Test force abroad, and shed the perceived softness of teams from the subcontinent.

The wait...wait wait

Yet, he had to wait, and wait, and wait to feel what it was like to lift a World Cup again. He came tantalisingly close. Finalists in 2014, semifinalist in 2016 and 2022; finalists in the ODI World Cup 2023; semifinalists in 2015 and 2019, losing finalists in the World Test Championship in 2021 and 2023. The naysayers would scavenge on his tragic flaws, fickle fans would begin to distrust him, captaincy would be shorn off him. Failures wrecked his mind and body; runs dried up. "It's not a great feeling to wake up knowing that you won't be able to score runs... I felt I was the loneliest guy in the world," he said on a podcast with English commentator Mark Nicholas.

The dream seemed eternally elusive too. He rekindled during the 50-over World Cup last year. "My career highlight is obviously winning the World Cup in 2011. I was 23 at the time, and I probably didn't under-

stand the magnitude of it. But now at 34, and having played many World Cups, which we haven't been able to win, I understand the emotions better," he said before the 2023 World Cup.

It has become a familiar arc that this World Cup — his last in this format at least — was his final opportunity to make up for the disappointments of the past, to cement his legacy, to match the achievements of his historical peers, Tendulkar, MS Dhoni and Kapil Dev.

The thread is irresistible, but flawed. For, his legacy as a batting great is already secure, his numerical achievements veers on the ridiculous.

Beyond all these, he is not here because he needs a World Cup to be remembered as a great. He is here because it is the one thing that would mean more to him, as well as his fans and country, than any other. He sees it as somewhere between his duty and destiny, somewhere between satisfying the self and the country.

And now, at last, he has done what he had set out to do. Kohli realising his destiny, his career acquiring a completeness. For years, he had hoped. For weeks, he had believed. Only at this moment, though, with victory achieved, did Kohli know that his destiny had been fulfilled. He had waited long enough. But he needn't wait any longer.

Days after the heartbreak in the ODI World Cup final in November, Rohit Sharma met the selectors. Rohit's future as a captain in the T20 format wasn't clear. Should India do a reset with youngsters and a future-proof captain was the swirling question. His IPL franchise, Mumbai Indians, had already made that move.

A selector cues up the conversation from that meeting. "When we met Rohit for the first time after the 50-over World Cup final loss, we were convinced he should be leading the team at the T20 World Cup as well. The reason is, when he sat down, he didn't want to shake up anything just because we lost. He told us, 'Sir, yes, we lost the final, but we also defeated each and every opponent we played in the World Cup including Australia in the league stage. So let's not write off these players.'"

It became clear, at least to the selectors, that India can't deny itself of a leader just because of the format. With Rohit keen to remain in the hot seat, there was no question of wholesale changes.

The IPL that followed would really show the world, and perhaps even to Rohit himself, how much he is adored by the fans. There was a sense of betrayal about the treatment meted out to him, which they harshly took out on Hardik Pandya, booing him across the country. Once at the Wankhede stadium, he would gently gesture with his hands to suggest to the crowd to stop booing, but such interactions don't come naturally to him.

A crossover moment with the fans would occur in this T20 World Cup. As he finished shaking hands with the last Pakistani squad member after the win, Rohit Sharma was heading towards his dugout when he jerked his head up to glance at a section of the crowd. Instinctively, he raised his clenched right fist in the air to trigger huge cheers. The move reminiscent of a mass leader or from a Rajnikanth movie was a tad out of character for Rohit. He is typically a players' captain, absolutely at ease orchestrating them like a chilled-out big brother who also knows when to be hard on them. But his relationship with the crowd hasn't necessarily been a two-way affair in the past. They cottoned out to his natural, nonchalant way of leading with his characteristic Mumbai-slang grounded humour and his stripping down of gravitas from an India all-format captain. He is now finally beginning to shrug off his inherent shyness - "I am very very poor at socialising; I feel awkward" - and respond to them. That raised-fist vignette was a little-big moment in that regard.

Everything came a bit late in his cricketing career, despite the talent he always possessed: the refurbished Test career as an opener, the India captaincy, this kind of public adulation. He knows it's his proverbial last lap, but has been working overtime in the last year especially to leave his imprint on Indian cricket history.

And with this T20 World-Cup triumph, he joins Kapil Dev and MS Dhoni in the pantheon of successful leaders in the public imagination; throw in his bucketful of IPL titles and that compliment doesn't look out of place.

Perhaps it was the experience of being dropped early on, especially from the 2011 World Cup that cut his heart. Rohit Sharma always mentions how one of the key things as a captain is to confront the players and tell them exactly honestly what is required of them and why a decision is taken.

It was something he first picked up from Ricky Ponting during the early years of IPL, he told this newspaper. "He was very open about how one should go about captaining the team and what are the major requirements. And that is one thing I learnt from him: one should be able to confront players, be any players or your team. If you are dropping someone, a captain should be able to talk to them on their face. This is the reason you have been left out. He told me that I will get more respect from the player if you can talk to them straighter.

19 Number of matches India have won, out of a total of 20 played, across the 50-over World Cup and the T20 World Cup. The only game Rohit Sharma's team lost was the 50-over final against Australia in Ahmedabad.



HAPPY-GO-PLUCKY LEADER

ROHIT SHARMA

T20 World Cup-winning captain is a chilled-out big brother, a sharp-witted straight-talker, a smart strategist, a caring mentor, with fans now warming up to his grounded legacy-building persona, writes SRIRAM VEERA

People respect you more, that is one thing I learnt from him," Rohit had said. He would follow that trait over the years; like informing Yuzvendra Chahal about the reasons for non-selection for the 2023 ODI World Cup.

As much as the viral videos of him have spread about his humorous unfiltered 'garden mey ghoomney wale log ...' or using "World-Cup selection is on his mind" as a banter to tease Dinesh Karthik in the IPL, it's also the tough talking that his leadership will be known for. It's served at times with unintentional humour like that garden jibe; it's forgotten that it was about urging the youngsters to keep the body language better and show more intensity on the field. Such is his personality that neither the players themselves or

the fans watching it get offended at the tone; instead, they realise why he says what he says. Or him stopping play to tell Sarfaraz Khan to don a helmet before standing at silly-point - the humorous takeaway for the fans was the casually cool 'hero nahi banney-ka'; the takeaway for the player is that here is a big brother who cares for me.

Or once telling Kuldeep Yadav in a limited-over game that he would not get more

overs if he continued to bowl an insipid flat trajectory at a quickish pace. "Aisa daalega toh mein over nahi doonga," he would say and Kuldeep responded positively.

Rohit had a shy smile when that incident was brought up. "Yes, probably we must have discussed something and things he wanted to do. Honestly, I would like the individual to take the call. Ball is in his hand, he has to do the job and not me. As a captain it's my duty also, as my neck is on the line. There is a certain responsibility on me also. I will come when I feel that things have gone thoda upar abhi (gone out of hand). I have to get the bowler under control. You need to give that freedom but at the same time if you see that freedom is being over used or taken for granted then I come in. I will have a chat."

The years of IPL captaincy has no doubt helped him become a straight talker. "Yes, you have to be okay with a hard chat with the players after the field also at times. That is I think what the captaincy job is. It's not just on the field or to walk with a paper for the toss."

But even here he has an interesting way of doing things off the field. The coaxing, the tough talk, the encouraging chats, and motivation is usually done on field during training sessions in between games. Or a quiet word here and there. He lets the players be in the evenings at the hotel.

"Captaincy is on the field. Once inside the hotel I'm not going to people's room and talking to them. They have their own privacy, they

have their own time. Unless I feel, I really need to talk to someone, about this guy's role, about the game. Then I will make that effort to get in touch otherwise, whatever conversation I feel I like to do, it is at the ground. I do feel that

sometimes you have to get out of your comfort zone and do those hard talks. It is part of this job," Rohit says. "Similarly, I have told them not to get too involved with social media, but I am not going to their rooms and checking their phones."

Leading by example

It's by example that he tries to inspire them. Not just turning out as an aggressive all-out attacking opener to set the template for the rest to follow, but even in these little off-field things. He wiped out the social media apps from his phone several months back. "Not that the players also have to do it, but I thought I should ... If we have to do any commercial post then the wife handles it. These are distractions, they all are on the phone the whole day. It's a waste of time and energy. The new generation is more on reel, Instagram, social media, they all are into it. I have decided not to have it on my phone because if it's there I will watch it."

MS Dhoni had to deal with legends and also seniors with leadership ambitions in his early years as a captain. During Virat Kohli's years, there was no doubt about who was the lead star: himself, but there were other big

players including Rohit, Cheteshwar Pujara, R Ashwin, Ajinkya Rahane on the rise, particularly early in Kohli's reign. Unlike them, Rohit has largely had a team of youngsters to work with. And seniors were either without pronounced captaincy ambitions or like Kohli, who has been there, done that.

But it also presented him with the need to teach the youngsters how to conduct themselves on the field. During the five-Test long series against England at the start of the year, it was apparent that he was

expending much of his emotional energy on those aspects, moulding the youngsters into professional team players. That 'garden mey ghoomne wale' was one such cry, of telling them they can't relax and wander about. That they were doing that tells much about the inexperienced youngsters. Many of them had spent years from childhood so focussed on developing their own games that got them an early shot in the national team, but

without sufficient first-class experience of growing in a team environment. Rohit found that he had to extend himself into becoming a big brother in all aspects.

There was a moment by the nets at Dharamshala during that England series when he would confide in a couple of journalists, "bhai, kaun sikhayega inko all this otherwise? We seniors are in our last lap; if we go without passing on these little but most important stuff, then there is no chance of them learning. Yes, I get very tired as my focus isn't just on strategising now, but also all these, but it's a privilege to be in a position to do what I can do for them."

Not many would doubt Rohit's skills as a strategising captain. It's better than Dhoni the Test captain. It wasn't a surprise when Dhoni quit that role first after a few stressful and unsuccessful years. He was more instinctive on the field, incredibly ahead of the fast-moving white-ball game, but Test cricket needs much more total involvement than just being spontaneous for 20 overs. It requires a special temperament ready for extensive preparation off the field and importantly a passionate commitment towards the format in the first place that perhaps Dhoni didn't care for much. Virat Kohli didn't quit but he has admitted how he had to fake his intensity at times.

Rohit has straddled both spectrums with his unique laidback-yet-passionately-clued-in character. It's not known in all this light-hearted masti he can indulge, he is one of the last cricket tragics in the fraternity. Growing up, he did nothing but watch, think, and play cricket.

Unlike many in the fraternity, he would actively watch games. "If there was no live cricket, my uncles and I would be watching highlights of matches, old and current, all day long. I soaked so much unconsciously about cricket, its tactics, its rhythm then; I love this game," he would tell this newspaper just before the ODI World Cup.

With his laidback character, he didn't have to ferociously push himself internally as much as Kohli, leading to the over-boil. At the end of the day, despite all the stresses, pulls and tugs of leading and teaching a young team, he says he can "sleep anywhere, anytime, any position" and that "I love sleeping!"

The fans have warmed up to this unique package. And aided by his close ones, he has now begun to reciprocate. It has begun to peep out in other avenues. Like the self-referencing in the recent advertisements that market his famous forgetfulness and the style of speaking where he apparently uses 'vohi' (that) without exactly saying what he means. Incidentally, Virat Kohli first advertised that to the world in an interview about the endearing things about Rohit. The development towards mythifying one's own traits has also coincided with his ever-increasing popularity with the fan base. And it wouldn't have happened without the recent successes as a captain.

If a captain like him, who expends tactical and emotional energy on field as much as him, can still chill, joke, or hit the sack like a baby and sleep, it's not a surprise that the team under him is most awake and alert to the calls of greatness. His legacy would be how he taught the young team to perform intensely and yet have a laugh. That emotional balance will be his greatest achievement; the rest - leading from the front, instilling all-out aggression, being selfless for the team cause by batting the way he does are all mere details. The relationship with fans still doesn't come as naturally and easily to him, but he was sure about how to address the generation gap in the team.

"In our time when we entered, we didn't have the guts to sit with the big stars. We were scared, standing near the toilet. This generation is different. All these young guys now play with us in the IPL. They have exposure. For us Sachin, Dravid, Ganguly, Laxman, Sehwag, we got their exposure much later in life. We never used to play with them, there was no IPL. They hardly used to play Ranji then because of international commitment. Now this generation is different. I believe to go into the flow. I have tried to blend in."

Blending in hasn't looked more natural and uber-cool.

Coach Dravid's stint ends with trophy that eluded him as player

VENKATA KRISHNA B
JUNE 29

RAHUL DRAVID signed off from his India coach stint in the Caribbean as a World Cup-winning coach. And the scene of despair as captain at the nightmarish 2007 50-over World Cup, ended at the same venue on a steady note for India's eternal Mr Consistent. In a cricketing landscape, which is forever trying to find a superhero in a team sport, it wasn't surprising that the man who put an end to the hashtag "Do It For Dravid", was Rahul Dravid himself.

As the team made it to their third ICC final in a year, giving the India head coach a final shot to end his coaching stint with a World Cup trophy that has eluded him since his playing days, it appeared fitting. Except in Dravid's world.

"It's totally against who I am as a person, totally against my values," Dravid said of the campaign by the host broadcaster. "I don't really believe in this 'do it for somebody'. I love that quote about somebody asking someone 'why do you want to climb Mt. Everest?' Because it's... there. Why do we want to win this World Cup? Because... it's there. It's not 'for' anybody. We just want to

play good cricket. Doing it for someone is not something I believe in so I really don't want to talk about it," he told the broadcaster.

It didn't end there. There was one another plea at the end. "If you can get that campaign removed, I'd appreciate it."

This is classic Dravid. When the spotlight falls on him, he has had a habit of moving it on who he believes deserves it more. During his captaincy days, he has had a first-hand experience of the pitfalls the team would endure if the coach decided to be at the forefront of everything.

From the time Dravid took charge reluctantly of the Indian team after the 2021 T20 World Cup, he has ensured he is merely a 'support staff' to help the players and the captain. Within the team, there is huge admiration for his meticulous planning and the extent he went to, to make players feel comfortable.

When the Ravi Shastri-Virat Kohli era ended, the dressing room was a divided house. Apart from groupism, there were some insecure faces thanks to the constant chopping and changing. And Dravid would straight-away get down to addressing it. Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane would return to the fold and KL Rahul would go about owning his spot without having to



Saturday's final was Rahul Dravid's last match as India coach. PTI

worry about getting dropped after a bad performance. Earlier this year, Shubman Gill benefited when he responded with a timely century after a string of low scores against England.

But what went largely unnoticed is how well Dravid managed the transition. During his tenure, India had to take some tough calls. They had to look beyond Ishant Sharma and Wriddhiman Saha at critical junctures. Later on, they had to cull Pujara and Rahane as well

as look for young legs.

"As a captain I believe in informing the player why it has happened," Rohit Sharma told The Indian Express. "Rahul Dravid has been brilliant in this and vocal about letting the players know what is happening. It is very important that players know ke bhai kya chal raha hai. Why is anyone dropped?" Rohit said.

While Rohit's imprints are all over the team, Dravid has had his own share of moments. During last year's World Cup at home, when Hardik Pandya suffered an injury, it was Dravid who put forth the idea of playing three seamers instead of R Ashwin, who would have added batting depth. That third seamer happened to be Mohammed Shami, who ended-up as the leading wicket-taker of the World Cup.

"We all knew Pandya is the one who will provide us the balance and we were dependent totally on him. And when we lost Pandya to injury, it was Dravid who wanted to play three seamers and play Shami ahead of Ashwin even in the slow conditions. He believed attacking was the way to go and we all saw what happened after that. Even we were a bit unsure about playing Shami as we would be compromising on the batting depth and playing Ashwin would have been

more helpful. But Dravid convinced Rohit to try this because we always had Ashwin to fall back on if the plan didn't work because playing just two seamers would more risk than playing just two spinners," says a source in the team's close circle.

The most enduring image of Dravid's coaching career would be the one where he jumps of his seat in Ranchi after Dhruv Jurel hit the winning runs against England that gave India an unassailable 3-1 lead. After the Bazballers from England took a 1-0 lead in Hyderabad, India looked lost in their own conditions. Apart from finding answers to Bazball, India who were without Virat Kohli would also miss KL Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja in the subsequent Test. But with the most inexperienced batting group ever assembled by India in the last five decades, they would script a memorable win.

"There was a temptation to go back to Pujara when we didn't have Pujara and KL...but Dravid didn't want to go back. Both Rohit and Dravid had a common message...let's go with youngsters because there is no way we would move forward as a team if we don't give them opportunities. There was plenty to lose if the move didn't work, but they stuck their neck out and said let's do it," said a selector. And then they did.

BRIEFLY

Women's test: India post record total

Chennai: India posted the biggest ever total in the history of women's Test cricket by scoring a mammoth 603 for six declared before South Africa Women fought valiantly through Sune Luus and Marizanne Kapp on day two of the one-off Test, here Saturday. **Brief scores:** South Africa (1st Innings): 236/4 in 72 overs (Marizanne Kapp 69 not out, Sune Luus 65; Sneha Rana 3/61) vs India: 603/6 declared **PTI**

Defending champs Italy out of Euros

Berlin: Italy's hopes of retaining their European Championship title came to a miserable end in the last 16 of Euro 2024 on Saturday after they stumbled to a 2-0 loss to Switzerland, the first time they have exited before the quarter-final stage in 20 years. Goals in each half from Remo Freuler and Ruben Vargas sealed a comfortable victory for the efficient Swiss. **REUTERS**

eye



SPOTLIGHT, PAGE 2

The Carlsen Way of Life

There's more to this world chess champion than the mastery of 64 squares. It comes from a Norwegian upbringing and how he sees success



POINT OF VIEW, PAGE 3

Poets Corner

Malayalam poet Anvar Ali talks to Assamese poet Jiban Narah on the political strains in his poetry and why ethnic languages must survive



CHITRAL KHAMBHATI
SHARIQ KHAN | 43
ALIGARH, UP

Rinku Ghosh

HAVE YOU heard of the Sansani News?" asks 28-year-old Keshav Pandey, leaning over the bar at the tony Chica Loca lounge in Noida. Quite instinctively, our eyes flit to the LED screen. "Khabar wahan nahin hai. Yahan hai (the news is not there but here)," says the bartender, as he stirs up his self-styled summer cocktail with rose gin, tonic water and ice. The swirl looks like molten quartz about to crystallise, till he dribbles a 30 ml shot of coffee liqueur over it, clouding and muddying it up with what he calls his "dose of reality." As he garnishes it with a rose bud atop an ice cube, it's a metaphor for his life that has bloomed from the dust bowl of a village not far from Muzaffarpur in Bihar.

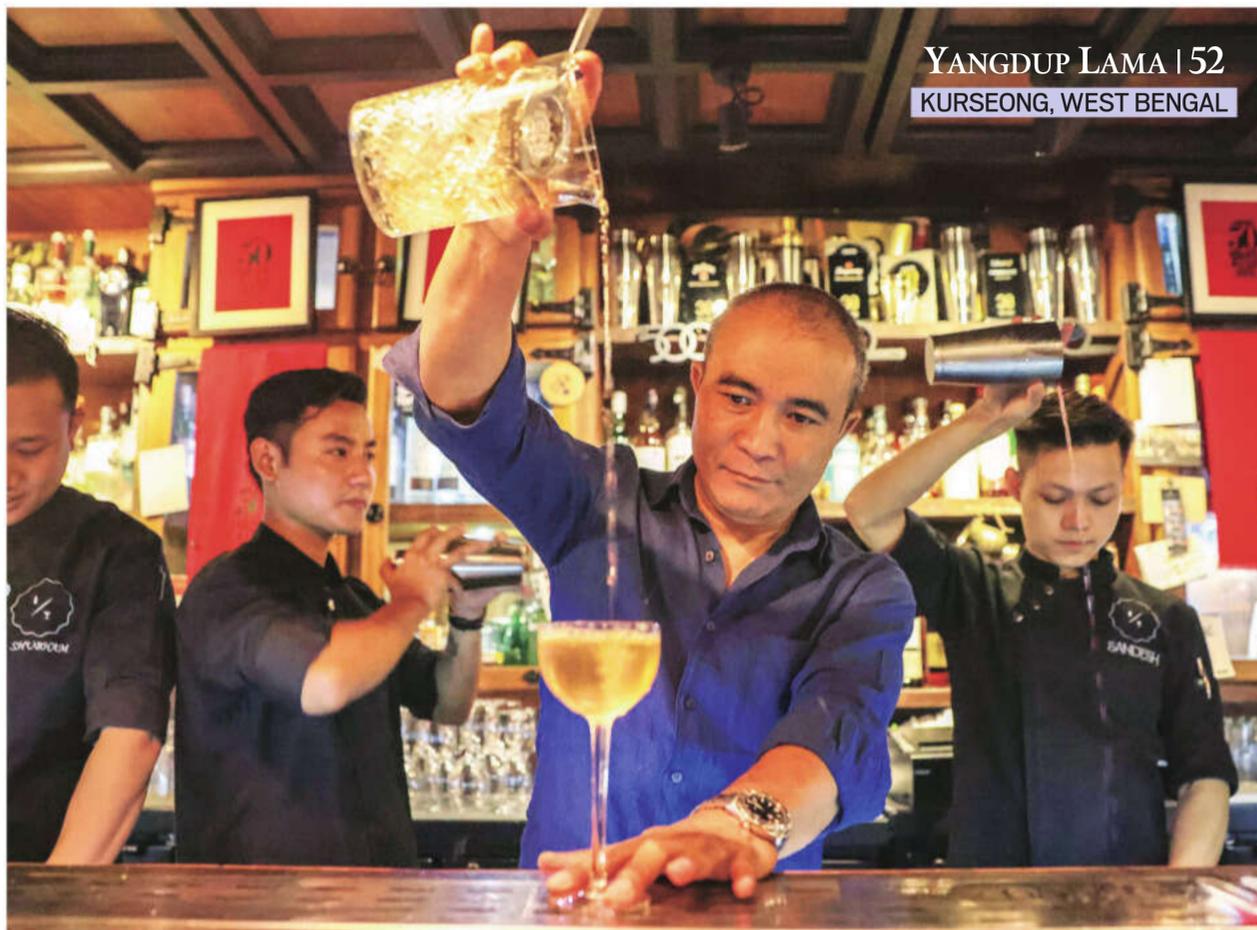
"The chemistry of a drink is not much different from life, it is about balancing an equation," says Keshav, tipping his fedora, the one he wears for showmanship in a world that doesn't bother to scratch beneath the surface and see how hope is really a hard-earned struggle to repay the debts of his father, a subsistence farmer. Or overlooking cultural clichés of his Brahmin upbringing that would ostracise him from making money off alcohol, let aside drinking it. Meanwhile at Gurugram's Cyberhub, 28-year-old Alem Jamir has just made it to the Top 3 at the Diageo World Class Bartender competition (the global spirit major runs a platform for bartenders to learn and compete). He's adjusting his tie, proud of the tribal motif on it. The son of a meat shop owner at Mokochung town, Nagaland, Alem has risen from being a waiter at Bengaluru's Conrad Hotel to now having his own fan club as a freelance mixologist in Pune. "I surprised the judges by using Mong Mong pepper, a lemony and woody Naga herb," he says, his confidence coming from owning his identity and knowledge about traditional rice beers.

A quiet revolution is brewing in India's nightlife as young people from small towns and villages are becoming professional bartenders. In a successful world peopled and defined by engineers, IT professionals and doctors, these mid-town youngsters are getting global fame and creating their own sub-culture and ecosystem. It's not just about a ticket to the high life and good pay or breaking social taboos, it is about the joy of patenting creativity of another kind, the one where you find ways to serve happiness in an unhappy world.

Nobody knows this better than Yangdup Lama, 52, who started his journey from Kurseong in West Bengal, did a stint with Hyatt and VIP weddings in Delhi, and is now co-owner of Sidecar, ranked 18th among Asia's top 50 bars. Nicknamed the 'Monk' for his wisdom, he says, "Where do students who aren't into science, academics or management or cannot afford professional training go? Bartending is that bridge to make ends meet. It is as creative as the arts, as precise as science and as popular as a Bollywood film." Lama, who is currently working on a cocktail called Maggie Point, inspired by Maggie flavours at pit stops in the Himalayas, finds bartending the quickest way to double incomes. "From Rs 25,000 at the entry level, you can easily double it in two years if you are a skilled artist. You become a bar manager, consultant, sommelier or a brand ambassador for spirit companies. If you win an international championship, you get to travel the world. The sky's the limit," he says.

Schooled by life, being the best is not an option but a necessity for aspirant youngsters who have taken the leap of faith. "That's why they can hold fame with their patience and empathy, drawing from experiences that are seared into their being," adds Lama.

Most of them have a rags-to-riches story. Recalls Pandey, who now manages Chica Loca, the lounge bar owned by actor Sunny Leone, "I walked 6 km to a government school because it was free, and worked hard for a scholarship to pursue BCom but there were too many degree-holders and no jobs. On my cousin's advice, I took up a job as a server at a hotel in Lucknow because it offered free food and accommodation. I could send my salary back home." Waiting tables, doing dishes and serving courses, he watched the bartender as everybody crowded around him, showering him with tips for a well-made drink. Pandey halved his living costs, signed up for a bar-



CHITRAL KHAMBHATI
YANGDUP LAMA | 52
KURSEONG, WEST BENGAL

CHITRAL KHAMBHATI



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KESHAV PANDEY | 28
MUZAFFARPUR, BIHAR

an orchestra performance with the bartender being the conductor," says Aman, who saved Rs 35,000 to sign up for a bartending institute in Delhi. Soon, it was a torrid run across Delhi, NCR, Hyderabad and now Bengaluru. "The hunger to froth up happens from denial and suppression. In 15 years, I have travelled the arc from someone who didn't know what a burger was to understanding whether a sea bass or salmon will go well with wine, sherry or whisky. Which other profession could have given me a chance to experience a whole new world?" asks Aman, as he adds a dash of kewra to the Coorg coffee liqueur-infused cocktail, his innovation.

The bar has also turned into an equity platform for women, who, unlike in other professions, have pay parity with men. Aashie Bhatnagar, 26, the star attraction of Pune's Cobbler and Crew, wanted to be a fashion designer while growing up in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh. She even got selected at NIFT, Shillong, which her mother felt was too far from home. She then enrolled at the Kuckreja Institute of Hotel Management in Dehradun as an alternative option. It was during her training at a hotel that she was fascinated by the shape of cocktail glasses. She volunteered to wipe them so that she could see what goes behind the counter. That's when she played with spirits, impressing customers with a flourish or two and devouring books on mixology after her shift ended at 2 am. Last year, she became the only woman and Indian to feature in Diageo's top 12 global bartenders.

Although women bartending was legalised in India in 2007, taboos exist about women becoming the target of male harassment and drunkenness. But Aashie has a counter question: "If women can be fighter pilots, why not bartenders? Isn't it safer?" she asks, always shielded by male colleagues on a busy night, a fact that made her mother and brother come around to her career choice. "I am not the first. Many have come before me and the bar owners are always vigilant. Besides, cocktails are genderless as they are about touching the soul," she says. For her, spirits are a swirl of escapism, imagination and colour. "I guess the hidden designer in me took wings and the spirits became my material," says Aashie, who is popular as "pocket dynamite." Given her tiny frame, the bar owners have resized her counter so that she can work deftly. "Cocktails carry the history of people's innovation with tradition," says Aashie, who has more loyalists than her male counterparts. "My clientele is multi-generational. A 55-year-old Army man loves my martinis and brings his daughter for lessons," she adds.

If for some bartending began as a way to get their lives on track, for Shariq Khan, 43, from Aligarh, it was about off-tracking. Born to privilege in a family of engineers, schooled at DPS Mathura Road and intending to do BCom at SRCC, he always wanted to be a chef. "I dropped out, did a diploma in hotel management, went to Mumbai in 2002 and signed up for classes with mixologist Shatbhi Basu as part of my F&B training. That's when I realised that a bartender commanded more respect than a chef. Since I understood flavours, I would ask my guests their favourite food and customise the drink to their palate. It's a lot of chemistry that algorithms wouldn't understand. But I like human interactions, easing people's pain when they have nobody to talk to and share their joys. For all you know, somebody could be having their last drink. I understand the meaning of *dard* now. This bond is my greatest takeaway," says Shariq, now an event manager at Sidecar. Though he had a hard time getting his father to at least reconcile with his profession, he doesn't drink socially except when he is required to taste on the job. But he has his extended family of the boys he mentors along with Lama, who now runs a bartending academy in Delhi's Vasant Kunj and has rented an apartment near his GK1 bar for out-of-towners.

All of them are nurturing their roots, grooming talent in their hometowns. Hemant does pro-bono work, lecturing students for free and Aman is planning a cooking academy for 40-plus homemakers. Meanwhile, somewhere in Bengaluru, Alem listens to Freddie Mercury's *I Want to Break Free* on the loop. A fan of the Japanese anime hero Ryu Sasakura, he lives by his idol's mantra: "There are two types of professions that must not at all deceive the customer. One is the physician, the other is the bartender, one for the body, the other for the soul. You've got to be honest. How else can you rescue people?"

CHEERS TO CHANGE

A quiet revolution is brewing in India's nightlife as young people from small towns and villages are becoming professional mixologists and bartenders, squashing prejudice and overcoming obstacles, one shot at a time



CHITRAL KHAMBHATI
AASHIE BHATNAGAR | 26
MORADABAD, UP



CHITRAL KHAMBHATI
ALEM JAMIR | 28
MOKOKCHUNG, NAGALAND



CHITRAL KHAMBHATI
HEMANT PATHAK | 36
PITHORAGARH, UTTARAKHAND

...
It's not just about a ticket to the high life and good pay or breaking social taboos, it is about the joy of patenting creativity of another kind
...

tending course and did overtime by helping the bartender on busy nights.

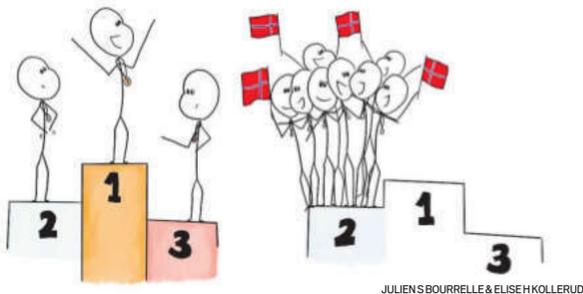
Circumstances shaped the journey of Hemant Pathak, 36, who is among New York's celebrity bartenders at the award-winning Junoon and Jazba restaurants. "Growing up in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, I went to a Hindi-medium school that didn't even have a mid-day meal. My school-teacher father taught me the English alphabet. Once a week, I would go to the Lunthi Pustak Bhandar to pick up the latest edition of *Employment News*," he tells us over Zoom. As his friends made some headway with hotel management, he signed up with an institute in Dehradun and made it to Taj Palace in 2008 on a Rs 5,000 paycheck. "I memorised English lines, began with mocktails and carving fruits at Masala Art. That skill got me to the Blue Bar where I trained under ace mixologist Nick Hawkins, and together we made it the country's best cocktail bar in 2010," says Hemant.

But passion was born when he won the Diageo championship in 2011 and judges nudged him to move to New York. "I quit Taj, liquefied the little savings I had and landed in New York. I got a job with a steakhouse in Long Island, which didn't take off and I was homeless overnight. Just a month short of my tourist visa expiring (October 2012), I did dishes and helped around a restaurant at Jackson Heights for cash. I stayed with an elderly Tamilian couple as a paying guest and shared a room. Seeing my credentials, my roommate referred me to Rajesh Bhardwaj, the owner of Junoon, whom he happened to know. It was fate," says Hemant.

Junoon's wonderful spice room, all of 18,000 sq ft, treasured every Asian herb. "Their aromas fed my curiosity and I got lost creating concoctions with them," he says. That's how his signature cocktail, Mumbai Margarita, made with mango, hibiscus, tequila, chilli, rose and lime, was ranked sec-

ond among New York's top seven cocktails in 2017. What did the trick was his mother's *Pahadi* salt — rock salt ground on stone with a hint of garlic and coriander leaves, sun-dried and dusted on the rim of the glass.

That dream-chasing is not futile has been proved by Aman Dua, 36, consultant beverage programmer at The Beer Library, Bengaluru. His father was a vegetable vendor and mother, a Liberty shoe factory employee at Gurdaspur, Punjab. He couldn't continue college though he wanted to be a journalist. "I became a stringer for *Punjab Kesri*, reporting crime, at Rs 300 a month. So when I got a Rs 1,800 job offer at McDonald's (where I learnt English) at Savoy Greens, a food court on the Kamal highway, I moved. This was 2008," he says. That's where he chanced upon an Australian tourist, who showed him flair-bartending videos. "These guys juggled and flipped bottles and glasses, flamed up spirits or flash froze them. It was nothing less than



JULIENS BOURRELLE & ELISE H KOLLERUD

There's more to this world chess champion than the mastery of 64 squares. It comes from a Scandinavian upbringing of enjoying what he does and measuring success differently

Amit Kamath

MAGNUS CARLSEN, bonafide sporting royalty in Norway, is out for a stroll on the streets of Stavanger taking advantage of the crisp June sunlight that's brightening the mood of the city after a spell of rain and chill. Unbothered and at ease, Magnus is sauntering around in the city that is now one of the biggest chess hubs, a few hours before his Round 5 game at the Norway Chess tournament against Alireza Firouzja, headphones in his ear, Wayfarer sunglasses covering his eyes.

Magnus is a man whose success on the trenches of the 64 squares made Norway a chess-mad country — to the point that during his world championship days, sports shops were apparently running out of chess boards while chess drinking games and chess watch parties were the rage among adults. Today, though, Norway's greatest chess player is enjoying one of the many perks of being born in the Scandinavian country with five million people which has a deep respect for personal space: the luxury of being left alone in a public space despite his superstardom making it impossible for people not to recognise him. But are there ways in which Norway actively shaped him into one of history's greatest chess players?

Magnus's father Henrik Albert Carlsen is often asked how he turned the prodigy into a world-champion. Henrik, who has fielded these questions for over two decades, usually settles for some variation of: "I never pushed him... Just stayed out of his way... This is his own path."

Magnus was only five years old when Henrik first taught him the sport. But on seeing that his son's interest

was waning, Henrik stepped back rather than forcing the love of the game upon him. A few years later, he himself returned to the chessboard. This time, he fell head over heels in love.

He grew to become a grandmaster — the highest formal title a chess player can achieve — at the age of 13. By 2010, Magnus was the World No 1, becoming the youngest player ever to climb to the top of the world rankings (a position he has never relinquished since 2011). He has five classical world championship titles, besides five World Rapid Championship and seven World Blitz Championship titles. Nicknamed the Mozart of Chess in his younger days, Magnus, 33, has

the distinction of being the highest-rated chess player in history and only one of 17 world champions in the open category.

Born in Tønsberg, Magnus's parents Henrik and Sigrun Øen were both engineers. In 2003-04, the family took an unusual step of going on a year-long road trip around Europe with their four kids so that Magnus — who was an International Master (a title just below grandmaster) at that stage — could compete in tournaments around the continent. Magnus's sisters Signe (6), Ingrid (8) and Ellen (14) spent a whole year out of school, being homeschooled during this trip.

"Nobody has ever pushed him to do anything," says grandmaster Jon Ludvig Hammer, one of Carlsen's friends and chess analyst for Norwegian television. "Magnus has always done what he enjoys. He's been encouraged, supported, enabled, but never actually pushed. That is, in many ways, a Norwegian mentality." What Hammer is referring to is a culture where no one really keeps scores in sporting events for children until they are 13 years of age. The country prioritises fun over competition. Not just Magnus, Norway has produced many elite athletes like Jakob Ingebrigtsen (middle- and long-distance runner, world-record holder and an Olympic champion); Karsten Warholm (a world-record holding 400m hurdler and Olympic gold medalist) and World No 7 tennis ace Casper Ruud, besides footballers such as Erling Haaland and Martin Ødegaard, and a line-up of Winter Olympics ski legends.

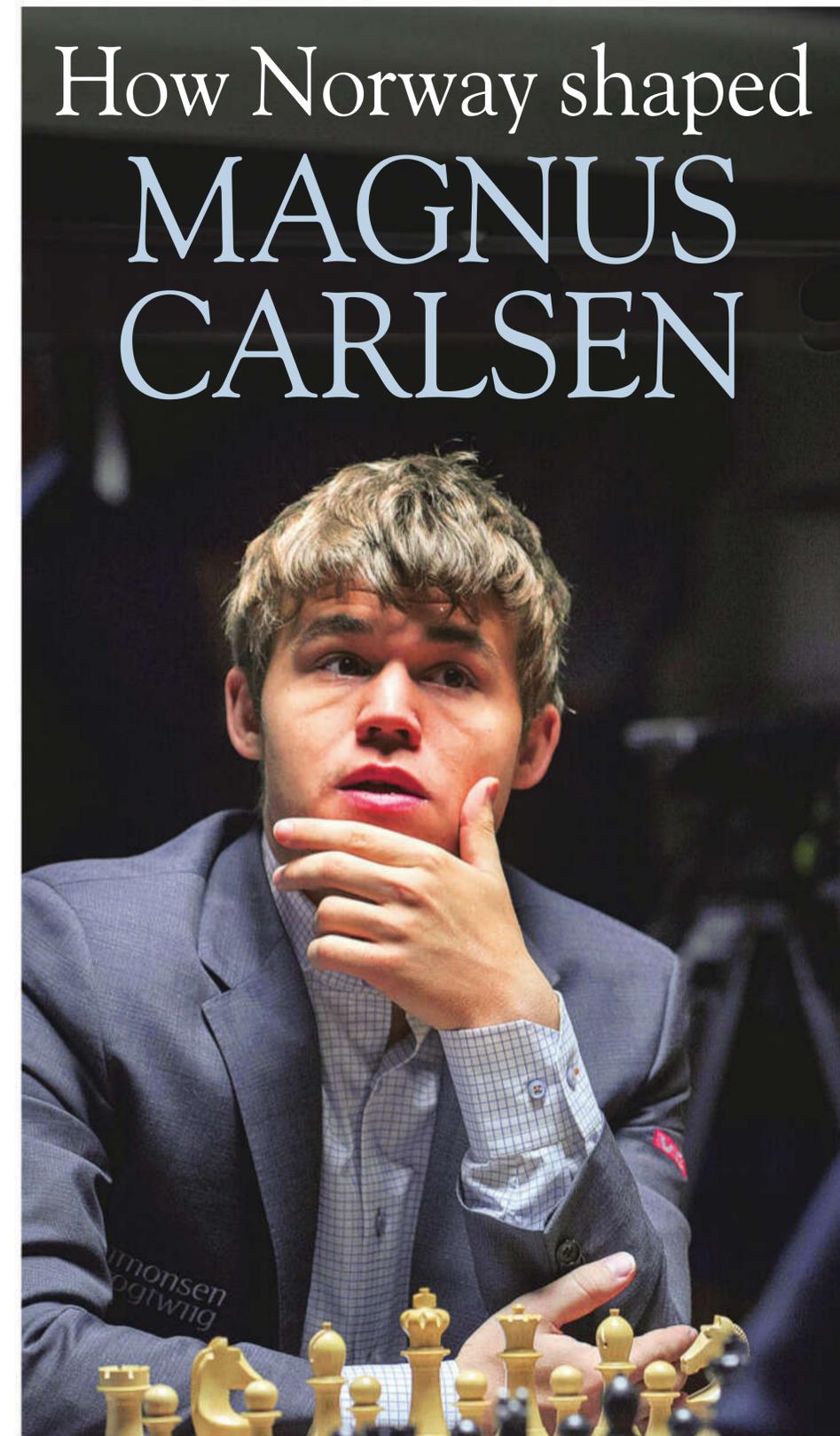
"Bringing up children is different in Norway, people usually don't compete. Until the age of 13, you're not allowed to get a reward that suggests you are better than others, so you cannot be put on a

podium," says Juliens Bourrelle, who has written books on Norwegian culture.

Peter Heine Nielsen — the Danish grandmaster who has helped both Indian chess grandmaster Viswanathan Anand and Magnus win multiple world championship titles — has known Magnus since his pre-teens. "I was with him when he was 15 and did really well at the FIDE World Cup in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia in 2005 and ended up qualifying for the Candidates (held in a different format then). But since his father had to go for his job, I ended up staying with Magnus. But before that, they told me: 'We have to explain to you the principles. One of

them is that if Magnus wants to play chess, he can do it. But if he doesn't want to, you're not allowed to push him in any way. If he wants to play table tennis, he will do that instead.' Chess was something Magnus did (from a young age) because he finds it interesting," says Nielsen.

While Magnus's parents adopted a hands-off approach regarding his career, Bourrelle links Magnus's rise to the support he got from the society. "Their children are supported from a young age. The Norwegian government invests in those sorts of things. Magnus's par-



ANDREW TESTA/THE NEW YORK TIMES

QUIET MOVE

(Clockwise from top left) An illustration from Juliens Bourrelle's book, *The Social Guidebook to Norway* that shows how competition is viewed in the country; Magnus Carlsen at a game in London, in March 2013; his father Henrik Albert Carlsen; children watching Magnus on TV

ents noticed he was good at chess and enrolled him in a chess club. Soon, Magnus was also learning at the Norwegian College of Elite Sport (an elite school for athletes). His motivation comes from within as he loves to play rather than win prizes. That's another typical quality of Scandinavian culture where you really try to be the best at something because you love what you do rather than for money or fame," says Bourrelle, whose books such as *The Social Guidebook to Norway* (2014), *Cracking the Scandinavian Code* (2021) and *Working with Swedes* (2024) decode

Scandinavian culture for outsiders. "And you cannot ignore the life-work balance in general where the big focus is to be able to disconnect in order to continue to be good at it. You need your brain to have other experiences," adds Bourrelle.

Hammer agrees. "It helps that Norwegians are quite well off. So we don't have these concerns that if you lose your job your family is not going to have health insurance, that kind of thing. That's why the good thing about being Norwegian is that you don't stress too much in terms of survival. So it helps. You have

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PHOTOS: AMIT KAMATH

the freedom to pursue your interests," he says.

Even on the chess board, there is a distinctively Norwegian trait that Magnus prefers. In recent years, he has been a vocal proponent of unique formats used at Casablanca Chess and Freestyle GOAT Chess events which force players to innovate over the board rather than rely too much on theory they've prepared in advance. This need to "fight on the board" is also what Agdestein calls the Norwegian style of chess.

"Magnus's chess playing style is very similar to Agdestein," says Nielsen, who is still Magnus's trainer. He points out that while Magnus might ignore some of the opening ideas, he is always up for a rumble in the jungle of 64 squares. "When he's at the board, he's giving his absolute best. He's extremely professional," adds Nielsen.

All things considered, Magnus can be quite modest, another Norwegian trait that the country imbibed in him. Norway, like most Scandinavian nations, puts great stock in individuals being modest about their achievements. Why? *Janteloven* or Jante's Law.

These are a set of unofficial rules that dictate how a person should behave. Call it a series of unspoken social norms or societal expectations of behaviour from citizens across Scandinavian countries, *Janteloven* originated in the fictional works of Danish-turned-Norwegian author Aksel Sandemose.

"You're not to think you're anything special or smarter than others or better than others or know more than others," is the rough gist of the 10 laws.

"Refrain from showing success or achievements. Never brag, except in sports. Be humble, if you do well and pretend to be average, society will praise you for this," Bourrelle writes in his book *The Social Guidebook to Norway*.

Yes, Magnus does proclaim in interviews that he's the best player in the world, but his coach Nielsen has an explanation for it.

"For someone that strong, Magnus is still a decently nice person. Of course, when he gives interviews, he's chosen to say things like 'I'm completely aware that I am the best player in the world'. That's not *Janteloven*. But he's just giving his opinion. Generally, he's quite honest. You can say it's immodest, but he's been the No 1 player in the world for 10-plus years... I don't think he was cocky (in his early days). I don't think when Magnus was the World No 5 he ever proclaimed that he was the best (like others have done). He became the best and then he just acknowledged that. He could be more modest, but that would actually conflict with what he thinks," reasons Nielsen.

Magnus has never been short of praise. And it has not always come from people who follow his progress on the 64 squares. In 2013, *Time* magazine named him in its 100 most influential people list and called him the world's sexiest chess player. *Cosmopolitan UK* agreed. Often enough during his career, there have been headlines about his 'sexiness', the sort that you won't see for other world champions or male grandmasters.

Of course, Magnus is not completely grounded. I don't think you can be, with the tension he's lived with for 20 years. There are definitely parts about him where he's not used to getting 'no' for an answer," says Hammer. "But if you compare him to others who have had his experience, he's extremely grounded. The life that he has led, you have to be special."

The Master is Back

Twenty-seven years after he passed away, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan's voice will be heard again through a lost tape that has been found in a UK warehouse

Suanshu Khurana

LOST SONG hauls are considered the ultimate discovery in the world of music. But when Real World Records, British musician Peter Dinklage's music label, decided to move its tape and film archive in the UK's Box, Wiltshire from an older mill building to a new facility in 2021, the archive's chroniclers never imagined it would throw up tunes that would send the world of music in a tizzy.

They had stumbled upon an analogue tape with qawwali legend Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan's music on it. The track listings hadn't featured in any of the previous albums released by them and had not been heard since the day of the recording. This is when label manager Amanda Jones and Gabriel, who've pursued world music since the company's inception in 1989, swung into action to digitise it.

Now, 27 years after he died at 48, Nusrat's compelling voice will transcend barriers yet again through the album *Chain of Light*, which will release on September 20.

According to Jones, the recording took place amid an "outstanding studio space, with very experienced engineers, the right food and the right creative environment".

"We had recorded several live sessions over these years. We were very careful to release albums by Nusrat in the right way... and did not want to overwhelm the release schedule with too many albums, all at the same time. Putting some tracks aside for later release was not a surprising thing to do. We simply didn't get to a point of planning another new release," says Jones, over email in an exclusive conversation with *The Indian Express*.

Jones's involvement with Nusrat's music goes back to WOMAD Festival, which was founded in 1980 by Gabriel. She vividly remembers the seminal moment from 1985, where Nusrat sang at midnight on Mersea Island, a sleepy Essex town known for open grasslands, rough beaches and seafood with the only connection to the mainland through The Strood — an ancient Roman causeway that floods during high tide. It's on this unassuming little island that Nusrat found his first international audience, one which didn't understand the words, but fell easily and deeply into the music's cadence and that five-octave voice which came with equal part intensity and equal part technical prowess. The passion and power of *Allah Hu* and *Mast Qalandar* easily places it in any list of the greatest gigs ever and remains etched in Jones's memory. "The



EXPRESS ARCHIVE

POWERHOUSE

Qawwali great
Nusrat Fateh
Ali Khan

performance had an electrifying effect. It was an unexpected experience for the majority of the audience who had never been exposed to qawwali music like this. I think the crowd's reaction also took Nusrat by surprise. This was a new audience who was responding to his music in an overwhelming way," says Jones.

Immersed in lyrics of the Sufis, the music of Nusrat, who'd trained under his uncles and legendary musicians Ustad Mubarak and Ustad Salamat Ali Khan — who moved to Lyallpur in Pakistan from Jalandhar in India after Partition — came at you with open arms.

Little wonder then that his tunes have been modified, turned into club numbers or put through machines for different results besides, of course, being covered extensively, including an odd-sounding live version from Jeff Buckley, who called him "my Elvis". Nusrat was not singing the folksy qawwali, the kind that's heard today. His qawwali was steeped in dhrupad and khayal, layered, rich and complex. So when Gabriel founded Real World Records four years later in 1989, at a time when the interest and excitement for artists from many parts of the world beyond Europe

and North America was growing, Nusrat was one of the first artists he wanted to record. He'd been introduced to qawwali by Pete Townsend of The Who. The guitarist acquainted Gabriel with qawwali — first through Sabri Brothers and then Nusrat.

In 1988, as Real World Records went into a distribution and production deal with Virgin Records, which represented the likes of Janet Jackson and The Spice Girls, among others, Nusrat evinced an emphatic response. Qawwali, from being an esoteric tradition for the West, was suddenly finding attention as world music. "Even in the very early meetings, Simon Draper, founder of Virgin, discussed the importance of the upcoming Nusrat albums we had planned," says Jones.

And Nusrat obliged, collaborating with Canadian guitarist and producer Michael Brook for *Must Mustt* (1990), a seminal crossover album that remains one of Nusrat's most popular works. They collaborated again on *Night Song* (1996), a more evolved set, with the eponymous track (a dhrupad alap) making it to Kathryn Bigelow's Oscar-winning *Zero Dark Thirty* (2012).

As was the case until recently, this will not be Brook's last collaboration with Nusrat. Jones says that the older magnetic tapes were vulnerable and needed to be "baked" before they could be played on a reel-to-reel machine and the music transferred to a digital format. "The digital tracks were then sent to Brook in Los Angeles where he and his engineer mixed the album," she says. The four-track album, the name of which has been drawn from one of the unheard tracks, *Ya Ghous ya Meeran*, will also be an opportunity for the new generation to engage with qawwali and Nusrat's otherworldly voice and mysticism.



FRAMES OF ENGAGEMENT

Jiban Narah (left), whose new collection of poems will be out later this year, and Anvar Ali

‘For our own poetry, we need to save our mother tongues’

Malayalam poet ANVAR ALI talks to Assamese poet JIBAN NARAH on the political strains in his poetry and why ethnic languages must survive

ONE OF the finest poets of our generation, Jiban Narah was born and brought up in the Mising indigenous community in Assam’s Golaghat district. Jiban, who teaches Assamese language and literature at the Anandaram Dhekial Phookan College in Nagaon, has five books of poetry in Assamese to his name and his new collection of poems is set to be published this year.

When I first met Jiban at a poetry reading session at the Sahitya Akademi in New Delhi in 1997, both, our poetry and us, were young. I remember reading his *Mother*, a poem about the anxiety of a son over his mother’s drinking but one in which you can experience a whole village’s life. After reading the poem, we went out together and became friends from that day on.

Jiban’s new poems, while keeping their unique tribal and lyrical elements, are pregnant with multiple layers of meaning and resonate with the political subversion of Assam’s ethnically complex society. Excerpts:

Anvar Ali: How would you place yourself as a poet before a pan-Indian reader?

Jiban Narah: My sense of being an Indian is rooted in the soil I was born and brought up in. The place of my birth has taught me to be the proud inheritor of a pluralist socio-cultural ethos and a rich literary tradition since the time of *Charyapada* (collection of mystical poems). My small voice as a poet also emerges from a sense of a rich poetic tradition I bear in my bones.

Poet Nabakanta Barua has said no other poet has ever used the olfactory image in Assamese language as beautifully and effectively as you. Poet and critic K Satchidanandan also mentioned the untranslatable beauty of your Assamese

idiom. Two decades ago, when Anitha Thampi and I tried to translate you, we named that beauty ‘tribal lyricism’. As an offspring of both, the Mising folklore tradition and Assamese poetic tradition, what do you think about this uniqueness critics have found in your idiom?

The sensuous quality as noticed by Nabakanta Barua is perhaps not exclusive to my works. The point he makes in the context of the poem *You Smell Like Ripe Corn* is that the poem evokes three of the five senses at the same time. I owe a great deal to Satchidanandan for his critical insight into my poetry. He is right in his comments on poetry that defies translation. The aesthetics of the poetry he talks about is created by the unique beauty inherent in the mother tongue. Yet, there is no other option besides translation for having the taste of each other’s poetry.

Most of your critically acclaimed poems are about the sensual beauty of nature. Still, the turbulent political moments of your terrain resonate in many of them.

I believe that politics in poetry is a matter of connotative undertones. The human condition is evoked through various images, metaphors and symbolic nuances and I personally do not believe in opening up the poetic space for any such overstatement where politics takes the better of poetries. All poetic endeavours, except those passionately self-absorbing ones, cannot remain detached from a political consciousness. The postcolonial destiny in our situation has been complicated with the growing conflicts, socio-political rifts, and displaced communities brutally ravaged by floods, erosion and political gimmicks. How can serious poetry turn away from burning issues?

Why don’t you write poetry in the

Missing language? Is there a visible movement or trend of writing poetry in the tribal languages of Assam?

I feel proud to be an inheritor of two cultures — one in which I was born and the other in which I have been brought up. There was little chance of choosing my Mising tongue even in school. The irony is that the Mising language is yet to evolve competently from its status of a dialect to the standard medium of instruction. Thus, my dialect, though rich in folk aesthetics, has remained a dialect. Of all the ethnic languages, only the Bodo language has evolved to that literary status. So, I enjoy my identity as an Assamese poet from the Mising riparian community.

Assamese language nationalism is big in modern Assam. Can you talk about the contemporary language movement in Assam, especially, the ‘O Mur Apunar Desh’ (O My Motherland) movement that you led, and the struggles for Assamese medium schools, and the tradition of multi-culturalism in the country?

We have a bitter history of agitation in Assam to safeguard our language. You have referred to ‘O Mur Apunar Desh’ — A Journey for Harmony and Peace, which was an event for celebrating Laxminath Bezbarua’s 150th birth anniversary. Bezbarua, the pioneer of Assamese literature and culture, has been the prime source of inspiration for the resurrection of modern Assamese identity through a representative body of literature after the Vaishnavite poets and litterateurs. His great lyric *O Mur Apunar Desh*, composed in 1912, was subsequently accepted as the state anthem. While celebrating his 150th birth anniversary, we planned to work out an ambitious project of rendering Bezbarua’s *O Mur Apunar Desh* into dozens of ethnic lan-

guages, including those in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and the Garo Hills. It was a symbolic gesture to arouse a consciousness of belonging to our mother tongues. For our own poetry, we need to save our mother tongues and that alone will lead to safeguarding our pluralist ethos and aspirations.

We vehemently oppose the state government’s decision to implement the medium of English from Class III onwards for teaching Mathematics and Science in schools in Assam. The learning of such comparatively tough subjects by budding learners in English is certain to have an adverse effect on them.

What about the possible contradiction between various tribal cultures and Assamese nationalism, especially in language and literature?

The Assamese language has gone through various challenges and crises from within and without since the colonial period, and the pioneers of Assamese nationalism, while forging a pan-Assamese identity, have focussed on safeguarding the language. For obvious reasons, that was the only affordable means of achieving the goal of regional identity among a heterogeneous community with different ethnic and linguistic backgrounds. But sometimes mainstream chauvinism has a tendency to impose upon them the Assamese language, which had been fuelling the spirit of a separate identity and tribal nationalism. For a healthy growth of the Assamese language, it is essential that ethnic languages survive. I personally believe that for the survival of the Assamese language, the native languages and dialects have to survive and for the survival of the native languages and dialects, the Assamese language has to survive.

Jiban Narah’s responses were translated from the Assamese by Dr Kamal Saikia

DOWN IN JUNGLELAND
RANJIT LAL Author, environmentalist and bird watcher



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

KEEP THEM GUESSING

Artificial Intelligence now tells us that elephants call each other by name

Trunk Calls

How elephants plan to outsmart spying humans

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE now tells us that elephants call each other by name and have chats with one another. *Down in Jungleland* probes this further and eavesdrops on a matriarch discussing the issue with her two senior-most aides, Golu and Bholu.

Matriarch: Gather round girls and listen up. I have grave news: Humans can now tap into our conversations like they do each other’s. So we must be careful about what we say!

Golu: But is this legal?

Matriarch: Do you think humans care about what’s legal and what’s not? Look at their own record.

Bholu: But what will this mean for us?

Matriarch: We cannot discuss our migratory travel or dining options. They will know our routes and stop us. As it is they are spying on us with drones and satellites.

Golu: (rumbling angrily) Just let them try to stop us!

different route to the field or bar ‘n’ restaurant I have chosen. They believe in data like it is god. By the time they realise they’ve been scammed, we will have vanished like ghosts into the night. But we’ll have to move very quietly — and no farting or rumbling. The babies will have to be told to hush.

Golu: What if we come across some of them, say, in a vehicle, on the route you have chosen? Then the elephant will be out of the bag!

Matriarch: (tossing her head angrily) Then we deal with it. Toss it into a river or off a cliff, or stomp it like a beer can. Surely you’ve seen those videos on YouTube of elephants holding up buses and trucks, or tossing auto-rickshaws across the road.

Golu: (wistfully) Yes, those dudes just rob them and let them go. Awesome hunks some of them are! It must be such fun and ooh, the kick they must get!

Bholu: But if we stomp on them, we’ll be declared ‘rogues’ and they’ll come after us with guns!

Bholu: (with sonorously rumbling tummy) Didi, I have a craving for bananas and hooch. Do you know of any tony banana bar we can raid tonight?

Matriarch: (affectionately patting Bholu with her trunk) Maybe I

Nature made a huge mistake by evolving human beings. She should have stopped with the chimpanzees

Matriarch: Golu, you’re the first to run when they burst firecrackers.

Golu: Didi, I can’t help it. Besides all the babies get terrified and scream. Someone has to escort them away.

Matriarch: (dryly) You know we all do that.

Bholu: But our migratory routes were set long before they turned up. Why did they have to plant paddy fields and tea gardens and build townships bang in the middle of them, cutting off our routes?

Golu: And now they go on about man-elephant conflict getting worse. What did they expect? A love-in with us winding our trunks gently around their waists and whispering sweet-nothings?

Matriarch: (with a wry smile) Well, now that they think they can understand what we’re saying, maybe they’ll agree to peace talks.

Golu: (trumpeting with laughter) Didi, like those have ever worked. As you told us: look at their record.

Bholu: So how do we go about our migratory trips and dining options?

Matriarch: (smiling) Very simple. We feed them deepfake data and basically hack their AI systems. We say we’re going through route ‘A’ to such and such built-up area or field, they’ll guard those, and then I’ll lead you all by a completely

do, maybe I don’t. But hush up your tummy. Its rumbling reminds me of the Maharaja’s Buick Roadmaster that I had to overturn on Friday, June 12, 1953, on the Ramnagar-Nainital Road at 10.38pm, because it was rudely honking at me.

Bholu: (chuckling) Didi, but just listen to what I’m rumbling... and telling them... Hope their Artificial Intelligence picks it up and interprets it correctly: That Mother Nature made a huge mistake by evolving human beings. She should have stopped with the chimpanzees. That the human species is the most dangerous nincompoops (except Sir David Attenborough) to inhabit planet Earth. That all they’re good at is talk — *yak, yak, yak* — and then go and do the exact opposite.

Golu: (butting in) Bholu, maybe they need to defend themselves from their babies because they’re soon going to make it mandatory that all babies be given machine pistols instead of pacifiers, and can run amuck with them... Look at what’s happening in schools...

Matriarch: (impressed) You know, both of you will be grand matriarchs one day. You have wisdom and sagacity.

Bholu and Golu: We try!

Matriarch: (sighing) Still, I just wish the human species had more real intelligence than just Artificial Intelligence.

Reaching for the Stars

At the heart of India lies a hunger for learning, discovering and acceptance, and plurality of thought and action

AS I write this column at the end of Pride Month, I am very proud of the family I was born into. My parents were educated and hungry to grow and my grandparents travelled with a hunger for exploration. In my 51-plus years, I find my journey in India during the 1970s through the early ‘90s a pleasant ride where the bumps were minimal and the mishaps few. In that India, in that Bharat, I found acceptance. I’m a proud gay man today because I was welcomed on this earth and given 20 years of love and agency.

This acceptance was important because of the inner turmoil I suffered. At age five or six, I remember crying alone in those dark nights in Nagpur where Papa was posted and we made home for three years, afraid that verbalising my secret would reveal my queerness to my mum, who was the kindest person I knew, and that she might not love me the same way. That secret had no name, but I knew instinctively it came with shame. I experienced only fleeting moments of comfort, when I would tightly hold Mum’s sari. I felt safe in her pleats, thinking I was hidden, as others (I imagined)

SLICE OF LIFE



Suvir Saran

Suvir Saran is a chef, author, educator and world traveller

judged or ridiculed me.

Papa’s transfer to Delhi had me joining Modern School, Vasant Vihar, in grade four. Children are unknowingly cruel expressions of their elders, families, societies and nations, and my classmates were a rainbow coalition of good, bad and ugly. I cannot remember instances of bullying or hatred toward me but it was difficult finding room for just one, me, in the cliques the students had formed, since most of them had been together for years. I have no reason to believe that my peers had any clue about my internal struggles. I remember my strife becoming more acute because I gave their coldness the face of abhorrence directed at me. The nightmares of Nagpur had found a living expression.

How I managed making it to middle school and through grade 10 is something that I could fill pages with. I felt a misfit, smaller than small, judged and othered. I was broken. I knew I was interested in men romantically. I would wonder how I could ever feel fulfilled because I had never seen two men being called husbands. To make things worse, I failed grade six. An



SUVIR SARAN

FANTASTICALLY ONE

No matter how different, we are all Indian

emotional wreck at 12, I only knew I had brought shame and scorn upon my parents. The school questioned their parental abilities and that made me shatter into even smaller pieces.

In middle school, I remember being lost in meal-planning class, where I was the first boy ever allowed, and being the pet of the music

teachers and dance teachers. Junior, middle and senior art teachers were my mentors, giving me freedom to do just about anything, with access to all materials possible. Sabiha Hashmi, my senior art teacher, became my guru and confidante. Sensing I was hiding a secret, and perhaps thinking that art would keep me on the straight and narrow, she allowed me indulgences no other students were given. Her class was my oasis of happiness and safety, quite like Mum’s saris.

Senior school, grade 11 and 12, brought in many students from other schools. Our classes were now broken into humanities, science and commerce, and so new cliques were formed. I was even more entrenched in music and arts and even more of a loner. Mr Vari, our principal, was the leader of a cadre of educators at Modern School who looked at education very differently. My amazing teachers saw me challenging authority, saw me smiling and crying and breaking rules — but they allowed me my transgressions and gave me the few smiles that kept me afloat.

My arrival at Sir JJ School of Art in Mumbai brought me to what was considered one of the best schools for the visual arts in the nation, and yet my only memories of it are terrible ones. Intolerance, bullying, othering and mocking were the hobbies of the teachers, and happy indulgences of students. During my two years at college in Mumbai, I realised how easy it is to plant seeds of hate for those different from us.

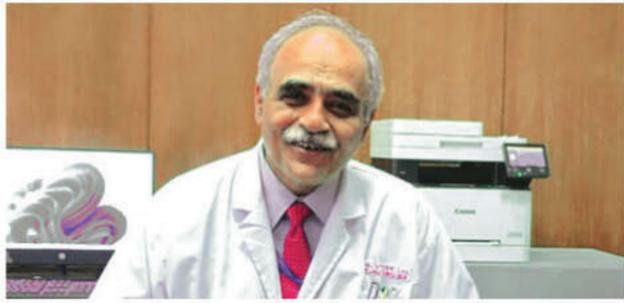
The world today is being torn apart by woke liberalism and fanatic nationalism. Both are dangerous weapons in the hands of leaders who use them to destroy the fabric of humanity. This Pride Month, I feel proud about the first 19 years of life that I spent mostly in Delhi, where hatred for being gay was not thrown my way. My school and its style of education afforded me incredible teachers who believed in a child who didn’t believe in himself. When I would break, their acceptance and nurturing would encourage me to go on. They found that I was polite and caring, gentle and sincere, hardworking and decent.

As a gay man, what I found remarkable about young India was her heart and soul, her hunger for learning, discovering, and accepting; her celebration of education and culture, plurality of thoughts and actions; and her respect for the ideals that were given sacred place of pride in the Indian anthem.

When the darkest of dark fears would grip my mind and break my soul, I would find consolation in knowing that *Hum sab Bhartiya hain... bikhare bikhare taare hain hum, lekin jhilmil ek hain* — that we are all Indian, no matter how different we are, and even as we are scattered stars, when we shine and shimmer together in the happy dance we do, we become fantastically one. This song, written by Sudarshan Fakir for the National Cadet Corps (NCC), has been my own anthem for keeping my life straight and narrow, while being proudly gay and colourful.

What I learnt from my patient

For the patient, the doctor is a saviour. But there are cases when doctors have taken life lessons from their patients and been emboldened to fight impossible battles. Three of them share case studies on the eve of National Doctors' Day



'A brother taught me humanity'

Prof Vivek Lal
Director, PGIMER, Chandigarh

As a neurologist, I have always attempted to go beyond treating the disease and forming a connection with the patient so that they can trust the therapy. Sometimes that bond lasts a lifetime. But the day I got a beautiful *raakhi* from Kavita, the wife of one of my patients from Chopal in Himachal Pradesh whom I had treated almost 30 years ago, I welled up. Her husband, Bhupender, had multiple brain tumours, but the one person who prolonged his life was his brother Nikkar Ram, who would accompany him every month. As the couple could not have a baby because of the disease, Ram gave away his daughter to them, hoping she would fill their life with joy and hope. Bhupender had to go through nine surgeries. Yet, Ram and Kavita stood beside him throughout this journey. After long hospital stays, frequent tests, running around for medicines and sitting up at night, Ram never left his brother's side, dealing with his grief, financial issues, emotional and mental fatigue, but never complaining or giving up. Those days, there were no motorable roads in Chopal, and as his brother was too weak to

walk till the main road, Ram would carry him on his back, take the bus to Chandigarh and then to PGI, a long journey of more than eight hours. As Ram was the only earning member of the family, his wife and children worked in the tiny orchard they owned. Every time I saw him, I stepped up to ensure that Bhupender could live despite the disease recurring. From my end, I did whatever I could to ease admissions, paperwork and surgeries. I routinely followed Bhupender's case through teleconsults, never missing them. Bhupender passed away in 2000. Ram went on to give half his property to Kavita and made sure she was always part of the family. It would not have been possible for us to sustain such a long treatment at PGI without him. This family repeatedly restored and rekindled my faith in humanity, unconditional love and fortitude. Ram's phone display has a photograph of us together, despite all these years. Even now, every time he is in Chandigarh, he comes to meet me at PGI. "I know that Bhupender *bhaiya* is smiling down at us," he tells me.

As told to Parul

'Terminal patients teach me courage'

Dr Sushma Bhatnagar
Head, Palliative Care, AIIMS, Delhi

Some memories are indelible even for a palliative care specialist who goes through end-of-life scenarios all the time. This was a young patient, who entered my clinic with a big smile for the last time. She wanted to give me the good news that she had gotten her husband married and was content that there would be someone to take care of her girls after her death. She had chosen the girl herself. I draw courage from such patients who can brave the worst.



Surrounded by terminal cancer patients through the day, I have begun to understand why there are so many doctor-patient conflicts and why patients are angry when their condition becomes intractable. It is because they come to the hospitals with a lot of uncertainty — they do not know whether they will get better, or how long will it take for them to go back home, who would take care of their families in case of an adverse event and regret about unmet responsibilities. It is because of this confusion that I see so many patients, running from one department to another, even when there is no hope. It is our job as doctors to ease every patient, explain treatment protocols, give them realistic hope and if there is none, help them come to terms with the inevitable.

During medical training, doctors are taught to save a patient, even at the very end of their life by intubating them, resuscitating them or putting them on a ventilator. Conversations with them about their care and knowing when to stop are more important. Communication has to be calm and reassur-



'She had a rare disease but kept my hope up'

Dr Suranjit Chatterjee
Senior Consultant, Internal Medicine, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, Delhi

I CAN never forget the day a young woman from Faridabad came to us with fever and mental disorientation and confusion. After thorough examinations, she was diagnosed with African trypanosomiasis, commonly known as sleeping sickness, caused by the tsetse fly. This disease is extremely rare in our region and the necessary medications were not available locally. Upon confirming the diagnosis, we coordinated with the World Health Organization (WHO) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) in Delhi. This coordination involved daily discussions and consultations with medical experts in Geneva and South Africa. They provided in-

valuable guidance on the treatment protocol and assisted in procuring the necessary medications, which were not readily available in our country. The WHO played a pivotal role in facilitating the medication and ensuring that the treatment went off smoothly. This case was a remarkable example of how global medical cooperation can overcome significant hurdles. But what kept me going was the patient's own will and confidence to make a full recovery despite the initial complexity. I was inspired by her resilience and courage. Despite her critical condition and the uncertainty surrounding her treatment, she remained hopeful, cooperative and trusted me to deliver. This reinforced in me the lesson that as a doctor, it is

Every morning, I go to the hospital at 8 am and have a conversation with the nurses who took care of the patients overnight. I want to make sure that the patients are comfortable and enquire whether they need extra intervention or not. I tell my team to take care of small things such as aligning their appointment in such a manner that they can see other specialists at AIIMS the same day. This saves them the trauma and pain of coming to the hospital again and again. That's a huge relief.

I remember the mother of an eight-year-old. After understanding the disease and treatment that had been offered to her son, all she asked me was to ensure that he was not in pain. Once the pain was managed, she happily took him home where the child passed away in her lap. A little support and empathy had helped her. This process of counselling can get draining but after my 5 am walk, I am ready to go back to my patients. As long as there is life, there is hope.

As told to Anonna Dutt

vital to convince my patients that they should never give up, no matter how dire the situation may seem. A positive mindset can significantly influence the course of treatment and recovery. As doctors, we must be the pillars of strength for our patients, providing not just medical care but also emotional support and encouragement.

This case not only highlighted the challenges and intricacies of treating rare diseases but also underscored the profound impact of international medical collaboration. It was a powerful reminder of why I chose this profession — to make a difference in the lives of patients, no matter what the obstacles.

As told to Rinku Ghosh

If you are to think of some of the most iconic beverages in India, what comes to your mind? Masala Chai, Lassi, Filter Coffee, Thandai, Aam Panna... All of these offer a feast to our senses, and I honestly think one of most delightful ways to experience a new culture is through its iconic beverages. So today, I want to talk about my favourite picks for iconic beverages from different cultures outside India, each with their own unique story and flavour.

Savouring the moment, one sip at a time

Each drink on this list tells a story of its culture, history, tradition, and people

ADVERTORIAL

ful. It's a social drink, perfect for enjoying with friends on a warm evening.

China - Baijiu

Baijiu, a traditional Chinese spirit, is the world's most consumed liquor, and yes many of us have never even heard of it. Made from grains such as sorghum, rice, and wheat, baijiu has a strong, distinctive flavour and is often enjoyed during Chinese celebrations and banquets. Its high alcohol content and unique taste make it a memorable part of the Chinese drinking culture.

Vietnam - Egg Coffee

On my 15-day trip across Vietnam, this was one drink I had every single day! Egg coffee, or 'cà phê trứng', is a unique Vietnamese drink made with egg yolks, sugar, condensed milk, and robusta coffee. This creamy, sweet beverage originated in Hanoi and offers a delightful blend of rich flavours. It's a must-try for coffee-lovers visiting Vietnam.

All in all, I would like to leave you with this. We often think of food being a defining factor of a destination or place. But let me also tell you that a drink can equally be the identity of a place or culture. Each drink tells a story of its culture, history, and people, offering a unique taste of tradition and innovation. So, as you plan your travels across the world, be sure to take a moment to savour these beverages and the rich heritage they represent. Which drink will you try on your next global adventure? I would love to know, so write to me at neil@veenaworld.com Until next time, keep Celebrating Life!



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Japan - Matcha Tea

In Japan, the art of tea drinking is a deeply revered tradition, and matcha tea holds a special place in this cultural tapestry. Matcha is finely ground green tea powder, known for its vibrant colour and rich flavour. The Japanese tea ceremony, something Heta and I experienced on our trip to Japan last year, is a ritualistic preparation and presentation of matcha, reflecting harmony, respect, purity, and tranquility. Participating in a tea ceremony offers a serene and immersive experience into Japanese culture, where every movement is deliberate, and the tea itself is a bridge between the past and present.

Thailand - Thai Iced Tea

This drink is a personal favourite of my brother, Raaj. Walk through the bustling streets of Bangkok, and you'll likely encounter vendors serving Thai iced tea, a vibrant orange drink that's as refreshing as it is visually striking. Made from strongly brewed black tea, Thai iced tea is sweetened with sugar and condensed milk, and often flavoured with star anise, tamarind, and other spices. Served over ice, this sweet and creamy beverage is perfect for cooling down in Thailand's tropical climate.

Italy - Espresso

In Italy, coffee is not just a drink; it's a way of life. My rule of 'no coffee past 4 pm' was out of the window when I was travelling through the country. The Italians take their coffee seriously, enjoying it standing at a bar, quickly, and often several times a day. Espresso bars are social hubs, where locals gather to exchange news and enjoy a moment of respite. The rich, intense flavour of a well-made espresso is a testament to Italy's dedication to coffee craftsmanship.

Morocco - Mint Tea

Moroccan mint tea, or 'atay', is a symbol of hospitality and friendship. Served throughout the day, this sweet, refreshing tea is made by steeping

green tea with fresh mint leaves and generously sweetening it with sugar. The preparation and pouring of mint tea is an art form, with tea often poured from a height to create a frothy top. Sharing a glass of mint tea in a Moroccan home or cafe is a warm, welcoming experience that embodies the country's spirit of generosity.

Ethiopia - Coffee

Ethiopia is often regarded as the birthplace of coffee, and its coffee culture is deeply rooted in tradition. The Ethiopian coffee ceremony is a time-honoured ritual that involves roasting, grinding, and brewing coffee beans in a jebena (a traditional clay pot). The ceremony is a communal experience, signifying respect and friendship. Ethiopian coffee is known for its rich, complex flavours, and participating in a coffee ceremony is something that should be on your list of things to do here.

South Africa - Rooibos Tea

Rooibos tea, native to South Africa, is a caffeine-free herbal tea made from the leaves of the 'Aspalathus linearis' plant. Known for its earthy, slightly sweet flavour, rooibos is enjoyed both hot and iced. It's also celebrated for its health benefits, including high levels of antioxidants. Rooibos tea has become a staple in South African households and similar to Turmeric Latte, is slowly gaining popularity worldwide as a flavourful and healthy drink of choice.

Mexico - Tequila

Tequila, Mexico's iconic spirit is my personal favourite. Not many know that Tequila is made from the blue agave plant primarily in the region surrounding the city of Tequila. The production of tequila is an intricate process, from harvesting the agave to distilling and aging the spirit. Exploring a tequila distillery offers insight into this craft and a taste of Mexico's vibrant culture.



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Brazil - Caipirinha

Caipirinha, Brazil's national cocktail, is a refreshing blend of cachaça (a sugarcane spirit), lime, sugar, and ice. This simple yet delicious drink is a staple at Brazilian gatherings, from beachside bars to festive celebrations. The caipirinha's balance of sweet, sour, and strong flavours captures the essence of Brazil's lively and diverse culture. With the Copa America football tournament on, try this today, google the recipe and learn to make a caipirinha, which would be a fun way to bring a piece of Brazil into your home.

Australia - Flat White

The flat white, a velvety coffee drink, has become a symbol of Australian coffee culture. Made with a shot of espresso and steamed milk, the flat white is known for its smooth texture and balanced flavour. Australian cafes have perfected the art of coffee making, and enjoying a flat white in a bustling cafe offers a taste of Australia's vibrant coffee scene.

New Zealand - Sauvignon Blanc

New Zealand's Sauvignon Blanc is celebrated worldwide for its crisp, refreshing taste and aromatic qualities. The Marlborough region, in particular, is known for producing some of the finest examples of this wine. Visiting a vineyard in New Zealand offers an opportunity to taste this exceptional wine and learn about the country's innovative winemaking techniques.

Jamaica - Rum Punch

Jamaican rum punch is a vibrant, fruity cocktail that combines the island's famous rum with tropical fruit juices and a hint of nutmeg. This sweet, potent drink is a staple at Jamaican parties and beach bars, offering a taste of the island's lively spirit.

Hawaii - Mai Tai

The Mai Tai, a tropical cocktail, is a favourite in Hawaii. Made with rum, lime juice, orgeat syrup, and orange liqueur, this refreshing drink embodies the spirit of the islands. Sipping a Mai Tai on a Hawaiian beach is the perfect way to unwind and enjoy the island vibe.

Argentina - Mate

Mate, a traditional South American drink, is especially popular in Argentina. It also happens to be the drink of choice of footballing legend Lionel Messi. Made from the dried leaves of the yerba mate plant, this caffeinated beverage is often sipped from a hollowed-out gourd using a metal straw called a bombilla. Mate has a unique, earthy flavour and is a social drink, commonly shared among friends.

Spain - Sangria

Most of us already know of this one, but I still wanted to add it to the list. Sangria, a fruity wine punch, is a staple of Spanish summer gatherings. Made with red wine, chopped fruit, and a splash of brandy or orange juice, sangria is both refreshing and flavour-